

The Tour de Journals 2007: Impact Factors in Exercise and Sport

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A journal's impact factor is the recent average annual rate of citation of its recent articles. This year's medal winners specializing in the disciplines of exercise and sports medicine and science are all review-only journals: Sports Medicine (impact factor, 3.5), Exercise and Sport Sciences Reviews (3.0), and Exercise and Immunology Reviews (2.9). The remaining journals in the top 10 feature original-research articles: Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise (2.9), American Journal of Sports Medicine (2.7), Journal of Biomechanics (2.5), British Journal of Sports Medicine (2.2), Scandinavian Journal of Medicine & Science in Sports (2.0), Journal of Sports Sciences (1.8), and Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine (1.7). Noteworthy performers with impact factors of at least 1.0 include Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology (1.5), Psychology of Sport and Exercise (1.4), Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research (1.3), International Journal of Sports Medicine (1.2), Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport (1.2), International Journal of Sport Nutrition and Exercise Metabolism (1.0), and Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport (1.0). A special prize for infinite percent improvement goes to Journal of Sports Science and Medicine (0.6). KEYWORDS: academic, citation, publication, research.

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Once again I find myself reluctantly presenting the latest standings of the journals in exercise and sport medicine and science, as determined by their recently published impact factors. A journal's impact factor is calculated for the previous year (2006) by counting up the number of times any of the journal's papers published in 2004 and 2005 appeared in the reference lists of all papers published in all journals in 2006 (including the journal itself), then dividing by the total number of papers in the journal for 2004 and 2005. The result is the recent average annual rate of citation of the journal's recent articles, a relative measure of the importance of the journal. Thomson Scientific performs this exercise every year and publishes the outcome on its site for Journal Citation Reports. You can access present and past impact factors and other citation statistics at this site only if your institution has a subscription to the [Web of Knowledge](#).

I have summarized the impact factors for journals in our disciplines in Table 1. To comply with Thomson Scientific's policy of acceptable use, I am allowed to show only this year's factors, and I have had to show some of the

lower impact factors as inequalities. See my article [last year](#) for previous impact factors and for a comparison of impact factors in different disciplines (where you will see that our impact factors are about the same as those of comparable disciplines). An [earlier article](#) has a critique of the impact factor.

The ranking in the Abstract of this article is for journals that specialize only in exercise or sport. The impact factors in Table 1 include more generic journals that sometimes publish papers on some aspect of exercise or sport medicine and science. I have included these journals in the following analysis of changes in the impact factor since last year.

The big winners, with improvements of $\geq 70\%$, are all previously low-impact journals (impact factor < 1.0). The most remarkable is the infinite percent improvement of Hakan Gur's on-line Journal of Sports Science and Medicine, which acquired a factor for the first time, a respectable 0.6. The next echelon of improvers (up 30-69%) includes Canadian Journal of Applied Physiology (1.6), Human Movement Science (1.3), and Journal of Applied Sport Psychology (1.2). On the next level

(10-29%), British Journal of Sports Medicine continued upwards to 2.2, but the American Journal of Sports Medicine kept ahead by rising to 2.7, while Exercise and Sport Sciences Reviews is straddling the 3.0 hurdle. It's also good to see Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research continuing to move up, to 1.3. Noteworthy journals showing less than $\pm 10\%$ change include Journal of Applied Physiology (3.2), Journal of Sports Sciences (1.8), Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise (2.9),

Scandinavian Journal of Medicine & Science in Sports (2.0), and Sports Medicine (3.5).

Among the big losers are Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine, which rose spectacularly from 1.4 to 2.9 last year, only to fall back to 1.7 this year. Major fluctuations of this kind are probably a consequence of a single highly cited review passing beyond the two-year window for calculation of the impact factor. In reality this journal, like most others in our field, is probably moving steadily upwards.

Table 1: Impact factors (citations per paper per year) for sport and exercise science journals based on papers published in 2004 and 2005 that were cited in 2006. "<1.0" implies a value between 0.1 and 1.0. A journal without an impact factor is not in Thomson Scientific's science or social sciences databases, either because the journal is too new or the factor is too low. Colors indicate changes in impact factor since last year, as follows:

		↑ ≥70%	↑ 30-69%	↑ 10-29%	↑↓ 0-9%	↓ 10-39%
<1.0	ACSM's Health and Fitness Journal					
2.2	Acta Physiologica Scandinavica					
1.2	Adapted Physical Activity Quarterly					
	American Journal of Medicine and Sports					
1.3	American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation					
4.1	American Journal of Physiology - Endo & Metab					
3.7	American Journal of Physiology - Heart & Circ					
2.7	American Journal of Sports Medicine					
<1.0	Applied Ergonomics					
<1.0	Applied Psychological Measurement					
1.6	Applied Psychology-International Review					
1.8	Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation					
<1.0	Athletic Therapy Today					
1.5	Australian Journal of Physiotherapy					
<1.0	Aviation Space and Environmental Medicine					
1.2	Behavior Research Methods, Instruments, & Computers					
<0.1	Biology of Sport					
2.2	British Journal of Sports Medicine					
1.6	Canadian Journal of Applied Physiology					
1.4	Clinical Biomechanics					
1.7	Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine					
2.5	Clinical Nutrition					
<1.0	Clinics in Sports Medicine					
	Current Sports Medicine Reports					
<1.0	Deutsche Zeitschrift fur Sportmedizin					
	Electromyography and Motor Control					
<1.0	Ergonomics					
1.6	European Journal of Applied Physiology					
2.1	European Journal of Clinical Nutrition					
	European Journal of Sport Science					
	European Sports History Review					
3.0	Exercise and Sport Sciences Reviews					
2.9	Exercise and Immunology Reviews					
2.0	Gait and Posture					
1.9	High Altitude Medicine and Biology					
1.3	Human Movement Science					
4.5	International Journal of Epidemiology					
	International Journal of History of Sport					
	International Journal of Performance Analysis in Sport					
1.0	International J of Sport Nutrition & Exercise Metabolism					
<1.0	International Journal of Sport Psychology					
1.2	International Journal of Sports Medicine					
	International J of Sports Physiology & Performance					
	International Review for the Sociology of Sport					
	International Sports Journal					
<1.0	Isokinetics and Exercise Science					
<1.0	Japanese Journal of Physical Fitness and Sport					
1.2	Journal of Aging and Physical Activity					
	Journal of Applied Behavioral Science					
<1.0	Journal of Applied Biomechanics					
3.2	Journal of Applied Physiology					
2.9	Journal of Applied Psychology					
1.2	Journal of Applied Sport Psychology					
1.7	Journal of Athletic Training					
2.5	Journal of Biomechanics					
	Journal of Bodywork and Movement Therapies					
1.0	Journal of Clinical Psychology					
	Journal of Comparative Physical Education & Sport					
1.7	Journal of Electromyography and Kinesiology					
2.8	Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health					

	Journal of Exercise Physiology Online	2.9	Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise
<0.1	Journal of Human Movement Studies		Medicine and Sport Science
	Journal of Human Performance in Extreme Environments	1.6	Motor Control
<1.0	Journal of Leisure Research	1.0	Pediatric Exercise Science
1.5	Journal of Motor Behaviour		Pediatric Physical Therapy
4.0	Journal of Nutrition	<1.0	Perceptual and Motor Skills
1.9	Journal of Occupational & Environmental Medicine		Physical Educator
1.5	Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy	1.5	Physical Therapy
<1.0	Journal of the Philosophy of Sport	<1.0	Physical Therapy in Sport
	Journal of Physical Education, Recreation, & Dance	<1.0	Physician and Sportsmedicine
4.4	Journal of Physiology	1.7	Physikalische Medizin Rehabilitationsmedizin Kuror.
1.2	Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport	1.4	Psychology of Sport and Exercise
1.5	Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology	<1.0	Quest
1.5	Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology		Research in Sports Med (was Sports Med Train Rehab)
<1.0	Journal of Sport and Social Issues	1.0	Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport
	Journal of Sport Behavior	2.0	Scandinavian Journal of Medicine & Science in Sports
	Journal of Sport History	<1.0	Science and Sports
<1.0	Journal of Sport Management	<1.0	Sociology of Sport Journal
<1.0	Journal of Sport Rehabilitation		Sport History Review
	Journal of Sports Chiropractic and Rehabilitation	1.1	Sport, Education, and Society
<1.0	Journal of Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness	<1.0	(The) Sport Psychologist
0.5	Journal of Sports Science and Medicine		Sports Biomechanics
1.8	Journal of Sports Sciences		Sports Exercise and Injury
	Journal of Sports Traumatology	3.5	Sports Medicine
1.3	Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research	<1.0	Sports Medicine and Arthroscopy Review
	Journal of Swimming Research		Sports Medicine Standards & Malpractice Reporter
<1.0	Journal of Teaching in Physical Education	<1.0	Sportverletzung-Sportschaden
<1.0	Leisure Sciences		Strength and Conditioning
	Leisure Studies	<1.0	Strength and Conditioning Journal
	Measurement in Physical Education & Exercise Science		Women in Sport & Physical Activity Journal
<0.1	Medicina dello Sport		

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