

# Quantity



**Crude and simplistic measure of achievement.**



**Primary criterion by which to judge success.**

**In terms of quantities at least, the contemporary visual arts have literally never been so successful.**

Paul Greenhalgh, President, Nova Scotia College of Arts

**Accident & Emergency patients nearing the end of the four-hour wait designated as a maximum by the government are routinely moved out of A&E and into holding areas, so that they can be classified as having been dealt with. Sometimes these areas are little more than rooms next to A&E units, or even corridors.**

*Daily Telegraph*

**W**ith everyone *equal* (i.e. identical), the principal measure of merit or success in a mediocracy is number of people. If more students are passing examinations, more books are being read, and more theatre tickets are being sold, culture must be doing well.

A predilection for counting turns into a more general obsession with measurement. The benefits of measurement are that it:

- avoids the need for thinking,
- can be used to skate over underlying problems,
- conveys the idea of society *assessing* individuals, and
- reinforces egalitarianism by assuming uniformity in the units being counted.