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SA's fixed internet speed and mobile speed have improved by 30% since last year - report

Compiled by Phumi Ramalepe



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South Africa is emerging as an African leader in terms of digital quality of life.

Getty Images

South Africa is emerging as a digital quality of life leader on the continent with improved internet speed, mobile internet, and affordable internet.

This is according to Surfshark's 5th annual Digital Quality of Life Index (DQL), which evaluates 121 countries using data from the United Nations, the World Bank, and other

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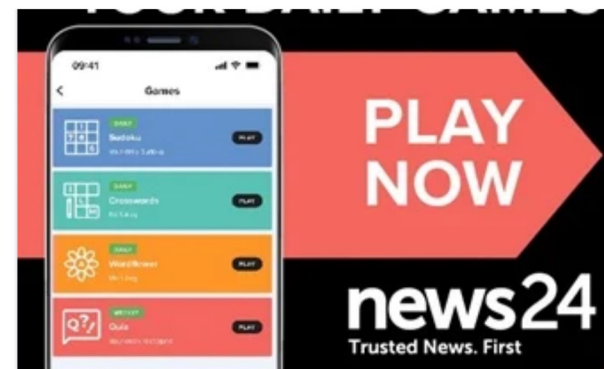
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This is according to Surfshark's **5th annual Digital Quality of Life Index (DQL)**, which evaluates 121 countries representing 92% of the global population and sources data from the United Nations, the World Bank, and other open-source information.

The five pillars used to assess digital well-being of the countries include internet quality, internet affordability, e-security, e-infrastructure, and e-government.

The report revealed that South Africa performed best in internet affordability, securing the 52nd spot out of the five pillars considered in the index.

South Africa's internet quality was found to be close to the global average, with fixed internet in



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“In many nations, 'digital quality of life' has merged into the broader concept of overall 'quality of life'. There's no other way to look at it now that so many daily activities, including work, education, and leisure, are done online.

“That's why it's crucial to pinpoint the areas in which a nation's digital quality of life thrives and where attention is needed, which is the precise purpose of the DQL Index,” said Surfshark's spokesperson, Gabriele Racaiyte-Krasauske.

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- Somewhere between R1k and R2k**
- Eish, we're north of R2000**

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MOBILE internet speed in the country is said to have climbed by 30%, while fixed broadband speed is reported to have also increased by 30%. Compared to Kenya, South Africa's mobile internet is 79% faster, while its fixed broadband is a whopping 228% faster, according to the report.

The nation ranked 63rd in internet quality, and 72nd in e-security. This overall performance placed South Africa ahead of its African peers, surpassing Kenya (76th) and Nigeria (88th) and clinching the top position in the region.

Internet affordability

Internet affordability in South Africa stands out compared to other countries.

According to the report, South Africans have to work one hour and 43 minutes a month to afford fixed broadband internet, which is less than the global average but more than Romania, which has the world's most affordable fixed internet.

Romanians only have to work 18 minutes a month to afford the internet.

To get mobile internet, South Africans have to work one hour, 26 minutes and one second a month, which is five times more than in Luxembourg, home to the world's most affordable mobile internet, where citizens work just 16 minutes a month to afford it.

Challenges

When it comes to e-security, pillar that addresses a country's readiness to counter cybercrimes

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Rand - Dollar	19.35	-0.2%
Rand - Pound	23.44	-0.5%
Rand - Euro	20.30	-0.5%
Rand - Aus dollar	12.23	-0.5%
Rand - Yen	0.13	-0.1%

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The report said:

Advanced e-infrastructure makes it easy for people to use the internet for various daily activities, such as working, studying, shopping, etc. This pillar evaluates how high internet penetration is in a given country, as well as its network readiness.

On this front, South Africa sits in the 94th position and 61st in e-government, which refers to the use of modern communication technologies in the government sector, such as computers and the internet to deliver services to citizens.

According to the report, “Advanced e-infrastructure is critical for various daily activities conducted online, while e-government reflects the country's digital service readiness and AI preparedness.”

Global outlook

Globally, the affordability of the internet has improved since the previous year.

Fixed internet is now 11% more affordable on average, requiring people to work 42 minutes less each month to afford it. Mobile internet has seen a 26% increase in affordability, with people working 41 minutes less per month to afford it.

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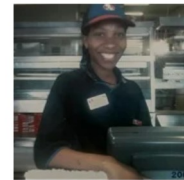
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