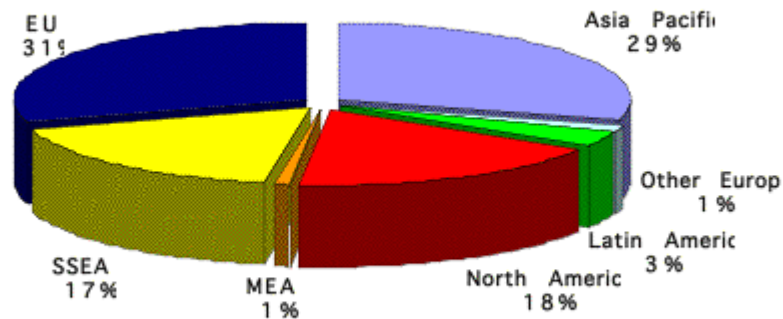


## DSL DRIVES FORWARD IN GLOBAL BROADBAND GROWTH

- **EU becomes the number one DSL region in the world**
- **DSL wins a greater share of the North American broadband market**
- **China leads the world with largest DSL population**

DSL – the world’s most popular broadband technology – added over 30 million subscribers in the 12 months to 30 June 2004 according to the latest data produced for the DSL Forum by industry analyst Point Topic, reaching a global total of 78 million. That growth in DSL subscribers was more than double that of the other broadband access technologies in the year. Total broadband subscribers grew by almost 55% to over 123 million in the same period.

The European Union (EU) has narrowly taken over from Asia Pacific as the number one DSL region, with a total of over 23 million subscribers, around 11 million of them joining the DSL community in the last 12 months.



**Regional breakdown of DSL subscribers**

DSL made considerable progress in North America, the only region to retain cable modem dominance, achieving a 48% subscriber increase, significantly more than the 31% growth in cable and other technologies. In the USA, which has comfortably the world’s largest total broadband population, DSL has seen a 3% increase in market share with nearly 4 million new subscribers. In Canada, DSL subscribers now account for 48% of the total broadband market. South and East Asia was the fastest growing region for DSL subscribers in the 12 months, with a 110% growth, while the Middle East and Africa showed a 107% increase, and Latin America a rise of 104%.

In terms of market penetration, the DSL Forum's first stage target for a global mass market for broadband DSL – 20% of all phone lines – has already been achieved in both South Korea (28.66%) and, more recently, Taiwan (20.76%). Five countries are currently at 17% or above: Hong Kong; Iceland; Belgium; Israel and Japan. The EU's new status as the largest DSL region is reflected in sizeable increases in penetration in Portugal (10.7% per 100 lines) and in the Netherlands (8.44%).

### Top 20 countries: DSL penetration of phone lines

30 June 2004

Ranking	Country	Penetration (DSL/100 phone lines) Q2 2004	Ranking	Country	Penetration (DSL/100 phone lines) Q2 2004
1	South Korea	28.66	11	France	13.79
2	Taiwan	20.76	12	Finland	13.65
3	Hong Kong	19.59	13	Norway	12.90
4	Iceland	18.14	14	Portugal	12.73
5	Belgium	17.89	15	Estonia	12.36
6	Israel	17.10	16	Switzerland	12.30
7	Japan	16.96	17	Canada	12.20
8	Denmark	15.03	18	Italy	12.14
9	Singapore	13.91	19	Spain	11.05
10	Netherlands	13.87	20	Sweden	9.98

China now leads the world in delivering DSL broadband services, climbing up from fourth position. Almost 13 million subscribe to broadband DSL in that country, an increase of nearly seven million in one year (119.4% growth). The UK, with more than 1.65 million new subscribers, has moved up from eleventh to eighth position, and Australia enters the Top 20 DSL countries list for the first time after seeing a growth of nearly 147% in one year. A

total of 13 countries now have over one million broadband DSL subscribers; 11 have over two million and three – China, Japan and the USA – have over ten million each.

**Top 20 countries: total DSL subscribers Q2 04  
30 June 2004**

<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Total DSL Q2 2004</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Total DSL Q2 2004</b>
1	<b>China</b>	12,710,000	11	<b>Spain</b>	2,067,031
2	<b>Japan</b>	12,068,718	12	<b>Netherlands</b>	1,387,000
3	<b>USA</b>	11,434,254	13	<b>Brazil</b>	1,366,048
4	<b>South Korea</b>	6,666,190	14	<b>Belgium</b>	918,064
5	<b>Germany</b>	5,000,000	15	<b>Hong Kong</b>	753,000
6	<b>France</b>	4,687,000	16	<b>Australia</b>	710,200
7	<b>Italy</b>	3,332,975	17	<b>Sweden</b>	656,842
8	<b>UK</b>	2,724,698	18	<b>Switzerland</b>	656,000
9	<b>Taiwan</b>	2,720,000	19	<b>Denmark</b>	562,000
10	<b>Canada</b>	2,436,246	20	<b>Portugal</b>	555,341

Tom Starr, president of the DSL Forum said: "The DSL success story just goes on getting better. With our new DSL Anywhere white paper offering service providers technical options to deliver this robust, reliable broadband access technology to all of their residential and business customers, no matter where they are located, the benefits of broadband DSL can be enjoyed by many millions more. There is no question but that this is the DSL decade."

***About the DSL Forum***

DSL Forum is an international industry consortium of about 200 leading service providers, equipment manufacturers and other interested parties focused on developing the full potential of broadband DSL to meet the needs of the mass market. With the established goal of 200 million customers by the end of 2005, DSL Forum works to streamline processes, develop specifications and share best practices that set the stage for effective deployments and explosive global DSL growth. By developing new standards and embracing new applications, DSL Forum is tailoring DSL to meet the needs of the next generation of multi-media services and the online community. Established in 1994, more information about the DSL Forum is available from its industry site [www.dslforum.org](http://www.dslforum.org).

DSL - more than a phone line - it's a global solution.

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