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In 2015, 81.9 per cent of households in Malta and Gozo had access to the internet, while regular internet users reached 251,395 or 76.2 per cent of the total population aged between 16 and 74.

## ICT Usage by Households: 2015

### Internet access in households

Internet access in households during 2015 increased by 1.1 percentage points when compared with 2014. The largest percentage of households having internet access was registered in the Western district followed by the Northern district (88.0 and 84.7 per cent respectively). The lowest percentage was recorded in Gozo and Comino with 74.9 per cent of households (Table 1).

### Internet use by individuals

The highest percentage of internet use was registered within the 16 to 24 age cohort (97.9 per cent) while individuals aged 65 to 74 recorded the lowest internet usage level (35.2 per cent) (Table 2). During the reference year, higher levels of internet usage away from home or work were recorded when compared to the previous year. According to survey results, 73.7 per cent of individuals accessed the internet through their mobile phone, while 52.2 per cent made use of a portable computer (Table 5). Furthermore 97.0 per cent of those using portable computers connected to the internet via a wireless network (WIFI) while 45.0 per cent connect through a mobile phone network (3g, USB key, SIM card or Smartphone as modem) (Chart 1).

Results show that the internet is mostly used for communication purposes (96.7 per cent) and to access information (93.3 per cent) (Chart 3). e-Government users as a percentage of internet users remained at par with levels for 2014. Usage of e-Government services increased among persons of older age and decreased among the younger generations.

### Cloud computing and e-Commerce

In 2015, 39.4 per cent of internet users made use of cloud computing services and translates into a 7.8 percentage points increase when compared with 2014. The use of cloud computing was most common among persons with a tertiary level of education (Table 7).

Compiled by:

**Unit C4: Education and  
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Statistics**

**Directorate C: Social  
Statistics**

During 2015, 66.3 per cent of those who used the internet three months prior to the surveying period purchased goods or services online. Like 2014, the most common goods or services acquired online were clothes, sport goods, holiday accommodation and transport arrangements (Table 8) ■

Further information on data:

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**Table 1. Households' access to the internet by district**

| District         | Number         |                | % household population |             | Change in percentage points |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
|                  | 2014           | 2015           | 2014                   | 2015        |                             |
| <b>MALTA</b>     | <b>119,540</b> | <b>123,636</b> | <b>80.7</b>            | <b>81.9</b> | <b>1.1</b>                  |
| Southern Harbour | 20,618         | 22,519         | 74.8                   | 81.2        | 6.4                         |
| Northern Harbour | 34,409         | 36,217         | 78.3                   | 79.8        | 1.5                         |
| South Eastern    | 18,720         | 18,816         | 83.9                   | 81.8        | -2.1                        |
| Western          | 16,971         | 17,087         | 87.5                   | 88.0        | 0.5                         |
| Northern         | 20,518         | 20,657         | 85.6                   | 84.7        | -0.9                        |
| Gozo and Comino  | 8,304          | 8,340          | 76.3                   | 74.9        | -1.4                        |

**Table 2. Latest instance of internet use**

|                                  | Number         |                | % total      |              |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
|                                  | 2014           | 2015           | 2014         | 2015         |
| Three months prior to survey     | 239,225        | 251,395        | 73.2         | 76.2         |
| 3-12 months before survey        | :              | :              | :            | :            |
| More than one year before survey | :              | :              | :            | :            |
| Never used a computer            | 80,264         | 71,388         | 24.6         | 21.6         |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>326,930</b> | <b>329,984</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

: Data not reliable due to small sample representation

**Table 3. Demographic profile of internet users**

|                              | Number*            |                | % population**    |             | Change in percentage points |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
|                              | 2014               | 2015           | 2014              | 2015        |                             |
| Sex:                         |                    |                |                   |             |                             |
| Male                         | 123,318            | 129,551        | 74.6              | 77.5        | 2.9                         |
| Female                       | 115,907            | 121,844        | 71.7              | 74.8        | 3.1                         |
| Age Group:                   |                    |                |                   |             |                             |
| 16-24                        | 48,453             | 46,836         | 99.4              | 97.9        | -1.6                        |
| 25-34                        | 58,290             | 59,571         | 94.3              | 95.0        | 0.7                         |
| 35-44                        | 48,923             | 52,559         | 85.3              | 89.6        | 4.3                         |
| 45-54                        | 35,308             | 38,560         | 66.0              | 73.1        | 7.1                         |
| 55-64                        | 31,874             | 36,547         | 54.3              | 62.1        | 7.9                         |
| 65-74                        | 16,377             | 17,322         | 35.0              | 35.2        | 0.2                         |
| Education Level:             |                    |                |                   |             |                             |
| No Schooling / Primary       | 8,612 <sup>u</sup> | 9,322          | 19.2 <sup>u</sup> | 20.2        | 1.0                         |
| Lower Secondary              | 83,844             | 72,878         | 65.2              | 67.7        | 2.5                         |
| Secondary and Post-secondary | 62,394             | 71,705         | 92.2              | 93.3        | 1.0                         |
| Post-secondary non-tertiary  | 19,735             | 28,383         | 94.3              | 98.3        | 4.1                         |
| Tertiary                     | 64,640             | 69,107         | 99.6              | 98.2        | -1.4                        |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>239,225</b>     | <b>251,395</b> | <b>73.2</b>       | <b>76.2</b> | <b>3.0</b>                  |

