

# TURKISH PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION REPORT 2022 TURKISH BOOK MARKET

Published in 2023

The Turkish Publishers Association compiles the data of our country's publishing sector every year, prepares an annual market report on the sector, and shares it with the public.

The challenging conditions that have arisen along with the pandemic since 2020 continued in 2022, continuing to affect our country's publishing sector and other industries. Negative or uncertain effects such as the contraction of sales channels in the publishing sector, reevaluation of annual publishing plans, suspension or postponement of the publication of some new titles, reconsideration of reprints based on developments in financial resources, the reexamination of annual budgets in terms of costs and human resources, and occasional constraints or considerations of budget expectations, along with the increase in interest in digital media, have persisted. Additionally, the increase in digital piracy remains a concern.

Moreover, with the global paper crisis and the foreign exchange crisis in our country, our sector has entered a serious bottleneck.

The increase in global cellulose prices and freight costs for imported paper once again reminded us of our dependence on imports. Price increases in imported pulp and book cover paper reaching around 200% and around 30-35% in the case of book paper, and over 100% for coated papers in terms of foreign exchange, along with the sharp depreciation of the currency, have caused a price increase of nearly 300% in our sector's paper prices.

In addition to the more than 100% increase in raw material and paper prices in foreign exchange terms, the sector has also experienced price increases of over 300% and other cost increases due to the exchange rate in the paper sector, which is dependent on imports. According to a survey we conducted in September, our costs increased by 84% in foreign exchange terms, while there was a 15% decrease in the recommended retail selling prices set by our publishers.

In addition, the decision of the Ministry of National Education to distribute supplementary books for the first time to 17.5 million students for the 2021-2022 academic year has been seen as a worrying development negatively affecting the sector.

According to the "Address-Based Population Registration System Results 2022" announced by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK), as of December 31, 2022, the population of Turkey increased by 599,280 people compared to the previous year, reaching 85,279,553 people.

According to the data provided by the Ministry of Culture, when evaluating book production figures per capita, the number of books per person increased by 5% compared to 2021, reaching 7.97.

In this report, the retail and wholesale sectoral size reports subjects of the tables provided on a segment basis have been calculated as a result of consultations with the actors in the sector by the Turkish Publishers Association. The numbers of *bandrol* and ISBNs have been generated using data from YAYFED (Federation of Publisher Societies) and the ISBN Türkiye Agency affiliated with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Türkiye.

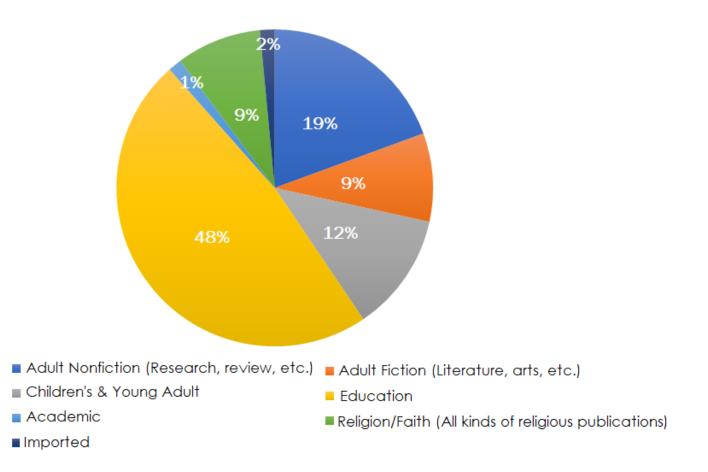
## **BOOK PRODUCTION IN TÜRKİYE REVERTS TO LEVELS OF 7 YEARS AGO**

The independent publishing sector completed the year 2021 with a total book production of 438,679,864 units. However, in 2022, it concluded the year with 380,296,402 units. In 2022, there was a decrease of 58.3 million units compared to the previous year, representing a proportional decrease of 13.3%. With this decline, which our sector has experienced for the first time in the last ten years, book production has regressed to the level of the year 2015. The results indicate that the industry has gone back 7 years.

