

Editors' Notes

EDITORS' REPORT, 2004/05

The Journal of Economic History experienced 2004/05 as a year of relative stability with Knick Harley settling in at University of Oxford and Jeremy Atack getting in stride at Vanderbilt. We have been greatly assisted by Paul Hohenberg and Bill Collins who have handled the book reviews for the non-American and American sides respectively. In Oxford, Natalia Mora-Sitja has provided able editorial assistance. She has now left to take up a permanent post at Cambridge University. She has been replaced by Tommy Murphy. The Board of Trustees has appointed Phil Hoffman of Cal Tech to replace Knick Harley when his term expires at the end of June 2006.

The accompanying figure and tables show a continuing increase in the number of submissions from 130 in 2003/04 to 135 in 2004/05 (an increase of 4 percent). Together the last two years represent peak levels of submission to the *Journal*. The international office continues to process a slightly larger share of submissions with 54 percent compared to the North American office's 46 percent. This represents a continuation of historic rough balance between the offices. Papers submitted continue to vary widely by region, topic, and era.

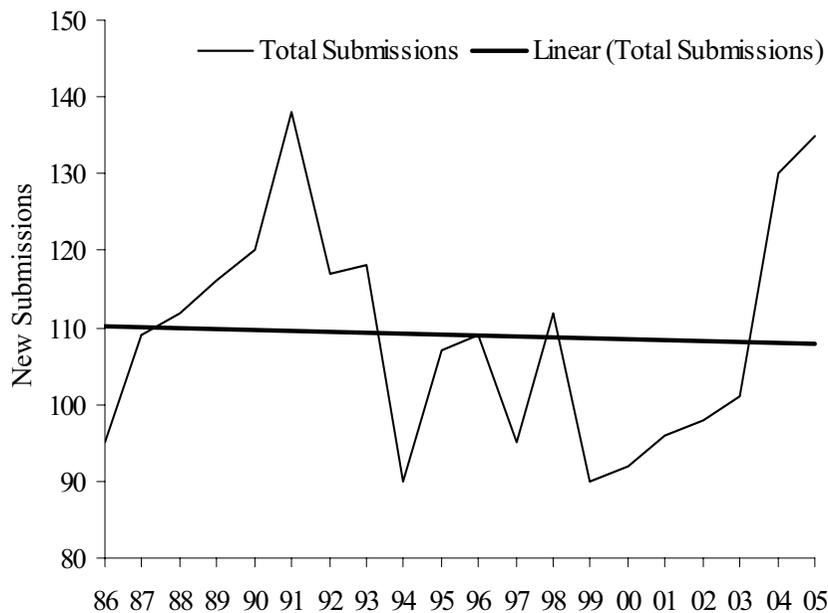


FIGURE 1
TREND IN NEW SUBMISSIONS, 1985/86–2004/05

Source: The yearly totals were taken from the published Editors' Notes.

TABLE 1
REGULAR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY WORLD AREA, BROKEN DOWN BY TOPIC,
JULY 2001–JUNE 2004 (totals)

Topic	July 2002–June 2003		July 2003–June 2004		July 2004–June 2005	
	North America	All Other Regions	North America	All Other Regions	North America	All Other Regions
Agriculture	2	8	5	6	7	4
Demography	4	6	6	3	4	5
Growth	0	2	0	6	0	9
History of thought	0	0	1	1	0	0
Industry	2	5	5	10	5	6
International trade, finance	3	4	0	5	5	4
Labor	5	4	5	9	7	7
Money and macro	5	3	4	7	10	5
Political economy	15	9	15	5	1	15
Private finance, capital markets	5	5	9	8	8	11
Public finance	1	6	4	4	8	2
Technology	2	0	4	1	6	1
Urban and regional	2	0	0	1	1	1
Other	0	3	3	3	0	3
Total	46	55	61	69	62	73

Note: The numbers include new submissions only. The totals equal the number of new submissions received because a paper is classified in only one topic category. In the latest year, the North American office had 78 total submissions, 62 new and 16 resubmitted. The International office had 88 total submissions, 73 new and 15 resubmitted.

TABLE 2
REGULAR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY REGION, 1 JULY–30 JUNE

Region	Submissions			
	2001–2002	2002–2003	2003–2004	2004–2005
Africa	2	3	2	2
Asia	12	1	11	16
Australia and New Zealand	0	0	2	2
Eastern Europe/Russia	6	1	2	3
Great Britain	15	14	13	20
Latin America	4	8	5	5
Middle East	5	5	3	5
Non-Spanish speaking Caribbean	0	0	0	0
United States and Canada	41	45	60	65
Western Europe	21	17	28	37
Not applicable	2	6	7	6

Note: The numbers include new submissions only. Totals exceed new submissions because a paper can be classified as pertaining to more than one region.

TABLE 3
REGULAR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS BY PERIOD, 1 JULY–30 JUNE
2002–2003, 2003–2004, AND 2004–2005

Period	Submissions		
	2002–2003	2003–2004	2004–2005
Twentieth century	53	67	74
Nineteenth century	41	52	70
Seventeenth and eighteenth centuries	18	18	22
Pre-seventeenth century	13	17	12
Not applicable or unknown	5	0	4

Note: The numbers include new submissions only. Totals exceed submissions because a paper can be classified as pertaining to more than one period.

TABLE 4
ACCEPTANCE AND TURNAROUND

	North American Office		International Office		Total	
	2003/04	2004/05	2003/04	2004/05	2003/04	2004/05
	Accepted	16	15	12	14	28
Revise and resubmit	20	21	11	15	31	36
Rejected or withdrawn	44	42	61	53	105	95
Not yet decided	0	0	2	6	2	6
Total	80	78	86	88	166	166

Year	Decision Lags (in days)			
	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Median
All submissions				
2001/2002	1	339	86	85
2002/2003	1	322	92	85
2003/2004	1	303	110	100
2004/2005	1	366	112	104
New submissions only				
2001/2002	1	233	87	91
2002/2003	1	322	98	91
2003/2004	1	303	113	103
2004/2005	1	260	100	90

Note: The acceptance figures include new submissions and resubmissions. Decision lags exclude submissions not yet decided. Data were current as of 9 January 2006.

The mean and median turnaround time for submissions has improved slightly this year for new submissions, but for all submissions it is about two week in excess of the three month turnaround we aim to achieve. The *JEH* remains very selective; last year 29 papers were accepted compared to the over 135 new submissions. Fifty-seven per cent of the papers on which decisions were taken last year were rejected, while 22 per cent were returned to the authors for revision and resubmission.

One constant in the life of the *JEH* is the outstanding quality and commitment of its referees, particularly those serving on the editorial board. The editors are indebted to all referees for their dedication to the peer review process that results in well-informed editorial decisions. In addition, in most cases the refereeing process results in published articles that are markedly improved from their original versions. The editors especially wish to thank outgoing board members Chris Hanes, Alan Dye, and Tom Maloney. We welcome those added this year: Bob Allen and Larry Neal.

Our referees for the year were:

Brian A'Hearn, *Franklin and Marshall College*
 Mark Aldrich, *Smith College*
 Douglas Allen, *Simon Frasier University*
 Robert Allen, *Nuffield College, Oxford University*
 Lee Alston, *University of Colorado*
 Zofia H. Archibald, *University of Liverpool*
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 Marc Egnal, *York University, Canada*
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