



## Internet access

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Last updated: 31 March 2010  
Author: Rachael Harker  
Social and General Statistics Section

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This Note provides a summary of information about households with home access to the Internet and individuals' use of the Internet. Statistics on Internet access and usage are collected through the [National Statistics Opinions \(Omnibus\) Survey](#).<sup>1</sup>

Details of the usage of government services on the Internet can be found in the Note: [Electronic Government Usage](#).<sup>2</sup> Information on what the government is doing to offer more services on the Internet can be found in the Note: [Electronic Government](#).<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Internet Access 2009 – Households and Individuals – First Release*, Office for National Statistics.  
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/iahi0809.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> *Electronic Government Usage* (SN/SC/1291).  
[http://10.160.3.10:81/PIMS/Static%20Files/Extended%20File%20Scan%20Files/LIBRARY\\_OTHER\\_PAPERS/STANDARD\\_NOTE/snsc-01291.pdf](http://10.160.3.10:81/PIMS/Static%20Files/Extended%20File%20Scan%20Files/LIBRARY_OTHER_PAPERS/STANDARD_NOTE/snsc-01291.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> *Electronic Government* (SN/SC/1202).  
[http://10.160.3.10:81/PIMS/Static%20Files/Extended%20File%20Scan%20Files/LIBRARY\\_OTHER\\_PAPERS/STANDARD\\_NOTE/snsc-01202.pdf](http://10.160.3.10:81/PIMS/Static%20Files/Extended%20File%20Scan%20Files/LIBRARY_OTHER_PAPERS/STANDARD_NOTE/snsc-01202.pdf)

## A. Overall access

Table 1 shows the rise in the percentage of households in the United Kingdom (UK) with home access to the Internet. Data for 2009 show that 18.31 million UK households had access to the Internet, equivalent to 70% of all households. This represents an increase of 1.85 million households (14%) from 2008 and of 4.05 million households (28%) from 2006.

**Table 1. UK households with home access to the Internet 2006 to 2009**

	Millions of households	Proportion of total households
2006	14.26	57%
2007	15.23	61%
2008	16.46	65%
2009	18.31	70%

Source: ONS, *Internet Access Households and Individuals 2009*

Of all UK households, 63% had access to broadband Internet in 2009, compared with 56% in 2007 and 40% in 2006. Among UK households with Internet access, 90% had a broadband connection in 2009.

**Table 2. UK Household Internet connections 2006 to 2009**

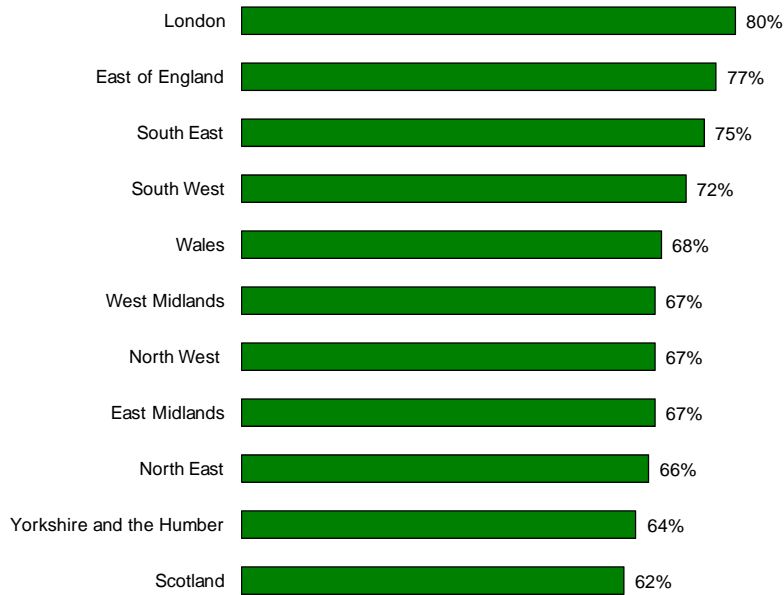
	2006	2007	2008	2009
Broadband connection	40%	51%	56%	63%
Dial up connection	17%	10%	9%	7%
No internet connection	43%	39%	35%	30%

Source: ONS, *Internet Access Households and Individuals 2009*

## B. Regional

Chart 1 shows how the proportion of GB households with home access to the Internet varies between regions. Areas with the highest level of Internet access in the 2009 survey were London (80%), the East of England (77%) and the South East (75%). The area with the lowest level of access was Scotland (62%).

Chart 1. GB households with home access to the Internet 2009

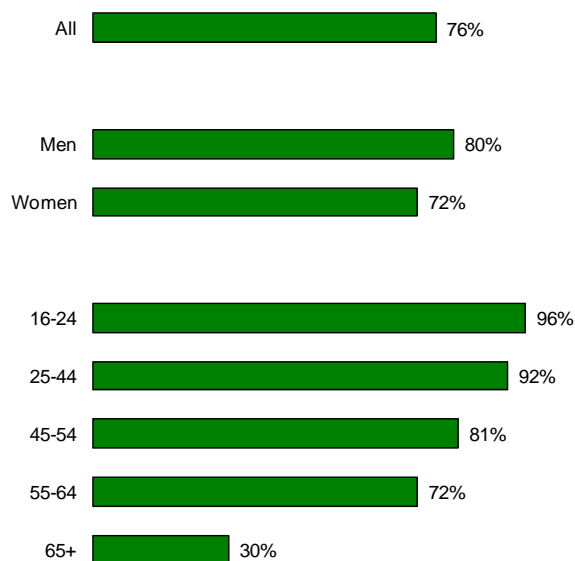


Source: ONS, *Internet Access Households and Individuals 2009*

### C. Age and gender

As chart 2 shows, Internet usage in the UK varies by age, with 93 percent of those aged 16-24 having accessed the Internet within the three months prior to the survey, compared with just 26 percent of those aged 65 or above. In 2009, a total of 33.9 million adults (71 percent of the UK adult population) accessed the Internet in the three months prior to the survey.

Chart 2. UK adults who had used the Internet in the past 3 months, August 2009



Source: ONS, *Internet Access Households and Individuals 2009*

## D. Types of internet use

In 2009 the number of adults with internet access who used the internet in the three months prior to the survey was 37.4 million (76% of the UK adult ). The most common uses of the Internet among adults in the three months prior to the 2009 survey were sending or receiving emails (90%) and searching for goods and services (78%). In 2009, 64% of adults said that they had purchased goods or services over the Internet, with 83% having purchased goods within the preceding three months.

## E. Education

According to the 2009 survey, adults under 70 who had no formal qualifications were least likely (56%) to have an Internet connection in their home, while those who had a degree or equivalent qualification were most likely to have home access to the Internet (93%).

**Table 3. Household Internet access by highest educational qualification, UK 2009; adults under 70**

	Percentage with internet access
Degree level or higher	95%
Higher educational qualification	89%
A Level	88%
GCE/GCSE (A-C grade)	84%
GCSE (D-G grade)	78%
No formal qualification	52%

Source: ONS, *Internet Access Households and Individuals 2009*