\* Includes only persons who used the internet three months prior to the surveying period

\*\* Refer to methodological note 6

<sup>u</sup> Under-represented

**Table 4. Internet user frequency**

|  | Number             |                | % total*         |              |
|--|--------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
|  | 2014               | 2015           | 2014             | 2015         |
| Every day or almost every day            | 205,499            | 228,401        | 85.9             | 90.9         |
| At least once a week (but not every day) | 24,108             | 17,125         | 10.1             | 6.8          |
| Less than once a week                    | 9,619 <sup>u</sup> | :              | 4.0 <sup>u</sup> | :            |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>239,225</b>     | <b>251,395</b> | <b>100.0</b>     | <b>100.0</b> |

\* Includes only persons who used the internet three months prior to the surveying period

<sup>u</sup> Under-represented

: Data not reliable due to small sample representation

**Table 5. Mobile device usage away from home or work by age group**

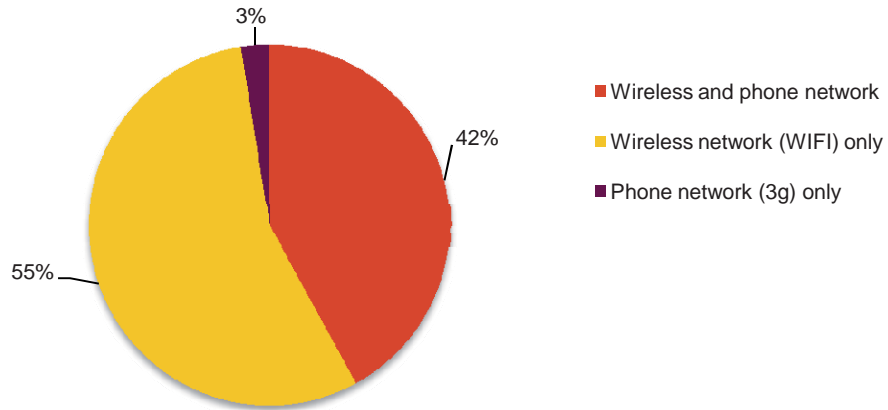
| Age Group    | Mobile Phone       |                   | Portable Computer  |                   |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|              | Number             | % internet users* | Number             | % internet users* |
|              | 2015               |                   |                    |                   |
| 16-24        | 45,195             | 96.5              | 26,978             | 57.6              |
| 25-34        | 51,069             | 85.7              | 33,822             | 56.8              |
| 35-44        | 42,055             | 80.0              | 26,892             | 51.2              |
| 45-54        | 24,920             | 64.6              | 20,385             | 52.9              |
| 55-64        | 16,265             | 44.5              | 15,206             | 41.6              |
| 65-74        | 5,811 <sup>u</sup> | 33.6 <sup>u</sup> | 7,857              | 45.4              |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>185,314</b>     | <b>73.7</b>       | <b>131,140</b>     | <b>52.2</b>       |
|              | 2014               |                   |                    |                   |
| 16-24        | 42,743             | 88.2              | 29,442             | 60.8              |
| 25-34        | 44,217             | 75.9              | 26,926             | 46.2              |
| 35-44        | 30,105             | 61.5              | 22,298             | 45.6              |
| 45-54        | 14,007             | 39.7              | 11,742             | 33.3              |
| 55-64        | 10,162             | 31.9              | 11,123             | 34.9              |
| 65-74        | :                  | :                 | 4,544 <sup>u</sup> | 27.7 <sup>u</sup> |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>145,311</b>     | <b>60.7</b>       | <b>106,076</b>     | <b>44.3</b>       |

\* Includes only persons who used the internet three months prior to the surveying period (refer to table 3).

