

Information Society Statistics

*Strong growth of PC, Internet and mobile phone usage in
the European Union*

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Statistics
in focus

INDUSTRY, TRADE
AND SERVICES

THEME 4 – 4/2001

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Main results

- The number of Personal Computers in use in the EU-15 is growing by about 10% per year. In 1999 there were about 93 million PCs in use in the EU or 1 PC for every 4 inhabitants. The number of PCs is expected to have surpassed 100 million in the second half of 2000.
- The number of Internet hosts is increasing by about 30% per year. In 1999 there were 8.5 million Internet hosts (if country code top level domains only are counted) and 56 million Internet users in EU-15. The number of Internet hosts in EU-15 stood at 10.9 million in July 2000. The number of Internet users in EU-15 is estimated to have reached 100 million at the end of 2000.
- There are strong differences in the density of PCs and Internet hosts between Member States and between the EU and the USA. The Scandinavian countries have the highest PC and Internet density in the EU-15. In 1999 the PC density in the USA was twice as high as in Europe and in Japan it was slightly above the EU average.
- The number of mobile phone subscriptions in EU-15 has increased by over 60% in 1999 and stood at 147 million in December 1999. In summer 2000, the number of subscriptions reached 200 million.

Table 1: Information Society in 1999/2000 (in million)

	EU-15	USA	Japan	World	Source
Number of PCs (Dec.1999)	93	141	36	387	ITU
- per 100 inhabitants	25	52	29	6	
Internet hosts (Oct.2000)	13.9	65.9	4.5	94.3	Netsizer
- per 100 inhabitants	3.7	23.9	3.9	1.6	
Internet users (Nov.2000)	98	154	39	407	NUA
- per 100 inhabitants	26	56	31	7	
Mobiles phones (Dec.1999)	147	86	57	481	ITU
- per 100 inhabitants	39.1	31.7	45	8	



Introduction

The availability and use of information and communication technologies has strongly increased in the last decade. The term "Information Society" is used to describe the new situation emerging. The aim of this report is to provide an overview on key Information Society related parameters (data on personal computers, Internet hosts and users, IT market, and mobile phone).

Statistical data from Eurostat and other from Commission services and from ITU, EITO, RIPE, have been brought together for this purpose. Some of the figures represent estimates (number of PCs, Internet users) and there are considerable differences in the estimates provided by the different sources. Thus, figures have to be interpreted carefully.

