

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics

The *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* (*AEJ Applied*) was launched by the American Economic Association in July 2007.

As shown in Table 1, the number of first submissions increased to 525 for the year ending October 31, 2013 (from 384 in 2011 and 471 in 2012). It is still a fast growth rate, so the steady state is unknown.

The *AEJ Applied* publishes papers covering a broad range of topics in applied economics, with a focus on empirical microeconomic issues. In particular it covers labor economics, development microeconomics, health, education, demography, empirical corporate finance, empirical studies of trade and industrial organizations, and empirical behavioral economics. Table 6 gives the distribution of fields covered by the papers in 2013. It reflects the broad diversity of papers received. The papers have different empirical approaches (from descriptive studies and lab experiments to structural estimation), and address a broad array of topics. They are united by the fact that they make a substantive and empirical (i.e., not purely methodological) contribution to important economic issues.

Editorial Process

Manuscripts submitted to *AEJ Applied* are handled by an Editor (Esther Dufo) and two Coeditors. Liran Einav and Thomas Lemieux both ended their tenures in the spring of 2013, and were replaced by Alex Mas and Matthew Gentzkow. After being processed by the Pittsburgh office staff, the manuscripts are allocated by the Editor to one of the Coeditors. All subsequent responsibility for handling the manuscript—including the decision to summarily reject papers, choice of referees, and the ultimate disposition of the paper—rests with the person to whom the manuscript has been assigned. However, this person consults with at least one more member of the editorial team before reaching a “revise and resubmit” decision, and generally in marginal cases as well. The decision letter specifies which coeditor was

TABLE 1—MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED AND PUBLISHED, 2007–2013

Year	Submitted	Published	Previously submitted to the <i>AER</i>
2007	69	0	5
2008	223	0	36
2009	345	34	36
2010	344	40	40
2011	384	36	33
2012	471	40	53
2013	525	38	44

Notes: Submissions to the *AEJ Applied* for each year include all new submissions from November 1 of the previous year through October 31 of the stated year. Publications for 2009 include the January and October issues. Publications for all years include the January, April, July, and October issues.

consulted, if one was. The journal has a policy of avoiding conflicts of interest, and papers are not assigned to an editor if the author is a colleague, coauthor, or recent student.

As of 2011, *AEJ Applied* no longer follows the double-blind process previously followed by the AEA journals. As other AEA journals now do, *AEJ Applied* now discloses the author’s name to referees. As before, referee names are not revealed to the author. Papers are often rejected without a formal review when the editor in charge of the paper believes the paper is unlikely to be finally accepted in the *AEJ Applied*. The author’s submission fee is refunded when papers are rejected without formal review.

For manuscripts previously submitted to the *American Economic Review* (*AER*), authors can choose to have the *AER* file forwarded to the *AEJ Applied*. That file includes the editor’s decision letter, the referee reports, and, with the referee’s permission, the cover letter to the *AER* editor. The majority of referees agree to have their cover letters made available, and this information is sometimes sufficient to reach a decision on the paper. The additional information usually expedites the review of a paper even

TABLE 2—STATUS OF MANUSCRIPTS BY YEAR OF SUBMISSION, 2009–2013

Submission year	Accepted	Pending	Rejected	Summary reject	Revise and resubmit	Withdrawn	Total
2009	43 (12)	0 (0)	194 (56)	104 (30)	3 (1)	1 (0)	345 (100)
2010	34 (10)	0 (0)	201 (58)	106 (31)	2 (1)	1 (0)	344 (100)
2011	41 (11)	0 (0)	237 (62)	100 (26)	6 (2)	0 (0)	384 (100)
2012	42 (9)	0 (0)	266 (56)	156 (33)	7 (1)	0 (0)	471 (100)
2013	14 (3)	54 (10)	212 (40)	228 (43)	17 (3)	0 (0)	525 (100)

Notes: Entries show status as of November 1, 2013. Figures in parentheses show row percents rounded to the nearest integer. Pending manuscripts include submissions and revisions that were undergoing review as of November 1, 2013, while revise and resubmit manuscripts are manuscripts that have been returned and are in the hands of the authors on that date. Summary rejections are manuscripts rejected without referee review.

when an immediate decision isn't possible. This feature has been used for 44 papers submitted in 2013 (Table 1).

