

Economic Journal 2020 Annual Report

Highlights

Submissions and impact

- In 2020, the Journal received 1,994 submissions, which is the highest number of submissions received in any one year. Acceptance rates for 2020 are just over 6%¹.
- In July 2020, the Journal introduced a short paper article type. 119 short papers were received in 2020.
- The 2019 Impact Factor (released in June 2020) was 2.764, slightly lower than the 2018 Impact Factor, 2.926.
- The Journal is currently ranked ninth by Google Scholar.
- The Journal continues to raise its profile on social media, with Twitter followers increasing by 4,698 in 2020 and overall Twitter followers now exceeding 14,000 (as of 21.1.21).
- The Journal continues to perform well on alternative measure of impact, with 13 being the average Altmetric score for articles published in 2020 issues.

Turnaround times

- The Journal continues to benefit from dedicated referees and Associate Editors who deliver high-quality and timely reports, with 92% returning their reports within 3 months in 2020.
- Decision turnaround times for 2020 are still slower than we would like, partly due to the volume of submissions the Journal has received in recent years.

Ethics and Research Transparency

- Ethics guidelines for authors, reviewers and editors continue to be adopted to ensure that publication best practice is upheld.
- The Journal's Data Editor, Joan Llull, continues to coordinate pre-acceptance reproducibility checks in line with top journals in the field. In 2020 the pool of RAs conducting the checks was increased to ensure that the team had a varied skillset and to manage the workload.

Operations

- In January 2020 the Journal formed a partnership with Editorial Office Limited to provide additional staff support.

People

- Rachel Kranton and Estelle Cantillon completed their terms as Managing Editors during 2020.
- Heski Bar-Isaac and Steffen Huck joined the board as Managing Editors in 2020.
- Marco Manacorda was appointed as the Journal's ninth Managing Editor in February 2020.
- Joan Llull continues to act as the Journal's Data Editor.
- The Editorial Office remains at the RES office. Antonia Glanfield acts as the Journal's Publications Manager.

¹ Please see section 2.1 for further details.

1. Editorial Team

1.1. Current Editorial Team

Joint Managing Editors

Heski Bar-Isaac, University of Toronto

Nezih Guner, CEMFI Madrid

Steffen Huck, WZB Berlin & University College London

Gilat Levy, London School of Economics

Francesco Lippi, LUISS University and EIEF

Marco Manacorda, Queen Mary University

Barbara Petrongolo, University of Oxford

Hans-Joachim Voth, University of Zurich

Ekaterina Zhuravskaya, Paris School of

Economics & EHES

Publications Manager

Antonia Glanfield, Royal Economic Society (ej@res.org.uk)

Data Editor

Joan Llull, Move, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona & Barcelona GSE

1.2 Editorial Board changes

Incoming and outgoing Managing Editors overlap, where possible, to allow for a smooth transition.

- Heski Bar-Isaac joined the board in March 2020 and Estelle Cantillon left the board in September 2020.
- Steffen Huck joined the board in July 2020 and Rachel Kranton left the board in June 2020.
- Marco Manacorda joined the board as the Journal's ninth Managing Editor in February 2020.

2. Journal Statistics

2.1. Submissions (Tables 1 & 2)

The total number of submissions for 2020 is 1,994, the highest number of submissions received in any one year. This is up from 1,722 in 2019. The introduction of pre-acceptance replication checks in 2019 resulted in a slight delay to accept decisions being filed by the editors, therefore the acceptance rate is slightly inflated for 2020 at 6%. The adjusted acceptance rate for 2020 is 4%. The rate of desk reject decisions in 2020 is slightly lower than recent years at 48%.

The geographical distribution (Table 2) is similar to that of last year, with the largest share of submissions coming from Europe at 39%, up slightly from 2019. 25% of submissions came from the US and Canada. Submissions coming from the UK are stable, accounting for 15% of submissions.

2.1.1. Short paper submissions (Table 1)

In July 2020, the Journal introduced a short paper article type, along the lines of the AER:Insights style (<6,000 words, 5 exhibits). Short papers are held to the same quality standards as regular submissions, and the same editorial decision processes in terms of refereeing apply.

In 2020, 119 short paper submissions were received and 4 were returned for revision.

2.2. Editorial Processing Time (Tables 3-5)

Table 3 provides statistics on turnaround times for submitted papers. Whilst the proportion of all papers dealt with within 14 days is comparable with 2019, there has been an increase in the proportion of papers taking more than 6 months. Table 4 shows that referees are returning their reports promptly, therefore the delay is mainly due to delayed decisions filed by the editors, partly due to the volume of submissions the Journal has received in recent years. Nevertheless, the editors are working hard to reduce the number of delayed decisions.