|  | 2022        |         | CHANGE % | 2021        |         |
|--|-------------|---------|----------|-------------|---------|
|  | Quantity    | Ratio   |          | Quantity    | Ratio   |
| Adult<br>(Research, etc.)                            | 73.844.863  | 19,42%  | -18,29%  | 90.379.535  | 20,60%  |
| Adult Fiction<br>(Literature, arts, etc.)            | 34.299.328  | 9,02%   | 9,99%    | 31.183.411  | 7,10%   |
| Children's & Young Adult                             | 46.048.282  | 12,11%  | 4,72%    | 43.973.357  | 10,00%  |
| Education  | 182.148.008 | 47,90%  | -22,23%  | 234.204.906 | 53,40%  |
| Academic   | 5.236.945   | 1,38%   | -15,81%  | 6.220.481   | 1,40%   |
| Religion/Faith (All kinds of religious publications) | 33.009.072  | 8,68%   | 18,27%   | 27.909.066  | 6,40%   |
| Imported   | 5.709.704   | 1,50%   | 18,73%   | 4.809.108   | 1,10%   |
| TOTAL  | 380.296.402 | 100,00% | -13,31%  | 438.679.864 | 100,00% |

In 2022, the composition of published books was as follows:

- 19.4% of the books were adult research and reference books.
- Approximately 9% were adult literature and art books.
- 12.1% were children's and young adult books.
- Approximately 8.7% were religious books.
- Approximately 1.4% were academic publications.
- 1.5% consisted of imported publications.
- 47.9% were books in the field of education.



In the research and reference category, there were 73,844,863 books produced. For literature and art books, there were 34,299,328 books produced. Children's and young adult books saw 46,048,282 units produced. The total production for trade publishing amounted to 154,192,473 units. The overall share of trade publishing in the entire sector was 40.55%.



The share of academic publishing, which is one of the cornerstones of scientific education and production, has declined in recent years, from around 5% to the 1% range, due to the significant damage caused by illegal photocopying and unauthorized digital PDF sharing. In the academic world, where there are a total of 8,240,997 students in two-year, four-year, master's, and doctoral programs, academic publishing has been squeezed into a very low range of around 1% to 2.5% in both production and book sales, due to illegal photocopying and unauthorized pirate PDF sharing. With only 6,220,481 units produced, academic publishing currently stands at **0.63 books per student**, meaning that not even one book is available per student. According to YAYFED data, the share of academic publishing in the entire sector was 1.38% in 2022.

## THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION (MEB) IS THE LARGEST PUBLISHER IN THE COUNTRY

In 2022, educational publishing saw a decline of 22.23% in book production compared to the previous year, and for the first time, books produced in the education sector fell below 50% of the industry. The announcement by the Ministry of National Education (MEB) that 110 million supplementary books would be distributed for free significantly reduced the production numbers for books in the education category. When free textbooks are included, MEB holds the position of being the country's largest publisher with a total of 262,100,000 units.

In the 2021-2022 academic year, when MEB distributed free supplementary materials for the first time, accounted for 14.56% of the 2022 retail education publishing market, as shown below. The proportion of textbooks that MEB continues to distribute for free is 15.30%. MEB's total share in this market, which is 29.86%, can be seen as a loss for the private sector.

