

Update to “Nine Facts about Top Journals in Economics” (4/2018)

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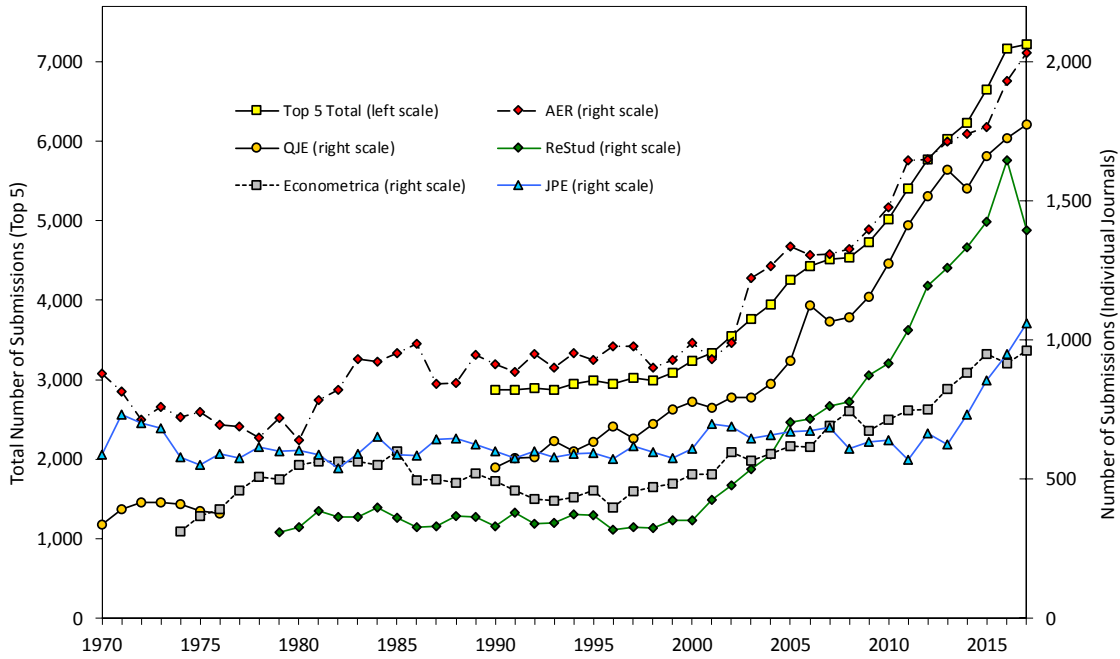
<https://eml.berkeley.edu/~sdellavi/wp/CardDellaVignaTop5PapersJEL2013.pdf>

This is an update to selected figures and tables of the paper “Nine Facts about Top Journals in Economics” (Card and Dellavigna 2013). We updated data on paper characteristics and submission counts in the 5 journals: AER, Econometrica, JPE, QJE, and REStud. Note that we did not update the citation data or figures.

The figures and tables correspond to those in the original paper and online appendix, with the addition of the page lengths by journal table and figure at the end.

