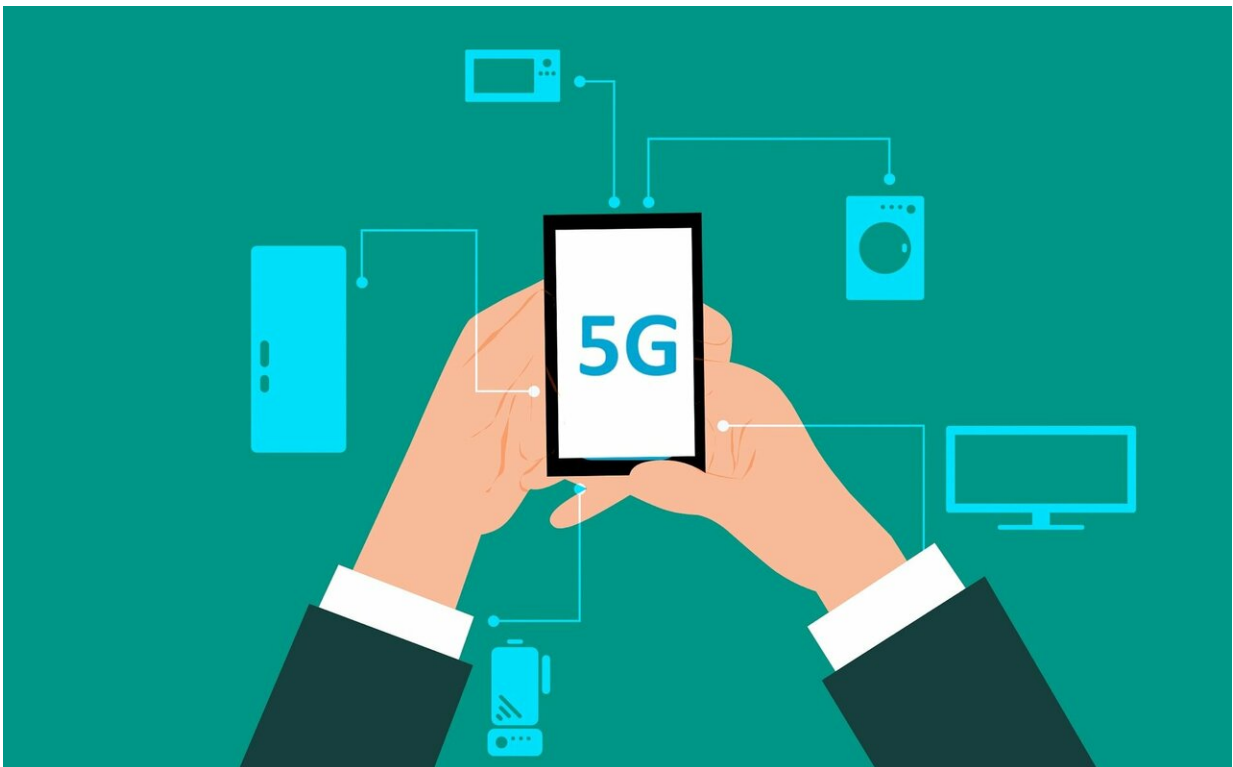


# Sprint launches 5G in major markets with more areas covered

August 27 2019, by Jefferson Graham, Usa Today

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If you've heard the hype about the new 5G wireless networks, it comes to this: "blazing fast" super speeds, way faster than what we see now on 4G.

The intent is to download movies faster, stream without buffering, pick up mapping information quicker and the like.

Sprint is launching its 5G Tuesday in major markets: New York, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and Phoenix, but with a twist: It's not as fast as other forms of 5G.

Sprint's stat is "6X faster," to a 20x claim by Verizon.

Sprint, which has agreed to be acquired by T-Mobile but is doing business as usual until the deal actually closes, has a slower version of 5G that connects to existing cell towers, and thus enables Sprint to push 5G service to a wider group of people. Still, Sprint says its a "fully standards compliant 5G network from our existing LTE cell sites."

Sprint says it's covering 2,100 square miles and 11 million people, "more than any other carrier." The company had already launched Atlanta, Dallas-Fort Worth, Kansas City and Chicago earlier this year.

In terms of reach, AT&T has 5G available in 22 cities, to 15 for Verizon, 6 for T-Mobile and 9 for Sprint. Verizon initially put more of the focus on 5G as a cable TV alternative, while Sprint is touting just "mobile 5G."

The stat Sprint he company uses is "6X faster," in comparing 5G with the current 4G service.

T-Mobile, for instance, is currently in Los Angeles, but only in the downtown area, while Sprint operates from downtown all the way down to the sea ocean.

## **5G is costly**

If you want 5G, you'll have to pay for the privilege.

Sprint's lowest-priced monthly plan, at \$100 for a family of four, doesn't qualify, so for 5G it will bump you up the "Unlimited Premium," at \$140 monthly for a family of four.

Additionally, you will need a phone that works with 5G, and there are only a handful available. Sprint will be selling three: the Samsung Galaxy S10 5G (\$1,299), OneTouch 7 (\$600) and LG VSD Thin Q (\$1049).

Apple iPhones don't work with 5G networks, and the next edition of the iPhone, the iPhone 11, isn't expected to be 5G capable, with Apple instead waiting for 2020, according to tech analysts. Google Pixels also don't work with 5G.

In our quick tests of 5G on a Galaxy S10 and the Sprint network, an episode of "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" on Amazon Prime took one minute to download, versus five minutes on a wifi Wi-Fi [network](#) at a Starbucks. (Our iPhone won't allow download over wireless networks.)

More telling was comparing the buffering of streaming video on 5G versus 4G.

We opened a 37-second video clip in Google Photos and found a one-second delay in 5G, vs. versus three seconds in 4G. For a two-minute clip, the delay was two seconds in 5G, versus four seconds in 4G.

But overall, web surfing was nearly identical on both 4G and 5G.

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