

19 February 2019 | 1100 hrs | 025/2019

In 2018, individuals aged between 16 and 74 who regularly made use of the internet reached 306,692 persons, 81.4 per cent of the total population.

ICT usage by Households: 2018

Internet usage by individuals

All of the 16 to 24 age cohort in the population said to have used the internet in 2018, while individuals aged 65 to 74 recorded the lowest internet usage levels at 37.9 per cent (Table 2). Survey results show that during the year under review, 84.0 per cent of individuals aged between 16 and 74 accessed the internet away from home or work via their mobile phone. (Table 4).

Results show that the most common uses for the internet were for communication purposes (95.8 per cent) and for the use of entertainment (88.8 per cent) (Chart 1).

e-Government services

During the year under review, the total number of individuals who accessed or made use of e-Government services stood at 174,243, representing 56.8 per cent of total internet users. (Table 5).

Cloud computing

In 2018, 46.1 per cent of internet users made use of cloud computing services. Cloud computing services were most popular among the youngest age cohort (16-24) with 71.8 per cent, followed by those within the 25-34 age bracket (60.7 per cent) (Table 6).

Smartphone users

In 2018, out of all internet users, 279,305 individuals also made use of a smartphone. From this amount, 140,996 users had some security software installed on their device (Table 7).

ICT users at work

The survey showed that that 176,324 individuals used information and communication technologies for their working activities. The most common use of these technologies was for the exchange of e-mails or to enter data into databases (Table 8).

e-Commerce

Internet users who engaged in e-commerce activities during the reference year amounted to 203,587 (66.4 per cent), up by more than 1.0 percentage point when compared to 2017 (Table 9). The most common goods or services acquired online were clothes and sports goods, holiday accommodation and other travel arrangements (Table 10) ■

Table 1. Latest instance of internet use

	Number		% total	
	2017 Revised	2018	2017 Revised	2018
Within three months prior to survey	297,832	306,692	81.0	81.4
3-12 months before survey	:	:	:	:
More than one year before survey	:	:	:	:
Never used the internet	64,660	63,441	17.6	16.8
Total	367,641	376,757	100.0	100.0

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Demographic profile of internet users

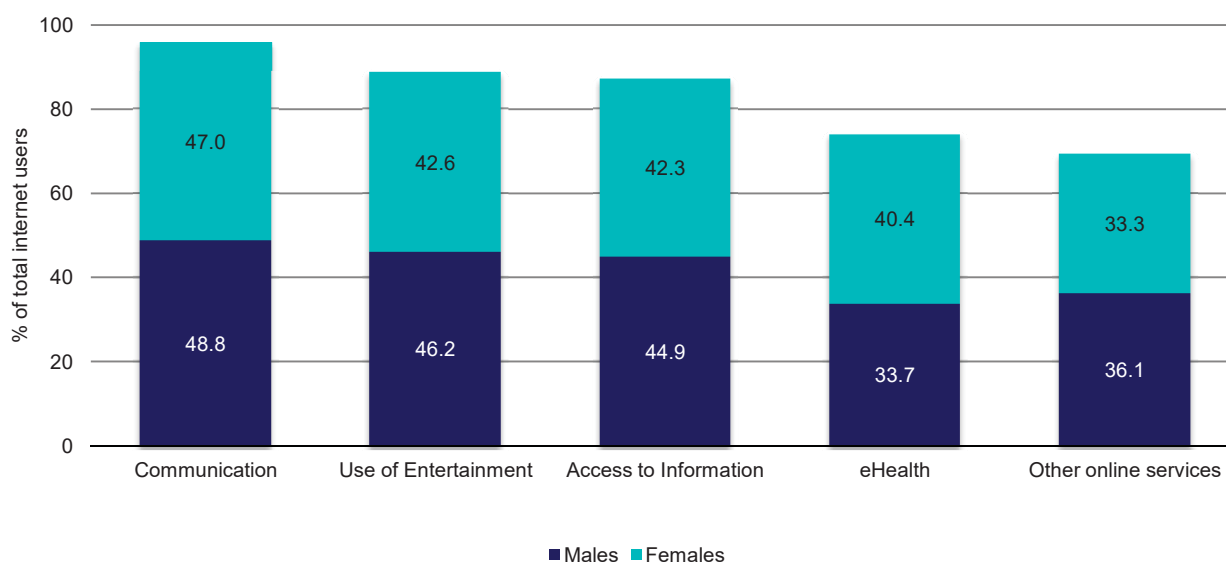
	Number ¹		% population ²	
	2017 Revised	2018	2017 Revised	2018
Sex:				
Males	155,283	157,537	82.4	81.3
Females	142,550	149,155	79.5	81.5
Age group:				
16-24	49,225	48,207	100.0	100.0
25-34	75,206	80,211	96.6	98.4
35-44	65,581	68,820	94.7	94.7
45-54	47,868	47,515	85.7	83.3
55-64	37,700	40,687	62.1	66.5
65-74	22,252	21,251	40.6	37.9
Total	297,832	306,692	81.0	81.4

