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By the early 1970s, the computer was becoming an important tool in business.

The growing availability of relatively cheap ICs on the market from the early 1970s onward meant that it was possible to build cheap microcomputers.

By the end of the 1980s, national and international links between mainframe computers for banking, airline booking and phone connections were becoming common.

While mainframes had supported the public switched telephone network (PSTN) since the 1970s, it was only in the late 1990s that mobile computing began to become an everyday presence in peoples' lives.