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# Book Trade Research and Statistics

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## Prices of U.S. and Foreign Published Materials

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The Library Materials Price Index (LMPI) Editorial Board of the American Library Association's Association for Library Collections and Technical Services' Publications Committee continues to monitor prices for a range of library materials from sources within North America and other key publishing centers around the world.

The U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 2.1 percent in 2017, which is identical to the 2016 increase. This makes for a two-year trend of having the largest CPI increase since 2011. CPI figures are obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics website at <http://www.bls.gov/>.

All indexes that utilize a base year price increase calculation have reset the base year to 2010. The reason for resetting the base year is twofold. First, in previous years, some of the indexes utilized different base years, which made contrasting comparable indexes difficult. Second, utilizing older base years made current price increases noncomparable due to yearly CPI increases. In other words, the purchasing power of a 1989 U.S. dollar and a 2017 U.S. dollar are not equal, so the base year has been modernized. Percent changes in average prices from previous years are conveniently noted in Chart 1, next page.

### U.S. Published Materials

Tables 1 through 7B indicate average prices and price indexes for library materials published primarily in the United States. These indexes are U.S. Periodicals (Table 1), Legal Serials Services (Table 2), U.S. Hardcover Books (Table 3), North American Academic Books (Table 4), North American Academic E-Books (Table 4A), North American Academic Textbooks (Table 4B), U.S. College Books (Table 5), U.S. Mass Market Paperback Books (Table 6), U.S. Paperbacks (Excluding Mass Market) (Table 7), U.S. Audiobooks (Table 7A), and U.S. E-Books (Table 7B).

### Periodical and Serials Prices

The U.S. Periodical Price Index (USPPI) (Table 1) was reestablished by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona, in 2014 and is updated for 2018 using data supplied by EBSCO Information Services. This report includes 2014–2018 data indexed to the base year of 2010. Table 1 is derived from a selected set of titles that, as much

Index	Percent Change				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
CPI	1.50	0.80	0.70	2.10	2.10
Periodicals	6.10	6.10	6.00	7.10	5.60
Legal serials services	10.50	11.30	13.90	9.00	13.60
*Hardcover books	-2.57	6.45	3.14	-1.57	5.78
+Academic books	n.a.	-2.20	1.30	-11.60	16.60
+Academic e-books	n.a.	-8.30	-4.30	-5.20	0.60
+Textbooks	n.a.	-7.20	10.50	-3.10	0.30
College books	4.21	-1.41	-0.59	3.39	-2.80
*Mass market paperbacks	-0.28	0.57	0.14	1.55	0.83
*Trade paperbacks	-12.31	5.04	1.09	20.81	-25.55
*Audiobooks	-4.76	0.18	-14.67	-20.56	29.25
*U.S. e-books	22.03	-9.12	-12.75	15.33	-0.31
++Serials	7.20	6.70	5.80	6.00	6.50
++Online Serials	6.00	7.20	6.40	6.20	5.60
British academic books	1.67	1.00	7.10	9.90	-0.50

n.a. = not available

\* = figures revised based on BISAC categories

+Beginning with 2009, new data source

++Data set changes each year.

as possible, will remain as the sample base for future comparisons. The data in Table 1 are from a print preferred data pull, but over half of the titles in the index are based on online pricing so that the data provides a strong mix of both print and online pricing, characteristic of a current academic library's serials collection. The subscription prices used are publishers' list prices, excluding publisher discount or vendor service charges. The pricing data for 2010–2014, the base years for the new USPPPI, published in 2014, was created from one single report that pulled pricing information for a static set of titles for the five-year period. The pricing data for 2014–2018 is based on that same sampling of titles but is not an exact match due to changes that occur with serial titles. Some titles fell off the list due to pricing not being available, while other titles on the list for which pricing had not been available in 2014 now have pricing available.

The new USPPPI treats a little more than 5,900 titles in comparison with the original title list, which covered only about 3,700 titles. The previous versions of the USPPPI treated Russian translations as a separate category. Russian translations are no longer a focus of this index and are not tracked as a category. These were once seen as a major cost factor, but this is no longer the case, and therefore their inclusion in or exclusion from the index no longer makes sense. There are Russian translation titles in the index, but they are not reported separately.

The main barrier to creating this index is the difficulty of maintaining the title list and obtaining standard retail pricing for titles on the list. Changes in serials titles due to ceased publication, movement to open access, mergers, combining titles in packages, moving to direct orders, and publication delays are a few of the situations that can affect compilers' ability to obtain current pricing information. The new index retained that part of the title list from the previous index that remained viable and added new titles to that list based on data from EBSCO on the

most frequently ordered serials in their system. From that list of serials, titles were selected for the new index to ensure that the distribution by subject was similar to the distribution in the original index. There are more titles in the selected title set than the number of titles that produced prices over the past six years. This should allow the current index to be sustainable into the future as titles fall off the list and pricing becomes available for titles that may have been delayed or are no longer in memberships.

The first five years of data, published in 2014, showed consistent price changes across subject areas due to the fact that the pricing data was a historical look at the prices of the same set of journals. The data for 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 is based on the same sample list but is not the exact same list of titles as the data for 2010–2014 due to the issues mentioned above that can impact pricing availability. Across subject areas, the changes in price were more volatile this year but the overall 5.6 percent increase mirrors increases seen in other pricing studies which nearly all show close to a 6 percent increase. Also, at the subject level, the sample sizes are smaller, thus a few changes can cause a large swing in the overall price for that area. A good example of this is military and naval science. Looking at the raw data, a large proportion of the overall costs in military and naval science are from only ten journals, and those titles all showed very high increases in prices for 2018. In this case, a small number of titles had a significant impact due to the overall small sample size.

Direct comparisons between Table 1 and Table 8 should be avoided, especially at the subject level. Both tables show the overall rate of increase in serial prices to be around 6 percent; however, beyond that point, there is little that makes a statistically valid comparison. Table 8 has slightly higher overall average prices in most areas, and this is due to the survey's largest sets of data coming from the Clarivate Analytics (formerly ISI) Citation Indexes and Scopus, which include higher impact—and consequently more expensive—journals. Table 1 is a broader mix of journals that attempts to reflect the journal collections in an average library, so the mix of journals contains more trade and popular titles than would be found in the Clarivate Analytics indexes or Scopus. Trade and popular journals tend to be cheaper, with lower average prices. Differences in datasets will yield different results.

The most important trend seen in this data (Table 1) is that increases in prices have remained constant since the economic recovery began in 2010. Price increases have hovered around 6 percent annually during that time. This year, titles in STM areas dominate the list of subjects with the largest price increases. The subject areas that displayed the largest increases were varied but primarily STM: astronomy, geography, health sciences, military and naval science, social sciences, technology, and zoology. Average prices for journals in the science and technology areas are still far higher than in other areas, and that trend continues, with the average cost of chemistry journals being \$4,794.33 and of physics journals being \$4,104.08.

In this price index, like similar price indexes, the data is less accurate at describing price changes the smaller the sample becomes. For that reason, drawing conclusions about price changes in subject areas with a limited number of titles is

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**Table 1 / U.S. Periodicals: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2014–2018**

Index Base: 2010 = 100

Subject	LC Class	Titles	2010 Average Price	2014 Average Price	2015 Average Price	2016 Average Price	2017 Average Price	2018 Average Price	Percent Change 2017– 2018	Price Index (Base = 2010)
Agriculture	S	246	\$579.48	\$726.67	\$780.01	\$978.61	\$956.80	\$973.16	1.7%	167.9
Anthropology	GN	50	373.64	453.36	428.52	426.99	525.98	482.18	-8.3	129.0
Arts and architecture	N	115	112.39	130.70	180.35	234.50	195.47	199.56	2.1	177.6
Astronomy	QB	28	1,793.08	2,186.19	2,083.50	2,602.51	2,393.22	2,618.36	9.4	146.0
Biology	QH	330	2,053.06	2,535.65	2,727.29	2,655.14	3,016.39	3,149.59	4.4	153.4
Botany	QK	55	1,361.09	1,667.34	1,646.31	1,926.69	1,852.98	1,886.28	1.8	138.6
Business and economics	HA–HJ	492	351.29	434.12	480.98	546.45	553.47	565.73	2.2	161.0
Chemistry	QD	124	3,396.26	4,244.38	4,335.51	4,465.42	4,685.46	4,794.33	2.3	141.2
Education	L	229	354.92	433.05	499.55	585.29	609.83	605.47	0.7	170.6
Engineering	T	542	1,244.39	1,584.81	1,692.44	1,716.47	1,897.32	1,984.29	4.6	159.5
Food science	TX	51	356.17	439.51	617.45	520.09	767.91	732.37	-4.6	205.6
General science	Q	97	998.51	1,218.88	1,401.48	1,322.20	1,617.12	1,587.68	-1.8	159.0
General works	A	131	85.84	99.14	106.87	165.98	125.62	125.22	-0.3	145.9
Geography	G–GF	84	670.60	836.61	872.34	806.55	1,000.77	1,111.72	11.1	165.8
Geology	QE	74	1,368.79	1,699.34	1,648.20	1,707.46	1,954.00	1,965.73	0.6	143.6

Health sciences	R	803	1,009.55	1,309.43	1,402.65	1,557.18	1,596.42	1,691.69	6	167.6
History	C,D,E,F	312	202.39	245.88	277.96	330.37	334.47	320.06	-4.3	158.1
Language and literature	P	277	168.12	205.49	232.29	258.50	256.95	245.87	-4.3	146.2
Law	K	251	214.01	251.93	297.45	355.43	326.59	344.76	5.6	161.1
Library science	Z	107	290.02	355.38	376.47	379.89	441.07	424.92	-3.7	146.5
Math and computer science	QA	329	1,242.13	1,480.16	1,623.12	1,559.12	1,785.80	1,784.38	0.1	143.7
Military and naval science	U,V	28	239.90	288.80	276.33	458.94	343.57	447.67	30.3	186.6
Music	M	49	82.18	95.74	151.67	212.73	164.13	162.24	-1.2	197.4
Philosophy and religion	B-BD, BH-BX	212	232.37	281.45	316.77	362.03	359.03	346.20	-3.6	149.0
Physics	QC	148	2,845.54	3,499.54	3,538.93	3,537.87	3,905.91	4,104.08	5.1	144.2
Political science	J	103	312.76	382.91	562.63	563.12	659.97	680.83	3.2	217.7
Psychology	BF	111	648.21	828.57	970.19	1,049.83	1,114.23	1,120.07	0.5	172.8
Recreation	GV	86	69.79	90.20	122.06	176.76	147.49	153.88	4.3	220.5
Social sciences	H	41	351.40	435.17	645.60	753.59	709.57	773.10	9	220.0
Sociology	HM-HX	240	482.59	608.13	717.56	760.32	836.08	871.85	4.3	180.7
Technology	TA-TT	136	535.73	679.00	723.65	775.03	843.36	945.19	12.1	176.4
Zoology	QL	117	1,454.26	1,762.83	1,816.13	1,655.65	1,947.87	2,165.66	11.2	148.9
Totals and Averages		5,998	\$843.46	\$1,051.73	\$1,114.32	\$1,193.10	\$1,265.92	\$1,337.25	5.6%	158.5

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona, based on subscription information supplied by EBSCO Information Services.

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less accurate than for large areas or the broader price index. Price changes are far more volatile where smaller data sets are used. For example, all the subjects listed above as having higher than average price increases have a small sample base. To conclude that all journals in the military and naval science area will increase 30 percent this year is incorrect. If a specific inflation figure for military and naval science were needed, it would be better to look at an average over the period or the overall number for the price study (5.6 percent) than to use the actual numbers year-by-year. The variation in pricing is too volatile in smaller sample sizes to be comparable on a year-to-year basis. In a small sample size, the change in just one or two titles could easily have a large impact on the overall price for an area.

More extensive reports from the periodical price index have been published annually in the April 15 issue of *Library Journal* through 1992, in the May issue of *American Libraries* from 1993 to 2002, and in the October 2003 issue of *Library Resources and Technical Services*.

The Legal Serials Services Index (Table 2) is compiled by Ajaye Bloomstone, Louisiana State University, using data collected from a number of different legal serials vendors. The base year for this index is 2010. This index presents price data covering the years 2010 through 2018.

**Table 2 / Legal Serials Services:  
Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2010–2018**

Index Base: 2010 = 100

Year	Titles	Average Price	Percent Change	Index
2010	217	\$1,716.30	3.5%	100.0
2011	217	1,905.20	11.0	111.0
2012	217	2,020.83	6.1	117.7
2013	217	2,233.00	10.5	130.1
2014	217	2,486.04	11.3	144.8
2015	217	2,831.00	13.9	164.9
2016	217	3,085.34	9.0	179.8
2017	217	3,506.20	13.6	204.3
2018	217	3,932.85	12.2	229.1

Compiled by Ajaye Bloomstone, Louisiana State University.

As in past years, vendors were asked to provide cost data on particular titles with the assumption that the title/set has been held by a large academic research law library. The cost recorded in the index is based on the upkeep of titles, *not* the cost incurred in purchasing a new set. A nuance of legal publishing is that for some of the larger legal publishers, hard prices for a calendar year are not set at the beginning of that year but rather halfway through, so in some cases only price estimates may be available in time for publication of this article. In addition to titles issued on a regular basis (journals, law reviews, etc.) legal serial services can be updated as regular/irregular updates (“releases”) throughout the year, new “editions” made available on an annual or so basis, or as added/revised volumes. If a title is updated irregularly, the price for a title may increase or decrease from one year to the next, depending on the publisher’s plans for keeping a title current. It

should be noted that although legal serials in print format continue to be produced, titles seem to be migrating, albeit slowly, to an electronic-only format.

