

Report of the Editor

Journal of Economic Perspectives

With the appearance of the Spring 1992 issue, the *Journal of Economic Perspectives* celebrated five full years of publication. The *Journal* has continued its pattern of addressing a broad range of topics, using a variety of formats.

The 1992 issues included eight symposia: a retrospective on the Tax Reform Act of 1986; trade liberalization in developing economies; the dispute over a balanced-budget amendment; airline deregulation; health economics; economists as policy advocates; Europe in 1992; and common knowledge. These were complemented by three articles on noted economists (Radner, Mincer, and Fuchs) and 16 other individual articles on a wide range of topics: from exchange-rate target zones to the development of organizational capabilities within firms; from bank reform to automobile insurance; from a critique of representative individuals in macroeconomics to a defense of market socialism; from agricultural economics to software used by economists; and more.

In addition, the *Journal* also continued publication of several regular features. Bernard Saffran's "Recommendations for Further Reading" continued to appear in each issue. Joseph Persky edited and contributed to several "Retrospectives" features on topics in the history of economic thought, and Isabel Sawhill solicited topics for the "Policy Watch" column. Those columns will continue to appear in 1993. In addition, the *Journal* continued to publish "Correspondence" and "Notes."

In total, the 1992 issues of the *Journal* included 880 pages, consisting of 41 articles, two introductions or comments, eight of the features articles, plus Notes, Correspondence, and miscellaneous items like advertisements and announcements, as shown in the accompanying table. The total number of pages was a decrease of 8 percent compared with 1991, when the *Journal* pub-

lished 952 pages; but the 1991 total was inflated by our extra-long Fall 1991 issue, devoted entirely to the economic transition in (what used to be) the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, so the reduction to a more typical number of pages was expected. The Fall 1991 issue turned out to be successful in an unexpected way for an academic journal; teachers and researchers bought several hundred single copies of the issue through the AEA in early 1992, for classrooms and broader distribution.

The *Journal* has continued to function in a decentralized manner, with a diverse group of Associate Editors generating possible ideas and suggesting authors. Earlier this year, with the approval of the Executive Committee, Richard Schmalensee of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology joined the Associate Editors, with a broad mandate to seek out articles in the areas of the environment and energy. In general, editors have signed up for several years, generated some interesting ideas for the *Journal*, and then moved on. This process of gradual turnover has helped the *Journal* to stay fresh, coming up with new authors and new perspectives.

Based on informal discussions with colleagues and acquaintances, the *Journal* appears to have found a loyal readership and a distinct niche for itself. This broad readership and strong reputation of the *Journal* seems especially attractive to potential authors and has made them willing to work hard on revising and reshaping their articles to make them accessible to that broad audience. As a result, the issues of 1993 are largely booked with articles of high quality, and planning for 1994 is well underway.

At the end of 1992, the incumbent Associate Editors are: Henry Aaron, The Brookings Institution; Pranab Bardhan, University of California at Berkeley; Gene Grossman, Princeton University; James Heckman, University of Chicago; Dwight Jaffee, Univer-

TABLE 1—PAGE DISTRIBUTION FOR THE
Journal of Economic Perspectives, 1988–1992

	Numbers of pages				
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Total	832	832	896	952	880
Full-length articles (number of articles)	578 (30)	650 (40)	646 (38)	748 (47)	728 (41)
Introductions and comments (number of articles)	94 (13)	20 (3)	22 (4)	34 (4)	6 (2)
Features (number of features)	100 (12)	102 (11)	150 (16)	96 (11)	66 (8)
Correspondence	21	14	20	12	25
Notes	24	24	32	25	27
Table of Contents	8	8	8	8	8
Advertisements and announcements	7	14	18	29	20

sity of California at Berkeley; N. Gregory Mankiw, Harvard University; Peter Murrell, University of Maryland; Barry Nalebuff, Yale University; Joseph Newhouse, Harvard University; John Roemer, University of California at Davis; Sherwin Rosen, University of Chicago; Bernard Saffran, Swarthmore College; Richard Schmalensee, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Steven Salop, Georgetown University; Isabel Sawhill, The Urban Institute; Hal Varian, University of Michigan; and Gavin Wright, Stanford University.

Members of the *Journal's* Advisory Board have continued to provide helpful advice, including feedback on past articles and suggestions for future ones. The *Journal* has developed a tradition of gathering together

the Advisory Board, the Associate Editors, and the Editors at the annual meetings for an opportunity to brainstorm and exchange views about the *Journal's* past year and to consider the directions it should take in the future.

The staff of the *Journal* remained unchanged in 1992. The job of Editorial Associate was held by Juli Rae Sanderson. The day-to-day job of running a journal requires a considerable array of personal, management, and administrative skills. Juli's persistence, good humor, and attention to detail have been essential to the smooth functioning of the *Journal*.

Timothy Taylor continued in 1992 as Managing Editor of the *Journal*. As in years past, the Editors feel that they cannot overstate the role that he plays 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 delicacy 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.

Requested action: Approval of new member to join the Editorial Board in 1993: Alan B. Krueger, Princeton University.

JOSEPH STIGLITZ, *Editor*
CARL SHAPIRO, *Co-Editor*

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