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

(²) Refer to methodological note 5

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 1. Main activities for internet use¹ by sex: 2018



(¹) 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 ¹	
	2017 Revised	2018	2017 Revised	2018
Every day or almost every day	280,335	289,292	94.1	94.3
At least once a week (but not every day)	14,142 ^u	12,859 ^u	4.7 ^u	4.2 ^u
Less than once a week	:	:	:	:
Total	297,832	306,692	100.0	100.0

⁽¹⁾ Includes only persons who used the internet within three months prior to the surveying period (refer to Table 2)

^u under-represented - Margin of error is between 30 and 40 per cent

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Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

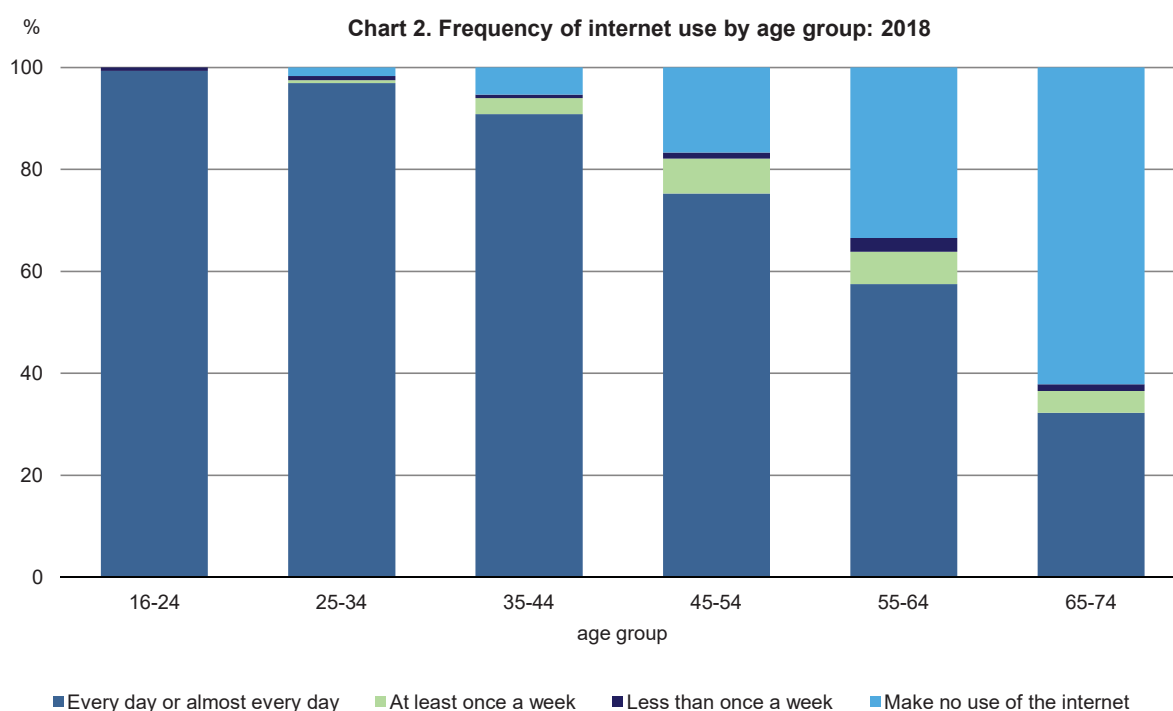
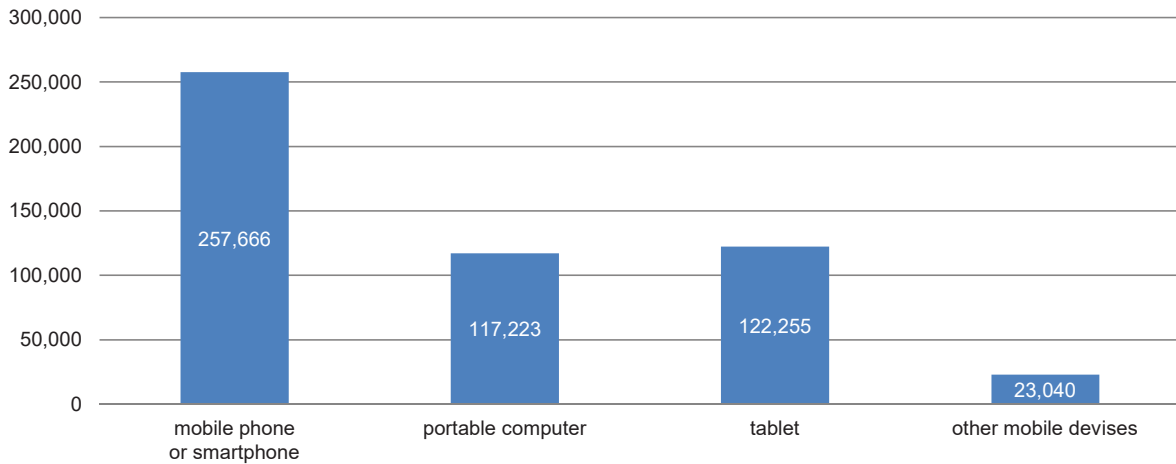


