

21 February 2008

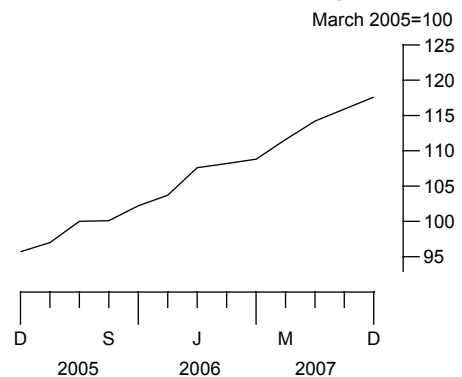
Coverage
United Kingdom
Theme
The Economy

Internet connectivity December 2007

Nine out of ten connections to the Internet are now via broadband.

In December 2007, broadband connections accounted for 90.1 per cent of all Internet connections, up from 88.4 per cent in September 2007. This is according to the latest update from the survey of Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

Index of Internet connectivity



The index of all connections rose to 118.9 in December 2007, compared to the base month of 100 in March 2005.

The index increased by 1.5 per cent between September 2007 and December 2007. Dial-up connections continued to decline and accounted for 9.9 per cent of all internet connections in December 2007.

Index of Internet connectivity, not seasonally adjusted

	All connections	Percentage change on previous month	Percentage change on previous year
<i>March 2005 = 100</i>			
2004 December	97.0	1.4	5.7
2005 March	100.0	3.1	4.4
June	100.1	0.1	5.7
September	102.2	2.1	6.8
December	103.7	1.5	6.9
2006 March	107.6	3.8	7.6
June	108.2	0.6	8.1
September	108.8	0.6	6.5
December	111.6	2.6	7.6
2007 March	114.2	2.3	6.1
June	115.9	1.5	7.1
September	117.2r	1.1	7.7
December	118.9	1.5	6.5

r = revised

Issued by
National Statistics
1 Drummond Gate
London SW1V 2QQ

Telephone
Press Office 020 7533 5725
Public Inquiries 0845 601 3034

Statistician
Mark Pollard 01633 819098
Email mark.pollard@ons.gov.uk

Internet
www.statistics.gov.uk

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Broadband and dial-up Internet connections

The market share of broadband connections has been increasing since the index began in 2001, reflecting its continuing popularity and widespread availability. ISPs have also been offering increasingly competitive connection packages.

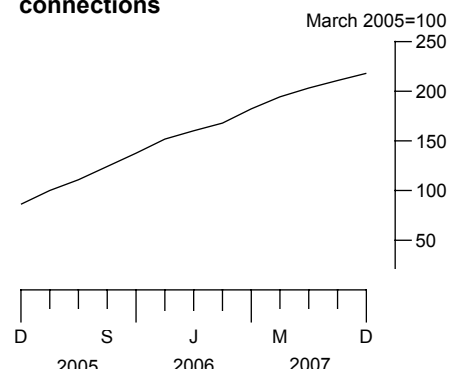
In December 2007, the indices of active connections for dial-up and broadband were 23.1 and 218 respectively, when compared to their base of 100 in March 2005.

Broadband connections rose to 90.1 per cent of all connections in December 2007, up from 88.4 per cent in September 2007. There was a year on year increase in the index of broadband connections of 19.6 per cent, with a quarterly increase of 3.4 per cent.

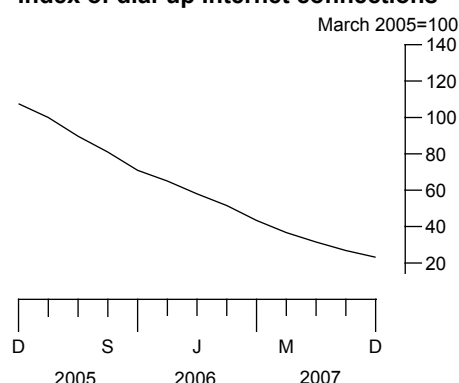
Dial-up connections continued to decrease, with a year on year fall in the index of 46.8 per cent to December 2007. The quarterly decrease, from September 2007 to December 2007, was 13.8 per cent.

Indices of dial-up and broadband Internet connections not seasonally adjusted

Index of broadband Internet connections



Index of dial-up Internet connections



March 2005 = 100

		Dial-up		Broadband	
		Index	Percentage of all connections	Index	Percentage of all connections
<i>March 2005 = 100</i>					
2004	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	124.2	59.7
	December	70.9	34.8	137.6	65.2
2006	March	65.0	30.7	151.8	69.3
	June	58.0	27.3	160.2	72.7
	September	51.6	24.2	167.9	75.8
	December	43.4	19.8	182.2	80.2
2007	March	36.7	16.3	194.4	83.7
	June	31.5	13.8	203.2	86.2
	September	26.8	11.6	210.8r	88.4
	December	23.1	9.9	218.0	90.1

r = revised

Broadband connection speed

As dial-up connections decrease, there is less interest in measuring the different types of dial-up, and more in broadband. Therefore, estimates on metered and unmetered dial-up connections were discontinued from the December 2006 release. These have been replaced by estimates on broadband connection speed categories, as shown in the table below. In this table, broadband speed is the advertised maximum speed for each connection.

The speed advertised for each connection may not be the speed attained by the end user, as attained speed of connection is affected by issues such as distance from the local exchange and line quality.

As the proportion of slower speed connections has decreased, the proportion of higher speed connections has increased. In December 2007, 51.2 per cent of broadband connections had a speed greater than 2 Mbps, which is an increase from 49 per cent in September 2007 and 37.5 per cent in December 2006. Over the same period, the percentage of connections with a speed of less than or equal to 2 Mbps decreased to 48.8 per cent in December 2007, down from 51 per cent in September 2007 and 62 per cent in December 2006.

Some ISPs did not report the connection speeds that they provided in December 2006 and these have been categorised as "speed unknown" in the table.

Percentage of broadband connections by speed, not seasonally adjusted

	Broadband speed			
	<=2Mbps	>2Mbps and <8 Mbps	>8Mbps	Speed unknown
2006 December	62.0	35.1	2.4	0.5
2007 March	56.8	39.9	3.3	0.0
June	52.8	43.3	3.9	0.0
September	51.0r	45.0r	4.0	0.0
December	48.8	47.1	4.1	0.0

r = revised

Revisions

Revisions to the estimates in this release have been caused by company misreporting and late responses.

Summary of revisions

		Dial-up			Broadband	
		Index	Percentage of all connections	Index	Percentage of all connections	
		All connections				
2007	December	-0.4	-	-	0.8	-

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. A review of the survey to Internet Service Providers will begin in the first half of 2008. The previous review of the survey was published on the National Statistics website in September 2005 and is available at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_commerce/internetconnectivityreport.pdf
2. The Index of Internet connectivity has been rebased to March 2005 = 100. The rebased series replaced the previous series, based on January 2001 = 100. The index prior to March 2005 was adjusted to be consistent with the new base month, but will not be revised further. The original series was frozen as at December 2005, and is available on the National Statistics website.
3. The response to the survey stands at 82 per cent for the current month. Estimates are made for non-responding businesses. The index is not seasonally adjusted.
4. Dial-up connections are those that access the Internet via Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) or an analogue modem. Broadband connections are measured in Mbps (megabits per second). This relates to data transfer speed. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to independently rounded components.
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 connections. To be regarded as an active connection, a connection must have been made to 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. In this and future publications, any revisions to estimates that occur back to June 2005 will be reflected in the publication. Estimates 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 National Statistics website at: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8251>

General

9. Details on National Statistics' policy governing the release of new estimates 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 2008.