

## Editorial Report 2009

### 1. Editorial Team

Papers in Regional Science is managed by the Editorial Team comprised of the editors Philip McCann (University of Groningen, The Netherlands, since 2007), James LeSage (Texas State University–San Marcos, U.S.A., since 2007) and Jouke van Dijk (University of Groningen, The Netherlands as Editor-in-Chief since 2007 and Editor from 2005). Terms of the current Editorial Team ended in December 2009, but RSAI Council appointed the team for another three year term at its July 2009 meeting in Australia. In addition, the council agreed to enlarge the team to include Takatoshi Tabuchi (University of Tokyo, Japan) who specializes in the field of urban economics and New Economic Geography models and Yoshitsugu Hayashi (Nagoya University, Japan) who adds expertise in transportation and environmental fields. The added expertise of the two new editors allows the Editorial Team to cover a broad range of regional science topics of interest to our readers. The enlargement of the Editorial Team also will help to manage the larger number of articles due to the increase from 600 to 900 pages since the 2009 Volume 88 of Papers in Regional Science. In the Editorial Team each of the three supra regional organisations of RSAI, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific are represented, but all submissions are allocated by the Editor-in-Chief to the editors based on areas of scholarly expertise and not on region of origin of the authors of a manuscript. In addition the Editorial team consists of Charlie Karlsson (Jönköping International Business School, Sweden, since 2007) as book review editor and Sophia Klaassen takes care of the Editorial Office. This annual report provides information about the progress Papers in Regional Science made in 2009.

### 2. Editorial Board

The Editorial Board was appointed in 2004 for a term ending in 2009. In 2005 there were no changes to the Editorial Board, and in November 2006 the new editors left the Editorial Board and the old editors were appointed at the Toronto meeting as new members of the Editorial Board. By January 2009 fourteen members were replaced by fifteen new members. The Editorial Board reflects all the fields of the submissions to PiRS, also in emerging fields such as New Economic Geography and Spatial Econometrics. The Editorial Team continues the policy of rotating Editorial Board Membership and will review the composition of the Board regularly. On January 2010 the Editorial Board comprises the following 48 members:

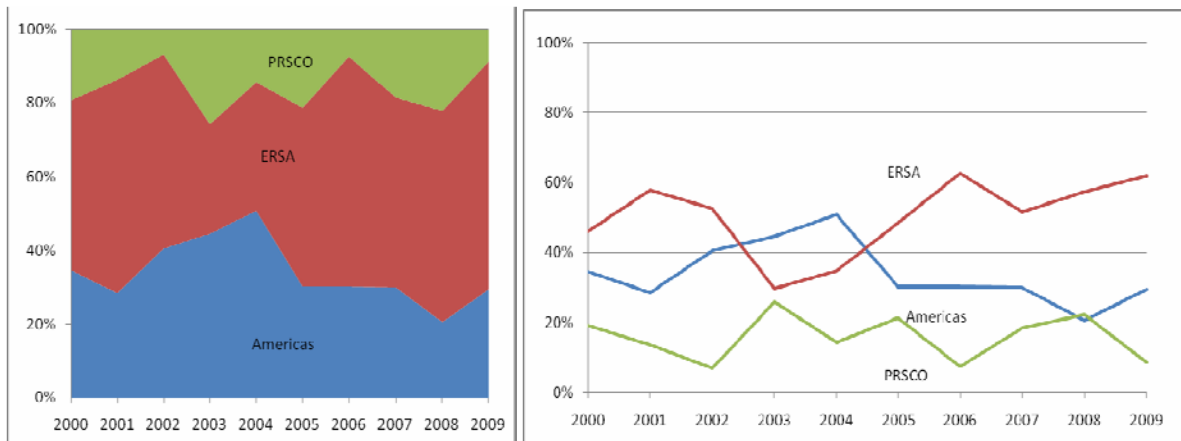
O. Alonso-Villar	University of Vigo	Spain
L. Anselin	Arizona State University	USA
G. Arbia	University 'G. d'Annunzio' of Chieti	Italy
K. Behrens	University of Quebec at Montreal	Canada
M. Berliant	Washington University	USA
M. Boarnet	University of California	USA

