

6 GHz Band and Wi-Fi: Unlocking Trillions in Economic Value & Securing American Leadership in Innovation

Five years ago, the Trump administration’s Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted unanimously to allocate spectrum in the 6 GHz band for unlicensed use to accommodate the substantial and ever-growing increase in Wi-Fi demand and to ensure “faster, more efficient broadband connections for the American people.”

DELIVERING FOR AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS, CONSUMERS, & BUSINESSES

The decision to do so was bipartisan, forward-looking, and can be considered an unmitigated success for American consumers and businesses—allowing Wi-Fi networks to meet demand, deliver higher speeds, lower latencies, and increase reliability, while not interfering with incumbent services in the 6 GHz band.

“When America goes first, the world takes notice... Consumers here are now benefiting from better, faster Wi-Fi and 5G services in their homes.”

-Then-Commissioner Brendan Carr on the FCC’s 2020 decision, October 2023

LEADING THE WORLD IN INNOVATION & CONNECTIVITY

The U.S. was the first country to make the entire 6 GHz band available for Wi-Fi, ensuring that Americans benefitted from the tremendous economic gains and resulting innovation. In the years since, the rest of the world has followed suit, with nearly 70 countries opening some or all of the 6 GHz band for unlicensed use. One outlier country that has not: China, where the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) continues to restrict the 6 GHz band for licensed use to benefit Huawei, a Chinese telecommunications giant that the Pentagon says is owned or controlled by the Chinese military.

Now, five years after the FCC’s landmark decision, demand for Wi-Fi is skyrocketing, with no signs of slowing down. Current estimates show in 2027, the annual U.S. economic value of Wi-Fi is projected to reach \$2.4 trillion. To continue to deliver for consumers, harness future economic potential, and solidify U.S. leadership, policymakers should look to accommodate Wi-Fi’s surging growth and demand.

UNLEASHING TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN ECONOMIC VALUE

At the time, the move to open the 6 GHz band was expected to generate more than \$180 billion in U.S. revenue over the next five years. In reality, it has far exceeded expectations. In 2023 and 2024 alone, this massive policy success generated an estimated \$870 billion of incremental economic value – projected to increase to \$1.2 trillion by 2027.

Devices Utilizing the 6 GHz Band:



Smartphones

Laptops / Desktops



IoT Devices

Smart Home Devices



Gaming Consoles

Annual 6 GHz-enabled consumer devices shipped to North America will grow from 95 million in 2024 to 367 million in 2029 – an increase of 288% in just five years (ABI Research).