



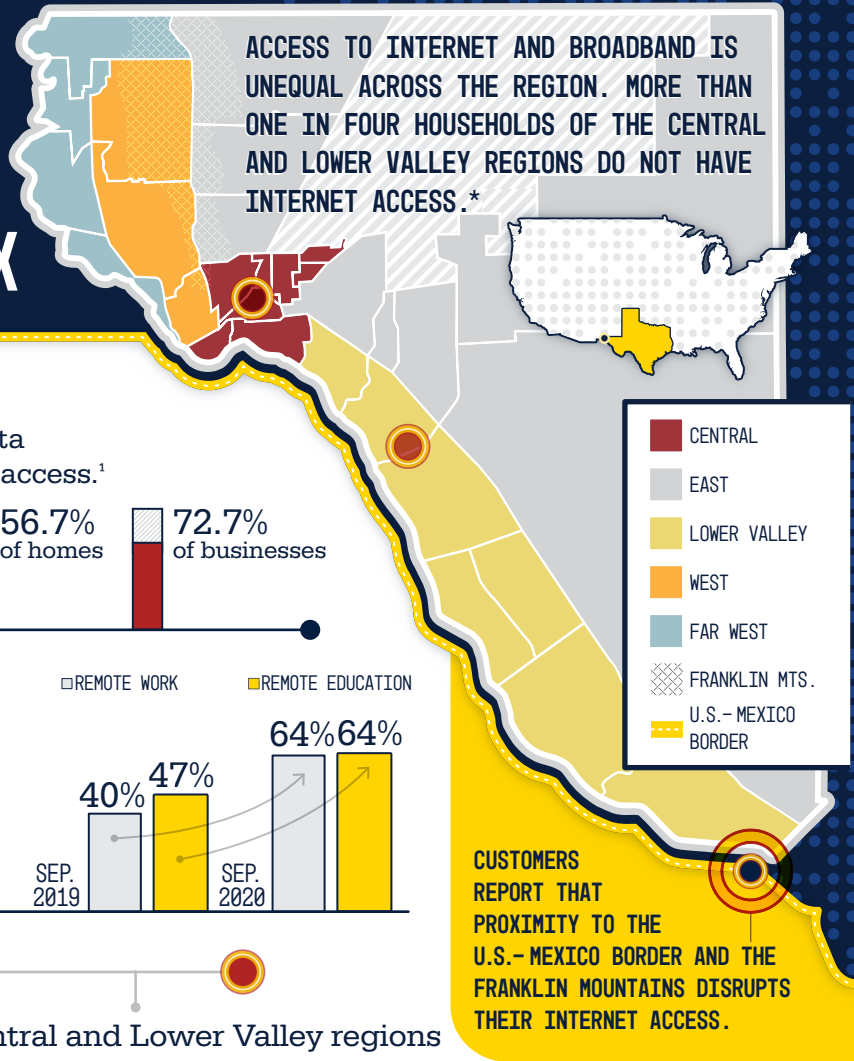
2021 BROADBAND ACCESS



HUNT INSTITUTE
FOR GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS



TOWARDS A MORE & CONNECTED & EQUITABLE EL PASO COUNTY, TX



BROADBAND ACCESS

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) data

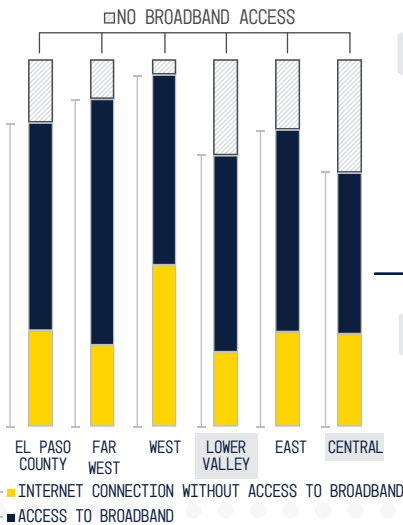
96.8%
Percentage of El Pasoans that should be able to access broadband.

overstates El Paso's broadband access.¹

Percentage of residents and businesses that report actually having broadband connections.