J. Bröcker	Christian-Albrechts-University	Germany
M.C. Carroll	Bowling Green State University	USA
S. Chang	University of British Columbia	Canada
H. de Groot	VU University Amsterdam	The Netherlands
G. Duranton	University of Toronto	Canada
J.P. Elhorst	University of Groningen	The Netherlands
A. Faggian	University of Southampton	UK
M.M. Fischer	Vienna University of Economics and Business	Austria
R.J.G.M. Florax	Purdue University	USA
M. Fujita	Kyoto University	Japan
H. Garretsen	University of Groningen	The Netherlands
M.J. Greenwood	University of Colorado	USA
E. Haddad	University of Sao Paulo	Brazil
Y. Higano	University of Tsukuba	Japan
H. Jayet	University of Lille	France
A. Kangasharju	Government Institute for Economic Research	Finland
K.M. Kockelman	University of Texas	USA
T. Kuroda	University of Nagoya	Japan
M.L. Lahr	Rutgers University	USA
J. Le Gallo	University of Franche-Comté	France
P. Longley	University College of London	UK
E. López-Bazo	University of Barcelona	Spain
J.R. Madden	Monash University	Australia
C-C. Mai	Academia Sinica	Taiwan
Y. Miyata	Toyohashi University of Technology	Japan
Y. Murata	Nihon University	Japan
J. Oosterhaven	University of Groningen	The Netherlands
O. Parent	University of Cincinnati	USA
S.O. Park	Seoul National University	Korea
D.A. Plane	University of Arizona	USA
J.P.H. Poon	University of Buffalo - SUNY	USA
J. Poot	University of Waikato	New Zealand
J.M. Quigley	University of California	USA
S. Rey	San Diego State University	USA
A. Rodríguez-Pose	London School of Economics	UK
T.E. Smith	University of Pennsylvania	USA
J.-C. Thill	University of North Carolina - Charlotte	USA
J. Thisse	CORE	Belgium
A.J. Venables	University of Oxford	UK
E.T. Verhoef	VU University Amsterdam	The Netherlands
B.S. Waldorf	Purdue University	USA
X.-P. Zheng	Ritsumeikan University	Japan

### 3. Publication and circulation statistics

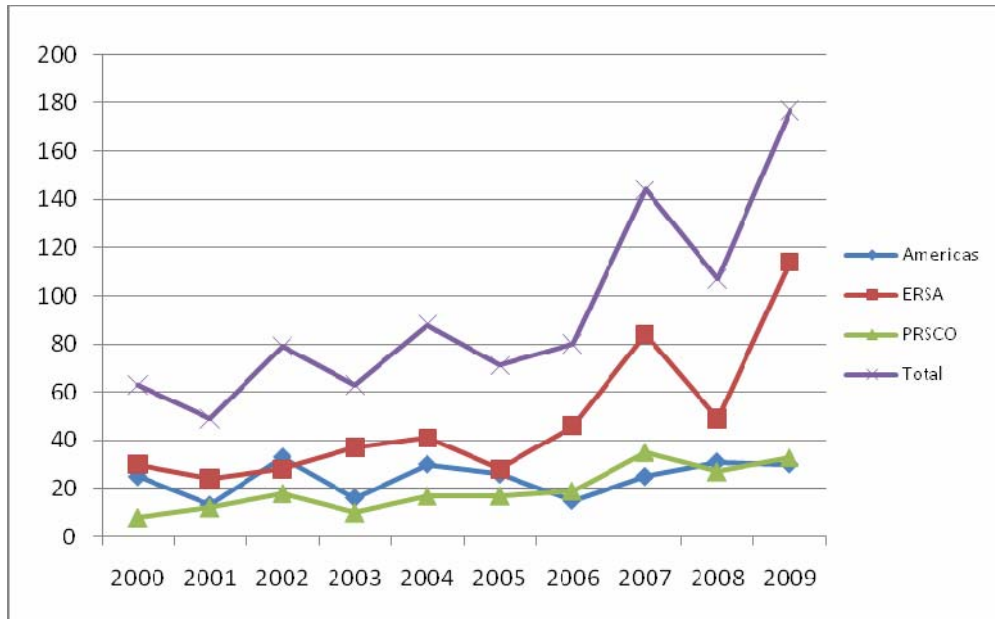
An update of the vital publication statistics, following Anselin's (PiRS, vol. 74, no. 4) set-up is presented in this section. Figure 1 summarizes the geographic coverage of Papers in Regional Science. The geographical distribution of authors pertains to full articles, research notes and comments, book reviews and includes editorials and introductions. The unit of measurement is author pages, implying that pages of multiple-authored articles are pro-rated. From Figure 1 we learn that the geographical distribution of authorship varies over time. In 2009 European authors contributed for over 60% of the author pages and authors from the Americas increased to almost 30%. The contributions from the Pacific decreased to less than 10%.

