

21 February 2006

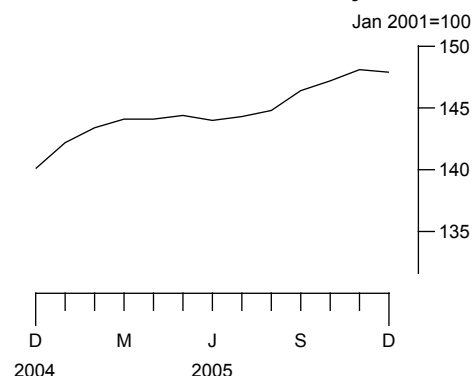
Coverage
United Kingdom
Theme
The Economy

Internet connectivity December 2005

This is the last monthly publication of the Index of Internet Connectivity, which will be published on a quarterly basis in future. Further information about this can be found in background note 1. This update to the survey of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) shows that in December 2005, broadband connections formed 64.2 per cent of all Internet connections, up from 62.3 per cent in November 2005.

The index of all connections showed that between December 2004 and December 2005 there was a 5.6 per cent increase in the total number of active subscriptions to the Internet. The index decreased by 0.1 per cent between November and December 2005.

Index of Internet connectivity



Dial-up connections continue to decline and now account for 35.8 per cent of all Internet connections.

Index of Internet connectivity

	All subscriptions	Percentage change on previous month
<i>January 2001=100</i>		
2004 December	140.1r	0.0
2005 January	142.2r	1.5
February	143.4r	0.8
March	144.1r	0.5
April	144.1r	0.0
May	144.4r	0.2
June	144.0r	-0.3
July	144.3	0.2
August	144.8	0.3
September	146.4r	1.1
October	147.2	0.5
November	148.1	0.6
December	147.9	-0.1

r = revised

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Broadband and dial-up Internet connections

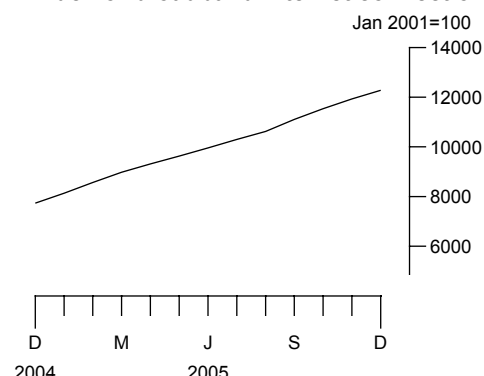
In December 2005, the indices of active subscriptions for dial-up and broadband connections were 53.4 and 12281 respectively, when compared to their base of 100 in January 2001.

Broadband connections continued to rise and increase their market share and made up 64.2 per cent of all connections in December 2005, up from 62.3 per cent in November 2005. There was a year on year increase of 58.8 per cent, with a monthly increase of 3 per cent in December 2005.

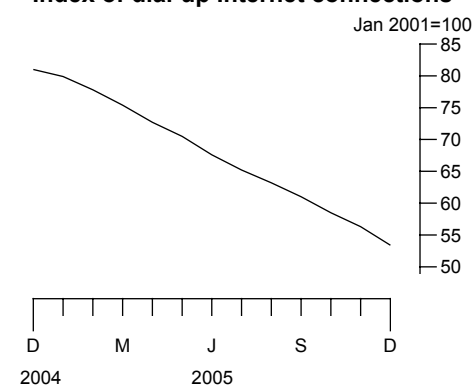
Dial-up connections continued to decrease, with a year on year fall to December 2005 of 34.1 per cent. The monthly decrease, from November to December 2005, was 5.2 per cent.

The index of dial-up connections has been declining since it peaked at 114.3 in February 2002. The market share of broadband connections has been increasing since the index began, reflecting its growing popularity, affordability and widespread availability.

Index of broadband Internet connections



Index of dial-up Internet connections



Subscriptions for dial-up and broadband Internet connections

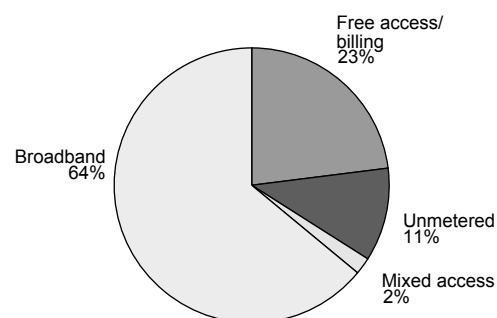
	Dial-up		Broadband	
	Index	Percentage of all subscriptions	Index	Percentage of all subscriptions
<i>January 2001=100</i>				
2004 December	81.0r	57.3r	7736r	42.7r
2005 January	79.9r	55.8r	8132r	44.2r
February	77.8r	53.8r	8568r	46.2r
March	75.4r	51.9r	8976r	48.1r
April	72.7r	50.1r	9312r	49.9r
May	70.5r	48.4r	9631r	51.6r
June	67.6r	46.6r	9957r	53.4r
July	65.2r	44.8r	10297r	55.2r
August	63.2r	43.3r	10621r	56.7r
September	61.0r	41.4r	11105r	58.6r
October	58.5r	39.4r	11536r	60.6r
November	56.3r	37.7r	11927r	62.3r
December	53.4	35.8	12281	64.2

r = revised

Type of subscription

In December 2005, the percentage of active subscriptions using free or billed dial-up access was 23 per cent, compared with 31 per cent a year before. The percentage of those paying a fixed rate for unmetered dial-up access was 11 per cent compared with 22 per cent a year before. The percentage of active subscriptions using a mixed subscription type (fixed rate plus calls) was 2 per cent compared to 4 per cent a year before, while broadband subscriptions rose to 64 per cent compared with 43 per cent in December 2004.

