

20 February 2018 | 1100 hrs | 027/2018

In 2017, individuals aged between 16 and 74 who regularly made use of the internet reached 271,699 persons, 80.1 per cent of the total population.

ICT Usage by Households: 2017

All of the 16 to 24 age cohort in the population said to have used the internet in 2017, while individuals aged 65 to 74 recorded the lowest internet usage levels at 40.6 per cent (Table 2). Survey results show that during the year under review, 83.4 per cent of individuals aged between 16 and 74 accessed the internet away from home or work via their mobile phone. This resulted in an increase of 7.6 percentage points when compared to the previous year (Table 4).

Results show that the internet was most commonly used for communication purposes (95.9 per cent) and to access information (95.1 per cent) (Chart 1).

In 2017, 96.0 per cent of mobile internet users accessed the internet via a wireless network (WiFi) connection. Moreover, mobile internet users who accessed the internet via a 3G or 4G connection accounted for 86.0 per cent (Chart 4).

e-Government services

During the year under review, the total number of individuals who made use of e-Government services stood at 152,917, representing 56.3 per cent of total internet users. The largest increase in e-Government services usage was recorded in the 16-24 age bracket, with an increase of 10.0 percentage points when compared to 2016 (Table 5).

Cloud computing

In 2017, 44.7 per cent of internet users made use of cloud computing services, an increase of 9.1 percentage points when compared to the previous year. Cloud computing services were most popular among the youngest age cohort (16-24) with 71.1 per cent, followed by those within the 25-34 age bracket with 53.6 per cent (Table 6).

e-Commerce

Internet users who engaged in e-commerce activities during the reference year amounted to 175,200 (64.5 per cent), up by 1.8 percentage points when compared to 2016 (Table 7). The most common goods or services acquired online were clothes and sports goods, holiday accommodation and other travel arrangements (Table 8) ■

Table 1. Latest instance of internet use

	Number		% total	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
Within three months prior to survey	258,415	271,699	77.3	80.1
3-12 months before survey	:	:	:	:
More than one year before survey	:	:	:	:
Never used a computer	71,287	62,807	21.3	18.5
Total	334,346	339,312	100.0	100.0

: Data not reliable due to small sample representation

Notes:

1. Refer to methodological note 7a for population data.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Demographic profile of internet users

	Number*		% population**	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
Sex:				
Male	131,175	140,420	77.4	81.6
Female	127,239	131,280	77.2	78.5
Age group:				
16-24	45,809	45,335	98.1	100.0
25-34	61,563	63,989	95.9	96.6
35-44	55,600	59,109	92.1	94.6
45-54	43,865	44,706	83.4	85.4
55-64	32,094	36,734	54.4	62.1
65-74	19,484 ^u	21,826	37.9 ^u	40.6
Total	258,415	271,699	77.3	80.1

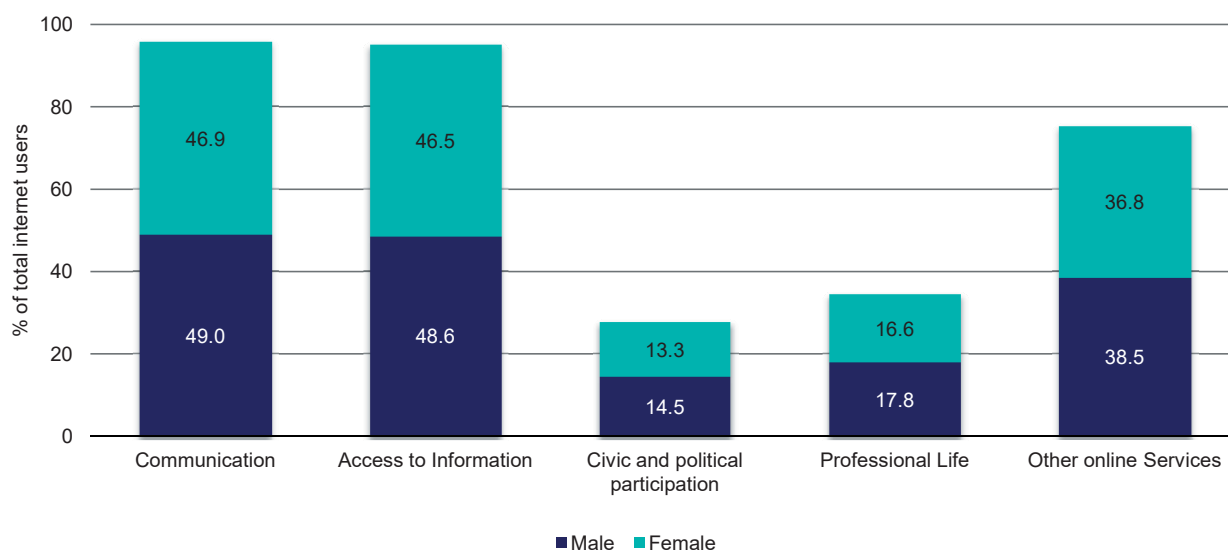
* Includes only persons who used the internet within three months prior to the surveying period (refer to Table 1)

