

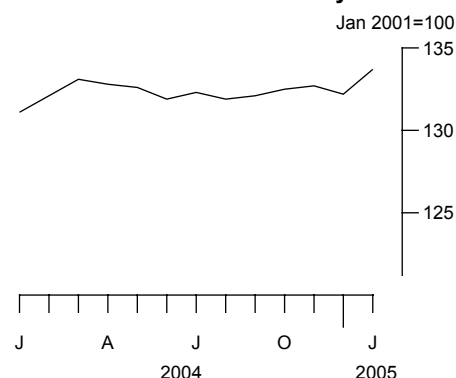
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Coverage
United Kingdom
Theme
The Economy

Internet connectivity January 2005

The latest monthly update to the survey of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) shows that between January 2004 and January 2005 there was a 2 per cent increase in the number of active subscriptions to the Internet. The index increased by 1.1 per cent between December 2004 and January 2005, to 133.7. This was the first significant monthly increase, following a period of little overall change between February and December 2004.

Index of Internet connectivity



The market share for permanent connections continued to increase in January and now accounts for 41 per cent of all connections. This compares with a market share of 22.5 per cent a year earlier.

Index of Internet connectivity

	All subscriptions	Percentage change on previous month
<i>January 2001=100</i>		
2004 January	131.1	2.3
February	132.1	0.8
March	133.1	0.8
April	132.8	-0.2
May	132.6	-0.2
June	131.9	-0.5
July	132.3r	0.3
August	131.9r	-0.3
September	132.1r	0.2
October	132.5r	0.3
November	132.7r	0.2
December	132.2r	-0.4
2005 January	133.7	1.1

r = revised

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Dial-up versus permanent Internet subscriptions

In January 2005, the indices of active subscriptions for dial-up and permanent connections were 79.5 and 7091 respectively when compared to their base of 100 in January 2001.

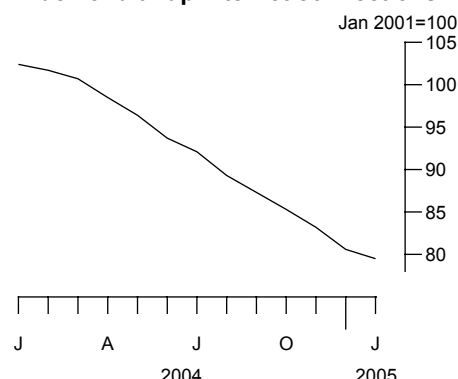
Dial-up Internet connections continued to decrease, with a year on year fall to January 2005 of 22.4 per cent. The decrease from December 2004 to January 2005 was 1.4 per cent.

Permanent Internet connections continued to increase their market share and made up 41 per cent of all subscriptions in January 2005, up from 39.5 per cent in December 2004. There was a year on year increase of 86.2 per cent for subscriptions for permanent connections, with a monthly increase in January of 5 per cent.

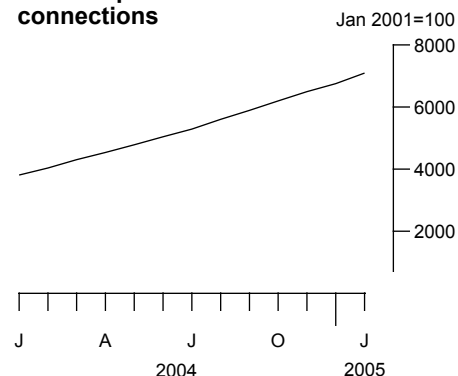
The increase in the market share for permanent connections reflects the continuing move from slower dial-up connections to the quicker broadband, cable and leased line technologies. However, dial-up still has the majority of the number of connections, despite its share dropping to 59 per cent of all connections in January 2005.

Revisions have been made due to late returns and improved estimates for non-response.