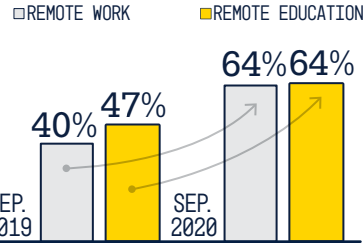
56.7%
of homes

72.7%
of businesses



IMPACT OF PANDEMIC

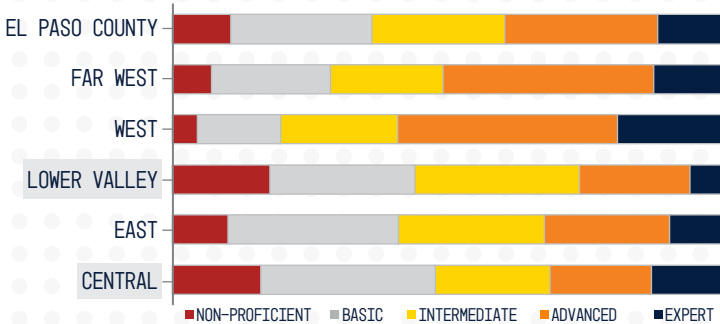
El Pasoans increased internet usage for work and school during the pandemic.²



DIGITAL LITERACY

Households in the Central and Lower Valley regions are found to be the least familiar with common computer software.

RESIDENTIAL DIGITAL LITERACY SKILL LEVEL



MARKET COMPETITION

2 providers service **90%** of residential fixed internet subscribers and **70%** of business subscribers.

4 providers service **90%** of residential mobile internet subscribers and three providers service **80%** of business subscribers.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Hunt Institute's economic impact study estimates that every **\$1** invested in El Paso's broadband infrastructure adds **\$2** to the region's economic output.³ The improved capability of the new network will foster business development and job growth in the county.

¹ The FCC estimates that 99.5% of El Paso County's urban population meets the minimum broadband standards, compared to only 53.8% of the county's rural population. Considering FCC estimates and given the county's population distribution between urban (96.5%) and rural (3.5%) residents, El Paso County would have a 96.8% share of the total population with broadband access. It is unclear whether FCC broadband access data refers to the share of the population with broadband service access or with the ability to access broadband services. ² This data represents household respondents. ³ The economic impact study was conducted for a 17-year period (2022-2040) while considering broadband expansion spending for an eight-year period (2022-2029). This is a conservative estimate as it does not consider new investments as a result of the expansion project. *Data not available for Fort Bliss.



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Borderplex Connect

El Paso County, TX



The information in this factsheet comes from research conducted in 2021 by the Hunt Institute for Global Competitiveness at The University of Texas at El Paso.

Read the complete study—which includes the results of case studies on telework, telehealth, and remote education, as well as a business plan produced by the Mike Loya Center for Innovation and Commerce—at the Borderplex Connect website:



WWW.BORDERPLEXCONNECT.ORG



Borderplex Connect is a regional coalition of public, private, nonprofit, and educational partners working to promote digital inclusion. Our mission is to support and provide access to broadband internet, including without limitation internet services, access to devices, and digital skills training in the rural and/or underserved, economically challenged areas of Far West Texas and Southern New Mexico.

“Providing equitable, reliable access to internet is as important as any utility. Robust internet really means access to education, primary healthcare, better job opportunities, financial systems, and all of society. This is some of the most important work that the El Paso Community Foundation can do right now.”

“In small, rural school districts, schools are the hub of the community. Prior to COVID, we consistently opened our doors to the community for WI-FI access due to an absence of broadband connectivity in many of their homes. The pandemic brought to the forefront the essential role of broadband internet access in the community for equity of opportunity, education, and resources. As a rural school district it became our mission to advocate and act on our students' behalf by seeking a sustainable solution to provide reliable internet access.”

“Helping to close the digital divide has become an important goal for El Paso County, especially as we look to help our region recover from the pandemic. That is why the county has set aside eight million dollars to specifically help with improving broadband.”



—ERIC PEARSON
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF
THE EL PASO COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



—DR. VERONICA VIJIL
SUPERINTENDENT OF FABENS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT



—MICHAEL HERNANDEZ
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR OF EL PASO
COUNTY