

Editorial Report 2010

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), Takatoshi Tabuchi (University of Tokyo, Japan, since 2009), Yoshitsugu Hayashi (Nagoya University, Japan, since 2009) and Jouke van Dijk (University of Groningen, The Netherlands as Editor-in-Chief since 2007 and Editor since 2005). Terms of the current Editorial Team ends in December 2012. 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. The Editorial Team consists also of Charlie Karlsson (Jönköping International Business School, Sweden, since 2007) the book review editor. Sophia Klaassen takes care of the Editorial Office. This annual report provides information about the progress Papers in Regional Science made in 2010.

2. Editorial Board

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. By January 2009 fourteen members of the Editorial Board were replaced by fifteen new members. By December 2010 ten members were replaced by eleven new members.

On January 2011 the Editorial Board comprises the following 49 members:

Maria Abreu	University of Groningen	The Netherlands
Olga Alonso-Villar	Universidade de Vigo	Spain
Luc Anselin	Arizona State University	USA
Giuseppe Arbia	University "G. d'Annunzio" of Chieti	Italy
Kristian Behrens	UQAM	Canada
Marcus Berliant	Washington University	USA
Eckhardt Bode	Kiel Institute for the World Economy	Germany
Michael C. Carroll	Bowling Green State University U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	USA
John I. Carruthers	Development	USA
Henri de Groot	Vrije Universiteit	The Netherlands
Juan Carlos Duque	EAFIT University	Colombia
Gilles Durantou	University of Toronto	Canada
J. Paul Elhorst	University of Groningen	The Netherlands
Alessandra Faggian	University of Southampton	UK

Manfred M. Fischer	Vienna University of Economics and Business	Austria
Raymond J.G.M. Florax	Purdue University	USA
Masahisa Fujita	Kyoto University	Japan
Harry Garretsen	University of Groningen	The Netherlands
Yoshiro Higano	University of Tsukuba	Japan
Hubert Jayet	University of Lille 1	France
Aki Kangasharju	Government Institute for Economic Research	Finland
Kara M. Kockelman	University of Texas at Austin	USA
Janet Kohlhase	University of Houston	USA
Jun Koo	Korea University	South Korea
Tatsuaki Kuroda	University of Nagoya	Japan
Don Lacombe	West Virginia University	USA
Michael L. Lahr	Rutgers University	USA
Julie Le Gallo	Université de Franche-Comté	France
Carlos Llano	Universidad Autónoma de Madrid	Spain
Paul Longley	University College London	UK
Enrique López-Bazo	University of Barcelona	Spain
Chao-Cheng Mai	Academia Sinica	Taiwan
Toshihiro Matsumura	The University of Tokyo	Japan
Yasusada Murata	Nihon University	Japan
Jan Oosterhaven	University of Groningen	The Netherlands
Olivier Parent	University of Cincinnati	USA
Sam Ock Park	Seoul National University	South Korea
Pierre Picard	University of Luxembourg	Luxembourg
Jacques Poot	University of Waikato	New Zealand
John M. Quigley	University of California	USA
Andrés Rodríguez-Pose	London School of Economics	UK
Yasuhiro Sato	Osaka University	Japan
Tony E. Smith	University of Pennsylvania	USA
Jean-Claude Thill	University of North Carolina – Charlotte	USA
Jacques Thisse	CORE	Belgium
A.J. Venables	University of Oxford	UK
Erik T. Verhoef	VU University Amsterdam	The Netherlands
Brigitte Waldorf	Purdue University	USA
Xiao-Ping 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 2010 European authors contributed for over 76% of the author pages and authors from the Americas increased to almost 17%. The contributions from the Pacific decreased to less than 6%.

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 Americas and the Pacific were under-represented in 2010. The geographical distribution of authorship is not an explicit editorial goal, as publication decisions are based on scientific merit and quality considerations alone.