Editorial Board

Joshua Angrist (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Peter Arcidiacono (Duke University), Abhijit Banerjee (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), David Card (University of California, Berkeley), Pedro Carneiro (University College London), Amitabh Chandra (Harvard University), Aimee Chin (University of Houston), Gordon Dahl (University of California, San Diego), Raymond J. Fisman (Columbia University), Andrew D. Foster (Brown University), Alessandro Gavazza (London School of Economics), Gordon H. Hanson (University of California, San Diego), Brian A. Jacob (University of Michigan), Seema Jayachandran (Northwestern University), Chinhui Juhn (University of Houston), Dean Karlan (Yale University), Peter Kuhn (University of California, Santa Barbara), Ethan Lewis (Dartmouth College), Robert Margo (Boston University), Atif Mian (Princeton University), Edward Miguel (University of California, Berkeley), Sendhil Mullainathan (Harvard University), Jesse Shapiro (University of Chicago), Alan Sorensen (University of Wisconsin), Chad Syverson (University of Chicago), Duncan Thomas (Duke University), and Miguel Urquiola (Columbia University).

Editorial Data and Process

For the year ending October 31, 2013, the journal received 525 new submissions.

The ultimate publication rate was 9 percent for the last months of 2012.

AEJ Applied has established a tradition of quick and efficient service for authors, which we are very proud of. The mean decision time for first decision continues to be very low: 32 days in 2013 (down from 39 days in 2012 and 41 days in 2011). As shown in Table 3, we are particularly attentive to avoid long tails: 3 papers had decision times of just above 3 months for 2012, which we consider to be a failing! We want that number to stay at zero. As of November 29, 2013, the oldest paper without a decision was 80 days old.

We are also keen to offer authors a relatively “complete” contract, and the vast majority of papers that are sent for revision are ultimately accepted, usually without returning to referees. The few papers that were rejected after a first revise and resubmit were usually papers first sent to the *AER*, that were not sent to referees the first time around, and thus we have not wasted much of the authors' time. In very few occasions, we had to reject a revision when the robustness checks requested showed the results not to be robust.

The average time in review from initial receipt to acceptance was 13 weeks, and the average lag from acceptance to publication was 36 weeks (Table 4).

TABLE 3—DISTRIBUTION OF FIRST-TIME DECISION TIMES, BY SUBMISSION YEAR

Months to response	2012		2013	
	Monthly percent	Cumulative percent	Monthly percent	Cumulative percent
1	39	39	48	48
2	27	66	25	73
3	33	99	24	97
4	1	100	3	100
5	0	100	0	100
6	0	100	0	100
7	0	100	0	100
8	0	100	0	100
9	0	100	0	100
10	0	100	0	100
11	0	100	0	100
12	0	100	0	100

Notes: Submission year denotes the period from November 1 of the preceding year to October 31 of the stated year. The 2012 distributions are the actual distributions. The 2013 distribution is projected Kaplan-Meier hazards computed from the right-censored distribution of decision times of manuscripts submitted between November 1, 2012 and October 31, 2013. Percents are rounded to the nearest integer. Figures in this table supersede those contained in previous *AEJ Applied* reports.

TABLE 4—AVERAGE PROCESSING TIMES BY YEAR OF PUBLICATION

	Submission to acceptance		Weeks from acceptance to publication
	Total weeks	Weeks in review	
2011	40	13	32
2012	46	14	35
2013	41	13	36

Note: Total weeks column shows the combined time a manuscript spent in review at *AEJ Applied* and the time taken by authors to develop their various revisions.

Table 5 gives the average page length for manuscripts published. This remained stable at 28 pages.

AEJ Applied has the same data posting policy as the *AER*, requiring authors of accepted papers that employ data in econometric analysis, simulation models, or experiments to post their data and programs on the journal website. Table 7 gives the statistics on data posting for 2013. Every single paper published had data, and the data was published without exemptions.

TABLE 5—DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICATION TYPE, BY YEAR

Year of publication	Number of articles	Average page length
2010	40	26
2011	36	27
2012	40	28
2013	38	28

Note: The table refers to the January, April, July, and October issues of *AEJ Applied*.

