

12 February 2008: Safer Internet Day

One person in eight in the EU27 avoids e-shopping because of security concerns

In connection with the 5th **Safer Internet Day**¹ on 12 February 2008, **Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities**, presents a selection of statistics concerning internet activities, security concerns and virus attacks. The Safer Internet Day is part of a global drive to promote a safer Internet for all users, in particular younger people, and is organised by Insafe, a European internet safety network co-funded by the European Commission.

The data presented in this news release have been collected from the 2006 and 2007 surveys on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) usage in households and by individuals² in the **EU27**. More data on Internet security and related topics can be found in the dedicated section Science and Technology/Information Society on the Eurostat website³.

Most e-shopping security concerns in Spain and Finland

The percentage of individuals aged 16 to 74 in the **EU27** who ordered goods or services over the internet increased from 24% in 2005 to 30% in 2007. The highest proportions of internet shoppers in 2007 were recorded in **Denmark** (55% in 2006), the **Netherlands** (55%), **Sweden** and the **United Kingdom** (both 53%), and the lowest in **Bulgaria** and **Romania** (both 3%) and **Lithuania** (6%).

In 2006, 12% of individuals aged 16 to 74 in the **EU27** had not ordered goods or services over the internet in the preceding 12 months because of worries about giving credit card or personal details online. These security and privacy concerns were most common in **Spain** (27%), **Finland** (26%) and **Cyprus** (20%).

Internet banking most common in Finland and Estonia

In the **EU27** internet users, meaning individuals aged 16 to 74 who had used internet in the last three months, increased from 52% of all individuals aged 16 to 74 in 2006 to 57% in 2007. During the same time period, the proportion of internet users who used internet banking grew from 38% to 44%. In 2007, this proportion was highest in **Finland** (84%), **Estonia** (83%) and the **Netherlands** (77%), and lowest in **Bulgaria** (5%), **Romania** (7%) and **Greece** (12%).

One quarter of EU27 internet users suffered a virus attack in the last twelve months

In the **EU27** in 2007, nearly a quarter of internet users had had a computer virus in the preceding 12 months, which resulted in a loss of information or time. Virus attacks were most frequent in **Lithuania** (41% of users), **Slovenia** (35%) and **Malta** (34%) and least common in the **Czech Republic** (7%), **Estonia** (15%) and **Sweden** (16%).

One way of protecting oneself against the loss of information is to regularly make a safety copy or a back up file of information. In the **EU27** in 2007, nearly a quarter of internet users always or almost always made safety copies or back up files from their computer. The highest proportions of individuals making safety copies were found in **Greece** (43% of users), **France** (35%) and **Malta** (34%), and the lowest in **Poland** (13%), **Estonia** (14%) and **Sweden** (15%).

Internet shopping and security related indicators*

	% of all individuals, aged 16-74, who:			% of internet users, aged 16-74, who:		
	Used internet in the last three months	Shopped on the internet	Avoided e-shopping due to security concerns	Used internet banking	Had computer virus	Made safety copies
	2007	2007	2006	2007	2007	2007
EU27	57	30	12	44	23	23
Belgium	67	21	12	52	26	20
Bulgaria	31	3	3	5	17	26
Czech Republic	49	17	3	24	7	32
Denmark	81	55**	10	70	23	17
Germany	72	52	14	49	21	25
Estonia	64	9	12	83	15	14
Ireland	57	33	3	42	17	27
Greece	33	8	14	12	23	43
Spain	52	18	27	31	25	18
France	64	35	15	51	28	35
Italy	38	10	9	31	20	20
Cyprus	38	10	20	31	19	32
Latvia	55	11	3	50	24	18
Lithuania	49	6	7	43	41	17
Luxembourg	78	47	13	58	26	26
Hungary	52	11	15	23	25	19
Malta***	45	20	:	48	34	34
Netherlands	84	55	14	77	20	25
Austria	67	36	8	44	19	23
Poland	44	16	4	29	31	13
Portugal	40	9	13	29	26	17
Romania	24	3	1	7	24	28
Slovenia	53	16	19	36	35	23
Slovakia	56	16	8	27	22	22
Finland	79	48	26	84	23	19
Sweden	80	53	7	71	16	15
United Kingdom	72	53	9	45	23	20

: Data not available

* Percentage of all individuals aged 16-74 who had used the internet in the previous three months.

Percentage of all individuals aged 16-74 who ordered goods or services over the Internet for private use in the previous 12 months.

Percentage of all individuals aged 16-74 who, in the previous 12 months, had not ordered goods or services over the Internet, because of worries about giving credit card or personal details over the Internet.

Percentage of individuals aged 16-74 having used Internet in the previous three months, who also used Internet banking in this time period.

Percentage of individuals aged 16-74 having used internet in the previous three months, who had a computer virus resulting in loss of information or time when using Internet in the previous 12 months.

Percentage of individuals aged 16-74 having used internet in the previous three months, who always or almost always made safety copies or back up files from their computer.

** 2006 data

*** Provisional data

1. European Commission Safer Internet Programme: http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sip/index_en.htm
Insafe: <http://www.saferinternet.org/ww/en/pub/insafe/index.htm>.
2. The survey covered individuals aged 16-74. The survey periods were mainly the second quarters of 2006 and 2007. Internet usage refers to those who reported using the internet at least once during the three months prior to the survey.
3. http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/pls/portal/url/page/PGP_DS_INFO_SOC/PGE_DS_INFO_SOC

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