Personal computers

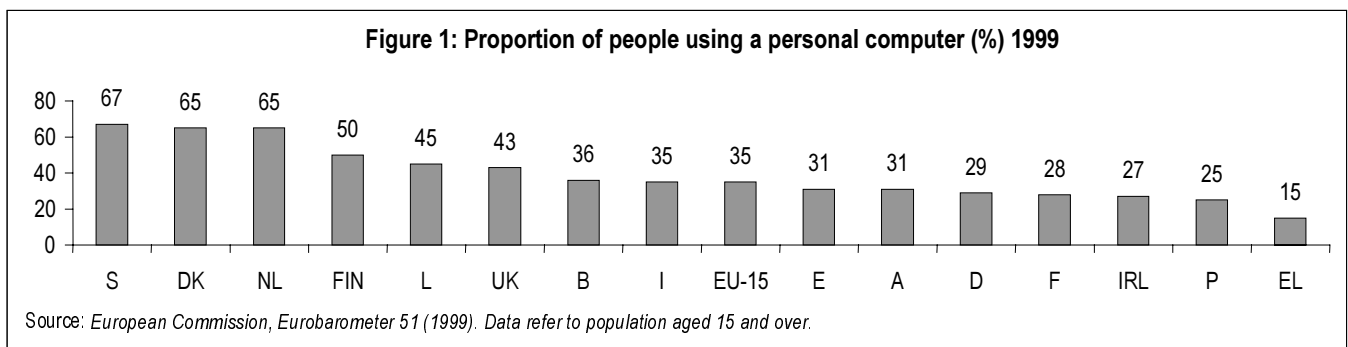
Table 2: Number of Personal Computers

	Number of PCs (in million)					Growth (%)	PCs per 100 inhabitants				
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	1999/98	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
EU-15	56.2	64.7	73.5	84.7	93.2	10.0	15	17	20	23	25
B	1.8	2.2	2.5	2.9	3.2	10.3	18	22	25	29	31
DK	1.4	1.6	1.9	2.0	2.2	10.0	27	31	36	38	41
D	15.6	19.1	21.0	22.9	24.4	6.6	19	23	26	28	30
EL	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	16.4	3	4	5	5	6
E	3.5	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.8	11.6	9	10	11	11	12
F	7.8	8.8	10.2	12.4	13.0	4.8	13	15	17	21	22
IRL	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.2	20.0	18	21	24	27	32
I	4.8	5.3	6.5	10.0	11.0	10.0	8	9	11	17	19
L	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	3.0	34	38	39	39	40
NL	3.1	3.6	4.4	5.0	5.7	14.0	20	23	28	32	36
A	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.1	10.5	16	17	21	24	26
P	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	14.8	6	7	7	8	9
FIN	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.9	3.3	24	27	31	35	36
S	2.2	2.6	3.0	3.5	4.0	14.3	25	29	34	40	45
UK	11.8	12.7	14.3	15.5	18.0	16.1	20	22	24	26	30
US	86.3	96.6	109.0	124.0	141.0	13.7	33	37	41	46	52
JP	15.1	20.4	25.5	30.0	36.3	21.0	12	16	21	24	29

Source: International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The number of personal computers in the EU countries is increasing by about 10 million per year. ITU estimates the number of PCs in the EU to be 93 Mio in 1999 (the ISPO estimate for the same year is 120 million). While the Scandinavian countries show the highest densities,

the density in Greece (6.1/100) and Portugal (9.3/100) remains low compared to the EU average (24.8/100). In 1999 35 % of the EU population (aged 15 and over) used a PC. About 40 % of persons employed use a PC at work.



Internet hosts

Table 3: Number of Internet hosts

	Number of Internet hosts (in 1 000)						Internet hosts per 100 inhabitants					
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	July 2000	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	July 2000
EU-15	1 894	3 063	4 652	6 417	8 581	10 906	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.7	2.3	2.9
B	31	65	107	209	339	361	0.3	0.6	1.1	2.0	3.3	3.6
DK	51	107	169	298	338	370	1.0	2.0	3.2	5.6	6.4	7.0
D	474	620	1 132	1 450	1 635	1 917	0.6	0.8	1.4	1.8	2.0	2.3
EL	8	17	28	50	75	106	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.7	1.0
E	51	113	196	307	470	539	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.8	1.2	1.4
F ¹	151	239	355	511	607	984	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.0	1.7
IRL	13	27	40	56	64	86	0.4	0.7	1.1	1.5	1.7	2.3
I ¹	75	148	254	387	394	1 574	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.7	2.7
L	2	4	5	8	10	12	0.5	0.9	1.1	1.8	2.2	2.7
NL	172	271	391	626	959	1 082	1.1	1.7	2.5	4.0	6.1	6.8
A	53	89	108	173	263	350	0.7	1.1	1.3	2.1	3.2	4.3
P	12	24	42	56	78	117	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.2
FIN	216	314	487	460	462	704	4.2	6.1	9.5	8.9	8.9	13.6
S	145	238	349	379	523	624	1.6	2.7	3.9	4.3	5.9	7.0
UK	440	719	988	1 449	1 739	2 081	0.8	1.2	1.7	2.5	2.9	3.5
US	6 055	10 113	20 624	30 489	53 176	:	2.3	3.8	7.7	11.3	19.6	:
JP	269	734	1 169	1 688	2 637	3 413	0.2	0.6	0.9	1.3	2.1	2.7

Source: Data from 1995 to 1999: ITU (Figures refer to end of the year); Data for year 2000: ISC

(1) 1999, source RIPE Hostcount for June 1999.

