

## i2010 Annual Report 2007



Information Space  
Innovation & Investment in R&D  
Inclusion



**Information society development in Ireland is mixed, with first-class commercial use despite general low connectivity. It is in a small group of countries which use internet well for business without having a highly developed citizen base.**

### Ireland Today

The citizen and enterprise uptake of broadband was low but is now improving. However, broadband take-up is still well below average and connectivity is still highly focussed on narrowband. Online service use among citizens reflects the slow connection rates: Use of basic services is average while use of more bandwidth-requiring services is low. Despite this, Irish citizens are very active consumers of online commercial music.

eGovernment availability is around the EU average and better for enterprise services. Citizen use has grown well, and for advanced services it is quite high. Enterprise use is now close to the top five in Europe. Access to ICT in schools is average, whereas actual use of ICT in class for teaching is good, although not at the level of the very best countries.

User skill levels among employees are close to the EU average but lower than average for expert skills. R&D-spending in Ireland is low but it is very ICT-dominated: Ireland belongs to the upper European league of ICT-related R&D measured as a percentage of GDP, although still spends less than half of top-performers Finland and Sweden. Enterprise use of internet services is good. General use of eBusiness tools is close to the EU average, whereas the level of commercial transactions online is among the highest in Europe. Percentage of enterprise income coming from eCommerce is one of the highest in Europe and Irish companies are amongst the highest for online purchases and sales.

### Irish ICT Policy

**eInclusion:** €1.5 million supports late ICT adopters. In 2005, there were 49 projects for older and disabled people. In 2006, 76 were approved for funding under the Access, Skills and Content Initiative from a fund of €1.45 million.

**Digital Skills:** A joint government/industry initiative providing broadband internet access to schools is being implemented.

**eBusiness:** The implementation measures of the National eBusiness strategy were approved in April 2006.

**Broadband penetration** almost doubled in 2005 due to increasing connectivity among households and SMEs. Regulations and investment addressing market failures is increasing competition and freedom of choice for consumers. A regional programme addresses infrastructure deficits by building high-speed open access networks with local and regional authorities: 27 Metropolitan Area Networks are complete and 90 towns will be covered during phase two. The "Group Broadband Scheme" targets small towns and rural communities of less than 1500 people. The National Broadband Scheme will supersede this and will ensure that reasonable broadband requests from houses and rural premises are met.

A Knowledge Society Action Plan is being prepared for mid-2007, in line with i2010. It promotes government, business, citizen and non-profit sector ICT use.

<b>Broadband</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>EU25</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Total DSL coverage (as % of total population)			82.3		87.4	20
DSL coverage in rural areas (as % of total population)			56.5		65.9	15
Broadband penetration (as % of population)	0.5	2.5	5.3	10.3	15.7	17
DSL penetration (as % of population)	0.3	2.1	4.1	7.6	12.8	17
Predominant download speed			0.5-1Mbps			
Households having broadband (as % of those having access to the internet at home)	1.7	7.3	15.7	26.2	62.1	28
% of enterprises with broadband access	18.9	31.5	47.6	60.7	74.5	21
Number of 3G subscribers per 100 inhabitants			5.9		5.0	8
Digital Television in households			54.8		30.6	2
Music: number of single downloads per 100 inhabitants			23.0			7
<b>Internet Usage</b>						
% population who are regular internet users	24.8	27.3	30.8	43.6	46.7	15
<b>Take up of internet services (as % of population)</b>						
Sending emails	25.1	27.3	31.0	44.7	43.8	13
Looking for information about goods and services	21.1	22.0	29.1	42.1	42.9	13
Internet telephoning or videoconferencing	2.1	2.0	2.9	5.8	7.1	21
Playing/downloading games and music	4.3	4.8	6.2	11.2	18.2	25
Listening to the web radio/watching web tv	2.5	2.6	4.0	9.1	11.8	21
Reading online newspapers/magazines	4.9	5.3	4.1	7.7	19.0	27
Internet banking	8.1	10.5	12.7	20.6	22.0	14
<b>Places of access</b>						
% at home	20.7	22.5	25.7	35.8	42.6	14
% at work	13.0	14.6	17.1	22.9	23.0	14
% at educational place	3.8	4.8	3.9	7.3	8.0	19
% at PIAP	3.4	2.7	2.9	3.6	6.8	21
<b>eGovernment Indicators</b>						
% basic public services for citizens fully available online	50.0	30.0		30.0	36.8	17
% basic public services for enterprises fully available online	62.5	75.0		75.0	67.8	10
% of population using e-Government services		14.1	17.6	25.7	23.8	13
of which for returning filled in forms	4.9	6.3	9.2	14.3	8.1	8
% of enterprises using e-Government services		69.3	76.1	84.4	63.7	6
of which for returning filled in forms	24.5	32.4	41.6	56.5	44.8	6
<b>ICT in schools</b>						
Number of computers connected per 100 pupils				8.7	9.9	13
% of schools with broadband access				66.0	67.0	20
% of teachers having used the computer in class during the last 12 months				81.7	74.3	8
<b>e-Commerce</b>						
E-commerce as % of total turnover of enterprises	16.6	18.3	20.2	16.7	11.7	4
% enterprises receiving internet orders	11.0	21.8	22.2	23.4	13.9	6
% enterprises purchasing on the internet		47.5	53.2	56.1	37.9	6
<b>e-business. % enterprises:</b>						
with integrated internal business processes	32.0	28.7	29.9	35.3	37.3	13
with integrated external business processes	16.7	13.8	13.2	14.4	13.5	9
Security: % enterprises using Secure servers	32.4	35.5	42.5	59.3	41.0	1
% using digital signatures for authentication		8.5	9.5	12.2	14.3	11
<b>Employment and Skills</b>						
% employees using computers connected to the Internet	24.1	31.1	34.6	36.6	36.1	11
% of persons employed with ICT user skills.	18.0	19.4	18.8	18.9	18.5	14
% of persons employed with ICT specialist skills	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.5	3.1	21
<b>Indicators on growth of ICT sector and R&amp;D</b>						
ICT sector share of total GDP	12.4				5.5	1
ICT sector share of total employment	6.2				4.0	1
ICT sector growth (constant prices).	12.6				3.6	1
R&D expenditure in ICT by the business sector, as % of GDP	0.4				0.3	5
=== as % of total R&D expenditure	47.6				25.7	2