

20 December 2005

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

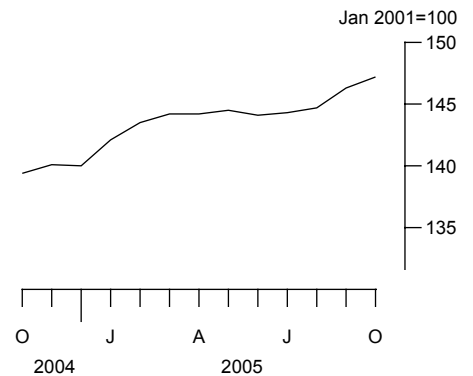
## Internet connectivity October 2005

The latest monthly update to the survey of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) shows that in October 2005, broadband<sup>1</sup> connections formed 58.9 per cent of all Internet connections, up from 57.3 per cent in September 2005.

The index of all connections showed that between October 2004 and October 2005 there was a 5.6 per cent increase in the total number of active subscriptions to the Internet. The index increased by 0.6 per cent between September and October 2005.

Dial-up connections continued to decline and now account for 41.1 per cent of all Internet connections.

Index of Internet connectivity



### Index of Internet connectivity

	All subscriptions	Percentage change on previous month
<i>January 2001=100</i>		
<b>2004</b> October	139.4	0.6
November	140.1r	0.5
December	140.0	-0.1
<b>2005</b> January	142.1	1.5
February	143.5	1.0
March	144.2	0.5
April	144.2	0.0
May	144.5r	0.2
June	144.1	-0.3
July	144.3	0.1
August	144.7	0.3
September	146.3r	1.1
October	147.2	0.6

r = revised

1. See background note 1.

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### Broadband and dial-up Internet connections

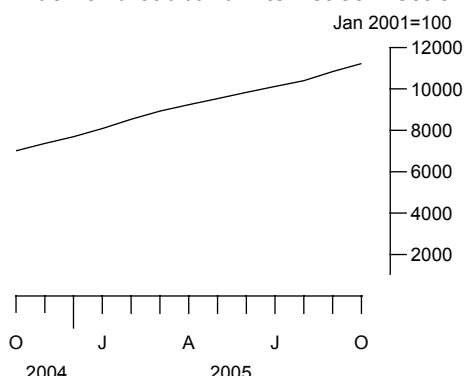
In October 2005, the indices of active subscriptions for dial-up and broadband connections were 60.9 and 11224 respectively, when compared to their base of 100 in January 2001.

Broadband connections continued to increase their market share and made up 58.9 per cent of all connections in October 2005, up from 57.3 per cent in September 2005. There was a year on year increase of 60.1 per cent, with a monthly increase of 3.6 per cent in October 2005.

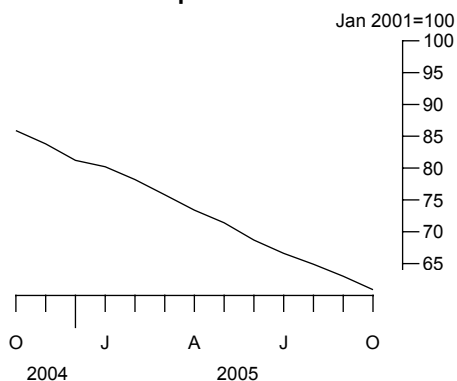
Dial-up connections continued to decrease, with a year on year fall to October 2005 of 29.1 per cent. The monthly decrease, from September to October 2005, was 3.3 per cent.

The index of dial-up connections has been declining since it peaked at 114.3 in February 2002. The market share of broadband connections has been increasing since the index began, reflecting its growing popularity and availability.

