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Journal metrics

This page provides information on peer review performance and citation metrics for the Nature Portfolio journals. Data are collected annually for full calendar years. More information regarding the release of these data can be found here. Click here to download our quick reference guide to journal metrics.

Nature Portfolio is a signatory of San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (see here for more information about our endorsement). We believe that Impact Factor is just one of a number of metrics that can be used to evaluate a journal, and a small number of highly cited papers can have a disproportionate effect on the mean number of citations per paper.

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- 2020 Peer Review Metrics
- 2020 Journal Metrics
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- Editorials and other content

2020 Peer Review Metrics

Submission to first editorial decision: the median time (in days) from when a submission is received to when a first editorial decision about whether the paper was sent out for formal review or not is sent to the authors.

Submission to first post-review decision: for manuscripts that are sent to external reviewers, the median time (in days) taken from when a submission is received to when a editorial decision post-review is sent to the authors.

Submission to Accept: the median time (in days) from the published submission date to the final editorial acceptance date.

Nature Portfolio journals	Submission to first editorial decision (median, days)	Submission to first post-review decision (median, days)	Submission to Accept (median, days)
Nature	6	45	226
Nature Aging	7	42	59
Nature Astronomy	6	41	125
Nature Biomedical Engineering	1	49	225
Nature Biotechnology	8	51	213
Nature Cancer	8	47	138
Nature Catalysis	13	46	167

Nature Cell Biology	7	47	284
Nature Chemical Biology	6	43	194
Nature Chemistry	7	65	236
Nature Climate Change	6	62	206
Nature Communications	8	49	200
Nature Computational Science	8	45	82
Nature Ecology & Evolution	5	48	164
Nature Electronics	14	63	187
Nature Energy	9	51	139
Nature Food	11	60	167
Nature Genetics	5	43	243
Nature Geoscience	15	90	217
Nature Human Behaviour	5	57	245
Nature Immunology	5	37	108
Nature Machine Intelligence	13	60	147
Nature Materials	7	47	172
Nature Medicine	3	33	70
Nature Metabolism	7	37	135
Nature Methods	5	49	214
Nature Microbiology	8	49	171
Nature Nanotechnology	7	47	164
Nature Neuroscience	8	51	257
Nature Photonics	10	59	168
Nature Physics	7	62	164
Nature Plants	10	51	165
Nature Protocols	7	43	172
Nature Structural & Molecular Biology	5	41	119
Nature Sustainability	12	62	215
Communications Biology	11	48	188
Communications Chemistry	3	31	106
Communications Earth & Environment	7	55	155
Communications Materials	4	38	136
Communications Physics	8	46	124
Lab Animal	12	69	1
NPG Asia Materials	9	44	132

npj 2D Materials and Applications	11	44	122
npj Aging and Mechanisms of Disease	12	57	191
npj Biofilms and Microbiomes	9	55	161
npj Breast Cancer	14	58	193
npj Clean Water	5	45	133
npj Climate and Atmospheric Science	9	56	188
npj Computational Materials	11	52	154
npj Digital Medicine	5	53	141
npj Flexible Electronics	20	67	162
npj Genomic Medicine	4	39	147
npj Materials Degradation	5	39	107
npj Microgravity	18	65	182
npj Parkinson's Disease	11	51	153
npj Precision Oncology	5	48	153
npj Primary Care Respiratory Medicine	11	56	152
npj Quantum Information	30	88	188
npj Quantum Materials	5	42	144
npj Regenerative Medicine	18	71	186
npj Schizophrenia	6	43	126
npj Science of Food	20	68	165
npj Science of Learning	20	89	224
npj Systems Biology and Applications	13	81	205
npj Urban Sustainability	19	77	216
npj Vaccines	6	38	115
Scientific Data	10	53	139
Scientific Reports	44	108	221

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2020 Journal Metrics

On this page you will find a suite of citation-based metrics for Nature Portfolio journals including *Nature*, the Nature reviews and research journals, *Scientific Reports*, *Scientific Data* and the Nature Partner Journals which provide an overview of these journals. Because the median is not subject to the distortions from outliers, we have developed and provided the 2-year Median, derived from Web of Science data and defined as the median number of citations received in 2020 for articles published in 2018 and 2019 in *Nature*, the Nature research and reviews journals and *Scientific Reports*. The distribution of citations for *Nature*, *Nature Communications* and *Scientific Reports* are shown below. Brief definitions for each of the metrics used to measure the influence of our journals are included below the tables. More information regarding the approach taken to derive the median citation can be found here. Article-level metrics are also available on each article page, allowing readers to track the reach of individual papers.

