

23 May 2006

**Coverage**  
United Kingdom  
**Theme**  
The Economy

## Internet connectivity March 2006

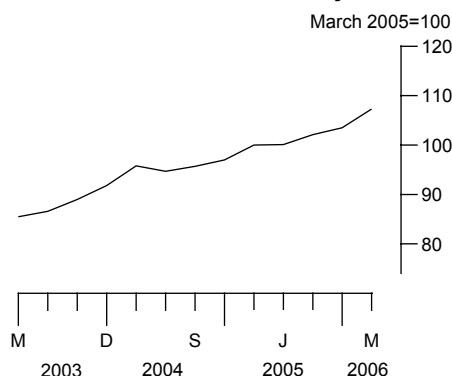
Broadband connections formed 69.2 per cent of all Internet connections in March 2006, up from 65.1 per cent in December 2005, according to the latest update from the survey of Internet Service Providers (ISP).

The index of all connections rose to 107.3 in March 2006 from the base month of March 2005. The index increased by 3.7 per cent between December 2005 and March 2006.

Dial-up connections continue to decline and now account for 30.8 per cent of all Internet connections.

This is the first update to the Index of Internet connectivity to be published on a quarterly basis. The Index of Internet connectivity has also been rebased to March 2005 = 100 in this release. Further information about these developments can be found in background notes 1 and 3.

Index of Internet connectivity



### Index of Internet connectivity

	All subscriptions	Percentage change on previous quarter	
<i>March 2005 = 100</i>			
2003	March	85.5	1.4
	June	86.6	1.3
	September	89.0	2.8
	December	91.8	3.1
2004	March	95.8	4.4
	June	94.7	-1.1
	September	95.7	1.1
	December	97.0	1.4
2005	March	100.0	3.1
	June	100.1	0.1
	September	102.1	2.0
	December	103.5	1.4
2006	March	107.3	3.7

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23 August 2006



### Broadband and dial-up Internet connections

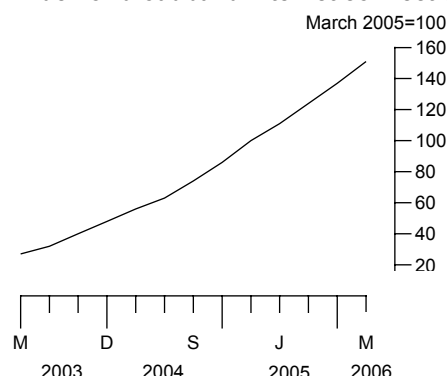
The market share of broadband connections has been increasing ever since the index began, reflecting its growing popularity, affordability and widespread availability. This increase has been maintained following the introduction of the new base quarter in March 2006.

In March 2006, the indices of active subscriptions for dial-up and broadband connections were 65.0 and 151.1 respectively, when compared to their base of 100 in March 2005.

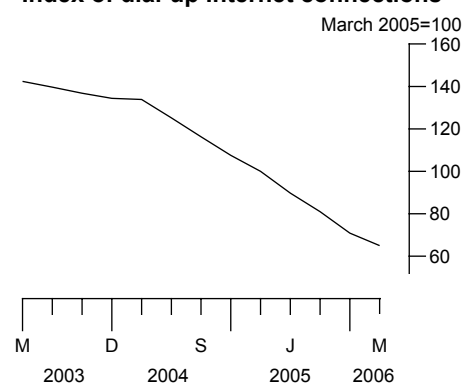
Broadband connections rose to 69.2 per cent of all connections in March 2006, up from 65.1 per cent in December 2005. There was a year on year increase in the index of 51.1 per cent, with a quarterly increase of 10.2 per cent in March 2006.

Dial-up connections continued to decrease, with a year on year fall in the index of 35 per cent to March 2006. The quarterly decrease, from December 2005 to March 2006, was 8.3 per cent.

