

UK trade publishers: top 50 by size

The top 50 UK trade publishers, compiled by *The Bookseller*, includes those with commercial, academic or educational businesses that make significant sales through the traditional book trade. Professional and STM publishers with a large trade

presence are included, but specialist professional and STM lists, and society publishers, are not. The ranking is based on number of employees rather than sales as in previous years, to avoid comparisons of trading performance between different types of

business. It was felt that number of employees was a better indicator of size, accepting that some groups own distribution and even printing operations.

Information is taken from financial accounts filed at Companies

House. Where no information was available because results are consolidated into parent company accounts, for example, estimates have been used as noted. Companies that missed the deadline to file latest figures are excluded.

Rank	Company	Employees	Sales £m	Growth %	Operating profit £000s	Pretax profit £000s	Net margin %	Year end
1	Macmillan	1,564	296.3	20.0				Dec 01
2	Oxford University Press	1,500	376.0	3.0		49,528 ^(a)	13.3	Mar 02
3	Penguin Group UK	1,300	285.0 ^(b)					Dec 01
4	Random House Group	1,100	207.6 ^(c)	3.0		33,000	15.9	Jun 01
5	Pearson Education	1,100	167.2	-10.2	-4,678	-4,678		Dec 01
6	HarperCollins Publishers	1,017	149.6 ^(d)	10.2	7,958	30,372	20.3	Jun 01
7	Blackwell Publishing	962	147.4	4.5	5,634	9,405	6.4	Dec 01
8	Cambridge University Press	850 ^(e)	132.8	9.1		-5,800 ^(f)		Dec 01
9	Taylor & Francis	808	137.3	18.0	22,296	18,475	13.5	Dec 01
10	Hodder Headline	703	138.0	5.0	19,000		13.8	Aug 02
11	Scholastic UK	597	45.8	-5.9	2,860	3,036	6.6	May 01
12	Wiley Europe	477	72.7	6.4	12,721	13,828	19.0	Apr 02
13	Quarto	430	73.6	0.1	4,923	3,190	4.3	Dec 01
14	Orion Group	388 ^(g)	60.0 ^(h)					Dec 01
15	Nelson Thornes	299	34.3	-6.0	3,372	3,836	11.0	Dec 01
16	Granada Learning	250	40.0 ⁽ⁱ⁾					Sep 01
17	Octopus Group	233	41.7	-0.2	1,633	-773		Jun 01
18	Bloomsbury	210	61.1	20.6	7,878	8,763	14.3	Dec 01
19	Walker Books	210	33.5	5.5	1,307	1,314	3.9	Dec 01
20	Thames & Hudson	195	22.5	3.7	1,571	1,699	7.6	Dec 01
21	Chrysalis Books	184	33.9	47.0	3,000			Aug 01
22	D&C Group	132	30.3	45.1	865	-206		Dec 01 ⁽¹⁾
23	Usborne Publishing	129	16.5	13.3	1,123	1,204	7.3	Jan 02
24	Mills & Boon	128	22.2	-3.1	3,000	3,000	13.5	Dec 01
25	Tempus Publishing	118	8.9	19.9	1,057	908	10.1	Dec 01
26	Time Warner Books UK	118	38.5					Dec 01
27	Egmont Books	115	25.4	16.1	1,202	1,011	4.0	Dec 01
28	Continuum International	103	9.2	61.0	-666	-1,144		Jun 01
29	Simon & Schuster UK	88	21.1	19.0	-1,865	-1,828		Dec 01
30	Anness Publishing	85	31.1	5.2	662	57	0.2	Oct 01
31	Faber & Faber	68	12.5	5.0	-540	-580		Mar 02
32	Kingfisher Publications	68	12.8	0.2	642	771	5.5	Dec 01
33	Parragon Publishing	63	47.9	5.5	4,201	3,646	7.5	Mar 01 ⁽²⁾
34	Carlton Books	62	10.4	-10.0	336	168	1.9	Sep 01
35	Guinness World Records	62	18.0	3.6	-2,263	-2,679		Jun 01
36	Kogan Page	61	7.7	1.6	159	122	1.3	Jun 01
37	Watts Publishing	56	10.8	46.1 ^(j)	808	807	7.4	Dec 01
38	Lion Publishing	52	5.0	-16.2	36	225	4.0	Mar 02
39	Lonely Planet	50	13.1		414	404	3.1	Jun 01
40	Exley Publications	41	4.4	-13.3	79	74	1.6	May 01
41	New Holland	40	6.6	15.2	-34	-77		Mar 02
42	Virgin Books	36	11.9	12.4	-323	-644		Dec 01 ⁽³⁾
43	Frances Lincoln	35	4.9	-3.8	241	212	4.1	Mar 02
44	Duncan Baird	30	5.0	-0.2	177	79	1.6	Dec 01
45	Murdoch Books UK	29	5.4	47.7	-411	-427		Jun 01
46	Chambers Harrap	28	5.3	-2.2	923	1,073	20.8	Dec 01
47	Judy Piatkus	25	5.7	4.0	108	65	1.2	Jun 01
48	Osprey	25	5.1	31.7	152	-107		Dec 01
49	Michael O'Mara	23	5.3	19.6	-111	45	0.9	Feb 01
50	Quadrille	22	4.4	17.6	120	56	1.4	Dec 01

Notes and key ^(a) surplus ^(b) inc Dorling Kindersley (146m) and Rough Guides (£9.1m) ^(c) including Transworld ^(d) exc Fourth Estate (£8.8m for 15 months to Jun 01, henceforth to be consolidated in HCP) ^(e) number of employees includes printing and publishing ^(f) surplus ^(g) number of employees based on 176 for Orion Group and 212 for LBS ^(h) Sales are estimated ⁽ⁱ⁾ inc Letts Educational (£10.4m) ^(j) growth compares to 8 months to Dec 00 ⁽¹⁾ 18 months to Dec 01 ⁽²⁾ 15 months to Mar 01 ⁽³⁾ 17 months to Dec 01