

List of leading journals for economics faculty

Over the past few decades, the economics profession has converged to an equilibrium in which there is consensus around the very top tier of general interest journals:

- American Economic Review;
- Econometrica;
- Journal of Political Economy;
- Quarterly Journal of Economics; and
- Review of Economic Studies.

To this list we then added a list of “really excellent but not top five” journals that encompasses the second tier of general interest journals, top field journals, and finally a set of "special" leading journals.

In our view, the list of top “general interest” journals includes:

- American Economic Journal: Applied Economics;
- American Economic Journal: Economic Policy;
- American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics;
- American Economic Journal: Microeconomics;
- American Economic Review: Insights;
- Economic Journal;
- International Economic Review;
- Journal of the European Economic Association;
- Quantitative Economics; and
- Review of Economics and Statistics.

The list of top field journals, maintaining a broad coverage of the main fields in economics, includes:

- Agriculture, natural resources, and the environment:
 - Journal of Environmental Economics and Management;
 - Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists;
- "Business economics":
 - Management Science;
 - Marketing Science;
- Econometrics:
 - Journal of Econometrics;
- Economic history:
 - Journal of Economic History;
 - Explorations in Economic History;
- Economic development:
 - Journal of Development Economics;
 - Journal of Economic Growth;
- Economic theory:
 - Theoretical Economics;
 - Journal of Economic Theory;

- Games and Economic Behavior;
- Financial economics:
 - Journal of Finance;
 - Journal of Financial Economics;
 - Review of Financial Studies;
- Health economics:
 - Journal of Health Economics;
 - American Journal of Health Economics;
- Industrial organization:
 - RAND Journal of Economics;
 - Journal of Industrial Economics;
- International trade:
 - Journal of International Economics;
- Labor economics:
 - Journal of Labor Economics;
 - Journal of Human Resources;
- Macroeconomics:
 - Journal of Monetary Economics;
 - Review of Economic Dynamics;
 - Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking;
- Public economics:
 - Journal of Public Economics;
- Regional and urban economics:
 - Journal of Urban Economics.

Finally, following the suggestion of several faculty, we agreed that the list should also include a set of “notable review outlets.” These are very high-visibility publications in outlets that operate differently than the standard journal process, frequently by curating a set of invited articles.

- NBER Macro Annual;
- Brookings Papers on Economic Activity;
- Carnegie-Rochester Series;
- Annual Review of Economics;
- Journal of Economic Literature;
- Journal of Economic Perspectives;
- American Economic Association Papers & Proceedings.

Two final notes that came out of our discussion. First, economists occasionally publish excellent work in a broader set of journals from other disciplines that are somewhat further afield. These include “top-3” political science journals (AJPS, APSR, JoP); top general science journals (Nature, Science, PNAS); top medical journals (BMJ, JAMA, NEJM); and other disciplines’ most prominent journals (e.g., JASA). However, this occurs sufficiently infrequently that we do not think they are necessarily worth including.

Second, it is important to emphasize that this list is *not* exhaustive of all the high

quality outlets for the full breadth of important academic contributions. In addition to venues from other disciplines, policy outlets and more specialized field journals may be the ideal outlet for certain types of work. We are committed to valuing and recognizing creative, high-quality work wherever it appears.

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Luís Cabral