According to ISC there were 93 million Internet hosts worldwide in July 2000 (July 1999: 56 million, January 2000: 72 million). More than half of all computers connected to the Internet are located in the USA. The EU had 10.9 million Internet hosts in July 2000. The highest density is found in Finland (13.6 hosts/100 inhabitants in July 2000), Sweden (7.0/100),

Denmark (7.0/100) and the Netherlands (6.9/100), Greece (1.0/100) and Portugal have the lowest density (1.1/100). The EU average in July 2000 was 2.9/100. This compares to over 20/100 in the USA and 2.7/100 in Japan. The number of Internet hosts in the EU increased by 32 % in 1999.

Figure 2: Internet hosts per 100 inhabitants, July 2000



Internet users

Table 4: Number of Internet users

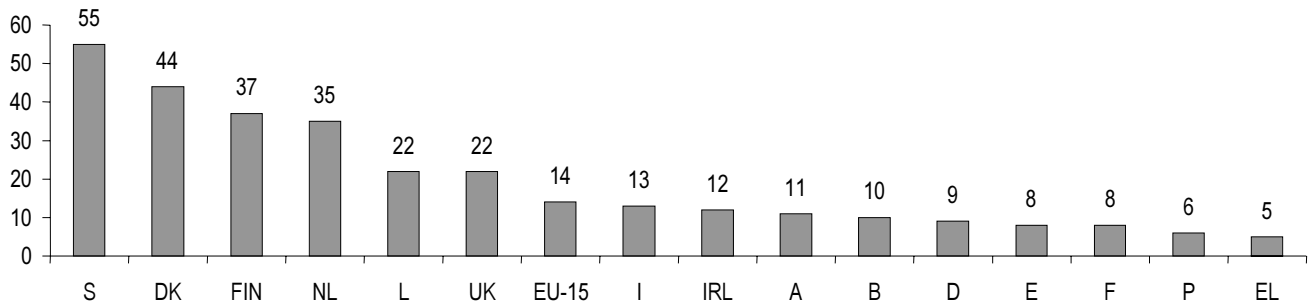
	Number of Internet users (1 000)			Growth (%)	Internet users per 100 inhabitants		
	1997	1998	1999	1999/98	1997	1998	1999
EU-15	19 340	36 305	55 942	54.5	5.2	9.7	14.9
B	500	800	1 400	75.0	4.9	7.8	13.7
DK	600	1 000	1 500	50.0	11.4	18.9	28.2
D	5 000	10 500	15 900	51.4	6.1	12.8	19.4
EL	200	350	750	114.3	1.9	3.3	7.1
E	1 100	1 733	2 830	63.3	2.8	4.4	7.2
F	1 000	3 500	5 660	61.7	1.7	6.0	9.6
IRL	150	300	444	48.0	4.1	8.1	11.9
I	1 300	3 000	5 000	66.7	2.3	5.2	8.7
L	30	50	75	50.0	7.2	11.8	17.5
NL	1 000	1 600	3 000	87.5	6.4	10.2	19.0
A	650	600	850	41.7	8.1	7.4	10.5
P	500	600	700	16.7	5.0	6.0	7.0
FIN	1 000	1 311	1 667	27.2	19.5	25.5	32.3
S	2 000	2 961	3 666	23.8	22.6	33.5	41.4
UK	4 310	8 000	12 500	56.3	7.3	13.5	21.1
US	40 000	60 000	110 000	83.3	15.0	22.3	40.5
JP	11 550	16 740	18 300	9.3	9.3	13.3	14.5

Source: ITU

According to a Eurobarometer survey carried out in March/April 1999 there were 42 million Internet users in EU-15 in spring 1999 (population aged 15 and over). ITU statistics (country level results represent ITU estimates) show 56 million users in EU-15 for the end of

1999. NUA estimated the number of Internet users in Western Europe at 106 million in September 2000 (of which EU-15 ca. 85% or 90 million). At the end of 2000 the number of users has probably surpassed 100 million in EU-15.

Figure 3: Proportion of people using the Internet (%) 1999



Source: European Commission, Eurobarometer 51 (1999).

Information technology market

Table 5: IT market by country (bn ECU)

	IT market (IT hardware, software and services) (bn ECU)			Growth (%)	IT market per capita (ECU)
	1997	1998	1999	1999/97	1999
EU-15 total	169.6	186.8	207.1	22.1	55.3
Of which:					
Computer hardware	71.521	77.267	83.725	17.1	22.4
Office equipment	9.020	9.138	9.211	2.1	2.5
Software products	32.242	36.283	41.150	27.6	11.0
Services	56.791	64.152	72.988	28.5	19.5
B ¹	5.127	5.650	6.254	22.0	58.9
DK	4.303	4.721	5.134	19.3	97.0
D	42.059	46.008	50.631	20.4	61.7
EL	0.858	0.959	1.065	24.1	10.1
ES	7.290	8.566	9.850	35.1	25.0
F	31.561	34.671	38.482	21.9	65.5
IRL	1.172	1.314	1.461	24.7	39.6
I	15.264	16.623	18.336	20.1	31.9
NL	9.362	10.268	11.431	22.1	73.0
A	3.837	4.181	4.554	18.7	56.4
P	1.286	1.412	1.570	22.1	15.8
FIN	2.697	2.967	3.326	23.3	64.6
S	7.506	8.431	9.376	24.9	106.0
UK	37.251	41.067	45.605	22.4	77.2
US	293.914	322.130	350.767	19.3	130.3
Japan	96.659	91.840	94.566	-2.2	75.0
World	673.463	725.987	793.981	17.9	13.5

(1) Luxembourg included.

Source: EITO 2000 and Eurostat/NewCronos/Demography/Population.

The size of the IT market (hardware, software and services) in EU 15 is growing strongly – it increased by over 22% in the 1997-1999 period. The countries with largest market share of EU-15 are Germany, UK and

France - they together represent 65% of the total market. Computer hardware (PCs and data transmission hardware) represents 40% of the European IT market in 1999 (Source: EITO 2000).

Figure 4: IT market in 1999 (%) by country

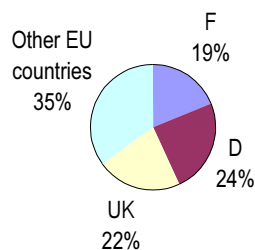
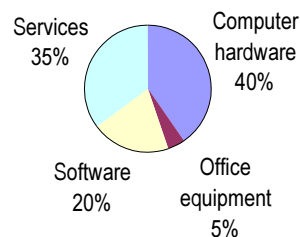


