

GovBeat

## Maps: The state of broadband in the states

By **Niraj Chokshi** June 24, 2015

Does it feel like Web sites are loading a little faster? If so, it might be because broadband capacity in the U.S. increased across the country in the first quarter of this year.

Internet connections were strongest in Delaware, which posted an average peak of 85.6 megabits per second according to the latest [State of the Internet report](#) from Akamai Technologies, which delivers a lot of Web traffic for clients such as Yahoo, IBM and several federal agencies and departments. D.C. was close behind with speeds of 79.2 and 79 Mbps, respectively. Capacity was lowest in Kentucky, with a peak speed was 37.1 Mbps.

Exactly half the states and D.C. posted increases of 10 percent or more, compared to just three states in the final quarter of 2014. Unlike the quarter before, every state saw speeds in the first quarter of 2015, with exactly half posting double-digit gains. Washington, D.C., and Kansas saw the largest gains, of 20 percent. Tennessee saw the smallest gains of just 2.7 percent.

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While Akamai also measures average overall speeds, [the report's authors argue](#) that the average speed of the highest connection speed from each unique IP address in a region — better measures Internet performance.

Speeds have generally increased over the past few quarters and there's good reason to expect that to continue, the authors suggest. Not only did the F.C.C. more than quadruple the broadband benchmark to 25 Mbps, but President Obama in January also announced several proposals to expand broadband access, including incentives to expand rural access.

“At the state level, a number of initiatives were announced as well — including Massachusetts' announcement of up to \$50 million in capital funding to support the expansion of broadband access in Western Massachusetts and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's announcement that \$500 million will be offered as incentives to telecommunications companies investing in networks delivering multi-gigabit speeds of 100 Mbps,” the authors write. Locally, a number of providers also announced significant increases in high-speed service, too.

**The New Hampshire caucus Tuesday. Get caught up.**

**The feminist appeal is working for Clinton.**

In New Hampshire, Clinton is beating Sanders is beating women by eight points according to a new survey. This report is from the results of the Iowa caucuses, where Clinton won women by 11 points.