When viewed against the perspective of the supra regional distribution of the membership of the Association, it appears that the geographic distribution of authors of published articles by and large reflects the membership of the Association, although Europe was over-represented and the Pacific was under-represented in 2009. The geographical distribution of authorship is not an explicit editorial goal, as publication decisions are based on scientific merit and quality considerations alone.



**Figure 1.** Geographic distribution of authors in author pages (% per year and proportion), vol. 79–88, 2000–2009

Figure 2 shows the development of the number of submissions over time. In 2009, the total number of submissions increased as a result of more submissions from European based authors. The journal received 114 submissions from Europe, 31 from the Americas, and 33 from the Pacific, totalling 178 submissions. The number of submissions increased in 2009 also because there were submissions for two special issues. For the book review section, the geographic distribution of book reviewers in 2009 is such that reviewers are all from Europe, mostly from Sweden. The total number of book reviews published in 2009 equalled 9.



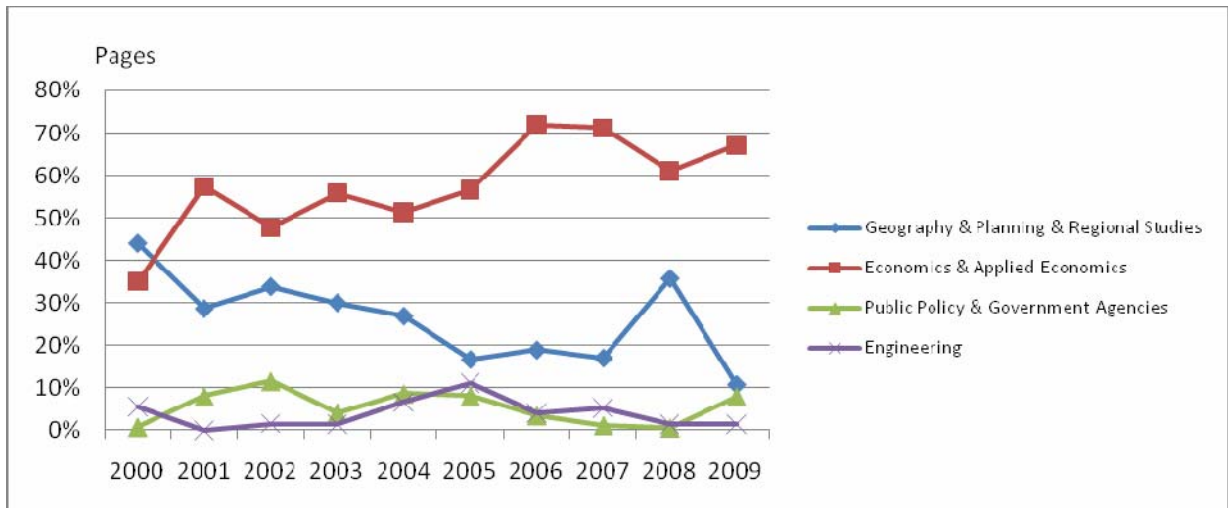
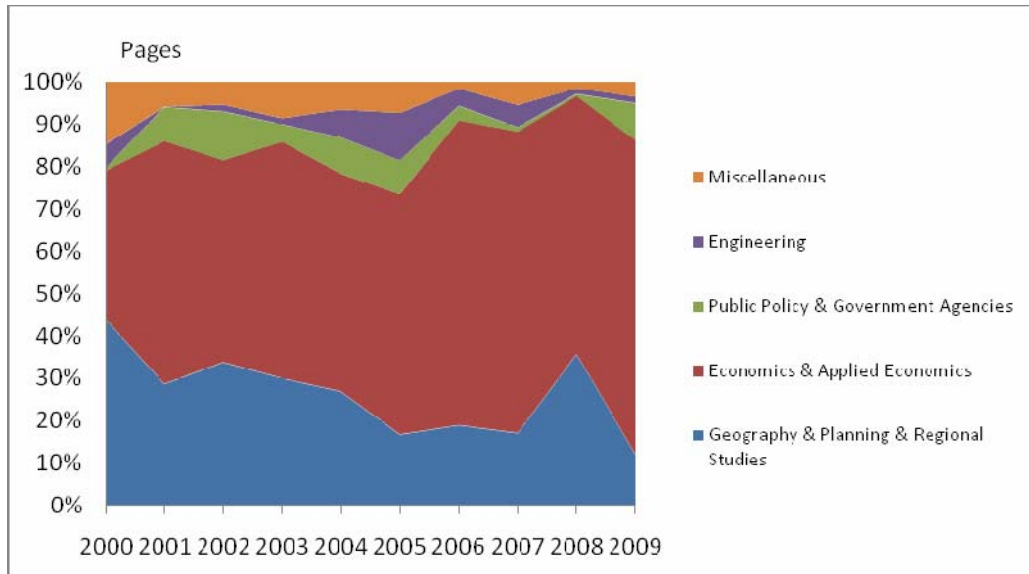
