

**Survey on Equipment and Use of Information and Communication  
Technologies in Households. Second half of 2006**

**Six million households have access to Internet, 6% more than in the  
first quarter of 2006**

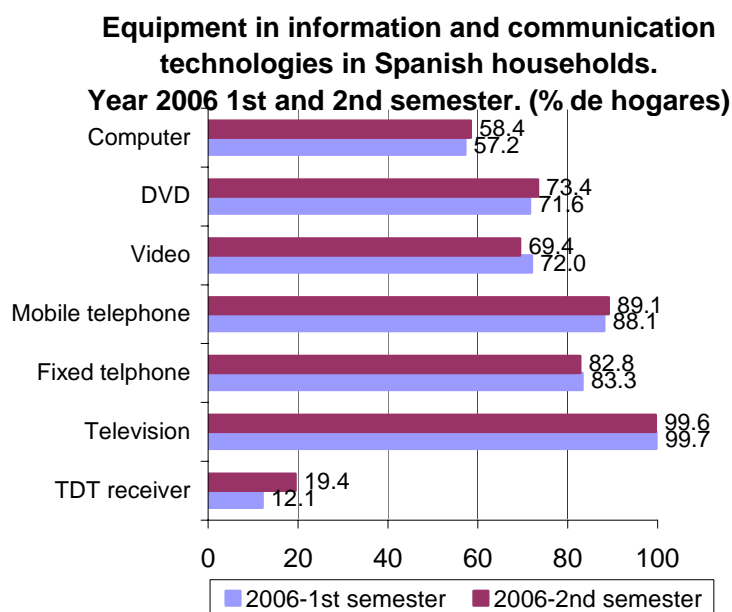
**One out of every three households has broadband connection for  
accessing Internet.**

**19% of households have digital terrestrial television (DTT), seven  
points more than six months ago**

Equipment in information and communication technologies in Spanish households continues its rising trend. According to data from the second quarter of 2006, **58.4% of households with at least one member of 16 to 74 years of age has some type of computer**, 1.2 points more than six months earlier and two points more than one year ago.

By type of computer, the desktop computer or PC is present in 52.3% of households, whereas laptops are found in 18.5% and other types of computers (PDA, Pocket PC...) in 6.4%. There is a stagnation in the level of PC equipment in households with respect to the previous quarter, whereas laptops grow more than two points in said period.

By autonomous communities, the greatest equipment in computers in households is observed in Madrid (69.6%), Cataluña (62.1%) and País Vasco (60.6%) and La Rioja (58.6%).



Voice communication equipment reach an almost universal coverage by the combination of landline and mobile phones, since 98.8% of households have a telephone. 82.8% of households has a landline and in 89.1% of households at least one of its members has a mobile phone. 9.7% of households only have a landline, whereas 16.1% of dwellings only have mobile phones for communication from the household.

In the second quarter of 2006 the trend of substituting landlines for mobile phones continues. Thus, introduction of landlines has decreased by five tenths, whereas that of mobile phones has increased one point in one quarter.

DVD has increased its presence by 1.8 points until reaching 73.4% of households. This increase goes in detriment of video, which being introduced in 69.4% of households, reduces its coverage by 2.6 points. **For the first time, the number of dwellings with some type of DVD exceeds that of dwellings having a video recorder.**

Television coverage is practically universal (99.6% of households), although it is worth mentioning that 19.9% of dwellings with television sets can receive television channels by satellite dish (the same percentage as six months ago), 15.4% by cable (one point more) and **19.4% has digital terrestrial television receivers (DTT)**, seven points more than the previous quarter.

## Dwellings with Internet access

**In Spain there are six million family dwellings where at least one member between 16 and 74 years of age has access to the internet**, which implies an increase of 350,000 households (more than 6%) with respect to the first quarter of 2006. 41.1% of Spanish households has access to the internet, against 39.1% for the previous quarter and 37% for the previous year.

Four of every five households with an internet connection can connect by broadband (ADSL, cable...), which shows that **almost five million households have broadband connection to internet** ( 33% of households).

