

Journal of Economic Perspectives

This year marked the twenty-seventh volume of the *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. Throughout its history, the *Journal* has sought to contribute to the economics profession along multiple dimensions: introducing readers to state-of-the-art thinking on theoretical and empirical research topics; encouraging cross-fertilization of ideas among the fields of economics; providing analyses of public policy issues; providing readings for students; offering illustrations that are useful in lectures; sparking discussion among colleagues; suggesting directions for future research; and analyzing features of the economics profession itself.

In 2013, the *Journal* continued its tradition of publishing a mixture of symposia, individual papers, features, correspondence, and other material. The *JEP* published eight symposia in 2013: Patents, Trading Pollution Allowances, The Growth of the Financial Sector, Early and Later Interventions, The Top 1 Percent, The Euro, The First 100 Years of the Federal Reserve, and Economics and Moral Virtues. These symposia were complemented by a mixture of articles on a wide array of topics, including 30 years of prospect theory, Latin America's social policy challenge, investment strategies of sovereign wealth funds, the economics of slums, and others. In addition, the *Journal* continued several ongoing features in 2013. Joseph Persky of the University of Illinois at Chicago managed the "Retrospectives" feature on topics in the history of economic thought. *JEP* Managing Editor Timothy Taylor contributed the "Recommendations for Further Reading" column. As in years past, the *Journal* continued to publish "Notes."

The issues of the *Journal* in the year 2013 totaled 976 pages. Table 1 shows the breakdown of the space between regular articles, feature articles, comments, notes, and miscellaneous items like advertisements and announcements, with comparisons over the last five years.

At the end of 2013, three Associate Editors completed their three-year terms. They are:

Katherine Baicker, Harvard University; Raymond Fisman, Columbia University; and Kerry Smith, University of Arizona. The incumbent Associate Editors are: Benjamin Edelman, Harvard University; Gordon Hanson, University of California at San Diego; Anil Kashyap, University of Chicago; Adam Looney, Brookings Institution; David McKenzie, World Bank; Chad Syverson, University of Chicago; and Christopher Udry, Yale University. The expiration dates for the terms of the incumbent Associate Editors are listed in Table 2.

The *JEP* is a primarily solicited journal, and so it must be perpetually attentive to two issues: the diversity of authorship and the openness to the economics profession as a whole. On one side, one tendency of the *JEP* editors, when they are considering papers on a possible topic, is to invite papers from those who they already know to be acknowledged authorities on that issue. The outcomes of such a practice can raise concerns about diversity and openness. On the other side, a solicited journal has far greater flexibility than a standard double-blind refereed journal to invite papers from those with alternative views, those from neighboring fields, or just those who seem to have something interesting to say. To amend the common (mis)perception that *JEP* is exclusively a solicited journal, we began in 2011 to publish an explicit set of "Considerations for Those Proposing Topics and Papers for *JEP*," which is now available at the *JEP* home page and which we republish occasionally when there is space at the back of issues.

Although the Editors and Associate Editors solicit the bulk of the articles appearing in the *Journal*, the journal charges no submission fee, and thus attracts a wide range of proposals. Unsolicited articles are read by the *JEP* editors and discussed during conference calls. All unsolicited submissions to *JEP* receive a response, but no referee reports are produced. Many submissions are inappropriate for the *Journal* for one reason or another,

often including level of specialization, style of exposition, or narrowness of focus. Others are good ideas that overlap to some extent with plans that have already been made. Still other suggestions offer possibilities, and spark a discussion between the Editors, the Associate Editors, and the author that sometimes leads to a *JEP* article. For several years we have compiled statistics on which of our published articles started out as unsolicited proposals. Looking at the most recent data, we find that roughly six of the 41 articles (15 percent) published in 2013 began as unsolicited proposals. While we do not have a quota—either a floor or ceiling—for the number of unsolicited articles that we publish, we are gratified that unsolicited articles comprise a meaningful fraction of our output. We will remain attentive to creative and timely proposals as they reach our inbox.

