



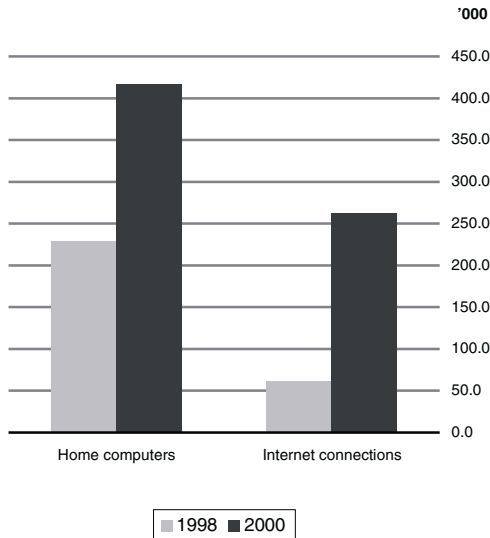
**Central Statistics Office**  
An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh

**Based on the 1996 Census of Population figures.  
For figures based on the 2002 Census of Population see  
the revised module figures.**

20 March 2001

## Quarterly National Household Survey *Home Computing* Fourth Quarter 2000

Home computers and internet connections



	Jun-Aug 1998	Sep-Nov 2000
<b>All households ('000)</b>	1,227.3	1,287.1
<b>With home computers ('000)</b>	228.5	416.9
<b>% of all households</b>	18.6	32.4
<b>Connected to internet ('000)</b>	61.1	262.7
<b>% of households with a computer</b>	26.8	63.0

### Almost one third of households have a home computer

Almost 417,000 households in Ireland, or almost one in every three, have a home computer. These figures are based on the module on home computing included in the Quarterly National Household Survey in the fourth quarter of 2000. They compare with computer ownership by less than a fifth of households (228,500) in the middle of 1998, when similar questions were included in the survey. *See table 1.*

Computer ownership is highest in Dublin and the surrounding Mid-East region, where about 38% of homes have a computer. These two regions accounted for over 195,000 home computers, with an estimated 147,200 households in Dublin and 48,300 in the Mid-East having a home computer. *See table 1.*

The South-West and Mid-West regions are close to the national average, with about 30% of households owning a computer. The percentage is somewhat lower in the South East (29.0%), the Midlands (28.5%), the West (27.1%) and the Border region (25.1%). However, the percentage of homes with a computer has increased considerably in all regions since 1998. *See table 1.*

The most common uses for home computers are education and leisure. About 81% of households with a computer use it for educational purposes and 89% use the computer for leisure. About two-thirds of home computers are used for practical tasks such as writing letters, while under a half are used for work. *See table 3.*

An estimated 262,700 households have a computer connection to the internet. This represents 20.4% of all households and 63% of households that have a computer. The number of households connected to the internet has more than quadrupled since 1998, when an estimated 61,100 households had an internet connection. *See tables 2 and 3.*

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## **Education and leisure uses reflect pattern of ownership**

Home computers are being used primarily for education and leisure. About 81% of households (337,100) with a computer indicated that it was used for educational purposes and 89% (or 372,100) said it was used for leisure. The pattern of use also reflects the age profile of computer owners. The highest take-up of home computing has been in households where the reference person is aged between 35 and 54 – i.e. households which are mainly nuclear family units. Over 240,000 households (almost 50%) in this age category have a home computer and they are more likely than the other age categories to use their computer for education or leisure. *See tables 2 and 3.*

Computer ownership is lowest for those aged 65 or over. Just 8.5% of households where the reference person is aged 65 or over have a computer. Similarly, 7.8% of households with no person in employment have a home computer. *See table 3.*

For households with one person employed, the percentage with a computer was close to the national average. Households with more than one person employed were more likely to have a computer. *See table 3.*

About 47% of households (197,600) use their computer for work purposes. The percentage is higher (at 54.4%) for households where the reference person is aged between 25 and 34. Households in this age category also have a lower than average usage of computers for educational purposes, as do households where the reference person is aged 55 or over. *See table 2 and 3.*