** Refer to methodological notes 7a and 7b

^u under-represented

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 1. Main activities for internet use*: 2017



* Includes only persons who used the internet within three months prior to the surveying period (refer to Table 2)

Note: Refer to Methodological note 6 for more information on internet activities.

Table 3. Frequency of internet use

	Number		% internet users*	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
Every day or almost every day	234,812	255,097	90.9	93.9
At least once a week (but not every day)	18,923 ^u	13,446 ^u	7.3 ^u	4.9 ^u
Less than once a week	:	:	:	:
Total	258,415	271,699	100.0	100.0

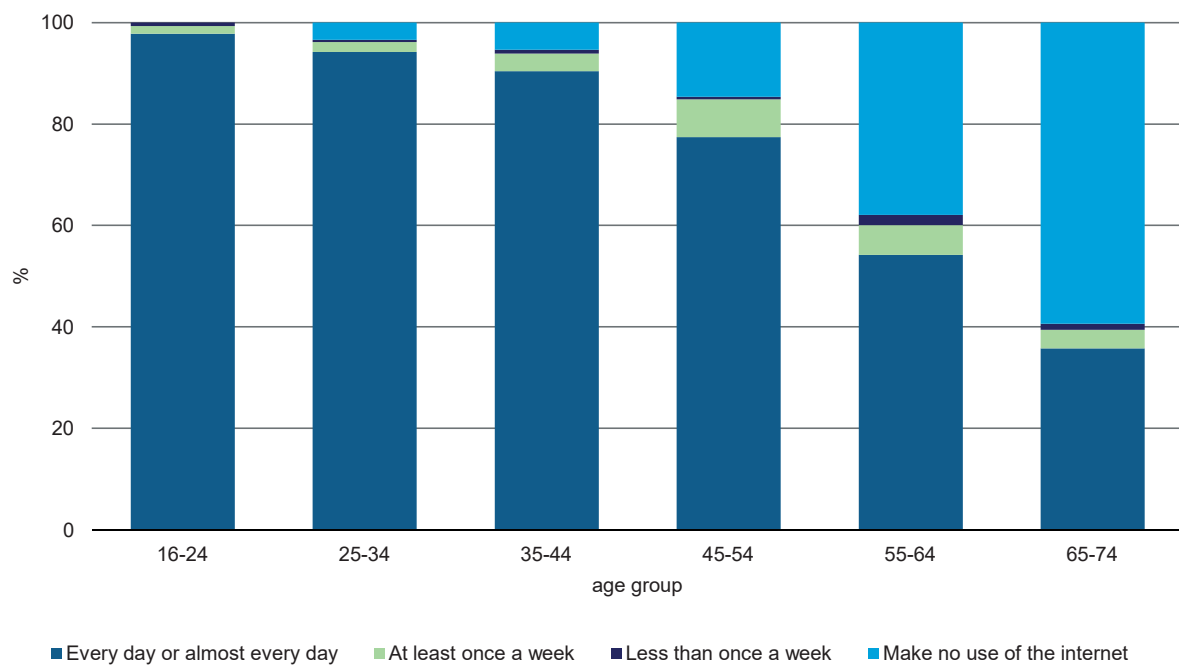
* Includes only persons who used the internet within three months prior to the surveying period (refer to Table 2)

