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Internet access and use in 2012

More than half of internet users post messages to social media...

...and over 60% read news online

Internet access and use is widespread amongst the EU population. In the **EU27**, more than three quarters of households¹ had access to the internet in 2012, compared with just under half in 2006. The proportion of households who have a broadband internet connection has increased more significantly. In 2012, 72% of **EU27** households had access to the internet via a broadband connection, 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, **Iceland, Norway, Croatia, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey**. As well as internet use and broadband connections, the survey also covers other indicators such as mobile use of the internet, e-commerce and e-government. The findings are used for monitoring several EU policies, in particular the Digital Agenda for Europe³.

In every Member State, at least 1 household out of 2 has a broadband connection

While the level of internet access increased in all Member States between 2006 and 2012, differences however remain significant. In 2012, shares of internet access of 90% and over were recorded in the **Netherlands** (94%), **Luxembourg** (93%) and **Denmark** and **Sweden** (both 92%), while shares just over 50% were registered in **Bulgaria** (51%), **Greece** and **Romania** (both 54%).

Broadband internet access enables higher speed when browsing and performing activities over the internet. In 2012, in every Member State at least half of households had a broadband connection. **Sweden** (87%) registered the highest share of broadband connections, followed by **Denmark** and **Finland** (both 85%), the **Netherlands** (83%), **Germany** (82%) and the **United Kingdom** (80% in 2011).

Portuguese internet users more active on social media, Finish for banking and travel

While sending and receiving e-mails as well as finding information about goods or services remained the most common online activities (89% and 83% respectively of those who had used the internet within the last three months) in the **EU27** in 2012, other activities are also widespread among **EU27** internet users⁴: 61% read online news, 54% used internet banking services, 52% posted messages to social media and 50% used services related to travel. In 2012, creating websites or blogs was much less common, even if 9% of internet users already undertook this activity.

Lithuania (92% of internet users) and **Estonia** (91%) had the highest percentages of those having used the internet in 2012 for reading online news and newspapers, while **France** had the lowest proportion (38%). **Finland** was the leading Member State for internet banking (91% of internet users) and online travel services (69%). **Portugal** had the largest share of internet users who posted messages to social media (75% of internet users), and the **Czech Republic** (35%), **France** (40%) and **Germany** (42%) the lowest. The **Netherlands** (17%) and **Hungary** (16%) recorded a proportion of internet users who created websites and blogs in 2012 that was almost double the **EU27** average.

Households with internet access and broadband connection, %

	Internet access			Broadband connection		
	2006	2009	2012	2006	2009	2012
EU27	49	66	76	30	57	72
Belgium	54	67	78	48	63	75
Bulgaria	17	30	51	10	26	51
Czech Republic	29	54	71	17	49	68
Denmark	79	83	92	63	76	85
Germany	67	79	85	34	65	82
Estonia	46	63	75	37	62	74
Ireland	50	67	81	13	54	65
Greece	23	38	54	4	33	51
Spain	39	54	68	29	51	67
France	41	69	80	30	63	77
Italy	40	53	63	16	39	55
Cyprus	37	53	62	12	47	62
Latvia	42	58	69	23	50	67
Lithuania	35	60	62	19	50	61
Luxembourg	70	87	93	44	71	68
Hungary	32	55	69	22	51	68
Malta	53	64	77	41	63	77
Netherlands	80	90	94	66	77	83
Austria	52	70	79	33	58	77
Poland	36	59	70	22	51	67
Portugal	35	48	61	24	46	60
Romania	14	38	54	5	24	50
Slovenia	54	64	74	34	56	73
Slovakia	27	62	75	11	42	72
Finland	65	78	87	53	74	85
Sweden	77	86	92	51	79	87
United Kingdom*	63	77	83	44	69	80
Iceland	83	90	95	72	87	91
Norway	69	86	93	57	78	86
Croatia**	41	50	66	23	39	60
Montenegro	:	:	55	:	:	52
Former Yug. Rep. of Macedonia	14	42	:	1	34	:
Turkey**	20	30	47	17	26	43

: Data not available

* United Kingdom: 2011 instead of 2012; EU27 for 2012 is calculated using United Kingdom data for 2011

** Croatia and Turkey: 2007 instead of 2006

Selected activities of internet users, 2012

	% of internet users in the last 3 months having used internet for:				
	Reading online news, newspapers	Internet banking	Posting messages to social media	Travel and accommodation services	Creating a website or blog
EU27	61	54	52	50	9
Belgium	53	69	u	49	7
Bulgaria	69	7	57	18	7
Czech Republic	85	47	35	58	7
Denmark	79	86	:	60	11
Germany	67	55	42	62	8
Estonia	91	87	56	28	12
Ireland	43	56	59	61	5
Greece	77	17	59	38	10
Spain	76	45	61	58	12
France	38	66	40	47	7
Italy	55	37	52	45	6
Cyprus	73	35	61	48	5
Latvia	88	64	51	u	8
Lithuania	92	65	71	21	6
Luxembourg	75	69	55	65	11
Hungary	86	36	62	25	16
Malta	76	60	64	46	7
Netherlands	59	86	70	55	17
Austria	57	57	46	51	10
Poland	48	51	68	20	5
Portugal	67	41	75	28	12
Romania	73	8	48	24	9
Slovenia	69	41	66	46	7
Slovakia	63	52	62	52	7
Finland	89	91	54	69	8
Sweden	86	85	58	58	11
United Kingdom*	53	:	:	58	:
Iceland	94	90	67	54	13
Norway	90	91	62	59	11
Croatia	85	33	56	23	10
Montenegro	75	4	77	25	5
Turkey	73	17	42	19	5

: Data not available

u Data not reliable

* United Kingdom: 2011 instead of 2012; EU27 for 2012 is calculated using United Kingdom data for 2011

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 2012. 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 at home or at any other location for private purposes.
2. Eurostat, Statistics in Focus 50/2012 "**Internet use in households and by individuals in 2012**", 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".
3. Digital Agenda for Europe: <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda>
4. Internet user: having used the internet in the last 3 months.

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