

Singapore's gigabit broadband one-tenth cost of US - Tarifica

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Singaporean consumers can purchase 10 gigabit service for as little as USD 22 per month, while comparable US offerings can cost up to USD 195 per month, according to Tarifica's latest analysis. In Singapore, 10 gigabit fibre is now a mainstream service available to most households, while in the US it remains a premium product for a relatively small share of the market.

In practical terms, many American households pay several times more for a fraction of the speed. The difference is not about technology, since both countries use similar fiber infrastructure. It reflects how the markets are structured and regulated.

Tarifica's research found that while Singapore's leading providers Simba, M1, StarHub, and Singtel offer 10 gigabit plans between USD 22 and USD 65 per month, prices from US providers range from USD 100 to USD 195 for similar or slower tiers. The result is that American consumers often pay four to seven times more per gigabit than Singaporeans do. Even in dense US cities where construction costs are comparable, prices remain substantially higher, which points to market dynamics rather than geography as the primary driver.

Singapore's wholesale open-access model, the government policy which was established in 2008, separates network ownership from retail operations. This has produced a highly competitive retail market where providers differentiate on price, service quality, and customer experience. In the US, vertically integrated operators own both the infrastructure and the retail relationship in most local markets. Because many households have only one or two fixed-line options, competition is limited. Providers are able to position multi-gigabit service as a premium tier rather than a mainstream offer.

Singapore's experience shows that a wholesale open-access framework can make next generation connectivity widely accessible. The US experience shows that where competition is limited, ultra-fast broadband remains a niche purchase rather than a mass-market standard. The lesson from Tarifica's latest Data Dive is that market design, not technology, determines who benefits and how quickly.



CATEGORIES: Fixed
COMPANIES: M1, SingTel, Tarifica, StarHub
COUNTRIES: Singapore, United States
TAGS: Fibre, Internet Access, Pricing