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Coverage
United Kingdom
Theme
The Economy

2002 e-commerce survey of business: ICT usage, Experimental statistics

Fifty nine per cent of UK businesses had access to the Internet in 2002 compared with 51 per cent the previous year. This is one of the key findings of the annual e-commerce survey, published today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The 2002 survey confirmed that larger businesses had greater Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) usage. For example, 99 per cent of firms with 1,000 or more in employment had Internet access in 2002 compared with 56 per cent of those with less than ten.

Some 12,000 firms were questioned on ICT usage in the survey, now in its third year.

Other key findings of the survey include:

- Twenty-nine per cent of UK businesses had a website in 2002 compared with 25 per cent in 2001
- Broadband was the main type of Internet connection for 14 per cent of UK businesses ¹
- Four per cent of UK businesses sold via the Internet and 13 per cent bought via the Internet ¹
- Sixty-six per cent of UK companies had PCs in 2002 and 51 per cent had email - both little changed from 2001
- Eighteen per cent of businesses used the Internet to interact with public authorities in 2002.

The e-commerce survey of business is still under development and has therefore been reclassified as experimental. Further development will take place and, although no timeframe can be given, ONS aims to ultimately drop the experimental tag.

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¹ New definitions were used for the 2002 survey making comparisons with 2001 inappropriate.



BACKGROUND NOTES

- 1 The article can be found on the National Statistics website at:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=6645>
- 2 A further article on the 2002 e-commerce survey will be published later this Autumn. This article will give estimates of the value of online trading.
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