

## ICT usage among residential consumers

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Commission for
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## Context



## Research Objectives

A telephone survey among residential (bill payer) consumers to examine access to, usage of and attitudes towards communications services and technologies such as fixed line telephony, mobile phones, broadband access and pay TV

Track key trends and developments and provide ComReg with enhanced market understanding to use in future planning and regulatory policy formulation and public dissemination

Continuation of a tracking survey commissioned annually by ComReg. However change in methodology from face-to-face to telephone for consumer survey (so no-one without a phone included this year) means comparisons with previous waves should be treated with caution

## In more detail

Understanding access to and usage of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

On-going tracking - Telephone interviews among 1000 consumers

## Adults 15-74 years

Quotas: Age, Gender, SEG, Region Respondent is either decision maker or bill payer for broadband/telecoms

Data weighted to provide accurate reflection of population


## Main findings



## ICT Usage



## IT in the home

## 23\% mobile only; 36\% among under 30s



Mobile phone 97\%

Fixed line phone 77\%

## 92\% have a TV in their household




Fixed phone ownership increases with age; 64\% among under 30s

## Length of time spent on fixed line, mobile and internet in average week

Around half spend no more than an hour a week on their mobile or fixed line


## Whether have internet and broadband and type of broadband

$83 \%$ have internet in home; $79 \%$ have broadband



# Internet activities in an average week: spontaneous/prompted/top 3 

The internet is used almost universally for email and research


Base: Those with home internet (831)
Q57 In an average week, what activities do you currently undertake using the internet.
Q57a and do you usually do any of the following at some point?
Q58 And which of those do you do most often? Tell me your top three.


## Whether have internet

54\% have Smartphone. 23\% are in mobile only households
$90 \%$ of Smartphone owners and $75 \%$ of mobile only households have internet at home


Base: all consumers (1000); Smartphone owner (542), mobile only (229)

## Bundled Services



## Whether subscribe to a bundled package

58\% subscribe to a bundled package. Most (92\%) include internet. Highest bundle usage in 45-64 age group (68\%) and among ABs (70\%)


Base: All consumers/all with a bundled package (576)
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Q59 Do you subscribe to a bundled package from your telecoms service provider?
Q60 Which of the following services are included in your bundled package?


## Switching



## Whether switched supplier in the last 12 months and for which service

Those with a bundle most likely to have switched supplier in the last 12 months


Base: All with relevant services (bundle 576/internet 831/fixed 769/mobile 969)
Q62a Have you switched your supplier for bundled services/internet/fixed line/mobile in the last 12 months?


## Ease of switching supplier and reasons for difficulties in switching

Reasons for difficulties (Internet): -Delay in switching process (47\%) -Difficulty terminating service (21\%)

Reasons for difficulties (mobile): -Delay in switching process (33\%) -Contractual issues (30\%)

Reasons for difficulties (fixed line): -Difficulty terminating service (45\%)
-Lack of information/ knowledge on process (38\%)
-Delay in switching process (37\%) -Contractual issues (25\%)

Reasons for difficulties (bundle): -Delay in switching process (38\%) -Difficulty terminating service (27\%)
-Lack of information/ knowledge on process (24\%)

Switching is generally easy; 1 in 10 have difficulties. More difficult to switch a bundled service


Base: All consumers who have switched service in last 12 months (internet 172 /mobile

## Service costs \& the recession



## Length of contract with provider and awareness of terms and conditions for early termination of contract

Contracts longer than 18 months are rare

| $\square 12$ months | $\square 18$ months | $\square 2$ years |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\square 3$ years | $\square$ More than 3 years | $\square$ Don't know |
| $\square$ Don't have a fixed term contract |  |  |

> Not aware of t\&c's for cancellation


Base: Those with a mobile receiving a monthly bill (372)/fixed line bill payers (575)/internet (831)


## Monthly estimated spend on bundle

Inclusion of TV has the biggest impact on bundle cost


Base: All those who subscribe to a bundled package (271)/including mobile (750)/including TV (108)/including internet (530)/including telephone (498)

Q63. Approximately how much would you estimate your household pays each MONTH for your bundled service? Please include all services which you purchase (inclusive of VAT)


# Monthly estimated spend on fixed line phone service 

Average fixed line spend of $€ 51$ per month


Q64 Approximately how much would you estimate your household pays each month for your fixed line phone service?


