

Editor's Report

From January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2011, the Editorial Office received 351 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 351 manuscripts submitted during 2011. About 50% of the manuscripts received a first answer in less than 3 months and 75% of submitted manuscripts received a first answer in less than 4 months.

TABLE 1 – Distribution of Editorial Decision lags between submission and first response to author. January 1, 2010 -- December 31, 2010.

Months	Number of Submissions	% of Submissions
0-3	214	61.5
3-4	58	16.7
4-5	37	10.7
5-6	24	6.9
6-9	15	4.3
9+	0	0

Table 2 shows the number of submissions and accepted manuscripts from 2000 to 2011. In the last few years the *Journal* has experienced a significant increase in the number of submissions. Acceptance rates are converging from around 20% to 15%.

TABLE 2 – Manuscripts submitted and accepted, 2000-2011.

Year	Submitted	Accepted	%
2000	251	57	22.7
2001	259	51	19.7
2002	244	50	20.5
2003	248	60	24.2
2004	242	60	24.8
2005	268	54	20.1
2006	289	58	20.1
2007	295	45	15.3
2008	343	69	20.1
2009	270	37	13.7
2010	326	36	11.0
2011	351	34	9.7

Table 3 shows the status of manuscripts submitted in the last four years as of July 1, 2011, and provides a more accurate account of the editorial process.

TABLE 3 – Status of manuscripts by year of submission, 2006 - 2010.

Year of Submission	Accepted	Pending	Rejected	Summarily Rejected	Revise & Resubmit	Withdrawn	Total
2006	58 (20.1)	0	194 (67.1)	27 (9.3)	0	10 (3.5)	289 (100)
2007	45 (15.3)	0	225 (76.3)	17 (5.8)	0	8 (2.7)	295 (100)
2008	69 (20.1)	0	233 (67.9)	34 (9.9)	0	7 (2.1)	343 (100)
2009	37 (13.7)	0	204 (76.56)	22 (8.15)	4 (1.48)	3 (1.11)	270 (100)
2010	36 (11.4)	7 (2.1)	226 (69.1)	47 (14.4)	9 (2.7)	1 (0.3)	326 (100)
2011	44 (12.5)	7 (2.0)	201 (57.3)	84 (23.9)	15 (4.3)	0	351 (100)

Notes: The data are as of July 15, 2012. 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 2007-2011 by subject, using JEL codes. Considerable fluctuation appears in the number of papers in each category over the five-year period considered, which is acceptable for a general interest journal.

TABLE 4 – Distribution of JEL Subjects for Accepted Manuscripts, 2007 - 2011.

Subject Category	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
General Economic and Teaching	2	3	1	0	0
History of Economic Thought and Methodology	0	1	0	2	0
Mathematical and Quantitative Methods	5	1	7	9	2
Microeconomics	4	9	1	10	11
Macroeconomics and Monetary Economics	3	5	9	3	11
International Economics	4	6	8	6	10

Financial Economics	0	3	2	1	1
Public Economics	2	4	4	7	5
Health, Education and Welfare	3	9	5	6	4
Labor and Demographic Economics	3	8	6	5	3
Law and Economics	2	1	1	1	0
Industrial Organization	4	7	8	6	5
Business Administration and Business Economics; Marketing; Accounting	0	0	0	0	0
Economic History	0	1	0	0	0
Economic Development, Technological Change, and Growth	1	2	7	0	3
Economic Systems	0	0	0	0	0
Agricultural and Natural Resources Economics	0	0	1	2	1
Urban, Rural and Regional Economics	0	0	1	0	0
Other Topics	0	0	0	0	0

Editorial Process

Manuscripts are submitted to the *Journal* using Editorial Express, an Internet-based electronic system run by John Rust and his associates. 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. Co-Editors are generally not assigned manuscripts authored by an individual at his or her institution, or by an individual who has a close professional or personal relationship with the Co-Editor. Such papers are handled by the Editor or by a different Co-Editor. Papers submitted by a Co-Editor are generally handled by the Editor. All responsibility for handling the manuscripts, including the final decision, rests with the Editor to whom the manuscript is originally assigned. Manuscripts are reviewed using a single-blind process: the referees' identities are not disclosed to the authors. Since 2010, the Editor and Co-Editors have started systematically exercising the option to return manuscripts to authors without referee review. The decision to return a manuscript without review is based upon several considerations, including expected probability of meeting the standards of the *Journal*, breadth of topic, interest to the SEJ general audience, and other factors.

