

# Regional Divide in the Information Society

## Statistics in focus

### INDUSTRY, TRADE AND SERVICES

45/2004

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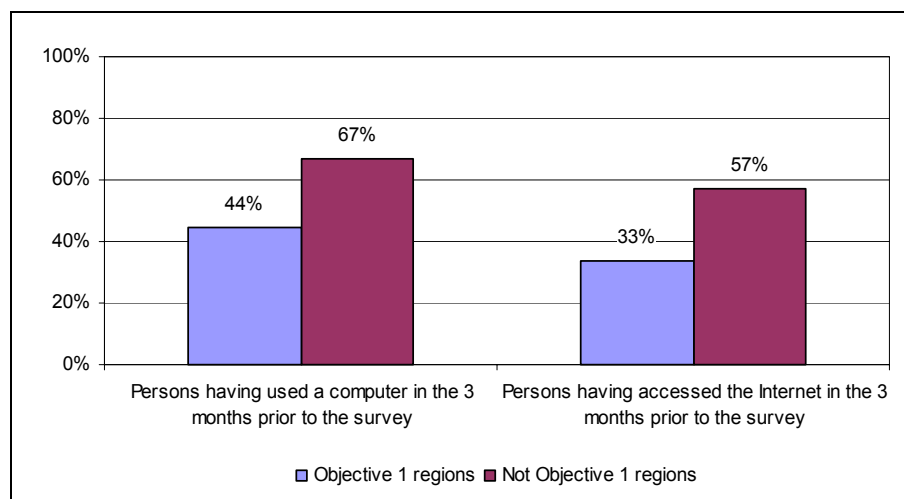


Manuscript completed on: 16.08.2004  
ISSN 1561-4840  
Catalogue number: KS-NP-04-045-EN-N  
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This edition of Statistics in Focus looks at the results of the 2003 surveys on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) usage in households and enterprises in EU15. It compares those regions classified as Objective 1 regions between 2000 and 2006 (including some "phasing-out" regions) and those that are not. Objective 1 of the Structural Funds is the main priority of the European Union's cohesion policy; the regions are generally those areas where the per capita gross domestic product (GDP) is below 75% of the Community average.

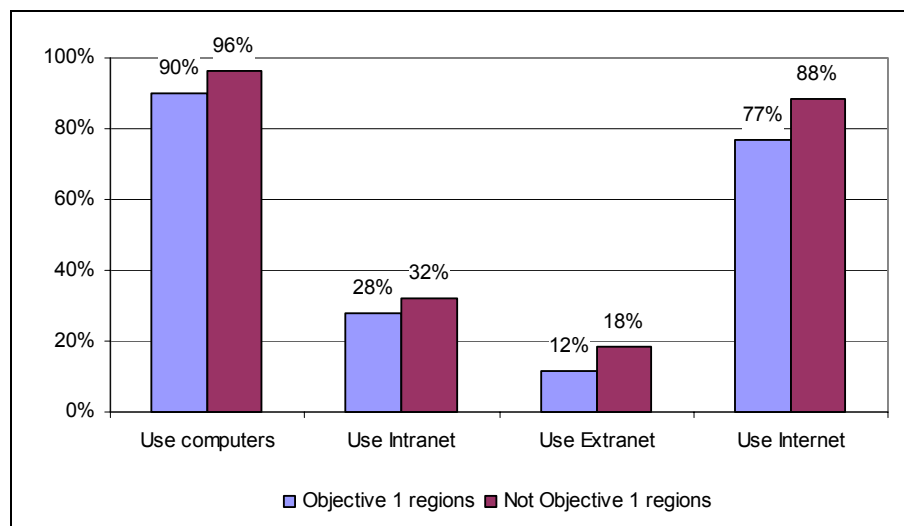
From the survey data an aggregate has been made for countries and regions that are Objective 1 and those that are not. Some countries have no Objective 1 regions and in others the entire territory is classified as Objective 1. For the remaining countries only parts of the country are classified as Objective 1 regions and for these countries regional data has been compiled separately for the two parts. Because of the different data availability the composition of the aggregates differ between the two surveys. See page 7 for more details.

**Figure 1: Proportion of persons using computers and internet, 2003 (%)**



Source: Survey on ICT usage in households, Eurostat.

