

Applied Business and Economics Journal

e-ISSN: 2956-7432

2025 Vol.3 pp. 1-2

doi: 10.61089/abej.2025.3.140

Third Issue of the Applied Business and Economics JournalWitold Orłowski 

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Published: 30 September 2025

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We are pleased to present the third issue of the Applied Business and Economics Journal. We live in a world rapidly changing due to the technological revolution, yet at the same time increasingly complex and unstable. On the one hand, this constantly creates new opportunities for development and increased efficiency at the level of both companies and national economies. On the other, instead of the harmonious cooperation we expected in the 21st century, we constantly encounter new challenges. The main goal of our journal is a holistic view on development challenges and opportunities.



These are sometimes local and sectoral in nature, and sometimes global, common to the entire world. In our journal, we strive to combine knowledge of economics and management with the practice of business operations worldwide. In this issue, we present articles from various parts of the world, covering various economic sectors and types of business. The common denominator of all the articles is an analysis of emerging opportunities and challenges, as well as the methods by which businesses can address them.

The first article addresses the issue of gender equality, understood in the context of women's chances of success in advancing to management positions. Although this issue is widely discussed, there is no consensus on the decisive factors. Moreover, these factors can vary significantly across countries and corporate cultures. Through a review of literature and quantitative research, the Authors analyze the situation in Spain, presenting recommendations aimed at helping women overcome barriers to their careers. As they note, albeit each woman's path to success is unique, common traits such as goal orientation, adaptability, and strong communication skills are crucial.

The next two articles address the issue of optimizing management in response to changes in the global economy. The first concerns the impact of supply chain efficiency on the functioning of the agri-food industry in Indonesia.

This study, based on quantitative analysis, demonstrates the crucial importance of four factors: information flow, efficient order fulfillment, product availability, and communication between supply chain participants. The second article focuses on construction project management in Nigeria. The aim of the study, based on surveys from 288 project teams, was to examine the impact of Lean Management tools on construction site safety. Results of the quantitative study indicate a positive relationship between the efficient use of these tools and increased safety, and more broadly, increased project implementation efficiency.

The next article examines the development of international trade in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Authors use a gravity model of trade, accounting for the influence of economic, geographic, institutional, and cultural factors on regional and bilateral trade flows. On the one hand the results confirm the importance of well-known general economic factors, but, on the other hand, also demonstrate the significant impact of infrastructure availability and quality, as well as institutional and cultural factors.

The fifth article examines the phenomenon of changes in household savings behavior and the perception of health risks. The analysis focuses on changes related to the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic on American households. According to the study, the financial difficulties faced by households, combined with the availability and forms of government support, proved to be factors that had a stronger impact on savings behavior than the obvious increase in health risks caused by the pandemic. As a result, the increase in savings in Black households was significantly stronger than in the more financially resilient White households.

Recognizing the importance of ongoing analysis of changes occurring in the global economy, I would like to express my gratitude to the Authors, Reviewers, and Editorial Team for their contribution to the preparation of this issue of the journal. Thus far, we have strived to deepen our understanding of the phenomena shaping the contemporary world, particularly the changes occurring at the intersection of business, economics, sustainable development, and digital transformation. We invite you to read and join the discussion.

Prof. Witold Orłowski
Chief Editor