By autonomous communities, those with the greatest percentage of internet access are Madrid (54.3%) and Cataluña (48.1%). On the other hand, Illes Balears, País Vasco, Cantabria, Navarra, Aragón, Asturias and Canarias have a penetration rate that is higher than average (41.1%).

The main equipments used in dwellings for connecting to internet are desktop computers (87% of dwellings) and laptops (28.6%). Access with another type of computer such as electronic diaries or PDAs or by mobile telephone is much less (it does not exceed 3% in both cases).

The main reasons why the remaining dwellings do not have internet connections are mainly the lack of interest by the inhabitants because they do not need it, they do not want it or they do not find it useful (73.8% chooses this reason) and the lack of knowledge on how to use it (36.3%). Other reasons for not having internet at home are the cost of the equipment or connection (24.4%) and the possibility of accessing it from another location (19.6%).

**Percentage of households which have internet access.  
Year 2006 (1st wave: March -June and 2nd wave: October-December)  
and 2005 (2nd wave: October-December)**

	2006 (Oct-Dec)	2006 (Mar-Jun)	2005 (Oct-Dec)
<b>National total</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>37.0</b>
Madrid (Comunidad de)	54.3	50.4	48.6
Melilla	48.2	46.2	35.9
Ceuta	48.1	39.1	35.0
Cataluña	48.1	46.6	45.1
Balears (Illes)	45.8	42.6	41.8
País Vasco	45.7	46.1	43.2
Cantabria	43.6	43.1	40.9
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	42.6	42.1	41.2
Aragón	42.0	40.5	38.2
Asturias (Principado de )	41.4	40.5	37.2
Canarias	41.3	41.7	34.9
Rioja (La)	40.2	37.8	30.6
Comunidad Valenciana	36.5	33.5	33.1
Andalucía	35.3	31.7	29.1
Castilla y León	34.2	34.6	31.8
Murcia (Región de)	33.4	34.1	31.1
Castilla-La Mancha	33.2	30.8	30.6
Galicia	30.7	29.6	28.0
Extremadura	25.5	23.8	22.4

## Persons who use the computer

**More than 20 million persons from 16 to 74 years of age have used a computer in some occasion** in the second quarter of 2006 (which implies 61% of the population). 89% of them have used a computer in the last three months (54.1% of this population).

There are no significant differences regarding computer use by user nationality, whether Spanish or Foreign. However, if we compare by sexes, we observe that computer use is more widespread among Spanish males (57.6% against 55.1% of foreign males) and between foreign females (52.2% against 50.8% of Spanish femmes).

53.1% of the almost 11 million persons who used the computer some time have attended a computing course of at least three hours. 9.4% of these have attended a computing course in the last three months; 12.2% between the last three and twelve months and 27.3% between one and three years ago. The majority (50.7%) has not received a computing course in more than three years.

Among the computing tasks performed in some occasion by computer users we can highlight those of copying or moving files or folders and cutting and pasting in a document (more than 80% of them). On another hand, 60% of IT users have used use simple arithmetic formulas in a worksheet, packed files or connecting or installed devices such as a modem or a printer. Regarding the elaboration of a program using a programming language, only 17.7% of IT users have programmed in any occasion.

## Persons using the Internet.

48.6% of the population aged 16 to 74 have used the Internet in the last three months, that is, more than 16 million persons. **The number of internet users has increased 2.1%** with regards to the first semester of 2006.

82.9% of the users get connected regularly to the Web (daily or at least every week). Frequent users add up to 13.5 million persons and represent 40.3% of the population.

## Percentage of persons aged 16 to 74 which have used the Internet in the last three months. Years 2006 (1st and 2nd rounds) and 2005 (2nd round)