Desk reject papers are not sent for review, therefore turnaround times for these papers remains low.

Table 5 shows the number of new submissions handled by each Managing Editor and the number of resubmitted papers (as shown by the +). Each editor handles approximately 200 papers per year.

2.3. Rankings and Impact Factors (Tables 6-7)

Table 6 shows the Economic Journal's Impact Factors, compared with those of its closest competitors. The Journal's 2019 Impact Factor decreased slightly from 2018, going from 2.926 to 2.764. This compares with an Impact Factor of 4.345 for the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 3.388 for *Journal of the European Economic Association* and 4.890 for the *Review of Economic Studies*. The Journal's 5-year Impact Factor is 4.086. The EJ is ranked 69/371 in the Economics subject category, compared with last year's ranking of 52/363. The Journal is ranked ninth by Google scholar.

The Journal continues to perform well on alternative measures of impact. Altmetric scores measure the online attention published articles receive through various media sources. Table 7 details the sources of these mentions. A large proportion comes from Twitter, with 15,459 mentions. EJ articles were mentioned in 4,423 policy papers and news outlets contributed 1,002 mentions in total. The top 12 Altmetric scoring EJ articles are listed in the appendix, 3 of which featured in 2020 issues. The average Altmetric score for articles published in 2020 issues was 13.

2.3.1 Social media

The Journal's Twitter page which is used to promote Journal articles, news and engage with the community currently has over 14,000 followers (14,016 as of 22.1.2021). In 2020 the Journal experienced an increase of 4,698 followers (a 52% increase) and generated 711K impressions, compared with 515K impressions in 2019.

3. Prizes

3.1. Austin Robinson Memorial Prize

The Austin Robinson Memorial prize is awarded to the best paper published in the Journal in a given year by an author (or multiple authors) who is (or are) within 5 years of receiving his or her (or their) PhD. The winning paper is selected by the Managing Editors.

The 2019 Austin Robinson Memorial Prize was awarded to Evelina Gavrilova, Takuma Kamada and Floris Zoutman for their article 'Is Legal Pot Crippling Mexican Drug Trafficking Organisations? The Effect of Medical Marijuana Laws on US Crime'. The 2020 winner will be announced during the annual RES conference in April.

3.2. RES Prize

The Royal Economic Society Prize is awarded to the best paper published in the Journal in a given year. It is selected by a committee consisting of the RES President, a Managing Editor of the Journal and another member of the RES council.

The 2019 RES prize was awarded to Jane Humphries and Jacob Weisdorf for their paper 'Unreal Wages? Real Income and Economic Growth in England, 1260-1850'. The 2020 winner will be announced during the annual RES conference in April.

3.3. Referee Prizes

The 2020 winners of the referee prizes were announced in January 2021. These are:

- Attila Ambrus, Duke University
- Gadi Barlevy, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
- Brice Corgnet, Emlyon Business School
- Danil Dmitriev, University of California, San Diego
- Pablo Fajgelbaum, University of California, Los Angeles
- James Fenske, University of Warwick
- William Walker Hanlon, NYU Stern School of Business
- Ines Moreno de Barreda, University of Oxford
- Olivier Marie, Erasmus University Rotterdam
- Giacomo Ponzetto, CREI, UPF, IPEG & Barcelona GSE
- Daniel Quint, University of Wisconsin
- Frank Schilbach, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Johannes Spinnewijn, London School of Economics
- Roel van Veldhuizen, WZB Berlin

Table 1: Submissions and decisions
Submissions (All Submissions; First. Second, etc)

Year	Submitted Total	Submitted Regular	New submissions	Submitted Features	Submitted Conference	Accepted	Conditionally Accepted	Returned for revisions	Rejected	Summarily Rejected	Pending	Withdrawn/ to be removed	Total
2020	1994	1994 (**119)	1687	0	0	121	92	153 (**4)	456 (**28)	950 (**68)	221 (**19)	1	1994
2019	1722	1722	1534	0	0	42	69	123	391	923	171	3	1722
2018	1770	1768	1603	0	2	79	32	94	384	956	223	2	1770
2017	1676	1629	1512	3	43	83	26	115	347	884	173	1	1629

*Results taken from January 1 to December 31.

