# THE ECONOMETRIC SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORTS, 1998 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

BERLIN, GERMANY AUGUST 29, 1998

## 1. Status of Membership and Circulation

THE FIRST SECTION of this report describes the evolution of the Society's membership and of the number of institutional subscribers. Information is provided on members and subscribers on both a mid-year and end-of-year basis. In each case, circulation is "real," tied to actual banked receipts of dues and subscription revenue.

The latest information available, as of June 30 of the current year and previous years, is provided in the top half of Table I. The bottom half of Table I reports the final number of paid-up members and subscribers as of the end of 1997 and previous years. For any given year prior to 1998, the figures in the bottom half of Table I are larger than in the top half, reflecting those memberships and subscriptions for a given year that are initiated between the middle of that calendar year and the middle of the following calendar year.

Averaging out year-to-year fluctuations, the circulation of *Econometrica* has remained quite stable in the 1990s. The full-year figures in the bottom half of Table I show that the average total circulation of *Econometrica* in 1995–97 was just 1.0 percent lower than the average for 1990–94. There was some change within the different categories of circulation. Again comparing 1995–97 with 1990–94, institutional circulation was 2 percent lower, regular membership was 7.6 percent lower (but still 22 percent higher than the period 1985–89), and student membership 40 percent higher.

The figures for June 30, 1998, shown in the last line of the top part of Table I, show a substantial recovery from the situation on the same date the previous year. This appears to be a simple matter of timing. As explained in my report last year, Basil Blackwell had a major transition between software systems that delayed the posting of new memberships and membership renewals in the Spring of 1997. Comparing mid-year 1998 with mid-year 1996, institutional subscriptions are down slightly, regular memberships are up, and student memberships have declined precipitously, and this drop in student memberships more than fully explains the decline in total circulation from mid-1996 to mid-1998.

The comparative full-year 1997 figures for the Econometric Society and the American Economic Association are displayed in Table II. (For the membership category these figures include regular, student, free, and life members for both the ES and AEA.) The "E/A" ratio for members in 1997 of 0.192 was slightly below the 1990–96 average, while the ratio for institutions of 0.480 was below the record 1996 ratio but nevertheless well ahead of the 1990-96 average.

## 2. Geographical Distribution of Members and Fellows

The geographical distribution of members (including students) is shown in Tables III and IV. This shows a striking shift in membership from North America to the other regions. Comparing 1998 with 1991, we note that membership in North America fell by

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>The decline in student memberships, since the "real" price of student memberships is at an all-time low, and our method of solicitation (sending out posters to selected fellows for posting) has remained unchanged.

TABLE I
MEMBERS AND INSTITUTIONS BY YEAR

			Members				
	Institutions	Regular	Students	Soft Currency	Free	Life	Total Circulation
Paid-un	members and st	ıhscrihers as i	of the middle (	of the year			
1978	2,839	1,624	355	94	42	74	5,028
1979	2,795	1,846	309	49	49	74	5,122
1980	2.829	1,978	411	53	45	74	5.390
1981	2,529	1,856	356	49	47	74	4.911
1982	2,925	2,202	479	52	22	74	5.752
1983	2,495	2,855	604	57	18	74	6,103
1984	2,324	2,455	562	64	18	74	5,497
1985	2,428	2,316	536	28	55	71	5,434
1986	2,631	2,360	567	35	59	70	5,722
1987	2,507	2,300	623	34	61	70 70	5,722
1988	2,507	2,338	602	44	60	70 70	5.724
1989	2,418	2,336	554	51	79	69	5.392
1989	2,416	2,221	388	51 57	79 73	69	5,643
1990	2,482 2,508	2,371	372	61	73 83	67	-,
	,					67 67	5,918
1992	2,415	2,936	466	66	72		6,022
1993	2,437	2,914	510	59	95	67	6,082
1994	2,393	2,771	626	60	99	67	6,023
1995	2,469	2,624	603	46	77	66	5,885
1996	2,494	2,712	682	44	96	66	6,094
1997	2,318	2,496	516	_	77	66	5,473
1998	2,355	2,900	359	_	92	66	5,772
	id-up members a						
1977	3,207	1,993	240	94	42	74	5,650
1978	3,143	1,889	412	94	49	74	5,661
1979	3,134	2,082	422	49	50	74	5,811
1980	3,063	2,294	491	49	47	74	6,018
1981	2,932	2,306	411	49	47	74	5,819
1982	2,998	2,316	523	52	22	74	5,985
1983	2,515	2,894	638	57	18	74	6,180
1984	2,607	2,711	524	68	51	74	6,035
1985	2,646	2,589	704	53	61	70	6,123
1986	2,850	2,742	654	35	59	70	6,410
1987	2,753	2,522	709	34	61	70	6,149
1988	2,715	2,567	746	36	69	70	6,203
1989	2,743	2,660	658	54	51	69	6,235
1990	2,636	3,240	530	60	74	68	6,608
1991	2,644	3,511	547	63	84	67	6,916
1992	2,577	3.447	547	66	93	67	6,797
1993	2,546	3,484	626	60	99	67	6.882
1994	2,513	3,370	624	59	80	66	6,712
1995	2,569	3,072	805	43	96	66	6,651
1996	2,555	3,116	954	44	71	66	6,806
1997	2,514	3,371	655	_	84	66	6,690