Index of broadband Internet connections



Index of dial-up Internet connections



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

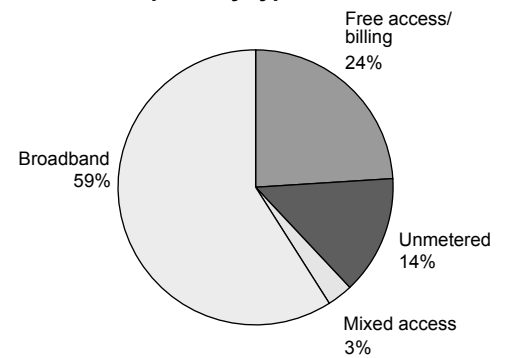
	Dial-up		Broadband		
	Index	Percentage of all subscriptions	Index	Percentage of all subscriptions	
<i>January 2001=100</i>					
<b>2004</b>	October	85.9	61.1	7009r	38.9
	November	83.8r	59.4r	7365r	40.6r
	December	81.2	57.6r	7688r	42.4r
<b>2005</b>	January	80.2	56.0	8083r	44.0
	February	78.2r	54.0	8534r	46.0
	March	75.8	52.2r	8927r	47.8r
	April	73.4r	50.5	9239r	49.5
	May	71.4r	49.0	9533r	51.0
	June	68.7r	47.3	9831r	52.7
	July	66.6r	45.8	10121r	54.2
	August	64.9r	44.5r	10401r	55.5r
	September	63.0r	42.7r	10839r	57.3r
	October	60.9	41.1	11224	58.9

r = revised

### Type of subscription

In October 2005, the percentage of active subscriptions using free or billed dial-up access was 24 per cent, compared with 33 per cent a year before. The percentage of those paying a fixed rate for unmetered dial-up access was 14 per cent compared with 24 per cent a year before. The percentage of active subscriptions using a mixed subscription type (fixed rate plus calls) has remained at 3 per cent since February 2005, while broadband subscriptions rose to 59 per cent compared with 39 per cent in October 2004.

Subscription by type



### Percentage of subscriptions by type

		Free access/ billing	Unmetered	Mixed access	Broadband
<b>2004</b>	October	33	24	4	39
	November	32	23	4	41
	December	31	22	4	43
<b>2005</b>	January	31	21	4	44
	February	31	20	3	46
	March	30	19	3	48
	April	29	18	3	50
	May	28	18	3	51
	June	27	17	3	53
	July	27	16	3	54
	August	26	15	3	56
	September	25	15	3	57
	October	24	14	3	59

## Revisions

The entire index is under continual review to ensure that ONS publishes its best estimates. Revisions have been made to the figures published on 17 November 2005, as a result of late responses from ISPs.

## Summary of revisions

		Dial-up			Broadband	
		All subscriptions	Index	Percentage of all subscriptions	Index	Percentage of all subscriptions
<b>2004</b>	October	-	-	-	-3	-
	November	0.1	0.1	0.1	-3	-0.1
	December	-	-	0.1	-3	-0.1
<b>2005</b>	January	-	-	-	-4	-
	February	-	0.1	-	-5	-
	March	-	-	0.1	-5	-0.1
	April	-	0.1	-	-5	-
	May	0.1	0.1	-	-5	-
	June	-	0.1	-	-5	-
	July	-	0.1	-	-5	-
	August	-	0.3	0.2	-20	-0.2
	September	0.2	0.3	0.1	-21	-0.1

## BACKGROUND NOTES

1. As a commonly used term and a widely understood concept, “broadband” has replaced the term “permanent” that was used until the April 2005 index of Internet connectivity release.
2. 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.
3. The index of connectivity uses January 2001 as the base month. The index expresses the current month as a percentage of the base month. The response to the survey stands at 77 per cent for the current month. Estimates are made for non-responding businesses. The index is not seasonally adjusted.
4. Subscriptions for dial-up connections are those that access the Internet via Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) or an analogue modem. 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.
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. A review of the survey was published on the website in September 2005 at:  
**[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme\\_commerce/internetconnectivityreport.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_commerce/internetconnectivityreport.pdf)**
6. The Office for National Statistics publishes an updated First Release each month. Comments are welcomed.
7. The term “broadband” for the purpose of this release includes Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) broadband, cable broadband and leased lines.
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. Revisions to data provide one indication of the reliability of key indicators. The following table shows summary information on the size and direction of the revisions which have been made to the data covering a 45 month period. A statistical test has been applied to the average revision to find out if it is statistically significantly different from zero. An asterisk (\*) shows if the test is significant. The table covers estimates of the index of Internet connectivity first published in December 2001 in respect of January to October 2001. A spreadsheet giving a revisions triangle (real time database) of estimates from January 2001 to September 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 45 months	Average over the last 45 months without regard to sign (average absolute revision)
All subscriptions	147.2	0.92	1.91
Dial-up subscriptions	60.9	-0.35	0.9
Broadband subscriptions	11224	125.90	128.99

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](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/Methodology_by_theme/revisions_policies/default.asp)

**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 2005.