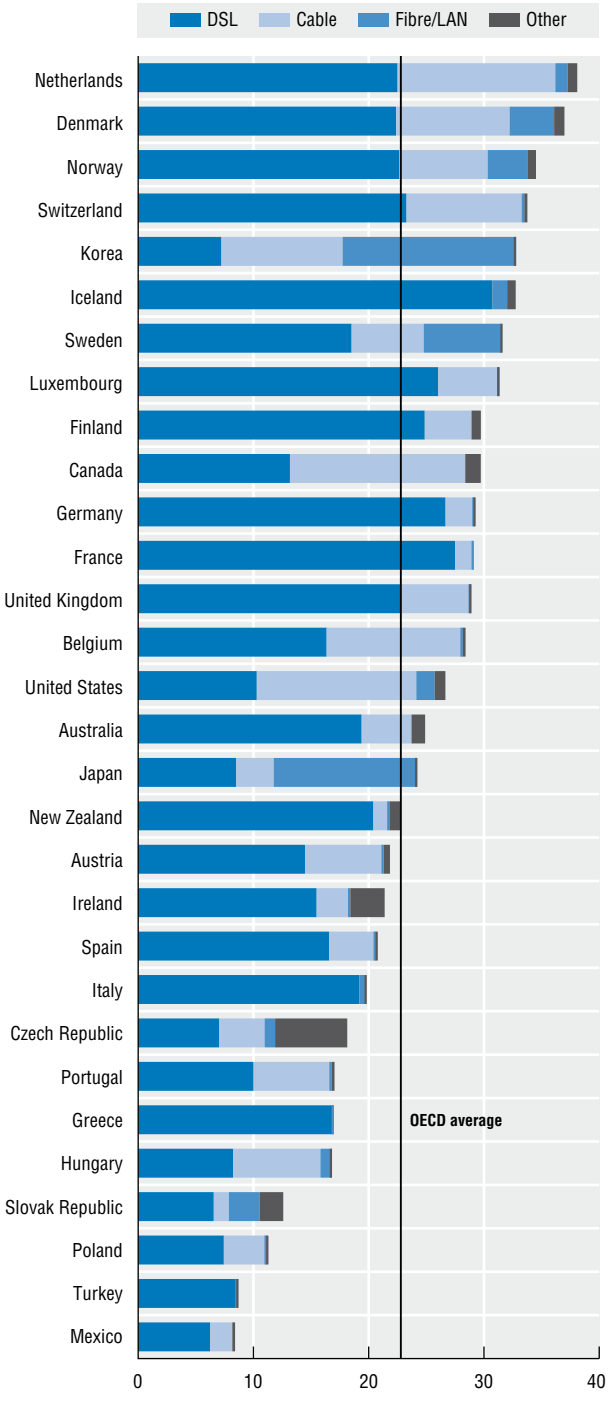
*Today, high-speed broadband networks support innovation throughout the economy much as electricity and transport networks spurred innovation in the past. Innovations such as smart electrical grids, tele-medicine, intelligent transport networks, interactive learning and cloud computing will require fast communication networks to operate efficiently.*

## OECD broadband subscribers per 100 inhabitants, by technology, June 2009




*Source:* OECD, Broadband Statistics, June 2009; *www.oecd.org/sti/ict/broadband.*

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/836026204506

### DID YOU KNOW?

The transformation of the newspaper, music and video industries indicates how broadband has become the leading delivery system for a wide range of content.

(OECD, Broadband Statistics, 2009.)

High-speed broadband access has changed personal and business practices dramatically. It has enabled broader participation in the innovation process by opening it beyond customers, suppliers, competitors, government laboratories and universities to consumers. It has transformed some sectors by making outsourcing and off-shoring more efficient.

