INTERNATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN BUSINESS JOURNAL ACCEPTANCE RATES ACROSS BUSINESS DISCIPLINES

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Abstract

This study answers a variety of questions concerning the current academic research review process focusing on the accounting, finance, information systems, and management disciplines.Research credentials are often the measure by which business faculty members are measured. Acceptance rates presented in Cabell's Directories are frequently used in the process of ascertaining article quality. However, all journals are not created equally. In fact, there may be cultural or other explanations for differences in reviewing procedures and acceptance rates across nations. This report makes a significant contribution to our knowledge concerning the business scholarship environment across nations.

INTRODUCTION

Continual and seemingly more frequent shifts in the world economic paradigm make it increasingly important for business schools to provide fresh, new ideas. Business faculty assessment is based, at least in part, on an ability to publish relevant research articles. However, business faculty across disciplines may not be exposed to the same review process. Furthermore, there may be national differences in the journal review process and acceptance rate within a given business discipline. Considering the critical importance of business research, it is important to understand the variations that may exist in scholarship across disciplines and nations.

This study answers a variety of questions concerning the current academic research review process focusing on the accounting, finance, information systems, and management disciplines. Through careful assessment of data obtained from Cabell's Directories in 2011, we provide thorough answers to the following research questions:

Regarding Aspects of the Business Journal Review Process:

1. Does the frequency of blind and editorial review processes vary across business disciplines?
2. Are there differences in the number of external reviewers used by journals across business disciplines?

Regarding Acceptance Rates, Specifically:

3. What is the typical acceptance rate of business journals?
4. For a given discipline, does the acceptance rate vary across business disciplines?
5. Are there any tendencies in certain countries to have more lenient or stricter business journal acceptance rates?

The next section of this report reviews literature regarding the AACSB accreditation, tenure and intellectual contributions, and journal quality. The following section presents the research method and findings. These findings are summarized in the final section. In each instance there are two tables and a graph for each discipline (Accounting, Finance, Information Systems, & Management). The second table for each discipline primarily focuses on statistical significance of differences. Each graph illustrates acceptance rate differences across nations.

LITERATURE REVIEW

AACSB Standard 10

Accreditation is designed to provide third-party recognition of educational program quality. AACSB accreditation is the benchmark of quality for business education worldwide. As business programs strive to achieve AACSB accreditation, intellectual contributions by business faculty have become increasingly important. Business programs are required to maintain a minimum number of academically qualified (AQ) faculty, and faculty job security is often tied to scholarly endeavors. However, according to Standard 10, it is the responsibility of business schools to determine the requirements for achievement and maintenance of a faculty member's AQ status. Within the AACSB review period of every five years, AQ requirements should prioritize scholarly activities based on quality and quantity with quality being the main goal as business programs are expected to show "continuous improvement" regarding "overall high quality" (AACSB International, 2009).Although no set number of publications exist, the standards do state that a substantial portion of intellectual contributions presented during the review process should include articles published in peer reviewed journals or the equivalent. Thus, AACSB standards, or administrative interpretation of such, have greatly impacted promotion and tenure requirements (AACSB International, 2009).

Tenure and Intellectual Contributions

It is a well-known fact that faculty evaluations for salary, the granting of tenure and promotion decisions are heavily influenced by intellectual contributions of high quality. Over the last decade or so, the requirement that faculty are actively participating in scholarly endeavors has increased, due, in no small part, to accreditation requirements (Moss, Xiaolong & Barth, 2007; Coe & Weinstock, 1984). Taylor (2009) examined the attitudes of AACSB accredited business school faculty towards scholarly research. The study focused on attitudes toward research and how this improves teaching performance and the relationship between the two. Most faculties agreed that research was supportive of teaching but that they would spend more time preparing for class and less time striving for the successful publication of articles in high quality journals. Many noted that article acceptance was more important than the advancement of knowledge (Taylor, 2009). Regardless of faculty attitude, the quality and quantity of scholarly publications in one's portfolio has become increasingly important, especially to job security and tenure.

Codified in 1940 by the American Association of University Professors, tenure was designed to preserve and protect a faculty member's professionalism and independence. Traditionally, faculties in higher education are generally trusted to perform their duties professionally without the direct supervision of administration. The security provided by tenure allows faculty to develop course syllabi, choose books, and participate in research they deem relevant or appropriate (Baugher, 2010). Tenure as we think of it is mainly a North American concept. While it does exist in other parts of the world, it does not necessarily operate the same way. Rather than tenure, many European nations require habilitation of permanent faculty members (Smith, 2010) Habilitation follows a PhD and thusisa higher academic qualification. A basic requirement for habilitation requires a professorial thesis based on independent scholarship' similar to a dissertation except that it is completed independently and at a higher level of scholarship. A habilitation thesis must considerably extend the dissertation with respect to quality and quantity and may be an accumulation of several publications (University of North Texas, 2011). So how does one acquire the benefits offered by tenure or habilitation? Documents abound detailing requirements for promotion and/or tenure across U.S. business programs and a similar thread exists among them all – the successful publication of research in a journal of high quality.

Table A presents a cross-section of requirements from a variety of universities. Similar trends may be found among all the nation's universities. One noticeable tendency is the reliance on the journal's listing in Cabell's to be an indication of journal quality.

Table A

			Journal Quality Measured by						
School	**Activity**	**Number of Intellectual Contributions (over 5 year period)**	**Acceptance Rate**	**Impact Rate**	**# citations**	**Blind Review**	**Listed in Cabell's**	**Editorial board membership**	**Other**
Univ of New Hampshire	Promotion to Assoc	5	x	x				x	
	Promotion to Full	10 (cumulative)							
California State Univ	Probationary	3					x		
Business Program	Tenured Faculty	2					x		
	All faculty	4 total							
Angelo State College	Tenure	2					x		
		4 total							
San Jose University	All faculty	2	x				x		
		4-6 Total							
Central Washington Univ	Undergrad faculty	2 'A'				x	x		Fee charged must be < $100
		2 'B'							
		or 3 'A'				x	x		
Northern Michigan Univ	AQ Faculty	2					x		
		4 total							
www.wsbe.unh.edu/files/Marketing_Dept_Research_Statement.pdf									
http://cbapp.csudh.edu/policy/IC%20Policy-RV6-04-05.htm									
http://www.angelo.edu/dept/business/documents/BUS_TPGuidelines.pdf									
www.cob.**sjsu**.edu/facdev/AQPQ_Policy_Final11-08.pdf									
http://www.cwu.edu/~cb/policies/AQ-PQ_Definitions.pdf									
http://webb.nmu.edu/Colleges/Business/SiteSections/FacultyAndStaff/Qualifications.shtml									

As previously noted, the idea of tenure in North America is somewhat different than in European countries. Universities in many foreign countries require a PhD and high quality publications just to obtain a lecturer position. The following section outlines the basic entry and promotion requirements in a number of European countries.

