

# Publishing in Economics

# Publishing in Economics - Process

- Kitt Carpenter - [How \(many\) journals work](#)

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- **Step 1: Pre-review check**
  - ▶ Primarily formatting.
- **Step 2: Managing editor review**
  - ▶ “Broad skim of paper for fit and quality” (does not read entire paper).
    - Is this research interesting, novel, and important?
    - Is this research likely of interest to readers of the journal?
    - Does the paper appear competently communicated and executed?
  - ▶ Desk rejection phase.
  - ▶ Timing: 2 weeks to 2 months.

# Publishing in Economics - Process

- **Step 3: Co-editor check**

- ▶ Managing editor assigns paper to a co-editor ([example](#)).
- ▶ Co-editor is an expert in the paper's field (usually reads entire paper).
- ▶ Identifies reviewers and sends paper out for review.
- ▶ Can still desk reject.
- ▶ Timing: 2 to 6 months.

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## ● Step 3: Co-editor check

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## ● Step 4: Final decision

- ▶ Co-editor evaluates reviewer comments (and their own thoughts on the paper).
- ▶ Makes an accept/revise/reject decision or recommendation to the managing editor.

# Publishing in Economics - Sample Rates

## **SUMMARY STATISTICS OF TURNAROUND TIMES, CURRENT *JPE* EDITORS**

	<b>Outcome of 1st Round Decisions</b>	<b>Mean Days to Decision</b>	<b>Median Days to Decision</b>
Desk Rejection	52%	7	6
Reject with Reviews	43%	93	84
Revise	6%	121	112

# Publishing in Economics - Sample Rates



**John A. List** ✓

@Econ\_4\_Everyone

...

JPE:Micro update time. Here is our 2023 summary:

There were 382 submissions in 2023 (up 25% from 2022). The average time to first decision was 33 days; median was 32 days.

In total: 15% first round R&R; 29% desk reject; 56% reject with reviews.



# Publishing in Economics - Sample Rates

## JOLE TURNAROUND TIMES, PREVIOUS TWO YEARS

	Outcome of 1st Round Decisions	Mean Days to Decision	Median Days to Decision	Decision Later than Five Months after Submission <i>(as percentage of decisions within decision type)</i>
Desk Rejection	53%	4	2	0%
Reject with Reviews	36%	77	75	0%
Revise	11%	89	81	1%

# Publishing in Economics - Kitt's tips

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- **How much to revise?**

- ▶ Desk reject - may not need revision, target lower journal.
- ▶ Reviewer reject - address reasonable comments (you may get the same reviewer).
- ▶ Revise and resubmit - do everything the reviewers ask you to do (not all may make the paper).

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- ▶ 3 to 6 months after submission.

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- **When is it ok to contact the editor about paper status?**

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- **When is it ok to appeal an editor's decision?**

- ▶ Almost never.
- ▶ Did a reviewer make a factual error and did the editor state this as a reason for rejection?

# Publishing in Economics - Kitt's tips

- **How to not get desk rejected?**

- ▶ Write well (this is my tip!).
- ▶ Make sure your paper is a good fit for the journal.
  - Signal fit in your cover letter.
  - Cite papers from the journal.

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## ● Most common mistake?

- ▶ Me: "Where will you send this paper?"
- ▶ Junior Colleague: "Journal A, B, or C".
- ▶ Me: "Who would likely handle the paper at each of those journals?"
- ▶ Junior Colleague: "I don't know".

# Submission checklist

- [Mirya Holman's pre-submission checklist](#)