

# New Zealand

Reading remains an important hobby for both young and old New Zealand respondents. Indeed, the country stands out in this study with 40% of them reporting reading as a hobby in their adult life, a noticeable figure compared to the 34% average recorded across the 19 countries surveyed. During the past year, 81% of New Zealander respondents have read a book and 62% have bought one. Both percentages are slightly below the 19-country average of 85% and 72% respectively and in line with the decrease in sales volume observed by the New Zealand book sector in 2022-2023. The paper book remains the favourite format, but the e-book is also quite popular among New

Zealander respondents, as 36% of them purchase this format. They are also significantly fond of second-hand books: 55% (compared to the 35% average) report having bought used books. Fiction is the favourite genre, followed by biographies, memoirs and children/young adult books. Overall, most respondents buy both online and in physical shops but purchasing only in physical shops is a more common behaviour for New Zealander respondents than it is for the average of the study respondents (22% compared to 14%). For those purchasing books in independent physical bookshops, the enjoyable atmosphere and the ability to look inside books are cited as the main benefits.

## Book buying and reading habits



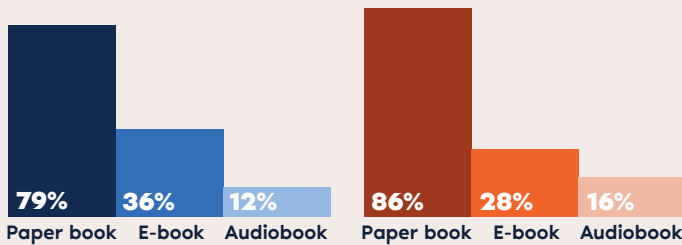
### Has purchased a book in the last 12 months



### Has read a book in the last 12 months

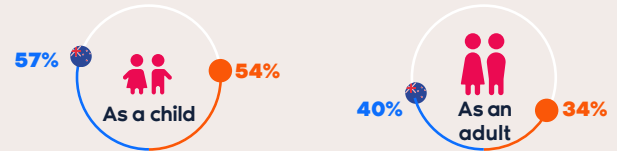


### Book formats purchased in the last 12 months\*

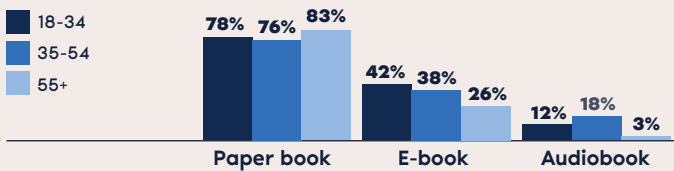


### Reading as a hobby: then & now

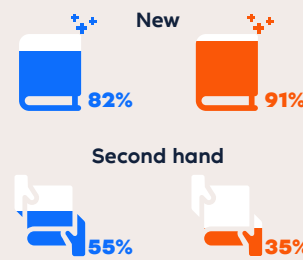
Was reading a hobby as a child and is it a hobby now as an adult?