- Ireland
  - Employment requires published research in refereed international academic journals with good standing in the Citation index.
  - Promotion requires a substantial amount of internationally recognized research.
- U.K.
  - Lectureships require a PhD.
  - Promotion requires the publication of at least two books.

- Germany
  - Individuals are generally considered Academic Employees followed by Assistants while completing their PhDs and habilitation. Each position may be held for a maximum of six years.
  - To become a professor, habilitation is required consisting of a thesis (opus magnum) or cumulative habilitation (several scientific publications of outstanding quality).
- Greece
  - PhD for lecturer positions as well as two publications and experience. Promotions require teaching experience and further scholarly contributions.
  - Promotions are usually made from within and outsiders rarely enter as full professors.
- Italy
  - To obtain a position, an individual must win a competition consisting of two written and one oral exam. A PhD is not required.
  - Promotions require candidates to pass a competition consisting of a didactic test, a test over the quantity and quality of one's knowledge, and a discussion of the individual's scientific contribution. Two acceptable candidates are chosen from those passing the competition and faculty vote on the winner.

(Source: European University Institute, 2011)

Given the different methods utilized for promotion and tenure across nations, it will be interesting to see how journal acceptance rates vary across nations.

Judging Journal Quality

In view of the fact that business programs across the globe require scholarly publications of high quality, discussion is necessary regarding the identification of 'high quality' journals. There are a number of methods available for gauging journal quality such as review methods, acceptance rate, number of times articles are cited, impact factor, etc. Many business programs first look for quality based on the review process utilized. For peer reviews, most journals use predetermined or ad hoc reviewers. If an article undergoes a single-blind peer review, the reviewer is unknown to the author but the author is known to the reviewer. In double-blind reviews, the identity of both the author and reviewer are unknown to the other (Blank, 1991). Double-blind reviews are preferred in terms of quality. In one study (see Snodgrass, 2007), a randomized experiment was conducted to determine the "effects of double blind versus single blind peer reviewing on acceptance rates." As expected, when a double blind review was utilized, acceptance rates were lower and referees were found to be more critical of article submissions.

Acceptance rates are another method of evaluating journal quality. An acceptance rate is calculated as the number of articles accepted relative to total submissions. Lower rates imply higher quality. An impact factor is described as the ratio of the number of times a recent article is cited relative to the total number of recent articles where recent refers to the last two years or so. The immediacy factor is similar except that it only considers the past year. An Eigen factor rates the importance of journals according to the number of incoming citations, with citations from highly ranked journals given greater weight (Kapelianis, 2011; Fairfield University, 2011; University of North Texas, 2011). The calculation of these various rates and/or factors appears to be a rather arduous task for any individual. Fortunately, journals and/or databases exist which have already made the necessary calculations and/or list other information pertinent to the determination of journal quality.

Cabell's Directory of Publishing Opportunities provides information on over 4,600 journals spanning a wide range of scholarly endeavors, including business. Information regarding specific journals includes acceptance rates, type of review process, editorial board membership and readership. As noted previously, many business programs consider journalsto be of high quality if they are listed in Cabell's Directory. While Cabell's is a widely popular tool of journal evaluation, Kapelianis (2011) did note two criticisms regarding Cabell listings. First, journals with a regional focus and limited readership are generally not listed. Also of concern is the omission of purely online journals as such journals are not included in the directory. A more critical problem is that the factors provided by Cabell's for journal ranking do not include number of article citations or other impact factor indicators (Kapelianis, 2011). Other measures of journal quality exist. Ulrich's Periodicals Dictionary provides information on more than 290,000 periodicals internationally, including the type of review processes.

Journal Citation Reports presents citation data from over 7,500 journals across 60 nations within the fields of science and social science. The report presents frequently cited journals by field. SCI-BYTES at ScienceWatch.com presents "Journals Ranked by Impact" based on citation data from ISI Journal Citation Reports and ISI Journal Performance Indicators (Ohio Northern University, 2011; College of Staten Island Library, 2009). Regardless of the other databases available and the criticisms leveled at Cabell's, a journal listed in Cabell's Directory of Publishing has been and will continue to be one indicator of a particular journals quality by many in the world of academia.

RESEARCH METHOD

The Cabell's Directory of Publishing Opportunities was used in our research. Specifically, we examined Cabell's Directory of Publishing Opportunities in Accounting, Publishing Opportunities in Economics and Finance, Publishing Opportunities in Management, and Publishing Opportunities in Computer Science – Business Information Systems.The latter includes the Management Information Systems subdirectory. Data from these directories were obtained between June and August of 2011. The 2011 editions of Cabell'sDirectories are solely available online, allowing journal editors to continually update their information.

Data was loaded into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Journal characteristics of importance loaded into the spreadsheet included review process (i.e., blind/editorial/peer), number of external reviewers, acceptance rates, and the country of origin for the journal. Country of origin was defined in terms of the editor's mailing address. Input data was then sorted as necessary to answer the research questions.In instances where journal editors reported an acceptance rate range, we used the midpoint as the acceptance rate of that journal. Microsoft Excel spreadsheet functionality is employed to compute averages, medians, modes, standard deviations, minimums, and maximums. It is also used in the computation of paired t-statistics between international acceptance rates, which are both reported and graphed.

As shown on the top line of Table 1, the number of journals in the respective disciplines ranged from 332 for information systems journals (ISJs) to 1076 for management journals (MJs). The number of accounting journals (AJs) was similar to the number of ISJs. Another similarity is the number of Economics and Finance journals (EFJs) and MJs.

