Overview: American Economic Association

Established in 1885, the American Economic Association (AEA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, scholarly association dedicated to the encouragement of economic research. The AEA serves over 18,000 members working in academia, business, and government.

The AEA publishes eight of the most prestigious academic journals in economics including the American Economic Review, AER: Insights, the Journal of Economic Literature, the Journal of Economic Perspectives, the American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, the American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, the American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, and the American Economic Journal: Microeconomics. In addition, the Association publishes the AEA Papers and Proceedings; EconLit, the most widely used reference tool for economics literature; and the JOE Network (Job Openings for Economists) which is the preferred hiring tool for the economics job market.

In cooperation with key governance committees, the Association continues to expand its diversity and inclusion initiatives to fulfill its ongoing commitment toward improving the professional climate in economics. Activities include programs for underrepresented minorities; AEA Best Practices recommendations; the establishment of an ombuds team to assist members in addressing or resolving issues of harassment, discrimination, and retaliation; training for educators; committee support for women, underrepresented minorities, and LGBTQ+ individuals, as well as several grants and awards opportunities.

The AEA joins with 63 other associations in economics or related professions to produce the annual Allied Social Sciences Association (ASSA) meeting consisting of over 500 educational sessions and special events. It is considered the premier conference of its kind. Thousands of professionals gather each year to present and celebrate new achievements in economics research, to collaborate on relevant and important topics, and to connect with mentors and peers.

The JOE Network (Job Openings for Economists) listing service facilitates the matching of high-caliber candidates with sought-after positions at leading institutions. JOE Network is tailored to the specialized needs of the economics job market, including a mechanism for faculty to easily upload and manage recommendation letters. A job information board, AEA EconTrack, is populated by employers and allows candidates to monitor hiring progress. The AEA’s Committee on the Job Market offers timely information on the supply of, and demand for, new Ph.D. economists as well as processes, trends, and timelines for the economics job market.

The AEA also administers several honors and awards to recognize important contributions and achievements of economists including the John Bates Clark Medal, Distinguished Fellows, AEA Distinguished Service Award, and other important awards.

To learn more about the latest programs and activities from the American Economic Association, please visit our website at aeaweb.org, or find us on X (formerly known as Twitter) at @AEAINformation. Stay current with recently published research by reading AEA Research Highlights, listening to podcasts of author interviews, or following us at Facebook.com/AEAJournals, or on X at @AEAJournals.