Chart 3. Individuals accessing the internet away from home or work via mobile devices¹: 2018



⁽¹⁾ 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. Profile of persons accessing the internet using mobile phone or smartphone away from home or work

	Number		% internet users ¹	
	2017 Revised	2018	2017 Revised	2018
Sex:				
Males	129,189	132,229	83.2	83.9
Females	121,602	125,437	85.3	84.1
Age group:				
16-24	47,927	46,291	97.4	96.0
25-34	74,130	76,608	98.6	95.5
35-44	58,116	63,672	88.6	92.5
45-54	38,111	35,656	79.6	75.0
55-64	21,902	25,825	58.1	63.5
65-74	10,605	9,614	47.7	45.2
Total	250,791	257,666	84.2	84.0

⁽¹⁾ Includes only persons who used the internet within three months prior to the surveying period (refer to Table 2)

^u under-represented - Margin of error is between 30 and 40 per cent

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Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 5. Profile of e-Government users

	Number		% internet users ¹	
	2017 Revised	2018	2017 Revised	2018
Sex:				
Males	83,743	90,170	53.9	57.2
Females	85,804	84,073	60.2	56.4
Age group:				
16-24	31,664	32,439	64.3	67.3
25-34	49,520	50,847	65.8	63.4
35-44	36,077	41,691	55.0	60.6
45-54	27,199	25,514	56.8	53.7
55-64	17,350	16,151	46.0	39.7
65-74	7,737 ^u	7,601 ^u	34.8 ^u	35.8 ^u
Total	169,547	174,243	56.9	56.8

⁽¹⁾ Includes only persons who used the internet within three months prior to the surveying period (refer to Table 2)

^u under-represented - Margin of error is between 30 and 40 per cent

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Refer to Methodological note 6 for more information on e-Government.

Table 6. Profile of cloud computing users

	Number		% internet users ¹	
	2017 Revised	2018	2017 Revised	2018
Sex:				
Males	71,782	71,662	46.2	45.5
Females	63,324	69,780	44.4	46.8
Age Group:				
16-24	35,142	34,590	71.4	71.8
25-34	40,320	48,704	53.6	60.7
35-44	27,778	29,561	42.4	43.0
45-54	18,405	18,564	38.4	39.1
55-64	:	7,789 ^u	:	19.1 ^u
65-74	:	:	:	:
Total	135,105	141,443	45.4	46.1

⁽¹⁾ Includes only persons who used the internet within three months prior to the surveying period (refer to Table 2)

^u under-represented - Margin of error is between 30 and 40 per cent

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Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Refer to Methodological note 6 for more information on cloud computing.

Table 7. Profile of smartphone users: 2018

	Smartphone users ¹	Smartphone security	
		Smartphones users with security software	Smartphones users who lost data due to viruses or hostile programs
Sex:			
Male	141,025	72,401	15,498
Female	138,280	68,595	21,638
Age group:			
16-24	47,973	22,881	10,900
25-34	78,659	33,511	9,642
35-44	67,085	37,109	8,087 ^u
45-54	41,462	21,714	:
55-64	31,607	18,013	:
65-74	12,517	7,769 ^u	:
Total	279,305	140,996	37,137

⁽¹⁾ Includes only persons who used the internet within three months prior to the surveying period (refer to Table 2)

^u under-represented - Margin of error is between 30 and 40 per cent

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 8. Profile of ICT users at work*: 2018