FINDINGS

Discipline-based Comparisons of Review Process and Acceptance Rates

The blind review process dominates across theselectedbusinessdisciplines, with a range of 77.3% for EFJs to 89.5% for MJs. As one might expect, the preponderance of editorial journals is just the opposite, with EFJs reaching 20.3%. Peer-reviewed (wherein author identity is revealed to the reviewer) is three times as common in ISJs, while approximately one percent of the journals did not report their review process to the Cabell's Directories. Lest authors in one discipline yearn for the review process found elsewhere, it should be pointed out that according to an in-press study by Krueger and Shorter (2011), there appears to be a lack of relationship between editorial review processes and manuscript acceptance rates.

There is a noticeable difference in the number of external reviewers. On average, EFJs use about 1.9 external reviewers while ISJs engage almost 2.6 reviewers per manuscript. The standard deviations are very similar across journals. Standard deviations are also sufficiently low to allow one to conclude that the difference between the numbers of external referees is statistically significant. However, Krueger and Shorter (2011) were unable to identify a significant relationship between the number of reviewers and eventual acceptance rates.

Average acceptance rates are very similar across the four business disciplines. AJs have the highest acceptance rate at 32.2%, while ISJshas the lowest acceptance rate at 29.1%. The similarity in journal acceptance rates across disciplines is most obvious, when reviewing medians, which range from only 25.0% to 26.0%. Checking the mode, we found that the most common acceptance rate varies more across disciplines, with a 15.0% acceptance rate being the most common in ISJs, while 25.0% is the most common in AJs. It should be noted however, that the mode value may hide underlying similarities. For instance, one discipline might have nine journals with 15.0% acceptance rates and eight journals with 25.0% acceptance rates.

Acceptance rate standard deviations are quite similar, with EFJs being the most tightly bunched. All disciplines can boast at least one journal with an acceptance rate less than three percent. At the higher acceptance range end, all disciplines have at least one journal with a 90% acceptance rate. One of the MJs has an acceptance rate of 100%, suggesting that it accepts everything sent to it.

Although there seems to be a significant amount of similarity in journal review processes and acceptance rates, we noticed wide differences in acceptance rates across international boundaries. We therefore decided to investigate the international differences in review processes and acceptance rates. The next section investigates these findings, with specific results presented for the eight nations with the most journals in the case of AJs and ISJs. For the disciplines with the most numerous journals, EFJs and MJs, we report the results for all nations with at least ten journals. Nation-based findings will be drawn together in this research paper's conclusion.

INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE RATE DIFFERENCES

Accounting Journals

Approximately sixty percent, 271 out of 360, of the AJs reported in the *Cabell's Directory of Publishing Opportunities in Accounting* are located in the United States, as exhibited in the first rows of Table 1 and Table 2. There is a dramatic drop to the next country'sAJ total, with the United Kingdom producing just seven percent of the 360 journals. New Zealand, with only three AJs is one of the eight most prolific nations. New Zealand also uses the fewest number of external reviewers, with its 1.7 reviewers being a whole reviewer less than the 2.8 reviewers used in India.

International AJacceptance rate averages range from Canada's 24.2% to India's 59.7%. The AJ acceptance rates seem to fall into two distinct groupings, with six international AJ acceptance rate averages falling between 24.2% (Canada) and 38.8% (New Zealand) and two with an average acceptance rate range running from 59.1% (Romania) to 59.9% (India). This grouping is all the more apparent when viewing the median acceptance rates, which range from 21.0% (United Kingdom) to 27.5% (Malaysia) for the first group to a relatively tighter 61.5% (Romania) to 65.0% (India) range for the higher acceptance rate tandem. Canada has the most consistency in AJ acceptance rates with a standard deviation of 10.3%. The limited number of three observations may be a contributing factor in New Zealand having the highest standard deviation. The largest range in journal acceptance rates is found in the United States, which also has the lowest (2.5%), and the highest (90%),AJ acceptance rates.

The correlation between individual nationAJ acceptance rates is shown in Table 3, where the results of paired t-statistical tests are exhibited. Paired t-tests with the United States as one of the two nations are presented in the first column. All other nations are presented in alphabetic order. The double asterisks for the United States and India and Romania, indicate that the acceptance rates of United States' AJs are statistically different (lower) than the other two nations at the 0.01 level. In fact, one will find all of the asterisks in combinations where one of the nations represented is India or Romania. Single asterisks exist in the New Zealand match, suggesting that the AJ acceptance rates in this nation are only statistically different from the Romanian and Indian AJ rates at the 0.05 level. Malaysian AJ acceptance rates are not statistically different from India or Romania.

A graphic portrayal of AJ acceptance rates can be found in Graph 1. Graphic illustrations in this analysis list AJs in terms of their acceptance rates, with the lowest rates being in the bottom row and first column. Countries with acceptance rates that are not statistically different at the 0.05 level are shaded in the same color. For instance, the shading in the bottom row indicates internationalAJ acceptance rates are not statistically differentwhen the editorial board is located in Canada (24.2%), the United Kingdom (28.3%), Australia (29.9%), the United States (30.5%), Malaysia (32.8%) and New Zealand (38.8%). The next row up has the second lowest AJ acceptance rate, which is the United Kingdom's 28.3%. The shading implies that this nation's AJ acceptance rates are not statistically different from those of other nations again up to New Zealand. The next two higher nations, in terms of AJ acceptance rate averages, also are statistically different from those of Romania and India. To emphasize this point the boundary between New Zealand and Romania has been darkened. Malaysian AJ acceptance rates are not statistically different from those of any other nation. This result is graphed by including it in all shaded pairings up to its 32.8% acceptance rate and having shading in the cells that include Romania and India. Malaysia's relatively high median AJ acceptance rate, relative to the other six countries with lower AJ acceptance rates, may explain the lack of a statistically-significant difference with Romania and India for this nation.

New Zealand's AJ acceptance rates are statistically different from those of Romania and India, though looking back at Table 2, we see that this is at the 0.05 level, instead of the more common 0.01 level of countries on the left side of the New Zealand-Romanian boundary highlighted in Graph 1.

Economics & Finance Journals

Continuing in discipline-base alphabetic order, EFJ information is presented next. As exhibited in Table 4, the United States is again the predominant country, with almost fifty percent, or 479 out of 979EFJeditorships. There are ten other nations with at least ten EFJs. This is the only instance in which Germany and Spain are included in ourinvestigation. Germany has an exceedingly low number of EFJs using a blind-referee process, with almost half using another method. By contrast, all sixteen Romanian and ten Spanish EFJs use a blind review process. Despite only using a blind-review process, Romanian EFJs tend to have the lowest number of external reviewers. Ironically, Spain, the only other nation using the blind-referee review process exclusively actually has the highest number of external reviewers. However, the difference between these nation amounts to only 0.6 (i.e., 2.3 – 1.6) reviewers.