Some prices were provided for several titles with the caveat “no longer available for new sales.” There is also a trend for titles purchased in print to come with an electronic component. For these titles, the purchasing library has no choice but to accept both formats although the print format is the preferred format for the purchasing library. This leads one to believe that some titles may cease publication entirely or if the publication is not to be phased out, then the title might soon no longer be available as a print product.

### Book Prices

Tables 3 (hardcover books), 6 (mass market paperbacks), 7 (other–trade–paperbacks), 7A (audiobooks), and table 7B (e-books), prepared by Narda Tafuri, University of Scranton, are derived from data provided by book wholesaler Baker & Taylor. Figures for 2016 are revised to reflect late updates to the Baker & Taylor database (publishers were still adding 2016 titles in early 2017); the 2017 figures given here may be similarly revised in next year’s tables and should be considered preliminary. The figures for this edition of the *Library and Book Trade Almanac* were provided by Baker & Taylor and are based on the Book Industry Study Group’s BISAC categories. The BISAC juvenile category (fiction and nonfiction) has been divided into children’s and young adult. For more information on the BISAC categories, visit <http://www.bisg.org>.

Average book prices overall saw mixed results in 2017. List prices for hardcovers (Table 3) overall rose by 5.8 percent. Mass market paperback prices (Table 6) showed an insignificant increase of 0.8 percent and trade paperbacks (Table 7) showed a steep drop of -25.6 percent. Audiobook prices (Table 7A), which have been falling since 2009, exhibited the largest increase in this category at 29.3 percent. E-book prices showed a slight decrease of -0.3 percent.

The North American Academic Books Price Indexes (Tables 4, 4A, and 4B) are prepared by Stephen Bosch. The current version of North American Academic Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes 2014–2017 (Table 4) continues to evolve from previous versions due to changes in the supply of the raw data. Direct comparisons with earlier published versions show variations since the number of titles treated and their average prices have changed. This is especially true for those versions published before 2009.

Data for the current indexes is supplied by ProQuest Books (formerly Ingrams Content Group–Coutts Information Services) and by GOBI Library Solutions from EBSCO (formerly YBP Library Services). Prior to ProQuest/Coutts supplying data, the book pricing data was obtained from Blackwell Book Services. Over time, the data and the data suppliers have changed due to changes in the industry. When compared with earlier versions, the North American Academic Books Price Index (NAABPI) now contains many more titles in the source data, which has affected the index considerably. ProQuest Books treats far more titles in their approval programs than the former Blackwell Book Services.

For indexes published before 2009, Blackwell was a supplier of data. Blackwell was purchased in 2009 by YBP and the vendor data used to create the

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**Table 3 / U.S. Hardcover Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2014–2017**

Index Base: 2010 = 100

BISAC Category	2010			2014 Final			2015 Final			2016 Final			2017 Preliminary		
	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Index	Volumes	Average Price	Index	Volumes	Average Price	Index	Volumes	Average Price	Index	
Antiques and collectibles	\$51.44	146	130.3	\$67.04	130.3	136	\$96.65	187.9	143	\$81.03	157.5	126	\$68.87	133.9	
Architecture	85.52	799	104.6	89.48	104.6	967	99.89	116.8	953	106.12	124.1	994	110.50	129.2	
Art	71.53	1,896	113.3	81.03	113.3	1,971	74.12	103.6	2,093	76.80	107.4	2,086	84.41	118.0	
Bibles	37.50	137	89.9	33.71	89.9	168	36.10	96.3	202	41.27	110.1	259	41.47	110.6	
Biography and autobiography	53.41	1,779	90.5	48.33	90.5	1,747	47.39	88.7	1,829	49.29	92.3	1,774	48.18	90.2	
Body, mind and spirit	36.91	158	126.4	46.64	126.4	156	30.29	82.1	166	28.58	77.4	177	26.71	72.4	
Business and economics	134.61	4,370	108.3	145.78	108.3	4,775	152.81	113.5	5,002	159.49	118.5	5,857	164.41	122.1	
Children	24.63	12,763	97.4	23.99	97.4	13,136	24.74	100.5	15,146	25.26	102.5	14,836	23.83	96.8	
Comics and graphic novels	31.51	664	127.9	40.31	127.9	685	37.81	120.0	640	39.72	126.1	674	41.87	132.9	
Computers	138.53	901	115.4	159.86	115.4	990	150.02	108.3	1,104	157.66	113.8	1,219	162.49	117.3	
Cooking	30.91	1,244	93.6	28.93	93.6	1,256	28.63	92.6	1,205	29.25	94.6	1,198	29.11	94.2	
Crafts and hobbies	33.28	204	86.4	28.76	86.4	170	28.90	86.8	155	31.62	95.0	167	30.33	91.1	
Design	76.59	394	88.2	67.56	88.2	459	66.07	86.3	432	71.44	93.3	429	65.86	86.0	
Drama	42.91	81	189.3	81.21	189.3	56	84.48	196.9	111	94.74	220.8	85	104.32	243.1	
Education	117.59	1,930	104.2	122.49	104.2	2,235	125.09	106.4	2,957	132.16	112.4	3,668	144.16	122.6	
Family and relationships	32.24	209	141.0	45.46	141.0	210	59.13	183.4	194	51.61	160.1	182	45.03	139.7	
Fiction	32.20	4,625	93.3	30.05	93.3	4,455	29.80	92.5	4,848	29.76	92.4	5,173	29.34	91.1	
Foreign language study	132.47	220	87.5	115.88	87.5	289	152.19	114.9	237	125.06	94.4	256	124.83	94.2	
Games	52.07	95	75.9	39.54	75.9	117	38.21	73.4	170	34.97	67.2	133	48.56	93.3	
Gardening	36.42	97	84.1	30.64	84.1	123	37.83	103.9	101	32.90	90.3	128	44.65	122.6	
Health and fitness	48.51	353	120.5	58.45	120.5	408	92.58	190.9	361	76.78	158.3	396	76.26	157.2	
History	82.65	5,489	114.5	94.66	114.5	5,792	93.24	112.8	6,388	102.44	123.9	6,136	98.85	119.6	
House and home	44.61	91	75.5	33.66	75.5	109	35.71	80.1	90	36.67	82.2	97	41.16	92.3	



Humor	21.94	288	23.74	108.2	295	24.26	110.6	293	21.62	98.6	287	21.44	97.7
Language arts and disciplines	117.67	1,302	147.81	125.6	1,585	146.32	124.3	1,611	143.56	122.0	1,525	146.72	124.7
Law	174.48	2,105	178.45	102.3	2,248	178.28	102.2	2,446	185.18	106.1	2,581	178.91	102.5
Literary collections	83.49	271	100.18	120.0	213	113.14	135.5	237	93.43	111.9	282	95.84	114.8
Literary criticism	117.63	2,284	126.91	107.9	2,328	123.15	104.7	2,923	125.05	106.3	2,562	125.34	106.6
Mathematics	133.23	963	141.42	106.1	1,031	158.84	119.2	1,092	138.40	103.9	1,357	167.66	125.8
Medical	171.13	3,488	204.11	119.3	4,119	185.02	108.1	3,163	178.45	104.3	3,531	191.20	111.7
Music	77.84	540	91.28	103.9	569	95.23	108.4	658	98.33	111.9	685	98.58	112.2
Nature	74.89	420	90.35	120.6	467	90.78	121.2	474	97.93	130.8	520	98.70	131.8
Performing arts	76.27	684	94.85	124.4	813	98.38	129.0	866	99.65	130.7	954	114.04	149.5
Pets	24.66	107	24.44	99.1	88	24.97	101.3	110	22.59	91.6	93	21.48	87.1
Philosophy	108.93	1,406	109.89	100.9	1,532	110.15	101.1	1,679	119.00	109.2	1,699	115.57	106.1
Photography	107.99	841	66.87	61.9	913	68.32	63.3	856	69.81	64.6	918	75.36	69.8
Poetry	40.76	352	34.64	85.0	280	46.85	114.9	452	53.87	132.2	285	39.60	97.1
Political science	110.32	3,036	116.68	105.8	3,139	119.01	107.9	3,490	115.65	104.8	3,915	117.59	106.6
Psychology	109.85	1,193	152.10	138.5	1,420	151.62	138.0	1,398	148.90	135.5	1,916	154.86	141.0
Reference	302.69	400	320.62	105.9	359	393.07	129.9	366	259.63	85.8	362	376.42	124.4
Religion	80.88	2,538	80.02	98.9	2,517	87.31	107.9	2,865	79.72	98.6	2,970	82.95	102.6
Science	192.20	3,536	199.58	103.8	4,251	203.05	105.6	4,040	206.09	107.2	4,186	202.40	105.3
Self-help	27.11	282	25.13	92.7	304	27.73	102.3	300	24.70	91.1	347	28.73	106.0
Social science	100.47	3,328	141.10	140.4	3,829	135.13	134.5	4,184	130.36	129.7	5,911	130.84	130.2
Sports and recreation	41.23	621	60.84	147.6	616	52.99	128.5	624	55.27	134.0	637	61.95	150.3
Study aids	101.54	19	92.75	91.3	15	138.63	136.5	17	98.07	96.6	15	93.78	92.4
Technology and engineering	164.66	2,567	189.95	115.4	3,416	168.57	102.4	3,733	179.34	108.9	3,775	206.71	125.5
Transportation	84.28	248	85.61	101.6	293	86.15	102.2	292	68.30	81.0	266	66.56	79.0
Travel	41.32	181	38.16	92.3	208	34.31	83.0	218	39.31	95.1	216	42.74	103.4
True crime	34.83	78	28.83	82.8	67	42.26	121.3	89	35.17	101.0	66	29.38	84.4
Young adult	35.99	2,169	33.93	94.3	2,056	33.47	93.0	2,277	38.03	105.7	2,383	39.96	111.0
Totals and Averages	\$89.54	73,892	\$98.53	110.0	79,381	\$101.62	113.5	85,280	\$100.02	111.7	90,294	\$105.80	118.2

Compiled by Narda Tafuri, University of Scranton, from data supplied by Baker & Taylor.

Table 4 / North American Academic Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2015–2017

Index Base: 2010 = 100

Subject Area	LC Class	2010			2015			2016			2017		
		Titles	Average Price	Percent Change	Titles	Average Price	Percent Change	Titles	Average Price	Percent Change	Titles	Average Price	Percent Change
Agriculture	S	1,139	\$107.44		1,883	\$112.73		1,924	\$93.24		1,822	\$118.71	27.3%
Anthropology	GN	609	91.96		855	90.60		750	88.11		788	93.04	5.6
Botany	QK	260	125.84		475	134.96		472	114.99		437	148.27	28.9
Business and economics	H	10,916	97.31		15,128	106.94		13,393	100.65		14,796	106.04	5.4
Chemistry	QD	667	223.03		1,037	228.56		891	192.72		871	208.69	8.3
Education	L	4,688	86.47		6,442	94.48		6,998	81.60		7,305	88.06	7.9
Engineering and technology	T	6,913	133.45		11,503	137.85		10,218	130.63		11,603	145.33	11.3
Fine and applied arts	M-N	5,535	57.17		8,592	67.71		8,201	67.84		8,119	72.22	6.4
General works	A	80	75.60		227	90.60		277	90.18		270	91.78	1.8
Geography	G	1,144	104.98		1,772	116.18		1,956	91.15		1,850	129.12	41.7
Geology	QE	276	114.34		426	120.64		773	72.01		392	117.02	62.5
History	C-D-E-F	10,079	65.29		15,412	70.43		15,419	66.25		14,380	74.42	12.3
Home economics	TX	812	44.35		909	62.05		684	62.50		805	75.90	21.4

Industrial arts	TT	265	52.60	332	65.67	280	61.49	231	61.02	-0.8	116.0
Law	K	4,596	125.35	6,906	125.78	6,515	125.82	6,809	125.90	0.1	100.4
Library and information science	Z	636	90.18	1,131	106.76	1,089	92.91	952	114.52	23.3	127.0
Literature and language	P	19,364	57.31	32,304	55.87	38,506	44.49	28,485	62.65	40.8	109.3
Mathematics and computer science	QA	3,965	103.85	6,195	100.60	5,260	99.77	5,503	109.25	9.5	105.2
Medicine	R	8,679	112.66	13,077	132.72	11,130	128.72	12,602	133.70	3.9	118.7
Military and naval science	U-V	773	79.99	1,349	73.34	1,365	70.55	1,213	71.03	0.7	88.8
Philosophy and religion	B	7,386	81.75	12,035	81.53	10,698	79.68	11,985	81.17	1.9	99.3
Physical education and recreation	GV	1,788	56.03	2,926	64.51	4,135	52.53	2,772	68.82	31	122.8
Physics and astronomy	QB	1,627	128.36	2,413	136.27	2,414	106.47	2,310	129.35	21.5	100.8
Political science	J	3,549	99.70	5,348	105.17	4,855	97.13	5,486	99.65	2.6	99.9
Psychology	BF	1,730	76.65	2,770	94.97	2,338	89.21	2,946	88.73	-0.5	115.8
Science (general)	Q	631	108.40	994	122.46	1,533	82.28	1,034	112.56	36.8	103.8
Sociology	HM	6,666	88.75	10,704	94.13	9,760	91.28	11,218	92.68	1.5	104.4
Zoology	QH,L,P,R	3,029	140.26	4,219	135.38	5,266	101.49	4,036	137.44	35.4	98.0
Totals and Averages		107,802	\$89.15	167,364	\$93.83	167,100	\$82.99	161,020	\$96.76	16.6%	108.5

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona, from electronic data provided by ProQuest, (formerly Ingrams Content Group - Coultis Information Services), and GOBI Library Solutions from EBSCO (formerly YBP Library Services). The data represents all titles (includes ebooks, hardcover, trade & paperback books, as well as annuals) treated for all approval plan customers serviced by the vendors. This table covers titles published or distributed in the United States and Canada during the calendar years listed.