TABLE 6—SUBJECT MATTER OF PUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS, 2013 (Counts of areas)

Subject category	
A—General economics and teaching	1
B—History of economic thought, methodology, and heterodox approaches	0
C—Mathematical and quantitative methods	3
D—Microeconomics	19
E—Macroeconomics and monetary economics	0
F—International economics	1
G—Financial economics	6
H—Public economics	7
I—Health, education, and welfare	16
J—Labor and demographic economics	17
K—Law and economics	2
L—Industrial organization	3
M—Business administration and business economics; marketing; accounting	2
N—Economic history	2
O—Economic development, technological change, and growth	16
P—Economic systems	3
Q—Agricultural and natural resource economics; environmental and ecological economics	3
R—Urban, rural, and regional economics	6
Y—Miscellaneous categories	0
Z—Other special topics	3
Total	110

Notes: Derived from *JEL* codes reported for each manuscript submitted to *AEJ Applied*. Entries represent totals for January, April, July, and October issues.

TABLE 7—2013 DATA-POSTING POLICY STATISTICS

Issue	Number of papers	Papers with data	Exemptions	First-round compliance	Second-round compliance	Noncompliance
January	9	8	0	8	0	0
April	9	9	0	9	0	0
July	10	10	0	10	0	0
October	10	10	0	10	0	0

The journal has also benefited tremendously from the behind the scenes work of Managing Editor Michelle DeBlasi, Assistant Managing Editor Matthew Newton, Senior Editorial Assistant Kelly Andrews, and Editorial Assistant Olivia Sweeney. Their contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

As mentioned, Liran Einav and Thomas Lemieux were replaced this summer by Matt Gentzkow and Alex Mas. The transition was seamless, and the efficiency and spirit with which the journal is run has not changed.

ESTHER DUFLO, *Editor*

ARTICLE REFEREES FOR 2013

Aaronson, Daniel	Baicker, Katherine	Cabral, Marika
Abaluck, Jason	Bailey, Martha	Cai, Jing
Abramitzky, Ran	Bandiera, Oriana	Campante, Filipe
Abrams, David	Banerjee, Abhijit	Campolieti, Michele
Adda, Jerome	Basu, Karna	Cardoso, Ana Rute
Agarwal, Sumit	Bauer, Thomas	Carneiro, Pedro
Aguila, Emma	Bayer, Patrick	Carpenter, Christopher
Aker, Jenny	Beaman, Lori	Carrell, Scott
Akresh, Richard	Behaghel, Luc	Carter, Susan
Albouy, David	Beshears, John	Carvalho, Leandro
Alexander, Diane	Biddle, Jeff	Cascio, Elizabeth
Ali, S. Nageeb	Bjorkman Nyqvist, Martina	Chakrabarti, Rajashri
Allcott, Hunt	Black, Dan	Chandra, Amitabh
Almond, Douglas	Blattman, Christopher	Chandrasekhar, Arun
Alter, Amitay	Bobonis, Gustavo	Chaney, Thomas
Anderson, John	Boustan, Leah	Chang, Tom
Anderson, Michael	Braakmann, Nils	Chen, Daniel
Anderson, Siwan	Breza, Emily	Chen, Stacey
Andrews, Rodney	Brochu, Pierre	Choi, James
Anenberg, Elliot	Bronnenberg, Bart	Clark, Damon
Angrist, Joshua	Brown, Kristine	Clay, Karen
Antman, Francisca	Bryan, Gharad	Clots Figueras, Irma
Atkin, David	Buchmueller, Thomas	Cocco, Joao
Attanasio, Orazio	Buckles, Kasey	Cockburn, Iain
Aucejo, Esteban	Bulman, George	Coelli, Michael
Avery, Christopher	Buser, Thomas	Cohen, Lauren
Bacolod, Marigee	Bushnell, James	Cole, Shawn