EFJ acceptance rates range from Italy's 24.8% to Romania's 55.1%. Again, there appears to be some natural groupings, with the median of eight countries falling between the United States' 25.0% and Greece's 30%. Another median grouping is India and Spain, with median EFJ acceptance rates of 38.0% and 40.0%, respectively. The third grouping is Romania's 55.0% median EFJ acceptance rate. The standard deviations are more tightly bunched, with France's 14.6% and India's 22.7% being at the extremes. One United States' EFJ has an acceptance rate of 2 percent. However, acceptance rates of a slightly-higher 2.5% can be found among journals in Canada, Italy, and the United Kingdom. Perhaps the most unique aspect of the maximum acceptance rates is that all Italian EFJs have acceptance rates of 50% or less.

Statistical comparisons are presented in Table 5 and Graph 2 across the eleven nations with at least ten EFJs. The double-asterisks in the first column indicate that the United States' EFJs have acceptance rates that are statistically different from the India, Romania, Spain, and the United Kingdom samples. Looking back at Table 4, we can see that the United States EFJsaverage acceptance rate is lower in all cases. If you look at the United States' row in Graph 2, which is thethird rowfrom the bottom, one will notice a lack of shading in the United Kingdom (U.K.) column, but shading in the Australia and Greece columns to the right. The difference between United States' and Australian EFJ acceptance rates is significant at the 0.07 level, which is just slightly above the 0.05 level used for shading. The t-statistic for the relationship between the United States and Greece is probably higher because of the limited number of reported Grecian EFJs.

Once again, there is a preponderance of statistically significant t-statistics in the India and Romania rows of Table 5. Romania's EFJ acceptance rates are statistically different from the EFJ acceptance rates in all other nations. In fact, the level of acceptance rate difference is statistically significant at the 0.01 level for all nations except, India. That is why the Romania column in Graph 2 only has shading in the Romania row. Three international groupings of EFJ relationships are visible in Graph 3. Italian, Japanese, and United States' EFJs are not statistically different from each other and from other internationals through Greece's 32.6% acceptance rate. The one exception to this finding of a lack of acceptance rate difference is the USA-UK combination, which is probably due to the higher number of observations. Three other nations, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Australia, have EFJacceptance rates that are similar to Spain but not India. Four nations, Canada, France, Greece, and Spain, have EFJs with acceptance rates that vary from Romania, but not India. These breaks in acceptance rates are highlighted by the darkened column lines in Graph 2.

Information Systems Journals

The eight nations with the most ISJs are presented in Table 6. Including a ninth nation would result in adding numerous countries that have only four journals reported in *Cabell's Directory of Publishing Opportunities in Computer Science—Business Information Systems*. The 151 ISJs originating in the United States represents forty-five percent of the 332 ISJs. Though seemingly large, this percentage represents the lowest concentration ofUnited States-based journalsacross the four disciplines studied. This is the only time that China is included in our study. For comparison purposes, there are only eight Chinese EFJs, which represents the second-highest number of journals originating in China. China encompasses only three percent of the total ISJs;however including Chinese journals in this portion of our study is noteworthy.

Another notable occurrence is the low percentage of Canadian ISJs that are blind-refereed. The 38% total is the lowest percentage for blind referred journals for any nation across all four business disciplines studied. However, despite the seemingly disproportionate use of an editorial process in Canada, paired country comparisons must be done with caution. The Canadian tendency to use an editorial process is in stark contrast to the blind-review process found in India, where 97% of the ISJs are blind refereed.One might also assume there is a difference between Canadian and the United Kingdom's review process, because 79% of the United Kingdom's ISJs are blind reviewed. However, because there is a large number of United Kingdom ISJs, Canada and the United Kingdom have the same number of editorial-based journals.

Another unique attribute about ISJs is the low level on both ends of the acceptance-rate continuum.With an acceptance rate average of 19.1%, Grecian ISJs have the lowest acceptance rate observed in our study. The highest acceptance rate is also relatively low. India's ISJs acceptance rate is 44.8%. By comparison acceptance rates among AJs, EFJs, and MJs get as high as 59.7%, 55.1%, and 60.6%, respectively. Some of this difference may arise from the absence of Romania from the nationsincluded in the ISJ portion of our study. Nonetheless, Indian ISJsappear to be relatively lenient, in light of the fact that EFJ and MJ acceptance rates in India are 41.6% (Table 4) and 40.8% (Table 8) respectively. Further supporting the contention that Indian ISJ acceptance rates are relatively lenient, the median acceptance rate of Indian ISJs, 40.0%, is twice the value ofacceptanceratesobserved forAustralian, Grecian, Taiwanese, and United States' ISJs.

The low 2.7% standard deviation for the nine Chinese ISJs is quite remarkable. It is only one-fourth of the next lowest standard deviation, which is the United States'at 12.5%. As one might expect, the maximum and minimum Chinese ISJ acceptance rates are very close. The difference is only 7% (i.e., 15% - 22%). Though it has the second lowest standard deviation, in the United States one can find ISJs with acceptance rates as low as 2.5% and as high as 80%. Interestingly, this "high" acceptance rate is the lowest of the maximum acceptance rates observed across the four studied disciplines.

ISJ t-test statistics are presented in Table 7 and illustrated in Graph 3. Due to its low standard deviation, Chinese ISJs have an average acceptance rate that is statistically lower than the United States' ISJacceptance rates, even though they are separated by only 3.4% (i.e., 20.3% versus 23.7%). The 0.88 t-statistic for the pairing comparison of Greece and China, and the 0.87 t-statistic for the paired comparison of China and Australia, suggests that there is a similarity of ISJacceptance rates in these countries. The gaps found in the second row from the bottom (i.e., China) in the United States and United Kingdom columns is probably a result of a higher number of journals in these two countries, resulting in a more precise measurement of whether China's acceptance rates are lower. India's 44.8% ISJ acceptance rate is significantly more than the ISJ acceptance rate of all other nations except Canada. The double-asterisks in Table 7's cells that have India as one of the two paired countries suggests that we can make this statement with a ninety-nine percent level of confidence. Absence of statistically significant differences across nation, excluding the China-United States and China-United Kingdom combinations discussed above, results in the step-up appearance found in Graph 3. These plateaus end at the vertical boundary between Canada and India which isdarkened for ease of analysis.