Commentaries on Impact Factors and their use and misuse can be found in our editorials and other content, going back for many years, links to a sample of which are provided at the end of the page.

As described above, Nature Portfolio has produced the 2-year Median in the table below. All other data has been produced by Clarivate Analytics.

Journal metrics are based on the published output, thus those that are calculated from the output in multiple years will use a partial dataset for recently launched journals.

While the metrics presented here are not intended to be a definitive list, we hope that they will prove to be informative. The page is updated on an annual basis.

Multidisciplinary journals	2-year Impact Factor	5-year Impact Factor	Immediacy index	Eigenfactor® score	Article Influence Score	2-year Median
Nature	49.962	54.637	24.651	1.089	23.887	TBC
Nature Communications	14.919	15.805	3.233	1.239	5.567	TBC
Scientific Reports	4.379	5.133	0.783	1.2325	1.285	TBC
Scientific Data	6.444	9.051	1.67	0.03447	3.247	TBC

Nature research journals	2-year Impact Factor	5-year Impact Factor	Immediacy index	Eigenfactor® score	Article Influence Score	2-year Median
Nature Astronomy	14.437	13.426	6.613	0.020	5.759	TBC
Nature Biomedical Engineering	25.671	26.355	6.935	0.020	8.991	TBC
Nature Biotechnology	54.908	50.516	14.739	0.146	25.083	TBC
Nature Catalysis	41.813	41.822	6.973	0.030	13.566	TBC
Nature Cell Biology	28.824	26.648	5.797	0.071	11.061	TBC
Nature Chemical Biology	15.040	15.668	4.539	0.048	6.301	TBC
Nature Chemistry	24.427	26.958	6.858	0.069	9.536	TBC
Nature Climate Change	25.290	28.803	6.806	0.080	10.746	TBC
	15.460	15.974	4.823	0.042	6.610	TBC

Nature Ecology & Evolution						
Nature Electronics	33.686	33.695	5.643	0.014	11.918	TBC
Nature Energy	60.858	68.822	10.377	0.080	19.786	TBC
Nature Genetics	38.330	36.431	6.279	0.187	19.017	TBC
Nature Geoscience	16.908	17.933	5.232	0.058	7.549	TBC
Nature Human Behaviour	13.663	15.294	7.655	0.023	7.770	TBC
Nature Immunology	25.606	27.279	6.774	0.080	12.064	TBC
Nature Machine Intelligence	15.508	15.508	3.769	0.003	5.291	TBC
Nature Materials	43.841	48.386	10.545	0.130	15.535	TBC
Nature Medicine	53.440	49.248	27.828	0.184	20.808	TBC
Nature Metabolism	13.511	N/A	4.130	0.005	5.397	TBC
Nature Methods	28.247	44.960	13.923	0.197	25.583	TBC
Nature Microbiology	17.745	18.905	18.392	0.056	8.070	TBC
Nature Nanotechnology	39.213	42.237	9.013	0.107	13.664	TBC
Nature Neuroscience	24.884	25.875	5.737	0.128	12.910	TBC
Nature Photonics	38.771	39.979	9.500	0.081	14.039	TBC
Nature Physics	20.034	22.850	6.716	0.093	10.066	TBC
Nature Plants	15.793	17.349	4.522	0.032	6.071	TBC
Nature Protocols	13.491	17.240	2.510	0.058	7.632	TBC
Nature Structural and Molecular Biology	15.369	14.868	4.533	0.051	7.820	TBC
Nature Sustainability	19.346	19.346	4.300	0.013	6.337	TBC