**Figure 2.** Geographically detailed number of submissions, 2000–2009

In Figure 3 the affiliations of authors are broken down, again using author pages as the metric, and following an aggregation based on Anselin's (PiRS, vol. 74, no. 4) categorization of 'disciplines' using the following 'departmental' affiliations:

- Economics & Applied Economics (including Agricultural Economics, Land Economics, Business and Management Sciences),
- Geography & Planning & Urban and Regional Studies (including Regional Science and Regional Research Centers),
- Engineering (including Transportation),
- Public Policy and Government Research Agencies,
- Miscellaneous (including Social Sciences).

Figure 3 shows the extent to which Regional Science has a multidisciplinary focus. The dominance of Economics & Applied Economics slightly increased and these two fields account for 67% of the total number of author pages in 2009. The number of pages of contributions from Geography & Planning decreased in 2009.

At the end of 2009, there were 4,038 RSAI members receiving Papers in Regional Science (and Regional Science Policy & Practice), an increase of 10.26% compared to 3,662 members in 2008. In 2009 more than 2,500 libraries offered access to Papers in Regional Science either through a traditional subscription or via the Blackwell sales programme to consortia libraries. Another 1,800 have access via philanthropic programmes. In addition to that 8,206 libraries have access to embargoed content (articles that are at least one year old) via EBSCO databases.