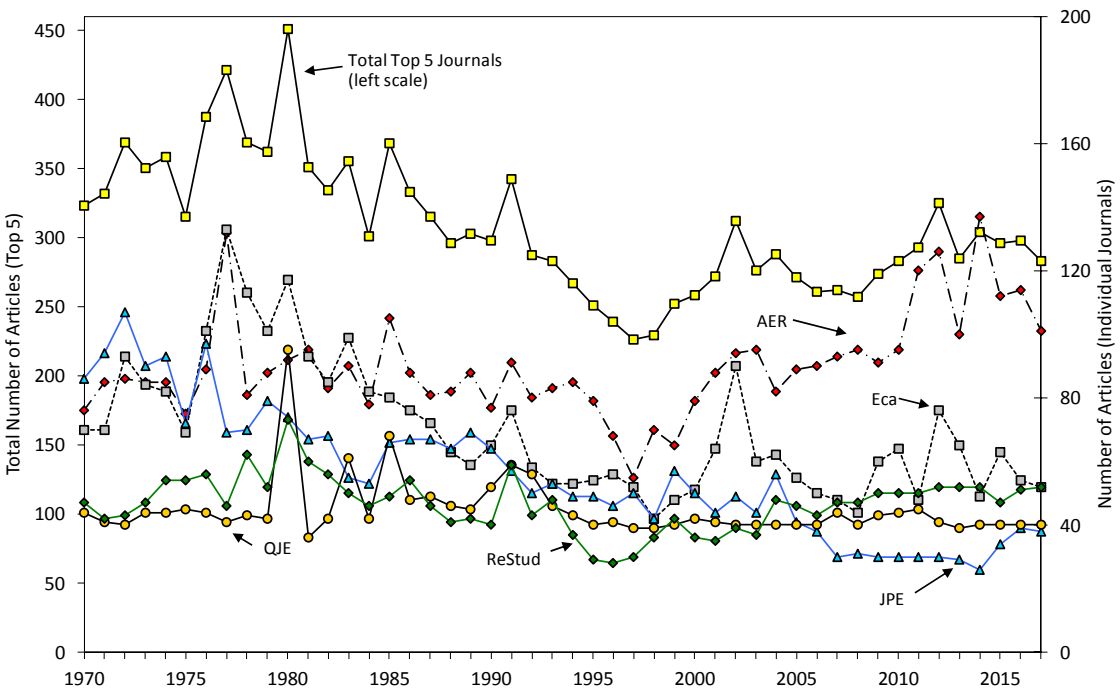
Since 2013, we see that the trends outlined have continued. Submissions have increased (and acceptance rates decreased), and papers have gotten longer. The number of papers published is generally flat, with the exception of the AER which expanded slightly after a switch to 12 issues per year.

Figure 1. Number of Submissions per Year



Notes: AER submissions are Nov. 1 - Oct. 31. Eca submissions are July 1 - June 31. ReStud submissions are March 1 - Feb. 28. AER and Econometrica data found from annual editors' reports; QJE, ReStud, and JPE data are obtained from editorial staff.

Figure 2. Number of Articles Published per Year



Notes: publications exclude notes, comments, announcements, and Papers and Proceedings.