^u under-represented

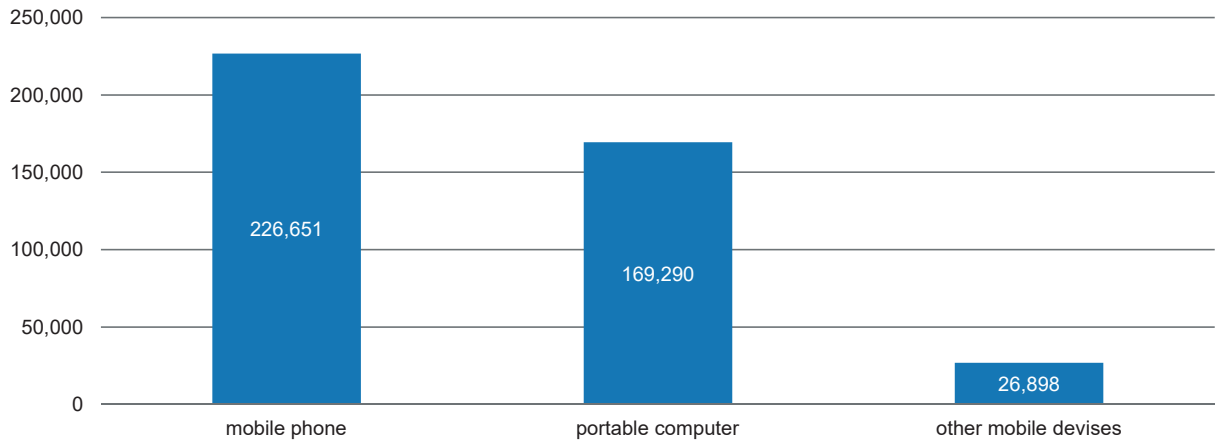
: Data not reliable due to small sample representation

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 2. Frequency of internet use: 2017



**Chart 3. Individuals accessing the internet away from home or work via mobile devices*:
2017**



* Includes only persons who used the internet within three months prior to the surveying period (refer to Table 2)

Note: Categories are not mutually exclusive.

Table 4. Internet access using mobile phone away from home or work by sex and age group

	Number		% internet users*		Change in percentage points
	2016	2017	2016	2017	
Sex:					
Male	100,208	115,575	76.4	82.3	5.9
Female	95,795	111,076	75.3	84.6	9.3
Age group:					
16-24	43,051	44,136	94.0	97.4	3.4
25-34	55,992	62,947	91.0	98.4	7.4
35-44	44,416	52,283	79.9	88.5	8.6
45-54	28,076	35,581	64.0	79.6	15.6
55-64	15,894	21,266	49.5	57.9	8.4
65-74	:	:	:	:	:
Total	196,003	226,651	75.8	83.4	7.6

* Includes only persons who used the internet within three months prior to the surveying period (refer to Table 2)

^u under-represented

: Data not reliable due to small sample representation

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

**Chart 4. Internet access using mobile phone away from home or work
by type of connection*: 2017**

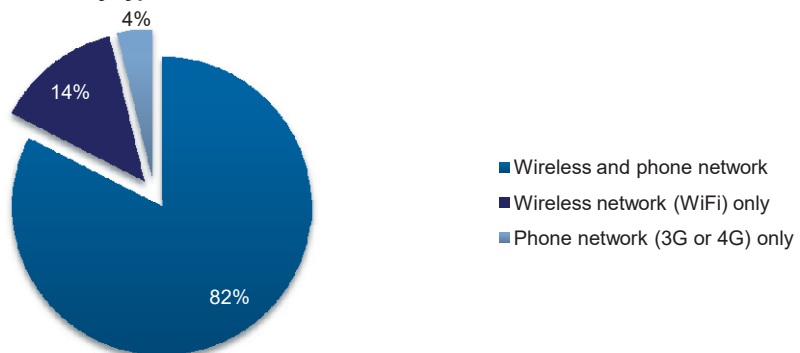


Table 5. Profile of e-Government users

	Number		% internet users*		Change in percentage points
	2016	2017	2016	2017	
Sex:					
Male	71,980	74,900	54.9	53.3	-1.5
Female	74,641	78,017	58.7	59.4	0.8
Age group:					
16-24	24,811	29,095	54.2	64.2	10.0
25-34	39,758	41,703	64.6	65.2	0.6
35-44	32,583	32,431	58.6	54.9	-3.7
45-54	24,359	25,306	55.5	56.6	1.1
55-64	15,718	16,768	49.0	45.6	-3.3
65-74	9,392 ^u	7,614 ^u	48.2 ^u	34.9 ^u	-13.3 ^u
Total	146,621	152,917	56.7	56.3	-0.4

* Includes only persons who used the internet within three months prior to the surveying period (refer to Table 2)

^u under-represented

: Data not reliable due to small sample representation

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 6. Profile of cloud computing users

	Number		% internet users*		Change in percentage points
	2016	2017	2016	2017	
Sex:					
Male	50,804	64,146	38.7	45.7	7.0
Female	41,195	57,321	32.4	43.7	11.3
Age Group:					
16-24	25,256	32,244	55.1	71.1	16.0
25-34	31,341	34,284	50.9	53.6	2.7
35-44	17,875 ^u	24,732	32.1 ^u	41.8	9.7
45-54	:	17,180 ^u	:	38.4 ^u	:
55-64	:	:	:	:	:
65-74	:	:	:	:	:
Total	91,999	121,467	35.6	44.7	9.1