<sup>u</sup> Under-represented

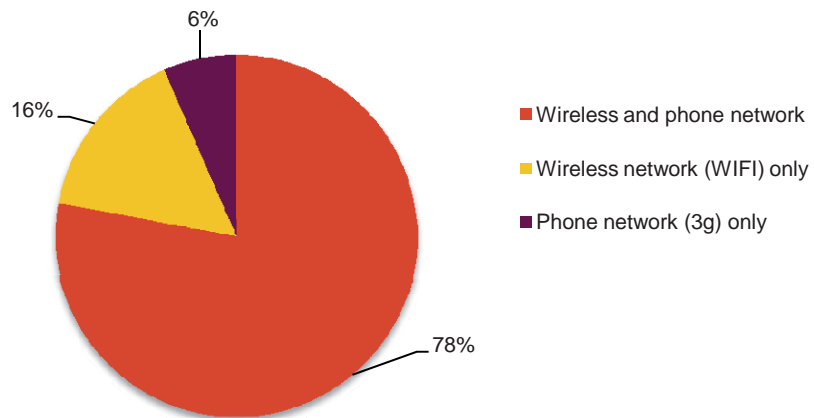
: Data not reliable due to small sample representation

**Chart 1. Portable computer users by type of connection\*: 2015**



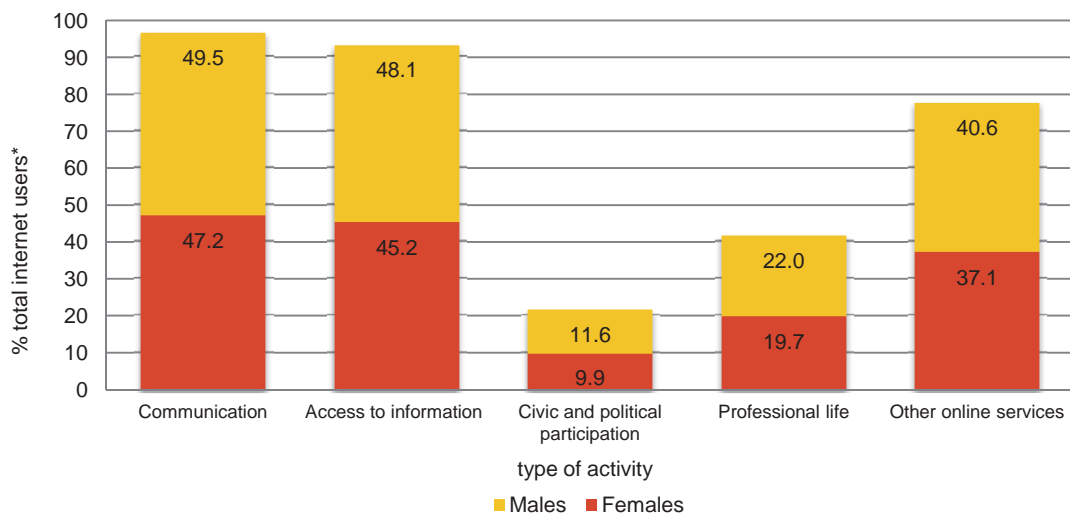
\* Includes only persons who used the internet three months prior to the surveying period

**Chart 2. Mobile Phone users by type of connection\*: 2015**



\* Includes only persons who used the internet three months prior to the surveying period

**Chart 3. Main activities for which the internet was used: 2015**



\* Includes only persons who used the internet three months prior to the surveying period

**Table 6. Demographic profile of e-Government users**

|                              | Number             |                | % internet users* |             | Change in percentage points |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
|                              | 2014               | 2015           | 2014              | 2015        |                             |
| Sex:                         |                    |                |                   |             |                             |
| Male                         | 70,364             | 72,965         | 57.1              | 56.3        | -0.7                        |
| Female                       | 61,327             | 64,581         | 52.9              | 53.0        | 0.1                         |
| Age Group:                   |                    |                |                   |             |                             |
| 16-24                        | 27,507             | 25,542         | 56.8              | 54.5        | -2.2                        |
| 25-34                        | 35,265             | 34,800         | 60.5              | 58.4        | -2.1                        |
| 35-44                        | 29,135             | 31,601         | 59.6              | 60.1        | 0.6                         |
| 45-54                        | 20,127             | 22,312         | 57.0              | 57.9        | 0.9                         |
| 55-64                        | 13,629             | 16,153         | 42.8              | 44.2        | 1.4                         |
| 65-74                        | 6,027 <sup>u</sup> | 7,139          | 36.8 <sup>u</sup> | 41.2        | 4.4                         |
| Education Level:             |                    |                |                   |             |                             |
| No Schooling / Primary       | :                  | :              | :                 | :           | -                           |
| Lower Secondary              | 30,212             | 27,383         | 36.0              | 37.6        | 1.5                         |
| Secondary and Post-secondary | 35,821             | 37,614         | 57.4              | 52.5        | -5.0                        |
| Post-secondary non-tertiary  | 12,443             | 19,664         | 63.1              | 69.3        | 6.2                         |
| Tertiary                     | 51,760             | 50,824         | 80.1              | 73.5        | -6.5                        |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>131,691</b>     | <b>137,546</b> | <b>55.0</b>       | <b>54.7</b> | <b>-0.3</b>                 |

