

China's online population passes 400 million: state media

May 1 2010



An Internet cafe in Beijing. The number of Internet users in China, already the largest in the world, has surpassed 400 million and accounts for almost a third of the country's population, state media reported.

The number of Internet users in China, already the largest in the world, has surpassed 400 million and accounts for almost a third of the country's population, state media reported Saturday.

The online population in the world's most populous nation has reached 404 million, the official Xinhua news agency said, citing the State Council Information Office.

That compares with 384 million users at the end of 2009.

Users accessing the Internet with mobile phones was steady at 233 million while the number of people with broadband access reached 346

million, the report said.

China's spiralling online population has turned the Internet into a forum for citizens to express their opinions in a way rarely seen in a country where the traditional media is under strict government control.

The growing strength and influence of the web population has prompted concern in [Beijing](#) about the Internet's potential as a tool for generating social unrest, and authorities have stepped up surveillance in recent years.

The government blocks [web content](#) that it deems politically sensitive in a vast system dubbed the "Great [Firewall](#) of [China](#)".

(c) 2010 AFP

Citation: China's online population passes 400 million: state media (2010, May 1) retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2010-05-china-online-population-million-state.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--