

EDITORIAL STATEMENT

The submission instructions for the *American Economic Review* include the following statement regarding replication of empirical results:

It is the policy of the *American Economic Review* to publish papers only if the data used in the analysis are clearly and precisely documented and are readily available to any researcher for purposes of replication. Details of the computations sufficient to permit replication must be provided. The Editor should be notified at the time of submission if the data used in a paper are proprietary, or if, for some other reason, the above requirements cannot be met.

In an article recently published in this journal, B. D. McCullough and H. D. Vinod (2003) report that they tested the replication policy by soliciting data and code from authors of articles appearing in the June 1999 issue. While some authors responded in a timely and forthcoming way, not all did, according to McCullough and Vinod. Replicability is essential if empirical findings are to be credible and usable as a starting point for other researchers. The findings of McCullough and Vinod have led us to conclude that more active enforcement of the replication policy by this journal is necessary.

Submitters should be aware that the Editors now routinely require, as a condition of publication, that authors of papers including empirical results (including simulations) provide to this office, in electronic form, data and code sufficient to permit replication. Exceptions, for proprietary data for example, must be approved by the Editor in advance of the review process. Electronic data appendices will be posted on the journal's Web site, <http://www.aeaweb.org/aer/>.

Authors of previously published articles who wish to submit a data appendix for posting are welcome to do so. In any case, published authors are strongly encouraged to comply with the replication policy, should requests for data and programs be received. The Editors should be notified if an author of a previously published article does not make a reasonable effort to comply with the journal's replication policy

Ben S. Bernanke, Editor

REFERENCE

McCullough, B. D. and Vinod H. D. "Verifying the Solution from a Nonlinear Solver: A Case Study." *American Economic Review*, June 2003, 93(3), pp. 873–92.