

1996
ANNUAL STATISTICS
THE PHYSICAL REVIEW
and
PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

1996 showed continued moderation in the growth of the number of manuscripts submitted to *Physical Review* and *Physical Review Letters*. Total submissions for the year were a bit less than 21,800, representing an increase of 4.1%, comparable to 1995's 3.8% increase and significantly less than the 8-9% increases of the preceding four years. The pattern of growth over the past 30 years is shown in Figure 1. Monthly receipts over the past three years are presented in Figure 2, showing the usual pattern of seasonal fluctuations in submissions.

Reflecting the international nature of physics and of the *Physical Review* journals, manuscript submissions from outside the US, which have been more than those from within the US since 1989, continued to grow; they constituted 71% of total submissions in 1996 (see Figure 3). Submissions from the US declined in 1996 compared to 1995, and at 29% comprised a smaller share than did the submissions from Western Europe at 34%; see Table IX.

To deal with the submitted manuscripts, 55,845 referrals to referees were made in 1996. Continuing efforts to expand the referee pool to deal with the increasing number of manuscripts resulted in the number of available referees in our database growing by 12%, to a total of more than 24,900.

Manuscript submissions by electronic mail increased by 13%, to a total of 11,391 (52% of receipts). The number of articles published as compuscripts (using authors' $\text{\LaTeX}/\text{\REVTeX}$ files in the composition process) increased by 20%, and constituted 55% of the total pages in the journals (see Figure 4).

Detailed statistics relating to the journals are given in Tables I-VIII.

TABLE I. Numbers of articles and of “short papers” received and published by *Physical Review* 1969–1996. “Short papers” include Brief Reports, Comments, and Rapid Communications in 1981–1996; they include Comments and Addenda in 1969–1980.

	Articles		Short Papers		Total	
	Received	Published	Received	Published	Received	Published
1996	11173	7583	3779	2435	14952	10018
1995	10951	7579	3642	2505	14593	10084
1994	10443	7575	3549	2423	13992	9998
1993	9371	7040	3334	2394	12705	9434
1992	8472	6043	3150	2208	11622	8251
1991	7652	5439	2912	2076	10564	7515
1990	7118	5162	2761	1894	9879	7056
1989	6590	5210	2744	2129	9334	7339
1988	6217	4776	2582	1994	8799	6770
1987	5840	4211	2623	1890	8463	6101
1986	5264	3932	2096	1693	7360	5625
1985	4697	3566	1993	1554	6690	5120
1984	4309	3154	1810	1364	6119	4518
1983	4023	3142	1556	1216	5579	4358
1982	3770	3052	1455	1160	5225	4212
1981	3936	3129	1463	807	5399	3936
1980	4043	3009	528	403	4571	3412
1979	3855	2945	588	396	4443	3341
1978	3784	3107	488	431	4272	3538
1977	4003	3009	555	440	4558	3449
1976	3913	2905	600	455	4513	3360
1975	3948	2951	595	441	4543	3392
1974	3754	2951	570	520	4324	3471
1973	3838	3249	625	505	4463	3754
1972	3899	2915	615	394	4514	3309
1971	3730	2862	482	394	4212	3256
1970	3640	2926	443	330	4083	3256
1969	3755	3084	298	110	4053	3194

TABLE II. Numbers of articles and of short papers received and published by individual *Physical Review* journals in 1996.

	Articles		Short Papers		No. Pages Published	% Pages Published
	Received	Published	Received	Published		
A	1629	1031	474	244	10021	12.8
B1	2360	1646	981	681	16520	21.2
B15	2481	1698	1007	710	17202	22.1
C	727	593	311	218	6390	8.2
D1	809	626	176	110	7058	9.0
D15	1194	661	235	99	7307	9.4
E	1973	1328	595	373	13498	17.3
Total	11173	7583	3779	2435	77996	

TABLE III. Papers received by the short-papers section of *Physical Review* in 1996.

	Direct Submissions			Transfers from PRL		
	Brief Reports	Comments	Rapid Communications	Brief Reports	Comments	Rapid Communications
A	163	22	174	17	0	98
B1	235	37	454	39	0	216
B15	241	29	487	49	0	201
C	122	21	129	11	0	28
D1	84	8	50	10	0	24
D15	110	18	78	8	0	21
E	149	33	227	47	0	139
Total	1104	168	1599	181	0	727