[Clinton looks to surpass Sanders](#) [go to Sanders](#) >>



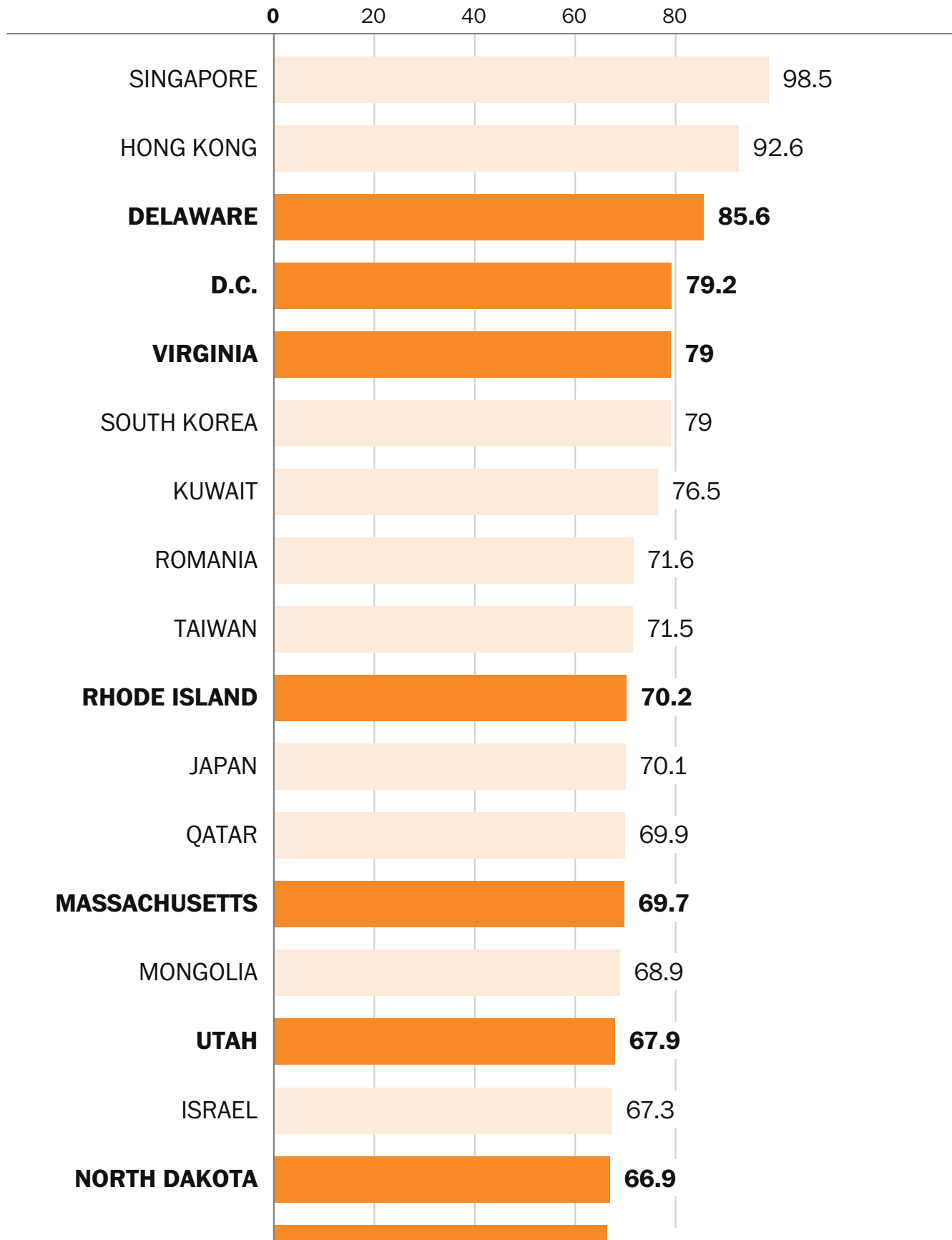
**The Post's Dan Barry**

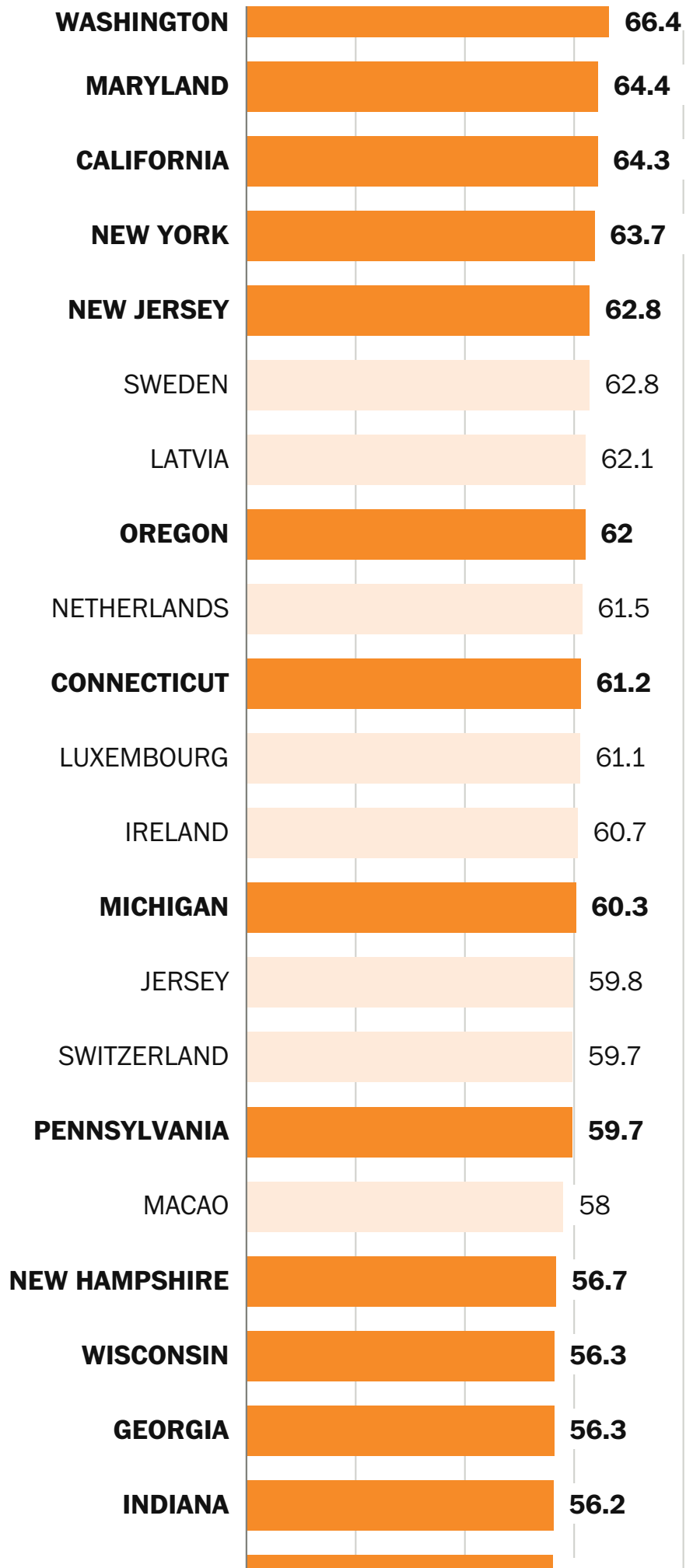
This was supposed to be the strongest Republican presidential field. But cracks are showing. After last night's debate, Mitt Romney withered in the face of attacks from Chris Christie. Attention to the debate about his candidacy: Will he be president? How will it affect Rubio's campaign? Is anybody's guess. If he does well, the question is his readiness to serve.