Another regular topic of editorial discussion at *JEP* is how to maintain and increase reader awareness of the *Journal* as the post-paper era advances. In 2010, the AEA elected to make all *JEP* issues from the most recent to the original Summer 1987 issue freely available online at the *Journal's* home page. When each issue of the *JEP* is published online, the AEA sends a blast e-mail to all members. The hope, of course, is that the online availability of *JEP* in the world of blogging and other social media will help the articles to gain a wider audience. In addition, the AEA has now made it possible to have electronic access to full *JEP* issues in PDF, Amazon Kindle, and Barnes and Noble Nook formats. Figure 1 shows monthly data on the number of individual *JEP* articles downloaded from the e-jep.org website since the beginning of 2012, with a generally upward trend over time. In addition, about 3,000 copies

of each complete issue are being downloaded in PDF form within two months of the publication of the issue, and each issue over time is being downloaded about 1,000 times in an e-reader format.

David Autor of MIT continued to serve as editor of *JEP* in 2013, while Chang-Tai Hsieh of the University of Chicago and Ulrike Malmender of the University of California-Berkeley served as coeditors.

During 2013, Ann Norman continued in her role as Assistant Editor. Her combination of professionalism, attention to detail, persistence, and good humor has served the *Journal* well. The *Journal's* editorial offices are geographically divided. Ann Norman is based at the Pittsburgh office of the American Economic Association. Managing Editor Timothy Taylor is located at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. We thank Macalester for administrative and computer support, and for providing a good home for the *Journal*.

Timothy Taylor continued as Managing Editor of the *Journal* in 2013, a role he has performed since the first issue of the *Journal* in 1987. The Editors feel that they cannot overstate the invaluable role that Timothy has played in the operation of the *Journal*. He has managed the day-to-day operations of the *Journal* smoothly and ensured that the fundamental objectives of the *Journal* are satisfied. He has performed the difficult task of persuading authors to amend and rewrite their articles with vigor, verve, and skill, and has shown that it is possible to edit papers in such a way as to increase their clarity and accessibility, while still retaining the distinctive voice of each author.

DAVID AUTOR, *Editor*

TABLE 1—PAGE DISTRIBUTION FOR THE *JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES*, 2009–2013

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total pages	976	1,008	992	960	976
Pages of full-length articles (number of articles)	828 (38)	864 (45)	824 (37)	864 (40)	874 (41)
Pages of introductions and comments (number of items)	2 (1)	0 (0)	14 (1)	0 (0)	4 (1)
Pages of features (number of features)	84 (8)	94 (8)	92 (8)	58 (6)	48 (5)
Comments/correspondence	6	0	6	0	10
Notes	18	16	12	10	8
Table of contents	8	8	8	8	8
Advertisements and announcements	30	26	36	20	24

TABLE 2—SCHEDULED EXPIRATION OF TERMS FOR ASSOCIATE EDITORS

January 2014	January 2015	January 2016
Katherine Baicker	Benjamin Edelman	Adam Looney
Raymond Fisman	Gordon Hanson	Christopher Udry
Kerry Smith	David McKenzie	
	Anil Kashyap	
	Chad Syverson	

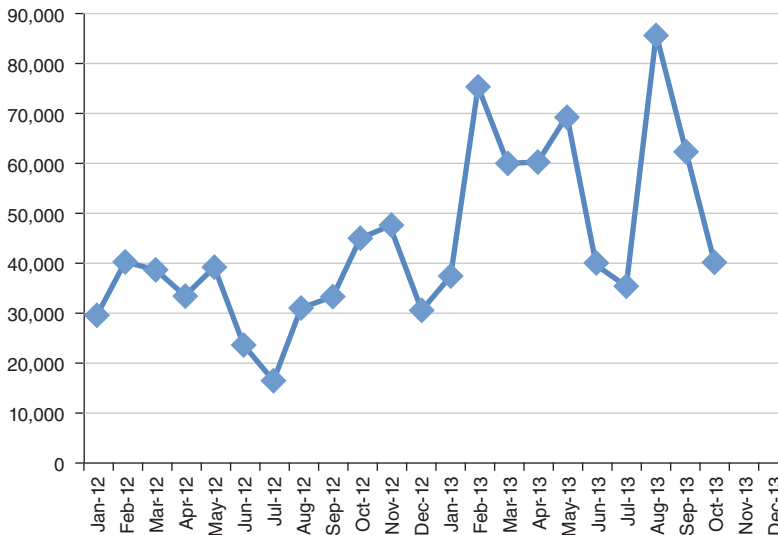


FIGURE 1. NUMBER OF *JEP* ARTICLES ACCESSED AT THE *JEP* WEBSITE, PER MONTH, JANUARY 2012 TO PRESENT