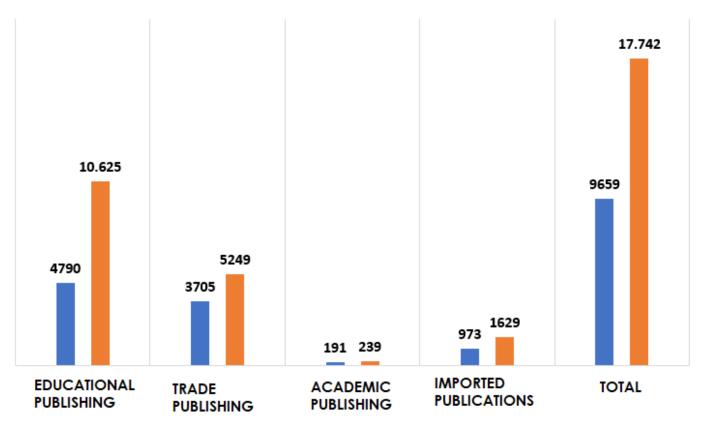
| 20  | 22 End of                           | Year Turkis                    | h Book Retail                    | Market TR                      | Y                              |                                  |                                |                                |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Segments  | Current<br>(million<br>TRY)<br>2020 | Market<br>Share<br>(%)<br>2020 | Current<br>(million<br>TRY) 2021 | Market<br>Share<br>(%)<br>2021 | 2020-<br>2021<br>Change<br>(%) | Current<br>(million<br>TRY) 2022 | Market<br>Share<br>(%)<br>2022 | 2021-<br>2022<br>Change<br>(%) |
| Educational Publishing  | 3.472                               | 44,20%                         | 4790                             | 49,59%                         | 37,96%                         | 10.625                           | 59,89%                         | 121,82%                        |
| a. Textbooks distributed free of charge by MEB  | 604                                 | 7,69%                          | 1011                             | 10,47%                         | 67,38%                         | 2714                             | 15,30%                         | 168,45%                        |
| <ul> <li>b. Supplementary materials and exam</li> <li>preparation books distributed free of charge</li> <li>by MEB</li> </ul> |                                     |                                |                                  |                                |                                | 2583                             | 14,56%                         |                                |
| <ul> <li>b. Supplementary materials and exam<br/>preparation books</li> </ul>   | 2.787                               | 35,48%                         | 3683                             | 38,13%                         | <b>32,15%</b>                  | 5207                             | 29,35%                         | <b>41,38%</b>                  |
| c. Digital platforms educational and<br>supplementary books   | 81                                  | 1,03%                          | 96                               | 0,99%                          | 18,52%                         | 121                              | 0,68%                          | 26,04%                         |
|   |                                     |                                |                                  |                                |                                |                                  |                                |                                |
| Trade Publishing  | 3.148                               | 40,08%                         | 3705                             | 38,36%                         | 17,69%                         | 5249                             | 29,59%                         | 41,67%                         |
| a. Adult fiction (literature)   | 491                                 | 6,25%                          | 574                              | 5,94%                          | <b>16,90%</b>                  | 819                              | 4,62%                          | <b>42,68%</b>                  |
| b. Adult nonfiction (Research, etc.)  | 1.820                               | 23,17%                         | 2202                             | 22,80%                         | <b>20,99%</b>                  | 3144                             | 17,72%                         | <b>42,78%</b>                  |
| c. Children's & Young Adult   | 366                                 | 4,66%                          | 407                              | 4,21%                          | 11,20%                         | 581                              | 3,27%                          | <b>42,75%</b>                  |
| d. Fiction, Nonfiction and Children's<br>Audiobooks   | 77                                  | 0,98%                          | 89                               | 0,92%                          | 15,58%                         | 127                              | 0,72%                          | 42,70%                         |
| e. Religion   | 394                                 | 5,02%                          | 433                              | 4,48%                          | 9,90%                          | 578                              | 3,26%                          | 33,49%                         |
|   |                                     |                                |                                  |                                |                                |                                  |                                |                                |
| Academic Publishing   | 173                                 | 2,20%                          | 191                              | 1,98%                          | 10,40%                         | 239                              | 1,35%                          | 25,13%                         |
| a. Printed academic textbooks and reference books   | 169                                 | 2,15%                          | 186                              | 1,93%                          | 10,06%                         | 232                              | 1,31%                          | 24,73%                         |
| b. Books and subscriptions on digital databases   | 4                                   | 0,05%                          | 5                                | 0,05%                          | 25,00%                         | 7                                | 0,04%                          | 40,00%                         |
|   |                                     |                                |                                  |                                |                                |                                  |                                |                                |
| Imported Publications   | 1.062                               | 13,52%                         | 973                              | 10,07%                         | -8,38%                         | 1629                             | 9,18%                          | 67,42%                         |
| a. Imported language learning books   | 493                                 | 6,28%                          | 418                              | 4,33%                          | -15,21%                        | 707                              | 3,98%                          | 69,14%                         |
| <ul> <li>b. Imported language learning digital<br/>platform sales</li> </ul>  | 90                                  | 1,15%                          | 114                              | 1,18%                          | 26,67%                         | 212                              | 1,24%                          | 85,96%                         |
| c. Online language competence exam sales  |                                     |                                |                                  |                                |                                | 83                               | 0,47%                          |                                |
| d. Imported academic and reference books  | 23                                  | 0,29%                          | 18                               | 0,19%                          | -21,74%                        | 12                               | 0,07%                          |                                |
| e. Imported digital academic and reference books  |                                     |                                |                                  |                                |                                | 18                               | 0,10%                          |                                |
| e. Imported digital books and digital<br>database subscriptions   | 447                                 | 5,69%                          | 415                              | 4,30%                          | -7,16%                         | 579                              | 3,26%                          | 39,52%                         |
| f. Imported arts & culture print books  | 9                                   | 0,11%                          | 8                                | 0,08%                          | -11,11%                        | 9                                | 0,05%                          | 12,50%                         |
| TOTAL   | 7.855                               | 100,00%                        | 9659                             |                                | 22,97%                         | 17.742                           | 100%                           | 83,68%                         |
| TOTAL DIGITAL BOOK MARKET OF ALL<br>SEGMENTS  | 699                                 | 8,90%                          |                                  |                                |                                |                                  |                                |                                |