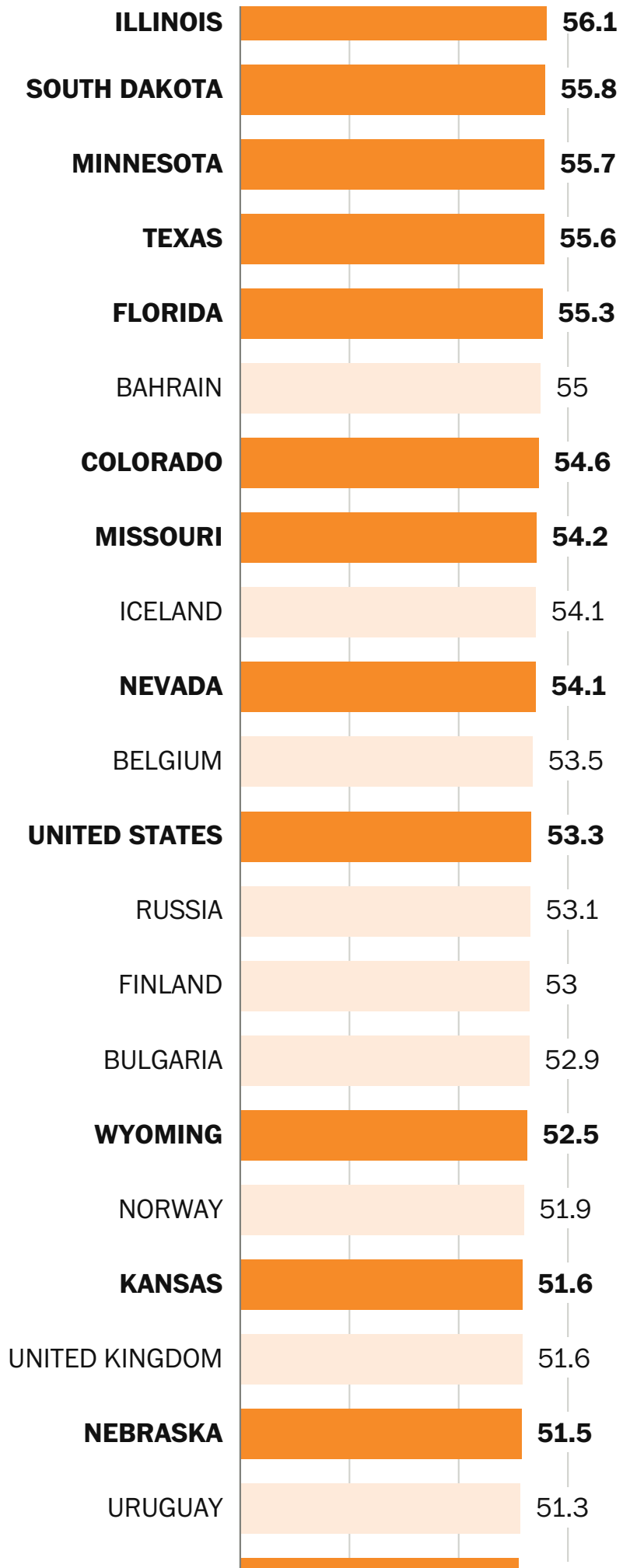
Here's a look at how state connection speeds compare to other countries:

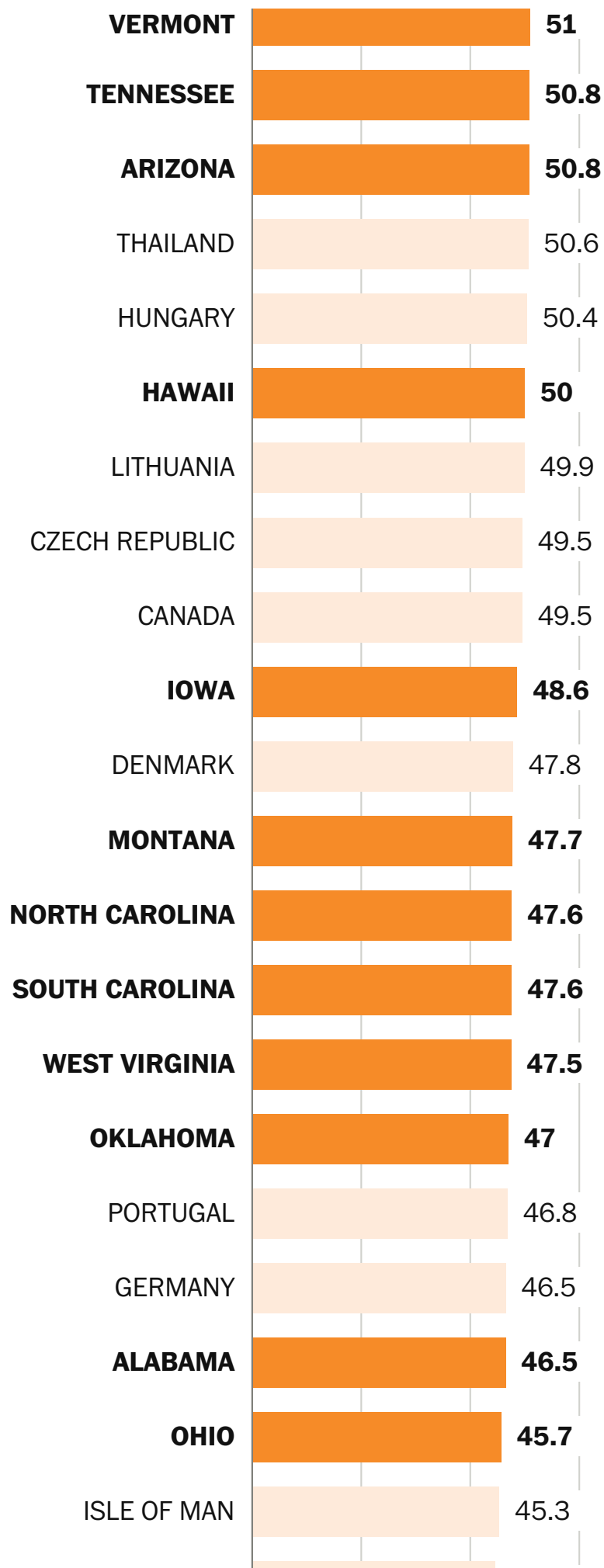
## How state broadband capacity compares to other countries