Subscription by type



Percentage of subscriptions by type

		Free access/ billing	Unmetered	Mixed access	Broadband
2004	December	31	22	4	43
2005	January	31	21	4	44
	February	31	20	3	46
	March	30	19	3	48
	April	29	18	3	50
	May	28	17r	3	52r
	June	27	17	3	53
	July	27	15r	3	55r
	August	26	14r	3	57r
	September	25	13r	3	59r
	October	24	12r	3	61r
	November	23	12r	3	62r
	December	23	11	2	64

r = revised

Revisions

The entire index is under continual review to ensure that ONS publishes its best estimates. Revisions have been made to the figures published on 20th January 2006, as a result of company misreporting and changes to the panel of respondents.

Summary of revisions

		Dial-up			Broadband	
		All subscriptions	Index	Percentage of all subscriptions	Index	Percentage of all subscriptions
2004	December					
2005	January	0.1	-0.3	-0.2	49	0.2
	February	-0.1	-0.4	-0.2	34	0.2
	March	-0.1	-0.4	-0.3	49	0.3
	April	-0.1	-0.7	-0.4	73	0.4
	May	-0.1	-0.9	-0.6	98	0.6
	June	-0.1	-1.1	-0.7	126	0.7
	July	-	-1.4	-1.0	176	1.0
	August	-	-1.7	-1.2	218	1.2
	September	0.1	-2.0	-1.3	261	1.3
	October	-	-2.3	-1.6	305	1.6
	November	-	-2.6	-1.8	326	1.8

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. This is the last monthly publication of the Index of Internet Connectivity. A recent review of the Monthly Survey to Internet Service Providers recommended a change to the frequency of the survey. As a result, the Index of Internet Connectivity will be converting from a monthly to a quarterly publication from quarter one 2006, which will be in respect of March 2006. This will be published on 23 May 2006. The review of the survey was published on the website in September 2005 and is available at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_commerce/internetconnectivityreport.pdf
2. The Index of Internet Connectivity will be rebased to March 2005 = 100 when next published on 23 May 2006. The rebased series will replace the previous series, based on January 2001 = 100 which will be discontinued. The index prior to March 2005 will be adjusted to be consistent with the new base month, but will not be revised further after the rebased index is published. The original series will be frozen as at December 2005, but will still be available on the National Statistics website. The index expresses the current month as a percentage of the base month.
3. The response to the survey stands at 77 per cent for the current month. Estimates are made for non-responding businesses. The index is not seasonally adjusted.
4. Subscriptions for dial-up connections are those that access the Internet via Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) or an analogue modem. Free access/billing subscriptions are for dial-up connections where call charges are either paid to the telecommunications supplier or direct to the ISP. Unmetered subscriptions are for dial-up connections where a fixed price is paid per month, quarter or year. Mixed access subscriptions are for dial-up connections where a fixed price covers access within defined hours and access at other times is billed.
5. The Internet Service Providers Survey is carried out in line with the rigorous standards of all National Statistics. However, it is important to note that there is currently no definitive population of ISPs from which to sample, and therefore the index should be treated with some caution.
6. This survey, established in January 2001, surveys a panel of ISPs, collecting data on the number of active Internet subscriptions, types of connections and types of subscriptions. To be regarded as an active subscriber, a subscriber must have accessed the Internet in the month to which the survey refers. Publication of the index commenced in December 2001, in respect of January to October 2001.

- 7. Information about the e-commerce survey of business and about Internet access by households and individuals is available at:
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/Methodology_by_theme/e-commerce_related_activities/default.asp

Revisions

- 8. Revisions to data provide one indication of the reliability of key indicators. The following table shows summary information on the size and direction of the revisions which have been made to the data covering a 47 month period. A statistical test has been applied to the average revision to find out if it is statistically significantly different from zero. An asterisk (*) shows if the test is significant. The table covers estimates of the Index of Internet Connectivity first published in December 2001 in respect of January to October 2001.

A spreadsheet giving a revisions triangle (real time database) of estimates from January 2001 to November 2005, and the calculations behind the averages in the table, is available on the National Statistics website at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8251>

	Value in latest period	Revisions between first publication and estimates 12 months later	
		Average over the last 47 months	Average over the last 47 months without regard to sign (average absolute revision)
All subscriptions	147.9	1.21	2.15
Dial-up subscriptions	53.4	-0.31	0.89
Broadband subscriptions	12281	160.17	163.13

More information about the revisions material in the release can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/Methodology_by_theme/revisions_policies/default.asp

General

- 9. Details on National Statistics policy governing the release of new data are available from the ONS Press Office.
- 10. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. © Crown Copyright 2006.