Figure 3. Approximate Acceptance Rate per Year

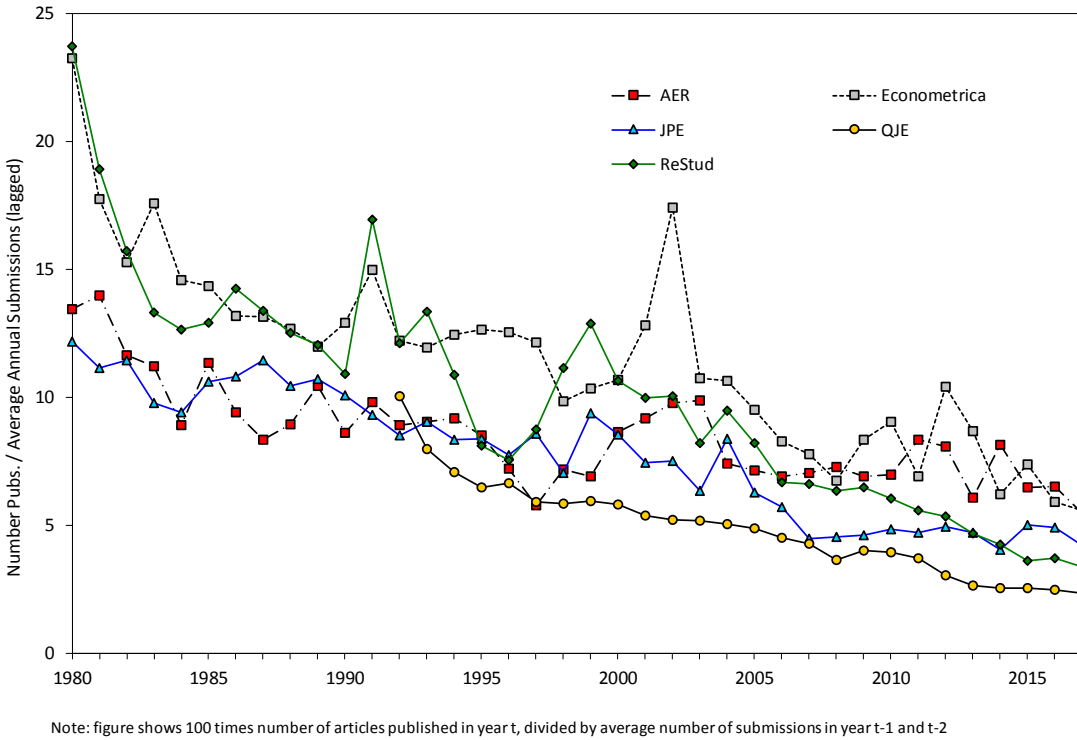


Figure 4. Trends in Length and