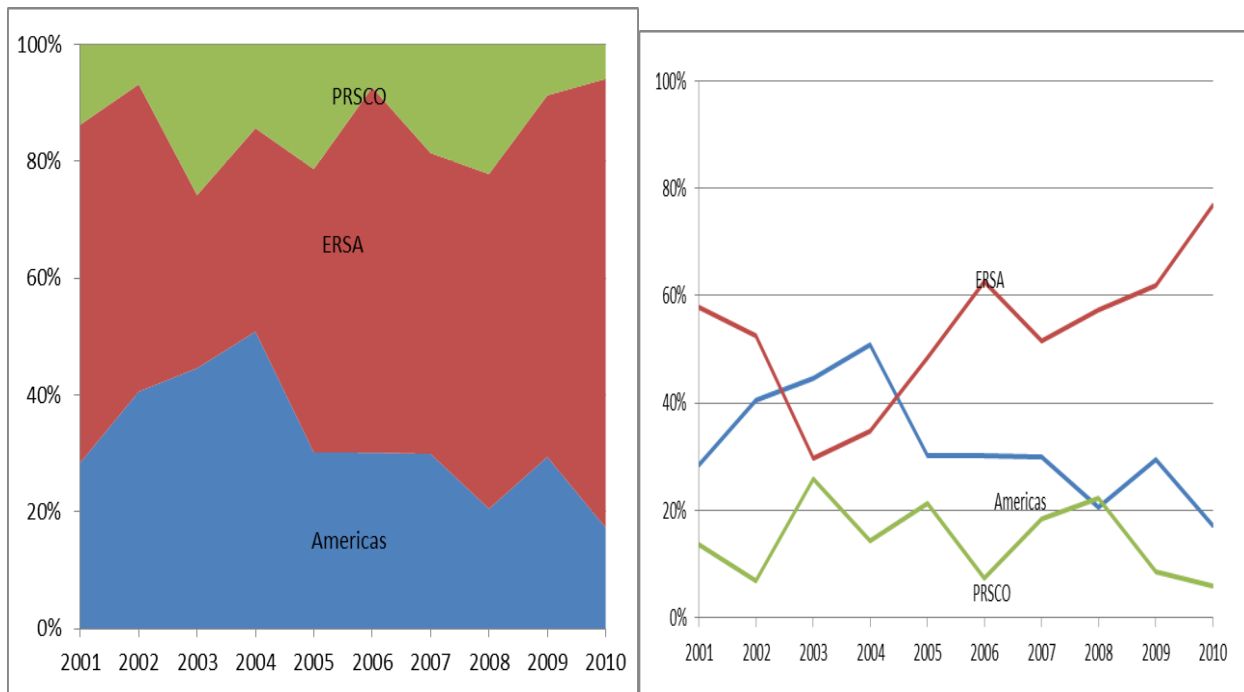


Figure 1. Geographic distribution of authors in author pages (% per year and proportion), vol. 80–89, 2001–2010

Figure 2 shows the development of the number of submissions over time. In 2010, the total number of submissions decreased as a result of fewer submissions from European based authors. The journal received 103 submissions from Europe, 28 from the Americas, and 32 from the Pacific, totalling 163 submissions. For the book review section, the geographic distribution of book reviewers in 2010 is such that 75% of the reviewers are from Europe and 25% from the America's. The total number of book reviews published in 2010 equalled 12.