Table 4A / North American Academic E-Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2015–2017

Index Base: 2010 = 100

Subject Area	LC Class	2010			2015			2016			2017		
		Titles	Average Price	Percent Change 2010–2017	Titles	Average Price	Percent Change 2015–2017	Titles	Average Price	Percent Change 2016–2017	Titles	Average Price	Percent Change 2016–2017
Agriculture	S	697	\$168.73	752	\$141.61	841	\$120.79	811	\$134.35	11.2%	79.6		79.6
Anthropology	GN	385	109.96	344	104.38	335	109.89	348	101.50	-7.6	92.3		92.3
Botany	QK	190	175.23	193	153.67	217	147.50	192	163.95	11.2	93.6		93.6
Business and economics	H	8,481	102.87	6,771	115.18	7,256	111.36	7,207	107.35	-3.6	104.4		104.4
Chemistry	QD	521	232.57	480	201.45	492	208.27	416	206.61	-0.8	88.8		88.8
Education	L	2,852	99.96	2,797	108.98	3,250	103.77	3,386	89.64	-13.6	89.7		89.7
Engineering and technology	T	4,976	152.33	4,725	154.50	5,289	148.19	5,281	158.34	6.8	103.9		103.9
Fine and applied arts	M-N	1,493	83.35	1,973	98.31	2,267	99.48	2,345	92.74	-6.8	111.3		111.3
General works	A	53	89.13	80	105.01	129	108.05	122	104.47	-3.3	117.2		117.2
Geography	G	829	117.83	745	134.16	903	104.27	880	131.75	26.4	111.8		111.8
Geology	QE	178	146.85	166	133.69	248	105.82	158	128.30	21.2	87.4		87.4
History	C-D-E-F	5,189	89.42	6,055	84.17	7,106	79.74	6,406	83.45	4.7	93.3		93.3
Home economics	TX	211	78.08	296	83.63	292	87.14	306	101.68	16.7	130.2		130.2

Industrial arts	TT	23	46.11	68	84.57	75	79.56	46	82.77	4.0	179.5
Law	K	2,433	147.66	2,363	141.20	2,730	132.13	2,665	133.25	0.8	90.2
Library and information science	Z	387	89.43	438	110.22	488	109.23	371	122.97	12.6	137.5
Literature and language	P	7,664	103.12	10,137	82.15	11,792	76.62	10,146	86.05	12.3	83.4
Mathematics and computer science	QA	3,000	112.65	2,271	107.84	2,580	108.73	2,255	114.32	5.1	101.5
Medicine	R	6,404	134.60	5,561	159.90	6,018	161.69	5,699	145.71	-9.9	108.3
Military and naval science	U-V	487	105.07	556	81.74	683	80.40	535	78.44	-2.4	74.7
Philosophy and religion	B	4,262	110.31	4,974	99.83	5,433	96.50	5,371	90.54	-6.2	82.1
Physical education and recreation	GV	791	76.57	1,145	77.28	1,691	64.07	1,226	76.90	20.0	100.4
Physics and astronomy	QB	1,288	147.50	1,005	151.96	1,233	136.58	1,058	145.19	6.3	98.4
Political science	J	2,638	110.10	2,356	118.58	2,591	108.47	2,705	103.19	-4.9	93.7
Psychology	BF	1,062	91.35	1,115	113.86	1,253	108.22	1,427	92.16	-14.8	100.9
Science (general)	Q	462	122.51	373	143.16	619	99.59	446	116.94	17.4	95.5
Sociology	HM	4,520	103.73	4,539	109.49	5,071	106.58	5,366	97.02	-9.0	93.5
Zoology	QH,L,P,R	2,336	164.82	1,709	155.12	2,242	134.52	1,739	152.03	13.0	92.2
Totals and Averages		63,812	\$116.25	63,987	\$114.12	73,124	\$108.13	68,913	\$108.79	0.6%	93.6

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona, from electronic data provided by ProQuest (formerly Ingrams Content Group-Courts Information Services), and GOBI Library Solutions from EBSCO (formerly YBP Library Services). The data represents all e-book titles treated for all approval plan customers serviced by the vendors. This table covers titles published or distributed in the United States and Canada during the calendar years listed. It is important to note that e-books that were released in a given year may have been published in print much earlier.

**Table 4B / North American Academic Textbooks: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2015–2017**  
(Index Base: 2010 = 100)

Subject Area	LC Class	2010		2015		2016		2017		Percent Change 2016–2017	Index
		Average Price	Titles	Average Price	Titles	Average Price	Titles	Average Price	Titles		
Agriculture	S	\$115.80	49	\$127.79	119	\$139.39	102	\$127.73	78	-8.4%	110.3
Anthropology	GN	90.65	35	105.68	61	118.58	57	111.91	75	-5.6	123.4
Botany	QK	109.52	11	125.78	31	136.29	26	135.13	11	-0.8	123.4
Business and economics	H	121.36	694	134.91	1,248	127.33	1,155	127.15	1,315	-0.1	104.8
Chemistry	QD	134.59	94	195.03	127	173.90	125	185.26	117	6.5	137.7
Education	L	87.75	271	96.90	559	92.57	448	82.91	497	-10.4	94.5
Engineering and technology	T	116.38	744	138.56	1,120	138.76	1,193	140.86	1,266	1.5	121.0
Fine and applied arts	M-N	93.33	73	101.01	163	103.52	162	93.58	179	-9.6	100.3
General works	A	0.00	0	50.01	2	76.42	4	93.92	12	22.9	n.a.
Geography	G	105.21	78	125.22	148	112.75	132	118.51	130	5.1	112.6
Geology	QE	117.97	36	138.50	38	134.59	39	123.08	29	-8.5	104.3
History	C-D-E-F	81.49	81	94.67	220	85.58	193	76.44	225	-10.7	93.8
Home economics	TX	89.52	39	126.90	35	104.28	58	170.20	50	63.2	190.1
Industrial arts	TT	84.72	14	91.49	28	103.76	19	94.65	19	-8.8	111.7

Law	K	242	102.09	529	126.02	483	105.89	456	112.18	5.9	109.9
Library and information science	Z	19	70.30	45	109.29	48	95.71	37	74.34	-22.3	105.7
Literature and language	P	309	77.71	687	97.98	579	85.69	694	86.98	1.5	111.9
Mathematics and computer science	QA	683	96.11	1,105	105.41	1,074	108.71	1,045	115.91	6.6	120.6
Medicine	R	1512	126.75	2,310	150.38	2,322	144.96	2,336	148.14	2.2	116.9
Military and naval science	U-V	3	122.65	19	87.58	16	93.04	14	104.26	12.1	85.0
Philosophy and religion	B	101	72.13	229	67.54	201	80.97	192	70.29	-13.2	97.5
Physical education and recreation	GV	51	79.39	147	100.01	129	101.28	133	96.52	-4.7	121.6
Physics and astronomy	QB	243	107.38	360	121.54	387	122.28	423	129.33	5.8	120.4
Political science	J	110	80.09	261	109.06	208	102.54	255	92.14	-10.1	115.0
Psychology	BF	138	95.95	199	124.84	199	117.66	251	113.32	-3.7	118.1
Science (general)	Q	33	97.14	55	114.08	60	105.56	78	89.84	-14.9	92.5
Sociology	HM	353	86.97	645	105.31	676	103.03	797	101.46	-1.5	116.7
Zoology	QH,L,P,R	227	109.82	391	153.45	416	134.37	354	144.31	7.4	131.4
Totals and Averages		6,243	\$107.94	10,881	\$125.18	10,511	\$121.35	11,068	\$121.74	0.3%	112.8

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona, from electronic data provided by ProQuest (formerly Ingrams Content Group - Coutts Information Services), and GOBI Library Solutions from EBSCO (formerly YBP Library Services). The data represents all textbook titles treated for all approval plan customers serviced by the vendors. This table covers titles published or distributed in the United States and Canada during the calendar years listed.

*(continued from page 359)*

index changed at that time. After 2009 the data came from Ingram (Coutts) and YBP; prior to 2009 the data came from Blackwell and YBP. With recent changes at both ProQuest and GOBI, there have been changes to how the annual price data is pulled for books. Starting in 2016, each vendor supplied data in separate files for print, e-books, and textbooks. Prior to 2016, this was not the case, and this change caused large variations in the numbers of titles in the tables as well the average prices. The data for 2014 was normalized in 2016 to conform to the current sets of data, so the numbers of titles and prices have changed from those published in 2015 and previous years. In the future, this approach to gathering the data, separate data files for print, electronic, and texts, will improve the consistency of the data, especially for e-books. Another major change for 2018, the base index year was moved to 2010 to provide consistency across the various indexes published by the Library Materials Price Index Committee.

The overall average price for books in the North American Academic Books Price Index (Table 4) for 2017 increased significantly from 2016 by 16.6 percent, but 2016 also showed a steep drop from 2015 by -11.6 percent. The price difference between 2015 and 2017 was a 3.1 percent increase. For 2015, 2016, and 2017 the average price went from \$93.83 to \$82.99 and then increased to \$96.76. The number of titles decreased over this timeframe going from 167,364 in 2015 to 161,020 in 2017.

One reason for the price drop in 2016 was a 24 percent increase in the number of titles that were less than \$30 and a 12 percent decrease in the number of titles costing more than \$120. Compared to earlier years (2010, 2014), the growth in available titles, as well as increasing prices, are now pressure points for library budgets. The increase in 2017 was primarily due to rising costs for books that cost more than \$120, and this was due to increases in the number of expensive titles and not an increase in the overall average price for books at the top end of the scale. Many of these books are e-books. Since e-books tend to be more expensive than print books, the cost of e-books was a driver in the overall price increase for 2017. E-books now make up about 43 percent of the base table.

Since 2008, two additional indexes have been available, one for e-books only (Table 4A) and another for textbooks (Table 4B). Based on users' high interest, the indexes continue to be published. This year the base index is set to 2010. In the academic market, it has always been assumed that e-books are more expensive than their print counterparts. The cheaper e-books available to consumers through such channels as Amazon and the Apple Store are not available to libraries at similar prices, when they are available at all. At best, the academic pricing will match the print price for single-user license models with multiuser models being far more expensive than the print price. The e-book index points out the difference in price: the average price of an e-book in 2017 was \$108.79 while the average price for all books was \$96.76. The average price of a print book drops to \$84.11 if the e-books are removed from the overall index.

The high price for e-books is not that surprising as most pricing models for academic e-books generally charge a higher price than the list print price for access to the e-books. However, over the past two years, it is becoming common practice for single-user licenses to be priced the same as for print. Multiuser

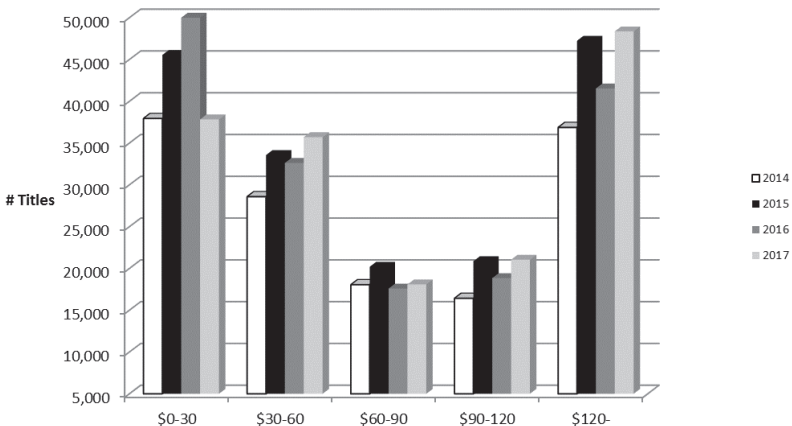


licenses are still significantly more expensive than print. Responding to customer demands, publishers and vendors offer e-books on multiple platforms with multiple pricing models; consequently, there can be multiple prices for the same title. For these indexes, only the first license level (normally single-user) is included in the data. Where multiple prices are available for different use models, the lowest price is included in the index. Because electronic access is a major market trend, it is appropriate to have e-books as a separate index. It is also important to note that the e-book market is rapidly changing. The availability of additional pricing models could be a factor in the downward shift in e-book prices. It is important to note that by using the lowest price available for e-books, this approach may be artificially keeping the average price of e-books low for libraries that generally buy multiuser licenses.

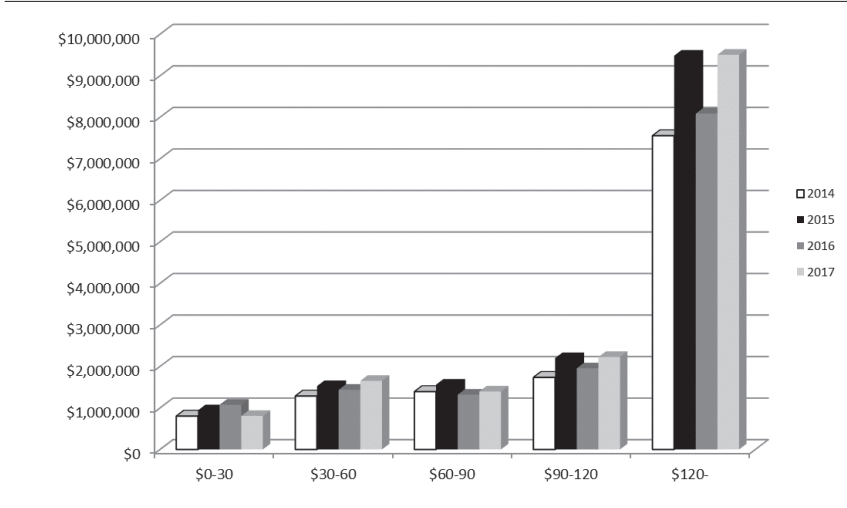
The cost of textbooks has been a hot topic on many college campuses. The index for textbooks (Table 4B) documents price changes in this area. The data show that textbooks tend to be much more expensive than other types of books, with an average price of \$121.74 in 2017. Over the past two years, the price has held flat at around \$121. There were large increases in 2014 and 2015, but average prices look like they have plateaued over the past two years. This is not great news for students since textbooks remain far more expensive than regular print or e-books. Textbooks are expensive, and the prices are not dropping significantly. Pressure on the textbook market from alternative sources like rental services for either print or electronic versions or resales of used copies may have slowed price increases, but has not resulted in an overall significant price drop. “E” versions are included in the textbook index, so migration to “e” format does not seem to be lowering costs. This is not much consolation for cash-strapped students.

The average price of North American academic books in 2017 (Table 4) increased by 3.1 percent as compared with the 2015 average price. This is mainly due to changes in the number of titles treated in the lower and higher part of the price bands (\$120 and up) as well as a large increase in the top price band in 2017 (see Figure 1). Most price bands showed only modest growth in the number

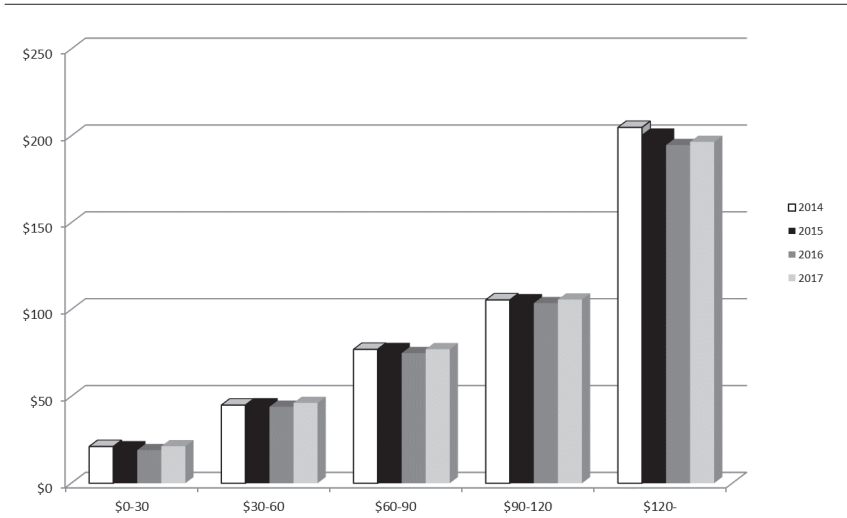
**Figure 1 / Number of Titles in Sample Grouped by Price 2014–2017**



**Figure 2 / Comparison of Total Costs in Sample Grouped by Price**



**Figure 3 / Comparison of Average Price Grouped by Price Band**



of titles between 2015 and 2017, apart from the price band above \$120, which showed a large increase, and the lowest price band \$0–30, which showed a very large decrease. This led to the large price swings in 2016 and 2017. Changes in the upper price bands were due to variance in the number of e-books. Take e-books out of the sample, and the upper price bands shrink considerably.

One thing that stands out when looking at the data by price band is that the highest end of the price bands (\$120 and up) continues to have a huge impact on the costs for books. The impact on pricing from the titles in the \$120 and up price band is confirmed if you look at the actual dollar values in groups (sum of all prices for titles in the group). It is clear the increase at the top end of the index was the main component in the overall changes in the index for 2015–2017. Although the \$0–\$30 price area has the second largest number of titles, the total cost remains the smallest portion as far as total cost (sum of all prices) goes in the index. The increase in the number of titles available in the upper end of the index was what added to the overall level of increase. Again, growth in the number of titles available was a significant driver in that increase, as within the price bands the average price remains constant except for the area with prices over \$120, which showed a very slight decrease in the overall average price over the past four years. Unlike serials, where inflation in price drives higher costs, this data shows that changes in the number of titles, not inflationary increases in price, were the primary driver in escalating costs. See Figures 2 and 3.

The data used for this index is derived from all titles treated by ProQuest Books and GOBI Library Solutions in their approval plans during the calendar years listed. The index includes e-books as well as paperback editions, which has influenced the prices reflected in the index figures. The index is inclusive of the broadest categories of materials as that is the marketplace in which academic libraries operate, and the index attempts to chart price changes that impact that market.

E-books are treated in a separate index (Table 4A), so the differences in the indexes will be interesting to observe. Currently, most titles are not yet published simultaneously in both print and “e” editions, so the number of titles in the e-book index should remain smaller than the broader index. It is safe to say that in the future, the number of titles in the broader index could decline and at the same time, the number of e-books could rise as more publishers move to publishing electronic editions of their books with print supplied through print on demand services. Many e-book pricing models add charges of 50 to 100 percent of the retail price for multiuser licenses. However, most e-books from aggregators will have multiple pricing models and, with the criteria for the supplied data working with the lowest cost license model available, this is a probable factor in keeping the overall prices for e-books lower than expected.

The overall price for e-books showed a decline from 2015 to 2016 but rebounded in 2017. This is due to changes in the number of titles available in the upper ends of the price bands. As more e-books are released with multiple pricing models, it may be that using the lowest price is a factor in the declining number of titles in the most expensive price bands. Another factor could include publishers distributing their e-books directly to customers, bypassing ProQuest and GOBI. The index does show that, for the library market, e-books are considerably more

expensive than print. Many publishers and e-book aggregators are still adding “e” editions of print books from backlists, and these are showing up in the index; this is also the basis for the wide swings in numbers of titles in the index from year to year.

The price index for textbooks (Table 4B) shows a 0.3 percent increase in overall prices between 2016 and 2017. Textbook prices remain much higher overall than regular books, \$121.74 versus \$96.76. These are indicators that the angst experienced by students as they purchase their textbooks is justified, as prices appear to be much higher than for regular academic books.

Price changes vary, as always, among subject areas. This year there were double-digit increases in several subject areas and decreases in others. This is a normal occurrence. The 2017 data indicate that those areas with the largest increases were not concentrated in specific subject areas but were widely distributed. Overall prices for books in the STM and social science areas are still more expensive than the humanities. STM and social science publishers have tended to be early adopters of e-books and have been publishing in digital formats for some time. The high average prices in science and the social sciences reflect the availability and higher pricing of e-books in these areas.

As described in the earlier section on Periodical and Serials Prices, the smaller the sample, the less accurate a price index will be in describing price changes. Geology is a small sample and showed very large price changes in 2017, but to conclude that all books in those areas increased or decreased at like amounts is not correct. In small samples, inclusion/exclusion of just a few expensive items can have a major impact on prices for the category. The increases in geology, for example, were due to a few very expensive titles that showed up in the data. Because the sample is very small, these titles caused the overall price to jump dramatically.

The U.S. College Books Price Index (Table 5), prepared by Narda Tafuri, contains average price and index number data for the years 2015 through 2017 and the percentage change in price between 2016 and 2017. The index base year has been reset this year to 2010. Previous instances of this table have an index base year of 1989.

Data for the index was compiled from 5,245 reviews of books published in *Choice* during 2017. An additional 25 print titles reviewed in *Choice* were omitted from the analysis due to price (\$500 or more) or because pricing was only available by contacting the publisher. These books were removed from the analysis so that the average prices were not skewed. The index includes some paperback prices; as a result, the average price of books is less than if only hardcover books were included.

For 2017 the overall average price for books in the Humanities, Sciences, and Social & Behavioral Sciences (including reference books) was \$72.67, a relatively small decrease of -2.8 percent over the average 2016 price of \$74.76. Reference books continued to have the highest average price at \$133.66. Excluding reference books, the average 2017 book price was \$69.08, representing a -2.6 percent decrease over the average 2016 price of \$70.92.

The average 2017 price for Humanities titles decreased by -1.83 percent over the previous year. The average price for Science & Technology titles decreased -5.98 percent, whereas the price for Social & Behavioral Sciences titles decreased

*(text continues on page 376)*

**Table 5 / U.S. College Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2010, 2015–2017**

Index Base for all years: 2010 = 100

Subject	2010			2015			2016			2017			Percent Change 2016–2017		
	Average Price	Indexed to 2010	Indexed to 2014	Average Price	Indexed to 2010	Indexed to 2015	Average Price	Indexed to 2010	Indexed to 2015	Average Price	Indexed to 2010	Indexed to 2016			
	Titles	Titles	Titles	Titles	Titles	Titles	Titles	Titles	Titles	Titles	Titles	Titles			
HUMANITIES	91	\$58.99	69	\$70.45	119.4	94.3	53	\$72.55	123.0	103.0	60	\$68.91	116.8	95.0	-5.0%
Art and architecture	149	61.69	134	66.00	107.0	106.5	143	68.61	111.2	104.0	146	66.65	108.0	78.1	-2.9
<i>Fine Arts*</i>	92	67.13	105	69.49	103.5	113.9	83	74.43	110.9	107.1	81	58.17	86.7	78.2	-21.8
<i>Architecture*</i>	48	61.53	44	90.81	147.6	102.7	44	84.94	138.0	93.5	44	77.72	126.3	91.5	-8.5
<i>Photography</i>	28	53.02	21	56.32	106.2	93.9	18	56.50	106.6	100.3	17	58.04	109.5	102.7	2.7
Communication	112	59.97	84	91.52	152.6	140.8	119	77.65	129.5	84.8	101	65.40	109.1	84.2	-15.8
Language and literature	94	68.66	90	76.81	111.9	85.7	86	80.92	117.9	105.4	86	77.10	112.3	95.3	-4.7
<i>African and Middle Eastern*</i>	24	62.28	16	75.27	120.9	126.9	6	49.81	80.0	66.2	10	51.69	83.0	103.8	3.8
<i>Asian and Oceanian*</i>	24	71.99	23	55.78	77.5	94.0	18	69.93	97.1	125.4	13	89.30	124.0	127.7	27.7
<i>Classical</i>	24	78.76	34	67.83	86.1	79.6	26	86.84	110.3	128.0	17	69.69	88.5	80.3	-19.7
<i>English and American</i>	394	61.96	326	67.34	108.7	97.3	283	73.29	118.3	108.8	206	69.06	111.5	94.2	-5.8
<i>Germanic</i>	22	70.36	35	72.87	103.6	109.7	20	78.94	112.2	108.3	6	75.00	106.6	95.0	-5.0
<i>Romance</i>	70	59.00	62	69.34	117.5	90.9	39	64.67	109.6	93.3	42	72.30	122.5	111.8	11.8
<i>Slavic</i>	32	35.95	13	63.37	176.3	74.2	14	75.25	209.3	118.7	10	60.69	168.8	80.7	-19.3
<i>Other</i>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Performing arts	30	61.97	28	57.72	93.1	81.6	12	63.10	101.8	109.3	15	75.93	122.5	120.3	20.3
<i>Film</i>	130	64.13	130	71.02	110.7	95.1	96	81.62	127.3	114.9	92	89.34	139.3	109.5	9.5
<i>Music</i>	123	61.01	129	65.32	107.1	95.9	106	74.51	122.1	114.1	99	71.30	116.9	95.7	-4.3
<i>Theater and dance</i>	45	62.38	26	79.14	126.9	111.9	38	83.52	133.9	105.5	36	88.53	141.9	106.0	6.0
Philosophy	198	63.45	244	74.60	117.6	97.3	150	70.50	111.1	94.5	162	77.58	122.3	110.0	10.0
Religion	272	57.18	290	57.51	100.6	83.7	240	61.94	108.3	107.7	192	65.64	114.8	106.0	6.0
TOTAL HUMANITIES	2,002	\$61.60	1,903	\$69.05	112.1	96.8	1,594	\$72.53	117.7	105.0	1,435	\$71.20	115.6	98.2	-1.8
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	110	\$58.09	67	\$58.57	100.8	98.4	59	\$69.30	119.3	118.3	77	\$58.83	101.3	84.9	-15.1
History of science and technology	78	54.10	77	58.08	107.4	106.4	60	53.16	98.3	91.5	51	68.63	126.9	129.1	29.1

**Table 5 / U.S. College Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes 2010, 2015–2017 (cont.)**

Index Base for all years: 2010 = 100

Subject	2010			2015			2016			2017			Percent Change 2016–2017		
	Titles	Avg. Price	Titles	Avg. Price	Indexed to 2014	Titles	Avg. Price	Indexed to 2015	Titles	Avg. Price	Indexed to 2016	Titles		Avg. Price	Indexed to 2017
Astronautics and astronomy	63	55.58	66	48.00	86.4	83.4	42	48.65	87.5	101.4	72	57.90	104.2	119.0	19.0
Biology	151	72.74	152	77.01	105.9	105.8	95	81.12	111.5	105.3	141	63.15	86.8	77.8	-22.2
<i>Botany</i>	85	85.09	79	95.71	112.5	104.1	47	98.08	115.3	102.5	77	69.93	82.2	71.3	-28.7
<i>Zoology</i>	121	64.33	115	69.55	108.1	118.8	88	67.89	105.5	97.6	89	63.05	98.0	92.9	-7.1
Chemistry	42	115.42	30	73.21	63.4	84.5	27	105.31	91.2	143.8	29	121.51	105.3	115.4	15.4
Earth science	102	63.33	119	75.86	119.8	90.2	103	79.97	126.3	105.4	112	71.36	112.7	89.2	-10.8
Engineering	103	88.38	57	93.02	105.3	101.8	56	113.67	128.6	122.2	86	106.40	120.4	93.6	-6.4
Health sciences	146	56.14	151	70.27	125.2	104.9	121	72.17	128.6	102.7	142	66.61	118.6	92.3	-7.7
Information and computer science	83	73.50	51	53.35	72.6	73.1	41	62.78	85.4	117.7	93	63.83	86.8	101.7	1.7
Mathematics	108	61.97	102	67.01	108.1	107.0	93	67.60	109.1	100.9	107	77.02	124.3	113.9	13.9
Physics	50	54.74	44	56.54	103.3	95.9	36	79.75	145.7	141.1	52	81.59	149.1	102.3	2.3
Sports and physical education	67	54.06	52	66.43	122.9	96.2	45	83.86	155.1	126.2	78	69.44	128.4	82.8	-17.2
TOTAL SCIENCE	1,309	\$67.13	1,162	\$70.11	104.4	101.3	913	\$75.90	113.1	108.3	1206	\$71.36	106.3	94.0	-6.0
SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES	129	\$66.32	144	\$81.06	122.2	99.8	134	\$79.19	119.4	97.7	70	\$80.47	121.3	101.6	1.6
Anthropology	139	63.60	113	82.79	130.2	97.5	102	81.45	128.1	98.4	115	84.95	133.6	104.3	4.3
Business management and labor	150	58.00	127	54.39	93.8	83.4	120	54.75	94.4	100.7	122	52.56	90.6	96.0	-4.0
Economics	270	61.16	238	67.44	110.3	111.3	170	56.26	92.0	83.4	125	63.79	104.3	113.4	13.4
Education	158	62.56	161	77.82	124.4	106.3	109	74.80	119.6	96.1	24	72.30	115.6	96.7	-3.3
History, geography and area studies	154	58.16	139	70.59	121.4	103.7	95	76.90	132.2	108.9	90	72.33	124.4	94.1	-5.9
<i>Africa</i>	38	69.05	34	72.54	105.1	101.3	30	67.02	97.1	92.4	24	70.34	101.9	105.0	5.0
<i>Ancient history*</i>	49	57.90	45	95.74	165.4	93.0	45	88.15	152.2	92.1	40	74.73	129.1	84.8	-15.2

<i>Asia and Oceania</i>	72	60.88	86	78.82	129.5	109.8	63	64.10	105.3	81.3	63	70.69	116.1	110.3	10.3
<i>Central and Eastern Europe*</i>	56	66.53	63	68.25	102.6	93.8	48	69.47	104.4	101.8	50	71.05	106.8	102.3	2.3
<i>Latin America and Caribbean</i>	54	59.31	60	68.61	115.7	104.2	54	68.08	114.8	99.2	60	77.51	130.7	113.9	13.9
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>	43	65.57	49	77.79	118.6	104.5	31	75.41	115.0	96.9	51	60.38	92.1	80.1	-19.9
<i>North America</i>	444	45.50	397	50.10	110.1	101.0	386	51.15	112.4	102.1	335	50.33	110.6	98.4	-1.6
<i>United Kingdom*</i>	80	69.56	68	74.65	107.3	103.5	48	83.05	119.4	111.3	66	74.36	106.9	89.5	-10.5
<i>Western Europe</i>	138	59.14	122	69.43	117.4	91.4	108	67.92	114.8	97.8	106	75.01	126.8	110.4	10.4
Political science	4	84.36	3	48.98	58.1	39.2	67	66.96	79.4	136.7	68	58.55	69.4	87.4	-12.6
<i>Comparative politics</i>	183	66.34	190	79.17	119.3	113.2	215	73.22	110.4	92.5	186	64.47	97.2	88.0	-12.0
<i>International relations</i>	213	65.64	187	77.60	118.2	105.6	151	69.69	106.2	89.8	147	61.87	94.3	88.8	-11.2
<i>Political theory</i>	73	56.74	80	62.88	110.8	100.1	128	72.56	127.9	115.4	118	71.12	125.3	98.0	-2.0
<i>U.S. politics</i>	253	53.03	216	63.43	119.6	99.9	201	65.21	123.0	102.8	150	61.03	115.1	93.6	-6.4
Psychology	126	60.55	67	85.63	141.4	113.9	61	87.45	144.4	102.1	121	72.33	119.5	82.7	-17.3
Sociology	226	60.71	169	79.70	131.3	101.2	162	78.90	130.0	99.0	182	79.50	131.0	100.8	0.8
TOTAL BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES	3,052	\$59.09	2,758	\$70.05	118.5	102.7	2,528	\$68.12	115.3	97.2	2,313	\$66.58	112.7	97.7	-2.3
TOTAL GENERAL, HUMANITIES, SCIENCE, AND SOCIAL SCIENCE	6,363	\$61.53	5,823	\$69.73	113.3	100.4	5,035	\$70.92	115.3	101.7	4,954	\$69.08	112.3	97.4	-2.6
(without Reference)															
REFERENCE															
General	29	\$61.17	59	\$80.62	131.8	82.1	37	\$102.52	167.6	127.2	20	\$101.90	166.6	99.4	-0.6
Humanities*	128	117.12	90	106.96	91.3	93.3	72	119.53	102.1	111.8	83	136.80	116.8	114.4	14.4
Science and technology*	76	133.19	39	119.96	90.1	80.0	35	147.98	111.1	123.4	42	110.55	83.0	74.7	-25.3
Social and behavioral sciences*	216	152.91	130	145.39	95.1	107.7	164	150.84	98.6	103.7	146	142.88	93.4	94.7	-5.3
TOTAL REFERENCE	449	\$133.44	318	\$119.38	89.5	96.0	308	\$137.39	103.0	115.1	291	\$133.66	100.2	97.3	-2.7
GRAND TOTAL	6,812	\$66.27	6,141	\$72.31	109.1	99.4	5,343	\$74.76	112.8	103.4	5,245	\$72.67	109.7	97.2	-2.8%

Compiled by Narda Tafuri, University of Scranton.  
\* Began appearing as separate sections after 1989.

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by -2.26 percent. Since 2010, there has been an overall book price increase of 9.66 percent when reference books are included.

When separated out, the average 2017 reference book price decreased -2.71 percent over the previous year. The overall price of reference books has seen fluctuations in pricing over the past several years. Compared to 2010, there has only been a slight 0.16 percent increase in the overall average price.

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### **Serials Prices**

Average Price of Serials (Table 8) and Average Price of Online Serials (Table 8A), compiled by Stephen Bosch, provide the average prices and percent increases for serials based on titles in select serials abstracting and indexing products. The serials in this price survey are published in the United States as well as overseas and are indexed in Clarivate Analytics' (formerly ISI) Arts and Humanities Citation Index, Science Citation Index, and Social Sciences Citation Index, as well as EBSCO's Academic Search Complete and Masterfile Complete and Elsevier's Scopus. This is the third year where titles indexed in Scopus are included in the data. Adding Scopus expands this price survey from about 11,000 titles in 2015 to the current 18,633. The increase in the sample size makes the results more likely to accurately reflect pricing trends.

Tables 8 and 8A cover prices for periodicals and serials for a five-year period, 2014 through 2018. The 2018 pricing is the actual renewal pricing for 2018 for serial titles indexed in the selected products. These tables were derived from pricing data supplied by EBSCO Information Services and reflect broad pricing changes aggregated from serials that are indexed in the six major products mentioned above. The U.S. Periodicals: Average Prices and Price Indexes (USPPI) (Table 1) is based on price changes seen in a static set of approximately 5,900 serial titles. The Average Price of Serials (Table 8) is based on a much broader set of titles, approximately 18,600; however, the titles are not static, so this pricing study does not rise to the level of a price index. This study is still useful in showing price changes for periodicals. The indexes selected for this price survey were deemed to be fairly representative of serials that are frequently purchased in academic and public libraries. There are some foreign titles in the indexes, so the scope is broader, and this may give a better picture of the overall price pressures experienced in libraries. Table 8 contains both print and online serials pricing. Table 8A is a subset of the titles treated in Table 8 and contains online serials pricing.

The most important trend seen in the data in Table 8 is that increases in prices have remained relatively constant since the economic recovery began. Price increases have hovered around 6 percent annually since 2011. For titles with online availability (Table 8A), the rates of increase for those titles are very similar, averaging around 6 percent over the past five years. There is a difference between the average prices for print serials and online serials, so, at least for this set of data, print formats do cost less than their online counterparts. Several large publishers have made online pricing only available through custom quotes, so there is not a standard retail price, and the pricing data is not available for this survey.



Consequently, the number of titles covered in the online survey (Table 8A) is less than the number of titles in Table 8.

Another interesting trend is that the science areas do not dominate the list of subjects with the largest price increases. The subject areas that displayed large increases were quite varied. Anthropology, engineering, language and literature, music, political science, and recreation saw higher increases than most other areas. Some of these same areas showed the highest increases in the online table (Table 8A), as well. Average prices of journals in the science and technology areas are by far higher than in other areas, and that trend continues with the average cost of chemistry and physics journals being \$4,433.26 and \$3,610.90 respectively. Although these STM titles are not inflating at high rates, the impact of a 4 percent increase in a \$4,000 title is much higher than a 9 percent increase on a \$300 title. Online journals (Table 8A) showed similar average prices for chemistry (\$4,766.52) and physics (\$4,017.53).

Again, the data in this price study becomes less accurate at describing price changes as the sample size becomes smaller. For that reason, drawing conclusions about price changes in subject areas with a limited number of titles will be less accurate than for large areas or the broader price survey. Price changes are far more volatile where smaller data sets are used. For example, military and naval science (48 titles) showed price changes of 13.3, 6.7, 5.2, and 4.4 percent between 2014 and 2018. Librarians are encouraged to look at an average price change over the period or the overall number for the price study (6.8 percent) to calculate inflation. Year-to-year price changes in small subject areas are too unstable to be reliable for this purpose.

## Foreign Prices

In 2017 the dollar slipped significantly against the Canadian dollar (-6.8 percent), Euro (-12.2 percent), British pound sterling (-8.9 percent), and the Japanese yen (-3.8 percent).

Dates	12/31/13*	12/31/14*	12/31/15*	12/31/16*	12/31/17*
Canada	1.0640	1.1580	1.3860	1.3460	1.2550
Euro	0.7260	0.8220	0.9190	0.9490	0.8330
U.K.	0.6050	0.6420	0.6750	0.8120	0.7400
Japan	105.0100	119.4500	120.4200	117.0300	112.5500

\* Data from Bureau of Fiscal Services, U.S. Treasury Department ([http://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fsreports/rpt/treasRptRateExch/treasRptRateExch\\_home.htm](http://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fsreports/rpt/treasRptRateExch/treasRptRateExch_home.htm)).

## Foreign Book Prices

British Academic Books (Table 9), compiled by George Aulisio, University of Scranton, indicates the average prices and price indexes from 2014 through 2017. The percent of change in titles and average price is calculated for 2016 to 2017, and the index price shows the percent of change between 2017 and the base year of 2010. This index is compiled using data from GOBI Library Solutions and utilizes

*(text continues on page 392)*

**Table 6 / U.S. Mass Market Paperback Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2014–2017**

Index Base: 2010 = 100

BISAC Category	2010			2014 Final			2015 Final			2016 Final			2017 Preliminary			
	Average Price	Volumes	Average Price	Index	Volumes	Average Price	Index	Volumes	Average Price	Index	Volumes	Average Price	Index	Volumes	Average Price	Index
Antiques and collectibles	\$8.77	4	\$8.99	102.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Architecture	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Art	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Bibles	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Biography and autobiography	7.51	6	8.98	119.6	2	\$8.49	113.0	7	\$10.71	142.6	5	\$9.28	123.6			
Body, mind and spirit	7.99	2	9.99	125.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2	8.99	112.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Business and economics	9.32	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	8.99	96.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	7.99	85.7			
Children	6.22	272	6.10	98.1	204	6.32	101.7	222	6.47	104.1	176	6.76	108.6			
Comics and graphic novels	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Computers	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Cooking	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	8.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Crafts and hobbies	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Design	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Drama	6.30	1	9.99	158.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Education	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Family and relationships	7.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	8.99	112.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Fiction	6.80	3,603	7.09	104.3	3,234	7.11	104.6	2,999	7.22	106.1	2,749	7.27	107.0			
Foreign language study	7.08	1	6.99	98.7	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Games	n.a.	2	9.25	n.a.	1	7.99	n.a.	2	8.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Gardening	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Health and fitness	7.92	3	9.33	117.8	3	8.99	113.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	9.99	126.1			
History	9.95	2	9.99	100.4	2	9.99	100.4	4	9.49	95.4	5	9.99	100.4			
House and home	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Humor	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	7.99	n.a.	1	9.99	n.a.			

Language arts and disciplines	13.25	1	7.99	60.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
Law	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Literary collections	5.95	1	4.95	83.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Literary criticism	7.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Mathematics	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Medical	8.99	1	7.99	88.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Musical	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Musicians	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Nature	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Performing arts	9.99	1	10.99	110.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Pets	7.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	9.99	125.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Philosophy	6.47	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	6.95	107.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Photography	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Poetry	7.95	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2	6.45	81.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Political science	7.97	1	9.99	125.3	2	8.47	106.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Psychology	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Reference	7.99	5	12.89	161.4	1	7.99	100.0	5	15.70	196.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Religion	7.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Science	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Self-help	7.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	13.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Social science	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Sports and recreation	7.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Study aids	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	9.99	125.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Technology and engineering	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Transportation	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Travel	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
True crime	7.64	20	8.69	113.7	13	8.30	108.6	13	8.45	110.6	12	8.41	110.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Young adult	8.13	44	9.42	115.9	22	9.40	115.6	6	7.99	98.3	8	7.37	90.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Totals and Averages	\$6.83	3,970	\$7.08	103.7	3,492	\$7.09	103.8	3,264	\$7.20	105.4	2,960	\$7.26	106.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Compiled by Narda Tafuri, University of Scranton, from data supplied by Baker & Taylor.

n.a. = not available

**Table 7 / U.S. Paperback Books (Excluding Mass Market): Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2014–2017**

Index Base: 2010 = 100

BISAC Category	2010			2014 Final			2015 Final			2016 Final			2017 Preliminary		
	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index
Antiques and collectibles	\$25.53	139	\$36.02	141.1	126	\$33.55	131.4	148	\$34.51	135.2	105	\$38.49	150.8		
Architecture	45.31	689	45.98	101.5	814	44.20	97.5	776	49.89	110.1	761	47.66	105.2		
Art	38.25	1,679	39.58	103.5	1,680	41.96	109.7	1,782	47.30	123.6	1,555	40.89	106.9		
Bibles	38.66	770	45.41	117.5	966	40.51	104.8	619	43.75	113.2	709	39.58	102.4		
Biography and autobiography	20.35	2,920	20.41	100.3	2,692	20.40	100.3	2,518	20.21	99.3	2,281	20.41	100.3		
Body, mind and spirit	18.03	861	18.11	100.4	677	18.20	101.0	707	18.02	100.0	682	18.06	100.2		
Business and economics	69.30	7,334	92.17	133.0	8,946	103.95	150.0	7,059	93.40	134.8	5,556	88.84	128.2		
Children	10.42	11,493	12.97	124.5	12,215	15.20	145.9	12,230	14.82	142.2	11,329	15.94	153.0		
Comics and graphic novels	16.11	2,077	17.56	109.0	2,043	18.03	111.9	2,238	18.35	113.9	2,158	18.07	112.1		
Computers	70.42	3,506	83.75	118.9	2,903	84.97	120.7	4,221	131.72	187.0	2,484	95.76	136.0		
Cooking	19.95	1,279	19.65	98.5	1,110	20.41	102.3	1,010	20.84	104.5	899	21.10	105.7		
Crafts and hobbies	19.34	1,203	18.77	97.1	1,103	19.63	101.5	921	19.74	102.1	793	20.33	105.1		
Design	63.98	308	42.13	65.8	258	44.92	70.2	252	38.15	59.6	231	39.79	62.2		
Drama	18.95	584	20.75	109.5	542	22.79	120.3	518	19.62	103.5	623	22.75	120.1		
Education	42.98	4,380	55.91	130.1	3,989	52.38	121.9	4,492	66.70	155.2	4,211	53.00	123.3		
Family and relationships	18.72	756	22.89	122.3	674	20.08	107.3	604	23.36	124.8	518	21.01	112.2		
Fiction	17.99	13,114	17.28	96.1	11,041	17.18	95.5	10,642	16.91	94.0	9,750	16.68	92.7		
Foreign language study	31.33	1,370	44.78	142.9	1,005	49.25	157.2	817	48.88	156.0	990	40.38	128.9		
Games	16.57	548	17.56	105.9	766	15.17	91.5	1,867	14.22	85.8	1,265	15.17	91.5		
Gardening	23.45	163	21.94	93.6	158	24.97	106.5	123	22.61	96.4	118	22.66	96.6		
Health and fitness	26.95	1,108	26.78	99.4	1,080	32.70	121.3	1,026	36.12	134.0	1,010	30.23	112.2		
History	35.79	7,750	40.70	113.7	7,044	40.69	113.7	6,341	38.53	107.7	6,072	36.85	103.0		
House and home	21.19	949	95.61	451.2	117	20.35	96.1	89	20.13	95.0	98	24.78	116.9		
Humor	14.37	344	14.97	104.2	324	15.15	105.4	300	15.33	106.7	293	15.30	106.5		

Language arts and disciplines	64.46	2,151	76.56	118.8	1,762	75.20	116.7	2,259	76.34	118.4	1,554	70.43	109.3
Law	72.07	3,690	80.11	111.2	3,793	86.00	119.3	3,804	87.90	122.0	3,025	79.13	109.8
Literary collections	36.42	673	21.41	58.8	343	36.55	100.4	394	33.56	92.2	371	26.37	72.4
Literary criticism	36.57	2,554	50.49	138.1	1,972	43.85	119.9	2,034	42.71	116.8	1,901	40.62	111.1
Mathematics	86.13	1,518	90.43	105.0	1,033	83.11	96.5	1,554	99.24	115.2	939	77.20	89.6
Medical	90.22	4,605	96.33	106.8	3,743	106.16	117.7	6,355	136.43	151.2	3,379	83.91	93.0
Music	22.83	2,188	28.87	126.5	2,722	25.61	112.2	2,620	29.86	130.8	1,892	28.51	124.9
Nature	37.28	593	31.73	85.1	516	31.27	83.9	600	49.28	132.2	561	33.17	89.0
Performing arts	33.53	924	36.71	109.5	955	39.24	117.0	815	38.62	115.2	850	36.73	109.6
Pets	17.34	146	18.67	107.7	150	17.91	103.3	159	20.33	117.3	111	18.39	106.0
Philosophy	52.66	1,776	47.91	91.0	1,654	44.03	83.6	1,767	57.32	108.8	1,481	41.32	78.5
Photography	31.30	420	35.74	114.2	472	38.18	122.0	398	33.70	107.7	395	34.60	110.5
Poetry	16.73	2,279	17.64	105.4	1,993	17.82	106.5	2,032	17.18	102.7	1,936	17.55	104.9
Political science	41.00	4,114	55.48	135.3	3,865	55.26	134.8	3,947	49.30	120.3	3,682	45.19	110.2
Psychology	47.98	2,121	58.16	121.2	2,292	52.10	108.6	2,346	60.55	126.2	1,927	49.24	102.6
Reference	84.85	891	99.54	117.3	720	156.99	185.0	572	155.49	183.3	491	187.20	220.6
Religion	22.08	7,585	23.72	107.5	7,410	24.55	111.2	6,718	26.18	118.6	6,497	25.82	116.9
Science	116.37	4,417	88.76	76.3	2,654	100.65	86.5	5,353	132.56	113.9	2,355	94.48	81.2
Self-help	17.84	1,153	18.81	105.4	1,038	17.26	96.8	977	17.86	100.1	911	17.65	98.9
Social science	45.05	4,673	54.55	121.1	4,779	51.57	114.5	5,589	56.68	125.8	4,491	47.19	104.7
Sports and recreation	22.30	1,185	24.36	109.2	1,091	25.09	112.5	1,102	24.87	111.5	985	25.22	113.1
Study aids	119.24	1,888	44.88	91.1	939	43.64	88.6	701	38.69	78.6	549	32.23	65.4
Technology and engineering	49.20	3,688	104.67	94.1	1,914	113.98	102.5	4,071	139.48	125.4	2,162	96.85	87.1
Transportation	36.26	465	42.34	116.8	385	39.52	109.0	518	36.65	101.1	510	38.43	106.0
Travel	20.93	1,716	20.60	98.4	1,617	21.28	101.7	1,650	21.16	101.1	1,460	21.74	103.9
True crime	20.94	175	19.01	90.8	176	18.97	90.6	141	19.53	93.3	156	20.08	95.9
Young adult	14.86	2,929	18.67	125.6	2,336	20.70	139.3	2,622	25.77	173.4	2,553	18.52	124.6
Totals and Averages	\$42.06	125,841	\$46.02	109.4	114,597	\$46.52	110.6	122,398	\$56.20	133.6	101,615	\$41.84	99.5

Compiled by Narda Tafuri, University of Scranton, from data supplied by Baker & Taylor.

**Table 7A / U.S. Audiobooks: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2014–2017**

Index Base: 2010 = 100

BISAC Category	2010			2014 Final			2015 Final			2016 Final			2017 Preliminary		
	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index
Antiques and collectibles	36.66	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3	26.66	72.7	3	\$33.32	90.9
Architecture	41.24	1	\$59.95	145.4	2	\$14.97	36.3	7	25.42	61.6	76.4	10	31.49	76.4	
Art	58.21	9	39.32	67.6	8	30.61	52.6	22	16.95	29.1	48.7	24	28.36	48.7	
Bibles	43.28	11	70.88	163.8	16	37.35	86.3	7	122.85	283.9	111.6	6	48.31	111.6	
Biography and autobiography	50.79	982	41.60	81.9	1,226	36.61	72.1	1,662	31.51	62.0	73.3	1,430	37.21	73.3	
Body, mind and spirit	32.98	181	28.51	86.4	163	23.60	71.6	148	28.99	87.9	87.4	154	28.81	87.4	
Business and economics	49.70	607	29.96	60.3	701	29.51	59.4	1,302	27.50	55.3	63.9	870	31.74	63.9	
Children	37.80	1,032	35.62	94.2	2,361	39.89	105.5	1,203	33.23	87.9	80.1	1,615	30.28	80.1	
Comics and graphic novels	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	9.99	n.a.	n.a.	3	8.99	n.a.	
Computers	45.00	18	41.26	91.7	9	29.77	66.1	30	27.05	60.1	64.1	42	28.82	64.1	
Cooking	44.97	14	49.06	109.1	21	30.56	68.0	45	32.23	71.7	78.4	63	35.24	78.4	
Crafts and hobbies	24.98	5	24.78	99.2	3	28.63	114.6	2	27.47	110.0	52.0	2	12.99	52.0	
Design	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	29.99	n.a.	1	9.99	n.a.	n.a.	1	9.99	n.a.	
Drama	33.21	59	25.91	78.0	52	29.76	89.6	152	14.35	43.2	60.9	60	20.23	60.9	
Education	45.71	32	36.84	80.6	26	36.09	78.9	51	40.02	87.6	68.8	36	31.43	68.8	
Family and relationships	41.17	119	32.01	77.8	157	30.76	74.7	246	29.25	71.0	77.7	206	32.01	77.7	
Fiction	50.38	11,447	38.92	77.2	13,094	31.95	63.4	19,063	23.88	47.4	65.6	10,777	33.06	65.6	
Foreign language study	45.11	273	64.32	142.6	137	69.30	153.6	44	110.41	244.7	173.7	87	78.38	173.7	
Games	n.a.	5	47.18	n.a.	1	11.99	n.a.	5	27.99	n.a.	n.a.	10	40.79	n.a.	
Gardening	47.82	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1	14.99	31.3	2	31.49	65.9	56.4	5	26.98	56.4	
Health and fitness	43.09	111	41.17	95.5	162	40.47	93.9	285	32.13	74.6	92.6	286	39.91	92.6	
History	58.07	476	51.94	89.4	550	43.41	74.8	1,186	32.74	56.4	75.6	896	43.91	75.6	
House and home	n.a.	1	9.99	n.a.	5	35.79	n.a.	27	36.98	n.a.	n.a.	39	41.41	n.a.	
Humor	36.62	98	32.93	89.9	108	32.83	89.6	103	27.07	73.9	81.0	58	29.66	81.0	