Management Journals

Combined results for the 1076 MJs, which were reported in the last column of Table 1, are distributed across thenations of origin in Table 8. Twelve countries have at least ten journals, which is one more than the elevenEFJ nations reported earlier. Forty-six percent, or 498 of the MJs have a United States origin. Two countries exclusively covered in this segment of our report are Brazil and Turkey, with eleven and ten MJs, respectively.
Referring back to Table 1, one may observe that MJs have the highest proportion of blind-refereed journals. Looking at the second data row of Table 8, this observation is reinforced by the fact that six countries have a blind review rate percentage of 100. The lowest concentration of blind-refereed journals, Brazil's at 82%is higher than the percentage of blind journals found across either AJs or EFJs. As with other disciplines, there is a limited range of the number of external referees. Turkish and Malaysian MJs both average 1.8 external reviewers per manuscript, while Italian MJsutilize 2.6 reviewers.

Average MJ acceptance rates range from Italy's 22.6% to Romania's 60.6%. Italy's median is also low at 17.8%, matching the Australian ISJ median for the lowest level of any other country on this measure. The range of medians is the largest found across any discipline, running from Italy's 17.8% to Turkey's 64.0%.

Though not as low as China ISJ's standard deviation, the 9.7% standard deviation reported for Italian MJs highlights the consistency of ItalianMJ acceptance rates. As one would expect, the range of Italian MJ acceptance rates is quite low, running only from 13.5% to 40%. By comparison, MJs with acceptance rates running from 2.5% to 100% (accepting everything) can be found in the United States. Australia, however, has the journal with the lowest MJ acceptance rate, at 2.0%.

Paired T-test results are presented in Table 9 and illustrated in Graph 4. MJs in Italy and the United States have acceptance rates similar to those found in Taiwan, Australia, Canada, and France. Taiwanese, Australian, French and Canadian MJ acceptance rates are not significantly different from MJs published in the United Kingdom. But they are significantly different from MJ acceptance rates such as India, Malaysia, Brazil, Turkey, and Romania. There appears to be a distinct boundary between the acceptance rate behavior of MJs published in the United Kingdom and India, as highlighted in Graph 4. Starting with the lowest acceptance rates, French MJs are the first to have a paired t-test statistic that is not significant when paired with a journal with an acceptance rate above the UK/India boundary. The paired combination of French MJs and Malaysian MJs result in a t-statistic of 0.07, which is just short of being significant at the 0.05 level.

Careful review of the Indian row in Graph 4 highlights the gap that exists in MJ acceptance rates between the United Kingdom's 31.4% and India's 40.8%. No shading is found in any of the rows assigned to countries with acceptance rates below India's 40.8%. Indian MJ acceptance rates are not statistically different from acceptance rates of Malaysian, Brazilian, and Turkish MJs. Romania's 60.6% acceptance rate is different from the acceptance rate of all other nation's MJs, except for Turkey.

SUMMARY

Research credentials are often the measure by which business faculty members are measured. Acceptance rates presented in Cabell's Directories are often used in the process of ascertaining article quality. However, all journals are not created equally. In fact, there may be cultural or other explanations for differences in reviewing procedures and acceptance rates across nations. This report makes a significant contribution to our knowledge of the business scholarship environment across nations. Information on the proportion of blind referees and external reviewers utilized were studied, finding that EFJs have more editorial refereed journals.

Undoubtedly, the most critical and interesting aspect of this research is the differences in business journal acceptance rates. In Table B, we present the average acceptance rates and rank of the countries for which information was acquired in at least two disciplines. With anaverage acceptance rate of 26.0%, it is more difficult to get manuscripts accepted in the United States than most other nations with numerous business journals. At the other extreme, other authors with lesser quality research or less impressive results might find it advantageous to submit their manuscripts to journals located in India and Romania. Future research can examine these results in other disciplines and how robust these results will stay across time.

Table B

Rank	Average Acceptance Rate	Nation	Disciplines with Minimum Number of Journals (4 maximum)
1	23.7%	Italy	2
2	25.6%	Taiwan	2
3	25.8%	Greece	2
4	26.0%	United States	4
5	27.2%	Australia	4
6	27.8%	Canada	4
7	29.4%	France	2
8	30.7%	United Kingdom	4
9	38.5%	Malaysia	2
10	43.2%	India	4
11	59.1%	Romania	3

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Table 1. Review Processes, Reviewers and Acceptance Rates in Four Business Disciplines

Cabell'sDirectoriesOnline edition's on June 15, 2011& August 16, 2011[a]

Includes Blind-Refereed, Editorial Refereed, and Peer Refereed Journals

	Accounting Journals	Economics & Finance Journals	Information Systems Journals	Management Journals
N	360	979	332	1076
Review Process Distribution				
Blind Refereed	85.0%	77.3%	78.9%	89.5%
Editorial	13.3%	20.3%	17.7%	8.9%
Peer	0.6%	0.6%	2.2%	0.8%
Did not report	1.1%	1.8%	1.2%	0.8%
External Reviewers				
Average Number	2.00	1.93	2.59	2.32
Standard Deviation	0.77	0.77	0.86	0.78
Acceptance Rates				
Average	32.2%	29.4%	29.1%	29.7%
Median	25.5%	26.0%	25.0%	25.0%
Mode	25.0%	20.0%	15.0%	15.5%
Standard Deviation	19.1%	17.5%	17.6%	18.2%
Minimum	2.5%	2.0%	2.5%	2.0%
Maximum	90.0%	95.0%	90.0%	100.0%

[a]The Information Systems Journal sample was added to the manuscript two months after data for the other three disciplines had been downloaded and examined, in order to investigate the robustness of our initial findings. Hence, there are two sampling dates.