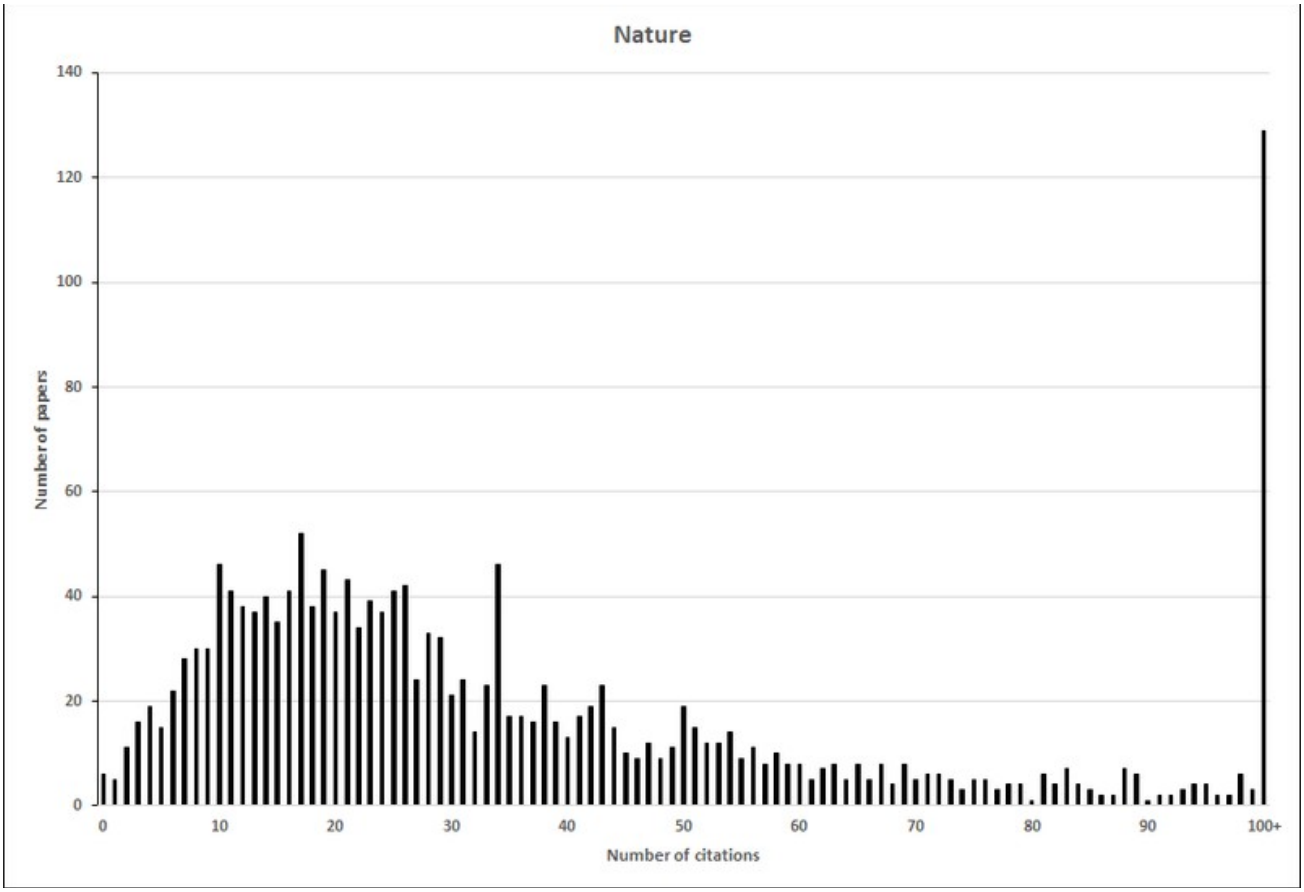
Nature reviews journals	**2-year Impact Factor**	**5-year Impact Factor**	**Immediacy index**	**Eigenfactor® score**	**Article Influence Score**	**2-year Median**
Nature Reviews Cancer	60.716	68.839	13.212	0.059	22.536	TBC
Nature Reviews Cardiology	32.419	27.000	22.209	0.023	9.003	TBC
Nature Reviews Chemistry	34.035	41.481	7.654	0.018	13.196	TBC
Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology	66.675	52.441	16.444	0.039	16.582	TBC
Nature Reviews Disease Primers	52.329	65.357	7.325	0.044	19.857	TBC
Nature Reviews Drug Discovery	84.694	80.543	38.667	0.048	24.913	TBC
Nature Reviews Endocrinology	43.330	36.757	10.483	0.026	10.595	TBC
Nature Reviews Gastroenterology & Hepatology	46.802	38.143	10.508	0.029	11.385	TBC
Nature Reviews Genetics	53.242	52.016	9.387	0.059	23.457	TBC

