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OOKLA.



Sue Marek

Editorial Director, Ookla Research

INDUSTRY REPORT 2026

The Global State of Wi-Fi

Sue Marek, Mark Giles | June 2026

Methodology: Analyzed Ookla Speedtest data from global Android devices to track the proliferation of Wi-Fi generations (Wi-Fi 4 through Wi-Fi 7) within the installed customer premise equipment (CPE) base, specifically measuring 6 GHz spectrum adoption following Wi-Fi Alliance 802.11be approvals.

OOKLA RESEARCH

| Wi-Fi Generation Adoption by Region

- > **Wi-Fi 7:** Wi-Fi 7 accounted for just 1.8% of global samples. Wi-Fi 7 adoption has been impacted by the availability of the 6 GHz band, which has been fragmented globally. Not all countries have allocated the entire 6 GHz band for unlicensed and China has allocated it for full mobile use.
- > **Wi-Fi 6:** Continues to ascend steadily, rising to 26.7% of active connections.
- > **Wi-Fi 5:** Remains the largest individual tier, supporting 38.3% of global samples.
- > **Wi-Fi 4:** Demonstrates persistent longevity, holding a substantial 33.2% share of connections.

Global Wi-Fi Generation Share Summary

Speedtest Intelligence® Data Share (%)



| 6 GHz and Wi-Fi 7 – Why it Matters

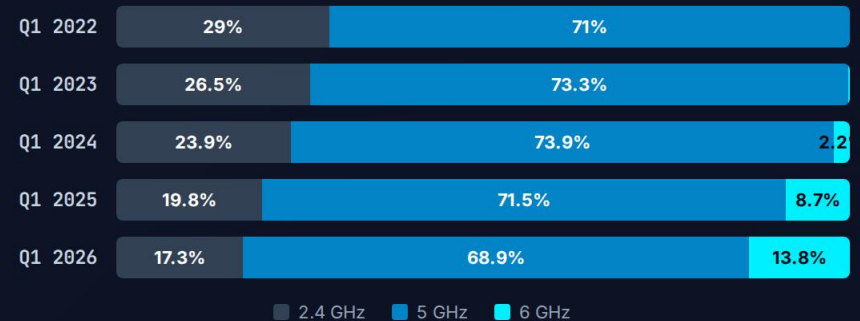
- Wi-Fi 7 can operate across all three unlicensed spectrum bands (2.4 GHz, 5 GHz and 6 GHz). BUT the 6 GHz band is crucial for Wi-Fi 7 because it can provide up to three continuous 320 MHz channels (where the full band is allocated).
- This 320 MHz accommodates double the throughput allowing for very fast speeds.
- Older generations of Wi-Fi can't access the 6 GHz, so there's very little congestion.
- While Wi-Fi 6 devices can't access 6 GHz spectrum, Wi-Fi 6E can. Wi-Fi 6E is an extension of Wi-Fi 6 created by the Wi-Fi Alliance in 2021 to take advantage of the 6 GHz band.

| North America – 6 GHz Adoption

- > **Policy Impact:** Early full spectrum allocation of 1,200 MHz in the 6 GHz spectrum band by regulatory bodies in the US and Canada laid a baseline
- > **Device Support:** The newly available 6 GHz spectrum band resulted in the Wi-Fi router industry making substantial investments in Wi-Fi chipsets and access points that incorporated the new spectrum band. According to ABI Research, North American shipments of 6 GHz-enabled Wi-Fi chipsets grew from 41.8 million in 2022 to 202.8 million in 2025, an increase of nearly 500%.
- > **ISP Bundling:** Broadband providers integrated dual and tri-band hardware into baseline subscription services.

North America Wi-Fi Use in Spectrum Bands

Ookla Speedtest data Q1 2022 - Q1 2026 (%)



North America – Wi-Fi Generation Progress

North America, with its 1,200 MHz of 6 GHz unlicensed spectrum, is far ahead of other regions when it comes to having a higher share of Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 7 usage. Many of the large ISPs in the U.S. and Canada committed early to the Wi-Fi 7 standard. As of Q1 2026, Wi-Fi 6 was the dominant standard in North America accounting for 57.5% of users. This is up from 20.9% in Q1 2022. Wi-Fi 7 accounts for 6.8% of samples, the largest of any region in the world. Meanwhile its share of Wi-Fi 4 has declined to just 10.0% in Q1 2026.

