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How many 5G base stations are there in the UK





Overview

When did 5G start in the UK?

The first commercial networks went live in major UK cities in 2019. Ofcom, the telecoms regulator, estimated that in September 2023, 85 to 93% of UK premises could get 5G coverage outdoors from at least one operator. 5G networks are initially being built on top of legacy 4G equipment. This is called 'non-standalone' 5G.

Who rolled out 5G in the UK?

5G is primarily being rolled-out by private companies called mobile network operators. These are EE, O2, Vodafone and Three. The first commercial networks went live in major UK cities in 2019. Ofcom, the telecoms regulator, estimated that in September 2023, 85 to 93% of UK premises could get 5G coverage outdoors from at least one operator.

What is the fastest 5G network in the UK?

Three claims to be the fastest UK 5G network and it provides 99.8% of the outdoor population with 3G and 4G in the UK. In October 2020, Three was found to have 4G download/upload speeds on 22.2/8.0Mbps with 48.3ms 4G latency. Nearly 99% of the outdoor population is covered by O2's 3G and 4G.

How many 5G base stations are there in China?

In data collected between July 2022 and June 2024, China was reported to have had around 3.5 million 5G base stations installed across the country, with Chinese mobile operators investing heavily in 5G infrastructure. By comparison, the European Union had around 460,000 thousand base stations, while the United States had approximately 175,000.



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[Worldwide: 5G base stations in selected markets, Statista](#)

Nov 27, 2025 · In data collected between July 2022 and June 2024, China was reported to have had around *** million 5G base stations installed across the country, with Chinese mobile ...

[Ofcom reckons around half of the UK population is now covered by 5G](#)

Dec 16, 2021 · UK comms regulator Ofcom says the number of 5G base stations in the UK doubled in 2021, and coverage is now 'outside 42-57 percent of premises.' This was just one ...



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