

Save on Business Internet Costs: AT&T vs. Lumen in Tulsa Metro

Is your small business overpaying for internet service? Our comprehensive analysis reveals significant cost-saving opportunities when comparing AT&T and Lumen business internet solutions in the Tulsa metro area. With the right provider and plan combination for your primary and backup internet needs, your business could save thousands annually while improving reliability.

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Understanding Your Business Internet Needs

For small businesses in the Tulsa metro area, reliable internet connectivity isn't just a convenience—it's a critical operational necessity. Every minute of downtime can result in lost revenue, damaged customer relationships, and disrupted business operations. This makes selecting the right primary and backup internet solutions one of the most important infrastructure decisions a business owner can make.

When evaluating internet options, three key considerations should guide your decision-making process. First, accurately assess your speed requirements based on your business activities. Video conferencing, cloud-based applications, and large file transfers demand higher bandwidth than basic email and web browsing. Second, consider reliability metrics like uptime guarantees and mean time to repair. Finally, establish a realistic budget that accounts for both immediate costs and long-term value.



Speed Requirements

Determine how much bandwidth your business actually needs based on number of users, cloud services usage, video conferencing needs, and data transfer volumes. Right-sizing prevents both overpaying and performance bottlenecks.



Reliability Factors

Evaluate uptime guarantees (SLAs), redundancy options, support response times, and historical performance in the Tulsa area. The true cost of internet includes the potential impact of outages.



Budget Considerations

Look beyond the advertised monthly rate to understand installation fees, equipment costs, contract terms, potential price increases, and the total cost of ownership over time.

Small businesses in Tulsa frequently face challenges with internet connectivity, including limited access to high-speed fiber in certain areas, surprise fees and unexpected price increases, insufficient bandwidth during peak usage periods, and extended downtime during service interruptions. By thoroughly understanding your specific needs, you can make more informed decisions about which provider and service level will deliver the best value.

AT&T Business Internet Services Overview

AT&T offers a comprehensive range of business internet solutions tailored to small and medium businesses throughout the Tulsa metro area. Their fiber-based services provide symmetrical upload and download speeds, which is particularly valuable for businesses relying on cloud services or those that frequently upload large files. For areas where fiber isn't yet available, AT&T also provides reliable DSL-based business internet solutions.

The available plans range from entry-level packages starting at 10 Mbps, suitable for very small operations with minimal internet needs, all the way up to dedicated gigabit and multi-gigabit solutions reaching 1 Tbps for businesses with extensive requirements. For most small businesses in Tulsa, AT&T's mid-tier offerings of 300 Mbps to 1 Gbps provide an optimal balance of performance and cost.

Pricing in the Tulsa market starts at approximately \$55 per month for their 300 Mbps Business Fiber plan with a 12-month agreement. Higher-speed tiers generally range from \$85/month for 500 Mbps to \$110/month for 1 Gbps service. It's important to note that these base rates may not include equipment fees, which typically add \$10-15 monthly unless purchased outright.

AT&T's business internet services in Tulsa come with the advantage of being backed by one of the largest telecommunications infrastructures in the nation. This translates to more stable connections and faster resolution times when issues do occur. Their enhanced service level agreements for business customers provide meaningful guarantees regarding installation timeframes, repair response, and service quality—all critical factors when calculating the true value of an internet service provider.



Additional AT&T Features

- Uptime SLA of 99.95%, translating to approximately 4.38 hours of maximum downtime annually
- Wireless backup options that automatically activate during service interruptions
- Up to 5 static IP addresses available for businesses hosting servers or using VPNs
- AT&T Internet Security Suite powered by McAfee included at no additional charge
- 24/7 dedicated business support with priority service appointments
- Equipment warranty and service guarantees with pro-rated credits for extended outages

Lumen Technologies Internet Services Overview

Lumen Technologies (formerly CenturyLink) delivers a robust portfolio of business internet solutions throughout the Tulsa metropolitan area, leveraging their extensive fiber network infrastructure. As a business-focused provider, Lumen offers highly scalable connectivity options designed to meet the specific needs of small to medium enterprises operating in various sectors.

