



The Growth of Internet Exchange Points

Connectivity is the fabric of our digital world and Interconnecting global networks is a critical step in achieving a state of connectedness that powers everything from business to government, and personal entertainment and relationships.

Internet Exchange Points are one way to connect global internet infrastructure, allowing networks to meet inside the data centers that are distributed within local metropolitan or regional areas. These networks connect to a unified platform—the internet exchange point—with a fiber cable (otherwise known as a cross-connect), which then allows them to establish logical interconnection with other networks that are physically connected to the same IXP.

Today, there are over 700 internet exchange points around the world (according to PeeringDB data) and that number has more than doubled in the last 5 years.

What's Driving Growth?

A number of trends can be attributed to the growth of internet exchange points, but some of the most prevalent can be identified as growth of the internet in emerging economies such as Africa, India, South America, and South-East Asia.

In under 5 years, the number of IXPs within South America has increased by 30x and in Africa, that number has more than doubled.

But growth is not limited to emerging markets, in North America we're noticing new internet exchanges being established in more new cities every year.

As organizations continue to shift to hybrid and multi-cloud infrastructure strategies, the emphasis on private connectivity continues to be in focus. Connecting to Internet Exchange Points, Network-as-a-Service platforms, and any of the other methods available to establish private connectivity has accelerated.

Another key trend is the inward expansion of multi-tenant data centers towards smaller tier-2 and tier-3 markets. As data centers are built in more locations and more businesses choose to deploy IT infrastructure and expand their networks, the more important the establishment of internet exchange points becomes in these markets.

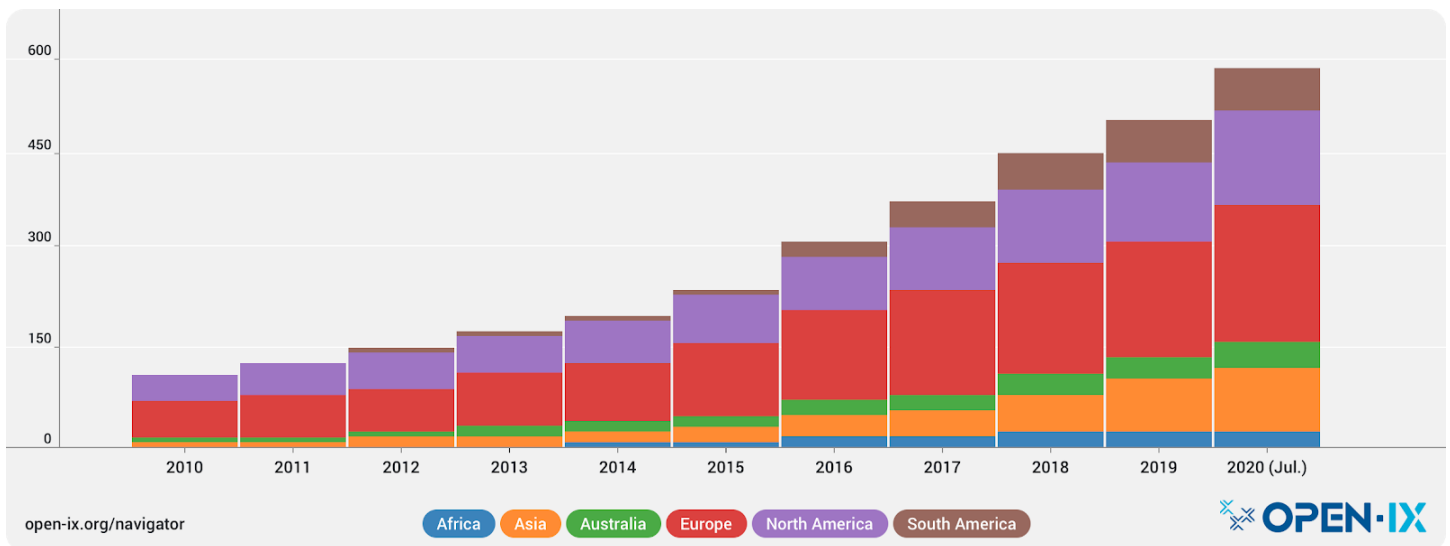
The Future of Internet Exchange Based Interconnection

Understanding the history of interconnection is imperative to be able to determine what may or may not happen in the future. While we're not here to predict the future, one key trend should be highlighted and that is both the desire and demand for private connectivity is rising.