## **Number of internet connections more than quadrupled since 1998**

The number of households with a computer connected to the internet grew from 61,100 in the third quarter of 1998 to 262,700 in the fourth quarter of 2000 – a more than fourfold increase in just over two years. This means that 20.4% of all households and 63% of those that have a computer are connected to the internet. *See tables 2, 3 and 4.*

Other types of internet connection are much less common, with 15,800 households having access via their television, 26,300 by means of a WAP phone and 5,000 via a games console. *See table 4.*

**Table 1 Households with a home computer: Q3/1998 and Q4/2000**

	All households		No of households which permanently have a computer in the dwelling		* Percentage which permanently have a computer in the dwelling	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
	' 000	' 000	' 000	' 000	%	%
<b>Regional Authority</b>						
Border	136.0	142.1	15.9	35.6	11.7	25.1
Dublin	375.0	388.2	92.2	147.2	24.6	37.9
Mid-East	113.9	124.4	29.0	48.3	25.4	38.8
Midland	66.9	71.1	8.7	20.2	13.1	28.5
Mid-West	105.6	110.0	16.2	33.6	15.3	30.6
South-East	127.7	135.3	20.0	39.3	15.6	29.0
South-West	184.5	189.3	30.7	58.3	16.7	30.8
West	117.7	126.7	15.8	34.3	13.4	27.1
<b>Sex of reference person</b>						
Male	605.2	578.7	120.7	194.5	19.9	33.6
Female	622.1	708.4	107.8	222.4	17.3	31.4
<b>Age group of reference person</b>						
<25 years	55.6	68.0	7.7	18.0	13.8	26.5
25-34 years	219.0	233.5	42.4	77.5	19.3	33.2
35-44 years	262.2	275.3	74.5	130.0	28.4	47.2
45-54 years	237.0	243.5	67.8	112.9	28.6	46.4
55-64 years	171.2	183.5	26.2	54.5	15.3	29.7
65+ years	282.3	283.3	10.0	24.0	3.5	8.5
<b>ILO economic status of reference person</b>						
In Employment	624.4	683.5	160.1	291.8	25.6	42.7
Unemployed	49.1	26.1	6.6	6.2	13.4	23.6
Not economically active	553.8	577.5	61.8	119.0	11.2	20.6
<b>No. of persons employed in household</b>						
None	359.3	350.4	14.2	27.3	3.9	7.8
1	398.7	414.2	75.4	135.9	18.9	32.8
2	338.9	381.5	98.5	182.4	29.1	47.8
3 or more	130.3	140.9	40.5	71.4	31.1	50.6
<b>All households</b>	<b>1,227.3</b>	<b>1,287.1</b>	<b>228.5</b>	<b>416.9</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>32.4</b>

\* As a percentage of all households. See also table 5.

