



# Press release

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## ***Six people in ten have access to the Internet***

The number of people in the Netherlands with access to the Internet at home has increased fourfold over the last four years. In 2002 more than six people in ten had access to the Internet through their personal computer at home. In 1998 one in four PC's at home had Internet access. This increased to three out of every four PC's in 2002. The Internet is mainly used for email and to look for specific information. It is not used as much for purchases, according to the latest figures by Statistics Netherlands.

### ***More young people have Internet access at home***

The number of people who can use the Internet at home has increased fourfold over the last four years. In 1998 some 16 percent had Internet access at home. By 2002 this had increased to 63 percent. Over 8 million people over the age of 12 can access the Internet with a PC. Far fewer older people have Internet access. Only two in ten people over 65 can use the Internet at home, compared to almost eight people in ten aged between 12 and 18.

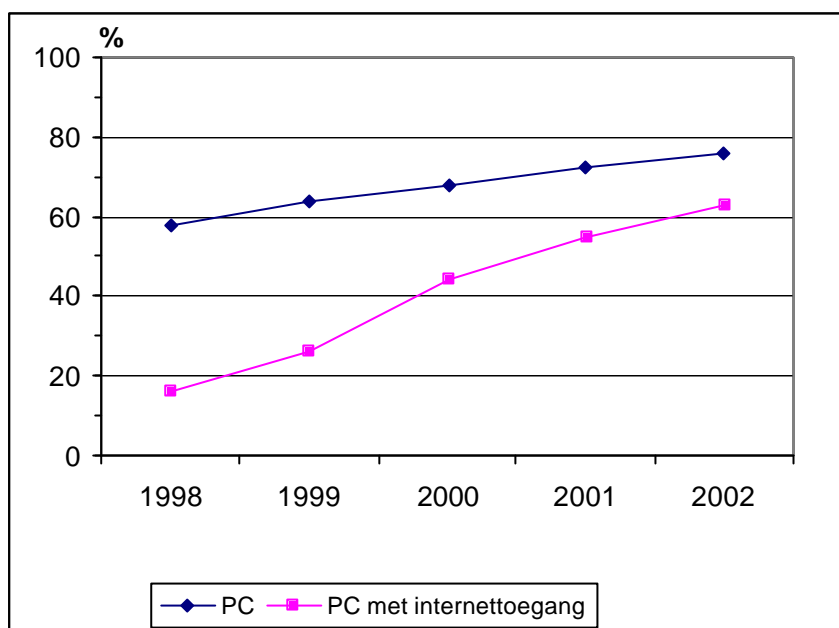
### ***Six in ten online***

People can also use the Internet away from home. In 2002 almost 60 percent of all people over 12 years of age went on the Internet at least once a month. Two thirds of all men and half of all women use the Internet at least once a month. Highly educated people are ahead in their use of the Internet. More than eight in ten university and college graduates are online every month. That is five times as many as people with elementary education only.

### ***The Internet as a source of information rather than shop***

The Internet at home is used primarily to get information and to email. Chatting is mainly popular in the 12-17 age group, where almost 60 percent of the Internet users chat. On the other hand only 7 percent of the Internet users over 65 chat. More than a quarter of all people over 12 ever bought or ordered anything through the Internet for personal use.

**Figure 1: People over 12 with a PC or PC with Internet access at home, 1998-2002**



**Source: CBS**