

## 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	Fletcher, Jason	Haushofer, Johannes
Cortes, Patricia	Flinn, Christopher	Havnes, Tarjei
Costinot, Arnaud	Foley, Fritz	Heaton, Paul
Cunha, Jesse	Fortson, Jane	Hitsch, Günter
Dafny, Leemore	Fougere, Denis	Hoekstra, Mark
Dahl, Gordon	Frame, W. Scott	Huber, Gregory
Damm, Anna	Franck, Raphael	Hungerman, Daniel
Das, Jishnu	Friebel, Guido	Hussam, Reshmaan
de Chaisemartin, Clément	Fuchs-Schwendeln, Nicola	Hyslop, Dean
De Giorgi, Giacomo	Fujiwara, Thomas	Imbens, Guido
De Loecker, Jan	Funk, Patricia	Imbert, Clement
de Magalhaes, Leandro	Furman, Jeffrey	Iyer, Rajkamal
de Walque, Damien	Galbiati, Roberto	Iyigun, Murat
Dell, Melissa	Galdo, Jose	Jack, B. Kelsey
Deming, David	Galiani, Sebastian	Jackson, C. Kirabo
Deschenes, Olivier	Gallego, Francisco	Jacobsen, Mark
Devoto, Florencia	Gambardella, Alfonso	Jaeger, Simon
Dhuey, Elizabeth	García-Jimeno, Camilo	Jakiela, Pamela
Di Tella, Rafael	Gathmann, Christina	Jayachandran, Seema
Diamond, Rebecca	Gavazza, Alessandro	Jenkins, Mark
Dizon-Ross, Rebecca	Gemici, Ahu	Jensen, Robert
Dobbie, Will	Gentzkow, Matthew	Jha, Akshaya
Dobkin, Carlos	Gerdes, Christer	Jin, Ginger
Dorn, David	Gertler, Paul	Jones, Benjamin
Dube, Arindrajit	Gine, Xavier	Jones, Damon
Dupas, Pascaline	Giuliano, Laura	Joyce, Ted
Dustmann, Christian	Glennester, Rachel	Kamenica, Emir
Dworsky, Misha	Glewwe, Paul	Kapoor, Sasha
Dynarski, Susan	Goda, Gopi	Karaca-Mandic, Pinar
Ebenstein, Avraham	Goette, Lorenz	Karlan, Dean
Edlund, Lena	Goldin, Jacob	Keniston, Daniel
Edmonds, Eric	Golub, Benjamin	Keys, Benjamin
Ellison, Glenn	Goodman, Joshua	Khwaja, Asim
Enikolopov, Ruben	Gottlieb, Joshua	Kinnan, Cynthia
Evans, William	Greenstein, Shane	Klier, Thomas
Faber, Benjamin	Gregory, Jesse	Kluve, Jochen
Fairlie, Robert	Grieco, Paul	Knoepfle, Dan
Feigenberg, Benjamin	Grodzicki, Daniel	Koedel, Cory
Ferraz, Claudio	Guner, Nezhir	Kolstad, Jonathan
Field, Erica	Gurgand, Marc	Kowalski, Amanda
Figlio, David	Hallak, Juan	Krashinsky, Harry
Filipski, Mateusz	Halliday, Timothy	Kroft, Kory
Finan, Frederico	Handel, Benjamin	Kuchler, Theresa
Fiorini, Mario	Hanna, Rema	Kuziemko, Ilyana
Firth, John	Hansen, Benjamin	Lacroix, Guy
Fischman, Joshua	Harari, Mariaflavia	Lafortune, Jeanne
Fisman, Raymond	Harding, Matthew	Lang, Kevin
Fitzpatrick, Maria	Harrison, Glenn	Lange, Fabian

Laszlo, Sonia	Menendez, Alicia	Price, Joseph
Lefgren, Lars	Michaels, Guy	Prince, Jeffrey
Lehmann, Jee-Yeon	Miller, Amalia	Propper, Carol
Leider, Stephen	Miller, Nolan	Qian, Nancy
Leight, Jessica	Miller, Grant	Querubin, Pablo
Lemieux, Thomas	Milligan, Kevin	Quintana-Domeque, Climent
Levchenko, Andrei	Mocan, Naci	Rangel, Marcos
Levine, Phillip	Mogstad, Magne	Reber, Sarah
Levitt, Steven	Molloy, Raven	Reguant, Mar
Levy, Helen	Monteiro, joana	Rezende, Leonardo
Lew, Byron	Moretti, Enrico	Robinson, Jonathan
Lewis, Ethan	Moser, Petra	Rockoff, Jonah
Lim, Claire	Munch, Jakob	Rodriguez-Planas, Nuria
Linden, Leigh	Muralidharan, Karthik	Romalis, John
Lindo, Jason	Neidell, Matthew	Rooth, Dan-Olof
Lipscomb, Molly	Niederle, Muriel	Rossi, Martin
Liskovich, Inessa	Notowidigdo, Matthew	Rossi-Hansberg, Esteban
Lleras-Muney, Adriana	Nunn, Nathan	Rosston, Gregory
Looney, Adam	Oberholzer-Gee, Felix	Rothstein, Jesse
Lovenheim, Michael	Oettinger, Gerald	Royer, Heather
Luca, Michael	Oliva, Paulina	Ryan, Nicholas
Lucas, Adrienne	Olken, Benjamin	Rysman, Marc
Lundberg, Shelly	Oster, Emily	Sallee, James
Lusardi, Annamaria	Ouss, Aurelie	Sarpca, Sinan
Luttmer, Erzo	Owan, Hideo	Sass, Tim
Lychagin, Sergey	Owens, Emily	Schaefer, Scott
Madrian, Brigitte	Ozler, Berk	Schaner, Simone
Mahajan, Aprajit	Padro-i-Miquel, Gerard	Schuetze, Herbert
Mahoney, Neale	Pallais, Amanda	Schulhofer-Wohl, Sam
Malamud, Ofer	Pande, Rohini	Segal, Carmit
Manacorda, Marco	Paravisini, Daniel	Seim, Katja
Mani, Subha	Pariante, William	Seru, Amit
Manning, Alan	Parker, Jonathan	Shearer, Bruce
Mansur, Erin	Pascu, Iuliana	Shen, Yu-Chu
Marschke, Gerald	Pellizzari, Michele	Shi, Xinzheng
Matsa, David	Pence, Karen	Shrestha, Maheshwor
Matsudaira, Jordan	Peters, Michael	Silva, Olmo
Mayneris, Florian	Petrin, Amil	Simester, Duncan
Mazumder, Bhashkar	Pettersson-Lidbom, Per	Simon, Kosali
Mbiti, Isaac	Pinkston, Joshua	Sinkinson, Michael
McEwan, Patrick	Plug, Erik	Skiba, Paige
McFarlin, Isaac	Pomeranz, Dina	Snowberg, Erik
McIntosh, Craig	Pons, Vincent	Snyder, Christopher
Mckenzie, David	Pop-Eleches, Cristian	Sojourner, Aaron
McKinnish, Terra	Pope, Devin	Solis Vivallos, Alex
Meager, Rachael	Pope, Jaren	Somainsi, Paulo
Meer, Jonathan	Powell, Michael	Song, Minjae
Meghir, Costas	Prat, Andrea	Sood, Neeraj

Sorensen, Alan	Tessada, Jose	Walker, Reed
Spitz-Oener, Alexandra	Thom, Kevin	Walters, Christopher
Sprenger, Charles	Thomasson, Melissa	Wang, Jin
Stantcheva, Stefanie	Thornton, Rebecca	Wang, Shing-Yi
Stanton, Christopher	Timmins, Lori	Wang, Yang
Stephens, Melvin	Topalova, Petia	Wang, Xiao Yu
Stevens, Ann	Tsoutsoura, Margarita	Wasserman, Melanie
Stone, Daniel F.	Tucker, Catherine	Weber, Andrea
Stoyanov, Andrey	Turner, Matthew	Wilbur, Kenneth
Strahan, Philip	Urquiola, Miguel	Woodcock, Simon
Stromberg, David	van Ours, Jan	Xu, Daniel Yi
Sturm, Daniel	Van Zandt, Timothy	Yanagizawa-Drott, David
Sukhtankar, Sandip	Verhoogen, Eric	Yang, Dean
Suri, Tavneet	Vicente, Pedro	Yared, Pierre
Svarer, Michael	Vig, Vikrant	Zajonc, Tristan
Swaffield, Joanna	Villas-Boas, Sofia	Zettelmeyer, Florian
Sweeting, Andrew	Visaria, Sujata	Zhuravskaya, Ekaterina
Sydnor, Justin	Voigtlaender, Nico	Zia, Bilal
Syverson, Chad	von Wachter, Till	Zimmermann, Laura
Tarozzi, Alessandro	Voth, Hans-Joachim	Zinman, Jonathan
Taylor, Lowell	Waddell, Glen	

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