### Purchases per age group



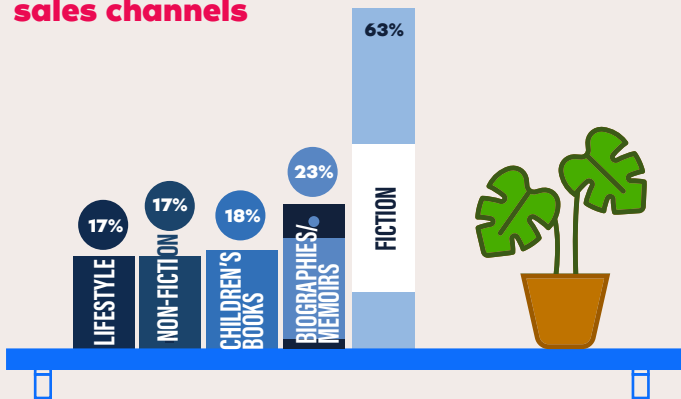
### Type of book purchased\*



### Likelihood to gift a book\*



## Top 5 most purchased genres across all sales channels

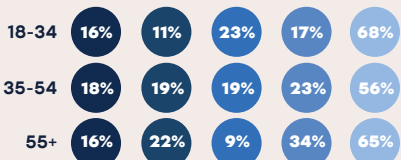


## Places of purchase and reasons to purchase in physical bookshops

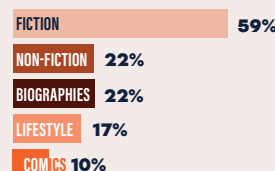
### Places of purchase\*



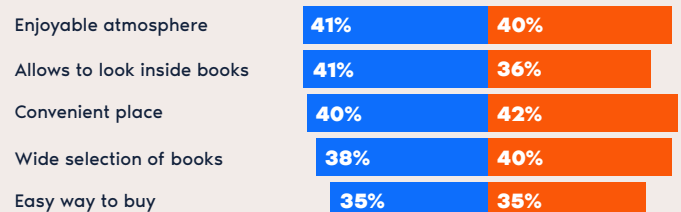
### Purchases per age in New Zealand: genre breakdown



### Top 5 most purchased genres in all 19 countries



### Reasons to purchase in independent physical bookshops\*\*



\*Basis: Bought a book in the 12 months prior to April 2024  
\*\*Bought a book in a physical independent bookshop

The basis for all other questions is the whole population

## Introduction

In order to stay resilient, keep a relevant offer of books and a viable business in a fast-paced world, retailers such as booksellers need a solid understanding and knowledge of current trends and consumers' shopping priorities. To a certain degree, such knowledge can be gained from engaging with the regular customers and the local community, but real foresight can only be achieved through research into customers' priorities and behaviours, through data collection and analysis. To meet this need and sector priority, EIBF commissioned a study through its RISE Bookselling project titled *RISE study on Consumer Behaviour-Book-Buying Trends, Reading Habits & Customer Needs* in December 2023.

Out of several candidates, Listen, a Belgian-based consultancy with pre-existing contacts and experience in multi-country surveys was deemed the most fitting and was contracted in late 2023 to carry out the study. Throughout

spring 2024, Listen conducted an online quantitative survey in 19 countries across the globe, where EIBF's members are based. A representative sample of 500 respondents was collected per country, and 9500 people were surveyed in total, giving us unique insights and the possibility to compare current trends and consumers' attitudes to book-buying in the 19 countries surveyed.

The study takes into consideration that globalisation and the digital revolution have undoubtedly changed the way people purchase and consume goods, including books, thus transforming today's retail environment and customers' buying habits. Research like this is therefore invaluable as it can provide booksellers with tools and precious information to help anticipate what their customers look for and might expect from them, not only today, but also tomorrow. Most importantly, it can help them remain competitive and resilient.

Australia

Bulgaria

Canada

Finland

France

Germany

Ireland

Italy

Latvia

The Netherlands

New Zealand

Norway

Portugal

Slovakia

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

UK

USA

## About RISE Bookselling

Resilience, Innovation and Sustainability for the Enhancement of Bookselling' (RISE Bookselling) is a three-year EU co-funded programme run by the European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF) for its network members, aimed at upscaling, reinforcing and maximising the capacity and resilience of the European bookselling sector.

## About EIBF

The European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF) is a non-commercial European and international umbrella organisation representing national booksellers associations and booksellers across Europe and worldwide. Our mission is to represent our members and their interests on a global platform, as well as to provide a forum for cooperation and foster the exchange of best practices.

## About Creative Europe

Creative Europe is the European Commission's flagship programme to support the culture and audiovisual sectors, by investing in actions that reinforce cultural diversity and respond to the needs and challenges of the cultural and creative sectors. It encourages cooperation and exchanges among cultural organisations and artists within Europe and beyond.