18 percent, a sharp contrast to percentage gains of 45.6 percent in Europe and Other Areas, 253.8 percent in Latin America, 50.0 percent in India and Southeast Asia, 32.7 percent in the Far East, and 17.8 percent in Australasia.

The percentage breakdown of members by region is shown in Table IV. Since 1991 there has been a substantial shift in membership shares from North America to the rest

TABLE II
TOTAL MEMBERS AND INSTITUTIONS,
ECONOMETRIC SOCIETY COMPARED WITH AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

		Total Members			Institutions	
Year	E.S.	A.E.A.	E/A	E.S.	A.E.A.	E/A
1974	2,585	18,766	.138	3,151	7,353	.429
1975	2,627	19,564	.134	3,207	7,223	.444
1976	2,375	19,072	.125	3,097	7,134	.434
1977	2,327	17,386	.134	3,207	6,728	.477
1978	2,518	18,901	.133	3,143	6,893	.456
1979	2,722	19,459	.140	3,134	6,963	.450
1980	2,955	19,401	.152	3,063	7,094	.432
1981	2,887	19,936	.144	2,932	6,291	.466
1982	2,987	20,086	.148	2,998	6,171	.485
1983	3,665	20,162	.182	2,515	5,986	.420
1984	3,377	19,886	.170	2,607	5,846	.446
1985	3,416	20,606	.160	2,646	5,852	.452
1986	3,560	20,106	.177	2,850	5,846	.488
1987	3,396	20,092	.169	2,753	5,748	.470
1988	3,488	20,647	.169	2,715	5,793	.469
1989	3,492	21,570	.162	2,743	5,736	.478
1990	3,972	21,578	.184	2,636	5,785	.456
1991	4,272	21,491	.199	2,644	5,672	.466
1992	4,220	21,273	.198	2,577	5,596	.461
1993	4,336	22,005	.197	2,546	5,531	.460
1994	4,199	21,649	.194	2,513	5,474	.459
1995	4,082	21,565	.189	2,569	5,384	.477
1996	4,251	21,056	.202	2,555	5,219	.490
1997	4,176	21,720	.192	2,514	5,234	.480

of the world, which might be regarded as a healthy development in strengthening the Society as a genuinely international organization.

The *Aide Memoire* sets a limit of ten Council seats on North America and Europe/Other Areas, and the other regions have Council representation equal to one Council member for every 50 members or "substantial fraction thereof." According to this criterion, the current representation of two Council members for Latin America, one for India/Southeast Asia, four for Far East, and two for Australasia appears correctly to reflect the criterion for Council representation set down in the *Aide Memoire*.