**Figure 2: Proportion of enterprises using selected ICT, beginning 2003 (%)**



Source: Survey on ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises, Eurostat.

## Individuals access to the Internet

Figure 1 (see front page) shows a clear discrepancy in the adoption and use of ICT between the less developed and advanced regions. Table 1 breaks this down to country level. The results of the survey indicate that in general amongst those countries having both Objective 1 and Not Objective 1 areas, there is at least

a 10 percentage point difference in Internet access between individuals in the two types of region. The notable exceptions to this are Austria and Sweden where the difference between the less-developed and advanced regions is much less significant.

**Table 1: Proportion of persons having accessed the Internet in the 3 months prior to the survey, 2003 (%)**

	Objective 1 regions											
	Average		DE	EL	IE	IT		AT	PT	FI	SE	UK
Persons accessing the Internet	33		43	16	31	22		38	26	58	74	50
: at home	23		36	10	21	18		26	15	37	65	41
: at work	13		11	7	13	9		21	13	27	30	21
: at place of education	7		7	3	4	1		4	7	15	12	:
	Not Objective 1 regions											
	Average	DK <sup>1)</sup>	DE			IT	LU	AT		FI	SE	UK
Persons accessing the Internet	57	71	56			32	53	41		68	77	62
: at home	47	63	47			25	43	31		47	65	51
: at work	23	35	17			16	26	19		37	36	28
: at place of education	9	11	7			2	10	5		16	13	11

<sup>1)</sup> Reference period was the previous month, not 3 months.

Source: Survey on ICT usage in households, Eurostat.

Table 2 shows the proportion of persons accessing the Internet on a frequent basis, which in this case is taken to be on a daily or weekly basis.

In all countries with Objective 1 and Not Objective 1 regions, the proportion of frequent Internet users was lower in the Objective 1 regions, unsurprising given the generally lower use of the Internet in these regions.

An analysis of frequent Internet users among Internet users rather than the whole survey population generally shows less difference between the Objective 1 and the advanced regions. This would indicate that once Internet technology is adopted by the individual, the frequency of usage is less unequal between the regions.

**Table 2: Proportion of persons having accessed the Internet regularly in the 3 months prior to the survey, 2003 (%)**

	Objective 1 regions												
	Average		DE	EL	ES	IE	IT		AT	PT	FI	SE	UK <sup>2)</sup>
Persons accessing the Internet on a daily or weekly basis													
as a proportion of all persons	27		35	14	25	25	19		33	22	48	68	40
as a proportion of all internet users	81		80	88	77	81	88		88	85	84	91	81
	Not Objective 1 regions												
	Average	DK <sup>1)</sup>	DE		ES		IT	LU	AT		FI	SE	UK <sup>2)</sup>
Persons accessing the Internet on a daily or weekly basis													
as a proportion of all persons	47	64	46		36		28	48	36		60	69	47
as a proportion of all internet users	81	90	82		84		87	91	89		89	90	76

<sup>1)</sup> Reference period was the previous month, not 3 months.

<sup>2)</sup> The wording of questions concerning the frequency of Internet access was non standard.

Source: Survey on ICT usage in households, Eurostat

## Use of the Internet for work and private purposes

The following tables on Internet use by individuals are limited to the population of Internet users. *Table 3* shows the use of home-based Internet activity for job searching.

As can be seen from the data available from those countries with both regional types, the percentage of those using the Internet to look for a job is still slightly

higher in the more advanced regions, the exception being Austria. It is interesting to note that Ireland, a country which is entirely Objective 1 (although Southern and Eastern are under transitional support), reports the second highest proportion of those using the Internet for employment related activities, the main users being those from the advanced regions of Spain.

**Table 3: Internet users in the 3 months prior to the survey: proportion having used the Internet at home for employment related activities, 2003 (%)**

	Objective 1 regions										
	Average		DE	EL	ES	IE		AT	FI	SE	UK
Looking for a job / sending job applications	6		9	4	12	13		3	1	3	:
	Not Objective 1 regions										
	Average	DK <sup>1)</sup>	DE		ES		LU	AT	FI	SE	UK <sup>2)</sup>
Looking for a job / sending job applications	6	6	10		14		6	2	3	5	7

<sup>1)</sup> Reference period was the previous month, not 3 months.