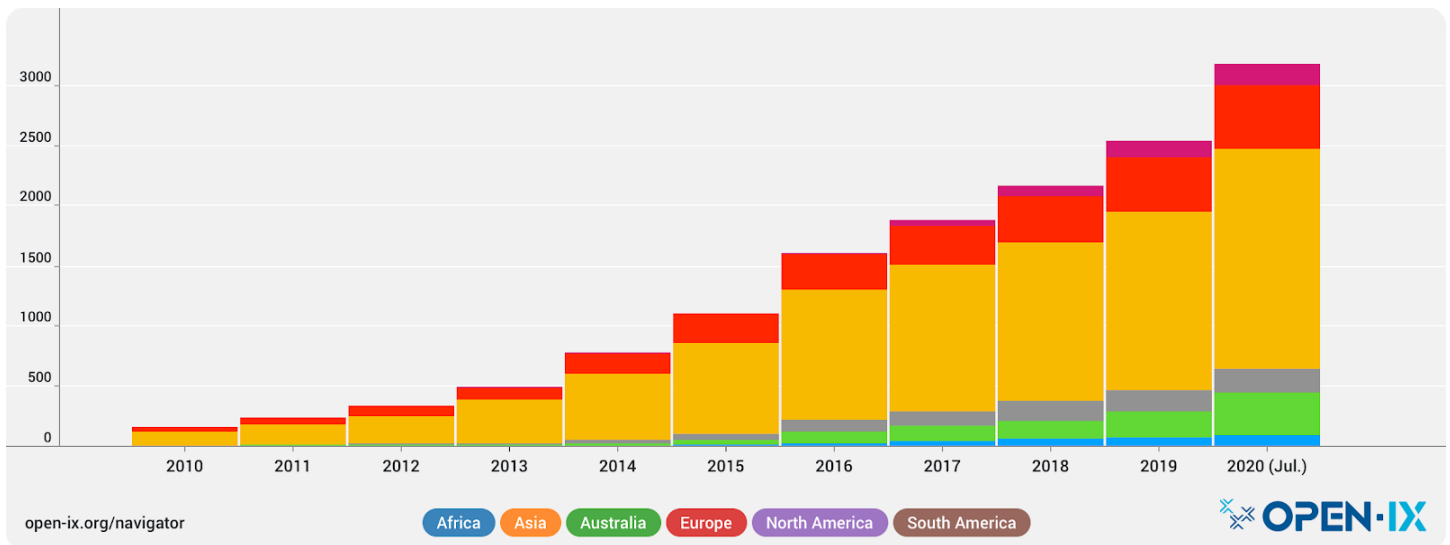
While Internet Exchange Points are not the only way for a business to connect to its partners and other relevant networks privately, it is one that has been around for over 25 years now.

We invite you to use the data analysis tool that we've developed to take a look at the history of IXPs and discover trends and themes for yourself.