** Short papers.

Table 2: Geographical Distribution of First Regular Submissions

Regions	2020	2019	2018	2017
UNITED KINGDOM	259 (15%)	233 (15%)	278 (17%)	259 (17%)
USA & CANADA	425 (25%)	372 (24%)	380 (24%)	376 (25%)
UNITED STATES (US)	367	333	336	316
CANADA (CA)	58	39	44	60
EUROPE	657 (39%)	567 (37%)	600 (37%)	565 (37%)
BELGIUM (BE)	18	14	12	13
FRANCE (FR)	67	53	58	73
GERMANY (DE)	186	155	168	157
ITALY (IT)	71	75	84	63
NETHERLANDS (NL)	51	47	40	43
SCANDANAVIA	95	75	77	81
SPAIN (ES)	50	45	32	37
OTHER EUROPE	119	115	129	98
REST OF THE WORLD	346 (21%)	357 (23%)	345 (22%)	312 (21%)
AUSTRALIA (AU)	46	59	53	54
NEW ZEALAND (NZ)	9	7	6	3
CHINA (CN)	100	79	79	62
HONG KONG (HK)	21	19	28	32
INDIA (IN)	10	14	17	7
ISRAEL (IL)	25	22	13	25
JAPAN (JP)	47	31	37	42
OTHER	88	126	112	87

*Results taken from January 1 to December 31.

Table 3: Time Taken from Submission for Editor to Respond to Author with Decision (for First Regular Submissions)

	2020	2019	2018	2017
ALL PAPERS				
0-14 days	55%	56%	51%	53%
15 days - 1 month	5%	6%	9%	9%
1-2 months	3%	3%	5%	7%
2-3 months	13%	9%	11%	11%
3-4 months	9%	11%	11%	11%
4-5 months	5%	5%	6%	6%
5-6 months	3%	4%	4%	2%
more than 6 months	7%	6%	4%	1%
Average turnaround time in days	53			
SUMMARILY REJECTED				
0-14 days	92%	91%	83%	88%
15 days - 1 month	7%	8%	13%	11%
1-2 months	0%	1%	3%	1%
2-3 months	0%	0%	1%	0%
3-4 months	0%	0%	1%	0%
4-5 months	0%	0%	0%	0%
5-6 months	0%	0%	0%	0%
more than 6 months	0%	0%	0%	0%
Average turnaround time in days	7			
PAPERS SENT TO REFEREES				
0-14 days	8%	3%	2%	3%
15 days - 1 month	3%	3%	2%	4%
1-2 months	6%	7%	7%	9%
2-3 months	29%	21%	26%	22%
3-4 months	21%	27%	28%	34%
4-5 months	11%	12%	15%	20%
5-6 months	6%	11%	9%	6%
more than 6 months	16%	16%	10%	2%
Average turnaround time in days	109			
SENT TO REFEREES, REJECTED				
0-14 days	10%	3%	2%	2%
15 days - 1 month	3%	3%	2%	4%
1-2 months	7%	8%	8%	8%
2-3 months	29%	23%	27%	30%
3-4 months	20%	25%	29%	32%
4-5 months	9%	11%	13%	19%
5-6 months	6%	12%	9%	4%
more than 6 months	15%	15%	9%	1%
Average turnaround time in days	102			
SENT TO REFEREES, RETURNED FOR REVISION				
0-14 days	2%	2%	0%	0%
15 days - 1 month	0%	0%	0%	0%
1-2 months	0%	1%	2%	4%
2-3 months	25%	14%	21%	22%
3-4 months	22%	39%	28%	35%
4-5 months	21%	18%	22%	21%
5-6 months	9%	6%	12%	11%
more than 6 months	21%	20%	15%	7%
Average turnaround time in days	146			

* Results taken from January 1 to December 31.

Table 4: Time Taken for Referee to Return Report to Editor*

	2020	2019	2018	2017
0-14 days	15%	17%	15%	11%
15 days -1 month	8%	8%	8%	8%
1-2 months	43%	38%	40%	39%
2-3 months	26%	28%	29%	31%
3-4 months	6%	7%	7%	8%
4-5 months	<1%	1%	1%	2%
5-6 months	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%
More than 6 months	<1%	<1%	0%	<1%
Average turnaround time	50 days	51days	54 days	

* Based on referees solicited in year t and having returned their reports by end of January of year t+1, first submissions.

