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Recent progress in the development of the Journal of Business Economics

Wolfgang Breuer¹ · Philipp Schreck²

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1 Changes in the editorial boards

Last year, several important changes took place in the editorial boards of the Journal of Business Economics. First and foremost, after more than two decades of serving as an editor-in-chief of our journal and shortly after his 81st birthday, *Günter Fandel* retired. The publisher and all the other editors would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to him for his enduring commitment to our journal! *Philipp Schreck* (Business Ethics, Corporate Social Responsibility, Sustainability) has been appointed as the new editor-in-chief alongside *Wolfgang Breuer* (Banking, Finance, Insurance). Additionally, several department editors requested to step down from their positions. We are very grateful to *Jannis Bischof* (Financial Accounting), once again to *Günter Fandel* (Production, Logistics, Supply Chain Management), *Jochen Hundsdoerfer* (Business Taxation), and *Peter Witt* (Entrepreneurship, Technology and Innovation Management) for their ongoing support of our journal. We are delighted to welcome *Julia Kensbock* (Entrepreneurship, Technology and Innovation Management), *Kerstin Lopatta* (Financial Accounting, Sustainability Reporting), *Martin Overesch* (Business Taxation), and *Thomas Volling* (Production, Logistics, Supply Chain Management) as their successors!

2 Editorial status report

In 2024 there were 398 manuscripts submitted; 340 were finally decided.

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During the peer review process, submitted manuscripts go through one or more revision stages leading up to acceptance or rejection. Figure 1 summarizes the activity for the journal office between January 1st and December 31st of the last five years. The rejection rate for a year is calculated as the number of rejected manuscripts in this year compared to the total number of decisions in this year, which is defined here as the number of rejected manuscripts plus the number of accepted manuscripts.

3 Downloads in 2014–2024

Downloads of full-text articles are a very good indicator of the scientific community's interest in the journal and its content. They reflect both the relevance of the topics covered and the quality of the articles. As shown in Fig. 2, the number of downloads has increased significantly over time—from around 70,000 in 2014 to 506,318 in 2024, more than a sevenfold rise. Although there was a slight decline compared to 2023, the 2024 figure still represents the second-highest value ever recorded. Some of this sustained growth can be attributed to the greater availability of articles via open access.

In addition, Table 1 provides information on which articles published in the years 2022–2024 were downloaded most frequently in 2024.

