

# Infocomm Usage by Households and Individuals 2000–2005

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## Introduction

This article provides an overview of the changes in infocomm usage by households and individuals between 2000 and 2005. Data were derived from the annual surveys conducted by the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore.

## Infocomm Usage by Households

Between 2000 and 2005, the proportion of households with access to a computer at home grew by 13 percentage points (Table 1). For households in both public and private housing, this proportion grew by 10 and 15 percentage points respectively over the five-year period.

TABLE 1 HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCESS TO COMPUTER AT HOME  
Per Cent

	2000	2005
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>74</b>
Public Housing	58	68
Private Housing	78	93

Access to Internet at home rose in tandem with access to computer at home. In 2005, almost two in three households had access to Internet at home, compared to one in two households in 2000.

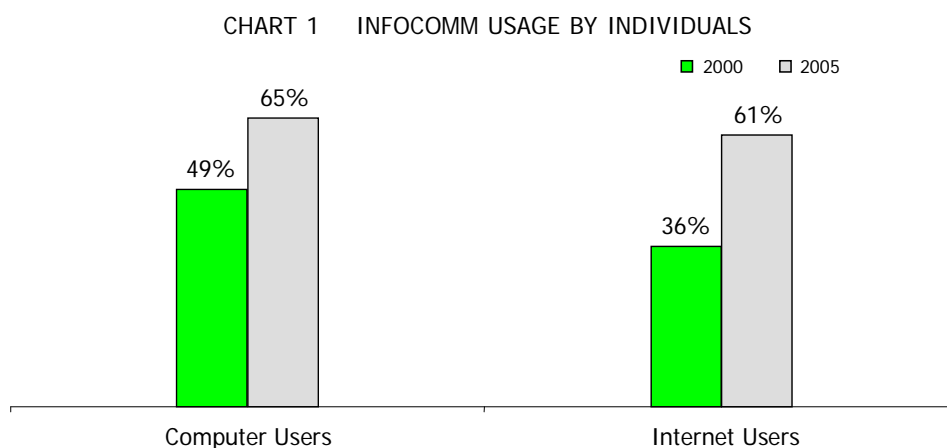
From 2000 to 2005, access to Internet at home for households in public and private housing grew by 13 and 18 percentage points respectively (Table 2).

TABLE 2 HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCESS TO INTERNET AT HOME

	Per Cent	
	2000	2005
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>66</b>
Public Housing	46	59
Private Housing	72	90

### Infocomm Usage by Individuals

The proportion of Singapore’s resident population with access to computer increased by 16 percentage points between 2000 and 2005 (Chart 1). Concomitantly, the proportion of Internet users among Singapore’s resident population rose by 25 percentage points over the same period.



### Use of the Internet

Sending or receiving emails, and sourcing for information remained the two most popular reasons for accessing the Internet in 2000 and 2005 (Table 3). Activities such as completing or lodging forms online and Internet banking, which appeared among the top five reasons for Internet usage in 2005, underscored the growing popularity of using the Internet to perform online transactions.

TABLE 3 TOP FIVE REASONS FOR INTERNET USAGE IN 2000 AND 2005<sup>1</sup>

2000	2005
Sending or receiving emails	Sending or receiving emails
Sourcing information	Sourcing information
Downloading software	Completing or lodging forms online
Watching news webcast	Downloading or requesting information
Downloading music	Internet banking

<sup>1</sup> Based on the proportion of Internet users who had ever used such applications/services.

## Conclusion

The pervasiveness of infocomm usage by households and individuals reflects the presence of a more IT-literate Singapore population. Trends in Internet usage also suggest that Singaporeans are becoming more sophisticated Internet users.

## 2005 in Brief

### Singapore's population

... reached a total size of 4.35 million in June 2005.

### Average life expectancy at birth

... was 78 years for males and 82 years for females.

### Literacy rate

... was 97.4 per cent among males and 92.7 per cent among females.

### Home ownership rate

... was 93.0 per cent.

### Labour force participation rate

... was 78.2 per cent among males and 56.6 per cent among females.

### Per capita Gross National Income

... was S\$44,455.

### Official foreign reserves

... increased to S\$194 billion.

### Mobile phone subscribers

... reached 978 per 1,000 population.

### Residential broadband subscribers

... was 162 per 1,000 resident population.

### Crime rate

... increased to 843 per 100,000 population.

### Change in 2005 (Year-on-Year)

#### Unit Labour Cost Index

... was 1.5 per cent lower.

#### Consumer Price Index

... increased by 0.5 per cent.

#### Domestic Supply Price Index

... rose by 9.6 per cent.

#### Retail Sales Index

... was 8.0 per cent higher.

#### Catering Trade Index

... was 2.8 per cent higher.

#### Domestic Wholesale Trade Index

... grew by 18.9 per cent.

#### Foreign Wholesale Trade Index

... rose by 21.4 per cent.

#### Business Receipts Index

... increased by 11.7 per cent.

#### Industrial Production Index

... rose by 9.2 per cent.