	2006 (1st round)	2006 (2nd round)	2005 (2nd round)
<b>National total</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>45.4</b>
Madrid (Comunidad de)	60.9	58.6	54.7
Cataluña	53.9	53.2	52.2
Balears (Illes)	53.7	54.4	52.1
Melilla	53.6	41.5	41.9
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	50.2	50.2	48.4
País Vasco	50.0	47.9	48.4
Asturias (Principado de )	49.8	49.7	44.6
Ceuta	49.3	51.3	39.1
Comunidad Valenciana	48.0	45.7	44.7
Cantabria	47.7	48.6	46.6
Rioja (La)	46.2	46.4	46.2
Canarias	46.1	46.6	41.7
Aragón	45.2	46.9	44.0
Castilla y León	44.6	45.8	44.7
Murcia (Región de)	44.0	45.4	42.6
Andalucía	43.2	42.0	38.0
Galicia	40.4	41.9	39.8
Castilla-La Mancha	39.8	40.0	37.6
Extremadura	36.7	34.5	33.8

	From their dwelling	From the workplace	From educational centre	From a public center		From other places	
Total	70.7	28.7	45.4	12.6	10.2	12.5	2.0
Spanish	71.6	29.2	46.9	13.0	10.3	10.4	2.0
Foreign	55.5	20.3	22.4	6.0	9.6	44.8	3.0

While Spaniards connect to the Internet basically from their house (72%) and from the work centre (47%), foreign citizens mainly browse from their house (56%) or from a cyber café (45%).

The main Internet services used for particular reasons have been the search for information on goods and services (82% of internet users), e-mail (79%), accessing communications media -newspapers, magazines, radio or tv-(63%), leisure activities -downloading or use of

games, music,...- (51%) and obtaining information from public administration webpages (47%).

80.1% of Internet users in the last three months have a private e-mail address and 64.1% have received unwanted or unsolicited messages.

Out of the 18 million persons who have used the Internet sometime, almost all of them (96.2%) have used a browser to find information. Another very usual task is forwarding e-mails with appended files (70.8% of them have done it). More than 35% of total Internet users have used it for Instant messaging through *chat*, newsgroups or discussion forums, and the use of *peer-to-peer* file-sharing applications (exchange of music, movies,...). However, using the Internet for making phone calls or creating web pages, were the least frequent tasks (not reaching 15% of internet users).

## Persons who use electronic commerce

**11.7% of the population aged 16 to 74 have purchased products or services through the internet in the last three months, amounting to 3.9 million persons.** This figure represents a 16% increase with regards to the first semester of 2006 (27% in interannual terms). The rate of penetration in the population is 1.6 points higher than in the previous semester, 2.4 more than in the previous version. Also, another 1.8 million persons bought through the Internet within a three month and one year period before the survey.

By autonomous communities, the greatest rate of internet purchasing during the last three months was registered in Madrid (18.6% of Madrid citizens have made on-line purchases). Illes Balears, Cataluña, País Vasco, La Rioja and Navarra are also above the national average.