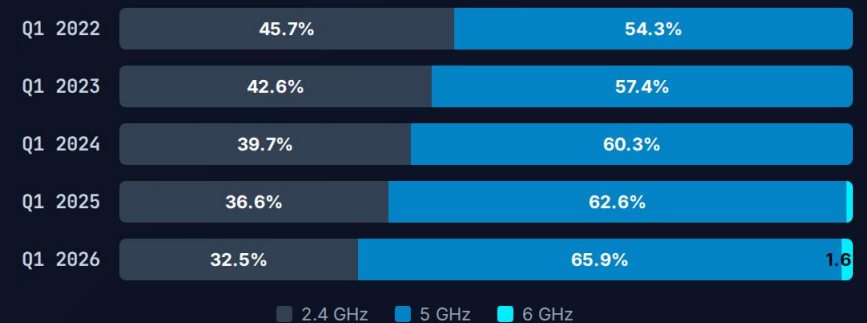
NORTH AMERICA: WI-FI GENERATION ADOPTION BY MARKET	WI-FI 4	WI-FI 5	WI-FI 6	WI-FI 7
United States	10.0%	25.4%	57.5%	7.2%
Canada	10.1%	27.9%	57.1%	4.9%

| Europe Lags North America in 6 GHz Adoption

- > Europe adoption of the 6 GHz lags North America. Despite early regional coordination to open the lower 6 GHz band, adoption in Europe lags behind North America, with the band capturing just a 1.6% share of total Wi-Fi samples across Europe in Q1 2026.
- > The majority of Wi-Fi usage (66%) in the EU is being handled by the 5 GHz band and that is an increase from 45.7% in Q1 2022.
- > At the country level, France has the highest percentage of Wi-Fi in the 6 GHz band, with 8.6% of Wi-Fi usage as of Q1 2026, followed...

Europe Wi-Fi Use in Spectrum Bands

Ookla Speedtest data Q1 2022 to Q1 2026 (%)



| Wi-Fi 7 is Gaining Traction in Europe as Wi-Fi 4 is Declining

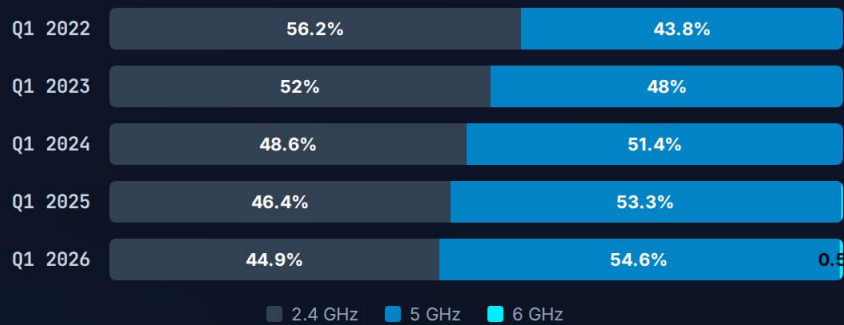
Wi-Fi 7 is just starting to gain some traction in the European market with just 2.5% of samples connecting via Wi-Fi 7 as of Q1 2026. Europe is also seeing a fairly rapid decline of Wi-Fi 4, indicating that those legacy access points are getting phased out. Speedtest data shows the number of samples connecting via Wi-Fi 4 devices declined from 46.8% in Q1 2022 to 25.3% in Q1 2026.

EUROPE: WI-FI GENERATION ADOPTION BY MARKET	WI-FI 4 (%)	WI-FI 5 (%)	WI-FI 6 (%)	WI-FI 7 (%)
Switzerland	13.3	28.0	52.2	6.5
Israel	15.8	28.1	49.1	7.0
Norway	13.7	34.3	49.5	2.5
Netherlands	12.8	35.9	48.9	2.4
Denmark	14.2	34.8	47.6	3.4
France	15.1	34.5	43.1	7.3
Sweden	15.8	34.6	45.2	4.4
United Kingdom	14.1	38.7	43.4	3.8
Luxembourg	19.2	34.1	43.0	3.8

| 6 GHz Use Remains Low in APAC

Asia Pacific Wi-Fi Spectrum Use

Ookla Speedtest data Q1 2022 - Q1 2026 (%)



- > Wi-Fi usage in the APAC region is pretty evenly split between the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz. However, there is a big variation between advanced countries like Singapore and developing countries.
- > As of Q1 2026, the 6 GHz had captured just 0.5% market share in this region.

APAC Wi-Fi Generation – Singapore Leads in Wi-Fi 7 Adoption

Singapore has the highest percentage of Wi-Fi 7 users (25%) in the world. Singapore's strong Wi-Fi 7 adoption is largely due to the government's push to upgrade home broadband speeds to 10 Gbps by educating consumers that their old Wi-Fi 6 or 6E routers wouldn't be able to achieve those speeds. In addition, Singapore's telcos have actively bundled Wi-Fi 7 hardware into their 10 Gbps broadband subscriptions.

ASIA-PACIFIC: WI-FI GENERATION ADOPTION BY MARKET	WI-FI 4 (%)	WI-FI 5 (%)	WI-FI 6 (%)	WI-FI 7 (%)
Singapore	5.8	19.2	49.9	25.1
Hong Kong	10.0	25.1	51.1	13.8
Macau	11.0	29.1	45.3	14.6
China	15.1	25.2	52.2	7.5
Australia	14.6	29.9	50.0	5.5
South Korea	18.4	28.0	49.5	4.1
Malaysia	16.5	35.7	45.2	2.7

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Thank You

Full report is here:

<https://www.ookla.com/articles/global-state-of-wi-fi-2026>

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