**Figure 3.** Author pages by affiliation of the author(s), volume 79–88, 2000–2009

#### 4. Editorial operations statistics

To accommodate the publication of accepted papers from the increasing number of submissions, the page size is 25% larger since 2008 and in 2009 also the number of pages increased till 900 per volume. More pages were necessary to meet the editorial goal to publish papers within one year after acceptance. Furthermore, since the third issue of volume 86 (2007) articles are published online in the Early View section of Papers in Regional Science on the Wiley Online library website. In 2009 Papers in Regional Science published the first 'Virtual Issue' which was devoted to the impact of 2008 Nobel Prize Winner Paul Krugman's new trade theory (NTT) and new economic geography (NEG) on regional science. A Virtual Issue consists of an introduction followed by a selection of recently published papers from past volumes of Papers in Regional Science, in this case NEG-related articles. The introductory article 'Krugman's Papers in Regional Science: The 100 dollar bill on the sidewalk is gone and the 2008

Nobel Prize well-deserved’ was also published as a regular article in Issue 2 of volume 88 (Behrens and Robert-Nicoud, 2009). Virtual Issues start with a topical review that relates ideas from manuscripts previously published by Papers in Regional Science over the years to produce an online-only issue that brings together themed material for scholars and students. The Editorial Team welcomes proposals for future Virtual Issues dealing with topics that would be of interest to our readers.

Tables 1–3 present an overview of the number of submissions and rejection rates, manuscript processing, and the geographic distribution of peer reviewers for the period 2000–2009, respectively. The number of submissions over the years shows a rather erratic distribution, although it is evident that the number of submissions exhibits a positive trend. In 2007 the number of submissions increased sharply to 144 submitted manuscripts in total. This is partly due to the fact that papers for the two special issues of 2008 and 2009 were all submitted in 2007. In 2008 the number of submissions decreased because there were no submissions for a special issue and in 2009 the number of submissions increased again partly due to the fact that papers for the two special issues of 2010 and 2011 were nearly all submitted in 2009. In 2010 the number of submissions will decrease because there will be submissions only for one special issue. At October 16, 2010 already 125 submissions were received. The last three years the acceptance rate decreased to less than 30%. Of all manuscripts submitted in 2008, until now (per October 16, 2010) 24% have been accepted for publication. 76% have been rejected, including 6 papers that have been withdrawn or of which the authors decided not to submit a revision. Still pending are 2 manuscripts. Of the papers submitted in 2009 that are not pending anymore 29% was accepted and 71% rejected including 3 papers that have been withdrawn or of which the authors decided not to submit a revision. Still pending are 28 manuscripts.

**Table 1.** Number of submissions and rejection rates

Cohort	Submissions	Acceptance rate	Rejection rate	Pending manuscripts
2000	63	0.46	0.54	
2001	49	0.40	0.60	
2002	79	0.39	0.61	
2003	63	0.35	0.65	
2004	88	0.37	0.63	
2005	71	0.36	0.64	
2006	80	0.38	0.62	
2007	144	0.27	0.73	
2008	107	0.24	0.76	2
<b>2009</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.71</b>	<b>28</b>

An important goal of the new Editorial Team and also a performance target agreed with the RSAI Council was the reduction of the time period between submission and first-decision till on average four months and on revisions within three months. Table 2 shows that the average duration of manuscript handling time to first decision for the manuscripts submitted in 2007 was almost halved to just over three months and in 2008 decreased till 2.5 months and now in 2009 slightly increased till three months. The time period between the submission of a revision and the second decision was in 2007 more than halved and is now in 2009 just over two months. Therefore, the performance target with regard to the turnaround time is achieved for the first three year term of the Editorial Team.

Another performance target agreed between the Editorial Team and the RSAI-Council is that accepted papers are published in the Early View section of Papers in Regional Science on the Wiley Online library website within six months after acceptance and within one year for the printed issue. The figures in Table 2 clearly show that the time period between the final decision of acceptance of a manuscript and publication in print has been further reduced and is now in 2009 on average just over six months. For the 2007 cohort the articles became available online on average 7.4 months after acceptance and for the articles from the 2008 cohort this decreased till 5.6 months and now in 2009 articles become available online on average 3.4 months after acceptance! Therefore, also these targets are achieved.

