

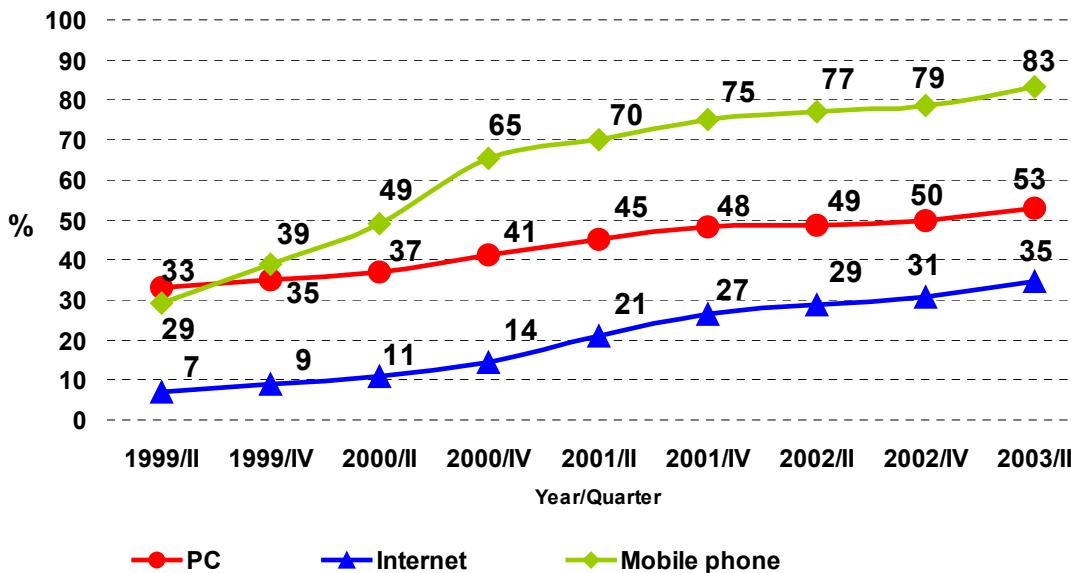
## The number of people with an Internet connection at home reached 35% in the second quarter of 2003

***Access to Information and Communication Technologies -ICT of the population aged between 6 and 14 is considerably higher than the overall population average.***

According to data made available by EUSTAT the population aged 15 and over with access to Internet at home accounted for 34.7% in the second quarter of 2003. Furthermore, access to PC's in the home has overcome the 50% barrier; in particular, 52.8% of people aged over 15 had a computer in their home at the end of the last quarter.

With regard to the mobile phone, the proportion of the population with access to a mobile phone reached 83.1% during the first half of 2003, representing an increase of 5% in comparison to the end of 2002. It is worth mentioning that this increase largely corresponds to the sector of the population aged over 45.

EVOLUTION OF THE POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER BY ACCESS TO ICT EQUIPMENT IN THE HOME PER QUARTER. 1999-2003.%



Source: Eustat

The survey carried out by Eustat in the second quarter of 2003 provides information for the first time about children between the age of 6 and 14. This age group has a level of access significantly higher than the population average to all of the domestic

equipment mentioned above, to the extent that 45% have an Internet connection at home, 75% have a PC and 95% have a mobile telephone at their disposal, at least, in their home.

**The percentage of Internet users is approaching 31% of the population aged 15 and over.**

With the aim of improving the international comparability of statistical data and following the methodology set out by Eurostat (European Union Statistics Office), Eustat has limited the concept of Internet user included in the data for the second quarter of 2003. From now on only those who have accessed the Internet at some time during the three months previous to the interview date are considered to be Internet Users. With this restriction the number of users aged 15 and over reached 30.9%.

Including the previous quarter the number of persons who have used Internet at sometime or other would be over 600,000 and would represent an increase of 12.5% in standardised terms.

Internet users connect more and more from the family home, the proportion using equipment at their study centre to go online is falling and the importance of the workplace in this aspect just about remains stable. It should be pointed out that less than 10% of Internet users use other access points, among which the Kzguneak begin to feature with more than 10,000 users in the last quarter.

Among children aged between 6 and 14, the proportion of Internet users is slightly higher than the overall average, reaching 35%, which would imply that a quarter of this age group, despite having access to Internet do not use it, probably due to their age or lack of parental permission, as it is this group which has the highest percentage of PC users, 83%, higher than any other age group.

**The number of Internet users who make purchases over the Net has not changed.**

Around 98,200 internet users, almost the same figure as six months previous, made some or other purchase over the Internet, of which more than 81,000 had carried out this transaction in the three months leading up to the survey, with an average expenditure of 275 €. The majority booking trips (31.4%), or purchasing books (22.5%), or tickets for theatre, shows, cinema etc (19.7%) or bought music (16.7%).

SURVEY ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (ESI-FAMILIES)

	2nd quarter 2003		Variation on 4th quarter 2002		Variation on same quarter the previous year	
	Thousands	%	Thousands	%	Thousands	%
<b>EQUIPMENT IN THE HOME</b>						
POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER	1810,5	100,0				
PC	955,7	52,8	54,4	3,0	72,2	4,0
Internet	628,4	34,7	70,2	3,8	108,5	6,0
Pay TV	168,2	9,3	-41,7	-2,3	-73,7	-4,1
Video	1439,2	79,5	16,3	0,8	31,3	1,8
Mobile Phone	1504,4	83,1	79,2	4,3	105,5	5,9
INTERNET USERS	559,5	30,9	13,4	0,7	6,8	0,4
Men	303,7	34,6	5,7	0,6	-1,8	-0,2
Women	255,8	27,4	7,7	0,8	8,7	0,9
Álava	75,0	29,7	4,1	1,5	-3,7	-1,7
Bizkaia	290,6	29,7	-6,9	-0,7	-6,7	-0,6
Gipuzkoa	194,0	33,4	16,3	2,7	17,3	3,0
15-24 years	157,3	72,3	-7,4	3,2	-11,5	-1,3
25-34 years	165,9	48,8	1,7	0,7	-5,3	-1,2
35-44 years	132,6	40,3	13,9	4,2	12,7	3,9
45-54 years	67,4	23,3	-2,2	-0,9	3,5	1,1
55-64 years	28,7	11,8	4,6	1,5	6,7	2,4
65 and over	7,6	1,9	2,8	0,6	0,7	0,1
Students	154,4	83,8	6,1	0,0	-6,7	1,4
Employed	349,4	39,6	15,3	1,3	16,6	1,3
Inactive and unemployed	55,7	7,5	-8,0	-0,9	-3,0	-0,3
Access at home	397,0	71,0	32,3	4,2	48,7	8,0
Access at place of work	247,2	44,2	16,6	2,0	3,8	0,2
Access at place of study	102,0	18,2	-13,5	-2,9	-19,9	-3,9
Access elsewhere	54,3	9,7	-35,5	-6,7	-58,8	-10,8
Surf in Basque	68,2	12,2	-14,4	-2,9	-14,1	-2,7
Surf in Spanish	556,6	99,5	12,0	-0,2	4,8	-0,4
Surf in English	130,1	23,3	-68,0	-13,0	-90,9	-16,7
Have purchased on the Internet	81,1	14,5	-16,9	-3,4	-17,5	-3,3
Average length of last connection		58,5 minutes		-0,6 minutes		8,3 minutes

**Source: Eustat**

The **Information Society and the Family Survey** data are subject to sampling errors arising from the use of a sample of 3,750 families and 5,500 individuals in each quarter. This survey was carried out for the first time with Eurostat methodology in collaboration with INE and the A.C. of the Basque Country.

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