Index of dial-up Internet connections



Index of permanent Internet connections



Subscriptions for dial-up and permanent Internet connections

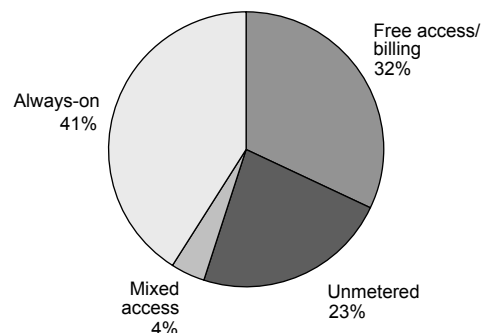
	Dial-up		Permanent		
	Index	Percentage of all subscriptions	Index	Percentage of all subscriptions	
<i>January 2001=100</i>					
2004					
January	102.4	77.5	3809	22.5	
February	101.7	76.4	4033	23.6	
March	100.7	75.0	4304	25.0	
April	98.5	73.6	4533r	26.4	
May	96.4	72.1r	4783r	27.9r	
June	93.7	70.5	5041r	29.5	
July	92.1	69.1	5287r	30.9	
August	89.3	67.2	5600r	32.8	
September	87.3	65.5r	5891r	34.5r	
October	85.3	63.9	6193r	36.1	
November	83.2	62.2	6491r	37.8	
December	80.6	60.5r	6753r	39.5r	
2005					
January	79.5	59.0	7091	41.0	

r = revised

Type of subscription

In January 2005, the percentage of active subscriptions using free access or billed access was 32 per cent, compared with 39 per cent a year before. The percentage of those paying a fixed rate for unmetered dial-up access decreased to 23 per cent. The percentage of active subscriptions using a mixed subscription type (fixed rate plus calls) remained at 4 per cent, while always-on subscriptions rose to 41 per cent compared with 22 per cent in January 2004.

Subscriptions by type



Percentage of subscriptions by type

		Free access/ billing	Unmetered	Mixed access	Always- on
2004	January	39	33	6	22
	February	38	33	5	24
	March	38	32	5	25
	April	37	32	5	26
	May	36	31	5	28
	June	35	30	5	30
	July	35	29	5	31
	August	34	28	5	33
	September	34	27	5	34
	October	34	26	4	36
	November	33	25	4	38
	December	33	24	4	39
2005	January	32	23	4	41

Table 1R summarises the revisions to the figures published on 17 February 2005. The entire index is under continual review to ensure that ONS publishes its best estimates. The revisions in this release have occurred due to late returns and improved estimates for non-response.

1R Summary of revisions

	All subscriptions	Dial-up		Permanent	
		Index	Percentage of all subscriptions	Index	Percentage of all subscriptions
2004					
January	-	-	-	-	-
February	-	-	-	-	-
March	-	-	-	-	-
April	-	-	-	1	-
May	-	-	-0.1	4	0.1
June	-	-	-	6	-
July	0.1	-	-	8	-
August	0.1	-	-	10	-
September	0.1	-	-0.1	10	0.1
October	0.1	-	-	11	-
November	0.1	-	-	11	-
December	0.1	-	-0.1	13	0.1

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. 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. Publication of the index commenced in December 2001, in respect of October 2001.
2. The index of connectivity is constructed for active Internet subscriptions, with January 2001 being used as the base month. The index expresses the current month as a percentage of the base month. 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.
3. 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. A full review of the survey commenced in October 2004 and is currently in progress.
4. The Office for National Statistics publishes an updated First Release each month. Comments are welcomed, and will feed into the review mentioned above.
5. Subscriptions for dial-up connections are those that access the Internet via Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) or an analogue modem. Subscriptions for permanent connections are those with a dedicated continuous Internet connection.
6. 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. Always-on subscriptions are for permanent, broadband or leased line connections.

Revisions

7. One indication of the quality of key indicators in this release can be obtained by monitoring the size of revisions. The table below records the size and pattern of revisions that have occurred since this survey began. Please note that these indicators only report summary measures for revisions. The revised data may itself be subject to sampling or other sources of error. The table covers estimates of the index of Internet connectivity from January 2001. A spreadsheet giving a revisions triangle (real time database) of estimates from January 2001 to January 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 36 months	Average over the last 36 months without regard to sign (average absolute revision)
All subscriptions	133.7	-0.04	1.10
Dial-up subscriptions	79.5	-0.58	0.93
Permanent subscriptions	7091	12.84	16.68

A statistical test has been applied to the average revision to find out if there is bias in the estimates. No statistically significant bias was identified.

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

8. Details on National Statistics policy governing the release of new data are available from the Press Office.
9. **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 2005.