### SIZE OF THE 2022 RETAIL BOOK MARKET

In 2022, the size of the retail book market in Türkiye reached 17,742 million Turkish Lira (TRY). In 2022, there was an increase of 83.68% in current prices compared to 2021, without adjusting for inflation.

## 2021-2022 BOOK RETAIL MARKET (TRY)

- 2022 End of Year Turkish Book Retail Market TRY Current (million TRY) 2021
- 2022 End of Year Turkish Book Retail Market TRY Current (million TRY) 2022



When evaluated in foreign currency terms, there was a decline of 17.57% in the sector compared to the year 2021.



| 2022 End of Year Turkish Book Retail Market USD   |                                 |                                 |                             |                                |  |  |  |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Segments  | Current<br>(million \$)<br>2021 | Current<br>(million \$)<br>2022 | Market<br>Share (%)<br>2022 | 2021-<br>2022<br>Change<br>(%) |  |  |  |
| Educational Publishing  | 576,69                          | 574,32                          | 60%                         | - <b>0,4</b> 1%                |  |  |  |
| a. Textbooks distributed free of charge by MEB  | 121,72                          | 146,70                          | 15%                         | 20,53%                         |  |  |  |
| b. Supplementary materials and exam preparation books distributed free of charge by MEB |                                 | 139,62                          | 14%                         |                                |  |  |  |
| c. Supplementary materials and exam preparation books                                   | 443,41                          | 281,46                          | 29%                         | -36,52%                        |  |  |  |
| d. Digital platforms educational and supplementary books                                | 11,56                           | 6,54                            | 1%                          | -43,41%                        |  |  |  |
|   |                                 |                                 |                             |                                |  |  |  |
| Trade Publishing  | 446,06                          | 283,73                          | 29%                         | -36,39%                        |  |  |  |
| a. Adult fiction (literature)   | 69,11                           | 44,27                           | 4%                          | -35,94%                        |  |  |  |
| b. Adult nonfiction (research, etc.)  | 265,11                          | 169,95                          | 17%                         | -35,90%                        |  |  |  |
| c. Children's & Young Adult   | 49,00                           | 31,41                           | 3%                          | -35,91%                        |  |  |  |
| d. Fiction, nonfiction, children's audiobooks   | 10,72                           | 6,86                            | 1%                          | -35,93%                        |  |  |  |
| e. Religion   | 52,13                           | 31,24                           | 3%                          | -40,07%                        |  |  |  |
| Academic Publishing   | 23,00                           | 12,92                           | 1%                          | -43,82%                        |  |  |  |
| a. Print academic textbooks and reference books   | 22,39                           | 12,54                           | 1%                          | -44,00%                        |  |  |  |
| b. Books and subscriptions made on digital databases                                    | 0,60                            | 0,38                            | 0%                          | -37,14%                        |  |  |  |
|   |                                 |                                 |                             |                                |  |  |  |
| Imported Publications   | 117,14                          | 87,57                           | 9%                          | -25,25%                        |  |  |  |
