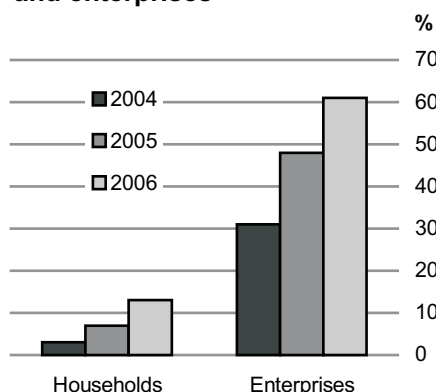




Information Society Statistics First Results 2006

Use of broadband in households and enterprises



	All Households		Enterprises (10 or more employees)	
	Internet	Broadband	Internet	Broadband
	%		%	
2004	38	3	92	31
2005	45	7	92	48
2006	49	13	94	61

Increased uptake of broadband

In the first quarter this year, just over 13% of households (or one in every eight) had a broadband connection, compared with 7% in the third quarter 2005. Almost 61% of businesses with 10 or more employees used broadband, up from 48% in the previous year. *See above and Tables 1 and 2.*

In 2006, an estimated 59% of all households had a home computer, compared to 46% in 2004. The number of households who access the internet on home computers continues to rise, with 49% of all households now connecting to the internet. Just over 83% of households with a computer use it to connect to the internet. *See Table 1.*

Almost all businesses now connect to the internet. The use of broadband by enterprises has doubled from 31% in 2004 to 61% in 2006. As a consequence there has been a sharp decline in the use of modems and ISDN over the same period. *See Table 2.*

These results are based on surveys of ICT and e-commerce usage by households and enterprises, conducted in the first quarter of 2006. A more detailed thematic report on ICT and Telecommunications will be issued in December 2006. *See Background Notes.*

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Table 1 Main trends in household ICT use 2004 - 2006¹

	Unit	2004	2005	2006
All households	'000	1,405.9	1,453.9	1,483.8
Households with home computers	'000	649.4	797.7	867.3
% of all households	%	46.2	54.9	58.5
Households with computers connected to Internet	'000	537.0	655.0	722.1
% of all households	%	38.2	45.1	48.7
% of households with home computers	%	82.7	82.1	83.3
Type of Internet connection²				
Modem/ISDN	'000	503.6	552.1	523.7
Broadband	'000	40.4	106.9	193.5
Other/don't know	'000	13.9	48.1	35.1

¹ Field work was carried out during quarter 3 in 2004 and 2005 and during quarter 1 in 2006.

² Some households may have more than one internet connection and use devices other than computers to connect to the internet.

Source: CSO - Quarterly National Household Survey.

Note: Data may be subject to sampling or other survey errors, which are greater in respect of smaller values.

Table 2 Main trends in enterprise ICT use 2004 - 2006

	Unit	2004	2005	2006
All Enterprises with 10 or more persons engaged¹	No.	9,707	12,211	12,031
Enterprises with computers	No.	9,294	11,808	11,665
% of all enterprises	%	96	97	97
Enterprises with computers connected to Internet	No.	8,909	11,244	11,346
% of all enterprises	%	92	92	94
% of enterprises with computers	%	96	95	97
Type of Internet connection²				
Modem	%	35	27	25
ISDN	%	39	32	31
Broadband	%	31	48	61
Wireless Connection	%	6	8	14

¹ Includes data for the Construction and Recreational, and Cultural and Sporting activities sectors not incorporated in previous releases.

² Enterprises may have more than one Internet connection.

Source: ICT and ecommerce survey.

Background Notes

Introduction The enterprise and household surveys of ICT and e-commerce usage are conducted to provide harmonised statistics at EU level on indicators required under the i2010 Initiative. The i2010: European Information Society 2010 is an initiative to foster growth and jobs in the information society and media industries. The surveys on ICT are repeated annually under EU Regulation (EC) No. 808/2004. This release presents first summary results from the two surveys.

Household survey The household survey is collected as part of the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS). In the QNHS, 3,000 households are interviewed each week to give a total sample of 39,000 households each quarter. The survey is the basis for the CSO's quarterly labour force figures. The module on ICT and e-commerce usage was first included in June 2003 and repeated in June 2004 and 2005. In the first quarter of 2006, a sample of just under 6,000 households was included for the purposes of the ICT and e-commerce module. It included questions relating to the household and questions asked of each person aged 16 to 74. The grossing procedure aligns the distribution of persons covered in the sample with independently determined population estimates at the level of sex, age group and region. The results are subject to sampling and other survey errors. Sampling errors have a relatively larger effect on smaller estimates and on the interpretation of some year-on-year trends. The reference quarters for survey results are: Q1 - December to February, Q2 - March to May, Q3 - June to August and Q4 - September to November. When comparing the 2006 results with earlier years results, the change in the reference period should be taken into account.

Enterprise survey This postal survey was first conducted by the CSO in October 2002 and since then has been conducted in March of each year. The results cover enterprises with ten or more employees in the manufacturing, construction and selected services sectors. In this release, data for the Construction and Recreational, Cultural and Sporting activities sectors have been incorporated for the first time; and results for 2004 and 2005 have been updated to take account of this additional coverage.

NACE Rev. 1	
Sections and Divisions	Description
D (15-37)	Manufacturing
F (45)	Construction
G (50-52)	Wholesale; retail; repairs
H (55)	Hotels, bars and restaurants
I (60-64)	Transport, storage and communications
K (70-74)	Real estate, renting and business activities
O 92	Recreational, cultural and sporting activities

Publications A more detailed thematic report on ICT and Telecommunications will be issued in December 2006. In addition to more detailed tables from the two surveys, the report will also provide information on the contribution of the ICT sector to the Irish economy, human resources in ICT, complementary administrative data from ComReg on ICT and the telecommunications sector in Ireland, and international comparisons.