Number of Authors of Published Papers

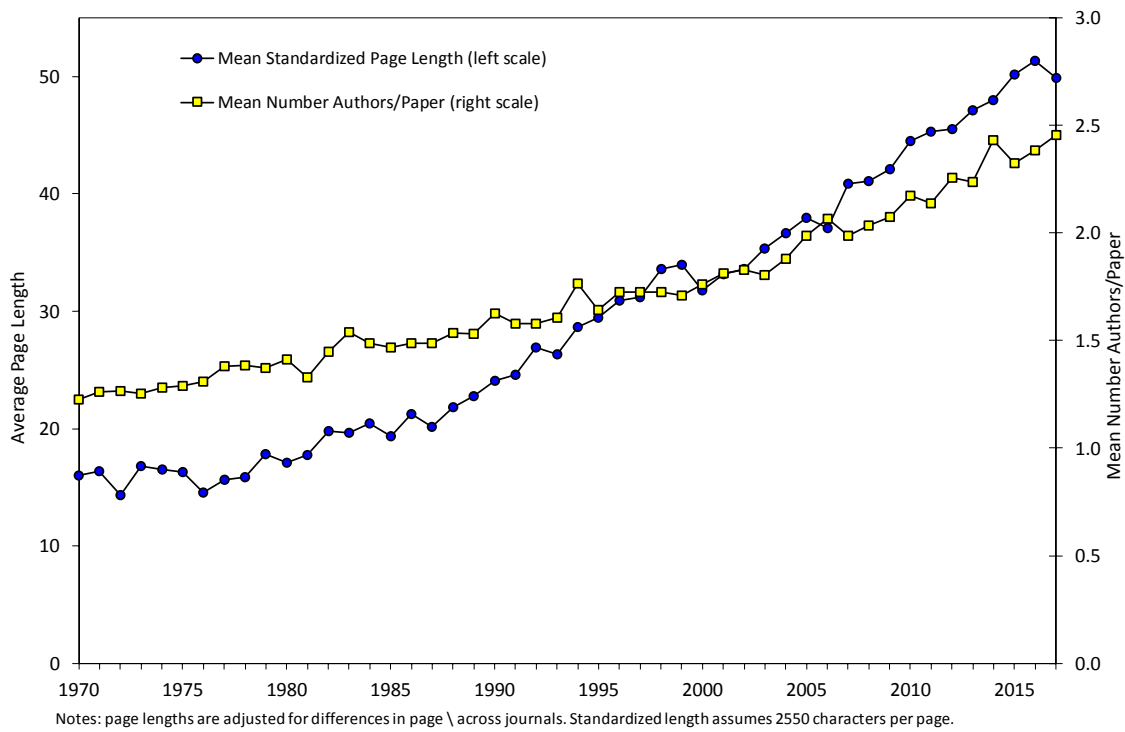
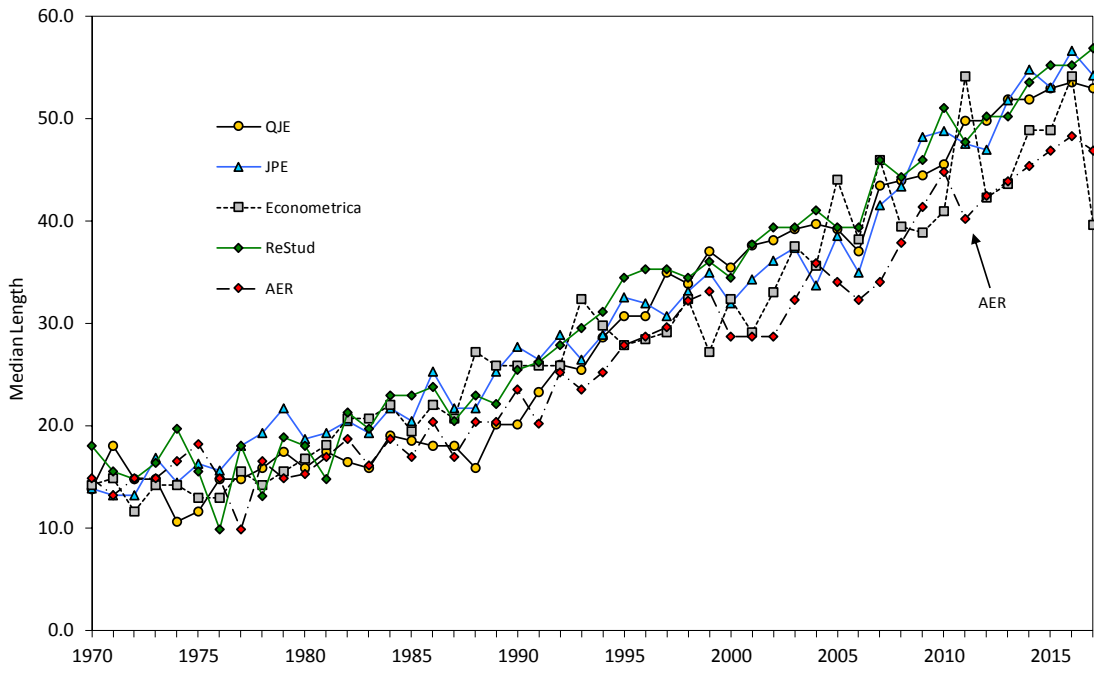


