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Information Society

ICT usage by households and individuals: 2006

There were increases in the use of mobile phones and Internet access by households in 2006.

ICT Usage by Households and Individuals: 2006

This News Release presents highlights from the results of surveys on ICT usage by households and individuals carried out in 2005 and 2006.

Use of ICT Devices

Use of television remained predominant in Maltese households, as shown in Table 1. In 2006, there was a notable shift away from the use of Cable TV towards Satellite dishes and digital TV. The use of mobile phones increased significantly in 2006, when it was in use by 87.2 per cent of households. There was also an increased use of Internet enabled mobile phones, although the use of this device was comparatively low at 6.5 per cent.

Internet Access

The proportion of households with Internet access rose by seven percentage points to 53.1 per cent in 2006 as shown in Table 2. Desktop or portable computers are the predominant tool used, with a shift away from Narrowband towards Broadband. Households not using the Internet cited the lack of need and of skills as the primary reason for their behaviour in this regard, as shown in Table 5. The proportion of individuals who never use the Internet remained stable at around 58 per cent, as shown in Table 9. Out of those who use Internet, the proportion of individuals using this medium every day rose from 61.7 per cent in 2005 to 67.6 per cent in 2006. With regards to the location of Internet use, the predominant response was from one's own home, although there was in 2006 an increase in use from places of education.

As in 2005, around two-thirds of individuals in the 2006 survey responded that they have never undertaken any formal e-skills training.

E-Commerce

The use of e-commerce remained stable between 2005 and 2006, with around 60 per cent of persons using the Internet responding that they have never made use of this service. Among the persons using e-commerce, there was in 2006 a shift towards buying from retailers known over the Internet and for the purposes of acquiring music and DVDs ■

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Table 1. Households with availability of ICT-related household articles

per cent

Household article	All Households	
	2005	2006
TV *	98.3	99.3
Satellite dish	12.8	20.4
Cable TV	68.9	62.3
Digital TV	2.6	7.8
Conventional Analogue TV	26.5	28.6
Mobile phone	79.6	87.2
Internet enabled mobile	3.8	6.5
Games console	19.8	27.6
Desktop computer	50.0	50.6
Portable computer	8.8	13.6
Handheld computer	0.9	1.7
None of the above	0.9	1.2

* Households could have more than one service available.

Table 2. Households with Internet access

per cent

	All Households	
	2005	2006
With access	46.1	53.1
Without access	53.1	46.5
No knowledge	0.8	0.4

Table 3. Home Internet access by type of device used

per cent

Device	All Households	
	2005	2006
Desktop computer	94.8	95.2
Portable computer	15.3	18.9
TV set with specific Internet device	0.3	0.5
Games console	0.5	1.2
Other means (excluding any of the above)	0.0	2.4
No knowledge	0.0	0.0

More than one device could be given.

Table 4. Type of home Internet connectivity used

per cent

Type of internet connection	All Households	
	2005	2006
Modem or ISDN	39.2	23.8
DSL (ADSL, SHDSL, etc)	40.7	55.9
Other broadband connection	20.3	23.6
Mobile phone over narrowband (WAP, GPRS, etc)	2.1	2.3

Households could have more than one type of connection.

Table 5. Main reason for not having home Internet access

per cent

Main reason	All Households	
	2005	2006
Access to internet elsewhere	6.7	5.7
No desire for this medium	13.3	11.1
No need for this medium	47.0	49.2
High equipment costs	11.4	6.4
High access costs	9.9	8.3
Lack of skills	18.3	22.8
Physical disability	1.2	0.5
Privacy or security concerns	0.4	0.1
Other reasons	14.7	21.9

More than one reason could be given.

Table 6. Computer use

per cent

Usage	All Individuals	
	2005	2006
Within the last 3 months	40.2	43.2
Between 3 months and a year ago	3.0	2.2
More than 1 year ago	3.7	3.3
Never made use of it	53.1	51.3

Table 7. Frequency of computer use

per cent

	Individuals who made use of a computer within last 3 months	
	2005	2006
Every day or almost every day	65.2	73.9
At least once a week (but not every day)	25.5	21.2
At least once a month (but not every week)	6.4	4.6
Less than once a month	2.9	0.3

Table 8. Location of computer use

per cent

	Individuals who made use of a computer within last 3 months	
	2005	2006
At home	82.1	85.8
At place of work (other than home)	47.2	41.4
At place of education	5.6	9.3
At another person's home	10.5	9.3
At other places (e.g hotel, airport, internet, café, etc)	3.5	4.5

More than one location could be given.