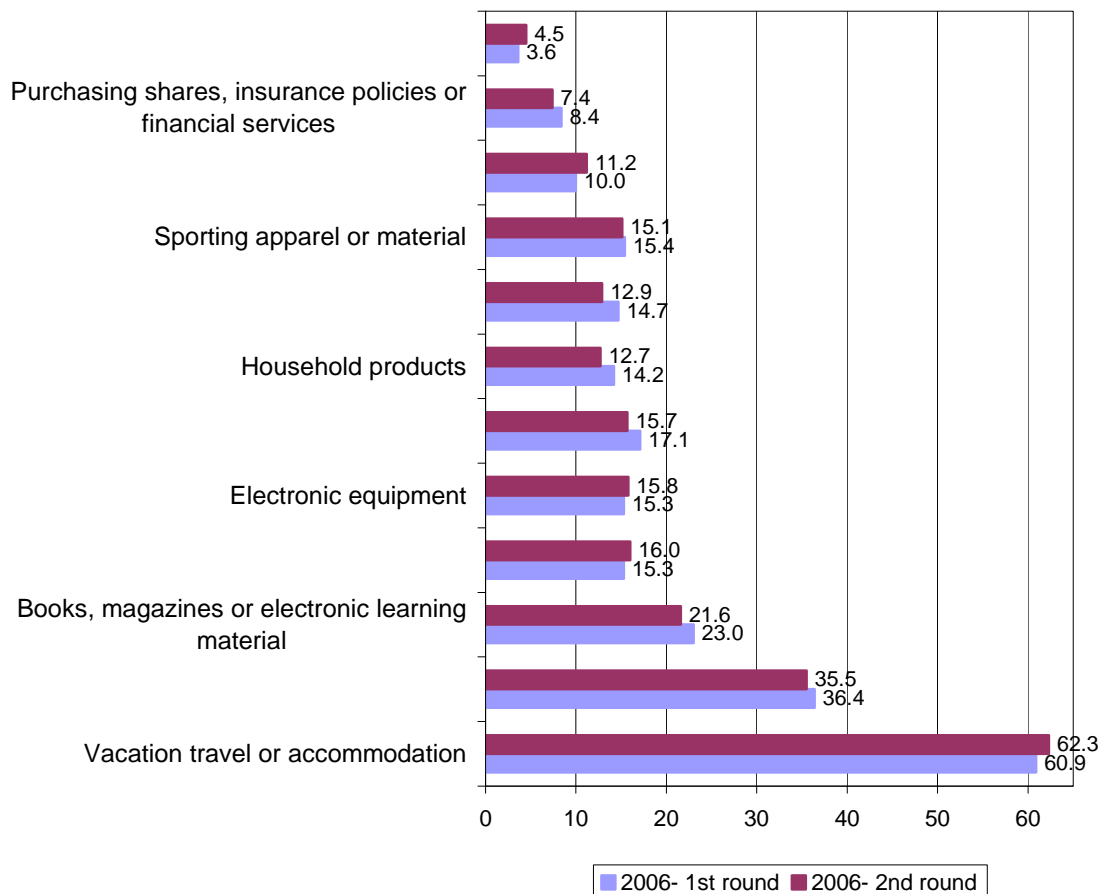
The main products purchased still are *vacation travels and accommodations* (62% of purchasers in the last year), *tickets for shows* (36%) and *books, magazines, e-learning material* (22%). A high level of stability is observed with regards to the on-line product and service purchasing structure of previous semesters.

Notwithstanding the increase in electronic commerce, internet users are still concerned at the time of buying on the Internet. The main problems being misleading advertising (for 13.6% of electronic buyers in the last year), delivery delays (9.2%) and lack of information on guarantees (6.8%).

The reasons the 11.5 million internet users that have never made an e-commerce purchase argue are mainly based on personal preferences about purchasing in stores (83.6% of internet users) and safety and privacy reasons (68.2% and 60.2% respectively). Another important reason is not having ever had the need to purchase over the Internet (54.1%).

On another hand, there are another 900,000 persons which purchased over the Internet over a year ago, but which have not used their e-mail for a longer time. In this case, the reasons they mention for not making on-line purchases is, besides their preference for receiving personal attention in a store (67.1%), have more to do with the lack of purchasing needs (60.5%) than with security and privacy reasons (57.2% and 50.1%, respectively).

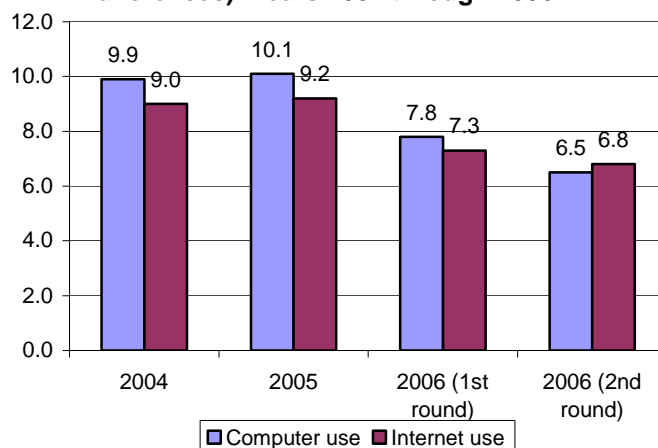
**Products purchased over the internet during the last twelve months. Year 2006 1st and 2nd rounds. (Percentage of purchasers)**



**The gender digital gap**

The gender digital gap (that is, the difference in percentage points among both sexes affecting main information and communications technology use indicators) have continued descending during the second semester of 2006. Regarding computer use, there is a 6.5 base points (1.3 less than in the first semester) difference and a 6.8 in access to Internet (half a point less).