	ICT users at work ¹	ICT related activities carried out at work ²					
		Exchange e-mails or enter data into databases	Create or edit electronic documents	Use social media for work	Use applications to receive tasks or instructions	Use of occupational specific software	Develop or maintain IT systems or software
Sex:							
Males	94,293	82,324	56,806	37,984	49,426	58,528	17,535
Females	82,031	70,735	50,852	30,647	28,221	38,799	7,717 ^u
Age group:							
16-24	24,245	17,899	13,818	10,010	10,535	14,750	:
25-34	56,472	51,170	38,539	25,998	28,367	35,074	9,108
35-44	46,532	39,018	28,055	17,698	20,503	23,976	:
45-54	31,531	29,398	18,244	9,593	13,094	15,918	:
55-64	16,336	14,599	8,513	:	:	7,121 ^u	:
65-74	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total	176,324	153,059	107,658	68,631	77,647	97,328	25,253

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

⁽¹⁾ includes the use of computers, laptops, smart phones, tablets or other portable devices

⁽²⁾ each activity must be carried out at least once a week

^u under-represented - Margin of error is between 30 and 40 per cent

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Respondents could tick more than one option.

Table 9. Profile of online buyers who acquired goods or services in the past year

	Number		% internet users ¹	
	2017 Revised	2018	2017 Revised	2018
Sex:				
Male	100,494	105,659	64.7	67.1
Female	93,796	97,928	65.8	65.7
Age Group:				
16-24	39,395	40,552	80.0	84.1
25-34	61,624	67,171	81.9	83.7
35-44	44,755	48,541	68.2	70.5
45-54	27,218	26,678	56.9	56.1
55-64	16,030	15,318	42.5	37.6
65-74	:	:	:	:
Total	194,290	203,587	65.2	66.4

⁽¹⁾ Includes only persons who used the internet within three months prior to the surveying period (refer to Table 2)

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 10. Types of goods or services acquired over the internet in the past year

Type of goods or services acquired	Number		% internet users ¹	
	2017 Revised	2018	2017 Revised	2018
Food or groceries	20,463 ^u	19,736	10.5 ^u	9.7
Household goods	67,188	66,030	34.6	32.4
Medicine	:	:	:	:
Films, music	48,489	56,492	25.0	27.7
Books, magazines, newspapers	66,935	65,688	34.5	32.3
E-learning material	31,770	30,123	16.4	14.8
Clothes, sports goods	144,414	154,161	74.3	75.7
Video games software and upgrades	51,730	54,713	26.6	26.9
Computer hardware	43,544	53,483	22.4	26.3
Electronic equipment	59,668	63,882	30.7	31.4
Telecommunication services	47,180	65,829	24.3	32.3
Holiday accommodation	106,501	125,803	54.8	61.8
Other travel arrangements	86,019	110,283	44.3	54.2
Tickets for events	75,522	90,524	38.9	44.5
Other	26,038	37,268	13.4	18.3
Total	194,290	203,587	65.2	66.4

⁽¹⁾ 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 - Margin of error is between 30 and 40 per cent

: Unreliable - less than 20 sample observations

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
2. Respondents could tick more than one option.

Methodological Notes

1. The survey on ICT usage by households is conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) on an annual basis, under European Regulation (EC) No. 808/2004. 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 1,048 filled questionnaires were collected between May and June 2018. 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. Use of internet referred to in this news release includes all means of accessing this medium.

4. Definitions

Main activities for internet use:

Communication includes sending and/or receiving emails, calling or video calling over the internet and participating in social networks.

Access to information includes finding information about goods or services.

Use of entertainment includes listening to music, watching internet streamed TV from TV broadcasters, watching video on demand from commercial services, watching video content from sharing services and playing or downloading games.

eHealth includes seeking health-related information and making appointments with practitioners via a website or apps.

Other online services include selling of goods or services and internet banking.

Cloud computing

Cloud computing services offer the possibility to store files or folders on a server accessible over the internet. Many of them are also used for sharing files with other individuals.

e-Government users

e-Government users include individuals who obtained information from public authorities or public services over the internet for private purposes, individuals who downloaded or printed official forms, and individuals who submitted completed forms online.

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

	Number		% population	
	2017 Revised	2018	2017 Revised	2018
Sex:				
Male	188,354	193,698	51.2	51.4
Female	179,287	183,059	48.8	48.6
Age Group:				
16-24	49,225	48,207	13.4	12.8
25-34	77,835	81,556	21.2	21.6
35-44	69,238	72,702	18.8	19.3
45-54	55,859	57,040	15.2	15.1
55-64	60,741	61,153	16.5	16.2
65-74	54,743	56,099	14.9	14.9
Total	367,641	376,757	100.0	100.0

6. 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/Pages/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>

7. References to this News Release are to be cited appropriately.

8. 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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