Table 2. Acceptance Rates in Cabell's Directory of Publishing Opportunities in Accounting: Top 8 Nations*

Online edition on June 15, 2011

Includes Blind-Refereed, Editorial Refereed, and Peer Refereed Journals

	Australia	Canada	India	Malaysia	New Zealand	Romania	United Kingdom	United States
N	20	13	6	6	3	8	25	217
Percentage Blind Refereed	100%	77%	50%	100%	67%	100%	92%	82%
Average Number of Reviewers	2.0	1.9	2.8	2.2	1.7	1.9	1.8	2.0
Acceptance Rates								
Average	29.9%	24.2%	59.7%	32.8%	38.8%	59.1%	28.3%	30.5%
Median	25.5%	25.5%	65.0%	27.5%	25.5%	61.5%	21.0%	25.5%
Standard Deviation	13.9%	10.3%	22.5%	13.4%	27.1%	23.5%	18.2%	18.4%
Minimum	10.0%	8.0%	20.0%	20.0%	21.0%	30.0%	10.0%	2.5%
Maximum	50.0%	40.0%	80.0%	55.0%	70.0%	90.0%	70.0%	90.0%

- Two Cabell's-listed accounting journals are published in the following five nations: Greece, Japan, Spain, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates.

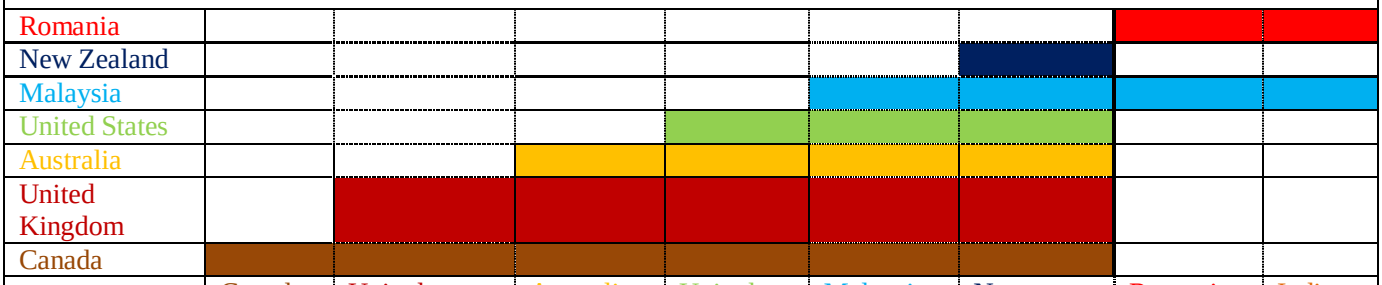
Table 3. Statistical Significance of Differences in Accounting Journals' Acceptance Rates across Nations
t-test statistics

	USA	Australia	Canada	India	Malaysia	New Zealand	Romania
Australia	0.85						
Canada	0.22	0.22					
India	0.00**	0.00**	0.00**				
Malaysia	0.78	0.67	0.14	0.26			
New Zealand	0.44	0.37	0.13	0.03*	0.65		
Romania	0.00**	0.00**	0.00**	0.97	0.25	0.03*	
United Kingdom	0.55	0.74	0.47	0.00**	0.51	0.38	0.00**

Significance Levels: * = significant at 0.05 level; ** = significant at 0.01 level

Graph 1. Illustration of Accounting Journals' Acceptance Rates across Nations

Linked nations have acceptance rates that are not statistically different at the0.05 level.



	Canada	United Kingdom	Australia	United States	Malaysia	New Zealand	Romania	India
Average Acceptance Rate	24.2%	28.3%	29.9%	30.5%	32.8%	38.8%	59.1%	59.7%

The low, three-journal level hosted by New Zealand, with a tight grouping of two journals at 23 percent acceptance, may have played a role in the absence of shading in the New Zealand column in the top row.

Table 4. Acceptance Rates in Cabell's Directory of Publishing Opportunities in Economics and Finance
All Nations with Ten our More Journals
Online edition on April 15, 2011
Includes Blind-Refereed, Editorial Refereed, and Peer Refereed Journals

	Australia	Canada	France	Germany	Greece	India	Italy	Romania	Spain	United Kingdom	United States
N	32	30	11	25	10	34	20	16	10	134	479
Percentage Blind Refereed	90%	57%	73%	52%	80%	91%	85%	100%	100%	82%	77%
Average Number of Reviewers	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.2	1.6	2.3	2.1	2.0
Acceptance Rates											
Average	31.6%	28.7%	29.2%	28.9%	32.6%	41.6%	24.8%	55.1%	39.8%	31.1%	26.3%
Median	26.5%	27.5%	26.5%	25.5%	30.0%	38.0%	25.0%	55.0%	40.0%	25.5%	25.0%
Standard Deviation	17.6%	15.1%	14.6%	15.1%	16.5%	22.7%	14.8%	17.4%	16.6%	19.4%	15.2%
Minimum	10%	2.5%	8.0%	7.5%	7.0%	10.0%	2.5%	30.0%	15.5%	2.5%	2.0%
Maximum	80%	65%	65.0%	57.0%	67.0%	90.0%	50.0%	90.0%	68.0%	90.0%	95.0%

Table 5. Statistical Significance of Differences in Economics & Finance Journals' Acceptance Rates across Nations

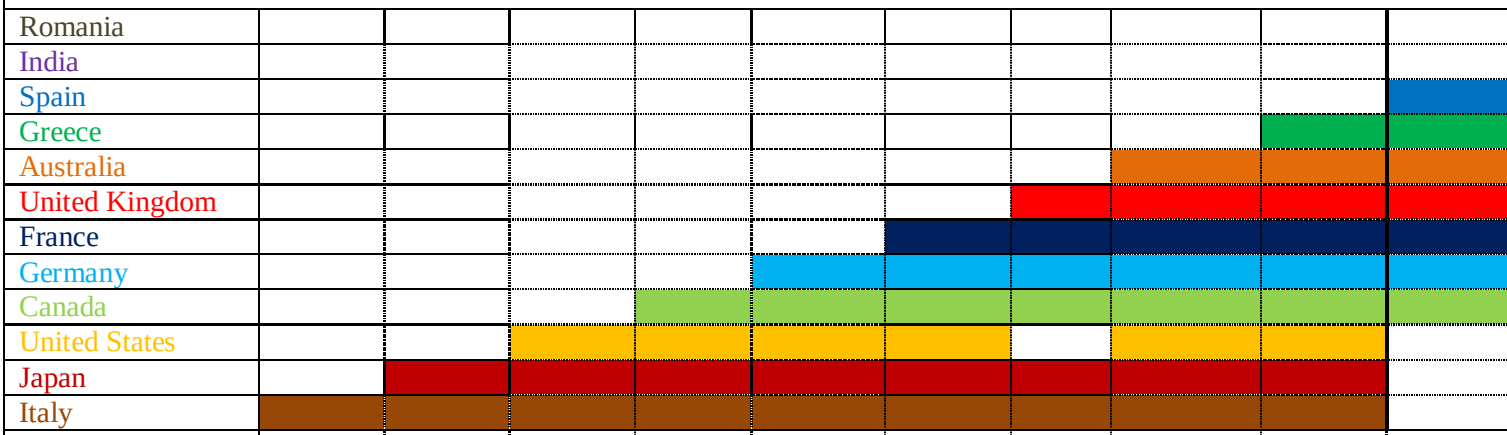
t-test statistics

	USA	Australia	Canada	France	Germany	Greece	India	Italy	Japan	Romania	Spain
Australia	0.07										
Canada	0.43	0.49									
France	0.56	0.68	0.92								
Germany	0.44	0.55	0.96	0.96							
Greece	0.21	0.87	0.48	0.62	0.52						
India	0.00**	0.04*	0.06	0.06	0.02*	0.19					
Italy	0.62	0.15	0.35	0.42	0.36	0.19	0.00**				
Japan	0.81	0.30	0.52	0.53	0.51	0.29	0.02*	0.91			
Romania	0.00**	0.00**	0.00**	0.00**	0.00**	0.00**	0.04*	0.00**	0.00**		
Spain	0.01**	0.22	0.06	0.14	0.08	0.36	0.75	0.02*	0.05*	0.04*	
U.K.	0.01**	0.88	0.76	0.60	0.60	0.80	0.01*	0.17	0.35	0.00*	0.19

Significance Levels: * = significant at 0.05 level; ** = significant at 0.01 level

Graph 2. Illustration of Economics & Finance Journals' Acceptance Rates across Nations

Linked nations have acceptance rates that are not statistically different at the0.05 level.



	Italy	Japan	USA	Canada	Germany	France	U.K.	Australia	Greece	Spain
Average Acceptance Rate	24.8%	25.2%	26.3%	28.7%	28.9%	29.2%	31.1%	31.6%	32.6%	39.8%

Note: The gap in Row 3 for United States (row) and United Kingdom (column) reflects significance arising from considerabl and a consequently higher number of degrees of freedom, versus t-statistic calculations with Australia or Greece.

Table 6
Acceptance Rates in Cabell's Computer Science – Business Information Systems (Sub discipline : MIS): Top 8 Nations[a]
Cabell'sOnline edition on August 16, 2011[b]
Includes Blind-Refereed, Editorial Refereed, and Peer Refereed Journals

	Australia	Canada	China	India	Greece	Taiwan	United Kingdom	United States
N	12	8	9	29	8	10	29	151
Percentage Blind Refereed	83%	38%	78%	97%	50%	90%	79%	83%
Average Number of Reviewers	2.4	2.3	2.8	2.2	3.1	2.9	2.3	2.7
Acceptance Rates								
Average	20.9%	34.2%	20.3%	44.8%	19.1%	25.3%	30.3%	23.7%
Median	17.8%	32.5%	21.5%	40.0%	15.5%	15.5%	27.3%	20.0%
Standard Deviation	12.7%	18.2%	2.73%	16.7%	19.0%	16.5%	17.1%	12.5%
Minimum	11.0%	10.0%	15.0%	15.0%	6.0%	15.0%	10.0%	2.5%
Maximum	60.0%	56.0%	22.0%	78.0%	60.0%	60.0%	70.0%	80.0%

[a]Two to four Cabell's-listed MIS journals are published in the following nations: Austria, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, and Thailand.

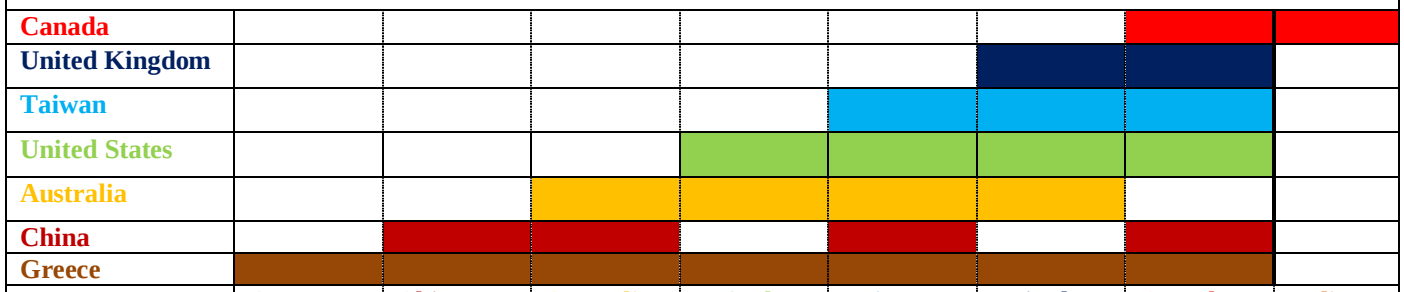
[b]The Information Systems data was added to the manuscript two months after the information for the other three disciplines had been downloaded and examined in order to assess robustness of the findings based upon the other three disciplines. Hence, this sampling date lags that used in the remainder of the paper by two months.

Table 7. Statistical Significance of Differences in Information Systems Journals' Acceptance Rates Across Nations
t-test statistics

	USA	Australia	Canada	China	Greece	India	Taiwan
Australia	0.48						
Canada	0.15	0.09*					
China	0.04*	0.88	0.07				
Greece	0.55	0.82	0.14	0.87			
India	0.00**	0.00**	0.18	0.00**	0.01**		
Taiwan	0.77	0.50	0.30	0.30	0.50	0.01**	
United Kingdom	0.07	0.07	0.60	0.01**	0.19	0.00**	0.43
Significance Levels: * = significant at 0.05 level; ** = significant at 0.01 level							

Graph 3. Illustration of Information Systems Journals' Acceptance Rates across Nations

Linked nations have acceptance rates that are not statistically different at the 0.05 level.



	Greece	China	Australia	United States	Taiwan	United Kingdom	Canada	India
Average Acceptance Rate	19.1%	20.3%	20.9%	23.7%	25.3%	30.3%	34.2%	44.8%

Table 8

Acceptance Rates in Cabell's Management Directory: All Nations with at least Ten Journals

Online edition on April 15, 2011

Includes Blind-Refereed, Editorial Refereed, and Peer Refereed Journals

	Australia	Brazil	Canada	France	India	Italy	Malaysia	Romania	Taiwan	Turkey	United Kingdom	Unites States
N	29	11	34	11	62	10	13	19	17	10	165	498
Percentage Blind Refereed	100%	82%	88%	100%	92%	100%	100%	89%	100%	100%	89%	90%
Average Number of Reviewers	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.0	2.6	1.9	1.8	2.4	1.8	2.3	2.4
Acceptance Rates												
Average	26.4%	45.7%	26.8%	29.7%	40.8%	22.6%	44.2%	60.6%	25.8%	54.8%	31.4%	25.7%
Median	20.0%	40.0%	23.0%	25.5%	40.0%	17.8%	50.0%	60.0%	20.0%	64.0%	25.5%	23.0%
Standard Deviation	18.0%	26.3%	15.9%	14.0%	20.8%	9.6%	22.8%	19.0%	12.7%	24.9%	18.0%	15.6%
Minimum	2.0%	8.0%	2.5%	15.5%	10.0%	13.5%	15.5%	30.0%	15.0%	20.0%	6.5%	2.5%
Maximum	80.0%	90.0%	60.0%	60.0%	90.0%	40.0%	95.0%	93.0%	50.0%	80.0%	90.0%	100%

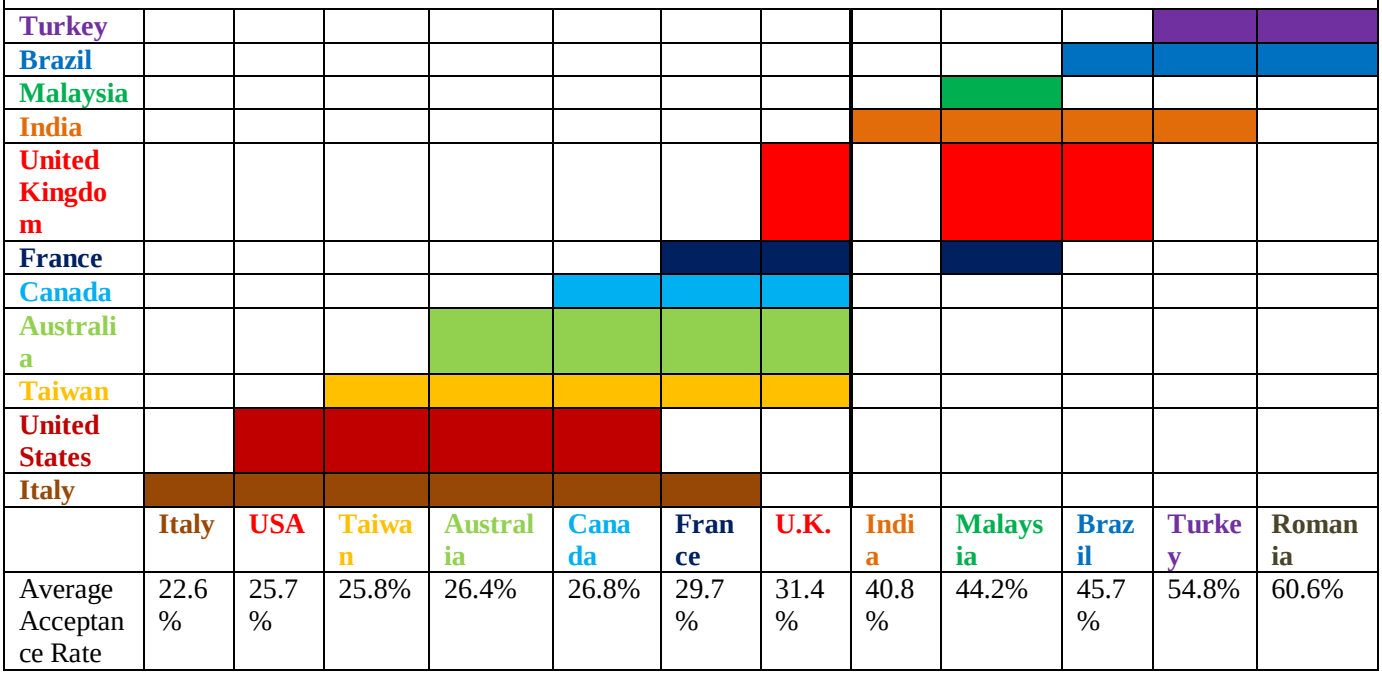
Table 9. Statistical Significance of Differences in Management Journals' Acceptance Rates

t-test statistics

	United States	Australia	Brazil	Canada	France	India	Italy	Malaysia	Romania	Taiwan	Turkey
Australia	0.73										
Brazil	0.03*	0.04*									
Canada	0.87	0.92	0.04*								
France	0.39	0.58	0.09*	0.55							
India	0.00*	0.00**	0.57	0.00**	0.04*						
Italy	0.34	0.31	0.02*	0.40	0.19	0.00**					
Malaysia	0.01*	0.02*	0.00**	0.02*	0.07	0.63	0.00**				
Romania	0.00**	0.00**	0.12	0.00**	0.00**	0.00**	0.00**	0.04*			
Taiwan	0.98	0.80	0.03*	0.89	0.46	0.00**	0.47	0.02*	0.00**		
Turkey	0.00**	0.01**	0.42	0.01**	0.01*	0.12	0.00**	0.31	0.53	0.00**	
United Kingdom	0.00**	0.14	0.10	0.18	0.70	0.00**	0.02*	0.07	0.00**	0.11	0.02*
Significance Levels: * = significant at 0.05 level; ** = significant at 0.01 level											

Graph 4: Illustration of Management Journal Acceptance Rates across Nations

Linked nations have acceptance rates that are not statistically different atthe 0.05 level.



	Italy	USA	Taiwan	Australia	Canada	France	U.K.	India	Malaysia	Brazil	Turkey	Romania
Average Acceptance Rate	22.6 %	25.7 %	25.8%	26.4%	26.8%	29.7 %	31.4 %	40.8 %	44.2%	45.7 %	54.8%	60.6%