Table V displays the geographical distribution of Fellows. The 1997 percentage distribution of Fellows by region can be compared with that for members:

	Fellows	Members
North America	68.0	50.1
Europe and Other Areas	27.3	35.9
Latin America	0.4	3.8
India and Southeast Asia	0.8	1.5
Far East	2.4	5.9
Australasia	1.2	2.9
Total	$\overline{100.1}$	$\overline{100.1}$

3. Elections

In 1997 we continued the method of electing Fellows that was initiated in 1989. Table VI provides data on the participation of Fellows in the voting process; the percent

TABLE III

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS AND STUDENTS
SELECTED YEARS, AS OF MIDYEAR, 1976–1998

Country	1976	1980	1985	1991	1998
North America					
Canada	161	159	192	217	161
United States	1486	1517	1867	1998	1661
Total	1647	1676	$\overline{2059}$	$\overline{2215}$	1822
Europe and Other Areas					
Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Oman,					
Saudi Arabia, United Arab					
Emirates, Yemen	5		3	3	6
Algeria, Libya, Morocco,	-		_	-	-
Tunisia	2		2	2	1
Angola, Congo, Malawi, Zaire,					
Zambia	0		1	1	0
Austria	10	15	21	24	26
Belgium	35	23	21	31	45
Bulgaria	3	1	1	3	2
Cameroon, Gabon, Niger,					
Nigeria	5		0	2	0
Czechoslovakia/Serbia/Slovenia	40	1	1	2	6
Denmark	12	19	22	29	34
Egypt	8		2	1	1
Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan	1		2	0	0
Finland	21	19	26	20	17
France and Luxembourg	64	53	36	64	134
Germany	69	92	106	116	199
Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast,					
Liberia, Senegal,					
Sierra Leone	4		2	0	0
Greece and Cyprus	6	12	12	8	17
Hungary	31	34	30	27	7
Iceland	0	1	3	3	4
Iran, Iraq, Jordan,					
Lebanon, Syria	9		1	0	0
Ireland	3	4	5	5	10
Israel	22		16	23	39
Italy and Malta	51	16	43	52	77
Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda	2		3	0	1
Netherlands	39	75	68	94	112
Norway	23	24	26	24	32
Poland	6	4	6	23	28
Portugal	7	5	5	9	14
Romania	3	0	1	0	0
South Africa	0		2	3	5
Spain/Gibraltar/Andorra	20	34	43	50	97
Sweden	27	27	31	39	71
Switzerland	19	26	27	23	41
Turkey	5	105	1	1	18
United Kingdom	127	135	145	189	256
Commonwealth of Independent		-	•	0.5	-
States (formerly U.S.S.R.)	6	5	2	25	5
Yugoslavia	3	2	2	0	0
Total	688	$\overline{665}$	718	896	1305

TABLE III—Continued

Country	1976	1980	1985	1991	1998
Latin America					
Argentina, Brazil,					
Paraguay, Uruguay	35		24	21	68
Bolivia, Chile, Peru	16		6	8	27
Central America <sup>b</sup>	10		2	0	6
Columbia, Ecuador, Guyana,					
Venezuela	15		7	3	4
Cuba & West Indies	1		4	2	
Dominican Republic, Haiti,					
Trinidad	2		0	0	0
Mexico	14		10	5	28
Total	$\overline{93}$	$\overline{42}^{a}$	$\overline{53}$	$\overline{39}$	138
India & Southeast Asia					
Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan	2		3	3	1
Burma, Hong Kong,	~		· ·	Ü	-
Malaysia, Singapore	10		10	14	37
India, Sri Lanka	24	6	30	17	13
Indonesia, Laos, Philippines,					
Thailand, Vietnam	7		8	2	3
Total	$\overline{43}$	$\overline{6}$	<del>51</del>	$\overline{36}$	$\frac{3}{54}$
Far East					
China, Korea, Taiwan	14	22	20	50	75
Japan	81	83	114	112	140
Total	$\frac{31}{95}$	$\frac{33}{105}$	$\frac{111}{134}$	$\frac{112}{162}$	$\frac{215}{215}$
Australasia					
Australia	44	52	57	79	94
New Zealand	44	5 5	37	11	12
Total	$\frac{4}{48}$	$\frac{3}{57}$	$\frac{3}{60}$	$\frac{11}{90}$	$\frac{12}{106}$
Grand Total	2614 <sup>c</sup>	2551 <sup>c</sup>	3075 <sup>c</sup>	3438 <sup>c</sup>	3640 <sup>c</sup>

TABLE IV PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS AND STUDENTS, AS OF MIDYEAR, 1976-1998