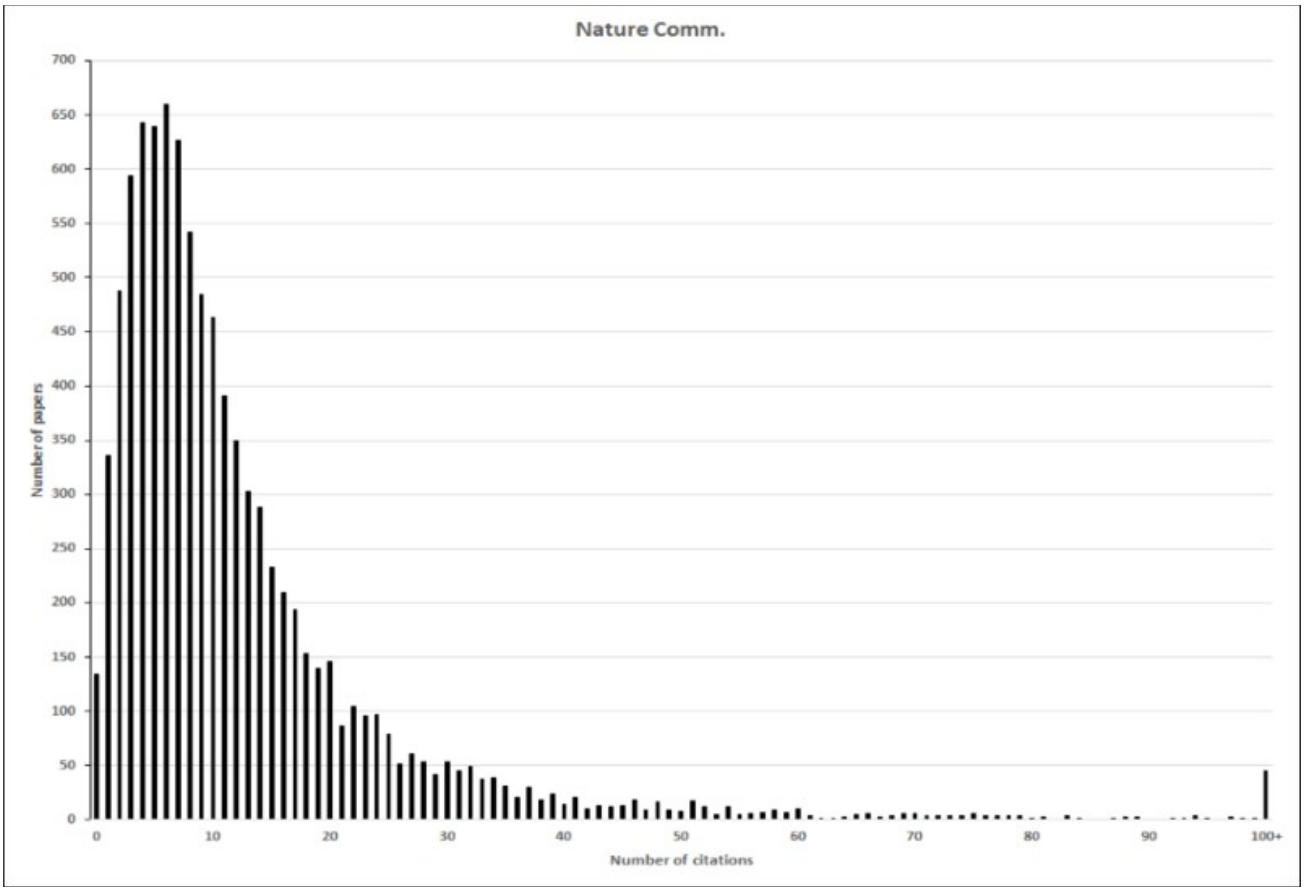
Nature Reviews Immunology	53.106	62.711	43.309	0.064	22.991	TBC
Nature Reviews Materials	66.308	98.837	16.515	0.057	29.018	TBC
Nature Reviews Microbiology	60.633	56.614	13.176	0.054	18.986	TBC
Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology	94.444	70.362	21.736	0.075	28.193	TBC
Nature Reviews Nephrology	28.314	26.996	10.661	0.020	8.342	TBC
Nature Reviews Neurology	42.937	35.200	8.600	0.030	11.493	TBC
Nature Reviews Neuroscience	34.870	43.357	8.490	0.049	17.652	TBC
Nature Reviews Physics	31.068	31.068	7.267	0.006	12.747	TBC
Nature Reviews Rheumatology	20.543	23.657	11.491	0.019	6.749	TBC
Nature Reviews Urology	14.432	12.574	6.114	0.008	3.471	TBC

