

Internet access and use in 2010

80% of young internet users in the EU27 active on social media

Share of households with broadband connections has doubled since 2006

In the **EU27**, 70% of households¹ had access to the internet in the first quarter of 2010, compared with 49% in the first quarter of 2006. The share of households with broadband internet connections doubled, to reach 61% in 2010 compared with 30% in 2006.

These data² published by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**, represent only a small part of the results of a survey on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) usage in households and by individuals in the **EU27** Member States, **Norway, Croatia and Turkey**. As well as internet use and broadband connections, the survey also covers other indicators such as e-shopping, e-government, e-security and advanced communication and content related services.

Proportion of internet access around 20 percentage points higher in households with children

The level of internet access increased in all Member States between 2006 and 2010, most notably in **Romania** where it tripled, and in **Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary and Slovakia**, where it doubled or almost doubled. In 2010, the highest shares of internet access were recorded in the **Netherlands** (91%), **Luxembourg** (90%), **Sweden** (88%) and **Denmark** (86%), and the lowest in **Bulgaria** (33%), **Romania** (42%) and **Greece** (46%).

The proportion of households with a broadband connection also rose in every Member State in 2010 compared with 2006. **Sweden** (83%) registered the highest share of broadband connections in 2010, followed by **Denmark** (80%), **Finland** (76%) and **Germany** (75%), while **Romania** (23%), **Bulgaria** (26%) and **Greece** (41%) had the lowest.

In 2010, the level of internet access for households with children in the **EU27** was significantly higher than for households without children (84% compared with 65%). This was the case in all Member States. The shares for households with children ranged from 50% in **Romania** to 99% in the **Netherlands** and **Finland**. In twelve Member States the share was 90% or more for households with children.

One in five older internet users make internet phone calls

In the **EU27**, around 90% of all internet users sent e-mails during the first quarter of 2010, without any significant difference between age groups.

On the other hand, there was a very significant difference in the use of internet for posting messages to chat sites, blogs and social networks by age. Four fifths of internet users aged 16-24 in the **EU27** used the internet for this purpose during 2010, compared with two fifths of those aged 25-54 and less than one fifth of those aged 55-74. Use of this form of communication was particularly high for all age groups in **Poland, Portugal and Lithuania**.

There was a less pronounced difference between age groups in the use of internet phone and video calls, with one third of those aged 16-24, one quarter of those aged 25-54 and one fifth of those aged 55-74 in the **EU27** using this form of communication during 2010. Use of the internet for phone and video calls was particularly high for all age groups in **Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia**.

Households with internet access, broadband connections and access by type of household (%)

	Internet access		Broadband connection		Internet access by type of household, 2010	
	2006	2010	2006	2010	Households with children	Households without children
EU27	49	70	30	61	84	65
Belgium	54	73	48	70	89	67
Bulgaria	17	33	10	26	62	29
Czech Rep.	29	61	17	54	80	53
Denmark	79	86	63	80	97	83
Germany	67	82	34	75	97	79
Estonia	46	68	37	64	92	59
Ireland	50	72	13	58	84	64
Greece	23	46	4	41	66	39
Spain	39	59	29	57	73	52
France	41	74	30	67	90	65
Italy	40	59	16	49	74	53
Cyprus	37	54	12	51	79	41
Latvia	42	60	23	53	82	52
Lithuania	35	61	19	54	84	52
Luxembourg	70	90	44	70	98	87
Hungary	32	60	22	52	77	54
Malta	53	70	41	69	95	62
Netherlands	80	91	66	u	99	88
Austria	52	73	33	64	94	66
Poland	36	63	22	57	83	54
Portugal	35	54	24	50	80	44
Romania	14	42	5	23	50	37
Slovenia	54	68	34	62	92	59
Slovakia	27	67	11	49	86	60
Finland	65	81	53	76	99	75
Sweden	77	88	51	83	98	85
United Kingdom	63	80	44	u	91	75
Norway	69	90	57	83	99	86
Croatia	:	56	:	49	80	47
Turkey	:	42	:	34	43	41

: Data not available

u Unreliable data

Use of internet for communication, 2010 (% of internet users)

	E-mail			Posting messages to chat sites, blogs, social networking			Internet phone/video calls		
	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-74	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-74	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-54	Aged 55-74
EU27	91	89	86	80	42	18	35	26	20
Belgium	95	93	92	70	35	19	35	24	20
Bulgaria	86	80	73	73	52	32	73	60	49
Czech Rep.	94	90	83	76	33	13	58	38	29
Denmark	96	95	92	86	53	23	48	36	29
Germany	95	91	86	88	38	13	31	21	15
Estonia	93	87	65	83	42	u	57	45	31
Ireland	86	87	81	64	33	8	22	27	17
Greece	75	73	62	72	40	18	32	18	13
Spain	91	85	81	79	45	21	26	19	17
France	93	92	90	82	37	17	40	26	24
Italy	84	83	79	73	38	15	34	28	22
Cyprus	86	77	73	76	37	14	59	37	35
Latvia	91	84	61	69	36	15	67	50	36
Lithuania	93	79	65	87	63	42	76	61	44
Luxembourg	94	94	90	74	41	26	32	33	24
Hungary	94	93	92	79	55	37	40	37	37
Malta	94	86	83	79	42	18	28	24	36
Netherlands	98	97	95	55	26	13	27	18	18
Austria	92	89	87	73	32	14	26	22	20
Poland	89	80	70	94	67	45	36	33	35
Portugal	95	87	85	90	65	46	35	23	25
Romania	91	85	78	61	44	23	45	40	31
Slovenia	94	85	78	90	46	29	28	19	19
Slovakia	94	92	86	86	46	18	61	52	49
Finland	92	92	81	85	52	18	20	16	18
Sweden	96	94	86	89	53	20	34	22	17
United Kingdom	88	90	90	75	43	u	30	24	u
Norway	96	93	87	80	49	19	26	20	12
Croatia	78	73	60	74	31	13	33	25	17
Turkey	80	69	62	76	59	34	54	44	34

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1. The survey covered households with at least one person aged 16-74, and individuals aged 16-74. The main reference period was the first quarter of 2010. Households were asked about internet access by any member of the household at home. Individuals were asked about frequency of internet use and about activities they had carried out on the internet in the last three months prior to the survey for private purposes, or in the last twelve months for e-government and e-commerce activities, at home or at any other location. The 2010 survey also included questions on internet security for individuals who used the internet in the last twelve months prior to the survey.
2. Eurostat, Data in Focus 50/2010 "Internet usage in 2010 - Households and individuals", available free of charge in pdf format on the Eurostat web site. The full set of data can be found in the dedicated section: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ict> under "Data".

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office**

Delia BISTREANU
Tel: +352-4301-33 444
eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu

For further information on data:

Heidi SEYBERT
Tel: +352-4301- 37 416
heidi.seybert@ec.europa.eu

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