## Monthly estimated spend on mobile phone service

Average monthly mobile spend is $€ 32$


Base: All with a mobile phone (895)
Q65 Approximately how much would you estimate you spend each MONTH on your mobile phone (including all charges)?

## Monthly estimated spend on internet service

Average internet spend of $€ 25$ per month


Base: All with internet not in bundle (301)
Q65 Approximately how much would you estimate you spend each MONTH on your internet (including all charges)?


## Whether cancelled and not replaced a service in last 12 months and reasons for cancellation

Few consumers have cancelled and not replaced a service in the last 12 months


Base: All respondents (1000)/those who have cancelled and not replaced


## Whether recession has impacted on ICT usage and ways in which it has done so



Base: All respondents (1000)/those who say recession has impacted (402) Q84 Would you say the recession of the last few years has had any impact on your usage of communications technology such as we have been discussing? Q84a In what way...


## Service Providers



## Companies used for fixed line phone service

Just over half use Eircom for fixed line phone


Base: Those with a fixed line (803)


## Companies used for mobile phone service

Almost half of mobile phone users are with Vodafone


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\begin{aligned}
& \text { Base: Those with a mobile phone (986) } \\
& \text { Q28/Q61 Who is your mobile phone supplier? }
\end{aligned}
$$

## Companies used for internet service

Just over a third use Eircom as their ISP and 1 in 5 use Vodafone


Base: Those with internet (860)
Q43/Q61 Which Internet Service Provider(s) do you currently subscribe to?

## Importance of and satisfaction with factors in selecting fixed line provider

Most important factor in selecting fixed line provider is cost of calls and the majority are satisfied with current provider


[^0]Q15 How important are the following factors in selected a home fixed line phone provider? Q16 And how satisfied are you with your current home fixed line phone provider in relation to the following factors?


## Importance of and satisfaction with factors in selecting mobile provider

Most important factor in selecting mobile provider is cost of calls. High satisfaction with current provider; higher than for fixed line


Base: Those with a mobile phone (969)
Q29 How important are the following factors in selecting a mobile phone provider?
Q30 How satisfied are you with your current mobile phone provider in relation to the following factors?

Mean satisfaction score (scale 1-5)
4.01
4.19
3.99
4.00


## Importance of and satisfaction with factors in selecting internet provider

Most important factor in selecting internet provider is again cost. Satisfaction is generally high with current ISP, especially for security


## Base: Those with internet (831)

Q44 How important are the following factors in selecting an ISP?


## Whether have contacted provider to make a complaint in last 12 months and resolution

A significant minority have contacted provider to make a complaint in last 12 months


Base: all consumers who have a fixed line phone (575)/mobile phone (969)/internet service (831); all consumers who had made a complaint (fixed line phone 160/mobile phone 194/internet 270)
Q. Have you ever contacted your fixed line phone /mobile phone/internet provider in the last 12 months to make a complaint about something?
Q. And was the problem resolved to your satisfaction?


## Mobile Phone Usage



## Main reasons for not having a fixed line phone in their home

$23 \%$ were mobile only households; mobile usage is main reason for no fixed line


## Base: Those with no fixed line (231)

Q12 What is your main reason for not having a fixed line telephone in your home?


## Whether they pre pay for their mobile or receive a monthly bill

6 in 10 use a pay as you go service for their mobile; direct correlation with monthly spend


## Analysis of pre pay versus monthly bill by monthly spend

6 in 10 use a pay as you go service for their mobile; direct correlation with monthly spend


Base: Those with a mobile phone (969)
Q25 Is your current mobile phone service one where you...?

## Whether their mobile phone is capable of accessing the internet and, if so, whether used for that

$56 \%$ of those with a phone have one that is capable of accessing the internet; however a sizeable minority don't use that capability


4 in 10 spend <15 minutes a week on internet on their phone; average is 2 hrs 20mins

Q26 Is your mobile phone a smartphone or another phone which can access the internet? Base: those with a mobile phone (969) Q27 Do you use your phone for browsing the internet mainly at home, mainly outside the home or do you do both equally? Base: those with a smartphone (542)


## Smartphone ownership and whether mobile only household by under and over 30s

In half of mobile only households the respondent is under 30. Under 30s also above average likelihood of owning a Smartphone


Base: all consumers (1000); Smartphone owner (542), mobile only (229)


## Number of texts sent and received weekly

Half of those with a mobile are heavy users of texting



Average number sent = $\mathbf{2 2}$ ( $\mathbf{2 4}$ for those with smartphones; 19 for those without)
Average number received = 23 ( 25 for those with smartphones; 20 for those without)

Under 30s send 27 and receive 27 texts per week on average
\% Respondents

Base: Those with a mobile phone (969)
Q39/Q40 How many texts do you personally send from/receive on your mobile phone during an average week?