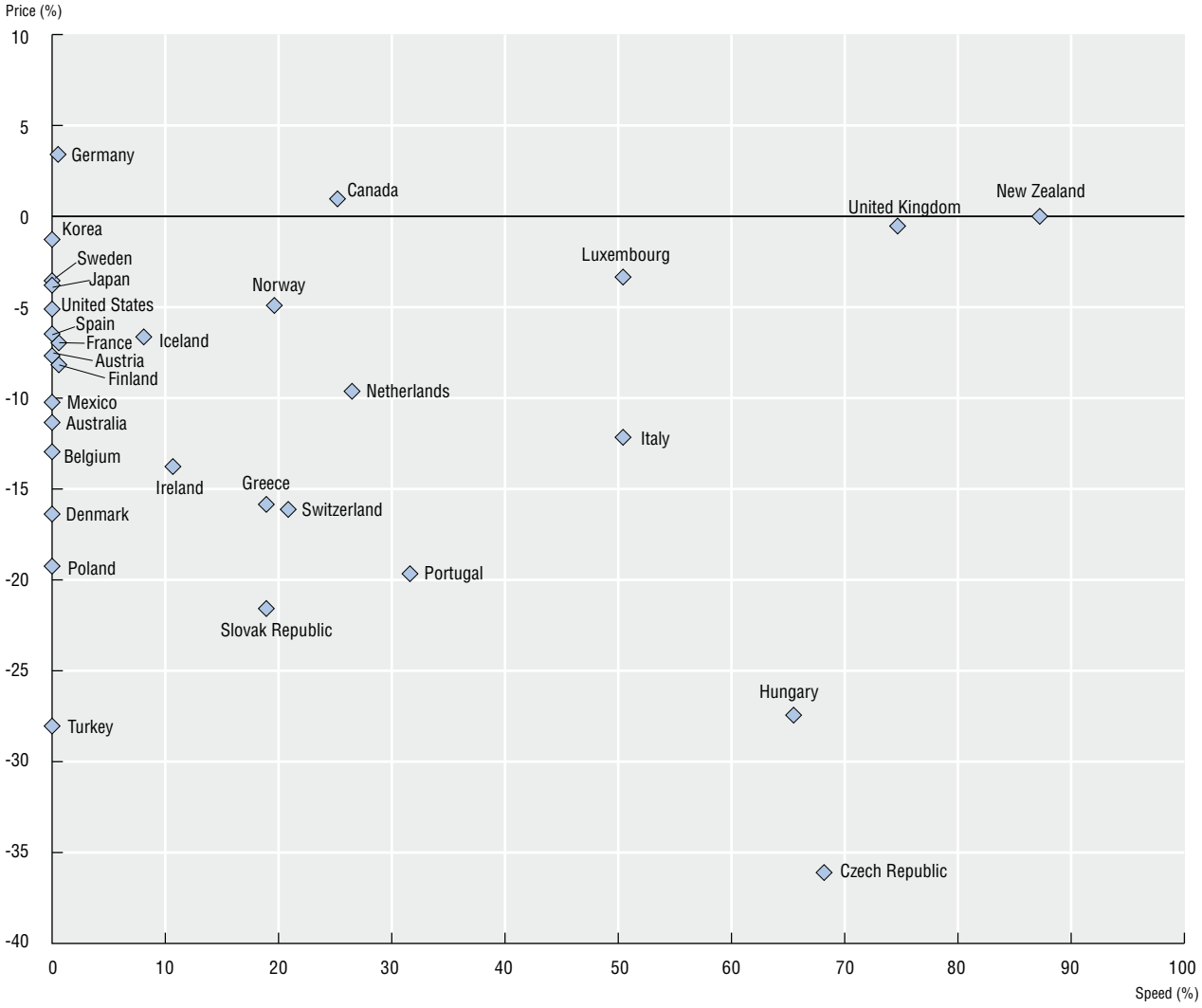
Statistics show that future growth in super-fast broadband is likely to come from fibre-optic networks rather than DSL or cable. Nearly one in ten OECD subscribers currently accesses the Internet over fibre. In Japan and Korea, most access Internet over fibre. Fibre connections are growing fast in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the United States.

One way to trace the evolution of market broadband prices is to take a representative offer and follow over time its characteristics, such as price, advertised speed and data allowance. From 2005 to 2009, prices generally declined while speeds increased in many OECD countries.

### Definitions

*Broadband* includes all subscriptions to DSL lines, cable modem, fibre-to-the-premises (*e.g.* house, apartment) and fibre-to-the-building subscribers (*e.g.* apartment LAN) which are capable of download speeds of at least 256 kbit/s. *Other* includes fixed wireless technologies (satellite, LMDS, MMDS, WiMAX [fixed] and other fixed-wireless transport technologies) with speeds faster than 256 kbit/s to end users. It does not include 3G mobile technologies and Wi-Fi.

**Evolution of a representative DSL broadband subscription over time, 2005-09**




**How to read this figure**

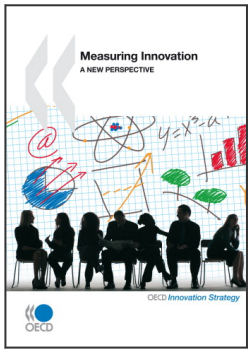
The speed of the Czech DSL offer increased by almost 70% and its price fell by over 35% during the period.

*Source:* OECD, Broadband Statistics, December 2009; *www.oecd.org/sti/ict/broadband*. See chapter notes.

StatLink http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/836026204506

## Measurability

The two leading technologies currently used to provide high-speed Internet access are digital subscriber lines (DSL) and cable modem. Other broadband access technologies include fibre-optic lines installed to users' homes or to their buildings. Fixed wireless connections and satellite are also available but represent less than 2% of all broadband subscriptions. The data for broadband subscribers include business and residential connections. Broadband delivered over mobile networks is not included but will continue to evolve as an important platform for connectivity and innovation. The OECD has developed a new measure of wireless broadband connectivity which will help policy makers follow growth in this segment.

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