

# **Statistics based on data from Internet Service Providers - experiences from Statistics Norway**

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# Background

- The Internet survey started in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2002
- At present: 6 quarters of data collection
- Data sources: Internet Service Providers (ISPs)
- Full scale survey: Give the possibility to see regional patterns

# The ISP Population

- All enterprises that on a commercial basis deliver access to the Internet to end-users
- There are no all-including register for ISPs
- Difficult also to extract the enterprises from the Register of Establishments and Enterprises
- The Norwegian Internet Exchange (NIX)
- Permanent monitoring of the branch is necessary in order to update the population
- Approximately 110 ISPs

# The data collection

- ISPs are contacted quarterly by mail
- Excel, ASCII or XML
- Participation in the survey is obligatory
- Two reminders
- 97-99% of the ISPs deliver the data within the final dead-line

# The data collection (cont.)

## Variables

- number of Internet subscriptions at different transmission capacities
  - the income of the ISPs
  - the data volume downloaded
  - the time spent online
- The data are broken down by postal code, and the subscriptions are divided between business and private.
  - Distinction between active and passive subscriptions

# Challenges in the data collection

- Different data formats causes much work within Statistics Norway
- Best: All the respondents used the same format
- Respondents make own versions of the files
- Automatic extraction/manual punching

# Scope of data

- Only published data for one of the variables, i.e. number of subscriptions
- Income is a difficult variable
- 'time online' has also been a challenge for the ISPs
- 'data volume downloaded' is reported by around 30 ISPs.

# Some results

Table 1 shows the development of the private Internet subscriptions during 2002. For the first two quarters there was no distinction between active and passive subscriptions. Table 2 shows the corresponding figures for the business market.



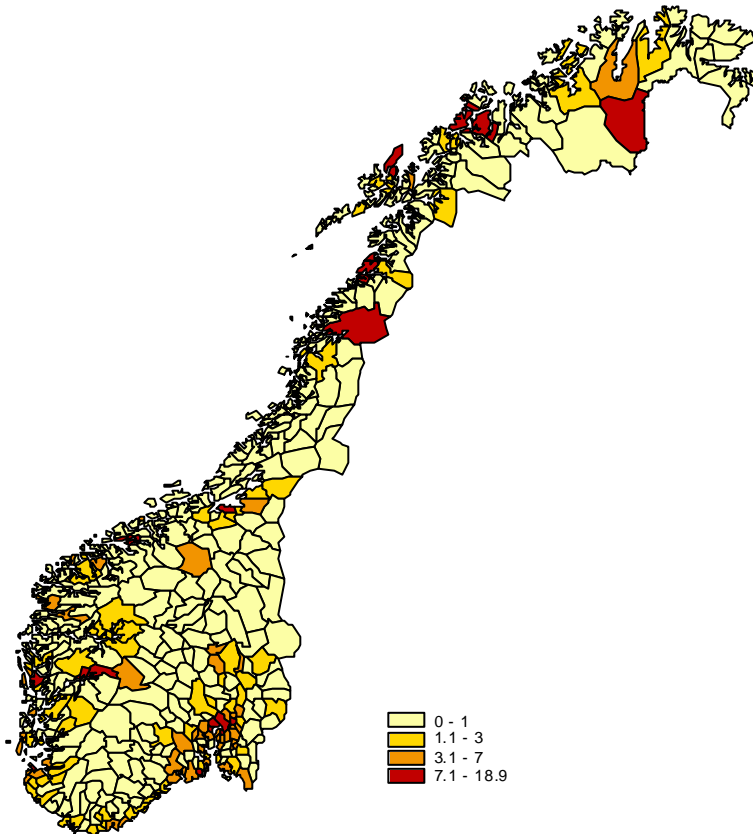
**1 Private Internet subscriptions. Development features. Subscription by transmission capacity and county, 2002**

	Total	< 64 kbit/s	>= 64 kbit/s = < 128 kbit/s	> 128 kbit/s = < 384 kbit/s	Broadband
1st quarter.	2623839	1006251	1505775	67533	44280
2nd quarter.	2708077	1142549	1422673	76510	66345
3rd quarter.	2909357	1234590	1511489	66050	97228
4th quarter.	3125881	1308584	1590219	68492	158586
4th quarter. Active subscriptions only	1450028	621606	607789	62047	158586
4th quarter. County. Active subscriptions only					
01 Østfold	75632	32552	33583	3184	6313
02 Akershus	155848	60629	63965	7560	23694
03 Oslo	209464	75288	73059	23021	38096



# Some results (cont.)

The private market. Subscriptions with broadband (transmission capacity larger than 384 kbit/s) in per cent of households. 3rd quarter of 2002. Municipalities



Map data: Norwegian Mapping Authority

# Plans for the future

- Consolidate the survey
- To explore the variable 'data volume downloaded'
- Capacity categories must be reconsidered from time to time
- We consider to exclude some of the variables, e.g. 'income' and 'time on-line'.

# Discussion points/views

- Have any other countries a similar statistics?
- The variable downloaded data volume causes troubles for some ISPs. Views on the use of that information?
- Experiences with data collection in other countries? Reporting on a regional level/post codes?