

even bother offering new customers its entry-level 200Mbps plan in areas where it has significant fiber competition," Dampier noted, referring to the promotional offers that pop up when you type in an address. "For \$20 less per month, you get double that speed." For gigabit-download service, Charter charges \$90 a month on the competitive street versus \$110 on the noncompetitive street. These are the base prices without fees and taxes.

Charter also offers to lock in the monthly rate for two years in the competitive area, compared to just one year in the noncompetitive area. And that's not all. Charter "charges a hefty \$199.99 compulsory installation fee for gigabit service in noncompetitive neighborhoods. Where fiber competition exists, sometimes just a street away, that installation fee plummets to just \$49.99," Dampier wrote. He added: "Note similar pricing variability exists in Spectrum service areas around the country, with the most aggressively priced offers reserved for addresses also served by a fiber-to-the-home provider or multiple competitors (e.g., cable company, phone company, Google Fiber or other [competitor]). Current customers typically have to cancel existing service and sign up as a new customer to get these prices." In a statement to Ars, Charter said that "Spectrum Internet retail prices, speeds, and features are consistent in each market -- regardless of the competitive environment." But, as Ars notes, "retail prices" are the standard rates customers pay after promotional rates expire. Stop the Cap showed that Charter's promotional rates vary between competitive and noncompetitive areas.

And the source article:

<https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2021/05/charter-charges-more-money-for-slower-internet-on-streets-with-no-competition/>