Index of broadband Internet connections



Index of dial-up Internet connections



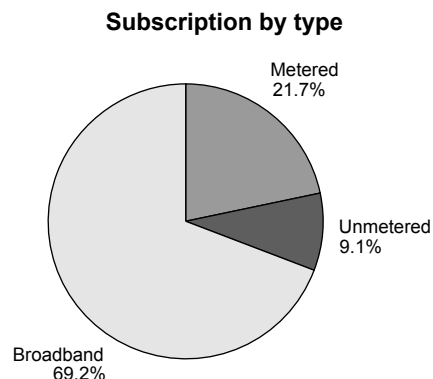
### Subscriptions for dial-up and broadband Internet connections

		Dial-up		Broadband	
		Index	Percentage of all subscriptions	Index	Percentage of all subscriptions
<i>March 2005=100</i>					
2003	March	142.4	84.7	26.6	15.3
	June	139.7	82.0	31.8	18.0
	September	136.8	78.2	39.5	21.8
	December	134.4	74.5	47.6	25.5
2004	March	133.9	71.1	56.4	28.9
	June	125.2	67.3	63.1	32.7
	September	116.3	61.8	74.4	38.2
	December	107.5	56.3	86.2	43.7
2005	March	100.0	50.9	100.0	49.1
	June	89.7	45.6	110.9	54.4
	September	81.0	40.3	123.9	59.7
	December	70.9	34.9	137.1	65.1
2006	March	65.0	30.8	151.1	69.2

### Type of subscription

A recent review of the Internet Service Providers Survey recommended that the number of dial-up categories should be reduced, but to retain the differentiation between unmetered and metered types of connection. As a result, the categories of free access/billing and mixed access, have been replaced with the metered dial-up category. The unmetered dial-up and broadband categories remain as before.

In March 2006, the percentage of active subscriptions using metered dial-up access was 21.7 per cent, compared with 32.2 per cent a year before. The percentage of those paying a fixed rate for unmetered dial-up access was 9.1 per cent compared with 18.7 per cent a year before. Broadband subscriptions rose to 69.2 per cent compared with 49.1 per cent in March 2005.



### Percentage of subscriptions by type

		Metered	Unmetered	Broadband
2003	March	49.0	35.7	15.3
	June	46.8	35.2	18.0
	September	44.7	33.5	21.8
	December	42.4	32.1	25.5
2004	March	40.3	30.8	28.9
	June	38.7	28.6	32.7
	September	36.8	25.0	38.2
	December	34.2	22.2	43.6
2005	March	32.2	18.7	49.1
	June	29.4	16.2	54.4
	September	26.8	13.5	59.7
	December	23.8	11.1	65.1
2006	March	21.7	9.1	69.2

### Revisions

As the index has been rebased in this publication, no revisions have been made. See background notes 3 and 9.

## BACKGROUND NOTES

1. This is the first quarterly 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 has been converted from a monthly to a quarterly publication. Data are collected for the final month in each quarter i.e. March, June, September and December. The first of such quarterly publications relates to March 2006.
2. 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](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_commerce/internetconnectivityreport.pdf)**
3. The Index of Internet Connectivity has been rebased to March 2005 = 100. The rebased series has replaced the previous series, based on January 2001 = 100. The index prior to March 2005 has been adjusted to be consistent with the new base month, but will not be revised further after the rebased index is published. The original series has been frozen as at December 2005, but will still be available on the National Statistics website.
4. The response to the survey stands at 84 per cent for the current month. Estimates are made for non-responding businesses. The index is not seasonally adjusted.
5. Subscriptions for dial-up connections are those that access the Internet via Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) or an analogue modem. Unmetered subscriptions are for dial-up connections where a fixed price is paid per month, quarter or year. Metered subscriptions are for dial-up connections where call charges are made depending on the amount of time spent online, or where a fixed price covers access within defined hours and access at other times is billed.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. 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](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/Methodology_by_theme/e-commerce_related_activities/default.asp)

### Revisions

9. As the index has been rebased in this publication, no revisions are appropriate. In future publications, any revisions to data that occur back to June 2005 will be reflected in the publication. Data prior to June 2005 will not be revised, as March 2005 is now the base month for the index. Detailed revisions analyses will not be published for the rebased index until there are sufficient time periods to produce a meaningful measure of statistical significance. The spreadsheets giving information on revisions that related to the index prior to rebasing will still be available on the website at :  
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8251>

### General

10. Details on National Statistics policy governing the release of new data are available from the ONS Press Office.
11. **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.