UNITED KINGDOM

i2010 Annual Report 2007

i2010
Information Space
Innovation & Investment in R&D
Inclusion

European Commission
Information Society and Media

In general, the UK performs is just slightly behind the leading group of countries in Europe for information society development. It excels in basic skill development and commercial online activities, performs better than average in overall use, but falls behind in advanced enterprise usage, including use of eGovernment services.

United Kingdom Today

Broadband take-up has progressed well, and less than a third of household connections are now narrowband. Based on an overall high connectivity, usage is also generally well above average. However, growth in usage is not fast enough to push UK above mid-level rankings. High broadband penetration and a sizeable established music industry are among the factors which have facilitated the development of Europe's largest market for music downloads - both online and to mobile devices. Using public access points is particularly popular. 3G is performing well compared to other countries and the UK is the first in Europe for digital TV.

Online availability of public services for citizens is very high, whereas it is low and not progressing for enterprises. Enterprises use of services is also very low. ICT in education is well developed, the UK is leading Europe in teachers' use in class, and the number of computers available to students is high, while broadband availability is above average without being exceptional. Use of ICT in schools is good but mixed: While the number of computers available to students is above average without being particularly high, broadband access is good and the teachers use computers in the classroom more often than anywhere else in Europe.

Skill levels in the workforce are high: for user level ICT-skills they are the highest in Europe. Specialist levels are slightly higher than the EU average, but not developing. Investment in R&D and the ICT share of these investments are average. Enterprises do not have the same high level of connectivity as citizens, although they are above average for Europe. Companies buying and selling online top EU levels but are at the low end for use of eBusiness integration applications. This gap between eBusiness and eCommerce is a trait shared among many of the northern countries, including The Netherlands, Ireland, Finland and Norway.

See Table Overleaf

British ICT Policy

The UK has prioritised some actions: Convergence, research in ICT and digital inclusion. Additional attention has been paid to:

ICT for enterprise and innovation: The use of ICT by businesses has been recognised as a key driver of productivity and competitiveness, and the UK's Department for Trade and Industry has been working with the sector to single out best practices and to analyse the impact of ICT use.

eGovernment: An implementation plan for the eGovernment strategy was launched.

Broadband	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**	**EU25**	**Rank**
Total DSL coverage (as % of total population)	85.0	95.0	99.5		87.4	4
DSL coverage in rural areas (as % of total population)			94.9		65.9	5
Broadband penetration (as % of population)	4.4	8.8	14.9	20.4	15.7	6
DSL penetration (as % of population)	2.3	5.8	10.8	15.5	12.8	8
Predominant download speed			1-2Mbps			
Households having broadband (as % of those having access to the internet at home)	19.4	28.3	52.4	70.1	62.1	11
% of enterprises with broadband access	26.7	50.2	65.4	77.4	74.5	10
Number of 3G subscribers per 100 inhabitants			8.6		5.0	4
Digital Television in households			68.7		30.6	1
Music: number of single downloads per 100 inhabitants			39.3			3
Internet Usage						
% population who are regular internet users	46.5	48.6	53.9	56.8	46.7	10
Take up of internet services (as % of population)						
Sending emails	51.2	53.0	56.6	52.8	43.8	10
Looking for information about goods and services	49.8	49.2	56.8	55.2	42.9	9
Internet telephoning or videoconferencing	4.0	4.0	4.8	6.7	7.1	19
Playing/downloading games and music	18.6	25.3	23.3	24.5	18.2	9
Listening to the web radio/watching web tv	10.3	9.6	14.9	15.2	11.8	11
Reading online newspapers/magazines	22.9	18.3	24.0	23.3	19.0	15
Internet banking	22.3	22.4	26.9	27.8	22.0	11
Places of access						
% at home	50.1	51.0	55.1	55.5	42.6	9
% at work	27.2	29.4	31.0	30.2	23.0	8
% at educational place	10.5	10.6	10.4	9.8	8.0	12
% at PIAP	25.0	23.7	16.0	13.8	6.8	3
eGovernment Indicators						
% basic public services for citizens fully available online	54.5	60.0		80.0	36.8	2
% basic public services for enterprises fully available online	42.9	57.1		57.1	67.8	20
% of population using e-Government services	21.1	21.7	24.3		23.8	
of which for returning filled in forms	4.1	3.4	4.8		8.1	
% of enterprises using e-Government services		34.5	38.8	52.5	63.7	22
of which for returning filled in forms	7.0	12.2	19.2	37.6	44.8	19
ICT in schools						
Number of computers connected per 100 pupils				18.5	9.9	4
% of schools with broadband access				75.0	67.0	13
% of teachers having used the computer in class during the last 12 months				96.4	74.3	1
e-Commerce						
E-commerce as % of total turnover of enterprises	11.9	14.3	15.6	17.4	11.7	2
% enterprises receiving internet orders	8.6	13.1	14.7	18.8	13.9	8
% enterprises purchasing on the internet		45.3	53.9	62.4	37.9	3
e-business. % enterprises:						
with integrated internal business processes		34.5	10.0	15.3	37.3	24
with integrated external business processes		9.6	8.9	10.9	13.5	13
Security: % enterprises using Secure servers			47.4	50.1	41.0	6
% using digital signatures for authentication			7.5	10.2	14.3	16
Employment and Skills						
% employees using computers connected to the Internet		54.4	38.3	41.5	36.1	7
% of persons employed with ICT user skills.	24.3	24.1	24.6	24.7	18.5	1
% of persons employed with ICT specialist skills	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	10
Indicators on growth of ICT sector and R&D						
ICT sector share of total GDP	6.9				5.5	5
ICT sector share of total employment	4.5				4.0	6
ICT sector growth (constant prices).	7.4				3.6	2
R&D expenditure in ICT by the business sector, as % of GDP	0.3				0.3	8
=== as % of total R&D expenditure	24.2				25.7	7