TABLE IV. Fraction of papers not published (which includes those rejected, withdrawn, recommended for publication elsewhere, etc.) by the *Physical Review* journals for 1986-1995. Many papers submitted in 1996 are still active; hence the numbers for that year are still incomplete and are not listed.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
A/A1	21.0	21.3	21.1	20.7	24.6	23.7	25.0	26.2	32.0	38.1
A15/E						25.6	24.5	22.9	28.7	30.7
B1	17.1	14.5	18.7	20.4	20.0	24.0	22.9	24.4	25.6	30.5
B15	16.7	15.9	16.2	17.6	22.4	20.9	20.5	22.2	22.7	29.1
C	14.6	15.1	17.8	17.0	20.1	18.0	21.3	17.9	20.7	25.2
D1	23.6	29.6	25.7	25.1	26.4	24.8	23.4	22.6	29.9	26.6
D15	36.8	41.8	42.4	40.4	39.2	43.4	38.4	39.9	39.1	41.0
Average	20.6	20.6	21.4	21.8	24.0	24.4	24.2	24.8	27.5	31.5

TABLE V. Distribution of receipts among the *Physical Review* journals 1970–1996. Note that in 1993 *Physical Review A1* became *Physical Review A*, and *A15* became *E*.

Total Number of Articles and BCR or CA Received											
	A1	A	A15	B1	B15	C	D1	D	D15	E	Total
1996		2103		3341	3488	1038	985		1429	2568	14952
1995		1994		3374	3472	1082	986		1327	2358	14593
1994		1962		3210	3327	1009	1021		1338	2125	13992
1993		1797		3030	2928	995	970		1244	1741	12705
1992	1651		1518	2818	2760	911	835		1129		11622
1991	1533		1294	2693	2619	843	645		937		10564
1990	1520		1131	2460	2427	812	622		907		9879
1989		2352		2144	2348	897	662		931		9334
1988		2052		2109	2335	826	575		902		8799
1987		2006		1825	2200	880	602		950		8463
1986		1772		1271	2069	752	592		904		7360
1985		1488		1227	1814	754	572		835		6690
1984		1356		1147	1555	714	587		760		6119
1983		1242		964	1446	752	495		680		5579
1982		1154		883	1287	761	534		606		5225
1981		1125		875	1287	799	599		714		5399
1980		933		758	1013	718	507		642		4571
1979		828		705	995	730	540		645		4443
1978		799		682	906	678	535		672		4272
1977		827		702	940	741	686		662		4558
1976		873		728	963	671	618		660		4513
1975		796		794	953	738	607		655		4543
1974		854		674	884	738	545		629		4324
1973		934		654	954	674	622		625		4463
1972		793		717	988	713		1303			4514
1971		819		648	897	601		1247			4212
1970		790		604	866	603		1220			4083

TABLE VI. *Physical Review Letters* statistics. “Annual page total” does not include the index. Relevant historical notes:

Rapid Communications instituted 1 January 1981.

Changed acceptance criteria in force 1 January 1982.

Top-of-page makeup began 28 March 1983. Relaxation of 3.5 page limit to four pages follows (14% increase).

New page size introduced 7 January 1985 (12% increase). (Net size increase is 28%; new length plus new page size.)

1989–1990 Review Panel for PRL Report, August 1991; implementation 1992.

	Annual	Total	Manuscripts		Published Errata
	Page Total	Manuscripts Received	Published/Received Letters	Comments	
1977	3218	2258	950/2258	- -	76
1978	3550	2244	1034/2244	- -	86
1979	3771*	2438	1075/2438	- -	98
1980	3862	2498	1090/2498	- -	101
1981	3617	2395	984/2252	48/143	64
1982	3779	2421	1017/2250	96/171	65
1983	4542	2902	1149/2702	101/200	79
1984	4950*	3116	1240/2864	115/252	91
1985	5697*	3405	1440/3143	164/262†	90
1986	6186	3774	1525/3455	198/319†	106
1987	5841	4110	1442/3787	191/323†	98
1988	5784	4131	1391/3831	232/300†	96
1989	5957	4200	1449/3844	230/356†	103
1990	6662*	4483	1599/4136	199/347†	76
1991	7195	5035	1760/4706	171/329†	70
1992	7780	5466	1909/5102	189/364†	61
1993	8565	5807	2088/5515	176/292‡	81
1994	7757	6188	1871/5900	218/288‡	68
1995	10075	6346	2428/6096	223/250‡	121
1996	10429*	6845	2533/6564	187/281‡	93

* 53 issues in these years (52 in other years).

† Only published Reply Comments counted as “Manuscripts Received”, starting 1 July 1985.

‡ Reply Comments are not counted as “Manuscripts Received”, starting 1 January 1993.

TABLE VII. *Physical Review Letters* statistics by subject areas 1989–1996. Comments are not included. The data refers to manuscripts received in the specified year and how many of them were subsequently published, in that year or later. The subject areas are the ones defined by PACS, not by the organization of the journal’s Table of Contents (since that organization has varied in this time period).