Nature Partner Journals	**2-year Impact Factor**	**5-year Impact Factor**	**Immediacy index**	**Eigenfactor® score**	**Article Influence Score**
npj 2D Materials and Applications	11.106	11.541	1.578	0.00402	3.207
npj Biofilms & Microbiomes	7.29	8.97	1.311	0.00318	2.308
npj Breast Cancer	6.923	7.241	0.969	0.00406	2.435
npj Clean Water	9.378	9.378	2.463	0.00089	1.94
npj Climate and Atmospheric Science	8.624	8.634	1.804	0.00331	3.461
npj Computational Materials	12.241	13.993	1.636	0.01191	4.003
npj Digital Medicine	11.653	11.665	2.909	0.00745	4.187
npj Flexible Electronics	12.74	12.355	1.273	0.0018	2.827
npj Genomic Medicine	8.617	7.355	1	0.00391	3.064
npj Materials Degradation	5.9	6.888	0.854	0.00143	1.421
npj Microgravity	4.415	4.78	0.811	0.00179	1.474
npj Parkinson's Disease	8.651	8.085	1.225	0.00304	2.296
npj Precision Oncology	8.254	9.538	1.333	0.0025	2.613
npj Primary Care Respiratory Medicine	2.871	3.514	0.429	0.00272	1.053
npj Quantum Information	7.385	9.058	2.255	0.00968	3.66
npj Quantum Materials	7.032	7.41	1.839	0.00545	2.524
npj Regenerative Medicine	10.364	11.5	1.083	0.00218	3.038
npj Schizophrenia	5.2	6.323	1.154	0.00276	2.168
npj Science of Food	5.07	5.74	0.529	0.00064	1.25
npj Science of Learning	4.35	Not Available	0.737	0.000127	Not Available
	4.187	4.434	0.971	0.00216	1.471

npj Systems Biology and Applications					
npj Vaccines	7.344	7.441	2.584	0.00385	2.584
Other Nature Portfolio journals	**2-year Impact Factor**	**5-year Impact Factor**	**Immediacy index**	**Eigenfactor® score**	**Article Influence Score**
Communications Biology	6.268	Not Available	1.187	0.016	2.374
Communications Chemistry	6.581	6.586	1.197	0.004	1.687
Communications Physics	6.368	Not Available	1.641	0.006	2.366
Lab Animal	12.625	5.056	1.444	0.00114	1.57
NPG Asia Materials	10.481	9.947	1.718	0.01019	2.112

The distribution of citations for *Nature*, *Nature Communications* and *Scientific Reports* showing citations accumulated in 2019 to citable items published in 2017 and 2018. The distributions were calculated according to the methodology described in Larivière, V. et al., A simple proposal for the publication of journal citation distributions. Preprint at bioRxiv doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1101/062109 (2016).