| a. Imported language learning books   | 50,33                           | 38,22                           | 4%                          | - <b>24,0</b> 6%               |  |  |  |
| b. Imported language learning digital platform sales                                    | 13,73                           | 11,46                           | 1%                          | -16,51%                        |  |  |  |
| c. Online language competence exam sales  |                                 | 4,49                            | 0,46%                       |                                |  |  |  |
| d. Imported academic and reference books  | 2,17                            | 0,65                            | 0,07%                       | -70,07%                        |  |  |  |
| e. Imported digital academic and reference books  |                                 | 0,97                            | 0,10%                       |                                |  |  |  |
| e. Imported digital books and digital database subscriptions                            | 49,96                           | 31,30                           | 3%                          | -37,36%                        |  |  |  |
| f. Imported arts & culture print books  | 0,96                            | 0,49                            | 0,05%                       | -49,49%                        |  |  |  |
|   |                                 | _                               |                             |                                |  |  |  |
| TOTAL   | 1162,89                         | 958,54                          |                             | -%17,57                        |  |  |  |

\*For the year 2022, 1 USD=18,50 TRY; for the year 2021, 1 USD=8,306 TRY.

## **INCREASE IN ONLINE SALES**

According to the online sales figures for the year 2022, 23% of total sales occurred online. This percentage was 21.7% in 2021. When we look at the breakdown by types, it can be seen that the highest percentage is in trade publishing. Nearly 49.95% of trade publications were sold online. It is understood that almost one out of every two trade books is sold online.

| Segments  | Revenue from Online<br>Sales (Million TRY)<br>2022 | Ratio of Online Sales<br>Among Own<br>Category (%) 2022* |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Educational Publishing  | 552,45   |  |  |
| Supplementary materials and exam preparation books              | 552,45   | 10,61%   |  |
|   |  |  |  |
| Trade Publishing  | 2622   | 49,95%   |  |
| a. Adult fiction (literature)                                   | 399,00   | 48,72%   |  |
| b. Adult nonfiction (research-review)                           | 1532,00  | 48,73%   |  |
| c. Children's & Young adult                                     | 283,00   | 48,71%   |  |
| d. Fiction, nonfiction and children's audiobooks                | 127  | 100,00%  |  |
| e. Religion/Faith   | 281  | 48,62%   |  |
|   |  |  |  |
| Academic Publishing   | 85   | 35,56%   |  |
| a. Printed academic and reference books                         | 82   | 35,34%   |  |
| b. Books and subscriptions on digital databases                 | 7  | 100,00%  |  |
|   |  |  |  |
| Imported Publications   | 874  | 53,65%   |  |
| a. Imported language learning books                             | 0  | 0,00%  |  |
| b. Imported language learning digital platform sales            | 212  | 100,00%  |  |
| c. Online linguistic competence exam sales                      | 83   | 100,00%  |  |
| d. Imported academic and reference books                        | 0  | 0,00%  |  |
| e. Imported digital books and digital database<br>subscriptions | 579  | 100,00%  |  |
| f. Imported trade and arts printed books                        | 0  | 0,00%  |  |
|   |  |  |  |
| TOTAL   | 4.133,45   | 23,30%   |  |

\*The percentage of online sales compared to retail sales in Turkish lira reflects the current publishing category. For example, in educational publishing, 10.61% of total sales of supplementary materials and exam preparation books were conducted online.