Figure 5. Median Standardized Length of Published Papers by Journal



Notes: Page lengths are standardized across journals. The AER page length measure takes into account changes in page density for switches to single column format (in 2008) and to a lower density format (in 2011). 2012 lengths are based on issues published before November 2012.

Appendix Table 1. Number of Articles Published Per Year, and Journal Shares of Top 5 Publications, 1970-2017

	Number of Articles Published per Year						Share of Total Top 5 Publications in Year (%)				
	AER	Eca	JPE	QJE	ReStud	Top 5	AER	Eca	JPE	QJE	ReStud
1970	76	70	86	44	47	323	23.5	21.7	26.6	13.6	14.6
1971	85	70	94	41	42	332	25.6	21.1	28.3	12.3	12.7
1972	86	93	107	40	43	369	23.3	25.2	29.0	10.8	11.7
1973	85	84	90	44	47	350	24.3	24.0	25.7	12.6	13.4
1974	85	82	93	44	54	358	23.7	22.9	26.0	12.3	15.1
1975	75	69	72	45	54	315	23.8	21.9	22.9	14.3	17.1
1976	89	101	97	44	56	387	23.0	26.1	25.1	11.4	14.5
1977	132	133	69	41	46	421	31.4	31.6	16.4	9.7	10.9
1978	81	113	70	43	62	369	22.0	30.6	19.0	11.7	16.8
1979	88	101	79	42	52	362	24.3	27.9	21.8	11.6	14.4
1980	92	117	74	95	73	451	20.4	25.9	16.4	21.1	16.2
1981	95	93	67	36	60	351	27.1	26.5	19.1	10.3	17.1
1982	83	85	68	42	56	334	24.9	25.4	20.4	12.6	16.8
1983	90	99	55	61	50	355	25.4	27.9	15.5	17.2	14.1
1984	78	82	53	42	46	301	25.9	27.2	17.6	14.0	15.3
1985	105	80	66	68	49	368	28.5	21.7	17.9	18.5	13.3
1986	88	76	67	48	54	333	26.4	22.8	20.1	14.4	16.2
1987	81	72	67	49	46	315	25.7	22.9	21.3	15.6	14.6
1988	82	63	64	46	41	296	27.7	21.3	21.6	15.5	13.9
1989	88	59	69	45	42	303	29.0	19.5	22.8	14.9	13.9
1990	77	65	64	52	40	298	25.8	21.8	21.5	17.4	13.4
1991	91	76	57	59	59	342	26.6	22.2	16.7	17.3	17.3
1992	80	58	50	56	43	287	27.9	20.2	17.4	19.5	15.0
1993	83	53	53	46	48	283	29.3	18.7	18.7	16.3	17.0
1994	85	53	49	43	37	267	31.8	19.9	18.4	16.1	13.9
1995	79	54	49	40	29	251	31.5	21.5	19.5	15.9	11.6
1996	68	56	46	41	28	239	28.5	23.4	19.2	17.2	11.7
1997	55	52	50	39	30	226	24.3	23.0	22.1	17.3	13.3
1998	70	42	42	39	36	229	30.6	18.3	18.3	17.0	15.7
1999	65	48	57	40	42	252	25.8	19.0	22.6	15.9	16.7
2000	79	51	50	42	36	258	30.6	19.8	19.4	16.3	14.0
2001	88	64	44	41	35	272	32.4	23.5	16.2	15.1	12.9
2002	94	90	49	40	39	312	30.1	28.8	15.7	12.8	12.5
2003	95	60	44	40	37	276	34.4	21.7	15.9	14.5	13.4
2004	82	62	56	40	48	288	28.5	21.5	19.4	13.9	16.7
2005	89	55	41	40	46	271	32.8	20.3	15.1	14.8	17.0
2006	90	50	38	40	43	261	34.5	19.2	14.6	15.3	16.5
2007	93	48	30	44	47	262	35.5	18.3	11.5	16.8	17.9
2008	95	44	31	40	47	257	37.0	17.1	12.1	15.6	18.3
2009	91	60	30	43	50	274	33.2	21.9	10.9	15.7	18.2
2010	95	64	30	44	50	283	33.6	22.6	10.6	15.5	17.7
2011	120	48	30	45	50	293	41.0	16.4	10.2	15.4	17.1
2012	126	76	30	41	52	325	38.8	23.4	9.2	12.6	16.0
2013	100	65	29	39	52	285	35.1	22.8	10.2	13.7	18.2
2014	137	49	26	40	52	304	45.1	16.1	8.6	13.2	17.1
2015	112	63	34	40	47	296	37.8	21.3	11.5	13.5	15.9
2016	114	54	39	40	51	298	38.3	18.1	13.1	13.4	17.1
2017	101	52	38	40	52	283	35.7	18.4	13.4	14.1	18.4

Notes: Publication totals exclude notes, comments, announcements, and Papers and Proceedings.

Appendix Table 2. Number of Submissions Per Year, and Journal Shares of Submissions to Top 5, 1970-2017

