

Publishing in Economics

Publishing in Economics - Process

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

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 - ▶ 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 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

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 (as percentage of decisions within decision type) |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Desk Rejection | 53% | 4 | 2 | 0% |
| Reject with Reviews | 36% | 77 | 75 | 0% |
| Revise | 11% | 89 | 81 | 1% |

SUMMARY STATISTICS OF TURNAROUND TIMES, CURRENT JPE EDITORS

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

Publishing in Economics - Kitt's tips

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

- ▶ 3 to 6 months after submission.

- **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".