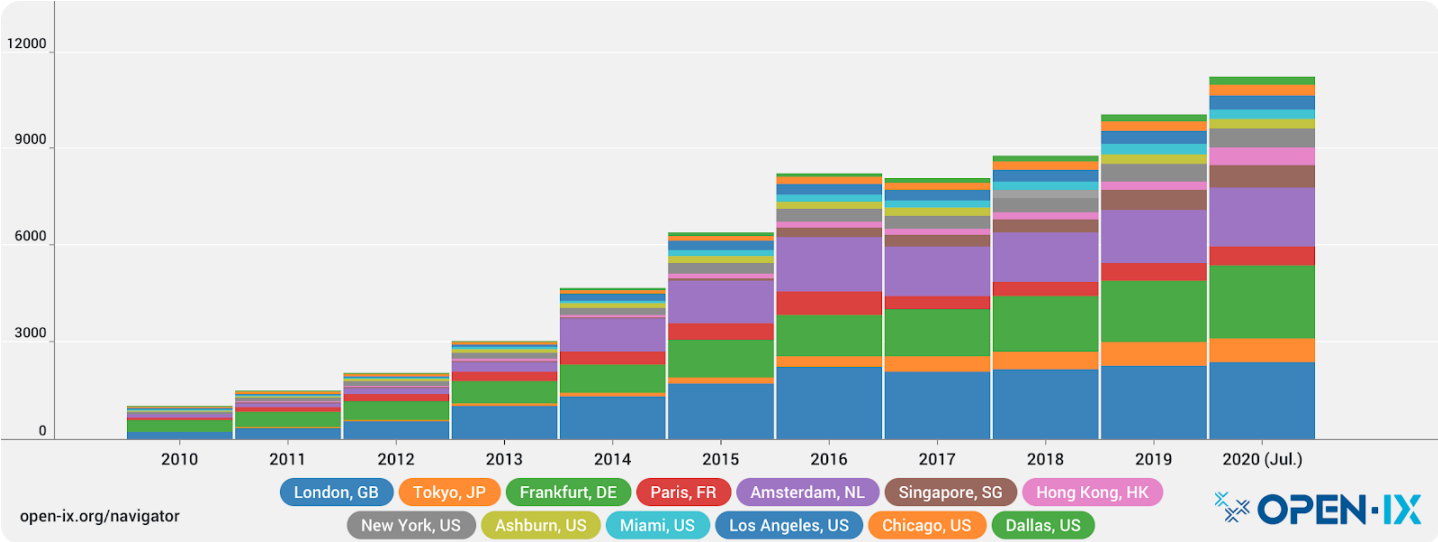
Exchange Count by Continent (2010 to Present)



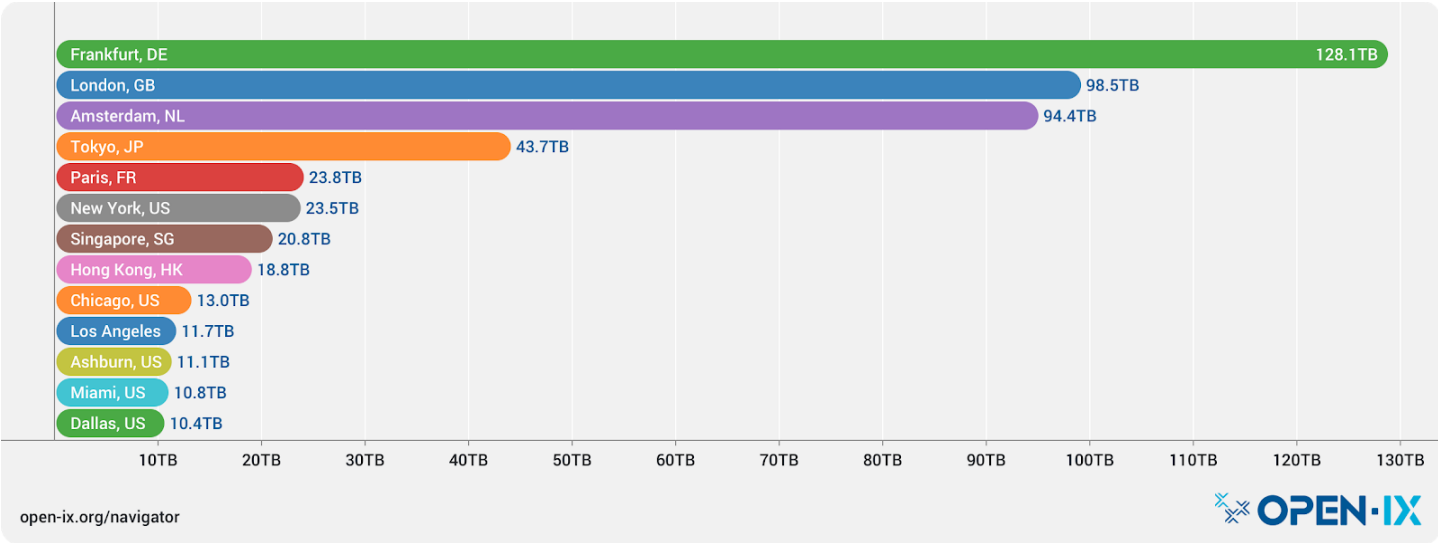
Port Count by Continent (2010 to Present)