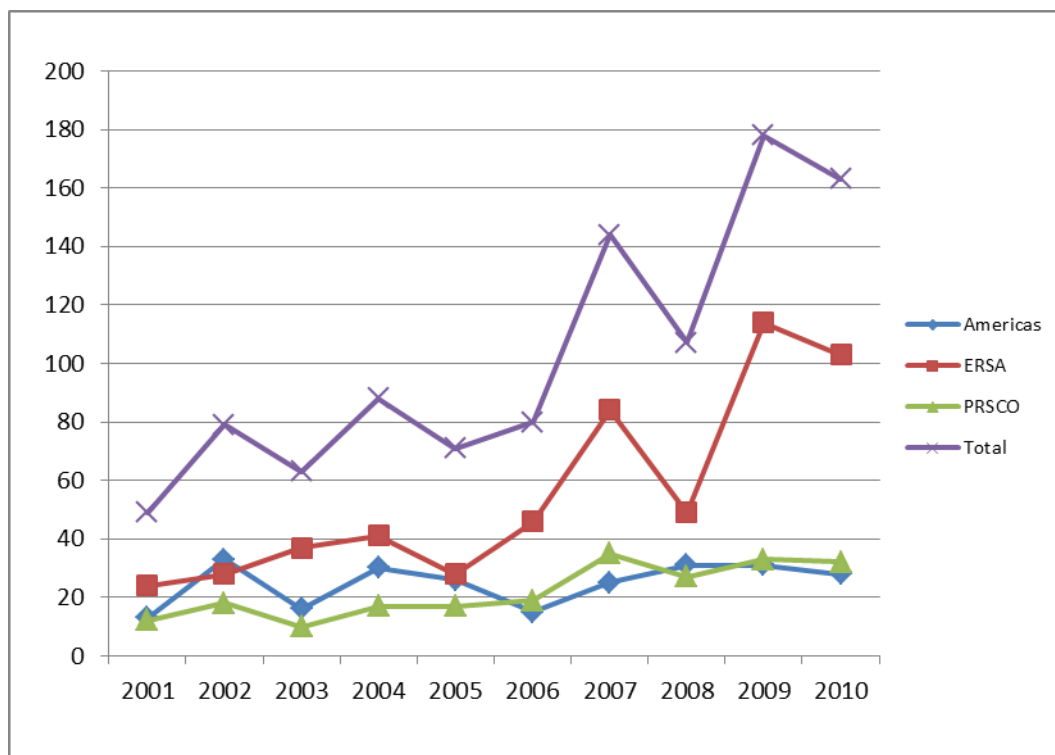


Figure 2. Geographically detailed number of submissions, 2001–2010

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 69% of the total number of author pages in 2010. The number of pages of contributions from Geography & Planning increased in 2010 to almost 21%.

At the end of 2010, there were 3,754 RSAI members receiving Papers in Regional Science (and Regional Science Policy & Practice), a decrease of -7% compared to 4,038 members at the end of 2009. In 2010 more than 3,400 libraries offered access to Papers in Regional Science either through a traditional subscription or via the Blackwell sales programme to consortia libraries. Another 2,200 have access via philanthropic programmes. In addition to that 2,200 libraries have access to embargoed content (articles that are at least one year old) via EBSCO databases.

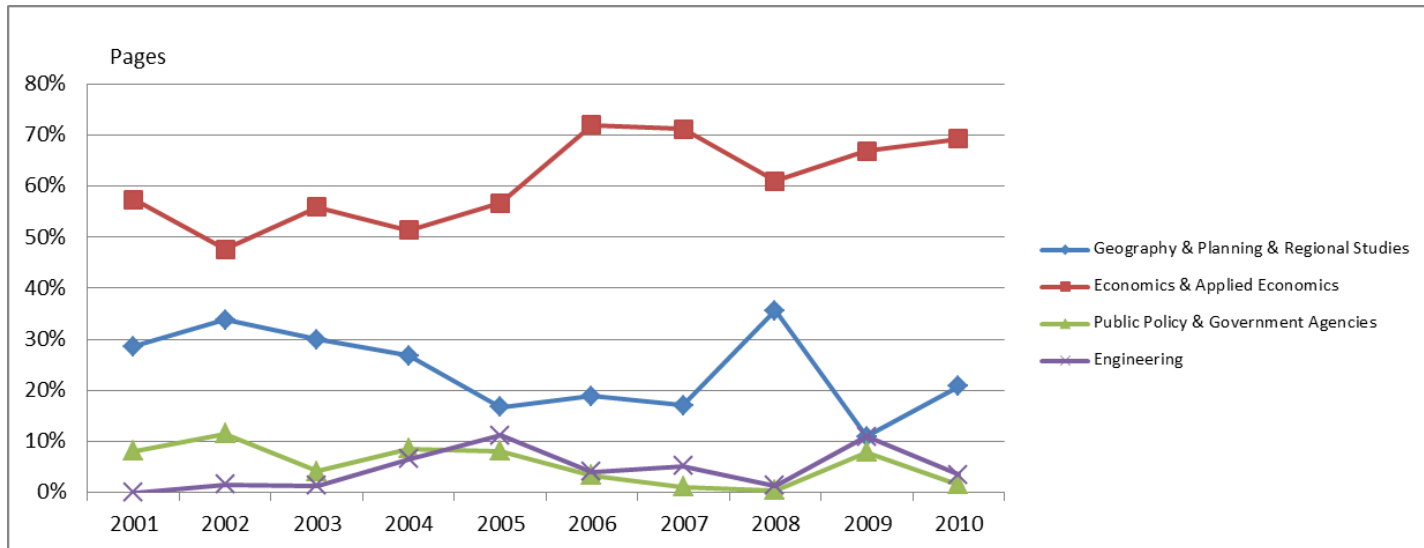
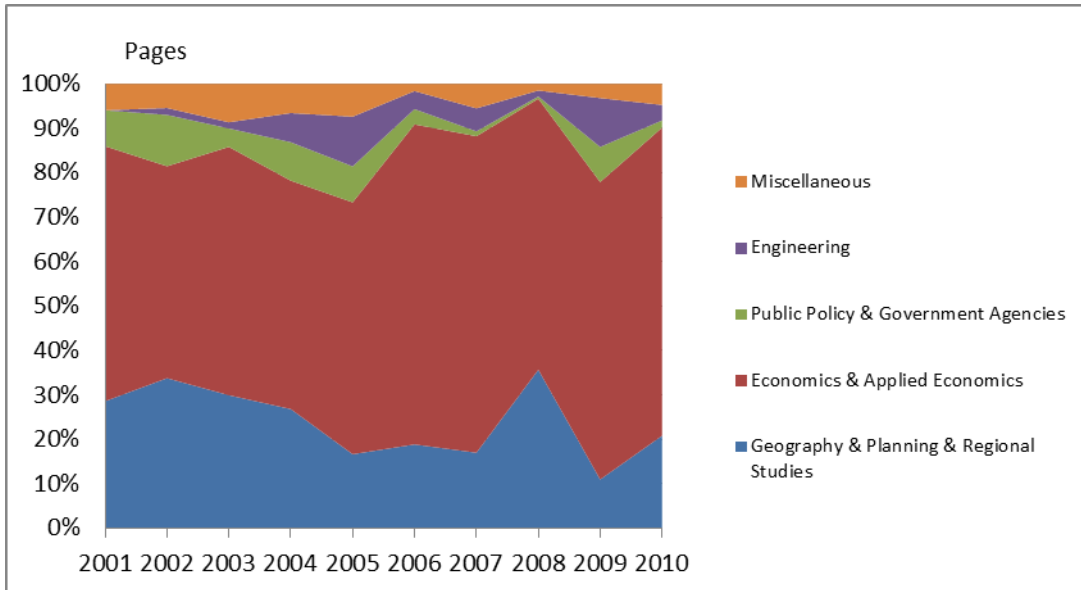


