

EUROPEAN BOOK PUBLISHING STATISTICS

11 June, 2010

Executive summary

The Federation of European Publishers (FEP) represents 26 national associations of publishers from the European Union and the European Economic Area Member States. The present survey is based on reports from the national book publishing associations, and on a further work of estimation and refining of data, for the year 2008.

Figures on the overall economic significance of the publishing industry refer to net publishers' turnover, i.e. the publishers' total revenues from the sales of books, not the total market for books (margin of booksellers or other retailers). They also do not account for revenues in terms of selling rights for translation, audiovisual adaptation, etc. In some cases, only data on market value was available; in such cases, average discount rates were applied to calculate an approximation of net turnover. Figures were rounded conservatively.

The total annual sales revenue of book publishers of the EU and the EEA in 2008 was approximately € 23.75 billion, according to the survey conducted by FEP; this represents a decrease from the last estimate of € 24.5 billion for 2007, but in very large part such decrease was only nominal, due to changes in exchange rates. The largest markets in terms of publishers' turnover in 2008 were Germany, followed by the UK, France, Spain and Italy.

A total of about 510,000 new titles were issued by publishers in 2008. The figure was taken from different sources, some of which included new editions or non commercial titles, and was rounded quite conservatively accordingly. There was an increase of an estimated 4% in the title output from the previous survey. European publishers held a total of over 6 million different titles in stock, the countries reporting the largest availability being the UK (over 2 million), Germany (around 1.2 million), Italy (over 600,000), France (over half a million) and Spain (almost 400,000).

The countries reporting the largest new titles output¹ were the UK (120,947), Germany (83,381), Spain (42,592), France (38,354) and Italy (36,409).

According to the report, a total of approximately 135,000 people were employed full time in book publishing in 2008, an amount slightly lower than one year earlier.

Beyond the individual figures, it can be noted that up to 2007 there was a clear increasing trend both in terms of turnover and of titles output, while in 2008 the title production kept growing while for turnover, adjusting for exchange rates effects, it was basically a flat year; the crisis therefore has had a lighter impact on publishing than on most other sectors. This analysis relies on the examination of more detailed data from a number of members that represent well over 80% of the total turnover and title production.

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¹ UK, France and Spain include new editions.

FEP/FEE

European Book Publishing Statistics 2008

	2008	2007	2006
1. Publishers' revenue from sales of books	23,750,000,000	24,500,000,000	23,200,000,000
1.1 Educational (school) books	15.9%	18.9%	14.8%
1.2 Academic/Professional books	21.5%	22.5%	29.4%
1.3 Consumer (trade) books	50.6%	48.9%	47.5%
1.4 Children's books	12%	9.7%	8.3%
2. Sales by area			
2.1 Sales in the domestic market	83%	82.7%	77.8%
3. Sales by distribution channels			
3.1 Trade (retail and wholesale)	77.5%	78.3%	77.7%
3.2 Book Clubs	5.9%	6.9%	7.6%
3.3 Direct	16.6%	14.8%	14.7%
4. Number of titles published in period			
4.1 New titles	510,000	490,000	475,000
4.2 New editions/Reprints	200,000	200,000	200,000
4.3 Number of titles in print (active catalogue)	6,100,000	5,600,000	5,250,000
5. Number of persons in full-time employment in book publishing	135,000	140,000	140,000

** Estimates, all figures rounded*

AUSTRIA - HAUPTVERBAND DES ÖSTERREICHISCHEN BUCHHANDELS
BELGIUM - VLAAMSE UITGEVERS VERENIGING - ASSOCIATION DES EDITIONS BELGES
BULGARIA - АСОЦИАЦИЯ БЪЛГАРСКА КНИГА
CZECH REPUBLIC - SVAZ ČESKÝCH KNIHKUPCŮ A NAKLADATELŮ
CYPRUS - PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION OF CYPRUS
DENMARK - DEN DANSKE FORLÆGGERFORENING
ESTONIA - EESTI KIRJASTUSTE LIIT
FINLAND - SUOMEN KUSTANNUSYHDISTYS
FRANCE - SYNDICAT NATIONAL DE L'EDITION
GERMANY - BÖRSENVEREIN DES DEUTSCHEN BUCHHANDELS
GREECE - HELLENIC FEDERATION PUBLISHERS AND BOOKSELLERS
HUNGARY - A MAGYAR KÖNYVKIADOK ES KÖNYVTERJESZTOK EGYESÜLESE
ICELAND - FELAG ÍSLENSKRA BOKAUTGEFENDA
IRELAND - THE IRISH BOOK PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION
ITALY - ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA EDITORI
LITHUANIA - LIETUVOS LEIDĖJŲ ASOCIACIJA
LUXEMBOURG - FEDERATION LUXEMBOURGEOISE DES EDITIONS DE LIVRES
THE NETHERLANDS - NEDERLANDS UITGEVERSVERBOND
NORWAY - DEN NORSKE FORLEGGERFORENING
POLAND - POLSKA IZBA KSIĄŻKI
PORTUGAL - ASSOCIAÇÃO PORTUGUESA DE EDITORES E LIVREIROS
SLOVENIA - SLOVENIAN PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
SPAIN - FEDERACION DE GREMIOS DE EDITORES DE ESPAÑA
SWEDEN - SVENSKA FÖRLÄGGARE FÖRENINGEN
UNITED KINGDOM - THE PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION