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\vsize   [⟨*dimen*⟩ parameter]

This parameter specifies the current vertical extent of a page. TeX examines it only when it is starting a page. Thus if you change \vsize in the middle of a page, your change won't affect anything until the following page. If you want to change the vertical extent of a page when you're in the middle of it, you should assign the new height to \pagegoal (p. '\pagegoal') instead. (If you want the change to affect the following pages too, you should change *both* \vsize and \pagegoal.) Plain TeX sets \vsize to 8.9in.