\* Includes only persons who used the internet three months prior to the surveying period (refer to table 3)

<sup>u</sup> Under-represented

: Data not reliable due to small sample representation

**Table 7. Demographic profile of cloud computing users**

|                              | Number             |               | % internet users* |             | Change in percentage points |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
|                              | 2014               | 2015          | 2014              | 2015        |                             |
| Sex:                         |                    |               |                   |             |                             |
| Male                         | 44,294             | 53,565        | 35.9              | 41.3        | 5.4                         |
| Female                       | 31,291             | 45,394        | 27.0              | 37.3        | 10.3                        |
| Age Group:                   |                    |               |                   |             |                             |
| 16-24                        | 25,807             | 26,819        | 53.3              | 57.3        | 4.0                         |
| 25-34                        | 21,386             | 27,417        | 36.7              | 46.0        | 9.3                         |
| 35-44                        | 13,570             | 19,595        | 27.7              | 37.3        | 9.5                         |
| 45-54                        | 7,406 <sup>u</sup> | 13,363        | 21.0 <sup>u</sup> | 34.7        | 13.7                        |
| 55-64                        | :                  | 8,649         | :                 | 23.7        | 10.5                        |
| 65-74                        | :                  | :             | :                 | :           | -                           |
| Education Level:             |                    |               |                   |             |                             |
| No Schooling / Primary       | :                  | :             | :                 | :           | -                           |
| Lower Secondary              | 10,922             | 14,150        | 13.0              | 19.4        | 6.4                         |
| Secondary and Post-secondary | 21,226             | 28,207        | 34.0              | 39.3        | 5.3                         |
| Post-secondary non-tertiary  | 5,983 <sup>u</sup> | 15,950        | 30.3 <sup>u</sup> | 56.2        | 25.9                        |
| Tertiary                     | 36,186             | 39,650        | 56.0              | 57.4        | 1.4                         |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>75,585</b>      | <b>98,959</b> | <b>31.6</b>       | <b>39.4</b> | <b>7.8</b>                  |

\* Includes only persons who used the internet three months prior to the surveying period (refer to table 3)

<sup>u</sup> Under-represented

: Data not reliable due to small sample representation

**Table 8. Types of goods or services acquired over the Internet in the past year**

| Type of goods or services acquired | Number              |                     | % internet users* |                  | Change in percentage points |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                    | 2014                | 2015                | 2014              | 2015             |                             |
| Food or groceries                  | :                   | 7,288 <sup>u</sup>  | :                 | 4.3 <sup>u</sup> | -                           |
| Household goods                    | 36,893              | 45,450              | 24.0              | 27.2             | 3.2                         |
| Medicine                           | :                   | 6,685 <sup>u</sup>  | :                 | 4.0 <sup>u</sup> | -                           |
| Films, music                       | 34,175              | 28,628              | 22.3              | 17.2             | -5.1                        |
| Books, magazines, newspapers       | 50,568              | 60,884              | 32.9              | 36.5             | 3.6                         |
| E-learning material                | 17,197 <sup>u</sup> | 16,630              | 11.2 <sup>u</sup> | 10.0             | -1.2                        |
| Clothes, sports goods              | 100,653             | 119,662             | 65.5              | 71.7             | 6.2                         |
| Video games software and upgrades  | 37,898              | 41,941              | 24.7              | 25.1             | 0.5                         |
| Computer hardware                  | 43,879              | 40,102              | 28.6              | 24.0             | -4.5                        |
| Electronic equipment               | 46,219              | 54,245              | 30.1              | 32.5             | 2.4                         |
| Telecommunication services         | 29,668              | 37,359              | 19.3              | 22.4             | 3.1                         |
| Financial services                 | :                   | 10,677 <sup>u</sup> | :                 | 6.4 <sup>u</sup> | -                           |
| Holiday accommodation              | 62,932              | 74,869              | 41.0              | 44.9             | 3.9                         |
| Other transport arrangements       | 57,572              | 68,846              | 37.5              | 41.3             | 3.8                         |
| Tickets for events                 | 44,022              | 53,627              | 28.7              | 32.2             | 3.5                         |
| Other                              | 28,739              | 29,892              | 18.7              | 17.9             | -0.8                        |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>153,574</b>      | <b>166,799</b>      | <b>64.2</b>       | <b>66.3</b>      | <b>2.2</b>                  |

