

EUROPEAN BOOK PUBLISHING STATISTICS

20 December 2017

The Federation of European Publishers (FEP) represents 29 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 further analysis and refining of data, for the year **2016**.

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 2016 was approximately **€ 22.3 billion**, according to the survey conducted by FEP. This is substantially the same level as in 2015, but it is the result mostly of particularly strong **exchange rate effects** (the weakening of the British Pound); in fact, the largest markets all recorded some degree of growth, though some medium ones contracted. The largest markets in terms of publishers' turnover in 2016 were Germany, the UK, France, Spain and Italy. **Total market value is estimated at 36-38 billion €.**

A total of about **590,000 new titles** were issued by publishers in 2016. The figure was taken from different sources, some of which included new editions or non-commercial titles, and was accordingly rounded conservatively. There was therefore another significant increase in the title output from the previous survey. European publishers held a total of about **22.5 million different titles in stock** (of which more than 4 million in digital format), the countries reporting the largest availability being the UK, Germany, Italy, France and Spain; this figure, ever-increasing, has been spiked by the surge in digital publishing (in different formats), the digitisation of back catalogues, the growth of print-on-demand services and the surge in self-published titles (mainly in the UK), as well as other phenomena that make it necessary to interpret the figure with caution. The countries reporting the largest new titles output were the UK, Germany, France, Spain and Italy.

A total of approximately **125,000 people were employed full time** in book publishing in 2016, basically the same level as one year earlier; some countries reported increases after years of stagnation. This remains an area where it is difficult to gather reliable data. The entire book value chain (including authors, booksellers, printers, designers, etc.) is estimated to **employ more than half a million people**.

Looking at longer term trends, up to 2007 there was a clear growth trend both in terms of turnover and of title output. In 2008 title production kept growing whilst turnover, adjusting for exchange rates effects, experienced a flat year. 2009 showed a slight decrease in turnover (accounting for exchange rates) and a slowdown of title growth. The crisis had less of an impact on publishing when compared to most other sectors. In 2010, growth resumed (especially exports), although favoured by exchange rates. In 2011 and 2012, the market went down, and title production growth was sluggish; the e-book market grew rapidly and exports were strong. In 2013 and 2014 the market slowed down again, with the most notable trends being the continuous growth of the e-book market and the good performance of **exports**, which became **even stronger** in 2015 and 2016, while the **e-book market** (now around **6%** of the total) **showed signs of stagnation for the last 2 years**. Discounting the exchange rate effects, 2016 could be considered the **second consecutive year of growth**, something that had not happened since the start of the economic crisis in 2008; title output keeps increasing.

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European Book Publishing Statistics 2016

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Publishers' revenue from sales of books (bln)	22.3	22.3	22	22.3	22.5
Educational (school) books	21%	19.9%	19.2%	18.8%	19.8%
Academic/Professional books	18.7%	19.5%	19.5%	19.5%	19.7%
Consumer (trade) books	47.2%	48.4%	49.2%	49.5%	48.7%
Children's books	13%	12.2%	12.2%	12.3%	11.8%
Sales by area					
Sales in the domestic market	77.9%	77.1%	80%	81%	79.6%
Exports	22.1%	22.9%	20%	19%	20.4%
Sales by distribution channels					
Trade (retail and wholesale)	82.8%	83.2%	79.5%	79.3%	80.2%
Book Clubs	1.7%	2.2%	3.3%	3.5%	4.7%
Direct	15.5%	14.6%	17.2%	17.2%	15.1%
Number of titles published in period					
New titles	590,000	575,000	545,000	560,000	535,000
Number of titles in print (active catalogue)	22,500,000	22,000,000	16,900,000	14,500,000	9,000,000
Number of persons in full-time employment in book publishing	125,000	125,000	125,000	130,000	130,000

* Estimates, all figures rounded

AUSTRIA - HAUPTVERBAND DES ÖSTERREICHISCHEN BUCHHANDELS
BELGIUM - VLAAMSE UITGEVERS VERENIGING - ASSOCIATION DES EDITEURS BELGES
BULGARIA - АСОЦИАЦИЯ БЪЛГАРСКА КНИГА
CZECH REPUBLIC - SVAZ ČESKÝCH KNÍHKUPCŮ A NAKLADATELŮ
DENMARK – DANSKE FORLAG
ESTONIA - EESTI KIRJASTUSTE LIIT
FINLAND - SUOMEN KUSTANNUSYHDISTYS
FRANCE - SYNDICAT NATIONAL DE L'EDITION
GERMANY - BÖRSENVEREIN DES DEUTSCHEN BUCHHANDELS
GREECE - FEDERATION OF GREEK BOOK PUBLISHERS
HUNGARY - A MAGYAR KÖNYVKIADOK ES KÖNYVTERJESZTOK EGYESÜLESE
ICELAND - FELAG ÍSLENSKRA BOKAUTGEFENDA
IRELAND – PUBLISHING IRELAND
ITALY - ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA EDITORI
LATVIA - LATVIJAS GRĀMATIZDEVĒJU ASOCIĀCIJA
LITHUANIA - LIETUVOS LEIDĖJŲ ASOCIACIJA
LUXEMBOURG - FEDERATION LUXEMBOURGEOISE DES EDITEURS DE LIVRES
THE NETHERLANDS - NEDERLANDS UITGEVERSVERBOND
NORWAY - DEN NORSKE FORLEGGERFORENING
POLAND - POLSKA IZBA KSIĄŻKI
PORTUGAL - ASSOCIAÇÃO PORTUGUESA DE EDITORES E LIVREIROS
ROMANIA - FEDERAȚIA EDITORILOR DIN ROMÂNIA
SERBIA - СРПСКО УДРУЖЕЊЕ ИЗДАВАЧА И КЊИЖАРА
SLOVAKIA - ZDRUŽENIE VYDAVATEĽOV A KNÍHKUPCOV SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY
SLOVENIA - SLOVENIAN PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
SPAIN - FEDERACION DE GREMIOS DE EDITORES DE ESPAÑA
SWEDEN - SVENSKA FÖRLÄGGARE FÖRENINGEN
UNITED KINGDOM - THE PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION