

Editor's Report

Editorial Statistics

From January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008, the Editorial Office received 343 new manuscript submissions. Tables 1–4 provide information about the editorial process and the journal for the past year and some previous years.

Table 1 shows the time between submission and the journal's first response, whether to reject, ask for a revision, or accept a manuscript for the 343 manuscripts submitted during 2008. Noticeably, almost 50% of the manuscripts received a first answer in less than 3 months. More than 75% of submitted manuscripts received a first answer in less than 4 months. Finally, no manuscript required more than 9 months for a first answer.

Table 1. Distribution of Editorial Decision Lags between Submission and First Response to Author, January 1, 2008–December 31, 2008

Months	Number of Submissions	% of Submissions
0–3	171	48.9
3–4	91	26.5
4–5	53	15.5
5–6	23	6.7
6–9	5	0.14
9+	0	0

Table 2 reports trends in the number of submissions and accepted manuscripts from 1997 to 2008. After an initial decline in the number of submissions from 1997, mostly due to the change in editorship, submissions have been steady. In the last few years, however, the *Journal* has experienced a significant increase in the number of submissions. Acceptance rates are steady, around 20%.

Table 2. Manuscripts Submitted and Accepted, 1997–2008

Year	Submitted	Accepted	% Accepted
1997	333	104	31.2
1998	279	68	24.4
1999	288	58	20.1
2000	251	57	22.7
2001	259	51	19.6
2002	244	50	20.4
2003	248	60	24.2
2004	242	59	24.0
2005	268	51	19.0
2006	289	57	19.7
2007	295	44	14.9
2008	343	53	15.4

Table 3 shows the status of manuscripts submitted in the last four years as of June 1, 2009, and provides a more accurate account of the editorial process.

Table 3. Status of Manuscripts by Year of Submission, 2005–2008

Year of Submission	Accepted	Pending	Rejected	Summarily Rejected	Revise & Resubmit	Withdrawn	Total
2005	52 (19.6)	0	196 (73.2)	8 (2.6)	4 (1.4)	8 (3.0)	268 (100)
2006	57 (19.7)	0	194 (67.2)	27 (9.3)	5 (1.7)	6 (2.1)	289 (100)
2007	42 (14.2)	0	224 (75.9)	17 (5.8)	10 (3.4)	2 (0.7)	295 (100)
2008	41 (11.9)	21 (6.1)	218 (63.6)	34 (9.9)	28 (8.2)	1 (0.3)	343 (100)

Notes: The data are as of June 1, 2009. Percent are shown in parentheses. Pending manuscripts include submissions and resubmissions still in the hands of the Editorial Office. Revise & Resubmit manuscripts are instead in the hands of the authors. Summarily rejected manuscripts are returned to the authors without consulting with a referee.

Finally, Table 4 shows the distribution of published papers in 2005–2008 by subject, using JEL codes. Considerable fluctuation appears in the number of papers in each category over the four-year period considered, which is acceptable for a general interest journal.

Editorial Process

Manuscripts are submitted to the *Journal* using Editorial Express, an Internet-based electronic system. Once submitted, papers are assigned by the Editor to one of the Co-Editors or to herself for the refereeing process. Papers are assigned on the basis of field of expertise of the Co-Editor, combined with a variety of other considerations, including equalization of work load and conflict-of-interest rules. All responsibility for handling the manuscripts, including the final decision, rests with the Editor to whom the manuscript was originally assigned.

Manuscripts are reviewed using a double-blind process: the name of the author is removed from the paper and not revealed to the reviewers, and the referees' identities are not disclosed to the authors.

Editorial Staff

The Editorial Board for calendar year 2008 consisted of Christopher Bollinger of the University of Kentucky, Robert Feinberg of American University, Kent Kimbrough of Duke University, John Pepper of the University of Virginia, and myself. The addition of Robert Feinberg to the Editorial Board was motivated by the increased number of submissions realized in recent years. I thank my Co-Editors for their hard work and insights, as they continue to make a great contribution to the *Journal* and to the economic profession.

The Editors rely heavily on the Board of Associate Editors for advice in the evaluation of manuscripts. On behalf of my fellow Co-Editors, I thank the Associate Editors for their help in our editorial tasks. Finally, we cannot forget the nearly 700 referees who have spent time and energy during 2008 reading and offering valuable comments on the manuscripts received by the *Journal*. My deepest appreciation goes to them.

I also thank Hayley Bialkowski, the *Journal* editorial assistant, for her outstanding job of handling all the different tasks and demands of the *Journal*. Last but not least, I thank Professor John Rust and his associates for Editorial Express, the online editorial and reviewing program used by the *Journal*. Their online system has helped improve our editorial performance, significantly reducing the dwell time in handling manuscripts from submission to final decision.

Table 4. Distribution of JEL Subjects for Accepted Manuscripts, 2005–2008

Subject Category	2005	2006	2007	2008
General Economic and Teaching	3	5	2	3
History of Economic Thought and Methodology	0	2	0	1
Mathematical and Quantitative Methods	2	9	5	1
Microeconomics	2	10	4	9
Macroeconomics and Monetary Economics	6	2	3	5
International Economics	7	7	4	6
Financial Economics	1	2	0	3
Public Economics	3	4	2	4
Health, Education, and Welfare	4	12	3	9
Labor and Demographic Economics	7	5	3	8
Law and Economics	3	1	2	1
Industrial Organization	4	13	4	7
Business Administration and Business Economics; Marketing; Accounting	0	0	0	0
Economic History	1	0	0	1
Economic Development, Technological Change, and Growth	4	3	1	2
Economic Systems	0	0	0	0
Agricultural and Natural Resources Economics	1	0	0	0
Urban, Rural and Regional Economics	0	0	0	0
Other Topics	1	0	0	0

Editorial Announcement

Beginning with the January 2010 issue, members of the Southern Economic Association will be offered the possibility of receiving online access to an electronic version of the *Journal*. Members will receive an email notification with instructions about how to access the *Journal* online.

Laura Razzolini
Editor