Figure 3. Author pages by affiliation of the author(s), volume 80–89, 2001–2010

4. Editorial operations statistics

To accommodate the publication of accepted papers from the increasing number of submissions the number of pages increased till 900 per volume in 2009. 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.

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 2001–2010, 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 decreased because there were only submissions for one special issue. At October 20, 2011 already 138 submissions were received, so in 2011 we probably will receive around 170 submissions. The last four years the acceptance rate is about 30%. Of the papers submitted in 2009 that are not pending anymore, 34% was accepted and 66% rejected. Still pending are 4 manuscripts. And of the papers submitted in 2010 that are not pending anymore, 29% was accepted and 71% rejected. Still pending are 21 manuscripts.

Table 1. Number of submissions and rejection rates

Cohort	Submissions	Acceptance rate	Rejection rate	Pending manuscripts
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	108	0.23	0.77	
2009	178	0.34	0.66	4
2010	163	0.29	0.71	21

An important goal of the Editorial Team and also a performance target agreed with the RSAI council is the reduction of the time period between submission date and first-decision date to on average four months and for revisions 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 continuous to be around this level in all subsequent years. The time period between the submission of a revision and the second decision was in 2007 more than halved and is now in 2010 just over two months. Therefore, the performance targets with regard to the turnaround time are achieved for four year in a row.

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. Since 2006 the articles the time between acceptance and publication in the Early View section continuously decreased and now in 2010 articles become available online on average 1.8 months after acceptance! The figures in Table 2 clearly show that also the time period between the final decision of acceptance of a manuscript and publication in print has been further reduced and is now in 2010 on average just above six months. Therefore, also these targets are achieved.

Table 2. Manuscript processing in months

Cohort	First decision	Second decision	Third decision	Final decision of acceptance to Early View	Final decision to publication in print
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	2.5	1.0	7.4	11.4
2008	2.5	2.3	1.3	5.6	10.4
2009	3.0	2.5	1.2	2.9	8.3
2010	3.2	2.3	0.8	1.8	6.3

In 2010 in total 332 reviewers delivered 479 reviews. It is standard policy of the editors to strive for a decision based on a minimum of two and preferably three reviewers per manuscript. From Table 3 it is clear that the geographic distribution of peer reviewers over the period 2007 - 2010 shows a greater involvement of European reviewers at the expense of American reviewers. The distribution of the reviewers is by and large in line with the published author pages for 2010 as shown in Figure 1.