	Number of Submissions per Year						Share of Submissions to Top 5 (%)				
	AER	Eca	JPE	QJE	REStud	Top 5	AER	Eca	JPE	QJE	REStud
1970	879		586	337							
1971	813		731	390							
1972	714		701	417							
1973	758		681	416							
1974	723	310	578	411							
1975	742	368	552	384							
1976	695	390	591	376							
1977	690	460	576								
1978	649	509	614								
1979	719	498	601		308						
1980	641	550	602		327						
1981	784	563	586		386						
1982	820	563	538		365						
1983	932	563	590		363						
1984	921	552	653		396						
1985	952	600	587		362						
1986	987	495	583		326						
1987	843	500	642		330						
1988	844	486	646		368						
1989	946	521	625		365						
1990	911	493	599	540	331	2,874	31.7	17.2	20.8	18.8	11.5
1991	884	458	574	576	379	2,871	30.8	16.0	20.0	20.1	13.2
1992	950	429	599	579	340	2,897	32.8	14.8	20.7	20.0	11.7
1993	900	422	577	635	341	2,875	31.3	14.7	20.1	22.1	11.9
1994	953	433	592	600	374	2,952	32.3	14.7	20.1	20.3	12.7
1995	929	459	595	633	369	2,985	31.1	15.4	19.9	21.2	12.4
1996	976	397	571	688	318	2,950	33.1	13.5	19.4	23.3	10.8
1997	976	457	619	647	328	3,027	32.2	15.1	20.4	21.4	10.8
1998	900	472	596	698	325	2,991	30.1	15.8	19.9	23.3	10.9
1999	927	482	575	750	351	3,085	30.0	15.6	18.6	24.3	11.4
2000	989	516	608	777	350	3,240	30.5	15.9	18.8	24.0	10.8
2001	931	517	698	756	426	3,328	28.0	15.5	21.0	22.7	12.8
2002	990	598	689	793	476	3,546	27.9	16.9	19.4	22.4	13.4
2003	1,223	567	647	792	536	3,765	32.5	15.1	17.2	21.0	14.2
2004	1,265	589	659	842	586	3,941	32.1	14.9	16.7	21.4	14.9
2005	1,337	617	670	925	703	4,252	31.4	14.5	15.8	21.8	16.5
2006	1,304	615	673	1,123	716	4,431	29.4	13.9	15.2	25.3	16.2
2007	1,308	691	686	1,067	763	4,515	29.0	15.3	15.2	23.6	16.9
2008	1,326	744	610	1,080	779	4,539	29.2	16.4	13.4	23.8	17.2
2009	1,398	672	632	1,154	873	4,729	29.6	14.2	13.4	24.4	18.5
2010	1,477	714	639	1,275	914	5,019	29.4	14.2	12.7	25.4	18.2
2011	1,645	747	570	1,411	1,034	5,407	30.4	13.8	10.5	26.1	19.1
2012	1,647	751	664	1,517	1,195	5,774	28.5	13.0	11.5	26.3	20.7
2013	1,712	825	623	1,612	1,260	6,032	28.4	13.7	10.3	26.7	20.9
2014	1,740	882	730	1,544	1,333	6,229	27.9	14.2	11.7	24.8	21.4
2015	1,765	949	854	1,661	1,423	6,652	26.5	14.3	12.8	25.0	21.4
2016	1,929	917	950	1,726	1,646	7,168	26.9	12.8	13.3	24.1	23.0
2017	2,033	961	1,059	1,775	1,394	7,222	28.2	13.3	14.7	24.6	19.3

Notes: empty cells indicate missing data. AER submissions are Nov. 1 - Oct. 31. Eca submissions are July 1 - June 31. REStud submissions are March 1 - Feb. 28. AER and Econometrica data found from annual editors' reports; QJE, REStud, and JPE data are obtained from editorial staff.

Appendix Table 3. Approximate Acceptance Rate = Number of Articles Published in Year, Divided by Average Number of Submissions in Previous Two Years

