

20 February 2009

Coverage
Great Britain

Theme
Economy



Internet connectivity December 2008

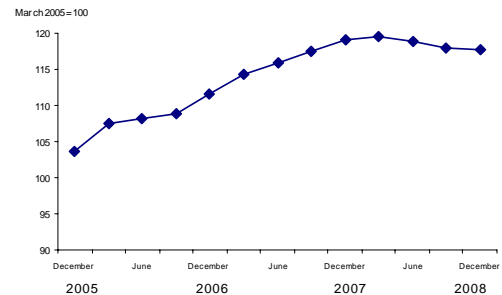
More than 19 out of 20 connections to the Internet are via broadband.

In December 2008, broadband connections accounted for 95.1 per cent of all Internet connections, up from 94.1 per cent in September 2008. This is

according to the latest update from the survey of Internet Service Providers (ISPs). Despite continuing increases in broadband connections, a 17.5 per cent decrease in dial-up resulted in a 0.3 per cent fall in the index of all connections between September and December 2008 to 117.7.

This is the final publication of this index as the survey has been discontinued.

Index of Internet connectivity



Index of Internet connectivity, not seasonally adjusted

	All connections	Percentage change on previous quarter	Percentage change on previous year	
<i>March 2005 = 100</i>				
2005	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
2007	December	111.6	2.6	7.6
	March	114.3	2.4	6.2
	June	116.0	1.5	7.2
	September	117.4r	1.2	7.9
2008	December	119.0	1.4	6.6
	March	119.6	0.5	4.6
	June	118.8r	-0.7	2.4
	September	118.0r	-0.7	0.5
	December	117.7	-0.3	-1.1

r = revised

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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, widespread availability and increasingly competitive connection packages.

In December 2008, the indices of active connections for dial-up and broadband were 11.3 and 227.7 respectively, when compared with their base of 100 in March 2005.

Broadband connections rose to 95.1 per cent of all connections in December 2008, up from 94.1 per cent in September 2008. There was a year on year increase in the index of broadband connections of 4.4 per cent, with a quarterly increase of 0.8 per cent.

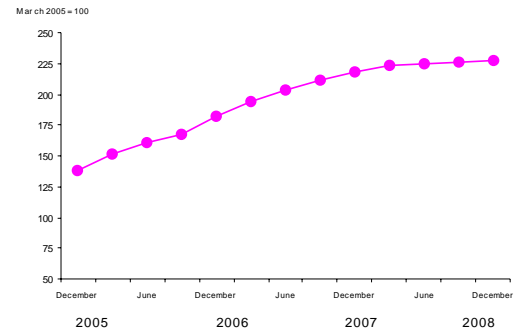
Dial-up connections continued to decrease, with a year on year fall in the index of 51.7 per cent to December 2008. The quarterly decrease, from September 2008 to December 2008, was 17.5 per cent.

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

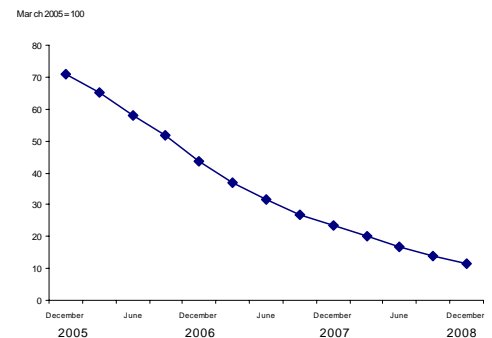
		Dial-up		Broadband	
		Index	Percentage connections	Index	Percentage connections
<i>March 2005 = 100</i>					
2005	December	70.9	34.8	137.6	65.2
2006	March	65.0	30.7	151.8	69.3
	June	58.0	27.3	160.2	72.7
	September	51.6	24.2	167.9	75.8
	December	43.4	19.8	182.2	80.2
2007	March	36.8	16.4	194.5	83.6
	June	31.7	13.9	203.2	86.1
	September	27.0	11.7	210.9r	88.3
	December	23.4	10.0	218.0	90.0
2008	March	19.9	8.5	222.8	91.5
	June	16.7	7.2	224.4r	92.8
	September	13.7r	5.9	226.0r	94.1
	December	11.3	4.9	227.7	95.1

r = revised

Index of broadband Internet connections



Index of dial-up Internet connections



Broadband connection speeds

The proportion of higher speed connections continues to increase. In December 2008, 59.6 per cent of broadband connections had a speed greater than 2 Mbps, which is an increase from 57.7 per cent in September 2008. Over the same period, the percentage of connections with a speed of less than or equal to 2 Mbps decreased to 40.4 per cent in December 2008, down from 42.3 per cent in September 2008.

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.

Percentage of broadband connections by speed, not seasonally adjusted

		Broadband speed		
		<=2 Mbps	>2 Mbps and <=8 Mbps	>8 Mbps
2006	December	62.0	35.1	2.4
2007	March	56.7	39.9	3.3
	June	52.8	43.3	3.9
	September	51.0	45.0	4.0
	December	48.9	46.9r	4.1
2008	March	47.7	47.8	4.5
	June	44.2	51.0	4.8
	September	42.3	47.9	9.8
	December	40.4	48.9	10.7

r = revised

Revisions

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

Summary of revisions

		All connections	Dial-up		Broadband	
			Index	Percentage of all connections	Index	Percentage of all connections
2007	September	0.1	-	-	0.1	-
	December	-	-	-	-	-
2008	March	-	-	-	-	-
	June	-0.1	-	-	-0.3	-
	September	-0.4	0.1	-	-0.9	-

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. This is the final publication of the index of Internet Connectivity. A review of the survey to Internet Service Providers began in the first half of 2008 and the report was published on 18 February 2009. This recommended that the survey be discontinued. The report is available at:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=15206>
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 81 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 publication, any revisions to estimates that occurred back to June 2005 are reflected. Estimates prior to June 2005 are not revised, as March 2005 was the base month for the index. Detailed revisions analyses were not published for the rebased index as there were not 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 UK Statistics Authority 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 2009.