	1976	1980	1985	1991	1998
North America	63.0	65.7	67.0	64.4	50.1
Europe and Other Areas	26.4	26.1	23.3	26.0	35.9
Latin America	3.6	1.6	1.7	1.1	3.8
India and Southeast Asia	1.6	0.2	1.7	1.0	1.5
Far East	3.6	4.1	4.4	4.7	5.9
Australasia	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.6	2.9
Total	$\overline{100.0}$	$\overline{99.9}$	$\overline{100.1}$	$\overline{99.8}$	$\overline{100.1}$

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm a}$  Denotes that 1980 data were available only for the region(s) as a whole.  $^{\rm b}$  Central America includes: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatelmala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama.  $^{\rm c}$  Corresponding midyear totals from the top part of Table I are 2205, 2561, 3006, 3410, 3417. The discrepancy results from inconsistent methods used by agents in past years to exclude current nonpaying members from the geographical breakdown.

North America		South Africa	0
Canada	8	Spain/Gibraltar/Andorra	3
United States	354	Sweden	5
Total	$\overline{362}$	Switzerland	4
		Turkey	0
Europe and Other Areas		United Kingdom	34
Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Oman,		Commonwealth of Independent	
Saudi Arabia, United Arab		States (formerly U.S.S.R.)	4
Emirates, Yemen	0	Yugoslavia	0
Algeria, Libya, Morocco,		Total	$\overline{145}$
Tunisia	0		
Angola, Congo, Malawi, Zaire,		Latin America	
Zambia	0	Argentina, Brazil,	
Austria	2	Paraguay, Uruguay	2
Belgium	11	Bolivia, Chile, Peru	0
Botswana	0	Central America <sup>a</sup>	0
Bulgaria	0	Columbia, Ecuador, Guyana,	
Cameroon, Gabon, Niger,		Venezuela	0
Nigeria	0	Cuba & West Indies	0
Czechoslovakia/Serbia/Slovenia	0	Dominican Republic, Haiti,	_
Denmark	2	Trinidad	0
Egypt	0	Mexico	_0
Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan	0	Total	2
Finland	0		
France and Luxembourg	30	India & Southeast Asia	
Germany	9	Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan	0
Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast,		Burma, Hong Kong,	
Liberia, Senegal,		Malaysia, Singapore	1
Sierra Leone	0	India, Sri Lanka	3
Greece and Cyprus	0	Indonesia, Laos, Philippines,	
Hungary	6	Thailand, Vietnam	_0
Iceland	0	Total	4
Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon,	_		
Syria	0	Far East	
Ireland	1	China, Korea, Taiwan	0
Israel	18	Japan	13
Italy and Malta	3	Total	$\overline{13}$
Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda	0		
Netherlands	7	Australasia	
Norway	3	Australia	5
Polanď	3	New Zealand	1
Portugal	0	Total	<u></u>
Romania	Ö		,
Grand Total	532	This table includes inactive (unpaid) Fellows	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Central America includes: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama.

returning ballots in 1996 was 57.1 percent, slightly below the average of the previous five years. Table VII displays information on the number of nominees and newly elected Fellows. A total of 15 new Fellows was elected in 1996, substantially below the average number (18.6) elected in 1989–95 under the present electoral system.

TABLE VI
FELLOW'S VOTING STATISTICS, 1974–1997

Year	Total Fellows	Inactive	Eligible To Vote	Returned Ballots	Percent Returning Ballots	Newly Elected	Late Ballots Returned But Not Counted
1974	187	24	163	n.a.	n.a.	10	n.a.
1975	197	26	171	100	58.5	21	n.a.
1976	217	28	189	104	55.0	19	n.a.
1977	235	31	204	122	59.8	20	n.a.
1978	256	33	223	128	57.4	30	n.a.
1979	286	38	248	171	68.9	11	n.a.
1980	299	49	251	150	59.8	18	n.a.
1981	317	50	268	178	66.4	17	n.a.
1982	334	60	275	159	57.8	10	n.a.
1983	336	63	276	174	63.0	11	n.a.
1984	347	67	284	180	63.3	10	8
1985	354	57	301	164	54.4	13	17
1986	365	56	313	176	56.2	21	9
1987	379	65	316	175	55.3	10	9
1988	389	47	342	195	57.0	15	4
1989	403	52	351	200	57.0	23	9
1990	422	47	375	209	55.7	23	5
1991	439	88	351	223	63.5	23	4
1992	459	72	387	228	58.9	15	10
1993	472	76	396	231	58.3	17	11
1994	485	99	386	242	62.7	18	2
1995	499	119	380	225	59.2	15	2
1996	509	82	427	234	54.8	16	2
1997	518	112	406	232	57.1	15	4