	"Acceptance Rate" = Number Articles Published Divided by Average Annual Number of Submissions in Previous Two Years				
	AER	Eca	JPE	QJE	ReStud
1972	10.2		16.2	11.0	
1973	11.1		12.6	10.9	
1974	11.5		13.5	10.6	
1975	10.1		11.4	10.9	
1976	12.2	29.8	17.2	11.1	
1977	18.4	35.1	12.1	10.8	
1978	11.7	26.6	12.0		
1979	13.1	20.8	13.3		
1980	13.5	23.2	12.2		23.7
1981	14.0	17.7	11.1		18.9
1982	11.6	15.3	11.4		15.7
1983	11.2	17.6	9.8		13.3
1984	8.9	14.6	9.4		12.6
1985	11.3	14.3	10.6		12.9
1986	9.4	13.2	10.8		14.2
1987	8.4	13.2	11.5		13.4
1988	9.0	12.7	10.4		12.5
1989	10.4	12.0	10.7		12.0
1990	8.6	12.9	10.1		10.9
1991	9.8	15.0	9.3		17.0
1992	8.9	12.2	8.5	10.0	12.1
1993	9.1	12.0	9.0	8.0	13.4
1994	9.2	12.5	8.3	7.1	10.9
1995	8.5	12.6	8.4	6.5	8.1
1996	7.2	12.6	7.8	6.7	7.5
1997	5.8	12.1	8.6	5.9	8.7
1998	7.2	9.8	7.1	5.8	11.1
1999	6.9	10.3	9.4	5.9	12.9
2000	8.6	10.7	8.5	5.8	10.7
2001	9.2	12.8	7.4	5.4	10.0
2002	9.8	17.4	7.5	5.2	10.1
2003	9.9	10.8	6.3	5.2	8.2
2004	7.4	10.6	8.4	5.0	9.5
2005	7.2	9.5	6.3	4.9	8.2
2006	6.9	8.3	5.7	4.5	6.7
2007	7.0	7.8	4.5	4.3	6.6
2008	7.3	6.7	4.6	3.7	6.4
2009	6.9	8.4	4.6	4.0	6.5
2010	7.0	9.0	4.8	3.9	6.1
2011	8.3	6.9	4.7	3.7	5.6
2012	8.1	10.4	5.0	3.1	5.3
2013	6.1	8.7	4.7	2.7	4.7
2014	8.2	6.2	4.0	2.6	4.2
2015	6.5	7.4	5.0	2.5	3.6
2016	6.5	5.9	4.9	2.5	3.7
2017	5.5	5.6	4.2	2.4	3.4

Appendix Table 4. Mean and Median Standardized Page Lengths of Published Articles, by Journal