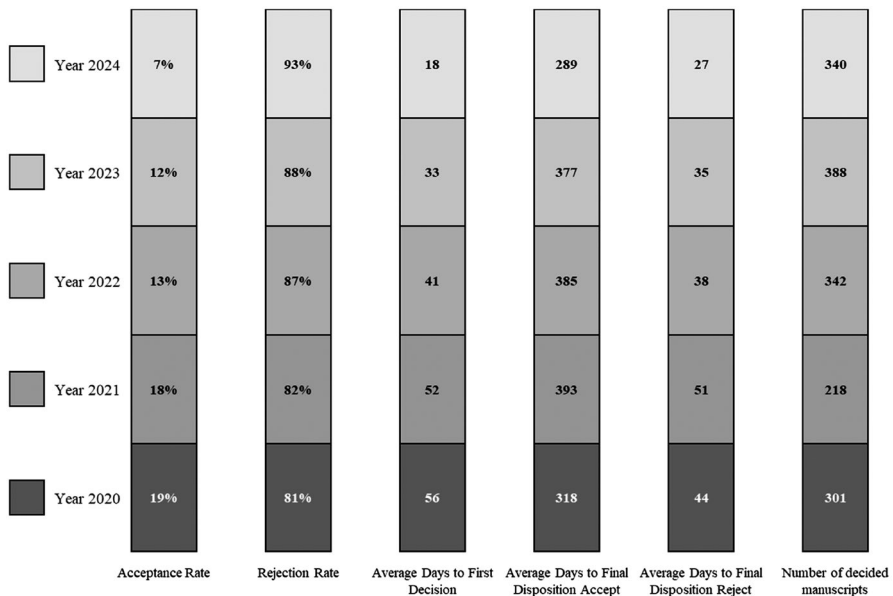


Fig. 1 Editorial status summary 2020–2024

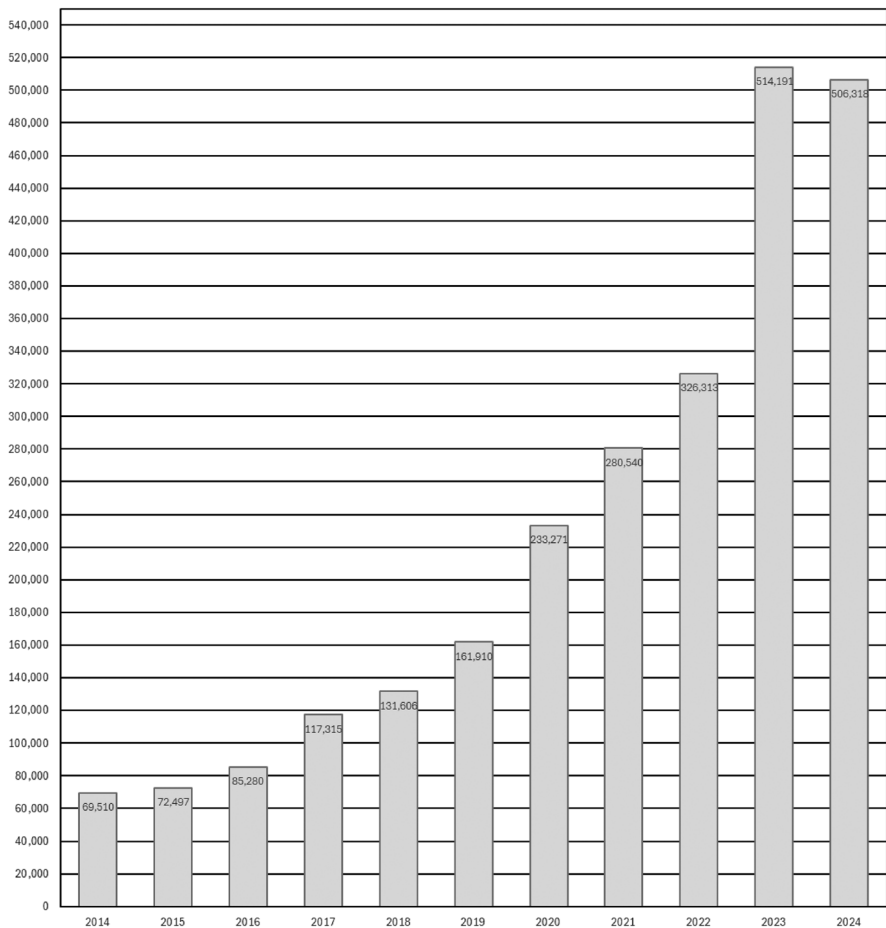


Fig. 2 Successful full-text article downloads in 2014–2024

4 Scores, indices and impacts

- Coverage in abstracting & indexing (A&I) services

ABS Academic Journal Quality Guide; ANVUR; BFI List; Baidu; CLOCKSS; CNKI; CNPIEC; Dimensions; EBSCO; EconLit; Google Scholar; Japanese Science and Technology Agency (JST); Naver; Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals and Series; OCLC WorldCat Discovery Service; Portico; ProQuest; Research Papers in Economics (RePEc); SCImago; SCOPUS; TD Net Discovery Service; UGC-CARE List (India); Wanfang

