

Internet usage in the EU25

Nearly half of individuals in the EU25 used the internet at least once a week in 2006

A third of households and three-quarters of enterprises had broadband internet access

In the **EU25**, 52% of households¹ had access to the internet during the first quarter of 2006, compared to 48% during the first quarter of 2005, and 32% had a broadband connection, compared to 23% in 2005. At the beginning of 2006, 94% of enterprises² with at least 10 persons employed had access to the internet (91% at the beginning of 2005), and 75% of enterprises had a broadband connection (63% in 2005). In the first quarter of 2006, 47% of individuals¹ in the **EU25** used the internet regularly, i.e. at least once a week, whether at home or at any other location.

This data³ comes from **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**. This release presents part of the results of surveys on the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) by households, individuals and enterprises in the **EU25** Member States, **Norway** and **Iceland**. As well as internet use, the surveys also cover broadband connections, e-commerce, e-government and e-skills.

Household internet access ranged from 23% in Greece to 80% in the Netherlands

In the first quarter of 2006, the highest proportions of households with internet access were recorded in the **Netherlands** (80%), **Denmark** (79%), **Sweden** (77%) and **Luxembourg** (70%). The lowest levels were registered in **Greece** (23%), **Slovakia** (27%), **Hungary** (32%), **Lithuania** and **Portugal** (both 35%).

At the beginning of 2006, the highest proportions of enterprises with internet access were recorded in **Finland** (99%), **Denmark** and **Austria** (both 98%) and the **Netherlands** (97%). Only in **Latvia** (80%), **Cyprus** (86%), **Lithuania** (88%) and **Poland** (89%) were fewer than 90% of enterprises connected to the internet.

Broadband offers a much faster connection to the internet, and offers the potential of changing the way the internet is used. The proportion of households with a broadband connection in 2006 was highest in the **Netherlands** (66%), **Denmark** (63%), **Finland** (53%) and **Sweden** (51%), and lowest in **Greece** (4%), **Slovakia** (11%), **Cyprus** (12%) and **Ireland** (13%). Amongst enterprises the highest levels of broadband connections were recorded in **Sweden** and **Finland** (both 89%), **Spain** (87%) and **France** (86%), and the lowest in **Poland** (46%), **Cyprus** (55%), **Lithuania** (57%) and **Latvia** (59%).

Nearly three quarters of young people used the internet at least once a week

In the first quarter of 2006, the highest proportions of individuals regularly using the internet were recorded in **Sweden** (80%), **Denmark** (78%), the **Netherlands** (76%) and **Finland** (71%), and the lowest in **Greece** (23%), **Cyprus** (29%), **Italy** and **Portugal** (both 31%).

At **EU25** level a higher proportion of men than women used the internet regularly (51% of men compared with 43% of women), and this was true for all Member States, although in **Estonia**, **Latvia**, **Lithuania** and **Finland** the gap was only one or two percentage points. In **Luxembourg** the gap was 21 percentage points (men 76%, women 55%).

While nearly three quarters of individuals in the **EU25** aged 16 to 24 (73%), and more than half of those aged 25 to 54 (54%), used the internet regularly, only a fifth of those aged 55 to 74 (20%) did so. While the gap in regular use between Member States ranged from one to two for 16-24 year olds (47% in **Greece** to 96% in the **Netherlands**) and one to three for 25-54 year olds (27% in **Greece** to 89% in **Sweden**), it reached one to fourteen for 55-74 year olds (4% in **Greece** to 56% in **Denmark** and **Sweden**).

Internet access by households and enterprises, 2006 (%)**

	Proportion with internet access		Proportion with broadband connection	
	Households	Enterprises	Households	Enterprises
EU25*	52	94	32	75
Belgium	54	95	48	84
Czech Republic	:	95	:	69
Denmark	79	98	63	83
Germany	67	95	34	73
Estonia	46	:	37	:
Greece	23	:	4	:
Spain	39	93	29	87
France	41	94	30	86
Ireland	50	94	13	61
Italy	40	93	16	70
Cyprus	37	86	12	55
Latvia	42	80	23	59
Lithuania	35	88	19	57
Luxembourg	70	93	44	76
Hungary	32	:	22	:
Malta	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	80	97	66	82
Austria	52	98	33	69
Poland	36	89	22	46
Portugal	35	:	24	:
Slovenia	54	96	34	75
Slovakia	27	93	11	61
Finland	65	99	53	89
Sweden	77	96	51	89
United Kingdom	63	92	44	77
Iceland	83	99	72	95
Norway	69	94	57	86

* EU25 excludes Member States for which data is not available.

** Reference period: first quarter for households, January for enterprises

: Data not available

Internet use by individuals, 2006** (%)

	Use the Internet at least once a week					
	Total	Men	Women	16-24 years old	25-54 years old	55-74 years old
EU25*	47	51	43	73	54	20
Belgium	58	62	54	82	67	27
Czech Rep.	:	:	:	:	:	:
Denmark	78	80	76	94	86	56
Germany	59	65	54	83	69	30
Estonia	56	57	56	90	64	u
Greece	23	27	18	47	27	4
Spain	39	44	35	70	45	10
France	39	42	37	71	47	u
Ireland	44	45	42	59	48	17
Italy	31	36	26	55	37	9
Cyprus	29	32	27	55	31	7
Latvia	46	47	45	86	50	12
Lithuania	38	38	37	77	39	7
Luxembourg	65	76	55	89	71	37
Hungary	42	43	40	74	47	14
Malta	:	:	:	:	:	:
Netherlands	76	82	71	96	86	46
Austria	55	61	49	80	63	24
Poland	34	36	32	71	35	7
Portugal	31	35	28	68	34	6
Slovenia	47	51	42	81	54	12
Slovakia	43	47	39	72	47	9
Finland	71	72	70	94	82	38
Sweden	80	84	76	94	89	56
UK	57	63	51	72	66	33
Iceland	84	86	82	96	90	59
Norway	77	80	73	97	84	48

* EU25 excludes Member States for which data is not available.

** Reference period: first quarter for individuals.

: Data not available

u Data not reliable

1. The survey covered households containing at least one person aged 16-74, and individuals aged 16-74. The reference period was the first quarter of 2006. **Households** were asked about **internet access** by any member of the household at home. **Individuals** were asked about **internet use** at home or at any other location.
2. The survey covered enterprises with at least 10 persons employed. The reference period was January 2006. Activities covered were manufacturing, construction, distributive trades, hotels and accommodation, transport and communication, real estate, renting and business activities, motion picture and video activities, radio and television activities.
3. The full set of data can be found on the Eurostat website, under Data / Population and social conditions / Information society statistics.

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