

Internet usage in the EU25 in 2005

## More than 40% of individuals in the EU25 used the internet at least once a week

A quarter of households and two-thirds of enterprises had broadband internet access

In the **EU25**, 48% of households<sup>1</sup> had access to the internet during the first quarter of 2005, and 23% had a broadband connection. At the beginning of 2005, 91% of enterprises<sup>2</sup> had access to the internet, and 63% of enterprises had a broadband connection.

This information comes from a report<sup>3</sup> released by **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**. This report presents the results of surveys of internet access and broadband connections for households and enterprises, and internet usage by individuals, in the **EU25** Member States, **Norway** and **Iceland**. It also covers e-commerce.

### Household internet access ranged from 16% in Lithuania to 78% in the Netherlands

In the first quarter of 2005, the highest proportions of households with internet access were recorded in the **Netherlands** (78%), **Luxembourg** (77%), **Denmark** (75%) and **Sweden** (73%). The lowest levels were registered in **Lithuania** (16%), the **Czech Republic** (19%), **Greece** and **Hungary** (both 22%) and **Slovakia** (23%).

At the beginning of 2005, the highest proportions of enterprises with internet access were recorded in **Finland** (98%), **Denmark** (97%), **Slovenia** and **Sweden** (both 96%). Only in **Latvia** (75%), **Hungary** (78%), **Cyprus** (85%), **Lithuania** (86%) and **Poland** (87%) 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 2005 was highest in the **Netherlands** (54%), **Denmark** (51%), **Belgium** (41%) and **Sweden** (40%), and lowest in **Greece** (1%), **Cyprus** (4%), the **Czech Republic** (5%) and **Slovakia** (7%). Amongst enterprises the highest levels of broadband connections were recorded in **Sweden** (83%), **Denmark** (82%), **Finland** (81%) and **Belgium** (78%), and the lowest in **Cyprus** (40%), **Poland** (43%) and **Greece** (44%).

### More than three quarters of students used the internet at least once a week

In the first quarter of 2005, 43% of individuals<sup>1</sup> in the **EU25** used the internet regularly, i.e. at least once a week, whether at home or at any other location. The highest levels of regular use were recorded in **Sweden** (76%), the **Netherlands** (74%) and **Denmark** (73%), and the lowest in **Greece** (18%), the **Czech Republic** and **Cyprus** (both 26%).

At **EU25** level a higher proportion of men used the internet regularly than women (49% compared with 38%) and this was true for all Member States, although in **Latvia**, **Lithuania** and **Hungary** the gap was only one percentage point.

While more than three quarters of students<sup>4</sup> (79%) in the **EU25**, and more than half of the employed (55%), used the internet regularly, less than a third of the unemployed (32%) did so. While the gap between Member States ranged from one to two for students (48% in **Greece** to 97% in the **Netherlands**) and one to three for the employed (28% in **Greece** to 85% in the **Netherlands**), it reached one to twelve for the unemployed (7% in **Lithuania** to 87% in the **Netherlands**).

The proportion of individuals who had never used the internet was the same as for regular users, 43% in the **EU25**. It should be noted that nearly one woman in two, and one unemployed person in two, in the **EU25** had never used the internet, compared to less than 10% of students, less than 30% of the employed, and less than 40% of men.

#### Internet access by households and enterprises 2005\*\* (%)

	Proportion with internet access		Proportion with broadband connection	
	Households	Enterprises	Households	Enterprises
<b>EU25*</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	50	95	41	78
<b>Czech Republic</b>	19	92	5	52
<b>Denmark</b>	75	97	51	82
<b>Germany</b>	62	94	23	62
<b>Estonia</b>	39	90	30	67
<b>Greece</b>	22	92	1	44
<b>Spain</b>	36	90	21	76
<b>France</b>	:	:	:	:
<b>Ireland</b>	:	92	:	48
<b>Italy</b>	39	92	13	57
<b>Cyprus</b>	32	85	4	40
<b>Latvia</b>	42	75	13	48
<b>Lithuania</b>	16	86	12	57
<b>Luxembourg</b>	77	92	39	64
<b>Hungary</b>	22	78	11	48
<b>Malta</b>	:	:	:	:
<b>Netherlands</b>	78	91	54	71
<b>Austria</b>	47	95	23	61
<b>Poland</b>	30	87	16	43
<b>Portugal</b>	31	:	20	:
<b>Slovenia</b>	48	96	19	74
<b>Slovakia</b>	23	92	7	48
<b>Finland</b>	54	98	36	81
<b>Sweden</b>	73	96	40	83
<b>United Kingdom</b>	60	90	32	65
<b>Iceland</b>	84	:	63	:
<b>Norway</b>	:	93	:	78

\* 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, 2005\*\* (%)

	Use the Internet at least once a week						Have never used the Internet					
	Total	Men	Women	Student	Emp.	Unemp.	Total	Men	Women	Student	Emp.	Unemp.
<b>EU25*</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	53	58	48	88	65	39	39	35	43	6	25	48
<b>Czech Rep.</b>	26	29	23	63	33	12	63	60	65	17	54	75
<b>Denmark</b>	73	75	71	95	81	68	14	13	16	1	7	14
<b>Germany</b>	54	62	47	88	64	45	29	24	33	u	17	28
<b>Estonia</b>	54	57	51	95	63	u	36	33	38	u	25	48
<b>Greece</b>	18	22	15	48	28	14	73	71	75	31	59	72
<b>Spain</b>	35	40	30	77	46	27	50	45	54	4	35	49
<b>France</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Ireland</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Italy</b>	28	34	23	66	39	23	62	56	67	19	49	64
<b>Cyprus</b>	26	28	24	64	30	29	64	62	66	17	59	55
<b>Latvia</b>	36	37	36	81	46	15	51	50	52	3	39	72
<b>Lithuania</b>	30	30	29	85	38	7	61	61	62	4	51	82
<b>Luxembourg</b>	63	76	51	87	73	45	29	17	40	4	20	45
<b>Hungary</b>	34	34	33	71	44	22	60	60	60	20	48	69
<b>Malta</b>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
<b>Netherlands</b>	74	79	68	97	85	87	18	14	22	1	7	8
<b>Austria</b>	49	54	43	91	61	39	40	35	45	3	25	45
<b>Poland</b>	29	31	28	74	38	12	58	56	59	7	46	69
<b>Portugal</b>	28	31	25	88	34	15	63	59	66	4	54	70
<b>Slovenia</b>	40	42	39	u	54	u	48	45	50	u	31	u
<b>Slovakia</b>	43	47	39	79	49	26	42	38	45	2	35	53
<b>Finland</b>	62	64	60	79	76	37	23	23	23	0	12	32
<b>Sweden</b>	76	80	72	95	84	80	12	10	13	1	6	8
<b>UK</b>	54	61	47	86	64	u	28	26	31	u	18	u
<b>Iceland</b>	81	82	79	98	85	66	11	9	12	0	6	21

\* 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 2005. **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 2005 or 2004 for e-commerce questions. 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. Eurostat, Statistics in Focus, Industry, Trade & Services, 12/2006, "Use of the Internet among individuals and enterprises". The publication is available free of charge in PDF format on the Eurostat website.
4. Students are those aged sixteen or more in school or university.

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