- h5 Index 2023: 32
- Scopus CiteScore 2023: 4.5

Table 1 Articles published 2022–2024; top 10 full-text article requests 2024

Title	Authors	Volume	Issue	Year	Article requests 2024
Financial sustainability: measurement and empirical evidence	Werner Gleißner, Thomas Günther, Christian Walkhäusl	92	3	2022	24,657
Stakeholder roles in sustainable supply chain management: a literature review	Erik Siems, Stefan Seuring, Lara Schilling	93	4	2023	12,378
Supply chain finance for ameliorating and deteriorating products: a systematic literature review	Beatrice Marchi, Lucio E. Zavanella, Simone Zanoni	93	3	2023	5726
Value creation in post-pandemic retailing: a conceptual framework and implications	Monika Innschloß, Martin Schwemmler	94	6	2024	5719
Monitoring experts: insights from the introduction of video assistant referee (VAR) in elite football	Ulrike Holder, Thomas Ehrmann, Arne König	92	2	2022	4788
SME research: SMEs' internationalization and collaborative innovation as two central topics in the field	David B. Audretsch, Christina Guenther	93	6–7	2023	4722
The influence of values in sustainable consumption among millennials	Andreas Falke, Nadine Schröder, Claudia Hofmann	92	6	2022	4649
How to prevent technostress at the digital workplace: a Delphi study	Michelle Berger et al	94	7–8	2024	4385
Recent trends in the digitalization of finance and accounting	Wolfgang Breuer, Andreas Knetsch	93	9	2023	4210
The role of sustainable corporate governance in mandatory sustainability reporting quality	Tobias Gerwing, Peter Kajüter, Maximilian Wirth	92	3	2022	4193

- Scimago Journal Rank (SJR) 2023: Quartile 2
- Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP) 2023: 1.082

5 Best Paper Award 2024

By decision of the editors of the Journal of Business Economics *Monika Imschloß* and *Martin Schwemmlé* receive the Best Paper Award 2024 for their contribution “Value creation in post-pandemic retailing: a conceptual framework and implications”, printed version in issue 6, August 2024. With this award, the editors wish to recognize a publication of outstanding quality and extend their sincere congratulations to the authors. Their article vividly demonstrates the long-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on consumer behavior. The authors connect a variety of different strands of literature to address various aspects such as sustainable consumption and digitalization. The breadth of content is remarkable, especially for a conceptual article. Till mid-April this year, the article has been downloaded over 7700 times, which documents the widespread interest in this piece and makes it #1 among all articles published in the Journal of Business Economics in 2024.

Monika Imschloß was born in Ansbach, Germany. She earned her diploma in psychology from the University of Würzburg and went on to complete her doctoral studies in marketing at the University of Mannheim. As a junior professor of marketing and retailing at the University of Cologne, she expanded her initial research focus on multisensory marketing to include consumer behavior in the contexts of digitalization and sustainability. Her work has been published in leading international journals such as the International Journal of Research in Marketing and the Journal of Retailing. She currently serves as an Associate Editor at the Journal of Business Research.

Martin Schwemmlé was born on March 18, 1986. He holds a PhD in Business from the University of Mannheim and was a senior researcher in the Design Thinking Research Program, a collaboration between the Hasso Plattner Institute and Stanford University. His award-winning research on design, innovation, and new work has been published in leading journals such as the Journal of Marketing. Dr. Schwemmlé is the founder and CEO of The Future Company, which empowers individuals and organizations to become responsible changemakers for a better future. The company offers training, consultancy, and tools to build future skills and readiness across industries. Dr. Schwemmlé is also a keynote speaker and author of several business books, including Future Skills Navigator and Sinnovate Your Life. He teaches at the Hasso Plattner Institute in Potsdam and Leuphana University in Lüneburg. Culturally engaged, he is a jury member for the German Business Literature Prize, a baritone in a vocal ensemble, and an engaged member of the Kulturkreis der Deutschen Wirtschaft.

6 Best Reviewer Award 2024

In presenting the Best Reviewer Award, the editors and the publisher would also like to express their gratitude to all reviewers for their valuable contributions in ensuring the high quality of publications in the Journal of Business Economics. As

representatives of all reviewers from the past year, *Victor van Pelt*, *Harald Dyckhoff*, and *Benedetto Matarazzo* have been selected to receive the Best Reviewer Award 2024. The editors and the publisher cordially congratulate them on this honor.

