

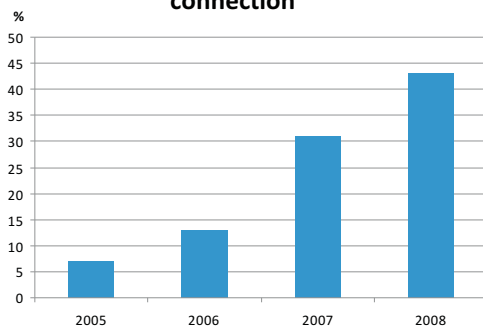


Information Society Statistics

First Results 2008

Household Statistics

Households with at least one person aged 16-74 with a broadband connection



Main trends in household ICT use 2005 - 2008

	% of all households with at least one person aged 16-74	
	Computer connected to the Internet	Broadband
	%	%
2005	45	7
2006	49	13
2007	57	31
2008	62	43

Home computer ownership and broadband connection levels continue to rise

In the first quarter of 2008, 70% of all households that had at least one member aged between 16-74, had a home computer. This has been rising each year since 2005 when the level recorded was 55%. Almost 9 in every 10 of those households had their computer connected to the internet (89%), compared with 82% in 2005. As a result of both these trends overall household internet connection levels rose significantly between 2005 and 2008, from 45% to 62%. *See summary table above and table 1.*

In 2005, only 7% of all households had a broadband connection compared with 39% of households having a connection via a modem or ISDN. By 2007, broadband had replaced modem/ISDN as the most prevalent form of internet connection for households (31% compared with 25%). The increasing trend for broadband connections continued in 2008 with 43% of all households reporting a broadband connection, compared with 19% of households reporting having a modem/ISDN connection only. *See summary table above, table 1 and graph across.*

The results are based on a household survey of ICT and e-commerce usage, conducted in the first quarter of 2008 as part of the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS). A more detailed thematic report on ICT and Telecommunications is expected to be issued in early 2009. *See Background Notes.*

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Table 1 Main trends in household¹ ICT use 2005 - 2008²

	%			
	2005	2006	2007	2008
% of all households¹ with home computers	55	59	65	70
Households ¹ with computers connected to Internet				
% of all households ¹	45	49	57	62
% of households ¹ with home computers	82	83	87	89
Type of Internet connection³ as % of all households¹				
Broadband ⁴	7	13	31	43
Modem/ISDN	39	36	25	19
Other/don't know	1	1	1	1
Type of Internet connection³ as % of households¹ with an internet connection				
Broadband ⁴	16	26	55	68
Modem/ISDN	82	72	43	30
Other/don't know	2	2	2	2

¹ Households refers to households where at least one member was aged between 16-74

² Field work was carried out during quarter 3 in 2005 and in quarter 1 in 2006, 2007 and 2008

³ Some households may have more than one internet connection and use devices other than computers to connect to the internet.

⁴ Households that had a broadband and a Modem/ISDN internet connection are included under Broadband only.

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.

Background Notes

Introduction

The CSO conducts annual enterprise and household surveys of ICT and e-commerce usage to provide harmonised statistics at EU level on indicators required under the i2010 Initiative. The i2010: European Information Society 2010 is a European initiative to foster growth and jobs in the information society and media industries. i2010 is a comprehensive strategy for modernising and deploying all EU policy instruments to encourage the development of the digital economy: regulatory instruments, research and partnerships with industry. The surveys on ICT will be repeated annually under EU Regulation (EC) No. 808/2004. This release includes preliminary results from the household survey of ICT and e-commerce usage. Enterprise results will be issued in a separate release.

Enterprise survey

The household survey of ICT and e-commerce usage is collected as part of the Quarterly National Household Survey. This is a continuous survey in which 3,000 households are interviewed each week to give a total sample of 39,000 households each quarter. The survey's main purpose is to ask demographic and labour force questions, which are the basis for CSO's quarterly labour force figures. The survey also includes modules on social and other topics. The module on ICT and e-commerce usage was included for the first time in Q3 2003 and repeated again in Q3 2004 and 2005. In 2006 the survey was first carried out in Q1 and continued to be carried out in Q1 in 2007 & 2008. A sample of approximately 6,000 households was included for the purposes of the ICT and e-commerce survey. 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 2005 results with later years' results, the change in the reference period should be taken into account.

Publications

A more detailed thematic report on ICT and Telecommunications is expected to be issued in early 2009. In addition to more detailed tables from this household survey, the report will also include detailed information from the CSO's enterprise survey of ICT and e-commerce usage. The publication 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.