**Table 2.** Manuscript processing in months

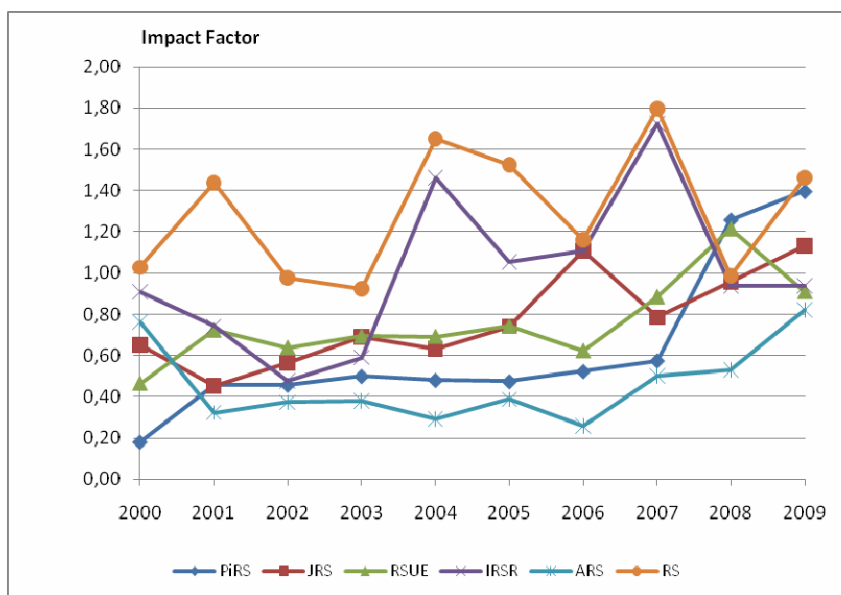
Cohort	First decision	Second decision	Third decision	Final decision to Early View access	Final decision to publication in print
2000	4.3	2.9	2.3	—	9.5
2001	4.3	2.9	0.8	—	7.9
2002	5.2	3.5	1.0	—	8.0
2003	6.1	3.9	1.0	—	9.2
2004	5.6	3.3	1.5	—	9.0
2005	6.1	2.9	—	—	12.8
2006	5.4	4.9	—	9.0	11.9
2007	3.1	2.4	1.0	7.4	11.4
2008	2.5	2.3	1.0	5.6	10.2
<b>2009</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>6.1</b>

In 2009 325 reviewers together delivered 489 reviews. It is standard policy of the editors to strive for a minimum of two and preferably three reviewers per manuscript. From table 3 it is clear that the geographic distribution of peer reviewers in 2007, 2008 and 2009 shows a development towards a greater involvement of European reviewers at the expense of American reviewers. The distribution of the reviewers is in line with the published author pages for 2009 as shown in Figure 1.

**Table 3.** Number of reviewers and proportion of reviewers by supra region

Year	Reviewers	ERSA	Americas	PRSCO
2000	205	0.32	0.54	0.14
2001	158	0.40	0.48	0.12
2002	194	0.38	0.44	0.18
2003	186	0.34	0.53	0.13
2004	192	0.39	0.50	0.11
2005	192	0.38	0.31	0.32
2006	181	0.40	0.52	0.08
2007	213	0.58	0.32	0.10
2008	230	0.56	0.34	0.10
<b>2009</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>0.13</b>

Figure 4 gives an overview of the Citation Impact Factor<sup>1</sup> for various regional science journals during the period 2000–2009. The Impact Factor for 2008 more than doubled compared to 2007 and now for 2009 it increased till 1.397. We conclude that the goal of the Editorial Team and target agreed with the RSAI Council to increase the Impact Factor to 1 is already achieved in 2008 and continued for 2009. PiRS is now the regional science journal with the highest Impact Factor together with Regional Studies (RS). International Regional Science Review (IRSR), Regional Science and Urban Economics (RSUE) and Annals of Regional Science (ARS) formed in 2009 a cluster of journals with an Impact Factor around 0.8, while Journal of Regional Science (JRS) is in an intermediate position with an Impact Factor just above 1. We expect that the Impact Factor of PiRS for 2010 will slightly decrease due to the factor that in 2009 the page budget increased till 900. This causes a higher denominator for the Impact Factor of 2010 while the number of citations for this additional number of papers is usually low in the first year of publication.



