

# REVIEW OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## Editorial Board

### Current Editorial Board:

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### Recently Retired from the Editorial Board:

Amit K. Khandelwal (Co-Chair), Columbia University

## Summary of Tables

### Table 1—Manuscripts Submitted and Published:

This table shows the trends in papers submitted and published over the past five years. The journal has seen increased growth in paper submissions: 7% in 2017, 14% in 2018, 11% in 2019, and 25% in 2020. The number of published papers has remained steady, ranging from 65 to 70 papers per year.

### Table 2—Status of Manuscripts by Year of Submission:

This table shows the status of manuscripts submitted over the past five years. The papers summarily rejected remained steady, ranging from 54% to 64% of papers submitted. The percent of papers sent out for review but ultimately rejected has remained steady, ranging from 29% to 32% of papers. Acceptance rates range from 5% to 8% of papers submitted. Papers submitted in 2020 have not had enough time to accurately reflect the acceptance rate.

### Table 3—Decision Time in Days for Manuscripts Sent to Referees for Review:

This table reports the decision time in days for manuscripts sent out to referees for review over the past five years. The journal has greatly improved turnaround times. In 2016, the average decision time for papers sent to referees was 129 days. The average decision time in 2020 improved to 86 days. In addition, the decision time at the right tail also improved substantially.

### Table 4—Distribution of First Decision Times, by Submission Year:

This table includes all first-round paper submissions and shows the distribution of decision times in monthly increments for the past five years. The table also reflects the improvement in the journal's decision turnaround times. In 2020, 84% of manuscripts received a decision within three months and 99% within five months.

### Table 5—Subject Matter of Published Manuscripts, 2020:

This table shows the distribution of subject matter of papers published in 2020. These papers covered a variety of subjects, but the most common published subjects were macro and monetary economics and labor and demographic economics.

TABLE 1.—MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED AND PUBLISHED, 2016–2020

Year	Submitted	Published
2016	982	67
2017	1,049	68
2018	1,200	70
2019	1,330	66
2020	1,666	65

TABLE 2.—STATUS OF MANUSCRIPTS BY YEAR OF SUBMISSION, 2016–2020

Submission Year	Accepted	Pending	Rejected	Summary Reject	Revise and Resubmit	Withdrawn	Total
2016	47 5%	0 0%	281 29%	632 64%	7 1%	15 2%	982
2017	89 8%	0 0%	304 29%	647 62%	0 0%	9 1%	1,049
2018	81 7%	1 0%	375 31%	715 60%	9 1%	19 2%	1,200
2019	69 5%	11 1%	407 31%	808 61%	30 2%	5 0%	1,330
2020	34 2%	73 4%	534 32%	899 54%	124 7%	2 0%	1,666

Percentages are rounded to the nearest integer. Pending manuscripts include submissions and revisions that were undergoing review as of February 23, 2021, while Revise and Resubmit manuscripts are those that have been returned and are in the hands of the authors on that date. Summary rejections are manuscripts rejected without referee review.

TABLE 3.—DECISION TIME IN DAYS FOR MANUSCRIPTS SENT TO REFEREES FOR REVIEW

Year	Fraction Summarily Rejected	Average Decision Time	Median Decision Time	75th Percentile	90th Percentile	Number of Papers Sent to Referees
2016	64%	129	108	174	228	335
2017	62%	92	85	111	144	393
2018	60%	95	86	112	149	466
2019	61%	82	77	97	118	517
2020	54%	86	84	102	122	765

Decision times are for papers sent out for review. Percentages are rounded to the nearest integer. Data were inputted for 46 papers submitted in 2020 which did not have a decision yet.

TABLE 4.—DISTRIBUTION OF FIRST DECISION TIMES, BY SUBMISSION YEAR

Months to Response	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Monthly Percent	Cumulative Percent	Monthly Percent	Cumulative Percent	Monthly Percent	Cumulative Percent	Monthly Percent	Cumulative Percent	Monthly Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	58	58	59	59	65	65	60	60	55	55
2	13	71	6	65	7	72	11	71	7	62
3	10	81	12	76	13	85	18	89	22	84
4	5	86	16	92	8	93	8	97	12	96
5	3	89	3	95	4	97	2	99	3	99
6	4	93	1	96	2	99	<1	99	<1	99
7	2	95	2	98	1	99	<1	99	<1	99
8	3	98	2	100	<1	99	<1	99	<1	100
9	<1	99	0	100	<1	99	<1	100	0	100
10	<1	99	0	100	<1	99	0	100	0	100
11	<1	100	0	100	<1	100	0	100	0	100
12	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	100

Percentages are rounded to the nearest integer. Data were inputted for 46 papers submitted in 2020 which did not have a decision yet.

TABLE 5.—SUBJECT MATTER OF PUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS, 2020

JEL	Subject Category	Number
A	General Economics and Teaching	0
B	Methodology/History of Thought	0
C	Mathematical and Quantitative Methods	8
D	Microeconomics	8
E	Macro and Monetary Economics	11
F	International Economics	2
G	Financial Economics	0
H	Public Economics	5
I	Health, Education, and Welfare	5
J	Labor and Demographic Economics	11
K	Law and Economics	0
L	Industrial Organization	0
M	Business Economics	1
N	Economic History	1
O	Economic Development	10
P	Economic Systems	0
Q	Agricultural/Natural Resources	0
R	Urban, Rural, and Regional Economics	3
Z	Misc. and Special Topics	0

Derived from JEL codes reported for each manuscript for the 2020 publication year.