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

Year	Reviewers	ERSA	Americas	PRSCO
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
2009	325	0.62	0.25	0.13
2010	332	0.61	0.23	0.15

Figure 4 gives an overview of the Citation Impact Factor¹ for selected regional science journals during the period 2001–2010. The Impact Factor for 2008 more than doubled compared to 2007 and for 2009 it increased to 1.397. For 2010 the Impact Factor slightly decreased to 1.236 due to the factor that in 2009 the page budget increased to 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

¹ The Impact Factor for 2010 is defined as cites in 2010 to articles published in 2008 and 2009 divided by the number of articles published in 2008 and 2009.

publication. We conclude that the goal of the Editorial Team and target agreed with the RSAI council to increase the Impact Factor to 1 is achieved in 2008 and continued for 2009 and 2010. PiRS is now the regional science journal with the highest Impact Factor together with Regional Studies (RS). Journal of Regional Science (JRS), Regional Science and Urban Economics (RSUE) and Annals of Regional Science (ARS) formed in 2010 a cluster of journals with an Impact Factor around 1.0, while Journal of Regional Science (JRS) is in an intermediate position with an Impact Factor just above 1. Annals of Regional Science (ARS) shows a spectacular increase since 2006 while the Impact Factor of International Regional Science Review (IRSR) decreased substantially since 2007. We expect that the Impact Factor of PiRS will reach a new peak value in 2011 also because the page budget increase in 2009 to 900 has no longer a negative effect on the value of the Impact Factor like in 2010.

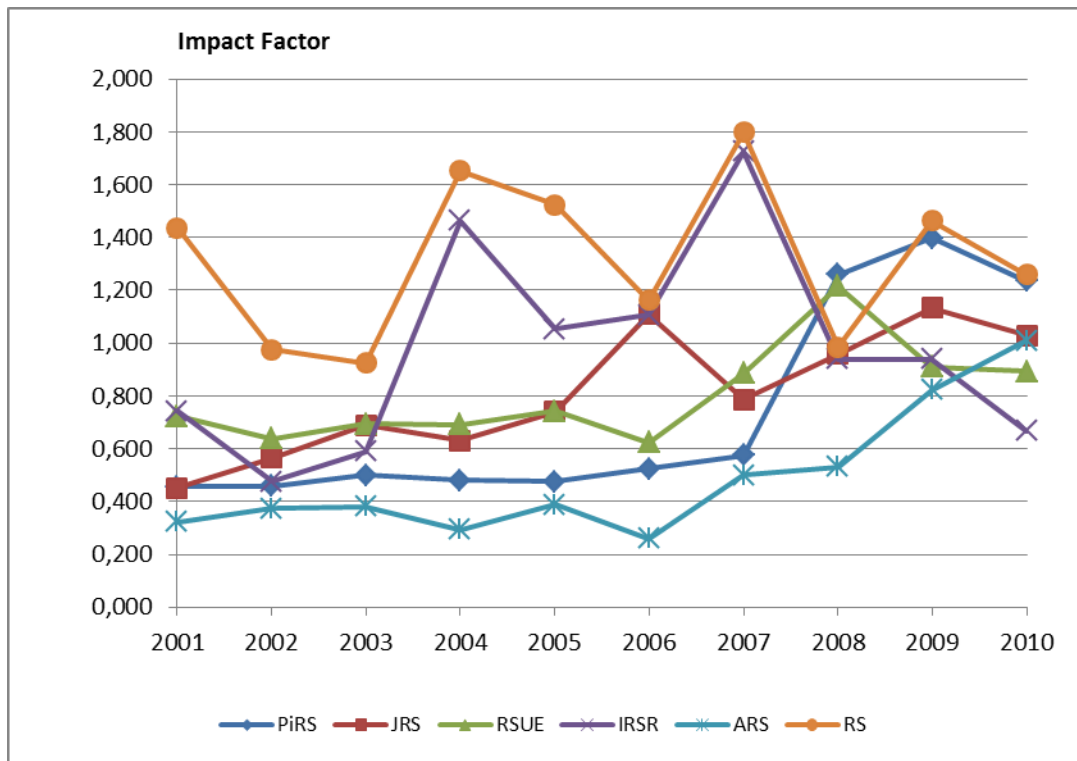


Figure 4. Citation Impact Factor for various regional science journals, 2001–2010

Since 2009 ISI publishes also a 5-Year-Impact-Factor². The advantage of the 5-Year-Impact-Factor is that citations to articles published in the last 5 year are counted, instead of only for the last 2 year. This 5-Year Impact Factor is particularly important for social sciences where in contrast to hard and medical sciences 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 year after publication. Furthermore, this measure is less sensitive to outliers caused by a highly cited article in one particular year. Figure 5 gives the 5-year Impact Factor for 2008, 2009 and 2010 for the same group of journals as in Figure 4. The 5-Year Impact Factor for PiRS in 2010 is 1.638 and this is just as in 2009 higher than the traditional 2-Year-Impact Factor for 2010 and certainly higher than the average Impact Factor of recent years. This makes clear

² The 5-year Impact Factor for 2010 is defined as cites in 2010 to articles published in the period 2005 to 2009 divided by the number of articles published in the period 2005 to 2009.

