

Internet Activities

About 72% of American adults use the internet.
That translates into approximately 145 million people.

Here are some of the things they do online:

Percent of
internet users
who report this
activity

Most recent
survey date

| | Percent of internet users who report this activity | Most recent survey date |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Send e-mail | 91 | September 2005 |
| Use a search engine to find information | 90 | September 2005 |
| Search for a map or driving directions | 84 | February 2004 |
| Do an internet search to answer a specific question | 80 | Nov-Dec 2003 |
| Research a product or service before buying it | 78 | February-March 2005 |
| Check the weather | 78 | November 2004 |
| Look for info on a hobby or interest | 77 | November 2004 |
| Get travel info | 73 | May-June 2004 |
| Get news | 72 | February-March 2005 |
| Buy a product | 67 | May-June 2005 |
| Surf the Web for fun | 66 | November 2004 |
| Look for health/medical info | 66 | December 2002 |
| Buy or make a reservation for travel | 63 | September 2005 |

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| Look for political news/info | 58 | November 2004 |
| Go to a website that provides info or support for a specific medical condition or personal situation | 58 | November 2004 |
| Research for school or training | 57 | January 2005 |
| Watch a video clip or listen to an audio clip | 56 | November 2004 |
| Look for info from a government website | 54 | November 2004 |
| Look up phone number or address | 54 | February 2004 |
| Do any type of research for your job | 51 | February-March 2005 |
| Send instant messages | 47 | September 2005 |
| Get info online about a college, university or other school you or a family member might attend | 45 | January 2005 |
| Take a virtual tour of a location online | 45 | November 2004 |
| Look for info about a job | 44 | January 2005 |
| Get financial info | 44 | November 2004 |
| Check sports scores or info | 43 | February 2004 |
| Download other files such as games, videos, or pictures | 42 | June 2003 |
| Bank online | 41 | February-March 2005 |

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| Download computer programs from the internet | 39 | May-June 2005 |
| Pay bills online | 38 | January 2005 |
| Play online games* | 36 | May-June 2005 |
| Send or receive text messages using a cell phone | 35 | September 2005 |
| Use internet to get photos developed/display photos | 34 | September 2005 |
| Listen to music online at a website | 34 | May-June 2004 |
| Look for info about a place to live | 34 | May-June 2004 |
| Rate a product, service or person using an online rating system | 30 | September 2005 |
| Look for religious/spiritual info | 30 | November 2004 |
| Listen to a live or recorded radio broadcast online, such as a newscast, sporting event, or radio show | 29 | May-June 2004 |
| Search for info about someone you know or might meet | 28 | September 2005 |
| Share files from own computer w/ others | 27 | May-June 2005 |
| Read someone else's web log or "blog" | 27 | September 2005 |
| Download music files to your computer | 25 | May-June 2005 |
| Log on to the internet using a wireless device | 25 | November 2004 |

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| Participate in an online auction | 24 | February-March 2005 |
| Research your family's history or genealogy | 24 | March-May 2003 |
| Look for weight loss or general fitness info | 24 | January 2002 |
| Download screensavers from the internet | 23 | May-June 2005 |
| Look for info about a mental health issue | 23 | June-July 2002 |
| Use online classified ads or sites like Craig's list | 22 | September 2005 |
| Chat in a chat room or in an online discussion | 22 | September 2005 |
| Download computer games from the internet | 21 | May-June 2005 |
| Create content for the internet | 19 | November 2004 |
| Make a donation to a charity online | 18 | September 2005 |
| Download video files to your computer | 18 | May-June 2005 |
| Take material you find online—like songs, text or images—and remix it into your own artistic creation | 18 | January 2005 |
| Look for info on something sensitive or embarrassing | 18 | June-July 2002 |
| Sell something online | 17 | September 2005 |
| Visit an adult website | 13 | May-June 2005 |

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| Take a class online just for personal enjoyment or enrichment* | 13 | January 2005 |
| Buy or sell stocks, bonds, or mutual funds | 13 | November 2004 |
| Send or receive an invitation to a meeting or party using an online invitation service | 12 | November 2004 |
| Buy groceries online | 12 | March-May 2003 |
| Take a class online for credit toward a degree of some kind* | 12 | January 2005 |
| Use online social or professional networking sites like Friendster or LinkedIn | 11 | September 2005 |
| Pay to access or download digital content online, such as music, video, or newspaper articles | 11 | May-June 2004 |
| Create a web log or "blog" | 9 | September 2005 |
| Go to a dating website or other sites where you can meet other people online | 9 | May-June 2004 |
| Look for info about domestic violence | 8 | December 2002 |
| Make a phone call online | 7 | June 2003 |
| Check e-mail on a hand-held computer | 5 | August-October 2001 |
| Download or share adult content online | 4 | May-June 2005 |
| Play lottery or gamble online | 4 | March-May 2003 |

Source: *Pew Internet & American Life Project Tracking surveys (March 2000 – September 2005)*. Please note that the wording for some items has been abbreviated. For full question wording, please refer to the questionnaire.

**Prior to January 2005, item wording was slightly different for the items marked with an asterisk. Please see questionnaires for question wording changes.*

Last updated: December 5, 2005