Victor van Pelt was born in 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands, in 1988. He earned both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Tilburg University, where he later also completed the two-year Research Master program in Accounting. From September 2015 to June 2019, he pursued a Ph.D. in Accounting at Tilburg University's Department of Accountancy. During his doctoral studies, he conducted part of his research at Cornell University (2016) and Emory University (2019). Since 2019, Victor van Pelt has been an Assistant Professor of Accounting at WHU—Otto Beisheim School of Management, specializing in financial and management accounting. His research uses laboratory, online, and field experiments to answer accounting-oriented questions. Professor van Pelt has consistently provided many reviews for the Journal of Business Economics. The reviews have always been timely, critical but constructive, well grounded in the literature, and very helpful to the editorial decisions.

Harald Dyckhoff was born in 1951 in Rheine, Germany. After serving two years in the German Armed Forces, he studied mathematics and physics and then operations research at RWTH Aachen University. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the FernUniversität in Hagen in 1982, habilitated in business administration, and became a professor of operations research at the University of Essen in 1987. In 1988, he was appointed to the Chair of Industrial Management, later renamed Sustainable Production and Industrial Control, at the School of Business and Economics, RWTH Aachen University. Together with Gerhard Wäscher, he founded the Special Interest Group on Cutting and Packing in 1988 (today a EURO working group). His research focused on the decision-theoretical generalization of traditional production theory, concepts of sustainable industrial value creation based on this theory, especially in joint production, and the improvement of non-monetary evaluation methods such as Life Cycle Assessment or (ecological) efficiency measurement using Data Envelopment Analysis. Since his retirement in 2016, he continues to research and publish in these areas. As a last year's reviewer, Professor Dyckhoff contributed to a consistent improvement of the manuscript in question with his expert opinions and thus ultimately made it ready for publication. In addition to critical comments, he also provided helpful advice to the authors on the direction in which the manuscript should be revised. The basis for this was a conceptual framework that he himself proposed, in which the authors' contribution could be embedded in terms of content and methodology. The authors ultimately followed this advice.

Benedetto Matarazzo was born on March 10, 1946 in Catania, Italy. He obtained the degree (with honors) in Economics from Catania University, where he has been full professor at the Department of Economics and Business since 1986, and whose Dean and Chairman of the degree course in Corporate finance he was, and since 2017 emeritus professor. He was also a Director of the International Master in Financial Management, Scuola Superiore of Catania University, a visiting professor at Bocconi University, Milan, and a guest professor in a number of European Universities. He has been member of the scientific committee of Italian Operational

Researches and Applied Mathematics societies, and he is IEEE and IRSS Fellow. He has been the chairman of the Programme Committee of EURO XVI (Brussels, 1998), and organized the first (Catania, 1983) and the seventh (Catania, 2000) editions of the International Summer School on MCDA. His main research is in the fields of MCDA and rough sets. In 2009 he was awarded the Gold Medal of the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making, and in 2015 he received the prestigious annual Medal of Merits of the University of Technology of Poznań (Poland). In his expert opinions, Professor Matarazzo gave helpful advice to the authors on how a successful revision of their manuscript could be designed, based on his broad and deep methodological foundation. His focus was always on ensuring that the article he was reviewing was successful in publication. His critical appraisal, which was strictly oriented towards scientific progress, but at the same time patient and benevolent, deserves the highest respect. It ultimately led to the decision to publish the article.

7 Closing words

2024 was another successful year of the Journal of Business Economics. The editors and the publisher would like to conclude this editorial by expressing their heartfelt thanks to all authors, readers, and reviewers whose contributions have made this success possible. We are looking forward to the years to come!

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Declarations

Conflict of interest The authors have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose.

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