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Book Publishing Activity Statistics. Year 2008

255.5 million books are published in 2008, 12.6% more than the previous year

The number of titles published increases 18.4% as compared with 2007, whereas the average print run decreases 4.9%

Publishing production increased in 2008 both in number of printed copies and in number of titles published, albeit with smaller print runs.

The total number of titles published was 255.5 million in 2008, with an increase of 12.6% as compared with the previous year. By subject category, *Literature, history and literary criticism* accounted for 43.0% of the total copies published.

On the other hand, **the number of titles published** increased 18.4%, **reaching** 86,330 books and leaflets, **representing the highest figure in the last 10 years**. This figure encompassed first editions (80,229 titles, 17.2% more than in 2007) and further editions (6,101 titles and an increase of 36.3%).

For the purposes of these statistics, re-prints were not included as titles, although they stood at 18,496 titles, and would have accounted for 17.6% of the total published in Spain.

Evolution of the number of titles and copies published

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Titles (thousands)	59.2	62.0	62.5	66.8	72.1	60.5	63.6	66.3	72.9	86.3
Copies (millions)	239.5	233.2	218.6	228.6	238.8	213.6	281.0	255.7	226.9	255.5
Average print run (thousands)	4.05	3.76	3.50	3.42	3.31	3.53	4.42	3.86	3.11	2.96

Differentiating between books and leaflets, the number of books published increased 19.8%, reaching 75,933 titles. On the other hand, the number of leaflets increased 9.2%, standing at 10,397 titles.

By **subject category**, according to the UNESCO classification, 27.9% of titles published belonged to *Literature, history and literary criticism*, which saw a 24.4% increase as compared with the previous year.

Following at a distance were those titles dedicated to *Law, public administration, social work and care, insurance* (6.6% of the total titles), *History, biography* (6.3%), *Plastic and graphic arts, photography* (5.6%) and *Medical, health sciences* (5.2%).

Publishing of text books decreased 6.1%. Of the total titles published in 2008, 18.2% were dedicated to *Natural sciences*, 16.7% to *Philology, languages, linguistics* and 14.3% to *Mathematics*.

The number of children's titles registered a 15.5% increase as compared with 2007. 78.2% of these titles were concentrated in *Literature*.

Most publishing was carried out by private companies. Public publishing companies were responsible for 13.5% of the titles published in 2008, with an 18.9% increase as compared with the previous year.

The average print run decreases, and titles with over 500 pages increase

The average print run experienced a 4.9% drop as compared with 2007, standing at 2,960 copies per title, **the lowest figure in the last 10 years**.

By subject category, the largest average print runs were in *Geography* (5,941 copies per title), *Domestic science* (5,226) and *Literature, history and literary criticism* (4,557).

Considering the number of pages, as in previous years, **the most common size was between 101 and 200 pages** (28.7% of titles). It is worth noting that in 2008, there was a greater incidence of larger volumes, with a 31.7% increase in titles with over 500 pages.

However, in children's books, 60.5% of the titles were published in leaflet format (under 48 pages). In textbooks, 36.2% had 201 to 300 pages.

Number of titles and copies. 2008

	Total titles	Total copies (millions)	Interannual variation of copies (%)
TOTAL	86.330	255.5	13.0
General Interest	3.216	5.1	-11.4
Philosophy, psychology	4.019	12.1	12.6
Religion, theology	2.999	9.1	18.3
Social sciences (Sociology, political science, economics...)	16.359	24.6	7.9
Pure sciences (Mathematics, Natural Sciences)	4.675	13.2	9.9
Applied sciences (medicine, engineering, technology,...)	11.283	25.0	12.8
Arts	9.468	20.0	-6.0
Philology	2.751	10.1	-12.2
Literature	24.098	109.8	12.5
Geography and history	7.462	26.6	73.2

Cataluña and Comunidad de Madrid led publishing activity in 2008

The Autonomous Communities with the most publishing activity during the year 2008 were Cataluña (with 27,451 titles published, representing a 47.8% increase as compared with the previous year) and Comunidad de Madrid (with 25,932 and a 1.6% increase). Following Andalucía (with 8,032 titles), Comunitat Valenciana (with 4,731) and Galicia (3,747).

The number of titles published increased in practically all Communities. Cantabria (-20.1%) and Canarias (-8.4%) were of note among those registering decreases.

In terms of number of copies, 79.6% of publishing activity was concentrated in Cataluña (116.2 million) and Comunidad de Madrid (87.1 million).

77.0% of the titles and 80.1% of the copies are published in Castilian

By language of publication, Castilian represented 77.0% of the total titles and 80.1% of the copies published.

11.5% of the titles were published in Catalan, Valencian and Balearic, 2.4% in Galician and 1.4% in Basque.

Number of titles and number of copies, by language of publication 2008.

	Total	Castilian	Catalan, Valencian and Balearic	Galician	Basque	Other languages
Titles	86.330	66.458	9.926	2.070	1.186	6.690
Percentage	100.0	77.0	11.5	2.4	1.4	7.7
Copies (millions)	255.5	204.8	23.4	3.6	2.3	21.4
Percentage	100.0	80.1	9.2	1.4	0.9	8.4

English represented 46.1% of the titles published in one single foreign language, with an increase of 8.4% as compared with 2007. Following were Portuguese, with 23.8% and a 61.8% increase. These two languages accounted for 1.7% and 0.8% of the total published, respectively.

Translated titles reached 14.6% of publishing activity. Once again, those translated into English were of note, accounting for 59.6% of the total translated titles.

The number of titles published abroad and printed in Spain was 308, representing a 42.8% decrease as compared with 2007. By language of publication, titles in Castilian increased 4.1%, whereas those published in other languages decreased 60.0%.

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Methodological note

The Book Publishing Production Statistics are carried out annually in accordance with the standards set out in the Revised recommendation on the international standardisation of statistics relating to the production and distribution of books, newspapers and other periodical publications, approved by the UNESCO General Conference in November 1985.

The objective of these Statistics is to obtain information on the number and characteristics of books and leaflets, that is, on the non-periodical print publications published in the country, as well as the print materials available to the public in Spain originating from foreign publishers.

The analysis unit is books and leaflets. Books are differentiated from leaflets by the number of pages, which cannot be fewer than 49 in the case of books, and not fewer than 5 or more than 48 in the case of leaflets. The reference period is the calendar year.

The primary data used for the preparation of these statistics is taken directly from the books registered in the Copyright Section of the Acquisitions Department of the National Library, as well as from the accompanying documentation: Copyright number application form, and for books subject to ISBN (International Standard Book Number) registration, the corresponding application card.