

Fees paid to translators of literature in 2004–2005

In spring 2005, the Section for Literature Translators of the Finnish Association of Translators and Interpreters conducted a survey on fees paid by publishers to translators of literature during 2004 and in early 2005. The survey of the Section members was done over the Internet.

* 77 respondents, 287 individual reports on fees

* 172 reports based on printer's sheets, 44 reports based on the character count, 61 reports based on lump sums

* 40 publishers and other clients

Fees per printer's sheet (euros)

	lowest	highest	mean	mean '03	mean '02
Fiction for adults (88)	185	350	277	ca. 280	ca. 277
Children's books (32)	170	300	234	253	248
Non-fiction (52)	200	600	283	283	263
Non-fiction (excl. the outlier)	200	400	265	283	263

Fees based on the character count (euros/1000 characters)

	lowest	highest	mean	corresponding fee per sheet
Fiction for adults (18)	6.3	13.5	10.2	265
Children's books (12)	6.6	10.6	9.3	242
Non-fiction (14)	8.4	12.3	9.8	255

Fiction for adults

- 124 reports on fees; 88 of them based on printer's sheets

Books for children and young people

- 53 reports on fees; 32 reports based on printer's sheets

Non-fiction

- 75 reports on fees; 52 of them based on printer's sheets
- if the outlier (the highest fee of 600 euros per printer's sheet) is excluded, the mean drops to 265 euros

Plays

- 8 reports, all fees paid as lump sums

The ratio between fees based on printer's sheets and fees based on the character count

- Conversion formulas: a fee based on printer's sheets is converted to a fee based on 1,000 characters by using the formula: $\text{fee} / 32 \times 1.23$. A fee based on 1,000 characters is converted to a fee based on printer's sheets by using the formula: $\text{fee} \times 32 / 1.23$. In both formulas, the figure 32 comes from the old system of fees based on printer's sheets, in which each sheet has space for about 32,000 characters, some of which is empty space. To reflect the difference between printer's sheets and the character count, translators and publishers have agreed to use a conversion factor of 1.23.
- In fiction for adults, when the mean for fees based on 1,000 characters is converted to fees based on printer's sheet by using the conversion factor of 1.23, the result is 265 euros, which is about five per cent less than the mean for fees paid according to printer's sheets.
- In books for children and young people, the mean for fees based on 1,000 characters was somewhat higher than the mean for fees paid according to printer's sheets (a fee of 9.3 euros per 1,000 characters equals a fee of 242 euros per printer's sheet, when the conversion factor is 1.23).
- In non-fiction, the mean fee per 1,000 characters (9.8 euros) equals a fee of 255 euros per printer's sheet, when the conversion factor is 1.23.

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