

Information and Communication Technologies in Bermuda

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The industrial classification used to define the **ICT sector** was developed by the Organization for Economic Development (OECD) and represents those industries that “electronically capture, transmit and display data and information”.

This definition of the **ICT sector** is output-based; that is, it focuses on industries that are involved in the development, delivery and support of advanced technological products.

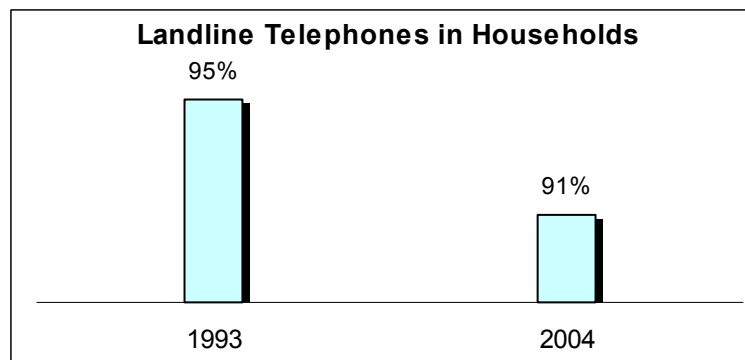
Background:

The area of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) has grown exponentially and has unquestionably been one of the main drivers of economic growth throughout the industrialized world in the past decade. The development of ICT indicators is of global interest, and will remain of crucial importance in economic empowerment.

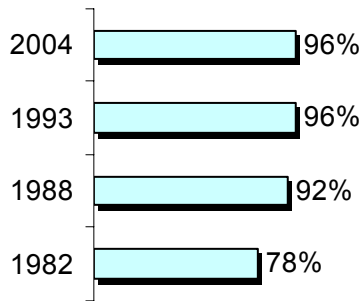
Generally, indicators are tools used to represent trends or changes in social, economic, environmental or other systems over time. As ICT rapidly emerges, it is imperative that a country monitors and measures this specific information accurately. ICT indicators identify those countries that are growing effectively and efficiently in using new information communication technology tools.

Highlights of ICT indicators for the household sector in Bermuda

Bermuda has 100% landline and mobile telephony coverage. In 1993, 95% of households reported having **landline telephones**. By 2004, this figure had decreased slightly to 91% of households. The decline in landline telephones is due in part to the substitution of cellular phones for landline telephones. In 2004, with the ability to use a mobile phone anywhere on the Island, 73% or roughly 19,048 households reported owning one or more **cell phones**. Due to the emergence of cell phones only in the last decade, statistics were not collected on cell phone ownership in the 1993 household survey.

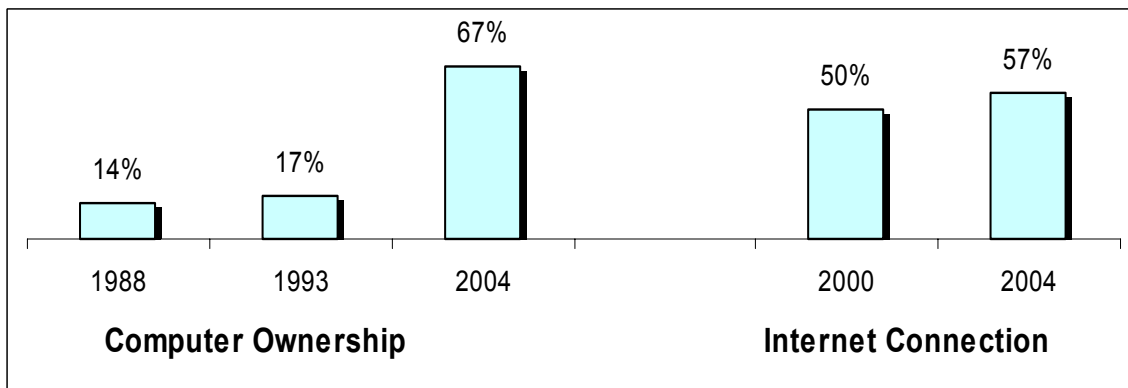


Colour Televisions in Households



Household demand for **colour televisions** has always been highly prevalent in Bermuda - 78% or roughly 20,353 households in 1982 reported owning at least one colour television, rising to 92% in 1988. Between 1993 and 2004, households with colour TVs remained stagnant with 96 out of 100 households reporting owning a colour television set. Each household in Bermuda had at least two colour television sets in 2004.

Ownership of **computers** grew slowly from 14% of households in 1988 to 17% in 1993. **Computers** include personal computers, laptop computers and personal digital assistants - PDA's. Between 1993 and 2004, computer ownership increased sharply to 67% - quadrupling over the eleven year period. In 2004, 57% of Bermuda's households reported having **internet access**, exceeding the 50% reported during the 2000 Census of Population and Housing. Almost 85% of those households owning a computer reported having internet access – an incredible adoption rate for a relatively new technology.



ICT Sector and the Economy

- In 2003, the ICT sector contributed \$187.4 million to Bermuda's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), accounting for 5% of total economy GDP
- The ICT sector employed 1,103 people in 2003, accounting for 3% of economy-wide employment
- In 2003, imports of ICT merchandise totalled \$90.0 million, representing 10% of total merchandise imports

ICT indicators for the Island's business sector will be presented in a subsequent publication.