Language arts and disciplines	38.34	11	38.17	99.6	20	33.29	86.8	40	29.21	76.2	36	37.93	98.9
Law	64.49	12	62.41	96.8	9	55.11	85.4	41	28.46	44.1	29	43.02	66.7
Literary collections	52.07	41	54.10	103.9	58	40.13	77.1	72	34.98	67.2	46	33.59	64.5
Literary criticism	42.53	12	29.98	70.5	20	43.63	102.6	52	27.83	65.4	32	31.68	74.5
Mathematics	n.a.	5	20.59	n.a.	6	36.81	n.a.	6	24.99	n.a.	10	21.49	n.a.
Medical	40.13	12	37.74	94.0	27	32.39	80.7	24	22.07	55.0	49	34.05	84.8
Music	35.67	25	51.25	143.7	21	30.66	85.9	88	27.00	75.7	124	29.27	82.1
Nature	41.20	23	46.63	113.2	35	31.38	76.2	87	21.69	52.6	63	31.16	75.6
Performing arts	40.60	65	39.62	97.6	79	36.53	90.0	184	37.86	93.2	72	34.98	86.2
Pets	38.33	13	37.05	96.7	17	39.33	102.6	50	37.32	97.4	46	37.99	99.1
Philosophy	53.05	25	32.02	60.4	17	29.04	54.7	124	24.75	46.7	101	22.65	42.7
Photography	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2	34.99	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Poetry	33.59	38	39.07	116.3	25	37.22	110.8	24	15.07	44.9	42	22.29	66.4
Political science	48.04	130	45.11	93.9	173	36.92	76.9	403	29.17	60.7	321	37.28	77.6
Psychology	45.42	96	32.57	71.7	106	35.49	78.1	188	27.87	61.4	157	37.50	82.6
Reference	59.99	8	25.99	43.3	4	15.49	25.8	13	24.22	40.4	18	33.99	56.7
Religion	33.94	698	28.74	84.7	950	25.86	76.2	1,226	25.70	75.7	1,243	27.05	79.7
Science	51.89	98	41.78	80.5	122	35.31	68.1	192	28.24	54.4	155	33.58	64.7
Self-help	39.43	231	30.43	77.2	286	30.12	76.4	531	32.80	83.2	376	33.54	85.1
Social science	48.07	103	35.46	73.8	122	31.13	64.8	309	25.28	52.6	298	34.61	72.0
Sports and recreation	48.48	52	38.52	79.5	64	34.30	70.7	223	25.84	53.3	143	36.33	74.9
Study aids	19.41	5	131.00	674.9	3	24.97	128.6	2	52.98	272.9	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Technology and engineering	53.33	11	52.44	98.3	20	43.13	80.9	82	93.02	174.4	102	102.21	191.7
Transportation	46.28	5	52.39	113.2	9	35.98	77.7	17	32.10	69.4	9	30.21	65.3
Travel	50.96	9	47.76	93.7	26	26.37	51.7	145	17.03	33.4	38	30.15	59.2
True crime	52.58	94	34.20	65.0	111	29.19	55.5	173	33.89	64.5	176	38.62	73.5
Young adult	44.81	1,285	43.27	96.6	1,714	31.71	70.8	1,726	29.21	65.2	1,415	38.27	85.4
Totals and Averages	\$48.00	18,588	\$38.99	81.2	22,848	\$33.27	69.3	31,621	\$26.43	55.1	21,784	\$34.16	71.2

Compiled by Narda Tafuri, University of Scranton, from data supplied by Baker & Taylor.

**Table 7B / U.S. E-Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2014–2017**

Index Base: 2010 = 100

BISAC Category	2010			2014 Final			2015 Final			2016 Final			2017 Preliminary		
	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index	Average Price	Volumes	Index
Antiques and collectibles	\$30.24	132	17.05	56.4	154	\$12.50	41.4	101	\$17.91	59.2	100	\$17.82	58.9		
Architecture	66.57	1,083	144.57	217.2	542	60.93	91.5	382	45.81	68.8	318	34.52	51.9		
Art	41.56	1,884	22.27	53.6	4,913	10.59	25.5	2,007	15.49	37.3	1,279	18.17	43.7		
Bibles	6.11	247	9.16	150	194	8.92	146.0	94	10.60	173.4	100	13.64	223.3		
Biography and autobiography	15.47	9,542	17.89	115.6	6,770	15.67	101.3	5,046	14.20	91.8	4,107	15.04	97.2		
Body, mind and spirit	13.95	1,815	10.52	75.4	1,344	11.14	79.8	1,377	9.54	68.4	1,194	10.29	73.7		
Business and economics	44.82	10,599	48.79	108.9	21,656	23.30	52.0	8,283	47.29	105.5	6,463	46.21	103.1		
Children	13.82	21,565	14.62	105.8	19,174	12.37	89.5	18,415	14.03	101.5	14,629	17.73	128.3		
Comics and graphic novels	11.39	1,535	6.13	53.8	3,344	8.13	71.4	3,703	8.86	77.8	769	8.46	74.3		
Computers	62.09	4,358	66.63	107.3	4,420	64.30	103.6	4,254	71.98	115.9	2,756	81.46	131.2		
Cooking	16.79	2,870	12.01	71.6	3,086	12.11	72.1	2,209	14.37	85.6	2,037	14.65	87.2		
Crafts and hobbies	17.63	960	11.94	67.7	1,269	9.73	55.2	1,190	11.89	67.4	645	11.91	67.6		
Design	37.03	144	28.03	75.7	145	26.25	70.9	129	26.70	72.1	102	27.62	74.6		
Drama	4.86	1,799	9.90	203.6	1,724	7.58	156.0	773	10.66	219.4	628	10.94	225.1		
Education	45.95	4,642	38.80	84.4	3,574	38.27	83.3	4,062	41.31	89.9	6,193	40.84	88.9		
Family and relationships	14.79	2,200	14.11	95.4	1,767	11.22	75.9	1,703	9.82	66.4	1,312	9.66	65.3		
Fiction	7.06	104,416	6.42	90.9	88,146	6.22	88.1	66,988	5.27	74.6	53,026	5.53	78.4		
Foreign language study	46.68	1,657	16.19	34.7	1,645	20.18	43.2	938	12.04	25.8	837	12.60	27		
Games	12.85	682	8.20	63.8	1,246	22.64	176.2	754	8.67	67.5	601	7.24	56.3		
Gardening	17.41	311	11.59	66.6	307	10.89	62.5	273	12.71	73	189	15.04	86.4		
Health and fitness	18.78	3,170	11.71	62.4	2,934	13.79	73.4	2,590	12.42	66.1	2,034	11.80	62.8		
History	48.20	12,548	34.26	71.1	10,472	40.49	84.0	8,067	31.87	66.1	6,196	34.18	70.9		
House and home	21.57	310	9.67	44.8	312	10.26	47.6	236	10.11	46.9	180	20.46	94.9		
Humor	11.15	1,080	9.37	84	858	10.64	95.4	745	7.45	66.8	645	9.17	82.3		



Language arts and disciplines	75.61	2,274	76.99	101.8	1,861	90.30	119.4	1,378	80.71	106.7	1,197	84.51	111.8
Law	112.19	1,840	99.07	88.3	1,747	105.84	94.3	1,373	89.57	79.8	1,067	77.94	69.5
Literary collections	20.27	1,615	23.78	117.3	6,373	5.16	25.5	994	14.81	73.1	466	14.85	73.2
Literary criticism	87.17	2,354	76.03	87.2	2,926	66.15	75.9	2,003	66.12	75.8	4,318	37.96	43.5
Mathematics	112.32	1,239	94.42	84.1	1,239	84.84	75.5	1,468	85.97	76.5	859	83.45	74.3
Medical	135.71	3,737	104.04	76.7	2,992	103.42	76.2	3,607	108.67	80.1	2,740	99.90	73.6
Music	32.65	1,431	47.07	144.2	1,661	21.53	65.9	1,219	18.27	55.9	1,337	18.84	57.7
Nature	59.48	952	35.52	59.7	731	42.19	70.9	691	47.33	79.6	567	36.30	61
Performing arts	32.17	1,421	32.68	101.6	1,329	31.22	97.1	983	33.07	102.8	922	30.36	94.4
Pets	14.50	424	10.75	74.1	292	10.48	72.3	410	9.28	64	322	10.35	71.4
Philosophy	71.43	2,362	61.24	85.7	2,188	57.86	81.0	1,642	53.33	74.7	1,370	49.95	69.9
Photography	27.23	556	19.79	72.7	497	17.76	65.2	387	20.52	75.4	336	19.67	72.2
Poetry	9.54	3,813	7.06	74	3,783	6.34	66.5	2,269	7.63	80	2,323	7.53	78.9
Political science	59.74	3,913	55.78	93.4	4,026	56.26	94.2	3,601	50.22	84.1	3,275	45.63	76.4
Psychology	56.42	3,273	57.59	102.1	2,169	50.16	88.9	1,825	43.48	77.1	1,722	46.77	82.9
Reference	22.92	4,062	25.72	112.2	3,502	24.66	107.6	4,192	13.93	60.8	638	14.98	65.3
Religion	27.81	11,208	19.21	69.1	9,383	20.83	74.9	7,669	19.89	71.5	6,525	20.19	72.6
Science	155.80	4,710	118.56	76.1	3,833	98.18	63.0	4,300	103.15	66.2	3,408	92.95	59.7
Self-help	14.06	4,825	8.57	61	4,032	9.69	68.9	3,442	7.73	55	2,945	8.49	60.4
Social science	56.83	4,888	67.16	118.2	4,269	55.12	97.0	4,014	52.01	91.5	3,515	52.72	92.8
Sports and recreation	19.22	2,344	17.87	93	1,844	17.28	89.9	1,914	15.89	82.7	1,313	16.99	88.4
Study aids	13.94	4,721	18.59	133.3	1,155	11.04	79.2	18,811	29.92	214.6	2,542	31.82	228.2
Technology and engineering	158.44	3,859	145.82	92	3,175	119.72	75.6	3,769	126.40	79.8	2,731	118.80	75
Transportation	33.12	336	19.36	58.5	324	25.62	77.3	328	20.57	62.1	282	23.98	72.4
Travel	15.84	2,320	11.28	71.2	3,291	9.50	60.0	2,202	11.23	70.9	1,775	13.67	86.3
True crime	10.37	545	12.37	119.3	447	13.57	130.9	423	12.02	115.9	342	12.27	118.3
Young adult	11.96	6,613	13.50	112.9	5,476	12.30	102.8	4,542	15.22	127.3	3,604	13.35	111.6
Totals and Averages	\$41.61	271,370	\$25.42	61.1	254,541	\$22.18	53.3	213,775	\$25.58	61.5	158,781	\$25.50	61.3

Compiled by Narda Tafuri, University of Scranton, from data supplied by Baker & Taylor.

Table 8 / Average Price of Serials, Based on Titles in Select Serial Indexes, 2014–2018

Subject	LC Class	Titles	2014 Average Price	2015 Average Price	Percent Change 2014–2015	2016 Average Price	Percent Change 2015–2016	2017 Average Price	Percent Change 2016–2017	2018 Average Price	Percent Change 2017–2018
Agriculture	S	584	\$865.71	\$914.69	5.7%	\$972.57	6.3%	\$1,032.80	6.2%	\$1,094.40	6.0%
Anthropology	GN	152	420.50	442.79	5.3	467.68	5.6	496.55	6.2	545.24	9.8
Arts and architecture	N	267	289.68	305.34	5.4	335.23	9.8	356.05	6.2	377.48	6.0
Astronomy	QB	73	1,770.94	1,888.57	6.6	1,965.64	4.1	2,072.76	5.4	2,185.78	5.5
Biology	QH	1,214	2,081.25	2,207.44	6.1	2,335.92	5.8	2,469.40	5.7	2,614.39	5.9
Botany	QK	184	1,356.26	1,421.37	4.8	1,487.09	4.6	1,575.39	5.9	1,648.13	4.6
Business and economics	HA–HU	1,435	987.26	1,062.79	7.7	1,133.95	6.7	1,176.46	3.7	1,229.40	4.5
Chemistry	QD	405	3,708.20	3,871.87	4.4	4,049.00	4.6	4,240.00	4.7	4,433.26	4.6
Education	L	533	614.58	654.21	6.4	702.60	7.4	744.95	6.0	792.47	6.4
Engineering	T	1,742	1,550.68	1,649.12	6.3	1,762.53	6.9	1,872.06	6.2	2,068.15	10.5
Food Science	TX	104	1,092.75	1,164.69	6.6	1,228.08	5.4	1,290.99	5.1	1,377.15	6.7
General works	A	206	202.99	209.40	3.2	217.05	3.6	229.70	5.8	241.22	5.0
Geography	G–GF	312	913.23	961.93	5.3	1,023.81	6.4	1,099.24	7.4	1,170.81	6.5
Geology	QE	245	1,389.68	1,491.42	7.3	1,600.99	7.3	1,703.81	6.4	1,803.55	5.9
Health sciences	R	3,873	1,053.63	1,117.85	6.1	1,194.28	6.8	1,270.08	6.3	1,356.08	6.8
History	C,D,E,F	907	308.12	326.28	5.9	344.38	5.5	368.33	7.0	391.83	6.4

Language and literature	P	971	302.82	318.62	5.2	335.48	5.3	354.43	5.6	378.95	6.9
Law	K	419	392.64	423.39	7.8	450.13	6.3	473.48	5.2	500.74	5.8
Library science	Z	198	695.11	728.76	4.8	763.09	4.7	791.19	3.7	820.73	3.7
Math and computer science	QA	879	1,251.39	1,313.31	4.9	1,372.80	4.5	1,440.15	4.9	1,529.83	6.2
Military and naval science	U,V	82	479.84	538.12	12.1	570.37	6.0	594.82	4.3	623.88	4.9
Music	M	135	230.64	242.14	5.0	254.49	5.1	269.14	5.8	291.34	8.3
Philosophy and religion	B-BD, BH-BX	604	307.35	329.50	7.2	347.62	5.5	368.36	6.0	389.14	5.6
Physics	QC	465	3,082.90	3,170.65	2.8	3,290.73	3.8	3,447.35	4.8	3,610.90	4.7
Political science	J	293	537.93	570.07	6.0	612.60	7.5	649.89	6.1	697.61	7.3
Psychology	BF	327	763.00	812.64	6.5	877.10	7.9	929.02	5.9	992.87	6.9
Recreation	GV	151	370.52	394.92	6.6	427.45	8.2	460.09	7.6	495.02	7.6
Science (general)	Q	239	1,109.02	1,194.61	7.7	1,257.70	5.3	1,340.53	6.6	1,401.93	4.6
Social sciences	H	141	671.26	707.18	5.4	769.83	8.9	822.15	6.8	871.71	6.0
Sociology	HM-HX	796	683.06	732.60	7.3	779.07	6.3	827.98	6.3	881.28	6.4
Technology	TA-TT	368	1,068.27	1,119.79	4.8	1,177.86	5.2	1,229.83	4.4	1,284.39	4.4
Zoology	QL	329	1,278.95	1,354.77	5.9	1,459.51	7.7	1,526.61	4.6	1,610.69	5.5
Totals and Averages		18,633	\$1,084.47	\$1,147.77	5.8%	\$1,217.33	6.1%	\$1,285.94	5.6%	\$1,368.93	6.5%

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona. Data on serial pricing supplied by EBSCO and is based on titles indexed in EBSCO Academic Search Complete, EBSCO Masterfile Complete, Clarivate Analytics (formerly ISI) Arts and Humanities Citation Index, Clarivate Analytics Science Citation Index, Clarivate Analytics Social Sciences Citation Index, and Elsevier's Scopus.