## Usage of mobile phone, text or VolP instead of fixed line

Majority will send a text when landline is available on daily basis


Q24a. How often do you use a mobile phone to make a call at home when your home landline is free and available for use? Q24b. How often do you use a mobile phone to send a text message when you are at home and your home landline is free and available for use? Base: those with a fixed line and personal mobile phone

Q24c. How often do you use the internet to make a VoIP call at home when your home landline is free and available to use? Base: those with a fixed line and use VoIP (260)

# Chosen method of contact for different length communications and for international contact 

Mobile or text popular for short communications. Landline to landline most common for international communications


Q24d. If you needed to communicate for 2 minutes with a friend or family member who owns a mobile phone and it was during the day on a weekday, how would you usually contact them? Q24e. If you needed to communicate for 5 minutes with a friend or family member who owns a mobile phone and it was during the day on a weekday, how would you usually contact them? Q24f. If you needed to communicate with a friend or family member who lives outside Ireland, how would you usually contact them? Base: those with a fixed line and personal mobile phone (741)


## The Internet and Broadband



## Contracted download speed and whether actual speed meets expectations

6-10 megabits per second most common contracted speed but half don't know


## Whether use VolP and whether as part of their contract

While VoIP not a reason for giving up fixed line, its usage is prevalent

Equates to $36 \%$ of population as a whole


Almost half of under 30s with a fixed line phone use Skype
Base: Those no fixed line (230)/with fixed line (767)


## VolP usage versus traditional landline

## VoIP usage is mainly occasional; more regular among under 30s



Base: Those VolP users with a fixed line as well (266)

## Broadcasting



## Awareness of switch off of terrestrial TV broadcasting by 2012

Just one in four still unaware of analogue switch off; women and under 30s less aware


Base: Those with TV (918)
Q78 Are you aware of the complete switch off of analogue terrestrial TV broadcasting by 2012 in Ireland?


## What those without Pay TV will do when analogue is switched off

For those without pay TV, Saorview is the most likely option; one in five don't know



## Conclusions



## Conclusions

- There is an increase in internet penetration in homes
- Some evidence of growing use of mobiles
- could be due to growing use of contracts/move from prepay
- Mobiles very regularly used when a fixed line is available. Consumers prefer mobile for short communications; landlines preferred for international communications
- More than half of consumers now have Smartphones and spend over two hours a week on average using them to access the internet
- Half of those whose phones have internet capability don't use their phone for internet
- Over third use VoIP; most of these just use occasionally


## Conclusions 2

- Bundles very common (6 in 10 consumers use one)
- generally include fixed line and internet
- Eircom and Vodafone are biggest bundle providers; Vodafone close to Eircom for consumer share
- Switching services among consumers has increased slightly:
- especially for mobile switching
- service quality is an important reason for switching - not just cost
- most have no difficulty switching although bundles are slightly more difficult to switch - delay is the main problem
- There is a lack of awareness of terms and conditions for cancelling contracts
- Internet 47\% unaware
- Fixed line 42\% unaware
- Mobile $41 \%$ consumers unaware
- A high proportion of mobile only households are under 30 year olds
- Under 30-years olds' usage of ICT is different; much more time spent on mobile and Internet than older counterparts, more use of Skype


## Conclusions 3

- Some evidence of the effects of the recession
- 4\% of consumers have cancelled Pay TV
- many are trying to spend less on telecommunications
- Eircom is main supplier of fixed line and internet
- Cost is the most important feature when choosing an ICT supplier
- Customers generally satisfied with their providers (especially with mobile providers)
- Increased awareness of analogue TV switch off - just 23\% now unaware



## Consumer demographics

## Age and country of birth



Base all consumers (1000)


## Socio-Economic Group and gender



Base all consumers (1000)

## Working status



## Marital status




## Educational achievement



## Home ownership and type of housing



Base all consumers (1000)
Q87. Could you tell me which of these best describes the ownership of your
place of residence?
Q88. Do you live in a house or an apartment?



[^0]:    Base: Those with a fixed line (769)

