

1997  
ANNUAL STATISTICS  
THE PHYSICAL REVIEW  
and  
PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

In 1997, the total number of manuscripts submitted to *Physical Review* and *Physical Review Letters* was a bit more than 22,100, about 1.5% more than in 1996, the smallest increase in the past 15 years. Growth remained substantial for *Physical Review Letters* at 6%. There was little change in the number of published articles. The pattern of growth in published articles 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 72% of total submissions in 1997 (see Figure 3). Submissions from Western Europe now constitute 34% of total submissions, a larger share than that of the US submissions at 28% (see Table IX). US submissions continued their decline in absolute number. Growth was particularly strong in submissions from the Pacific Rim, which are now 18% of the total.

To deal with the submitted manuscripts, 55,000 referrals to referees were made in 1997. Despite the small increase in submitted manuscripts, there was a small decrease in the number of referrals, as a result of the efforts of the editors to conclude the review process sooner. Moreover, these fewer referrals were spread over a larger pool of referees, with the net result that the average number of referrals per referee declined by 4.5%.

Manuscript submissions by electronic mail increased by 14%, to a total of 12,960 (59% of receipts). The number of articles published as compuscripts (using authors'  $\text{\LaTeX}/\text{\REVTeX}$  files in the composition process) increased by 15% and constituted 63% of the text 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* 1969–1997. “Short Papers” include Brief Reports, Comments, and Rapid Communications in 1981–1997; they include Comments and Addenda in 1969–1980.

	Articles		Short Papers		Total	
	Received	Published	Received	Published	Received	Published
1997	11280	7652	3579	2435	14859	10087
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 1997.

	Articles		Short Papers		No. Pages Published	% Pages Published
	Received	Published	Received	Published		
A	1608	982	467	287	9776	12.4
B1	2333	1498	914	657	15149	19.2
B15	2384	1636	963	703	16515	20.9
C	758	591	268	198	6505	8.2
D1	926	665	206	97	7393	9.4
D15	1171	763	205	113	8472	10.7
E	2100	1517	556	380	15074	19.1
Total	11280	7652	3579	2435	78884	

TABLE III. Papers received by the short-papers section of *Physical Review* in 1997.

	Direct Submissions			Transfers from PRL		
	Brief Reports	Comments	Rapid Communications	Brief Reports	Comments	Rapid Communications
A	150	30	186	16	1	84
B1	244	40	394	38	0	198
B15	239	23	461	44	0	196
C	106	20	118	7	0	17
D1	93	11	76	7	0	19
D15	92	7	74	11	1	20
E	142	33	222	28	0	131
Total	1066	164	1531	151	2	665

TABLE IV. Fraction of papers not published (which includes those rejected, withdrawn, recommended for publication elsewhere, etc.) by the *Physical Review* journals for 1987-1996. Many papers submitted in 1997 are still active; hence the numbers for that year are still incomplete and are not listed.

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
A/A1	21.3	21.1	20.7	24.6	23.7	25.0	26.2	32.0	38.1	36.9
A15/E					25.6	24.5	22.9	28.7	30.7	29.1
B1	14.5	18.7	20.4	20.0	24.0	22.9	24.4	25.6	30.5	31.8
B15	15.9	16.2	17.6	22.4	20.9	20.5	22.2	22.7	29.1	31.1
C	15.1	17.8	17.0	20.1	18.0	21.3	17.9	20.7	25.2	25.1
D1	29.6	25.7	25.1	26.4	24.8	23.4	22.6	29.9	26.6	26.9
D15	41.8	42.4	40.4	39.2	43.4	38.4	39.9	39.1	41.0	41.3
Average	20.6	21.4	21.8	24.0	24.4	24.2	24.8	27.5	31.5	32.0

TABLE V. Distribution of receipts among the *Physical Review* journals 1970–1997. 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
1997		2075		3247	3347	1026	1132		1376	2656	14859
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” excludes the indices. 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
1997	10333	7260	2500/6982	202/278‡	55