## WHOLESALE SALES MARKET (USD)

The data are obtained based on the wholesale net sales amounts made by publishers to distributors, bookstores, and dealers.



## **INCREASED INTEREST IN DIGITAL PLATFORMS**

In 2022, there was a 55.63% increase in audiobook sales and digital database subscriptions compared to 2021.

| 2022 End of Year Turkish Book F                                 | Retail Market (TRY) Sale   | s of Digital Publication   | ns Unline*                       |
|---|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Segments  | Sales amount of digital<br>databases,<br>subscriptions and<br>audiobooks<br>(million TRY) 2021 | Sales amount of digital<br>databases,<br>subscriptions and<br>audiobooks<br>(million TRY) 2022 | 2021-2022<br>Change Ratio<br>(%) |
| Educational Publishing  | 96   | 121  | 26,04%                           |
| c. Digital platforms educational and supplementary books        | 96   | 121  | 26,04%                           |
| Trade Publishing  | 89   | 127  | 42,70%                           |
| d. Fiction, Nonfiction and children's audiobooks                | 89   | 127  | 42,70%                           |
| Academic Publishing   | 5  | 7  | 40,00%                           |
| b. Books and subscriptions on digital databases                 | 5  | 7  | 40,00%                           |
| Imported Publications   | 547  | 892  | 63,07%                           |
| a. Imported Language Learning Books                             | 0  | 0  |                                  |
| b. Imported Language Learning Digital<br>Platform Sales         | 114  | 212  | 85,96%                           |
| c. Online Linguistic Competence Exam<br>Sales                   | 0  | 83   |                                  |
| d. Imported Academic and Reference<br>Books                     | 18   |  |                                  |
| e. Imported Digital Academic and<br>Reference Books             | 0  | 18   |                                  |
| f. Imported Digital Books and Digital<br>Database Subscriptions | 415  | 579  | 39,52%                           |
| TOTAL   | 737  | 1147   | 55,63%                           |

\*In 2022, the share of online digital publications in the overall retail market was 6.46%. In 2021, this figure was recorded at 7.63%.

### ISBN DATA FOR 2022

According to information obtained from the ISBN Agency affiliated with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, a total of 83,653 works received ISBN numbers in the year 2022. Among these, 69,211 were printed books, 559 were audiobooks (online/offline), and 13,623 were e-books (online/offline).

|   | Konu                        |                            |                            |           |          |                |        |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|----------|----------------|--------|
| Material Type                                 | Adult Fiction<br>Literature | Adult Trade/<br>Nonfiction | Children's<br>&Young Adult | Education | Academic | Religion/Faith | TOTAL  |
| Printed Books                                 | 14.833                      | 10.973                     | 10.509                     | 17.618    | 11.508   | 3.770          | 69.211 |
| Electronic Books<br>(Online/<br>Web based)    | 1.673                       | 1.768                      | 1.041                      | 2.518     | 5.481    | 765            | 13.246 |
| Electronic Books<br>(DVD, VCD,<br>CD, Memory) | 12                          | 45                         | 7                          | 37        | 274      | 2              | 377    |
| Audiobooks<br>(Online)                        | 116                         | 326                        | 86                         | 6         | 9        | 8              | 551    |
| Audiobooks<br>(Cassette, CD,<br>DVD, Memory)  | 1                           | 4                          | 0                          | 0         | 3        | 0              | 8      |
| TOTAL   | 16.635                      | 13.116                     | 11.643                     | 20.179    | 17.275   | 4.545          | 83.393 |

(Posters, educational kits, Braille, maps, holy books, posters, theses, etc., and various other materials have not been included.)

When we examine the last 10 years, the increase in ISBN acquisition, which persisted until 2021, started to decline.