<sup>2)</sup> The wording of questions concerning the location of Internet access was non standard.

Source: Survey on ICT usage in households, Eurostat.

*Table 4* shows the use of the Internet for private purposes. In general it can be seen that the advanced regions generally use the Internet more intensively for the activities listed. However, from the countries listed

here, the use of the Internet for formalised educational activities shows the highest equivalence between the regions.

**Table 4: Internet users in the 3 months prior to the survey: proportion having used the Internet (at any place) for private purposes for selected activities, 2003 (%)**

	Objective 1 regions											
	Average		DE	EL	ES	IE		AT	PT	FI	SE	UK
Finding information about goods and services	81		86	70	83	69		60	82	77	81	78
Using services related to travel and accommodation	34		35	42	19	54		24	27	53	29	70
Financial services	28		36	8	23	26		26	24	62	45	30
Purchasing/ordering non-financial goods or services	24		36	6	15	21		19	12	23	30	47
Selling goods and services	6		10	1	5	4		7	2	4	7	:
Formalised educational activities (school, university, etc)	22		20	43	20	20		18	23	30	7	24
	Not Objective 1 regions											
	Average	DK <sup>1)</sup>	DE		ES		LU	AT		FI	SE	UK
Finding information about goods and services	82	75	84		81		88	65		81	84	82
Using services related to travel and accommodation	51	45	40		34		71	37		58	40	70
Financial services	40	53	39		31		44	31		67	51	37
Purchasing/ordering non-financial goods or services	40	23	42		20		41	21		24	31	51
Selling goods and services	12	9	20		7		11	5		8	7	7
Formalised educational activities (school, university, etc)	21	17	16		21		42	18		29	7	29

<sup>1)</sup> Reference period was the previous month, not 3 months

Source: Survey on ICT usage in households, Eurostat.

## Enterprise use of ICT, the Internet and e-commerce in SMEs

The regional analysis of the enterprise survey covers only small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) (defined here to be enterprises with between 10 and 249 persons employed) due to the multi-locations of

large enterprises. ICT has a role in encouraging the competitiveness and long-term economic growth of SMEs and thus the acquisition and usage of this technology is of interest.

Table 5 gives the breakdown by country of Figure 2 (see cover page) of ICT usage in enterprises. In general, the use of ICT was lower on average in

Objective 1 regions than in other regions, particularly concerning the use of Internet.

**Table 5: ICT usage in enterprises, beginning 2003 (%)**

	<i>Objective 1 regions</i>										
	Average	BE		EL	ES	IE			AT	PT	FI
Proportion of enterprises:											
using computers	90	83		96	94	95			89	81	99
using an intranet	28	27		37	24	33			17	30	24
using an extranet	12	15		9	9	12			3	16	15
using internet	77	75		88	77	86			81	69	90
	<i>Not objective 1 regions</i>										
	Average	BE	DK		ES		LU	NL	AT		FI
Proportion of enterprises:											
using computers	96	98	99		96		97	95	96		99
using an intranet	32	41	28		33		49	27	34		32
using an extranet	18	20	15		14		26	28	9		17
using internet	88	93	97		86		86	85	89		99

Source: Survey on ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises, Eurostat

The survey requests enterprises to estimate the percentage of the total number of employed persons that use computers and computers connected to the Internet. Table 6 illustrates that again Objective 1

regions can be seen to lag behind in the take-up of both the hardware and the technology by anything between 9 and 14 percentage points.

**Table 6: Share of total number of employees using computers, beginning 2003 (%)**

	<i>Objective 1 regions</i>										
	Average	BE		EL	ES	IE			AT	PT	FI
Computers	35	45		50	30	47			35	30	55
Internet connected computers	21	24		32	18	25			22	17	39
	<i>Not Objective 1 regions</i>										
	Average	BE	DK		ES		LU	NL	AT		FI
Computers	49	57	58		44		60	47	49		64
Internet connected computers	34	37	50		30		37	29	34		53

Source: Survey on ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises, Eurostat

Table 7 highlights the greater level of use of the Internet for training and education in Objective 1 areas, mirroring the higher use of this medium for formalised education by individuals (see Table 4). Finland registers the highest use of the Internet for training and education.

However, Not Objective 1 regions show a greater tendency to use the Internet for banking and financial services. In both activities, Spain has the smallest difference in percentage of usage between its two regional types.

**Table 7: Enterprises using Internet: proportion using selected activities, beginning 2003 (%)**

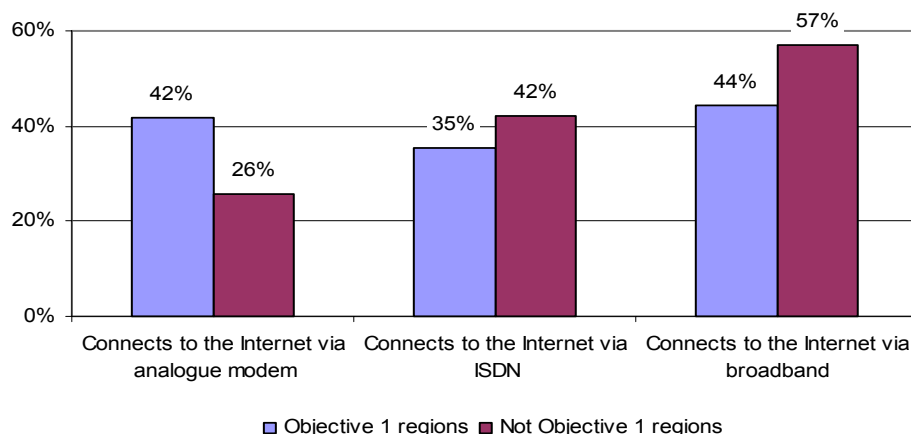
	Average	Objective 1 regions									
		BE		EL	ES	IE			AT	PT	FI
Proportion using the Internet for:											
banking and financial services	76	74		62	81	70			67	75	85
training and education	26	18		36	26	23			28	23	38
	Average	Not Objective 1 regions									
		BE	DK		ES		LU	NL	AT		FI
Proportion using the Internet for:											
banking and financial services	81	76	82		82		58	82	78		84
training and education	19	15	8		27		13	10	24		29

Source: Survey on ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises, Eurostat

Figure 3 and Table 8 show the breakdown of the main types of Internet access used by those enterprises which have adopted the Internet. Whilst the use of the older technology of using analogue modems to access

the Internet is more common in all less-developed regions, both ISDN and Broadband have a much higher take up in advanced regions.

**Figure 3: Enterprises using the Internet: proportion using selected types of Internet access**



**Table 8: Enterprises using Internet: proportion using selected types of Internet access, beginning 2003 (%)**

	Objective 1 regions										
	Average	BE		EL	ES	IE			AT	PT	FI
Analogue modem	42	17		28	40	41			20	54	32
ISDN	35	33		66	36	52			72	11	41
Broadband <sup>1)</sup>	44	50		15	56	21			31	44	59
	Not Objective 1 regions										
	Average	BE	DK		ES		LU	NL	AT		FI
Analogue modem	26	13	14		35		31	26	18		26
ISDN	42	38	27		35		58	51	56		32
Broadband <sup>1)</sup>	57	53	70		67		49	42	55		66

1) DK: Wireless broadband not included

Source: Survey on ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises, Eurostat.

## E-commerce

*Table 9* shows that the proportion of enterprises using the Internet for purchases and sales is generally markedly lower in the less-developed regions. The exception to this is Ireland which reports the highest percentage of purchases of all countries and regions as well as a relatively high sales ratio.

**Table 9: Proportion of enterprises using the Internet to buy or sell on-line (at least 1%), 2002 (%)**

	<i>Objective 1 regions</i>									
	Average	BE		EL	ES	IE		AT	PT	FI
Proportion having purchased via Internet	5	11		4	2	21		8	8	:
Proportion having sold via Internet	3	7		6	1	11		2	2	11
	<i>Not Objective 1 regions</i>									
	Average	BE	DK		ES		LU	AT		FI
Proportion having purchased via Internet	11	19	19		3		12	20		:
Proportion having sold via Internet	7	14	13		1		8	16		14

Source: Survey on ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises, Eurostat.

Not all purchases and sales however are carried out using Internet technology. EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) is a data interchange in structured form between businesses. From the data given in *Table 10*, it can be seen that although the Internet appears to be the dominant technology, other technologies are used for e-commerce purposes by enterprises.