\* 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 1990–1997. 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)				
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997*
General Physics	124(25) 491(12)	137(25) 549(12)	170(27) 637(13)	185(28) 671(12)	230(27) 860(15)	210(25) 853(14)	266(29) 925(14)	223(22) 1027(15)
Elementary Particles	155(42) 365( 9)	152(39) 389( 8)	155(41) 375( 7)	157(37) 427( 8)	144(39) 374( 6)	138(35) 396( 7)	152(38) 401( 6)	177(38) 464( 7)
Nuclear Physics	96(44) 218( 5)	110(46) 237( 5)	108(44) 248( 5)	104(41) 251( 5)	144(47) 306( 5)	119(40) 296( 5)	125(46) 271( 4)	103(36) 287( 4)
Atomic & Molecular	103(47) 219( 5)	138(49) 281( 6)	132(43) 306( 6)	167(48) 351( 6)	163(47) 349( 6)	172(46) 370( 6)	183(49) 374( 6)	188(42) 445( 6)
Optics & Fluids	157(44) 353( 8)	163(42) 386( 8)	166(40) 419( 8)	204(42) 489( 9)	180(41) 441( 7)	184(38) 487( 8)	246(41) 593( 9)	202(36) 564( 8)
Plasma Physics	82(46) 178( 4)	79(46) 171( 4)	94(48) 195( 4)	98(45) 217( 4)	108(47) 232( 4)	110(46) 240( 4)	120(49) 245( 4)	80(33) 244( 4)
Condensed Matter Structure	343(45) 760(18)	406(46) 879(19)	420(43) 985(19)	455(45) 1011(18)	450(43) 1054(18)	466(44) 1048(17)	456(41) 1116(17)	393(34) 1159(17)
Condensed Matter Electronic	513(39) 1302(31)	580(38) 1535(33)	623(38) 1650(32)	657(37) 1755(32)	659(35) 1864(32)	646(34) 1900(31)	721(36) 1986(30)	633(31) 2060(30)
Cross Disciplinary	59(50) 119( 3)	71(43) 166( 4)	48(32) 150( 3)	93(44) 210( 4)	112(44) 254( 4)	153(43) 355( 6)	203(43) 472( 7)	167(32) 517( 7)
Astrophysics & Geophysics	44(34) 129( 3)	43(38) 112( 2)	47(36) 130( 3)	38(30) 126( 2)	59(38) 156( 3)	53(39) 135( 2)	60(36) 166( 3)	57(30) 190( 3)
TOTAL	1676(40) 4134	1879(40) 4705	1963(39) 5095	2158(39) 5508	2249(38) 5890	2251(37) 6080	2532(39) 6549	2223(32) 6957

\* The data for papers published (and acceptance rate) are not complete; some papers submitted in 1997 may yet be published.

TABLE VIII. Subscription data for the end of the subscription year in 1997. The numbers in parentheses show the changes from the previous year.

	Member	Student	Nonmember	Total
A	413(- 84)	4(- 2)	1648(- 47)	2065(- 133)
A-online	224	40		264(+ 264)
B1	491(- 46)	6(- 1)	1756(- 48)	2253(- 95)
B15	511(- 64)	9(+ 2)	1756(- 48)	2276(- 110)
B-online	396	103		499(+ 499)
C	376(- 56)	4(- 3)	1240(- 52)	1620(- 111)
C-online	84	9		93(+ 93)
D1	396(- 82)	10(+ 1)	1331(- 53)	1737(- 134)
D15	418(- 94)	7(- 12)	1331(- 53)	1756(- 159)
D-online	164	29		193(+ 193)
E	341(- 50)	6(+ 2)	1447(- 23)	1794(- 71)
E-online	239	29		268(+ 268)
L-paper and fiche	2320(-353)	37(-12)	2286(- 41)	4643(- 406)
L-online	1664(+819)	344(-327)	124(+119)	2282(+1265)
L-online additional			95(+ 2)	95(+ 2)
L-CD-ROM	310(-390)	13(- 12)		323(-402)

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

Geographic Region	1995		1996		1997	
	Number	% Receipts	Number	% Receipts	Number	% Receipts
United States	6231	31.0	6137	29.4	6014	28.3
Canada	614	3.1	548	2.6	499	2.3
Latin America	794	3.9	907	4.3	952	4.5
Western Europe	6675	33.2	7185	34.4	7320	34.4
Eastern Europe & FSU	1138	5.7	1152	5.5	1203	5.7
Middle East & Africa	576	2.9	640	3.1	618	2.9
Indian Subcontinent	768	3.8	730	3.5	772	3.6
Japan	1421	7.1	1575	7.5	1711	8.1
China	1000	5.0	995	4.8	1054	5.0
Other Pacific Rim	899	4.5	1000	4.8	1110	5.2
TOTAL	20116		20869		21253	