Table 5: New Submissions (+ Revisions), by Editor

Editor	Dec-20	Nov-20	Oct-20	Sep-20	Aug-20	Jul-20	Jun-20	May-20	Apr-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Jan-20	Total
Bar-Isaac, H	13+1	14+0	21+0	14+0	25+1	17+0	16+0	19+0	14+0	0+0	0+0	0+0	153+2
Cantillon, E	0+0	0+0	0+1	0+0	0+1	0+2	15+1	16+1	16+1	12+1	15+0	20+0	94+8
Cripps, M	0+0	0+0	0+0	0+0	0+0	0+0	0+0	0+0	0+0	0+0	0+1	0+0	0+1
Galeotti, A	0+0	0+1	0+0	0+0	0+0	0+1	0+0	0+0	0+0	0+1	0+0	0+0	0+3
Guner, N	0+6	0+3	10+2	4+7	7+1	5+1	2+2	2+1	1+3	8+0	17+1	18+2	74+29
Huck, S	13+0	21+0	18+0	25+0	18+0	19+0	0+0	0+0	0+0	0+0	0+0	0+0	114+0
Kranton, R	0+1	0+5	0+2	0+4	0+1	0+2	0+1	0+3	0+1	12+2	13+5	9+1	34+28
Levy, G	9+2	3+1	19+6	11+0	13+4	12+0	12+1	8+0	23+1	13+2	14+1	13+2	150+20
Lippi, F	14+6	17+0	16+0	19+0	12+1	38+3	16+0	7+1	15+0	15+0	12+0	14+0	195+11
Manacorda, M	19+0	22+0	18+0	16+0	16+0	21+0	27+0	15+0	14+0	14+0	13+0	1+0	196+0
Petrongolo, B	13+3	14+0	17+0	17+1	16+0	14+1	15+2	16+0	15+1	16+1	13+0	15+0	181+9
Ravn, M	0+1	0+0	1+2	10+0	5+3	4+1	5+3	5+2	4+1	0+2	0+2	0+1	34+18
Salvanes, K	1+0	0+1	0+0	6+1	2+0	5+2	2+0	6+0	4+0	0+0	0+1	0+1	26+6
Vermeulen, F	0+1	0+3	1+2	6+1	2+1	4+4	7+3	4+4	3+1	0+2	0+5	0+1	27+28
Voth, H	15+2	37+3	18+3	14+1	17+3	21+2	15+1	17+1	18+2	10+1	8+3	12+2	202+24
Zhuravskaya, E	23+1	14+1	14+0	14+1	19+1	11+0	15+1	23+1	18+1	12+1	7+1	13+0	183+9

Table 6: Journal Impact Factors













Year	The Economic Journal	Review of Economics and Statistics	Journal of the EEA	Review of Economic Studies
2016	2.608	2.926	2.758	4.03
2017	2.946	3.510	2.975	4.455
2018	2.926	3.636	3.296	4.767
2019	2.764	4.345	3.388	4.890

Table 7: Altmetric Indicators

	Bloggers	Tweeters	Google+ Users	News	Facebook	Policy	Wikipedia	Other
2017	209	4,738	23	420	115	610	90	-
2018	282	7,090	13	338	88	800	142	41
2019	579	12,464	25	734	168	2,309	382	157
2020	635	15,459	25	1,002	173	4,423	443	182

Appendix.

Top 12 Altmetric scoring EJ articles

 <p>Is Legal Pot Crippling Mexican Drug Trafficking Organisations? The Effect of... Article in <i>Economic Journal</i>, November 2017</p>	 <p>Are You Happy While You Work? Article in <i>Economic Journal</i>, January 2016</p>	 <p>Mathematics and Gender: Heterogeneity in Causes and Consequences Article in <i>Economic Journal</i>, January 2015</p>
 <p>The Colour of a Free Ride Article in <i>Economic Journal</i>, September 2020</p>	 <p>The Power of Bias in Economics Research Article in <i>Economic Journal</i>, October 2017</p>	 <p>Additional Returns to Investing in Girls' Education: Impact on Younger Sibling... Article in <i>Economic Journal</i>, March 2018</p>
 <p>Books are Forever: Early Life Conditions, Education and Lifetime Earnings in... Article in <i>Economic Journal</i>, April 2016</p>	 <p>The Costs of Economic Nationalism: Evidence from the Brexit Experiment* Article in <i>Economic Journal</i>, May 2019</p>	 <p>The Time for Austerity: Estimating the Average Treatment Effect of Fiscal Policy Article in <i>Economic Journal</i>, February 2016</p>
 <p>Witch Trials Article in <i>Economic Journal</i>, August 2017</p>	 <p>How Does Daddy at Home Affect Marital Stability? Article in <i>Economic Journal</i>, January 2020</p>	 <p>The Political Economy of Liberal Democracy Article in <i>Economic Journal</i>, January 2020</p>