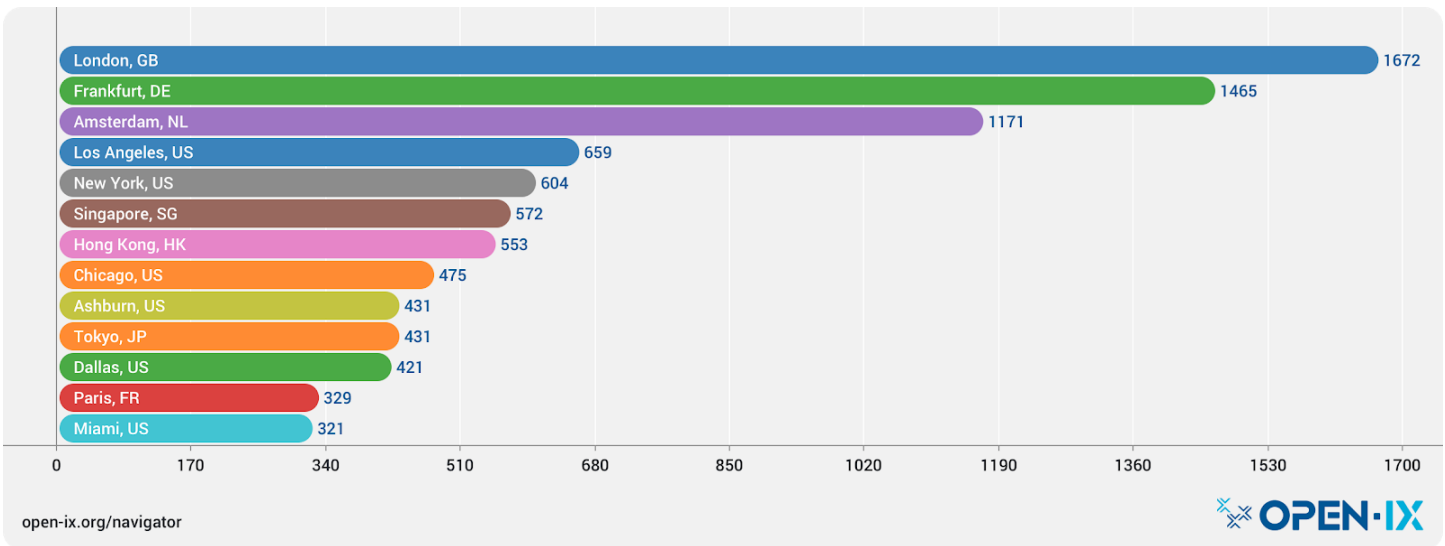
Port Count by Global Primary Hub (2010 to Present)