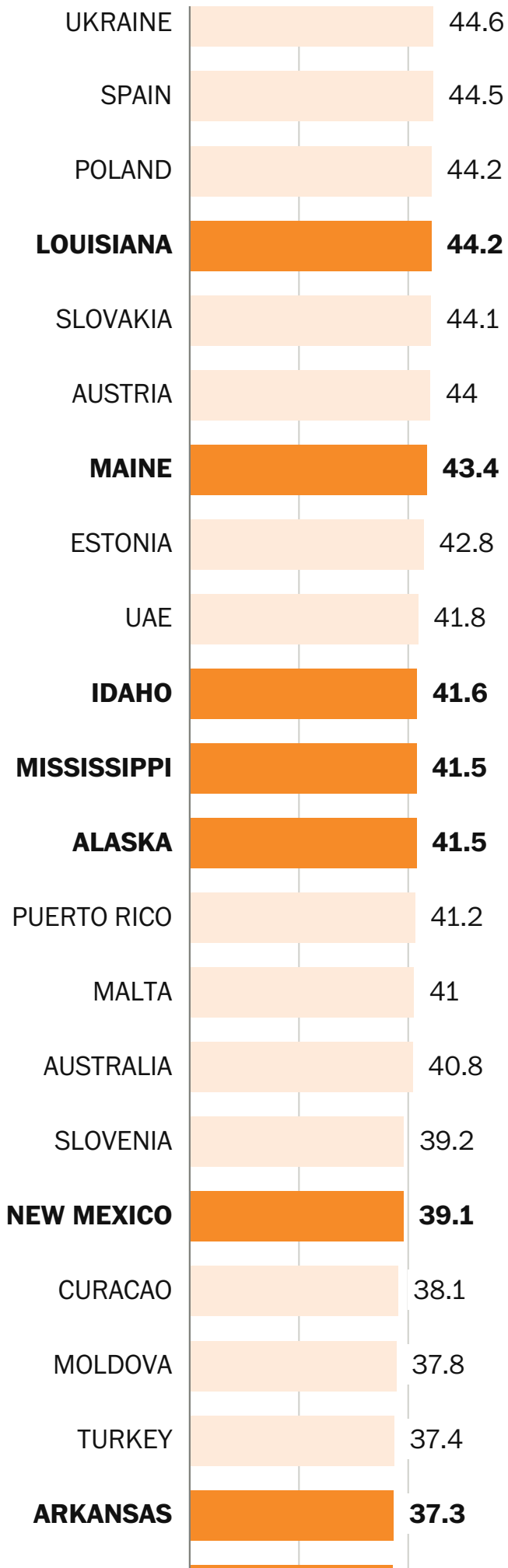
The chart below shows average peak connection speeds—a measure of broadband capacity—for states and countries around the world.

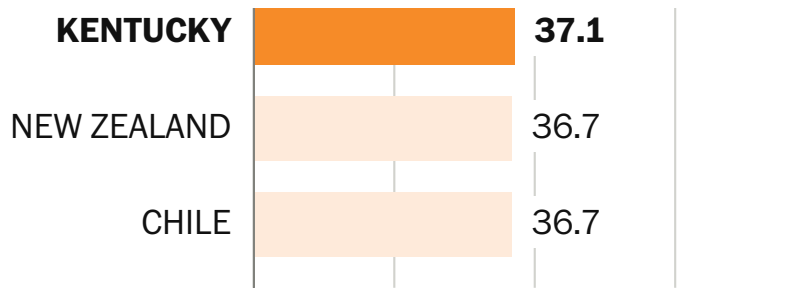












Speeds in megabits per second.

Source: Akamai

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Niraj Chokshi is a general assignment reporter for The Washington Post.

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State of the race

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