**Table 2 Uses of home computers (no. of households): Q3/1998 and Q4/2000**

' 000

	Work		Education		Leisure		Practical Tasks		Internet Connection	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
<b>Regional Authority</b>										
Border	8.4	16.9	12.4	27.5	14.2	31.4	10.0	21.3	3.5	22.1
Dublin	47.1	71.9	71.0	116.8	79.9	131.4	61.8	102.8	28.5	98.0
Mid-East	14.1	23.0	22.6	37.7	23.6	41.6	18.6	30.8	7.5	31.0
Midland	4.1	9.3	6.7	17.2	7.8	18.6	5.4	14.2	1.9	11.2
Mid-West	7.7	13.5	13.3	28.5	14.7	30.9	9.9	20.7	3.8	19.5
South-East	11.1	19.0	15.7	33.0	17.0	35.3	14.3	26.2	5.1	24.7
South-West	15.9	27.9	24.1	49.1	27.1	52.8	18.0	38.4	7.2	36.7
West	7.2	16.2	13.0	27.3	14.0	30.3	9.4	20.0	3.6	19.6
<b>Sex of reference person</b>										
Male	63.4	98.1	94.4	155.6	104.6	173.1	79.4	130.8	34.1	126.1
Female	52.3	99.6	84.4	181.5	93.7	199.0	67.9	143.7	27.1	136.6
<b>Age group of reference person</b>										
<25 years	3.8	7.6	5.9	14.6	6.6	15.8	5.6	10.9	2.2	9.4
25-34 years	25.7	42.2	28.5	56.0	34.8	68.3	29.7	54.8	14.1	51.2
35-44 years	36.5	62.3	62.2	112.2	66.9	119.1	45.9	83.5	19.2	82.3
45-54 years	32.2	51.5	56.5	99.8	60.5	103.7	42.7	74.3	16.5	72.4
55-64 years	13.0	24.2	19.6	40.0	21.4	46.2	16.7	35.3	6.8	33.5
65+ years	4.5	9.9	6.2	14.5	8.1	19.0	6.8	15.7	2.3	14.0
<b>ILO economic status of reference person</b>										
In Employment	87.8	152.6	125.5	237.4	137.4	262.0	105.8	198.2	44.7	189.4
Unemployed	2.4	2.1	5.1	5.2	5.7	5.6	4.0	3.9	1.3	3.3
Not economically active	25.5	42.9	48.2	94.5	55.2	104.4	37.6	72.4	15.1	70.0
<b>No. of persons employed in household</b>										
None	4.0	4.5	9.9	19.3	12.2	22.5	8.9	16.2	3.4	14.4
1	36.9	61.8	57.8	109.4	64.7	119.6	47.1	86.4	20.1	84.1
2	55.5	97.0	77.7	149.1	85.2	164.1	66.3	123.5	28.0	118.3
3 or more	19.3	34.4	33.5	59.4	36.2	65.9	24.9	48.3	9.6	46.0
All households	115.7	197.6	178.8	337.1	198.3	372.1	147.4	274.5	61.1	262.7

**Table 3 Uses of home computers (as % of households with a computer): Q3/1998 and Q4/2000**

%

	Work		Education		Leisure		Practical Tasks		Internet Connection	
	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000	1998	2000
<b>Regional Authority</b>										
Border	53.0	47.5	78.1	77.3	89.4	88.1	62.6	59.7	22.1	62.0
Dublin	51.1	48.8	77.0	79.3	86.6	89.2	67.1	69.8	31.0	66.5
Mid-East	48.7	47.6	78.1	77.9	81.6	86.1	64.2	63.7	26.0	64.1
Midland	46.8	45.9	76.4	85.1	88.9	91.8	61.6	70.1	21.7	55.4
Mid-West	47.7	40.0	82.2	84.7	90.8	91.8	61.3	61.6	23.4	58.1
South-East	55.8	48.3	78.7	83.9	85.2	89.8	71.5	66.7	25.3	63.0
South-West	51.9	47.8	78.4	84.2	88.2	90.5	58.5	65.9	23.3	62.9
West	45.4	47.4	82.4	79.7	88.5	88.3	59.2	58.5	23.0	57.0
<b>Sex of reference person</b>										
Male	52.5	50.4	78.2	80.0	86.7	89.0	65.8	67.2	28.2	64.8
Female	48.5	44.8	78.3	81.6	86.9	89.5	63.0	64.6	25.1	61.4
<b>Age group of reference person</b>										
<25 years	49.0	42.1	76.9	81.1	85.9	87.6	72.7	60.3	28.5	52.0
25-34 years	60.7	54.4	67.2	72.3	82.2	88.2	70.1	70.7	33.3	66.1
35-44 years	49.0	47.9	83.4	86.3	89.8	91.6	61.6	64.2	25.8	63.3
45-54 years	47.5	45.6	83.3	88.4	89.3	91.9	63.0	65.8	24.4	64.1
55-64 years	49.5	44.4	74.8	73.4	81.9	84.8	63.8	64.7	25.8	61.5
65+ years	45.6	41.4	62.6	60.3	80.8	79.1	67.8	65.5	23.0	58.5
<b>ILO economic status of reference person</b>										
In Employment	54.9	52.3	78.4	81.4	85.8	89.8	66.1	67.9	27.9	64.9
Unemployed	36.9	34.0	78.1	85.0	87.5	91.7	61.4	62.6	20.1	54.0
Not economically active	41.2	36.0	77.9	79.4	89.3	87.8	60.7	60.9	24.4	58.8
<b>No. of persons employed in household</b>										
None	28.3	16.5	69.9	70.6	86.6	82.6	63.2	59.2	23.9	52.7
1	48.9	45.5	76.7	80.5	85.8	88.0	62.5	63.6	26.7	61.9
2	56.4	53.2	78.8	81.7	86.5	90.0	67.4	67.7	28.5	64.9
3 or more	47.7	48.2	82.7	83.2	89.5	92.4	61.6	67.7	23.7	64.5
All households	50.6	47.4	78.3	80.9	86.8	89.3	64.5	65.8	26.8	63.0