#### 4. Website and Members' Directory

The Econometric Society web site was developed by John Rust and by Dorothy Hodges, Managing Editor of *Econometrica*, during the first half of 1997. It is located at:

## www.econometricsociety.org

The web site contains most of the information that regularly appears in the back of *Econometrica*, including Calls for Papers and final Programs. Another feature is a detailed introduction to the history and organization of the Econometric Society; this was published in *Econometrica* in November, 1997, and the web version will be updated regularly. In addition, some program chairs have organized their meetings through the web, substantially reducing the cost and effort of routine communications.

The web site also provides recent and future Tables of Contents of *Econometrica*. It is planned soon to have links from the Tables of Contents on the Society's web site to the personal web sites of authors.

A Member's directory was published in the Fall of 1997 both in hard copy and on diskettes distributed to all members. Once issues of software and security are surmounted, it is hoped that the membership information will be available to all members on our web site.

TABLE VII						
MEMBERS, FELLOWS, AND NOMINEES,	1974-1997					

Year	Number of Nonstudent Members	Number of Fellows	Percent Ratio Fellows to Members	Number in Eligible Pool	Number of Nominees	Percent Ratio Nominee to Eligible	Number Elected	Percent Ratio Elected to Nominee	Percent Ratio Elected to Eligible
1974	2430	187	7.7	2243	36	1.60	10	27.8	0.45
1975	2481	197	7.9	2284	63	2.76	21	33.3	0.92
1976	2255	217	9.6	2038	67	3.29	19	28.4	0.93
1977	2203	235	10.7	1968	61	3.10	20	32.8	1.02
1978	2106	256	12.2	1850	74	4.00	30	40.5	1.62
1979	2255	286	12.7	1969	48	2.44	12	25.0	0.61
1980	2464	299	12.1	2165	73	3.37	18	24.7	0.83
1981	2476	317	12.8	2159	57	2.64	17	29.8	0.79
1982	2464	334	13.6	2130	48	2.25	12	25.0	0.56
1983	3027	336	11.1	2691	55	2.04	12	21.8	0.45
1984	2904	347	11.9	2557	67	2.62	10	14.9	0.39
1985	2773	358	12.9	2415	60	2.48	13	21.7	0.54
1986	2906	365	12.6	2541	49	1.93	21	42.9	0.83
1987	2687	379	14.1	2308	78	3.38	10	12.8	0.43
1988	2775	389	14.0	2386	69	2.89	15	21.7	0.63
1989	2834	403	14.2	2431	50	2.06	23	46.0	0.95
1990	3442	422	12.3	3000	44	1.47	23	52.3	0.77
1991	3725	439	11.8	3286	50	1.52	23	46.0	0.70
1992	3673	459	12.5	3214	50	1.56	15	30.0	0.47
1993	3710	472	12.7	3238	50	1.54	17	34.0	0.53
1994	3575	485	13.6	3090	43	1.39	18	41.9	0.58
1995	3277	499	15.2	2778	52	1.87	15	28.8	0.54
1996	3297	509	15.4	2788	51	1.83	16	31.3	0.57
1997	3521	518	14.7	3003	51	1.70	15	29.4	0.50

## 5. Meetings

The next meetings of the Econometric Society are scheduled as follows:

India and Southeast Asia Meeting, New Delhi, India, December 15–17, 1998.

North American Winter Meeting, New York NY, January 3–5, 1999.

North American Summer Meeting, Madison WI, June 24-27, 1999.

Far Eastern Meeting, Singapore, July 1–3, 1999.

Australasian Meeting, Sydney, July 7-9, 1999.

Latin American Meeting, Cancun, Mexico, August 2-6, 1999.

European Meeting, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, August 29-September 1, 1999.

North American Winter Meeting, Boston MA, January 7–9, 2000.

World Congress, Seattle WA, August, 2000, exact dates to be confirmed.

#### 6. A Final Note

My special thanks go to Maryann Semer, who has just passed her ninth anniversary with the Society, as well as the following two Northwestern students—Elliot Lee and Kevin Moran—for their help over the past academic year and summer.