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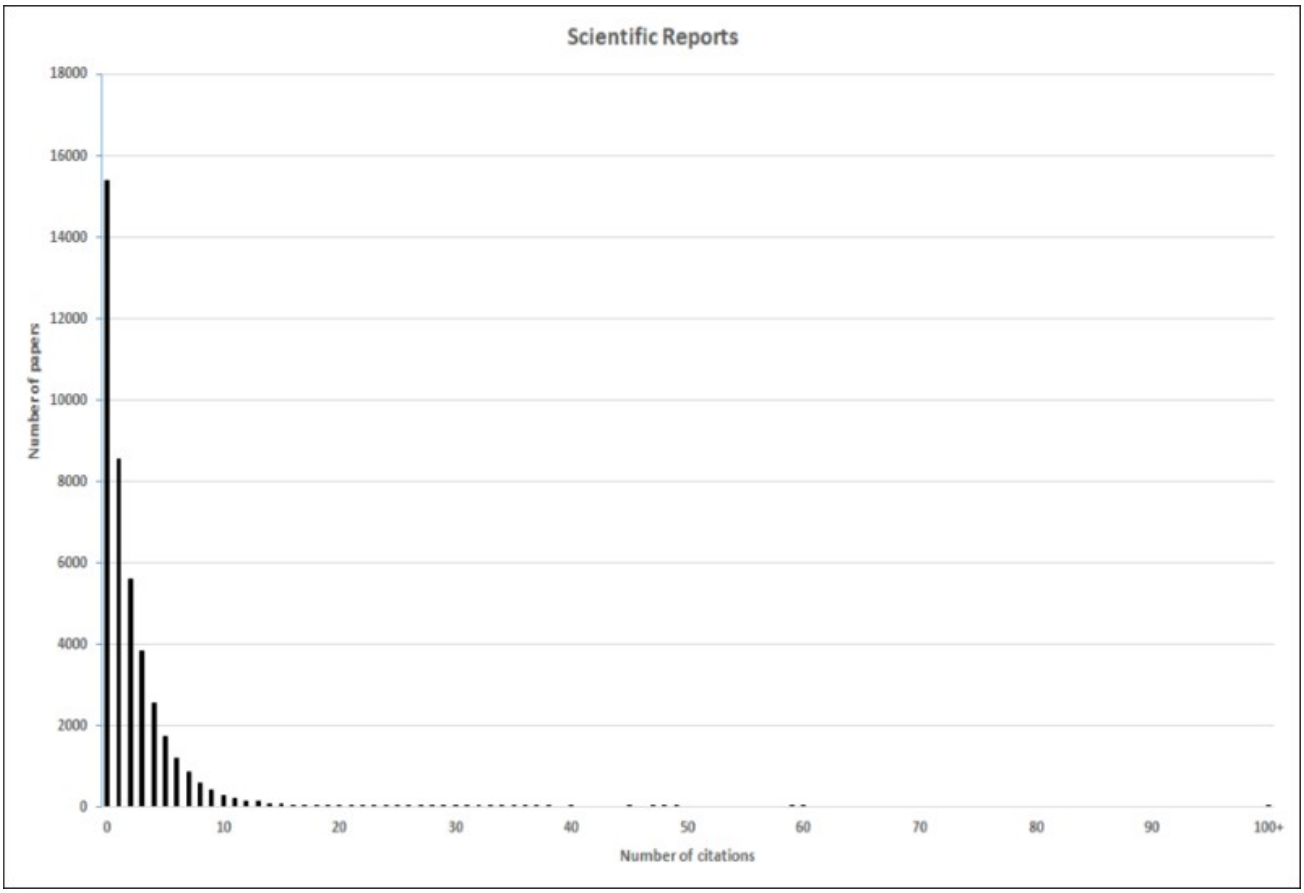
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Definitions