Their service catalog spans from basic business broadband starting at 10 Mbps to advanced fiber solutions reaching speeds up to 100 Gbps for enterprise applications. Most small businesses in Tulsa find their sweet spot in Lumen's 100 Mbps to 1 Gbps offerings, which provide sufficient bandwidth for cloud-based operations, video conferencing, and data-intensive applications. One significant advantage of Lumen's network is that many of their business plans feature symmetrical speeds, ensuring uploads perform as efficiently as downloads.

Lumen's competitive pricing structure in the Tulsa market typically starts around \$65 per month for their 100 Mbps fiber service, with 500 Mbps plans averaging \$85-95 monthly and gigabit services at approximately \$105-120 per month with a 24-month agreement. While the base rates might initially appear slightly higher than some competitors, Lumen often includes value-added features that would cost extra elsewhere.

What distinguishes Lumen in the Tulsa business market is their network redundancy architecture. Unlike some providers who rely on a single backbone connection, Lumen's infrastructure incorporates multiple redundant pathways, significantly reducing vulnerability to regional outages. This design philosophy extends to their "self-healing" network capabilities that can automatically reroute traffic during disruptions, minimizing the impact on business operations. For organizations where internet continuity is mission-critical, these architectural advantages can offset slightly higher monthly costs by reducing expensive downtime events.



Lumen's Business Advantages

- Industry-leading uptime SLA of 99.99%, limiting potential downtime to just 52.6 minutes annually
- Enterprise Wireless Access Service (EWAS) for reliable backup connectivity
- Adaptive Network Security included with higher-tier plans
- Unlimited data usage with no throttling or overage charges
- 24/7 dedicated business technical support with expedited issue resolution
- No long-term contract options available for businesses requiring flexibility

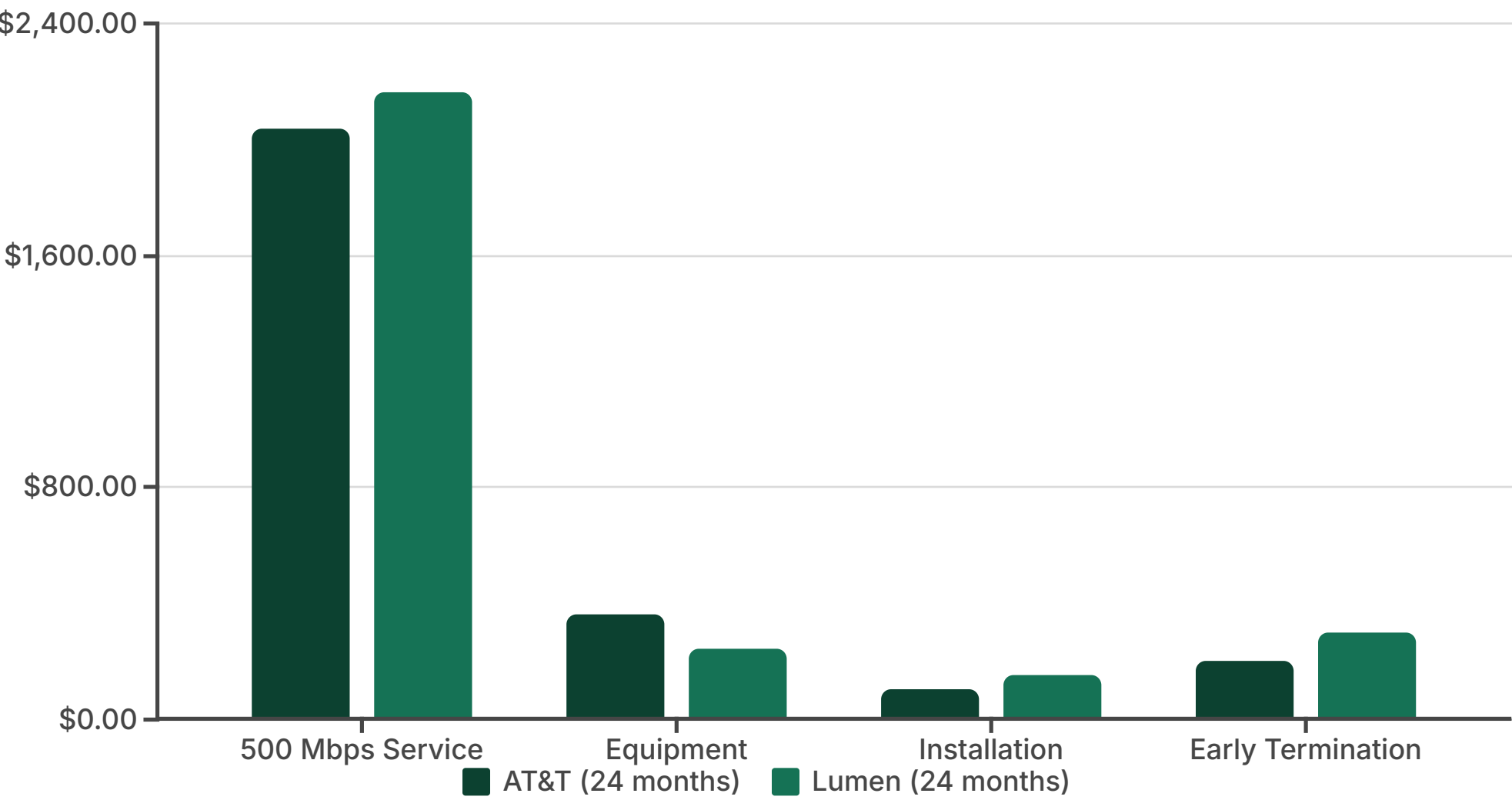
Cost Comparison: Primary Internet Solutions

