

Box 3.4**Information technology usage and penetration in households and business**

In this Information Age, the use of information technology (IT) has become increasingly popular, both at home for learning and entertainment and in business for reducing costs and enhancing competitiveness.

In 2003, 68% of all the households in Hong Kong had personal computers (PCs) at home, and 60% had their PCs connected to Internet. These represented significant increases over the corresponding proportions of 50% and 36% just three years earlier in 2000, when such figures were first collected. Also, younger people use PCs more frequently than older ones. In 2003, 94% of those aged between 15 and 24 had used PCs, as against only 16% for those aged between 55 and 64. Yet both figures were markedly higher than those in 2000, at 79% and 7% respectively.

IT usage and penetration in households (%)

| | <u>2000</u> | <u>2001</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Proportion of households with PCs at home | 50 | 61 | 62 | 68 |
| Proportion of households with PCs at home connected to Internet | 36 | 49 | 52 | 60 |
| Proportion of persons used PCs | 43 | 50 | 54 | 56 |
| By selected age groups | | | | |
| Aged 15-24 | 79 | 88 | 92 | 94 |
| 25-34 | 65 | 74 | 76 | 80 |
| 35-44 | 45 | 52 | 58 | 63 |
| 45-54 | 20 | 26 | 31 | 36 |
| 55-64 | 7 | 9 | 14 | 16 |

In the business sector, 55% of all the business establishments in Hong Kong used PCs in 2003, 48% had Internet connection, and 13% established Web pages/sites. These were appreciably higher than the corresponding proportions in 2000, at 52%, 37% and 7%.

IT usage usually increases with the size of the business establishment. In 2003, 94% of large business establishments used PCs, 85% had internet connection, and 62% of them had their own web pages/sites. These were higher than the corresponding proportions for medium-sized business establishments, at 88%, 78% and 32%, as well as those for small business establishments, at 50%, 43% and 10%.

IT usage and penetration in the business sector (%)

| | <u>2000</u> | <u>2001</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Proportion of business establishments with PCs | 52 | 50 | 55 | 55 |
| Proportion of business establishments with Internet connection | 37 | 37 | 44 | 48 |
| Proportion of business establishments with Web page/site | 7 | 11 | 12 | 13 |

Source : "Hong Kong as an Information Society, 2003 Edition", Census and Statistics Department.