2-year Impact Factor:

The Journal Impact Factor is defined as all citations to the journal in the current JCR year to items published in the previous two years, divided by the total number of scholarly items (these comprise articles, reviews, and proceedings papers) published in the journal in the previous two years. (Courtesy of Clarivate Analytics)

5-year Impact Factor:

The 5-year journal Impact Factor, available from 2007 onward, is the average number of times articles from the journal published in the past five years have been cited in the JCR year. It is calculated by dividing the number of citations in the JCR year by the total number of articles published in the five previous years. (Courtesy of Clarivate Analytics)

Immediacy index:

The Immediacy Index is the average number of times an article is cited in the year it is published. The journal Immediacy Index indicates how quickly articles in a journal are cited. (Courtesy of Clarivate Analytics)

Eigenfactor® Score:

The *Eigenfactor Score* calculation is based on the number of times articles from the journal published in the past five years have been cited in the JCR year, but it also considers which journals have contributed these citations so that highly cited journals will influence the network more than lesser cited journals. References from one article in a journal to another article from the same journal are removed, so that *Eigenfactor Scores* are not influenced by journal self-citation. (Courtesy of Clarivate Analytics)

Article Influence Score:

The *Article Influence Score* determines the average influence of a journal's articles over the first five years after publication. It is calculated by multiplying the *Eigenfactor Score* by 0.01 and dividing by the number of articles in the journal, normalized as a fraction of all articles in all publications. This measure is roughly analogous to the *5-Year Journal Impact Factor* in that it is a ratio of a journal's citation influence to the size of the journal's article contribution over a period of five years. (Courtesy of Clarivate Analytics)

2-year Median:

The median number of citations received in 2017 for articles published in in 2015 and 2016. Data from Web of Science was used; more information regarding the details of article categories and approach taken to derive the median citation can be found here. (Nature Portfolio Data)

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Editorials and other content

- Nature and the Nature journals are diversifying their presentation of performance indicators. *Nature*. Time to remodel the journal impact factor, July 2016
- The journal impact factor is a much-criticized yet still-used number. As with any metric, it should not be used uncritically and without an understanding of what it measures. *Nature Methods*. On Impact, August 2015.
- Use these ten principles to guide research evaluation, urge Diana Hicks, Paul Wouters and colleagues. *Nature*. Bibliometrics: The Leiden Manifesto for research metrics, 22 April 2015.
- The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), an initiative spearheaded by the American Society for Cell Biology, aims to reform research assessment. *Nature Cell Biology*. Ending the tyranny of the impact factor, January 2014.
- In deciding how to judge the impact of research, evaluators must take into account the effects of emphasizing particular measures — and be open about their methods. *Nature*. The maze of impact metrics, 17 October 2013.
- As the journal's first impact factor is released, it is time to reflect on journal metrics and how *Nature Climate Change* has been making its mark. *Nature Climate Change*. Having an impact, July 2013.

- Citation analyses can condense scholarly output into numbers, but they do not live up to peer review in the evaluation of scientists. Online usage statistics and commenting could soon enable a more refined assessment of scientific impact. *Nature Materials*. Measuring impact, July 2011.
- The classic impact factor is outmoded. Is there an alternative for assessing both a researcher's productivity and a journal's quality? *Nature Immunology*. Ball and chain, October 2010.
- Nature Metrics special, June 2010. The value of scientific output is often measured, to rank one nation against another, allocate funds between universities, or even grant or deny tenure. Scientometricians have devised a multitude of 'metrics' to help in these rankings. Do they work? Are they fair? Are they over-used? *Nature* investigates.
- Transparency, education and communication are key to ensuring that appropriate metrics are used to measure individual scientific achievement. *Nature*. Assessing Assessment, 17 June 2010.
- Research assessment rests too heavily on the inflated status of the impact factor. *Nature*. Not-so-deep impact, 23 June 2005.

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