When evaluating primary internet solutions for small businesses in the Tulsa metro area, a detailed side-by-side comparison reveals significant potential for cost optimization. Both AT&T and Lumen offer competitive packages, but the true value proposition becomes clearer when analyzing all cost components over time, not just the advertised monthly rate.

Speed Tier	AT&T Monthly	Lumen Monthly	24-Month AT&T	24-Month Lumen
100 Mbps	\$50	\$65	\$1,200	\$1,560
300-500 Mbps	\$85	\$90	\$2,040	\$2,160
1 Gbps	\$110	\$105	\$2,640	\$2,520

While the base monthly fees provide a starting point for comparison, they don't tell the complete story. Installation costs vary significantly between providers and service types. AT&T typically charges \$99 for standard business installation but frequently waives this fee during promotional periods. Lumen's installation fees range from \$99 to \$199 depending on existing infrastructure, though they also run regular promotions that reduce or eliminate these costs.

Equipment costs constitute another important consideration. AT&T's business gateway carries a monthly rental fee of approximately \$15, totaling \$360 over a 24-month period if not purchased outright for \$300. Lumen offers their modem/router for a one-time purchase of \$200 or a monthly rental of \$10 (\$240 over 24 months). Both providers require customers to either purchase or rent equipment, making this a necessary component of total cost calculations.



Contract terms also significantly impact overall costs. AT&T typically requires 12 or 24-month agreements for their business internet services, with early termination fees of up to \$200. Lumen's standard terms include 24-month commitments with early termination fees that can reach \$300. Both providers implement price increases after promotional periods expire, with AT&T's rates typically rising \$10-20 monthly after the first year, and Lumen's increasing by similar amounts after the initial term.

When calculated over a typical 24-month business cycle, the total cost of ownership reveals that AT&T generally provides better value for speeds up to 500 Mbps, while Lumen becomes more cost-effective at gigabit speeds and above. However, these calculations don't yet account for reliability differences and the potential cost of downtime—factors that will be addressed in subsequent sections.

Backup Internet Solutions: Protecting Your Business

In today's digitally dependent business environment, internet downtime isn't merely an inconvenience—it's a direct threat to your bottom line. For small businesses in the Tulsa metro area, implementing a reliable backup internet solution is no longer optional but a fundamental business continuity requirement. Even brief connectivity interruptions can result in lost sales, customer dissatisfaction, and operational paralysis, with industry research estimating that downtime costs small businesses an average of \$427 per minute.