Table 9. Internet use

per cent

Usage	All Individuals	
	2005	2006
Within the last 3 months	37.6	38.3
Between 3 months and a year ago	2.6	2.2
More than one year ago	2.4	1.5
Never used this medium	57.4	58.0

Table 10. Frequency of Internet use

per cent

	Individuals using Internet in last 3 months	
	2005	2006
Every day or almost every day	61.7	67.6
At least once a week (but not every day)	26.7	26.5
At least once a month (but not every week)	9.5	4.7
Less than once a month	2.1	1.2

Table 11. Location of Internet use

per cent

Location	Individuals using Internet in last 3 months	
	2005	2006
At home	78.4	84.2
At place of work (other than home)	41.9	36.5
At place of education	6.2	10.0
At another person's home	9.7	10.5
At other places	1.7	4.7

More than one location could be given.

Table 12. Main five purposes of Internet activities

per cent

	Individuals using Internet in last 3 months	
	2005	2006
Sending/Receiving e-mails	83.6	81.7
Information search about goods and services	69.8	67.0
Seeking health-related information (e.g. injury, disease, nutrition, improving health etc.)	43.9	45.9
Using services related to travel and accommodation	43.3	38.5
Internet banking	42.5	41.8

More than one purpose could be given.

Table 13. Frequency of online buying

per cent

Online buying	Individuals using Internet	
	2005	2006
Within the last 3 months	24.9	22.5
Between 3 months and a year ago	8.8	11.8
More than 1 year ago	5.7	5.5
Never	60.6	60.2

Table 14. Type of retailer chosen for online buying

per cent

	Individuals using Internet for e-commerce in past year	
	2005	2006
Retailers known from outside the internet (physical store, catalogues)	44.3	32.4
Retailers known over or found on the internet	63.5	72.0

More than one type of retailer could be given.

Table 15. Main products or services ordered on the Internet

per cent

	Individuals using Internet for e-commerce in past year	
	2005	2006
Books/magazines/ newspapers/ e-learning material	49.6	41.5
Films, music	25.6	69.9
Clothes, sport goods	22.0	22.3
Travel and holiday accommodation	16.0	19.3

More than one product could be given.

Table 16. E-Skills training undertaken

per cent

	All Individuals	
	2005	2006
Within the last 3 months	5.3	6.9
Between 3 months and a year ago	4.6	4.9
Between 1 and a 3 years ago	10.5	10.1
More than 3 year ago	13.3	12.8
Never undertaken	66.3	65.3

Methodological Notes

Background to the survey

The target population of the survey consisted of all persons living in Maltese households aged between 16 and 74. A sample of 1,500 from the target population was taken by first selecting a random number of individuals.

The reference period for the survey was the first quarter of 2006 (unless otherwise stated in specific questions). The global response rate of this survey stood at 82.0 per cent. Data were collected by means of face-to-face interviews in the second quarter of 2006.

Definitions

ICT Information and Communication Technologies.

Total Population the total number of persons aged 16 to 74 years.

Income groups the income group indicate the total income of all the members of the household.

Educational level this relates to the highest level of education completed by the individual.

Household articles for the purpose of this survey, a household article refers to the ICT related items available

Modem (dial -up access over normal telephone line) or ISDN):

Connects the household via dial-up either through an analogue modem or ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network). Both types can be categorised as narrowband.

DSL (e.g. ADSL, SHDSL etc):

DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) stands for technology that transports data at high speeds (i.e. equal to or higher than 144 hbit/s) over the existing copper network. DSL technology is a type of Internet connection which is significantly faster than dial-up access and therefore designated as broadband.

Other broadband connection (e.g. cable, UMTS, etc):

The sums up all other types of Internet connection which is not provided via DSL but still can be designated as broadband.

Mobile phoneover narrowband (WAP, GPRS, etc):

Broadband over the mobile phone is still limited and 2nd generation mobile technologies such as WAP and GPRS are designated as narrowband connection.

A virus checking program:

Software that detects a virus on the computer. The software will alert the user and then clean the virus or move the infected file to the Quarantine section of the computer.

A hardware or software firewall:

Firewalls protect any server from damage by those who log onto it. It could be incorporated into the computer or could be a software-based protection.