

Press release

BROADBAND AND SUPERFAST BROADBAND MARKET FttH rollouts and take-up both gaining ground

Paris, 28 February 2019

Today, Arcep is publishing its scoreboard for the fixed broadband and superfast broadband market (rollouts and subscriptions) in France as of the end of December 2018. This quarter confirms the ongoing progress in FttH subscription numbers and rollouts.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: annual growth in the number of superfast access subscriptions reaches two million, for the first time ever, very largely thanks to the growing adoption of FttH

- Over the course of Q4 2018, the number of superfast broadband subscriptions (maximum download speed equal to or faster than 30 Mbit/s) increased by 615,000 to reach 9.0 million, or an additional 2 million subscriptions year on year (YoY), versus an increase of 1.5 million one year earlier. The majority of this growth is due to an increase in the number of subscriptions to fibre to the home/building (FttH/B) plans, which rose by 485,000 compared to the previous quarter and so accounting for close to 80% of the increase in superfast access user numbers. As of 31 December 2018, the number of end-to-end fibre access lines totalled 4.8 million, which is 1.5 million than the year before.
- In total, 45% of all premises eligible to subscribe to a superfast access plan were subscribing to such a plan in Q4 2018, which marks a 6% increase YoY.
- The total number of broadband and superfast broadband subscriptions stood at 29.1 million at the end of Q4 2018, which marks an increase of 190,000 over the previous quarter and of 700,000 year on year (+2.5%).

ROLLOUTS: the number of additional premises passed for fibre reaches a record high of more than one million. This increased pace needs to continue.

Over the past four quarters, 3,212,000 additional premises have been passed for FttH, of which 1,013,000 in Q4 2018. This is the first ever quarterly increase of more than a million.

- As of 31 December 2018, 13.56 million premises were eligible to subscribe to an FttH access service, or 32% more than one year earlier.
- The vast majority of FttH rollouts in the fourth quarter of last year were in those parts of the country where the Government has issued a call for investment letters of intent (called "zones AMII" in French). The 630,000 additional premises passed during the quarter mark a record high for these areas.
- The pace of FttH rollouts in areas covered by public-initiative rollouts continued to rise during the quarter, with an additional 249,000 additional premises passed. The overall rate of line sharing rose slightly to reach 29%.
- In total, at the end of Q4 2018, 20.1 million households in France were able to subscribe to a superfast internet access service, all technologies combined, including 13.9 million households located outside of very high-density areas.
- FttH rollout data have been updated on the cartefibre.arcep.fr website and in the [Open Data](#) made available by Arcep.

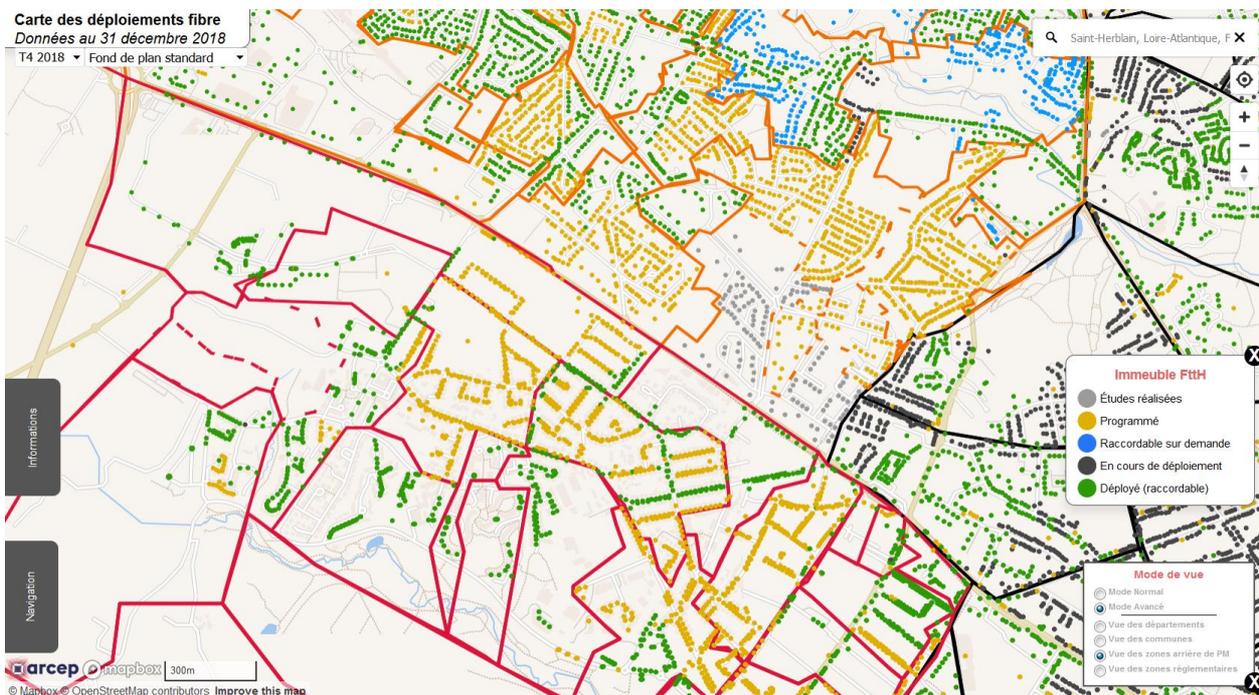
Monitoring operators' legally binding FttH rollout commitments

At the end of Q4 2018, 48% of the premises in the municipalities where Orange made rollout commitments, and 36% of those where SFR has made commitments – in accordance with Article L. 33-13 of the French Postal and Electronic Communications Code (CPCE) – had been passed for FttH access. Operators will need to step up the pace of their deployments if they are to meet their targets on time.

N.B.: the first deadline is a commitment to have at least 92% of the premises passed by the end of 2020, with the remaining being passed “on request”.

Tracking FttH rollouts on the “cartefibre” website

Since the last publication of this scoreboard, a new feature was added to the cartefibre.arcep.fr website that allows users to obtain fibre coverage information on individual buildings, and so to track the progress of FttH rollouts in a more detailed fashion. This new information is available as open data.



At the same time, Arcep continues to work on developing a complete tool for monitoring national fixed network coverage for all technologies combined, at the individual address level.

Associated documents

> [Fixed broadband and superfast broadband scoreboard – figures for Q4 2018](#)

> FttH rollout maps: <https://cartefibre.arcep.fr/>

Arcep at a glance

The Electronic Communications and Postal Regulatory Authority (ARCEP), a neutral and expert arbitrator with the status of quasi autonomous non-governmental organisation, is the architect and guardian of internet, fixed and mobile telecoms and postal networks in France.

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