* Includes only persons who used the internet within three months prior to the surveying period (refer to Table 2)

^u under-represented

: Data not reliable due to small sample representation

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 7. Profile of online buyers who acquired goods or services in the past year

	Number		% internet users*		Change in percentage points
	2016	2017	2016	2017	
Sex:					
Male	85,559	89,972	65.2	64.1	-1.2
Female	76,432	85,228	60.1	64.9	4.9
Age Group:					0.0
16-24	36,194	36,255	79.0	80.0	1.0
25-34	49,164	52,394	79.9	81.9	2.0
35-44	37,001	40,498	66.5	68.5	2.0
45-54	21,039 ^u	25,434	48.0 ^u	56.9	8.9 ^u
55-64	11,222 ^u	15,460 ^u	35.0 ^u	42.1 ^u	7.1 ^u
65-74	:	:	:	:	:
Total	161,991	175,200	62.7	64.5	1.8

* Includes only persons who used the internet within three months prior to the surveying period (refer to Table 2)

^u under-represented

: Data not reliable due to small sample representation

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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
	2016	2017	2016	2017	
Food or groceries	:	18,112 ^u	:	10.3 ^u	:
Household goods	39,405	59,909	24.3	34.2	9.9
Medicine	:	:	:	:	:
Films, music	24,158	43,391	14.9	24.8	9.9
Books, magazines, newspapers	47,395	60,286	29.3	34.4	5.2
E-learning material	:	28,443	:	16.2	:
Clothes, sports goods	117,261	129,239	72.4	73.8	1.4
Video games software and upgrades	30,196	46,436	18.6	26.5	7.9
Computer hardware	31,290	39,387	19.3	22.5	3.2
Electronic equipment	47,592	53,448	29.4	30.5	1.1
Telecommunication services	42,151	42,608	26.0	24.3	-1.7
Holiday accommodation	77,415	96,075	47.8	54.8	7.0
Other travel arrangements	68,602	77,486	42.3	44.2	1.9
Tickets for events	49,991	67,818	30.9	38.7	7.8
Other	39,769	23,782	24.6	13.6	-11.0
Total	161,991	175,200	62.7	64.5	1.8

* Includes only persons who used the internet within three months prior to the surveying period and who ordered over the internet in the last year

^u under-represented

: Data not reliable due to small sample representation

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Respondents could 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 1,115 filled questionnaires were collected between May and June 2016. The majority of surveys were carried out by face-to-face interviews.
2. In order to produce population based estimates, weights for individual respondents were computed. For calibration purposes, data was subdivided by sex, age groups and districts (NUTS 4 classification).
3. To ensure reliable results, regular audits were conducted together with checks for data entry errors and other outliers during data collection.
4. Some questionnaires were returned to the Office incomplete, resulting in item non-response. To address such issues, imputation through the use of appropriate statistical models was done. Nevertheless, various non-sampling errors relating to respondent and processing errors may still have occurred for various reasons. While all efforts were made to minimise such errors, they are still present and must be acknowledged by the users of this data.
5. Use of internet referred to in this news release includes all means of accessing this medium.

6. Main activities for internet use

Communication includes sending and/or receiving emails, calling or video calling over the internet, participating in social networks and uploading self-created content to any website to be shared.

Access to information includes reading online news sites, newspapers and news magazines, seeking health-related information and finding information about goods or services.

Civic and political participation includes posting opinions on civic and/or political issues via websites and taking part in on-line consultations and voting to define civic and/or political issues.

Professional life includes looking for a job or sending a job application and participating in professional networks

Other online services include using services related to travel or travel related accommodations, selling of goods or services and internet banking.

7a. The cut-off date for population data is: 31 December 2017.

7b. Below is a demographic profile of individuals' population frame used for the purposes of this survey:

	Number		% population	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
Sex:				
Male	169,563	172,173	50.7	50.7
Female	164,783	167,139	49.3	49.3
Age Group:				
16-24	46,691	45,335	14.0	13.4
25-34	64,227	66,229	19.2	19.5
35-44	60,392	62,455	18.1	18.4
45-54	52,584	52,375	15.7	15.4
55-64	59,007	59,150	17.6	17.4
65-74	51,445	53,768	15.4	15.8
Total	334,346	339,312	100.0	100.0

8. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

Sources and Methods:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_C4/Education_and_Information_Society_Statistics/Page_s/ICT-Usage-by-Individuals-and-Households.aspx

Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>

Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=44>

9. Any quotations from this news release are to be cited and/or referenced.
10. A detailed news release calendar is available on https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx

European statistics comparable to data in this News Release are available at:

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Statistics Database](#)

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