



Economic Journal 2017 Annual Report

1st February 2018

1. Overview

- The data in this annual report for 2017 covers the full calendar year of 2017. Previous data has been compiled up to and including the third quarter of the calendar year.
- In 2017, we received 1676 submissions, including new/re-submissions of regular papers, conference papers and the last remaining re-submissions of the final Feature papers. See Table 1.
- The total number of regular submissions for 2017 (1629) has exceeded the total number of submissions (1617), including conference and feature papers, for 2016. See Table 1.
- Geographic distribution of submitted papers is similar to that of last year. See Table 2.
- 884 regular submissions were dealt with by the Editors alone (summarily rejected (Table 1); of these, 88% were returned to the authors within 14 days, with 11% being returned within 15 to 30 days and only 1% taking between 1 and 2 months. This is a slight drop in turnaround times compared to last year but still high and better than previous years.
- For 2017, over 70% of regular submissions that were sent to the referees were returned to authors within four months of submission; only 1% took longer than six months (Table 3). Again, this is a drop on last year but still an improvement on 2015 and previous years.
- The vast majority of referees responded within three months, with 58% responding within two months (Table 4). The Editors are very grateful to the referees for their excellent performance.
- The 2016 Impact Factors (released in June 2017) saw an increase in the journal's Impact Factor, from 2.370 in 2015 to 2.608 in 2016. The journal's five-year Impact Factor also increased from 3.578 in 2015 to 3.859 in 2016.
- The EJ is ranked 42/347 in the Economics ISI subject category ranking. Last year's ranking was 31/344.
- Google Scholar has produced a [new ranking of economics journals](#), based upon citations of articles published in the last 5 complete years (2012-16). In this ranking the *Economic Journal* ranks 13th (just ahead of the *Journal of the European Economic Association* in 14th place and just below the *Journal of Political Economy* in 12th place). Focusing more narrowly on academic refereed economics journals, this ranking places the *Economic Journal* as the 10th most cited.
- All accepted papers continue to be checked using anti-plagiarism software before publication.
- The journal continues to use its Twitter account to promote news and content.
- Rachel Kranton and Nezih Guner have joined the board as Managing Editors.
- Andrea Galeotti completed his terms as a Managing Editor in December 2017.
- Barbara Petrongolo and Gilat Levy will join the board as Managing Editors in 2018 to replace Martin Cripps and Kjell Salvanes who are both due to complete their terms in 2018.
- Over 2017, the first set of the final feature papers were published and the final Feature issue with the remaining 25 papers will publish in July 2018.
- The remainder of the backlog of regular papers waiting for publication will be cleared in 2018 with funding from both Wiley and the RES.
- The office remains at UCL. Benita Rajania returned to the journal for fixed term from April 2017 to March 2018 to cover the Publishing Editor role until the post is moved to the RES

central office. Catherine Waite resigned as Publishing Editor following the end of her maternity leave in October 2017.

2. Journal Information and Statistics

2.1 Current Editorial Team

The current editorial team consists of:

Joint Managing Editors

Estelle Cantillon, Université libre de Bruxelles
Martin Cripps, University College London
Nezih Guner, CEMFI Madrid
Rachel Kranton, Duke University
Morten Ravn, University College London
Kjell G. Salvanes, Norwegian School of Economics
Frederic Vermeulen, University of Leuven
Hans-Joachim Voth, University of Zurich

Publishing Editor

Benita Rajania, EJ Publishing Editor, UCL (email: ej@res.org.uk)

Production Editor

David G. Mayes sadly passed away in November 2017. David completed his term as a Joint Managing Editor of the *Economic Journal* in 1988 and served as the journal's Production Editor from 1989 and was a key member of the editorial team during all those years. David reviewed the accepted manuscripts, checked the copy-editing and intervened if needed when authors raised issues about the editing of their manuscripts. He consistently ensured that the production standard of the *EJ* was impeccable through all the shifts and changes in modern journal publishing and ushered the journal through all these transitions and issues without ever letting the standards slip. He will be sorely missed by the journal and by the editorial team who have worked with him for many years. We will miss his diligence, dedication, care and the attention he gave the journal to ensure the highest quality content.

The RES/EJ have just entered into a contract with Mattson Publishing Services to cover the role from January 2018 until 31 December 2018.

2.2 Editorial Board Changes

Incoming and outgoing Managing Editors overlap for 6 months in order to make the process smooth and to allow a forward-looking approach which ensures high calibre academics continue to join the editorial board.

The *Economic Journal* is pleased to announce that from 2018, there will be a 50-50 gender split on the editorial board.

