

Radio Switchover: The Facts

What's happening with the radio switchover?

The Government plans to announce a switchover decision in 2013. The Digital Economy Act 2010 gave the Secretary of State the power to set a date for digital radio switchover. Before a date can be set, two criteria need to be met:

- 50% of listening must be to digital platforms;
- Digital coverage for national services must be comparable to FM; and local DAB must reach 90% of the population and major roads.

Almost a third of listening is currently to digital platforms.

What about coverage?

Digital radio already has wide coverage:

- 94% of the population is predicted to receive BBC national stations and 85% can receive commercial national stations;
- Around 66% of the population is predicted to receive local and regional stations.

The industry continues to improve coverage and invest in new infrastructure. The BBC has confirmed it will build out national DAB coverage up to 97% of the UK population by a target date of end 2015 and has committed to provide good in-vehicle coverage for motorways and major roads. A recent Memorandum of Understanding has been signed committing the radio industry to the funding of the buildout of DAB transmitters.

Are there more stations on digital radio than analogue?

In most of the UK a listener can receive their existing FM stations and around 20 extra stations on digital radio (DAB). To check which stations can be received at a specific address, **visit the station checker at getdigitalradio.com**

Many more stations are available on internet radio, including stations from other countries.

What do you get with digital radio?

- More choice: extra sport, speech and music stations
- Digital quality sound: hiss and crackle free
- Easy tuning: station names listed by name and alphabetically
- Digital features: for example, track and artist information; internet radio; pause, rewind and record

How can you listen to digital radio?

The majority of digital listening takes place on DAB digital radio in the home, but listening in your car, on the internet (online and on mobile apps) and digital television play an important role.

When will vehicles be fitted with digital radio?

Digital radio is available in new vehicles as standard or as an optional extra. In Q3 2012, 26% of new cars have digital radio as standard (CAP/SMMT). It is expected that the majority of new vehicles will have a digital radio as standard by the end of 2013. Digital radio adapters are now available to enable you to convert your analogue radio to digital (see getdigitalradio.com for more details).