


connect

*A Nation Online:*  
**Entering the  
Broadband Age**

September 2004

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration**



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## FOREWORD



**Kathleen B. Cooper**

Under Secretary for Economic Affairs  
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**Michael D. Gallagher**

Assistant Secretary and Administrator  
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**A** *Nation Online: Entering the Broadband Age* is the sixth report released by the U.S. Department of Commerce examining the use of computers, the Internet, and other information technology tools by the American people. Based on the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey of 57,000 households containing 134,000 persons, this report provides broad-based and statistically reliable information on the ways that information technologies in general, and broadband more specifically, are transforming the way we live, work, and learn.

This year, we have chosen to focus on broadband technologies because now, more than ever before, high-speed connections promise to enhance our Nation's productivity and economic competitiveness, improve education, and expand health care for all Americans. High-speed networks provide the power to erase geographic, economic, and cultural gaps. With high-speed connections, American workers can find jobs; small businesses can have global markets; rural doctors can consult with specialists; and students can take classes that are taught from across the country.

Because of the significant promise of this technology, President Bush has set out a bold vision for broadband in America, establishing a national goal for "universal, affordable access for broadband technology by the year 2007."<sup>1</sup> Detailing the many benefits of the technology, the President noted that "[t]he spread of broadband will not only help industry, it [will] help the quality of life of our citizens."<sup>2</sup> We hope that this report and its successors will contribute to the ongoing discussion surrounding this important goal by highlighting the growing use of high-speed access across the Nation.

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<sup>1</sup> See Remarks by President Bush on Homeownership, Expo New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 26, 2004, available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/03/20040326-9.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Remarks of President Bush on Innovation, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C., June 24, 2004, available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/06/20040624-7.html>.

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