Figure 5: IT market in 1999 (%) by products



Mobile phones

Table 6: Mobile phone subscriptions, 1995-1999

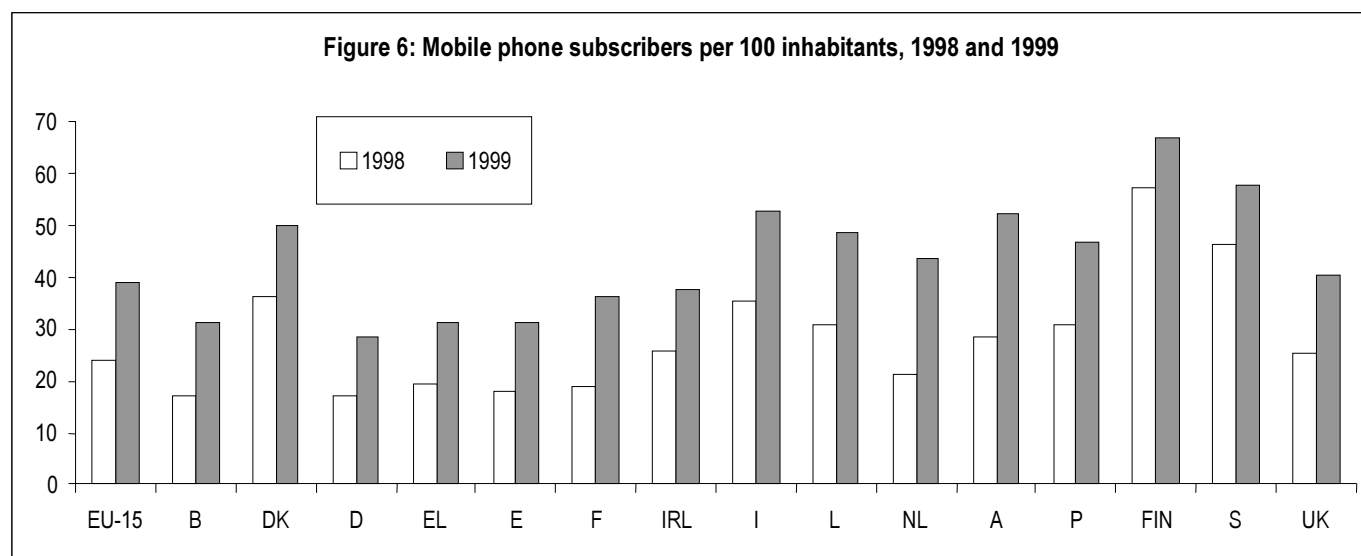
	Number of mobile phone subscriptions (1 000)				Growth (%)	Mobile phones per 100 inhabitants			
	1995	1997	1998	1999		1999/98	1995	1997	1998
EU-15	21 160	52 663	90 145	146 579	62.6	5.7	14.1	24.1	39.1
B	235	974	1 756	3 193	81.8	2.3	9.6	17.2	31.3
DK	822	1 444	1 931	2 650	37.2	15.8	27.4	36.5	49.9
D	3 750	8 170	13 925	23 470	68.5	4.6	10.0	17.0	28.6
EL	273	938	2 057	3 300	60.4	2.6	8.9	19.6	31.4
E	944	4 338	7 051	12 300	74.4	2.4	11.0	17.9	31.2
F	1 024	5 817	11 210	21 434	91.2	1.8	9.9	19.1	36.3
IRL	158	533	946	1 400	48.0	4.4	14.6	25.6	37.5
I	3 925	11 734	20 489	30 296	47.9	6.9	20.4	35.6	52.6
L	27	67	131	209	60.2	6.6	16.1	30.8	48.7
NL	513	1 717	3 351	6 900	105.9	3.3	11.0	21.4	43.8
A	347	1 160	2 293	4 242	85.0	4.3	14.4	28.4	52.5
P	341	1 507	3 076	4 672	51.9	3.4	15.2	30.9	46.8
FIN	1 039	2 162	2 947	3 445	16.9	20.4	42.1	57.3	66.8
S	2 025	3 169	4 108	5 125	24.8	23.0	35.8	46.4	57.9
UK	5 736	8 933	14 874	23 944	61.0	9.8	15.2	25.2	40.4
US	33 786	55 312	69 209	86 047	24.3	12.9	20.8	25.7	31.7
JP	11 712	38 254	47 285	56 849	20.2	9.3	30.7	37.5	45.0

Source: Eurostat, New Cronos; ITU for 1998-1999.

The penetration of the mobile phones in EU countries has increased considerably in the last few years. In 1999 the number of the subscriptions reached 39.1 per 100 inhabitants. While Finland (66.8/100) and Sweden (57.9/100) stand out with the highest density of subscriptions, Germany (28.6/100), Spain (31.2/100), Belgium (31.3/100) and Greece (31.4) show relatively low densities. The density of mobile phones subscriptions in USA (31.7) is lower than in Europe,

while in Japan it is slightly higher. The countries with the highest growth of Mobile phone subscriptions in the EU -15 in 1999 were the Netherlands (+106%), France (+91%) and Austria (+85%).

