

France

Report by

Jeannine Cardona

Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication, Département des Etudes et de la Prospective

Paris

Introduction - Key Issues

The French statistics system operates on a decentralised basis. The *Institut national de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques* (INSEE) plays a pivotal role within the system. It produces demographic and social statistical data while at the same time coordinating and controlling a score or so of statistical services located in the various government departments. These services specialise in the subject fields dealt with by their department.

In the field of culture, the Ministry of Culture and Communication's *Département des Etudes et de la Prospective* (DEP) works as part of the government statistics system. As a Ministerial statistics service, it is required to collect, produce and analyse statistics on culture, and to contribute, through study and research in the different social science subjects (economics, sociology, history, etc.), to the investigation of cultural facts and institutions. Statistics production and research work are organised under six main headings: economics, employment, education and training, public funding and territorial policies, culture consumers and their behaviour, international issues. The activities covered by these headings are extremely varied – museums, libraries, music, theatre, art schools, heritage. The work is carried out in coordination with the Ministry's sectoral Directorates according to each one's field of competence. Some Directorates produce their own statistics, relating mainly to their management functions or the monitoring of institutions funded by them or under their supervision.

The DEP currently coordinates the Task Force on Cultural Employment and the Task Force on Cultural Financing (in conjunction with Italy), within the framework of the Eurostat working group which succeeded the LEG. It also participates in the Working Group on museums coordinated by Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Definition of Museum and Existence of Museum-related laws

How museums were defined, organised and run was for a long time more a matter of limited edicts and scattered jurisprudence than of comprehensive legal texts. Fine arts museums and galleries were the only ones to be concerned by an executive order, signed in 1945, which defined them on the basis of their collections. These had to be "permanent collections, open to the public, of works of artistic, historical or archaeological interest". Since then, French museums have branched out and diversified into every field of knowledge, making it necessary to devise a new legal framework. This framework was recently instituted by an Act passed in 2002.

The Act introduces a "Musée de France" title attributed by the Ministry of Culture when a set of conditions are met. Museums were given one year counting from the date of the Act to apply for the title. As at 1 September 2003, 1.100 museums had applied.

Categories used regarding Type of Collection

The Museofile database built by the Ministry of Culture and Communication's *Musées de France* Directorate (DMF) lists over 1.000 museums, and classifies the museums' collections under 17 headings broken down into 96 sub-headings. It can be consulted on the Internet at the following address: www.culture.gouv.fr/museofile. Its data are drawn from a highly-detailed questionnaire covering the museums' installations, collections, management system, public services, personnel, funding. There are in fact two databases, one open to the general public on the Internet and the other reserved for professionals.

Categories used regarding Type of Ownership

Collection owners may be public legal persons (official administrative establishments, local bodies, etc.) or private legal persons (associations or foundations).

Museums fall into the following categories:

State museums –

national museums under the Ministry of Culture's *Musées de France* Directorate, run by the *Réunion des Musées nationaux*

other museums supervised by the Ministry of Culture

museums supervised by other Ministries

museums with special status (metropolitan museums of Paris, museum of the *Institut de France*, etc.)

museums run by local governments

museums belonging to non-profit private bodies (foundations, associations, etc.)

Existing Data - Basic Figures and Diagrams

In 2003/2004, a survey will be conducted on museums bearing the title of *Musée de France* to obtain detailed statistics concerning their activity, attendance figures, staffing and budget. The last survey on this scale goes back to 1988, and has not been updated since.

The main statistics available on a regular basis are the administrative figures published by the institutions which run the museums. They rarely cover more than attendance. They include counts of the number of admissions by museum for the thirty-three museums administered by the *Réunion des musées nationaux*, and attendance figures for the metropolitan museums of Paris managed by the municipal authorities. The Ministry for Education, Youth and Research conducts surveys of natural history museums.

A database on monthly attendance at public museums was created by the *Musées de France* Directorate in 1993. The information fed into the data base includes details of the museums' features, collected annually, and total attendance figures collected each month from a selection of 275 museums. An overall estimate of museum attendance can be derived from these data; it is in the region of 40 million entries (including attendance at the national museums mentioned earlier). But detailed statistics by type of collection, region, pricing policy are not compiled. The system will be overhauled in 2004. The forthcoming survey of the *Musées de France* will make it possible to renew the museum sample panel and enrich the monthly questionnaire.