	All		AER		Econometrica		JPE		QJE		Rev. Econ Studies	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
1970	16.0	14.9	15.9	14.9	15.0	14.2	16.7	13.8	14.0	13.8	18.3	18.0
1971	16.3	14.8	17.4	13.2	16.2	14.9	15.2	13.2	16.0	18.0	17.2	15.6
1972	14.4	13.2	14.4	14.9	12.5	11.6	15.0	13.2	14.1	14.8	16.7	14.8
1973	16.8	15.5	16.2	14.9	16.2	14.2	18.9	16.9	14.1	14.8	17.4	16.4
1974	16.5	14.9	16.5	16.5	15.6	14.2	16.4	14.4	14.3	10.6	19.9	19.7
1975	16.3	14.9	17.3	18.2	15.1	12.9	18.5	16.3	12.2	11.6	17.0	15.6
1976	14.6	13.8	14.4	14.9	13.7	12.9	16.8	15.7	14.0	14.8	13.0	9.8
1977	15.6	14.2	11.7	9.9	16.5	15.5	19.7	18.1	15.5	14.8	18.4	18.0
1978	15.9	16.4	16.0	16.5	14.6	14.2	19.2	19.3	15.4	15.9	14.5	13.1
1979	17.8	18.0	14.7	14.9	16.8	15.5	21.6	21.7	16.6	17.5	20.2	18.9
1980	17.1	16.8	15.1	15.3	17.3	16.8	18.2	18.7	16.0	15.9	19.8	18.0
1981	17.7	16.9	16.2	17.0	19.0	18.1	20.0	19.3	18.1	17.5	15.4	14.8
1982	19.8	19.4	19.0	18.7	20.5	20.7	20.1	20.5	16.6	16.4	21.8	21.3
1983	19.6	19.3	17.1	16.1	20.7	20.7	20.9	19.3	18.4	15.9	22.0	19.7
1984	20.4	20.4	17.9	18.7	20.8	22.0	23.3	21.7	18.4	19.1	22.6	22.9
1985	19.4	19.2	17.0	17.0	20.0	19.4	21.0	20.5	19.2	18.5	21.6	22.9
1986	21.2	21.2	18.1	20.4	21.3	22.0	25.9	25.3	17.5	18.0	23.8	23.8
1987	20.2	19.7	17.9	17.0	21.5	20.7	21.8	21.7	17.7	18.0	22.5	20.5
1988	21.8	21.3	20.1	20.4	25.4	27.2	22.9	21.7	16.4	15.9	24.2	22.9
1989	22.8	22.2	21.1	20.4	26.5	25.9	24.6	25.3	18.9	20.1	22.4	22.1
1990	24.1	24.2	22.7	23.6	24.6	25.9	27.1	27.7	20.3	20.1	26.1	25.4
1991	24.6	24.5	22.9	20.2	25.1	25.9	26.3	26.5	23.3	23.3	26.3	26.2
1992	26.9	26.9	24.9	25.2	26.6	25.9	28.7	28.9	26.5	25.9	29.4	27.9
1993	26.4	26.5	24.7	23.6	28.7	32.4	24.9	26.5	24.5	25.4	30.1	29.5
1994	28.7	28.6	26.1	25.2	29.5	29.8	29.8	28.9	28.5	28.6	32.1	31.1
1995	29.5	29.6	26.3	27.9	29.6	27.8	31.5	32.5	29.4	30.7	34.4	34.4
1996	30.9	31.1	29.3	28.7	27.7	28.5	33.3	31.9	31.2	30.7	36.8	35.2
1997	31.2	31.3	28.8	29.6	28.5	29.1	30.7	30.7	34.6	34.9	36.6	35.2
1998	33.6	33.1	31.3	32.2	34.2	32.4	34.6	33.1	33.5	33.9	36.5	34.4
1999	33.9	34.8	33.4	33.1	30.7	27.2	33.2	34.9	37.3	37.1	36.4	36.1
2000	31.8	32.3	30.2	28.7	30.9	32.4	30.6	31.9	35.3	35.5	34.2	34.4
2001	33.2	33.6	29.7	28.7	30.4	29.1	36.2	34.3	36.8	37.6	38.6	37.7
2002	33.6	34.1	29.5	28.7	32.4	33.0	33.3	36.1	39.9	38.1	40.4	39.3
2003	35.3	35.8	31.2	32.3	36.3	37.5	36.4	37.3	40.1	39.2	38.0	39.3
2004	36.6	37.6	33.9	35.8	36.0	35.6	35.8	33.7	40.4	39.7	39.9	41.0
2005	37.9	37.6	32.3	34.1	42.9	44.0	38.8	38.5	40.0	39.2	40.4	39.3
2006	37.1	36.1	34.9	32.3	38.7	38.2	34.9	34.9	38.2	37.1	40.5	39.3
2007	40.9	41.3	35.8	34.1	44.3	45.9	41.8	41.5	43.1	43.4	44.7	45.9
2008	41.1	42.4	38.6	37.9	41.0	39.5	45.0	43.3	43.4	43.9	41.7	44.3
2009	42.1	43.0	39.3	41.3	39.5	38.8	45.0	48.2	44.8	44.5	46.4	45.9
2010	44.5	45.5	43.3	44.8	38.9	40.9	48.9	48.8	43.9	45.5	51.9	51.0
2011	45.3	45.3	39.4	40.2	51.6	54.1	47.7	47.6	48.3	49.8	49.1	47.7
2012	45.5	45.3	41.0	42.4	45.8	42.2	47.6	47.0	50.1	49.8	51.2	50.2
2013	47.1	46.8	42.1	43.9	48.5	43.6	50.0	51.8	50.0	51.9	51.1	50.2
2014	48.0	48.3	42.3	45.3	50.1	48.8	54.3	54.8	52.2	51.9	54.3	53.5
2015	50.2	50.8	47.2	46.8	48.1	48.8	50.7	53.0	53.0	52.9	57.1	55.2
2016	51.4	52.7	47.1	48.3	51.6	54.1	55.2	56.6	52.7	53.5	56.6	55.2
2017	49.9	48.3	48.7	46.8	39.3	39.6	53.2	54.2	52.9	52.9	58.2	56.8

Note: page lengths are standardized across journals to have 2550 characters/page. Articles exclude notes, comments, announcements and Papers and Proceedings.