As analogue mobile phones ("first generation" mobile phones) are being phased out, the share of digital mobile phones subscriptions in EU-15 reached 90% in 1998 (USA: 24%, Japan: 99%).



➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Personal computers (PC): includes portables, desktops and personal workstations. Board-level products are excluded. Data on the number of PCs by country from ITU represent estimates.

Internet service providers (ISP) an organisation that lets users dial into its computers to connect to its Internet link (usually for a fee). ISPs in general provide an Internet connection and an electronic mail address.

Internet hosts are the computers that are directly connected to the Internet and have their own IP address and full two-way access to other nodes on the network. The host data in this report refer to country code Top Level Domains only for EU countries and Japan (examples: .de or .uk), generic top level domains (examples: .com .org) are not included for these countries. There are

about 15 million .com domains today. 69% of domain names have in the past been registered through the USA (1998: 75%, 2000: 50-60%).

Internet user: person using the Internet. The number is several times higher than the number of Internet hosts. Data relate to persons above a defined age limit. Data come from household surveys or represent estimates or projections (data in table 3 represent ITU estimates). In NUA estimates, figures represent both adults and children who have accessed the Internet at least once during the 3 months prior to being surveyed. NUA estimates of the worldwide number of Internet users are thus higher than estimates from other sources.

Information Technology (IT) market refers to the combined industries of hardware for office machines, data processing equipment, data communications equipment and services. The EITO market value is expressed in Million ECU at constant 1998 exchange rates.

Mobile phone subscribers refers to users of portable telephones subscribing to an automatic public mobile telephone service which provides access to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) using cellular technology.

Web site is a location on the World Wide Web identified by a web address. A Web site consists of one or more pages of information and data (encoded with a hypertext markup language to make them readable by a web browser).

Abbreviations / sources

: Data not available
Mio Million
bn Thousand of million

OECD Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
Address: 2, rue André-Pascal, 75775 CEDX 16; <http://www.oecd.org>
Statistical publications: Information Technology Outlook 2000 / Measuring the ICT sector, 2000 ICTs, E-commerce and the Information Economy 2000 – highlights

EITO European Information Technology Observatory (EITO)
Address: Lyonerstr 18, D-60528 Frankfurt/Main, <http://www.eito.com>
Publication: EITO 2000

ITU International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Address: Place des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva Switzerland; <http://www.itu.int/>
ITU is a UN-Organisation. Statistical publication: ITU Yearbook

ISPO Information Society Promotion Office, the Information Society website of the European Commission provides numerous informations on EU policy but also links to EU external websites providing figures on the Information Society (Eurobarometer figures, Public Opinion Analysis, ESIS report, etc), <http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ESIS>.

ISC Internet Software Consortium; <http://www.isc.org>
Produces twice a year (January, July) Internet domain survey.

RIPE NCC Réseaux IP Européens, Network Coordination Centre
<ftp://ftp.ripe.net/ripe/hostcount/History/>. Issues monthly hostcount statistics.

NUA Address: Merrion House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4, Ireland; <http://www.nua.ie>
NUA is a private web publishing company. On its web site, NUA provides a collection of results of Internet surveys and on the worldwide number of Internet users, <http://www.nua.ie/surveys/how-many-online/>.

NetSizer Interactive tool providing number of Internet hosts by month and by domain. The associated consulting company Telecordia Technologies provides quantitative and qualitative analyses related to the "Evolution of the Internet", <http://www.netsizer.com>.

Further information:

➤ Databases

New Cronos, Domain

COINS (Telecommunication Statistics)

To obtain information or to order publications, databases and special sets of data, please contact the **Data Shop** network:

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