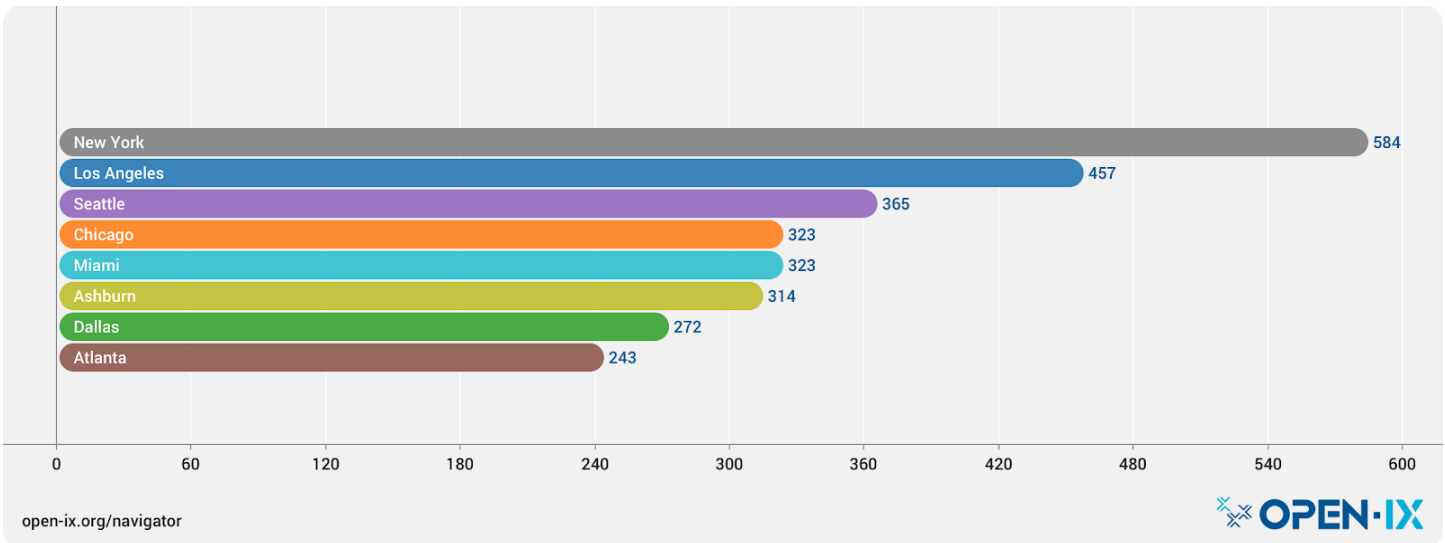
Traffic Capacity by Global Primary Hub (as of July 2020)



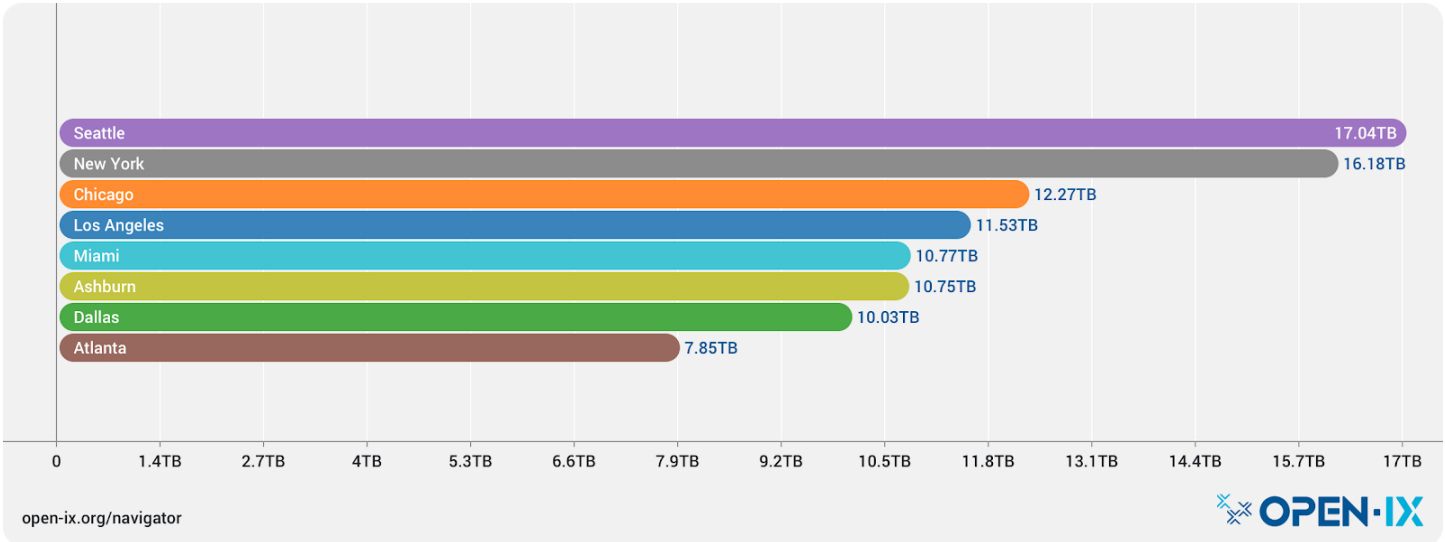
Unique ASN by Global Primary Hub (as of July 2020)