**Table 8A / Changes in the Average Price of Online Serials 2014–2018, Based on Titles in Select Serial Indexes**

Subject	LC Class	Titles	2014 Average Price	2015 Average Price	Percent Change 2014–2015	2016 Average Price	Percent Change 2015–2016	2017 Average Price	Percent Change 2016–2017	2018 Average Price	Percent Change 2017–2018
Agriculture	S	254	\$1,135.24	\$1,195.23	5.3%	\$1,262.48	5.6%	\$1,329.65	5.3%	\$1,396.85	5.1%
Anthropology	GN	97	505.51	536.41	6.1	566.17	5.5	599.20	5.8	661.22	10.3
Arts and architecture	N	104	474.14	504.74	6.5	539.07	6.8	581.06	7.8	618.30	6.4
Astronomy	QB	46	2,061.20	2,217.09	7.6	2,305.08	4.0	2,438.29	5.8	2,572.55	5.5
Biology	QH	651	2,040.12	2,163.32	6.0	2,289.68	5.8	2,425.69	5.9	2,570.31	6.0
Botany	QK	108	1,584.76	1,654.52	4.4	1,720.50	4.0	1,819.18	5.7	1,886.56	3.7
Business and economics	HA–HU	735	1,386.09	1,499.81	8.2	1,598.14	6.6	1,642.95	2.8	1,703.70	3.7
Chemistry	QD	219	3,852.03	4,068.65	5.6	4,281.00	5.2	4,525.02	5.7	4,766.52	5.3
Education	L	393	720.79	770.25	6.9	827.75	7.5	877.22	6.0	931.06	6.1
Engineering	T	767	1,799.38	1,913.86	6.4	2,051.11	7.2	2,173.20	6.0	2,492.37	14.7
Food science	TX	53	1,524.63	1,615.72	6.0	1,703.68	5.4	1,762.40	3.4	1,878.16	6.6
General science	Q	130	1,437.77	1,550.38	7.8	1,635.88	5.5	1,750.36	7.0	1,822.77	4.1
General works	A	51	469.39	491.42	4.7	519.38	5.7	549.40	5.8	570.15	3.8
Geography	G–GF	185	923.28	983.00	6.5	1,047.92	6.6	1,127.38	7.6	1,208.61	7.2
Geology	QE	137	1,371.24	1,463.70	6.7	1,565.28	6.9	1,665.59	6.4	1,747.42	4.9
Health sciences	R	1,593	1,194.53	1,271.83	6.5	1,358.44	6.8	1,442.87	6.2	1,536.57	6.5
History	C,D,E,F	450	422.14	450.32	6.7	479.32	6.4	517.34	7.9	549.86	6.3

Language and literature	P	464	420.84	445.51	5.9	472.57	6.1	503.04	6.4	540.50	7.4
Law	K	142	547.94	600.83	9.7	639.83	6.5	681.38	6.5	728.71	6.9
Library science	Z	111	950.06	995.79	4.8	1,044.62	4.9	1,076.70	3.1	1,107.06	2.8
Math and computer science	QA	536	1,271.19	1,342.24	5.6	1,415.41	5.5	1,492.29	5.4	1,603.79	7.5
Military and naval science	U,V	48	572.12	648.10	13.3	691.37	6.7	727.41	5.2	759.43	4.4
Music	M	69	321.36	342.95	6.7	364.76	6.4	385.99	5.8	420.85	9.0
Philosophy and religion	B-BD, BH-BX	287	433.51	468.75	8.1	498.52	6.4	534.11	7.1	565.66	5.9
Physics	QC	284	3,305.51	3,443.10	4.2	3,598.34	4.5	3,807.91	5.8	4,017.53	5.5
Political science	J	196	643.87	682.97	6.1	734.92	7.6	780.98	6.3	842.03	7.8
Psychology	BF	201	846.37	897.83	6.1	973.20	8.4	1,030.19	5.9	1,097.59	6.5
Recreation	GV	65	655.98	702.07	7.0	763.29	8.7	825.74	8.2	889.21	7.7
Social sciences	H	79	835.84	872.91	4.4	948.28	8.6	1,016.53	7.2	1,076.86	5.9
Sociology	HM-HX	543	792.82	853.32	7.6	910.28	6.7	966.46	6.2	1,028.75	6.4
Technology	TA-TT	142	1,733.23	1,831.24	5.7	1,931.24	5.5	2,014.86	4.3	2,091.21	3.8
Zoology	QL	161	1,423.03	1,514.73	6.4	1,683.39	11.1	1,759.84	4.5	1,850.21	5.1
Totals and Averages		9,301	\$1,261.49	\$1,340.69	6.3%	\$1,425.01	5.7%	\$1,505.79	6.8%	\$1,608.81	6.8%

Compiled by Stephen Bosch, University of Arizona. Data on serial pricing supplied by EBSCO and is based on titles indexed in EBSCO Academic Search Complete, EBSCO Masterfile Complete, Clarivate Analytics (formerly ISI) Arts and Humanities Citation Index, Clarivate Analytics Science Citation Index, Clarivate Analytics Social Sciences Citation Index, and Elsevier's Scopus.

Table 9 / British Academic Books: Average Prices and Price Indexes, 2014–2017

Index Base: 2010 = 100

Subject	LC Class	2010		2014		2015		2016		2017			
		Titles	Average Price (£)	Titles	Average Price (£)	Titles	Average Price (£)	Titles	Average Price (£)	Titles	Average Price (£)	Percent Change 2016–2017	Index
Agriculture	S	154	£63.97	134	£73.28	131	£73.63	142	£77.66	125	£79.66	2.6%	124.5
Anthropology	GN	154	50.85	109	57.63	92	59.65	148	53.08	121	60.79	14.5	119.5
Botany	QK	45	66.08	35	74.78	21	95.19	19	84.68	27	80.32	-5.1	121.6
Business and economics	H–HJ	1,913	60.54	1,911	71.19	1,866	75.13	1,897	73.35	1,767	77.80	6.1	128.5
Chemistry	QD	96	105.68	91	125.67	72	127.89	57	113.66	47	104.58	-8.0	99.0
Education	L	558	52.21	517	64.50	583	68.39	577	179.48	575	78.43	-56.3	150.2
Engineering and technology	T–TS	742	61.84	788	76.69	732	85.51	681	78.93	692	82.39	4.4	133.2
Fine and applied arts	M, N	1,037	35.95	1,009	44.54	991	50.40	908	51.19	917	53.71	4.9	149.4
General works	A	30	60.03	32	72.25	21	83.47	27	106.91	33	92.37	-13.6	153.9
Geography	G–GF, GR–GT	276	65.69	245	67.55	457	72.62	447	75.21	315	87.06	15.8	132.5
Geology	QE	33	52.28	33	59.80	34	60.87	28	69.53	30	57.36	-17.5	109.7
History	C,D,E,F	1,822	42.55	1,725	48.11	1,835	51.22	1,914	55.21	1,790	54.96	-0.5	129.2

Home economics	TX	46	30.48	38	63.79	29	85.98	32	67.49	48	83.35	23.5	273.5
Industrial arts	TT	41	28.47	27	45.43	33	46.11	27	51.62	25	61.26	18.7	215.1
Law	K	1,153	83.10	1,253	88.30	1,184	85.16	1,117	101.35	1,207	100.34	-1.0	120.7
Library and information science	Z	100	53.58	106	69.71	114	71.04	106	69.09	98	62.98	-8.8	117.6
Literature and language	P	3,987	31.58	3,553	38.95	3,008	42.33	3,070	46.86	2,902	50.52	7.8	160.0
Mathematics and computer science	QA	207	48.29	180	54.91	172	57.46	188	61.90	186	71.56	15.6	148.2
Medicine	R	1,182	55.12	1,113	63.10	946	67.52	905	69.56	859	70.12	0.8	127.2
Military and naval sciences	U, V	184	40.95	201	50.67	165	53.43	171	59.75	127	59.93	0.3	146.3
Philosophy and religion	B-BD, BH-BX	1,336	48.17	1,187	52.78	1,184	56.72	1,098	61.29	1,075	68.74	12.1	142.7
Physics and astronomy	QB, QC	214	64.83	161	72.29	185	65.07	179	66.85	167	69.30	3.7	106.9
Political Science	J	737	71.88	794	65.82	819	73.18	827	73.83	802	77.93	5.6	108.4
Psychology	BF	265	39.69	295	63.42	278	69.09	304	73.32	337	72.28	-1.4	182.1
Science (general)	Q	60	40.70	54	57.89	53	62.95	62	80.73	71	75.80	-6.1	186.2
Sociology	HM-HX	1,169	58.24	1,221	64.89	1,281	70.21	1,361	71.40	1,358	73.25	2.6	125.8
Sports & Recreation	GV	192	36.76	170	61.49	179	68.49	180	71.38	204	81.24	13.8	221.0
Zoology	QH, QL-QR	382	65.79	285	79.00	263	79.76	254	67.99	271	73.11	7.5	111.1
Totals and Averages		18,115	£50.50	17,267	£59.05	16,728	£63.22	16,726	£69.46	16,176	£69.11	-0.5%	136.8

Compiled by George Aulliso, University of Scranton, based on information provided by GOBI Library Solutions.

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prices from cloth editions except when not available. The data also draws from select titles from continental Europe and Africa. The index does not separate out more expensive reference titles. Small numbers of titles that include higher-priced reference sets may not be reliable indicators of price changes. This table does not include e-book prices.

Data in the “Totals and Averages” row list the total of the LC Classes profiled in this table, not the total of all books profiled by GOBI Library Solutions. In 2017, total British academic books are comparable to last two year’s numbers with 16,176 titles compared to 16,726 titles in 2016 and 16,728 titles in 2015.

In 2017 there was a small overall price decrease of -0.5 percent, bringing the average price for all books profiled to £69.11. The 2017 price decrease, though small, comes at a time when the United Kingdom’s Consumer Price Index saw a relatively high 2.7 percent inflation as of December 2017 (<http://www.ons.gov.uk>).

Table 9 shows how average prices have increased or decreased in comparison with the 2010 base year. For 2017 the overall index price for all LC subjects profiled in this table is at 136.8 percent. All LC classes listed are currently above their 2010 base prices, except for chemistry, which is now at 99.0 percent of the 2010 base price. The highest increases in comparison with the 2010 base prices are home economics (273.5 percent), sports and recreation (221.0 percent), and industrial arts (215.1 percent).

The -0.5 percent average price decrease of 2017 is the first average price decrease recorded by this table, which is a welcome change from the 9.9 percent increase of 2016 and the 7.1 percent increase of 2015. There are currently no known reliable indicators for a 2018 industry forecast.

## Using the Price Indexes

Librarians are encouraged to monitor trends in the publishing industry and changes in economic conditions when preparing budget forecasts and projections. The ALA ALCTS Library Materials Price Index (LMPI) Editorial Board endeavors to make information on publishing trends readily available by sponsoring the annual compilation and publication of price data contained in Tables 1 to 9. The indexes cover newly published library materials and document prices and rates of percent changes at the national and international level. They are useful benchmarks against which local costs can be compared, but because they reflect retail prices in the aggregate, they are neither a substitute for cost data that reflect the collecting patterns of individual libraries nor a substitute for specific cost studies.

Differences between local prices and those found in national indexes arise partially because these indexes exclude discounts, service charges, shipping and handling fees, and other costs that the library might incur. Discrepancies may also relate to a library’s subject coverage; the mix of titles purchased, including both current and backfiles; and the proportion of the library’s budget expended on domestic or foreign materials. These variables can affect the average price paid by an individual library, although the individual library’s rate of increase may not differ greatly from the national indexes.



The LMPI Editorial Board is interested in pursuing studies that would correlate a particular library's costs with the national prices. The group welcomes interested parties to its meetings at ALA Annual and Midwinter conferences.

The Library Materials Price Index Editorial Board consists of compilers George Aulisio, Ajaye Bloomstone, Stephen Bosch, and Narda Tafuri. George Aulisio currently serves as editor, and Rachel Fleming, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, serves as assistant editor.