**Figure 4.** Citation Impact Factor for various regional science journals, 2000–2009

Since 2009 ISI publishes also a 5-Year-Impact Factor<sup>2</sup>. The advantage of the 5-Year-Impact-Factor is that citations to articles published in the last 5 years instead of only the last 2 years are counted. This 5-Year Impact Factor is particularly important for social sciences where in contrast to hard and medical science the number of citations continues to be high for a period of five year and the peaks of citation to articles is very often more than two years after publication. Furthermore, this measure is less sensitive to outliers caused by a highly cited article in a particular year. Figure 5 gives the 5-year Impact Factor for 2008 and 2009 for the same group of journals as in Figure 4. The 5-Year Impact Factor for PiRS in 2009 is 1.767 and this is just as in 2008 higher than the traditional 2-Year-Impact Factor for 2009 and certainly higher than the average Impact Factor of recent years. This makes clear that articles

<sup>1</sup> The Impact Factor for 2009 is defined as cites in 2009 to articles published in 2007 and 2008 divided by the number of articles published in 2007 and 2008.

<sup>2</sup> The 5-year Impact Factor for 2009 is defined as cites in 2009 to articles published in the period 2004 and 2008 divided by the number of articles published in the period 2004 and 2008.

published in PiRS are more cited after two years than in the first two years after publication. The 5-year Impact Factor for PiRS is in an intermediate position, slightly higher than Journal of Regional Science (JRS) and Regional Science and Urban Economics (RSUE) and a bit lower than International Regional Science Review, while Regional Studies (RS) shows a much higher score above 2 and Annals of Regional Science much lower with less than 1.

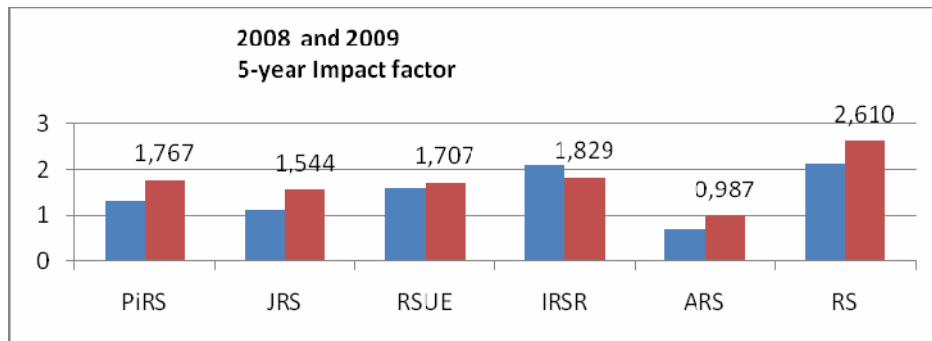


Figure 5. Citation 5-year Impact Factor for various regional science journals in 2008 and 2009

## 5. Editorial policy

Since 2007 all papers submitted to *Papers in Regional Science* were handled via the internet based online submission system of Scholar One. This system proved to be much more efficient and since 2007 the time period from submission to the first decision has declined from 5.4 months for the 2006 cohort to 2.5 - 3.0 months in the later years. The time for a decision on a revised manuscript has been halved till just over two months in later years. Our goal is to keep the turnaround time from submission to first decision close to the present level around three months, which is quicker than the target of four months agreed with the RSAI council.