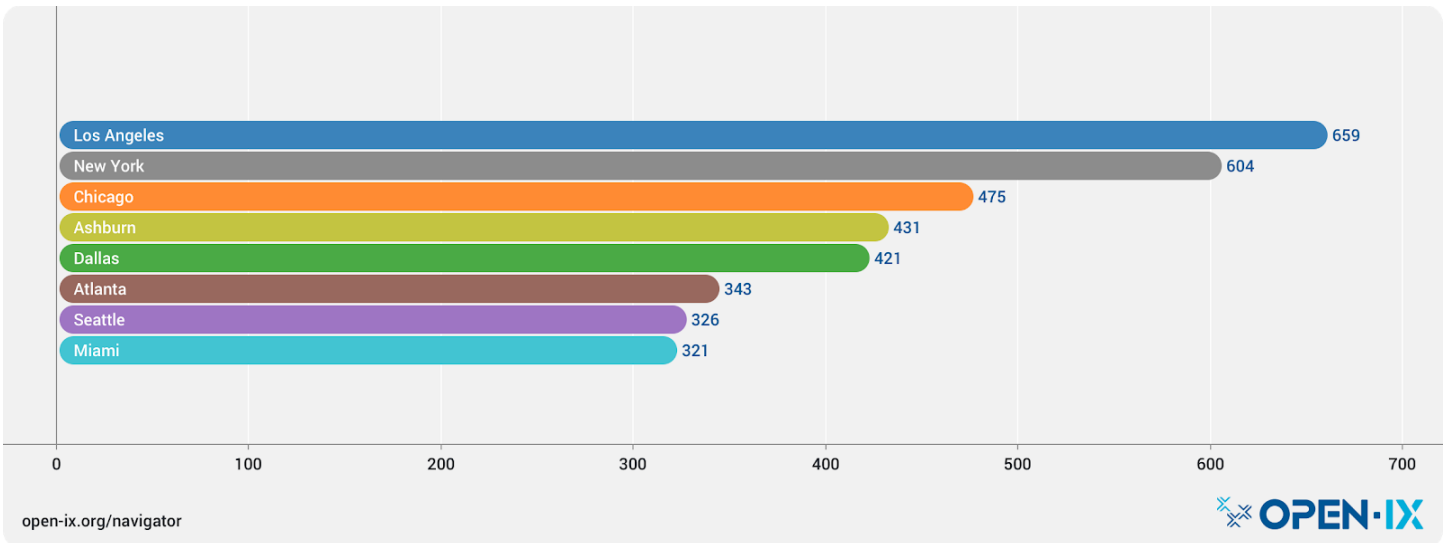
Port Count by US Primary Hub (as of July 2020)



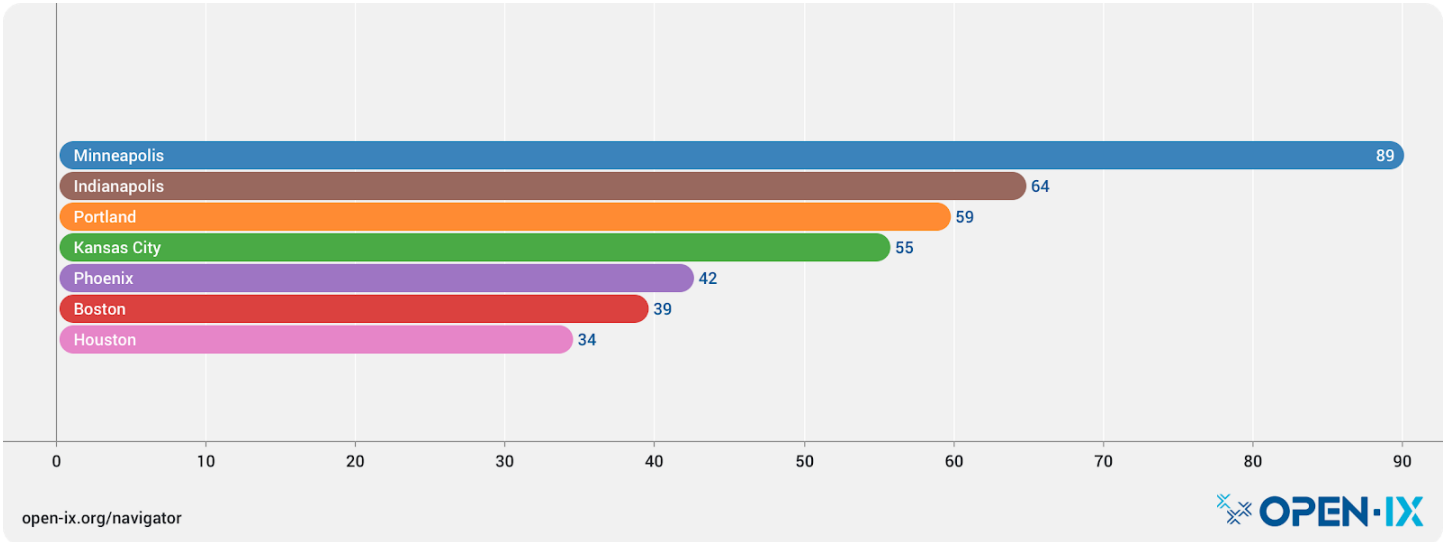
Traffic Capacity by US Primary Hub (as of July 2020)