**Table 10: Proportion of enterprises using the Internet, EDI or other networks to buy or sell on-line (at least 1%), 2002 (%)**

	<i>Objective 1 regions</i>										
	Average	BE		EL	ES	IE			AT	PT	FI
Proportion having purchased	6	13		7	2	24			11	9	11
Proportion having sold	3	11		7	1	14			9	3	12
	<i>Not Objective 1 regions</i>										
	Average	BE	DK		ES		LU	NL	AT		FI
Proportion having purchased	14	22	22		3		16	20	21		16
Proportion having sold	11	20	17		2		11	16	11		18

Source: Survey on ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises, Eurostat

## ➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

### Methodological notes

#### *Objective 1 regions (and those receiving transitional support)*

For the purposes of the ICT surveys, the following regions were considered as Objective 1 regions.

*Germany:* Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia; East Berlin.

*Greece:* the whole of the Greek territory.

*Spain:* Galicia, Asturias Principality, Castile-Leon, Castile-La Mancha, Extremadura, Valencia, Andalusia, region of Murcia, Ceuta-Melilla, Canary Islands; Cantabria.

*Ireland:* the whole of the Irish territory (of which some receiving transitional support).

*France:* Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyana, Réunion, Corsica, Nord-Pas-de Calais

*Italy:* Campania, Apulia, Basilicata, Calabria, Sicily, Sardinia; Molise.

*Austria:* Burgenland.

*Portugal:* the whole of the Portuguese territory (of which some receiving transitional support).

*Finland:* East Finland, parts of Central and North Finland.

*Sweden:* parts of North-Central Sweden, Central and Upper Norrland.

*United Kingdom:* South Yorkshire, West Wales & The Valleys, Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly, Merseyside;

*Notes:* Denmark, Luxembourg and the Netherlands have no Objective 1 regions. The Netherlands has one region (Provincie Flevoland) which receives transitional support. There is no data for this region.

### Structure of the population

It should be noted that neither of the surveys provide regional data broken down by another characteristics, such as age in the case of the survey of individuals, or by enterprise size or activity for the enterprise survey. These characteristics, as well as others are known to be important in terms of ICT usage and e-commerce. Hence differences observed between Objective 1 regions and other regions in the results of the surveys may in part be influenced by different population (people and enterprises) structures in different regions.

### Averages

The averages used in this publication are weighted according to the number of individuals for the Household Survey and the number of enterprises or employees for the Enterprise Survey. Information on purchases and sales has generally been weighted using purchases and turnover. Averages are calculated using the data available.

### *Survey on ICT usage in households, 2003*

Countries not included in the survey due to lack of data: Belgium, France and the Netherlands.

The recall period for most questions was the 3 months prior to the survey being conducted

*Reference period:* generally first 3 months of 2003

*Sampling unit:* households and individuals.

Lower age limit for survey of individuals: 16 years.

Upper age limit for survey of individuals: 74 years.

### *Survey on ICT usage in enterprises, 2003*

Countries not included in the survey due to lack of data at regional breakdown level: France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom

The reference period is generally January 2003 for questions relating to ICT usage or the year 2002 for those questions relating to e-commerce.

*Survey period:* first quarter 2003.

Sampling unit: enterprise.

Activity coverage: enterprises classified to NACE:

Section D (manufacturing);  
Section F (construction)  
Section G (distributive trades);  
Section H: groups 55.1 and 55.2 (hotels and accommodation);  
Section I (transport and communication);  
Section J (financial intermediation);  
Section K (real estate, renting and business activities).  
Section O: groups 92.1 and 92.2 (motion picture and video activities; radio and television activities)

*Notes on coverage:*

*Belgium, Denmark, Finland:* exclude NACE J, (Financial intermediation)

*Ireland:* includes all NACE 92 (Recreational, cultural and sporting activities)

*Netherlands:* includes all NACE 55 (Hotels and restaurants) and all NACE 92 (Recreational, cultural and sporting activities)

*Size coverage:* enterprises with between 10 and 249 persons employed.

*Data extracted:* 9 August 2004

## ***Further information:***

### ➤ **Databases**

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The complete details concerning this support network can be found on our Internet site: [www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/](http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/)

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ORIGINAL TEXT: English