An increase of the Impact Factor close to the value of 1 was an important goal of the Editorial Team and also a target agreed with the RSAI-Council. In 2008 this goal is realised with an Impact Factor of 1.259 and continued in 2009 with 1.397. The special issues in 2007 and 2008 contributed for 51% to the citations in 2009. We expect that the Impact Factor of 2010 will slightly decrease due to the new page budget of 900 pages. As in the past, we expect high numbers of citations of the articles published in the special issues of 2008 'New spatial econometric techniques and applications in regional science' edited by Giuseppe Arbia and Bernard Fingleton and the special issue 'Spatial analysis of economic systems and land use change' for 2009 edited by Antonio Páez. Also the publication of accepted papers in Early View before they are published in print will help to maintain the Impact Factor of Papers in Regional Science above 1.

A new feature for Papers in Regional Science is the publication of virtual special issues. The first Virtual Issue of Papers in Regional Science was published in 2009 and is devoted to the impact on the field of Regional Science of 2008 Nobel Prize Winner Paul Krugman's new trade theory (NTT) and new economic geography (NEG).

The Martin Beckmann prize for the best article published in *Papers in Regional Science* has been established to promote the visibility of the journal. In 2009 the prize is awarded to Thomas Scherngell and Michael J. Barber for their article 'Spatial interaction modelling of cross-region R&D collaborations: empirical evidence from the 5th EU framework programme' published in August 2009, Volume 88, Issue 3, p.531-546.

All four issues of volume 89 (2010) have already been published in Early View. Issue #2 is a special issue on 'Knowledge spillover agents and regional development' edited by Michaela Trippel and Gunther Maier of the Institute for the Environment and Regional Development, Vienna University of Economics and Business in Vienna, Austria.

All the articles of volume 90 (2010) issue #1, are already available on the Early View part of Wiley online library website and will be printed and distributed in March 2011. Issue #2 of volume 90 is planned to be a special issue on 'Mechanisms, developments and policy in regional innovation systems and clusters' prepared by guest-editors Thomas Brenner (Philipps University Marburg, department of Economic Geography and Location Research, Marburg, Germany) and Martina Fromhold-Eisebith (RWTH Aachen University, department of Geography, Aachen, Germany). In 2012 there will be a special issue on 'Productivity and financing of regional infrastructure' prepared by guest editors Andreas Stephan (Jönköping International Business School, depart of Economics, Jönköping, Sweden), Albert Solé Ollé (IEB Barcelona, Spain) and Timo Valilä (EIB Luxembourg, Luxembourg) based on papers on the topic of this year's ERSA summer school. In 2013 a special issue with the theme 'Regional economic and labour market policies: Concepts, results and challenges' will be guest edited by Uwe Blien (University of Bamberg, Institute of Employment Research (IAB), Nürnberg, Germany).

In concluding this report, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Sophia Klaassen for preparing materials for this Editorial Report as well as her outstanding work managing Scholar One submission and review management system and for customizing the system to suit the needs of the Editorial Team. In this respect, we appreciate the support from Wiley provided by Kirsten Burrell, Sharon Low, Helen Ashton, Emma Smith, Wil Stobbart and Rhiannon Rees, which was instrumental in achieving the improvements in the performance of PiRS during the last three years.

Finally, I would like to thank all authors and reviewers for their cooperation. Submission by authors of their best work to Papers in Regional Science and timely responses from reviewers allows the editors to provide both timely and informed feedback to authors. This should result in scholarly contributions of high quality articles about a broad variety of topics in regional science and from wide geographical spread of authors that will enhance the further development and success of Papers in Regional Science as the flagship journal of RSAI.

We are looking forward to your comments and suggestions, and hope to see you at the Editorial Board Meeting in Denver.

Jouke van Dijk

Editor-in-chief *Papers in Regional Science*

also on behalf of the other members of the Editorial Team Philip McCann, James P. LeSage, Takatoshi Tabuchi, Yoshitsugu Hayashi and Charlie Karlsson.

Groningen, The Netherlands

October, 2010