- Rachel Griffith left the Board by 30/03/2017 and was replaced by Estelle Cantillon.
- Andrea Galeotti left the Board by 31/12/2017. Rachel Kranton has replaced Andrea - she joined the Board in April 2017.

- Nezih Guner joined the Board as the eighth editor in July 2017.
- Martin Cripps will finish his second term in July 2018 and Gilat Levy will replace him, beginning her term in February 2018.
- Kjell Salvanes will leave the board at the end of September 2018. Barbara Petrongolo will replace him and joins the board in April 2018.

2.3 Submissions (Tables 1-2)

The sum total of submissions for 2017 is 1676, exceeding the sum total for 2016 (1617). See Table 1.

The geographic distribution of submissions (Table 2) is similar to that of last year, with the largest share coming from Europe (37%) – which fell slightly on last year’s 40% high. A quarter of submissions came from USA and Canada, which was consistent with 2016. UK submissions rose back up this year from 15% to 17%.

2.4 Editorial Processing Time (Tables 3-6)

Table 1 shows that 884 regular submissions were dealt with by the Editors alone (summarily rejected). The Editors do this for papers that in their view have a low probability of getting published in order to help keep turnaround times down.

Editorial turnaround times (Table 3) remain quick. Only 3% of papers took longer than five months, with only 1% taking longer than six months.

The ability of the Editors to keep turnaround times down is in no small part owing to the quick response we get from the referees. Table 4 shows that 58% of referees responded within two months – this is a slight drop from last year’s high of 64%.

Table 3 also shows response times separately for papers that were invited to revise and resubmit and those that were rejected. Of authors invited to revise and resubmit, 61% received a decision within four months.

Table 5 shows the number of new submissions handled by each Editor and the number of resubmitted revisions (as shown by the +).

Table 6 shows the number of papers submitted to the conference volume and decisions made.

2.5 Rankings & Impact Factors (Table 7)

In June 2017, the 2016 Impact Factors were released and the journal saw an increase in its Impact Factor on 2015, from 2.370 to 2.608

2.6 Plagiarism Checking

Three years ago we introduced a new system under which we scan all accepted papers through anti-plagiarism software before publication. We use iThenticate software, recommended by Wiley. The software has mainly flagged up issues related to authors omitting to reference their own prior work. These omissions have been rectified before publication. We will continue to operate this policy.

2.7 Social Media

The journal launched its Twitter feed in April 2013. The feed provides access to articles, media briefings and news.

2.8 Circulation Statistics and Membership of the RES (Tables 8-10)

These are shown in Tables 8-10.

2.9 Page Budget

For 2017 and 2018, the page budget was increased to allow for an additional 25 papers per year to clear the backlog of regular papers.

Two bumper Feature issues (Oct 2017 and July 2018) with approximately 25 papers each will publish the final features in the EJ and close this part of the journal. These issues will be published outside of the normal EJ page budget.

3. Prizewinners

The 2016 prize winners have been included below. 2017 winners will be announced at the annual RES conference at the University of Sussex in March.

3.1 Austin Robinson Memorial Prize

Awarded to the best paper published in The Economic Journal in a given year by an author (or multiple authors) who is within 5 years of receiving his or her (or their) PhD as selected by the Editors of *The Economic Journal*.

The 2016 Austin Robinson Memorial Prize was awarded to Sergey Nigai (ETH Zurich) for his article published in June 2016: 'On Measuring the Welfare Gains from Trade Under Consumer Heterogeneity.'

3.2 RES Prize

Awarded to the best paper published in The Economic Journal in a given year as selected by the RES President, a representative of the Economic Journal Editorial Board and one invited judge from the RES Council.

The 2016 RES prize was awarded to Dan Anderberg (Royal Holloway, University of London), Helmut Rainer (University of Munich and Ifo Institute), Jonathan Wadsworth (Royal Holloway, University of London) and Tanya Wilson (University of Stirling) at the Royal Economic Society's 2017 Conference for their article published in the journal November 2016: 'Unemployment and Domestic Violence: Theory and Evidence.'

3.3 Referee Prizes

Up to 14 prizes awarded each year for referees judged by the Editors to have made an outstanding contribution in this capacity. The 2016 winners were:

- Anna Aizer, Brown University
- Massimiliano Amarante, Université de Montréal
- Matthew Elliott, University of Cambridge
- Raymond Fisman, Boston University
- David Hemous, University of Zurich
- John Bailey Jones, University at Albany, SUNY
- Kevin Lang, Boston University
- Lucas Maestri, FGV/EPGE
- Luigi Pascali, University of Warwick
- Hillel Rapoport, Paris School of Economics
- Kate Smith, Institute for Fiscal Studies
- Vincent Sterk, University College London
- Jan Stuhler, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
- Nora Traum, North Carolina State University

4. Altmetric Report

#Articles	Bloggers	Tweeters	Google+ Users	News	Facebook	Policy	Wikipedia	Mendeley
349	209	4,738	23	420	115	610	90	17,414

From January 2017 to January 2018, 349 *EJ* articles received online mentions recorded by Altmetric. A large part of the activity came from Twitter (4,738 tweeters).

EJ articles were mentioned in 610 policy papers, published by Institute for Fiscal Studies, UK Government (GOV.UK), National Bureau of Economic Research, the International Labour Organization and the World Bank, to name five.

News Outlets contributed the 420 mentions in total. Both national news outlets such as BBC News, *The Guardian*, *The Observer*, *The Telegraph*, and local press, have mentioned *EJ* articles.

Blogs, such as the *LSE Business Review*, *OECD Insights Blog*, *Dynamic Ecology*, and *Marginal Revolution*, have mentioned *EJ* articles in the past year.

There were 90 Wikipedia pages that mentioned articles.

In the past year there were over 17,000 readers of articles on Mendeley and Altmetric has recorded 115 Facebook wall posts that mention *EJ*.

The highest scoring Altmetric Article in the last 12 months is: 'Are You Happy While You Work?' by Alex Bryson and George MacKerron, *Economic Journal*, January 2016, with a score of 645.

It was mentioned in:

News Outlets	Blogs	Tweeters	Mendeley	In the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric
66	6	118	65	

EJ articles that have an Altmetric score of 100 or above:















 <p>Are You Happy While You Work? Article in Economic Journal, January 2016</p>	 <p>Mathematics and Gender: Heterogeneity in Causes and Consequences Article in Economic Journal, June 2016</p>
 <p>Is Legal Pot Crippling Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations? The Effect of... Article in Economic Journal, June 2017</p>	 <p>Books Are Forever: Early Life Conditions, Education and Lifetime Earnings in... Article in Economic Journal, July 2015</p>
 <p>To Replicate or Not To Replicate? Exploring Reproducibility in Economics... Article in Economic Journal, October 2017</p>	 <p>Longitudinal Evidence for a Midlife Nadir in Human Well-being: Results from... Article in Economic Journal, October 2015</p>
 <p>The Visible Hand: Race and Online Market Outcomes Article in Economic Journal, January 2010</p>	 <p>The Olympic Effect* Article in Economic Journal, June 2011</p>
 <p>The Impact of Minimum Wages on Labour Market Transitions Article in Economic Journal, January 2013</p>	 <p>Does Hospital Competition Save Lives? Evidence From The English NHS Patient... Article in Economic Journal, August 2011</p>
 <p>The Power of Bias in Economics Research Article in Economic Journal, October 2017</p>	
 <p>The Long-run Effect of 9/11: Terrorism, Backlash, and the Assimilation of... Article in Economic Journal, July 2015</p>	
 <p>The Fiscal Effects of Immigration to the UK Article in Economic Journal, November 2014</p>	
 <p>Second-degree moral hazard in a real-world credence goods market Article in Economic Journal, October 2015</p>	

Table 1: Submissions

Submissions (All Submissions; First, Second, etc.)					Of Regular Submissions (All Submissions; First, Second, etc.)							
Year	Total	Submitted Regular	Submitted Feature	Submitted Conference	Accepted	Conditionally Accepted	Returned for Revision	Rejected	Summarily Rejected	Pending	Withdrawn / To be Removed	Total
2017**	1676	1629	3	43	83	26	115	347	884	173	1	1629
2016*	1215	1145	5	65	73	33	54	212	614	156	3	1145
2015	1529	1372	76	81	92	49	135	370	725	0	1	1372
2014	1428	1251	86	91	93	44	136	353	624	0	1	1251
2013	1301	1136	74	91	58	34	132	407	501	0	4	1136
2012	1196	1067	61	68	49	22	117	371	505	0	3	1067
2011	990											
2010	840											
2009	852											
2008	797											
2007	816											
2006	779											
2005	693											

*Results taken from January 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016. Total number of submissions from Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2016 was 1617.

**Results taken from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

Table 2: Geographical Distribution of First Regular Submissions

Regions	2017**	2016*	2015	2014	2013	2012
UNITED KINGDOM (GB)	259 (17%)	151 (15%)	219 (19%)	172 (16%)	163 (16%)	168 (18%)
USA & CANADA	376 (25%)	255 (25%)	296 (25%)	252 (23%)	232 (23%)	200 (21%)
UNITED STATES (US)	316	224	260	228	198	168
CANADA (CA)	60	31	36	24	34	32
EUROPE	565 (37%)	403 (40%)	450 (38%)	386 (36%)	410 (41%)	421 (44%)
BELGIUM (BE)	13	9	12	9	3	12
FRANCE (FR)	73	36	43	34	55	44
GERMANY (DE)	157	132	113	108	119	114
ITALY (IT)	63	43	64	40	53	46
NETHERLANDS (NL)	43	27	36	30	34	33
SCANDANAVIA	81	63	70	59	48	60
SPAIN (ES)	37	17	27	25	21	26
OTHER EUROPE	98	76	85	81	77	86
REST OF THE WORLD	312 (21 %)	194 (19%)	211 (18%)	269 (25%)	195 (20%)	162 (17%)
AUSTRALIA (AU)	54	37	42	36	40	30
NEW ZEALAND (NZ)	3	2	6	5	5	4
CHINA (CN)	62	29	27	34	33	18
HONG KONG (HK)	32	11	15	10	10	7
INDIA (IN)	7	4	14	10	4	5
ISRAEL (IL)	25	17	22	14	18	24
JAPAN (JP)	42	24	19	17	25	18
OTHER	87	70	66	143	60	56

*Results taken from January 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016.

**Results taken from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

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

	2017**	2016*	2015	2014	2013	2012
ALL PAPERS						
0-14 days	53%	62%	53%	52%	43%	44%
15 days - 1 month	9%	9%	7%	7%	8%	10%
1-2 months	7%	8%	5%	4%	6%	5%
2-3 months	11%	9%	12%	12%	15%	12%
3-4 months	11%	9%	13%	14%	15%	13%
4-5 months	6%	3%	7%	7%	7%	6%
5-6 months	2%	1%	2%	3%	4%	6%
more than 6 months	1%	0%	1%	2%	2%	3%
SUMMARILY REJECTED						
0-14 days	88%	92%	84%	87%	83%	82%
15 days - 1 month	11%	8%	10%	9%	13%	15%
1-2 months	1%	0%	1%	1%	3%	3%
2-3 months	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
3-4 months	0%	0%	2%	1%	0%	0%
4-5 months	0%	0%	2%	1%	0%	0%
5-6 months	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
more than 6 months	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
PAPERS SENT TO REFEREES						
0-14 days	3%	14%	2%	4%	3%	1%
15 days - 1 month	4%	10%	3%	4%	3%	4%
1-2 months	9%	20%	11%	9%	9%	9%
2-3 months	22%	22%	30%	27%	29%	26%
3-4 months	34%	22%	30%	31%	30%	28%
4-5 months	20%	9%	15%	14%	14%	13%
5-6 months	6%	2%	5%	6%	8%	12%
more than 6 months	2%	1%	3%	5%	4%	7%

Table 3 (Continued)

SENT TO REFEREES, REJECTED

0-14 days	2%	5%	3%	3%	3%	1%
15 days - 1 month	4%	5%	4%	5%	3%	4%
1-2 months	8%	19%	13%	9%	10%	10%
2-3 months	30%	26%	33%	30%	32%	29%
3-4 months	32%	30%	28%	30%	30%	30%
4-5 months	19%	10%	13%	14%	13%	12%
5-6 months	4%	3%	4%	4%	6%	10%
more than 6 months	1%	1%	3%	5%	3%	4%

SENT TO REFEREES, RETURNED FOR REVISION

0-14 days	0%	0%	1%	2%	0%	0%
15 days - 1 month	0%	3%	0%	1%	1%	4%
1-2 months	4%	12%	7%	8%	1%	1%
2-3 months	22%	30%	18%	19%	20%	15%
3-4 months	35%	42%	39%	40%	33%	19%
4-5 months	21%	9%	21%	15%	23%	16%
5-6 months	11%	3%	9%	10%	16%	23%
more than 6 months	7%	0%	4%	5%	6%	22%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

*Results taken from January 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016.

**Results taken from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

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

	2017**	2016*	2015	2014	2013	2012
0-14 days	11%	14%	12%	15%	15%	12%
15 days - 1 month	8%	10%	11%	8%	8%	10%
1-2 months	39%	40%	35%	34%	34%	35%
2-3 months	31%	26%	30%	28%	27%	29%
3-4 months	8%	7%	9%	10%	11%	10%
4-5 months	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%
5-6 months	<1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
more than 6 months	<1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
(total)						

*Results taken from January 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016.

**Results taken from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

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

Editor	Dec-17	Nov-17	Oct-17	Sep-17	Aug-17	Jul-17	Jun-17	May-17	Apr-17	Mar-17	Feb-17	Jan-17	Total
Cantillon, E	20+2	13+0	8+0	10+0	12+0	12+0	9+0	16+0	11+0	20+0	18+0	21+0	170+2
Cripps, M	14+2	14+2	13+1	15+2	10+1	5+2	11+1	14+4	14+1	16+1	18+0	18+0	162+17
Galeotti, A	0+1	0+1	1+1	6+1	10+0	10+2	15+0	14+0	14+1	19+0	14+0	17+2	120+9
Griffith, R	0+1	0+1	0+1	0+1	0+0	0+1	0+0	0+3	0+0	0+1	0+1	4+2	4+12
Guner, N	15+0	18+0	17+0	11+0	16+0	21+0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	98+0
Kranton, R	15+0	12+0	11+0	12+0	10+0	14+0	13+0	19+0	14+0	N/A	N/A	N/A	120+0
Ravn, M	16+0	17+2	9+1	11+3	14+3	15+2	14+2	17+2	17+0	24+3	19+3	19+0	192+21
Salvanes, K	13+4	10+1	15+4	13+0	13+3	20+5	14+2	18+3	21+1	19+3	19+0	20+0	195+26
Vermeulen, F	13+0	16+0	10+0	16+3	13+1	9+3	22+1	16+2	24+0	20+3	19+1	24+3	202+17
Voth, H	14+1	13+0	31+1	8+3	12+4	30+0	20+3	16+2	21+0	23+1	16+1	18+6	222+22

Table 6: Conference Volume (All Submissions; First, Second, etc.)

Year	Accepted	Conditionally Accepted	Returned for Revision	Rejected	Summarily Rejected	Pending	Withdrawn / To be Removed	Total
2017**	3	3	3	13	20	0	1	43
2016*	7	2	9	21	24	2	0	65
2015	7	5	12	27	30	0	0	81
2014	11	5	10	27	38	0	0	91
2013	13	2	15	32	29	0	0	91
2012	4	0	4	33	27	0	0	68

*Results taken from January 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016.

**Results taken from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

Table 7: Journal Impact Factor

Year	The Economic Journal	Review of Economics and Statistics	Journal of the EEA	Review of Economic Studies
2015	2.37	2.979	3.461	4.077
2016	2.608	2.926	2.758	4.03

Table 8: Geographical Breakdown of Institutional Subscriptions to *the Economic Journal*

(A)

Region	2016	2017
Australia & NZ	175	173
Canada	80	79
China	207	211
Europe	1,777	2,192
Japan	192	187
Rest of World	1,604	2,015
UK	120	121
USA	747	753
Grand Total	4,902	5,731

This shows the number of institutions, by region, that purchased access to the latest content in *The Economic Journal* via either a Wiley Licence or a traditional (title-by-title) subscription. Key countries in the Rest of World category include Brazil, India and South Korea.

(B)

Region	2016	2017
Australia & NZ	10	8
Canada	11	9
China	206	209
Europe	1,398	1,216
Japan	188	181
Rest of World	1,551	1,767
UK	120	121
USA	477	433
Grand Total	3,961	3,944

This shows the number of institutions, by region, that either have a traditional subscription to the *Economic Journal*, or have converted their subscription to a licence. This does not include institutions that have access to the Journal via a Licence only as part of Wiley's Collection.

Table 9: RES Membership by Type

Membership Category	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Members Print & Online	1,051	866	752	591	527	517
Members Online	814	1,140	1,128	1,018	1,228	1,233
Members (3-yr) Online	-	-	227	433	619	560
Retired Members Print & Online	139	124	124	98	88	100
Retired Members Online	-	-	-	21	34	37
Student members (3-yr) Print & Online	471	281	159	-	-	
Student members (3-yr) Online	432	680	705	772	785	792
Student member (1 Yr) Online	-	176	318	375	463	344
Life members Print & Online	272	259	253	236	220	202
Life members Online					3	6
Editorial Members Online				85	101	127
Total membership	3,179	3,526	3,666	3,629	4,068	3,918

Table 10: RES Membership by Region/Country

Region	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
UK	1,293	1,437	1,607	1,625	1,767	1,716
Europe	899	1,023	1,064	975	1,124	1,073
USA and Canada	504	543	574	577	652	612
Japan	66	74	76	60	66	81
Rest of World (incl. Aus/NZ and China)	417	449	426	394	459	436