DATA KEY: PACS	published (% accept. rate) receipts for yr (% total receipts)			Letters only (Comments not included)				
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996*
General Physics	124(26) 482(13)	124(25) 491(12)	137(25) 549(12)	170(27) 637(13)	185(28) 671(12)	230(27) 860(15)	210(25) 853(14)	221(24) 918(14)
Elementary Particles	168(41) 407(11)	155(42) 365(9)	152(39) 389(8)	155(41) 375(7)	157(37) 427(8)	144(39) 374(6)	138(35) 396(7)	133(33) 402(6)
Nuclear Physics	81(38) 213(6)	96(44) 218(5)	110(46) 237(5)	108(44) 248(5)	104(41) 251(5)	144(47) 306(5)	119(40) 296(5)	100(37) 271(4)
Atomic & Molecular	115(47) 246(6)	103(47) 219(5)	138(49) 281(6)	132(43) 306(6)	167(48) 351(6)	163(47) 349(6)	172(46) 370(6)	159(43) 372(6)
Optics & Fluids	119(43) 279(7)	157(44) 353(8)	163(42) 386(8)	166(40) 419(8)	204(42) 489(9)	180(41) 441(7)	183(38) 487(8)	203(34) 590(9)
Plasma Physics	63(42) 149(4)	82(46) 178(4)	79(46) 171(4)	94(48) 195(4)	98(45) 217(4)	108(47) 232(4)	110(46) 240(4)	99(40) 245(4)
Condensed Matter Structure	290(43) 680(18)	343(45) 760(18)	406(46) 879(19)	420(43) 985(19)	455(45) 1011(18)	450(43) 1054(18)	466(45) 1047(17)	385(35) 1114(17)
Condensed Matter Electronic	438(38) 1167(30)	513(39) 1302(31)	580(38) 1535(33)	623(38) 1650(32)	657(37) 1755(32)	659(35) 1864(32)	644(34) 1900(31)	603(30) 1991(30)
Cross Disciplinary	38(29) 124(3)	59(50) 119(3)	71(43) 166(4)	48(32) 150(3)	93(44) 210(4)	112(44) 254(4)	153(43) 355(6)	164(34) 477(7)
Astrophysics & Geophysics	42(45) 93(2)	44(34) 129(3)	43(38) 112(2)	47(36) 130(3)	38(30) 126(2)	59(38) 156(3)	53(39) 135(2)	50(30) 167(3)
TOTAL	1478(38) 3840	1676(40) 4134	1879(40) 4705	1963(39) 5095	2158(39) 5508	2249(38) 5890	2248(37) 6079	2117(32) 6547

* The data for papers published (and acceptance rate) are not complete; some papers submitted in 1996 may yet be published.

TABLE VIII. Subscription data for the end of the subscription year in 1996. The numbers in parentheses show the changes from the previous year.

	Member	Student	Nonmember	Total
A	497(- 48)	6(+ 1)	1695(- 39)	2198(- 86)
B1	537(- 37)	7(- 3)	1804(- 60)	2348(-100)
B15	575(- 37)	7(- 2)	1804(- 60)	2386(- 99)
C	432(- 31)	7(- 1)	1292(- 39)	1731(- 71)
D1	478(- 46)	9(- 1)	1384(- 50)	1871(- 97)
D15	512(- 52)	19(+ 2)	1384(- 50)	1915(-100)
E	391(+ 4)	4(- 3)	1470(- 23)	1865(- 22)
L-paper and fiche	2673(-501)	49(-22)	2327(-114)	5049(-637)
L-online	845(+ 35)	17(- 10)	155	1017(+ 25)
L-online additional			93	93
L-CD-ROM	700(- 55)	25(- 22)		725(- 77)

TABLE IX. Manuscripts submitted to *Physical Review* and *Physical Review Letters* by geographic region (based on address of corresponding author).

Geographic Region	1994		1995		1996	
	Number	% Receipts	Number	% Receipts	Number	% Receipts
United States	6622	34.1	6231	31.0	6137	29.4
Canada	625	3.2	614	3.1	548	2.6
Latin America	655	3.4	794	3.9	907	4.3
Western Europe	5995	30.9	6675	33.2	7185	34.4
Eastern Europe & FSU	962	5.0	1138	5.7	1152	5.5
Middle East & Africa	568	2.9	576	2.9	640	3.1
Indian Subcontinent	772	4.0	768	3.8	730	3.5
Japan	1361	7.0	1421	7.1	1575	7.5
China	1019	5.3	1000	5.0	995	4.8
Other Pacific Rim	819	4.2	899	4.5	1000	4.8
TOTAL	19398		20116		20869	