Both AT&T and Lumen recognize this critical need and offer dedicated backup connectivity solutions designed to activate seamlessly when primary connections fail. These redundant systems utilize different technologies or network paths than your primary connection, ensuring that a single point of failure won't completely disconnect your business from customers, cloud services, or payment processing systems.



AT&T Wireless Backup

- Leverages AT&T's extensive 4G LTE and 5G wireless networks
- Automatic failover typically activates within 30 seconds of primary connection failure
- Monthly cost: \$25-45 depending on data allowance and plan tier
- Installation and equipment: \$99 one-time fee for the wireless backup device
- No additional contract required when added to existing business internet service



Lumen EWAS (Enterprise Wireless Access Service)

- Multi-carrier approach that selects the strongest available wireless signal
- Seamless failover with typical activation in under 60 seconds
- Monthly cost: \$35-60 based on selected data package
- Equipment and setup: \$150 one-time fee for the EWAS gateway
- Optional cloud management portal available for an additional \$15 monthly



Cost-Benefit Analysis

- Average small business downtime cost: \$427 per minute
- Typical Tulsa area outage: 4-6 hours per year without backup (≈\$102,480-\$153,720)
- Annual backup solution cost: \$300-720 + one-time setup
- ROI calculation: Preventing just 1-2 minutes of downtime pays for the entire yearly backup service

When evaluating backup options, consider that AT&T's wireless backup solution integrates most seamlessly with their primary service, potentially offering faster resolution during outages since you're dealing with a single provider. However, Lumen's EWAS system provides the advantage of carrier diversity, meaning if the issue affects an entire carrier's network (including their wireless infrastructure), you'll still maintain connectivity through alternative wireless networks.

For businesses where internet connectivity directly impacts revenue generation—such as retail establishments processing credit card payments, service businesses scheduling appointments, or any operation relying on cloud-based systems—implementing a backup solution delivers an extraordinary return on investment. The marginal monthly cost is negligible compared to the financial protection it provides against potentially devastating downtime events.

Potential Cost Savings Scenarios

When small businesses in the Tulsa metro area strategically evaluate their internet connectivity needs and provider options, the potential for significant cost savings becomes clear. By analyzing real-world scenarios and actual case studies, we can illustrate how businesses similar to yours have optimized their internet services while reducing overall expenditures.

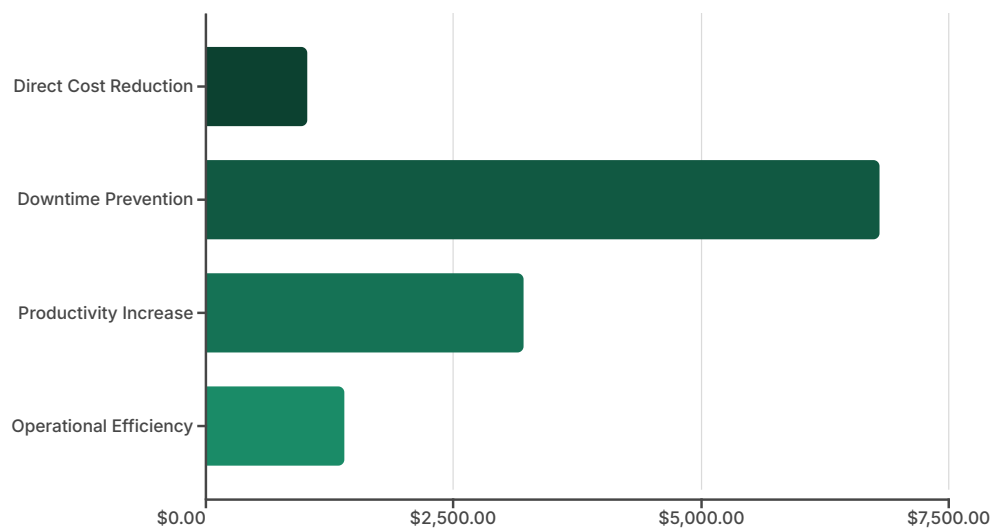
Consider the case of a local retail business with 10 employees operating near downtown Tulsa. Initially, they were paying \$195 monthly for a basic business internet package with inadequate speed and reliability, plus an additional \$35 monthly for a consumer-grade backup solution that frequently failed during outages. Their annual internet expense totaled \$2,760, yet they still experienced approximately 18 hours of downtime annually, costing them an estimated \$7,686 in lost revenue and productivity.