As part of a Permanent Observatory of Patrons conceived by the *Musées de France* Directorate, a hundred or so museums have acquired knowledge of their publics through periodical surveys describing visiting practices, patron socio-demographic profiles (age, gender, education, etc.), expectations and satisfaction rates.

Key figures

Museums, classified and monitored	
Distribution by status	%
- municipal museums	72.5
- museums run by associations	13.8
- Department museums	8.8
- inter-commune museums	2.4
- foundation museums	0.6
- other	1.8
Distribution by type of collection	%
- archaeology	10.8
- ethnology, or science & technical	22.5
- history	6.6
- contemporary art	3.1
- Fine Arts	6.7
- multi-function	50.3

Attendance at national museums					
(thousands of entries)					
<i>source: RMN-DMF/DEP</i>					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total	14 078	13 080	13 971	12 141	13 371
paid entries	10 244	9 679	9 898	8 378	9 516
of which, Louvre	3 986	3 682	4 233	3 326	3 943
Versailles	2 412	2 408	2 578	2 369	3 618
Orsay	1 988	1 620	1 643	1 088	1 423
free admissions	3 834	3 401	4 073	3 763	3 855
excludes Rodin, d'Ennery, J.J. Henner and G. Moreau museums in Paris					
since 1997 paid entries to the Louvre include patrons holding subscriptions					

A Guide to European Museum Statistics

Louvre patrons	
<i>source: Musée du Louvre</i>	
% 2001	
by age	
under 18	17.9
18-25	24.1
26-34	17.8
35-49	21.9
50 and over	18.3
by origin	
France	37.4
abroad	62.6
by job status	
working population	53.0
<i>of whom</i>	
executives, fee-earning professionals, employers	16.0
salaried white-collar, blue-collar workers	12.4
teachers	9.7
associate occupations	8.3
non-working population	47.0
<i>of whom</i>	
students and pupils	37.8
retirees	5.9

A Guide to Museum Statistics in Europe

Admissions to national museums, by museum		
entries		
Source: MCC/RMN/DEP		
2002		
	Total	<i>of which paid entries</i>
Total	13 370 531	9 515 920
Museums reporting:		
- over 1 million entries		
Louvre	5 717 249	3 942 577
Versailles	2 796 562	2 617 992
Orsay	2 127 779	1 422 863
- from 100 000 to 1 million entries		
Picasso	441 194	260 036
Fontainebleau	357 595	190 747
<i>Arts asiatiques</i> -Guimet	339 740	229 970
	314 724	136 725
Arts d'Afrique et d'Océanie		
<i>Moyen Age, Thermes de Cluny</i>	300 004	157 193
<i>Message biblique</i> -Marc Chagall	200 640	135 580
- from 50 000 to 100 000 entries		
Pau	98 832	65 241
Compiègne	87 258	40 675
Pre-history (Les Eyzies de Tayac)	78 947	46 286
Malmaison and Bois-Préau	76 633	47 759
<i>Maison Bonaparte</i> (Ajaccio)	74 402	52 317
	54 656	19 937
Antiquités nationales		
Renaissance (Écouen)	51 739	15 717
- less than 50 000 entries		
	41 563	14 250
Arts et traditions populaires		
<i>Musées napoléonien et africain</i> (Île d'Aix)	38 446	14 956
Picasso (Vallauris)	30 996	22 847
<i>Céramique</i> (Sèvres)	26 838	16 842
Adrien Dubouché (Limoges)	25 127	15 296
Eugène Delacroix	24 657	13 801
Fernand Léger (Biot)	22 774	15 975
Magnin (Dijon)	17 694	8 598
<i>Granges de Port-Royal</i>	10 840	4 988
	5 341	3 050
Coopération franco-américaine		
<i>Deux-Victoires</i> (Mouilleron-en-Pareds)	4 573	2 387
Hébert	3 728	1 315
The Louvre paid entries include subscribers.		
The Orangerie museum was closed for renovations during 2001 and 2002.		
Excluded are the Rodin museum (525.475 entries, of which 296.114 paid) and the G. Moreau museum (27.807 entries, of which 18.466 paid).		
As from January 2000, admission to national museums is free on the first Sunday of the month (measure applied by the Louvre since 1996).		