**The gender digital gap (percentage differences). Years 2004 through 2006**



## Comparison of results among European Union countries

According to the results published by Eurostat corresponding to the first quarter of 2006, 39% of Spanish households with at least a member aged 16 to 74 has access to the Internet. This figure is 12 points lower than the average in the European Union.

The percentage of households with broadband connection in Spain is 29%, three base points below the community average. On another hand, the percentage of persons aged 16 to 74 accessing Internet at least once week is 39% in Spain, at least 8 points less than in the community average.

Regarding the use of electronic commerce, 10% of Spaniards have purchased sometime over the Internet, against the 21% average in the European Union. Spain ranks eleventh when measuring this indicator.

## Comparison of results among European Union countries. Year 2006

Country	% of households with access to the Internet	% of households with broadband connection	% of frequent internet users in the last 3 months	% of people who purchased over the internet in the last 3 months
<b>European Union</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>21</b>
Belgium	54	48	58	14
Bulgaria	17	10	22	2
Czech Republic	29	17	36	7
Denmark	79	63	78	31
Germany	67	34	59	38
Estonia	46	37	56	4
Greece	23	4	23	3
<b>Spain</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>10</b>
France	41	30	39	19
Ireland	50	13	44	21
Italy	40	16	31	5
Cyprus	37	12	29	5
Latvia	42	23	46	5
Lithuania	35	19	38	2
Luxembourg	70	44	65	35
Hungary	32	22	42	5
Malta	53	40	36	9
Holland	80	66	76	36
Austria	52	33	55	23
Poland	36	22	34	9
Portugal	35	24	31	5
Romania	..	..	..	..
Slovenia	54	34	47	8
Slovakia	27	11	43	7
Finland	65	53	71	29
Sweden	77	51	80	39
United Kingdom	63	44	57	38

Source: EUROSTAT

For further information see **INEbase-[www.ine.es](http://www.ine.es)** All press releases at: **[www.ine.es/prensa/prensa.htm](http://www.ine.es/prensa/prensa.htm)**

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## **Methodological note**

The CIT-H 2006 survey on information and communications technology equipment and use thereof in households has been carried out by the National Statistics Institute (INE) in cooperation with the Statistics Institute of Cataluña (IDESCAT), the Statistics Institute of Andalucía (IEA) and the Statistics Institute of Navarra (IEA) within the scope of their respective autonomous communities. Likewise, INE has entered into a cooperation agreement with the Fundación Centro Tecnológico de la Información y Comunicación (Communications and Information Technological Centre - CTIC) in Principado de Asturias.

There is also a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, through the public business entity Red.es for researching certain indicators in the information society.

The Survey follows the methodological recommendations of the European Union Statistical Office (EUROSTAT). This is the only source of its kind whose data are strictly comparable not only among EU members countries, but across all international realms.

The survey (ICT-H) focuses on persons aged 2006 years old and over resident in family dwellings, and collects information on the equipment of the household as regards information and communication technologies (television, telephone, radio, IT equipment) and the use of computers, the Internet and e-commerce.

Since 2005, it is prepared every six months. Interviews to are carried out in the second and fourth quarter of the year, by telephone or personal interview.

For each Autonomous Community an independent sample that represents it is designed, due to one of the objectives of the survey being to facilitate data.

The type of sample used is stratified tri-phase. The first stage units are the census sections. The second stage units are family dwellings. During the third stage, a person is selected in each dwelling who is aged 15 or over. Furthermore, all minors aged 10 to 14 are also researched in each dwelling. The theoretical size of the sample is 20,000 dwellings, one fourth of which is renovated every year.

Ratio estimators will be used for which balancing techniques will be applied, calibrated with the use of external information obtained from population projections by age groups and sex

A survey variable consistency control is performed on the sample, both in the data collection process (microedition) as in the subsequent information processing.

Although the population scope has not varied in comparison with previous surveys, it is necessary to mention that, with the purpose of achieving greater comparability with Eurostat published data, these results published in INE's webpage make reference dwellings inhabited at least by one person aged 16 to 74 and persons within that age group. However, the microdata file is also available with the complete information of the survey.