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**Table 4 Households classified by means of access to the internet: Q4/2000**

	Households ( ' 000)	% of all households
All households	1,287.1	100.0
with a computer connected to the internet	262.7	20.4
Other types of internet access		
- Television	15.8	1.2
- WAP phone	26.3	2.0
- Games console	5.0	0.4

**Table 5 Overall response to the module on home computing: Q3/1998 and Q4/2000**

	Q3/1998	Q4/2000
All households (000)	1,227.3	1,287.1
<b>With a home computer permanently in the dwelling (000)</b>		
Yes	228.5	416.9
No	941.6	808.5
Not stated	57.2	61.7
<b>With a home computer permanently in the dwelling (%)</b>		
Yes	18.6	32.4
No	76.7	62.8
Not stated	4.7	4.8

## Background Notes

**Purpose of survey** The primary purpose of the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) is to compile quarterly statistics on employment and unemployment. The survey also includes modules on social topics from time to time.

**Data Collection and Reference period** Information is collected from an average of 3,000 households per week, giving a total quarterly target sample of 39,000. The questions on home computing were first included in the three months from June to August 1998 and were repeated in the three months from September to November 2000. In both quarters, 95% of the households surveyed also gave information on home computing. Percentages in this release have been calculated with respect to all households, without imputing for non-respondents to the module. Table 5 contains further details of the overall response to the module.

**Questionnaire** The questions asked in Q3/1998 and Q4/2000 are set out below. Questions 1 to 6 were asked in both quarters, while questions 7 to 9 on newer ways of connecting to the internet were only included in Q4/2000.

The response categories for all questions were “1 – Yes” or “2 – No”.

Q1. Is there a home computer/PC permanently in the dwelling?

*(Note: Laptops brought home temporarily are not to be included. By home computer/PC, we do not mean any form of game console or children’s educational toy.)*

Filter: If the answer to question 1 was “Yes”, questions 2 to 6 were asked.

Q2. Is the computer used for work purposes?

Q3. Is the computer used for educational purposes?

Q4. Is the computer used for leisure purposes?

Q5. Is the computer used for practical tasks other than work, education or leisure?

Q6. Is the computer used to connect to the internet?

Filter: Questions 7, 8 and 9 were asked of all households in Q4/2000 irrespective of whether they had a home computer or not.

Q7. Does the household have an internet connection via the television?

Q8. Does the household have an internet connection via a mobile phone?

*(Note: These are mobile phones with WAP (wireless application protocol) ability. Only mobile phones in the home or permanently with occupants of the household are to be considered.)*

Q9. Does the household have an internet connection via a games console?

**Regions** The composition of the NUTS 3-level regions used in this release is as follows:

**Border, Midlands and  
Western NUTS2 Region**

<b>Border</b>	Cavan Donegal Leitrim Louth Monaghan Sligo
<b>Midland</b>	Laoighis Longford Offaly Westmeath
<b>West</b>	Galway County Borough Galway County Mayo Roscommon

**Eastern and Southern  
NUTS2 Region**

<b>Dublin</b>	Dublin Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Fingal South Dublin
<b>Mid-East</b>	Kildare Meath Wicklow
<b>Mid-West</b>	Clare Limerick County Borough Limerick County Tipperary North Riding
<b>South-East</b>	Carlow Kilkenny Tipperary South Riding Waterford County Borough Waterford County Wexford
<b>South-West</b>	Cork County Borough Cork County Kerry

**Other QNHS reports  
on social topics**

Housing and Households, Q3/1998  
Crime and Victimization, Q4/1998  
Recycling and Energy Conservation, Q1/1999  
Travel to Work, Q1/2000

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