- Collard-Wexler, Allan
 Cortes, Patricia
 Costinot, Arnaud
 Cunha, Jesse
 Dafny, Leemore
 Dahl, Gordon
 Damm, Anna
 Das, Jishnu
 de Chaisemartin, Clément
 De Giorgi, Giacomo
 De Loecker, Jan
 de Magalhaes, Leandro
 de Walque, Damien
 Dell, Melissa
 Deming, David
 Deschenes, Olivier
 Devoto, Florencia
 Dhuey, Elizabeth
 Di Tella, Rafael
 Diamond, Rebecca
 Dizon-Ross, Rebecca
 Dobbie, Will
 Dobkin, Carlos
 Dorn, David
 Dube, Arindrajit
 Dupas, Pascaline
 Dustmann, Christian
 Dworsky, Misha
 Dynarski, Susan
 Ebenstein, Avraham
 Edlund, Lena
 Edmonds, Eric
 Ellison, Glenn
 Enikolopov, Ruben
 Evans, William
 Faber, Benjamin
 Fairlie, Robert
 Feigenberg, Benjamin
 Ferraz, Claudio
 Field, Erica
 Figlio, David
 Filipowski, Mateusz
 Finan, Frederico
 Fiorini, Mario
 Firth, John
 Fischman, Joshua
 Fisman, Raymond
 Fitzpatrick, Maria
 Fletcher, Jason
 Flinn, Christopher
 Foley, Fritz
 Fortson, Jane
 Fougere, Denis
 Frame, W. Scott
 Franck, Raphael
 Friebel, Guido
 Fuchs-Schuendeln, Nicola
 Fujiwara, Thomas
 Funk, Patricia
 Furman, Jeffrey
 Galbiati, Roberto
 Galdo, Jose
 Galiani, Sebastian
 Gallego, Francisco
 Gambardella, Alfonso
 García-Jimeno, Camilo
 Gathmann, Christina
 Gavazza, Alessandro
 Gemici, Ahu
 Gentzkow, Matthew
 Gerdes, Christer
 Gertler, Paul
 Gine, Xavier
 Giuliano, Laura
 Glennerster, Rachel
 Glewwe, Paul
 Goda, Gopi
 Goette, Lorenz
 Goldin, Jacob
 Golub, Benjamin
 Goodman, Joshua
 Gottlieb, Joshua
 Greenstein, Shane
 Gregory, Jesse
 Grieco, Paul
 Grodzicki, Daniel
 Guner, Nezhir
 Gurgand, Marc
 Hallak, Juan
 Halliday, Timothy
 Handel, Benjamin
 Hanna, Rema
 Hansen, Benjamin
 Harari, Mariaflavia
 Harding, Matthew
 Harrison, Glenn
 Haushofer, Johannes
 Havnes, Tarjei
 Heaton, Paul
 Hitsch, Günter
 Hoekstra, Mark
 Huber, Gregory
 Hungerman, Daniel
 Hussam, Reshmaan
 Hyslop, Dean
 Imbens, Guido
 Imbert, Clement
 Iyer, Rajkamal
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 Jack, B. Kelsey
 Jackson, C. Kirabo
 Jacobsen, Mark
 Jaeger, Simon
 Jakiela, Pamela
 Jayachandran, Seema
 Jenkins, Mark
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 Jha, Akshaya
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 Jones, Benjamin
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 Kamenica, Emir
 Kapoor, Sasha
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 Khwaja, Asim
 Kinnan, Cynthia
 Klier, Thomas
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 Koedel, Cory
 Kolstad, Jonathan
 Kowalski, Amanda
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 Lafortune, Jeanne
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- Laszlo, Sonia
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 Luttmmer, Erzo
 Lychagin, Sergey
 Madrian, Brigitte
 Mahajan, Aprajit
 Mahoney, Neale
 Malamud, Ofer
 Manacorda, Marco
 Mani, Subha
 Manning, Alan
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 Marschke, Gerald
 Matsa, David
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 Mayneris, Florian
 Mazumder, Bhashkar
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 McFarlin, Isaac
 McIntosh, Craig
 Mckenzie, David
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 Michaels, Guy
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 Shen, Yu-Chu
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 Skiba, Paige
 Snowberg, Erik
 Snyder, Christopher
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 Solis Vivallos, Alex
 Somaini, Paulo
 Song, Minjae
 Sood, Neeraj

Sorensen, Alan
Spitz-Oener, Alexandra
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Stantcheva, Stefanie
Stanton, Christopher
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Stevens, Ann
Stone, Daniel F.
Stoyanov, Andrey
Strahan, Philip
Stromberg, David
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Sukhtankar, Sandip
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Svarer, Michael
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Thom, Kevin
Thomasson, Melissa
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Topalova, Petia
Tsoutsoura, Margarita
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Turner, Matthew
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van Ours, Jan
Van Zandt, Timothy
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Vicente, Pedro
Vig, Vikrant
Villas-Boas, Sofia
Visaria, Sujata
Voigtlaender, Nico
von Wachter, Till
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Waddell, Glen

Walker, Reed
Walters, Christopher
Wang, Jin
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Wang, Xiao Yu
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Wilbur, Kenneth
Woodcock, Simon
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Yanagizawa-Drott, David
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Zia, Bilal
Zimmermann, Laura
Zinman, Jonathan

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