\* Includes only persons who used the internet three months prior to the surveying period (refer to table 3)

<sup>u</sup> Under-represented

: Data not reliable due to small sample representation

Note: respondents were allowed to tick more than one option.

## Methodological Notes

1. The target population for this survey included all persons aged between 16 and 74 residing in private households. A gross sample of 1,500 individuals was selected using systematic random sampling from a population database held and maintained by NSO. A total of 1,210 filled questionnaires were collected between May and June 2015. The majority of surveys were carried out by face-to-face interviews.
2. Separate weights for households and individuals were computed. For calibration purposes, data were subdivided by sex, age groups and districts (NUTS 4 classification) in case of individuals. Whereas household size and district (NUTS 4 classification) were used for households' calibration.
3. To ensure reliable results, regular audits were conducted together with checks for data entry errors and other outliers.
4. Some questionnaires were returned to the Office incomplete, resulting in item non-response. These were imputed using appropriate statistical models. Nevertheless, various non-sampling errors relating to respondent and processing may have occurred for various reasons; while all efforts were made to minimise such errors, these may occur and it is difficult to quantify their effect.
5. Use of internet referred to in this news release includes all means of accessing this medium.
6. M.Table 1. Demographic profile of households' population

| District         | Number         |                | % household population |              |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------|
|                  | 2014           | 2015           | 2014                   | 2015         |
| <b>MALTA</b>     | <b>148,080</b> | <b>151,044</b> | <b>100.0</b>           | <b>100.0</b> |
| Southern Harbour | 27,562         | 27,720         | 18.6                   | 18.4         |
| Northern Harbour | 43,946         | 45,388         | 29.7                   | 30.0         |
| South Eastern    | 22,317         | 23,006         | 15.1                   | 15.2         |
| Western          | 19,399         | 19,412         | 13.1                   | 12.9         |
| Northern         | 23,977         | 24,383         | 16.2                   | 16.1         |
| Gozo and Comino  | 10,879         | 11,135         | 7.3                    | 7.4          |

M.Table 2. Demographic profile of individuals' population frame

|                              | Number         |                | % population |              |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
|                              | 2014           | 2015           | 2014         | 2015         |
| Sex:                         |                |                |              |              |
| Male                         | 165,278        | 167,133        | 50.6         | 50.6         |
| Female                       | 161,652        | 162,851        | 49.4         | 49.4         |
| Age Group:                   |                |                |              |              |
| 16-24                        | 48,726         | 47,863         | 14.9         | 14.5         |
| 25-34                        | 61,805         | 62,676         | 18.9         | 19.0         |
| 35-44                        | 57,370         | 58,672         | 17.5         | 17.8         |
| 45-54                        | 53,537         | 52,761         | 16.4         | 16.0         |
| 55-64                        | 58,721         | 58,819         | 18.0         | 17.8         |
| 65-74                        | 46,771         | 49,193         | 14.3         | 14.9         |
| Education Level:             |                |                |              |              |
| No Schooling / Primary       | 44,774         | 46,126         | 13.7         | 14.0         |
| Lower Secondary              | 128,682        | 107,713        | 39.4         | 32.6         |
| Secondary and Post-secondary | 67,637         | 76,880         | 20.7         | 23.3         |
| Post-secondary non-tertiary  | 20,936         | 28,861         | 6.4          | 8.7          |
| Tertiary                     | 64,902         | 70,405         | 19.9         | 21.3         |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>326,930</b> | <b>329,984</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

M.Table 3. Education breakdown

| Education level                    | ISCED 2011 levels |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| No schooling/Primary               | 0, 1              |
| Lower secondary                    | 2                 |
| Upper secondary and Post-secondary | 3                 |
| Post-secondary non-tertiary        | 4                 |
| Tertiary                           | 5, 6, 7, 8        |

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