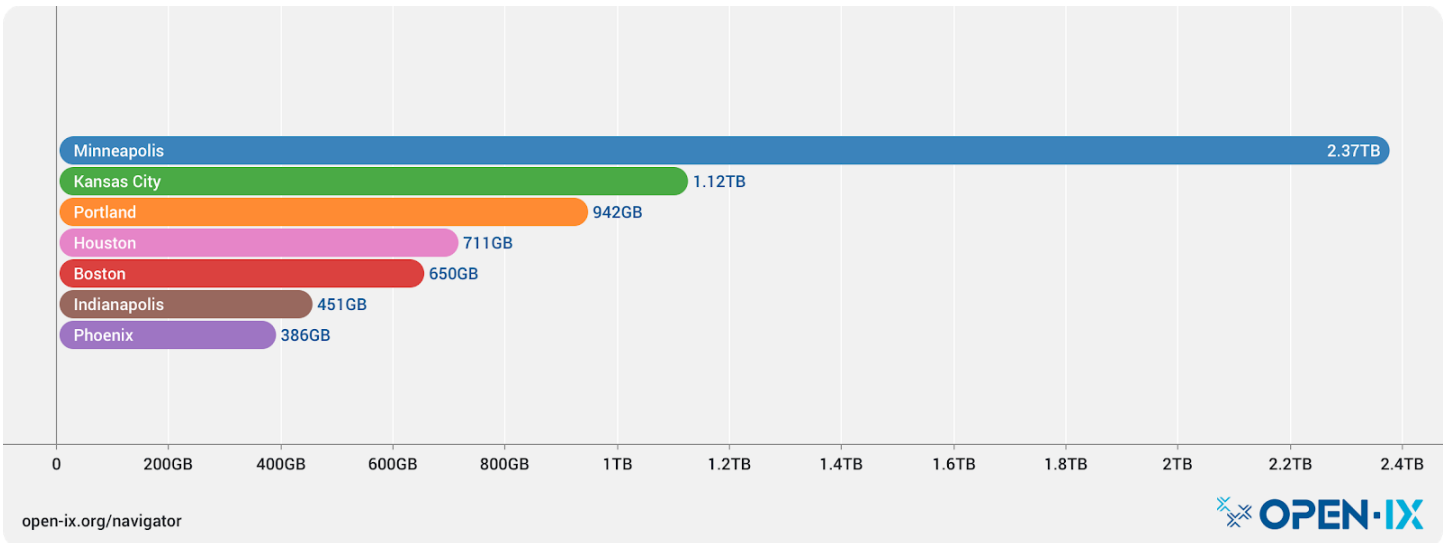
Unique ASNs by US Primary Hub (as of July 2020)



Port Count by US Secondary Market (as of July 2020)



Traffic Capacity by US Secondary Market (as of July 2020)



Unique ASNs by US Secondary Market (as of July 2020)