After consulting with Nexus One Technologies for a comprehensive assessment, they switched to AT&T's 500 Mbps Business Fiber (\$85/month) with AT&T Wireless Backup (\$30/month). Their new annual connectivity cost decreased to \$1,380 for the primary connection and \$360 for backup—a total of \$1,740. This represented a direct savings of \$1,020 annually, or approximately 37% of their previous expenditure. More importantly, their experienced downtime dropped to less than 2 hours per year, reducing downtime-related losses by over \$6,800 annually.

Another illustrative example comes from a professional services firm in south Tulsa that was paying premium rates for significantly more bandwidth than they actually needed. Their 1 Gbps connection (\$250/month) was operating at less than 15% capacity during peak usage. By downgrading to Lumen's 300 Mbps business fiber service (\$75/month) and adding their EWAS backup solution (\$35/month), they maintained appropriate performance for their needs while reducing their annual connectivity costs by \$1,680—a 56% reduction. The firm reinvested these savings into cloud security services that further enhanced their overall IT infrastructure.

For businesses with multiple locations throughout the Tulsa metro area, the savings potential is even greater. By strategically mixing providers based on the best available infrastructure at each location, a local restaurant chain with four locations reduced their combined annual internet expenses by over \$4,800 while simultaneously improving reliability. They implemented primary connections from the provider with the strongest infrastructure at each location, then added backup solutions from the alternative provider to ensure maximum redundancy.

The key lesson from these scenarios is that significant cost savings don't necessarily require compromising on performance or reliability. In fact, most businesses discover that the optimal configuration actually enhances their operational capabilities while reducing expenses. A professional assessment that accurately matches business requirements with right-sized solutions typically yields both immediate savings and long-term business benefits.



Additional Cost Reduction Opportunities

- Service bundling discounts of 10-15% when combining voice and internet
- Multi-year agreements typically reduce monthly rates by 5-10%
- Tax benefits from properly categorizing connectivity as a business expense
- Productivity gains from eliminating workflow disruptions during peak business hours

Get Your Free Cost Comparison Today

Ready to stop overpaying for your business internet services? Nexus One Technologies specializes in helping small businesses throughout the Tulsa metro area find the optimal internet solutions at the most competitive prices. As a vendor-neutral technology consultant, we work for you—not the internet service providers—ensuring you receive unbiased recommendations based solely on what's best for your business.

Our Approach

Unlike dealing directly with providers who only present their own offerings, Nexus One Technologies provides comprehensive comparisons across multiple vendors, including AT&T and Lumen. We analyze your specific business requirements, current usage patterns, reliability needs, and budget constraints to identify solutions that deliver maximum value without unnecessary costs.

The Process

Getting your customized cost comparison couldn't be simpler. First, we conduct a brief consultation to understand your business's unique connectivity requirements. Next, we analyze your current services and costs against available alternatives. Finally, we present a clear, no-obligation comparison showing your potential savings and recommended solutions.

The Benefits

Our clients typically save 15-30% on their business internet costs while simultaneously improving performance and reliability. Beyond the immediate savings, we help you avoid common pitfalls like overprovisioning, inadequate backup solutions, or signing agreements with hidden terms that lead to unexpected price increases.

Take the first step toward optimizing your business internet costs today. Our thorough analysis will give you the information you need to make confident decisions about your connectivity strategy, potentially saving thousands of dollars annually while enhancing your business operations.

30%

Average Savings

Typical cost reduction for our small business clients

100%

Satisfaction

Our commitment to finding your perfect solution

24hrs

Quick Response

Maximum time to receive your custom analysis

Contact Nexus One Technologies today to receive your free, customized internet cost comparison. Visit www.nexusonetech.com or email james@nexusonetech.com to start saving.

Don't let another month go by paying more than necessary for your business internet services. Our expertise in the Tulsa metro market enables us to quickly identify the most cost-effective solutions for your specific needs. With no obligation and zero risk, why not discover how much your business could save?