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Theme
Social and Welfare



Educated people more likely to have Internet

Education plays a key role as to whether people have Internet access in their homes or not, an ONS survey has revealed.

Almost all adults (93 per cent) aged under 70 who had a degree or equivalent qualification were estimated to have access to the Internet in their home.

Data from *Internet Access 2008: Households and Individuals* showed those individuals who had no formal qualifications were least likely (56 per cent) to have an Internet connection in their home.

The survey also revealed households in the South East were more likely to have Internet access in their home (74 per cent), while those in the North East were least likely (54 per cent).

Almost 16.5 million households in the UK had Internet access in 2008. This represents nearly two thirds of the total households in the UK, and a rise of more than 1.2 million since 2007.

Of adults living in households with no Internet access, there has been a significant increase in the proportion who stated they did not want the Internet in their homes. This increased from 3 per cent in 2006 to 24 per cent in 2008.

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The proportion of adults who were recent Internet users who accessed the Internet every day or almost every day was 69 per cent. This represented 23.5 million adults in the UK.

The 16-24 age group used it most, with 77 per cent of those using it in the last three months, accessing every day or almost every day. This was the first year in which the majority of adults aged 65-plus who used the Internet in the last three months, did so every day or almost every day, at 54 per cent.

Of those who were recent Internet users, three quarters of men (73 per cent) used the Internet every day or almost every day, compared with two thirds of women (66 per cent).

Other findings in the survey showed that men were twice as likely to access the Internet via their mobile phone as women (15 per cent and 8 per cent of mobile phone users respectively).

Men also showed more interest in online activities relating to communication and audiovisual content than women. Almost all activities showed a greater popularity among men, with the exception of maintaining or creating weblogs (or blogs).

The Office for National Statistics also published Internet Connectivity June 2008 today. Data showed that broadband reached 93.2 per cent of all connections, up from 91.6 per cent in March 2008.

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. For further information on the Internet Access: Households and Individuals 2008 First Release please go to:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5672>
2. For today's Internet Connectivity June 2008 First Release please go to:
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8251>
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