Editorial Staff

The Editorial Board for calendar year 2011 consisted of Robert Feinberg (American University), Kent Kimbrough (Duke University), John Pepper (University of Virginia), David Ribar (University of North Carolina at Greensboro) and myself. I am very grateful to the Co-Editors for their dedication, hard work, and insight. Each has handled a demanding job with alacrity and professionalism. Their collective efforts have made an enormous contribution to this journal and to the economic profession.

The Editors rely heavily on the Board of Associate Editors for advice in the evaluation of manuscripts. In 2011 the Board of Associate Editors included:

Lisa Anderson, College of William and Mary
Daniel Arce M., University of Texas, Dallas
Bruce Caldwell, University of North Carolina
Dennis Coates, University of Maryland
Tyler Cowen, George Mason University
Douglas Davis, Virginia Commonwealth University
Amy Farmer, University of Arkansas
Donna Gilleskie, University of North Carolina
Kwabena Gyimah-Brempong, University of South Florida
Jonathan Hamilton, University of Florida
Christopher Hanes, State University of New York at Binghamton
Joseph Harrington, Johns Hopkins University
Barry Hirsch, Georgia State University
William Johnson, University of Virginia
Brent Kreider, Iowa State University
Sara Markowitz, Rutgers University
Paul Pecorino, University of Alabama
Pietro Peretto, Duke University
David Ribar, University of North Carolina, Greensboro
Christopher Ruhm, University of North Carolina, Greensboro
William Shughart, University of Mississippi
Wim Vijverberg, University of Texas, Dallas
Bart Wilson, George Mason University

On behalf of my fellow Co-Editors, I thank them for their help in our editorial tasks. In November 2012, a new Board will begin a new three years term. The new Associate Editors are:

**Development, Health,
Labor, Applied**

Microeconomics: Christopher R. Bollinger, University of Kentucky
Judith K. Hellerstein, University of Maryland
Barry T. Hirsch, Georgia State University
Brent Kreider, Iowa State University
Sara J. Markowitz, Emory University
Christopher J. Ruhm, University of Virginia
Madeline Zavodny, Agnes Scott College

**Macroeconomics, Growth,
International Economics,**

Trade, Finance: Areendam Chanda, Louisiana State University
Patrick J. Conway, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Pietro F. Peretto, Duke University
Jack K. Strauss, University of St. Louis
Bulent Unel, Louisiana State University

Microeconomics, Trade,

**Experimental, Environmental,
Industrial Organization,**

Public Economics: Daniel G. Arce, University of Texas, Dallas
H. Spencer Banzhaf, Georgia State University
Douglas D. Davis, Virginia Commonwealth University
Paul Pecorino, University of Alabama
Ragan Petrie, George Mason University
Kara M. Reynolds, American University
Bart J. Wilson, Chapman University

Targeting Teaching,

History, Methodology: KimMarie McGoldrick, University of Richmond
Maria Pia Paganelli, Trinity University

Senior Associate Editors:

Catherine C. Eckel, Texas A&M University
Jonathan H. Hamilton, University of Florida
Kathy J. Hayes, Southern Methodist University
Charles A. Holt, University of Virginia
William R. Johnson, University of Virginia
William F. Shughart, Utah State University

Finally, we cannot forget the 600 referees who have spent time and energy during 2011 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*.

Laura Razzolini, *Editor*