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

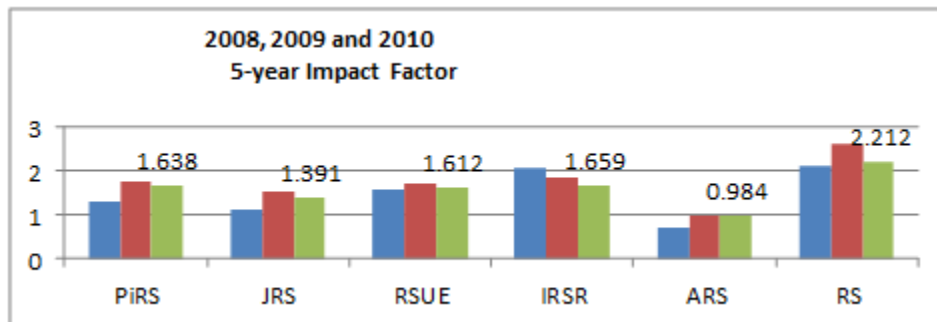


Figure 5. Citation 5-year Impact Factor for various regional science journals in 2008, 2009 and 2010

5. Editorial policy

All papers submitted to *Papers in Regional Science* are handled via the internet based online submission system of Scholar One. This system proved to be very efficient and helps to keep the turnaround time from submission to first decision 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 and in 2010 with 1.236. The special issues in 2008 and 2009 contributed for 23% to the citations in 2010. We expect that the Impact Factor of PiRS for 2011 will increase to a new peak value, also because the page budget increase to 900 in 2009 has no longer a negative effect on the Impact Factor like in 2010.

As in the past, we expect high numbers of citations of the articles published in the special issues of 2009 'Spatial analysis of economic systems and land use change' edited by Antonio Páez and the special issue 'Knowledge spillover agents and regional development' of 2010 edited by Michaela Trippel and Gunther Maier. Also the timely 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.

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 2010 the prize is awarded to Maarten Bosker and Harry Garretsen for their article 'Trade costs in empirical New Economic Geography' published in August 2010, Volume 89, Issue 3, 485-511 and to Akihiro Otsuka, Mika Goto and Toshiyuki Sueyoshi for their article 'Industrial agglomeration effects in Japan: Productive efficiency, market access, and public fiscal transfer' published in November 2010, Volume 89, Issue 4, 819-840.

All four issues of volume 90 (2011) have already been published in Early View. Issue #2 is a special issue on 'Regional innovation systems, clusters, and knowledge networking' edited by Thomas Brenner, Uwe Cantner, Dirk Fornahl, Martina Fromhold-Eisebith and Claudia Werker of the Philipps-Universität Marburg, the Friedrich Schiller University, the University of Southern Denmark, the University of Bremen, the Aachen University and the Delft University of Technology.

All the articles of volume 91 (2012) issue #1, are already available on the Early View part of Wiley online library website and will be printed and distributed in March 2012. Issue #2 of volume 91 is planned to be a special issue on 'Productivity and financing of regional infrastructure' prepared by guest-editors Andreas Stephan (Department of Economics, University of Jönköping) Albert Solé Ollé (Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Barcelona) and Timo Vällilä (European Investment Bank Luxembourg) based on papers presented on this topic at the 2010 ERSA summer school. In 2013 there will be a special issue on 'Regional economic and labour market policies: Concepts, results and challenges' prepared by guest-editor Uwe Blien and Stefan Fuchs (University of Bamberg, Institute of Employment Research (IAB), Nürnberg, Germany) and Georg Hirte (Dresden University of Technology, Institute for Transport & Economics, Dresden, 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 supporting the Editors in their work. In this respect, we appreciate the support from Wiley provided by Sharon Low, Helen Ashton, Rachel Smith, Wil Stobbart, Rhiannon Rees and Tom Pater which was instrumental in achieving the improvements in the performance of Papers in Regional Science.

Finally, I would like to thank all authors and reviewers for their cooperation and the members of the Editorial Board for their continuous support. 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 results 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.

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, 2011