

the Survey Statistician

The Newsletter of the International Association of Survey Statisticians

No. 52

July 2005



International Statistical Institute



Institut International de Statistique

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SURVEY STATISTICIANS
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ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES STATISTICIENS
Institut International de Statistique

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In This Issue

No. 52, July 2005

- 1 Letter from the President
- 2 Report from the IASS Scientific Secretary
- 3 IASS Short Courses in Sydney 2005
- 4 Report on IASS Lisbon 2007 Programme Committee
- 4 Report from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics
- 7 Country Reports
 - 7 ♦ Australia
 - 8 ♦ Canada
 - 8 ♦ Hungary
 - 9 ♦ Italy
 - 11 ♦ Philippines
 - 11 ♦ Poland
- 12 Country Representatives
- 15 Software Review
- 16 Ask the Experts
- 17 Articles
 - ♦ Letter from G. Theodore
 - ♦ Response from Anders Christianson
- 18 New Members
- 21 Announcements
 - ♦ ICES III
 - ♦ SAE2005
- 23 IASS Web Site
- 24 In Other Journals
 - ♦ Survey Methodology
 - ♦ Journal of Official Statistics
 - ♦ Statistics in Transition
- 29 IASS Officers and Council Members

Change of Address Form

Institutional Members

Letter from the President

Let me begin my first *Survey Statistician* letter to you as President of IASS by thanking my predecessor, Luigi Biggeri, for his leadership of the Association over the past two years. Thanks are also due to Marina Signore, our outgoing Scientific Secretary, especially for her work in organizing the short courses offered in Sydney, and to all our retiring vice-presidents and council members. Recent elections have given us a new President-Elect (Pedro Silva), a new Scientific Secretary (Lilli Japiec), two new vice-presidents (Jelke Bethlehem and John Kovar), as well as six new Council members. Congratulations to those newly elected and thanks to Claudio Quintano who headed our Elections Committee this past year.

Those of you able to attend the ISI meetings in Sydney will have appreciated the excellent scientific program organized by our program committee under Pedro Silva. We are very grateful to Pedro, to members of the program committee, and to organizers of sessions who put in so much work to ensure successful meetings. Preparations for the sessions to be sponsored or co-sponsored by IASS during the 2007 meetings in Lisbon are well underway under the leadership of David Steele, and a list of the topics for these sessions appears later in this issue.

A report on the six short courses held in Sydney appears below. These were successful thanks to the valuable time donated by the instructors, the tremendous support of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and the great coordinating efforts of Marina Signore. Nevertheless, we were somewhat disappointed that attendance from developing

countries was low, largely due to the withdrawal of expected funding shortly before the meetings. We are determined to continue with these courses for the Lisbon meetings in 2007 as they constitute one of the tangible ways in which we can achieve our objective of supporting the training of survey statisticians in developing countries. We will be looking for a broader base of funding for trainees from developing countries, and if you have any suggestions or contacts that could lead to potential funding sources please contact our Scientific Secretary, Lilli Japiec (lilli.japiec@scb.se).

As reported in the last *Survey Statistician*, a working group of European statisticians has been very active in looking for ways to strengthen contacts among survey statisticians within Europe and to enhance the European activities of IASS. A proposal to create a European regional section of IASS was put forward and considered during the Sydney meetings but not acted upon due to some concerns about the impact a distinct section might have on the cohesion of IASS as a whole. However, there was widespread appreciation and support for the initiative and activities of our European members and the Executive is pursuing means by which the IASS can support these activities to the benefit of IASS broadly. The previously announced Q2006 Conference (April 24-26, 2006, Cardiff, Wales) is one of the initiatives of our European members that IASS will be supporting.

Our network of country representatives has for many years been an important element of communication within IASS. We would like to strengthen and extend this network to ensure that it is fully effective for communications (in both directions) and for promoting the Association. I have asked vice-president John Kovar to lead this effort. We are including the current list

of country representatives in this issue of *Survey Statistician* so that, if you live in a country without a country representative and would like to volunteer, you can contact John (john.kovar@statcan.ca).

IASS is sponsoring a growing number of professional meetings between the biennial ISI meetings. Most recently we co-sponsored the joint IASS/IAOS *Conference on Poverty, Social Exclusion and Development: A Statistical Perspective* in Amman, Jordan, in November 2004; the *Conference on complex sampling, retrospective sampling and missing data*, in honour of Alastair Scott, in Auckland, New Zealand, in April 2005; and the *Colloque francophone sur les sondages* in Quebec City, Canada. Given the increasing frequency and importance of such meetings, I have asked vice-president Jelke Bethlehem to oversee our commitments and involvements in such meetings. A listing of recent and future meetings is included for reference below.

We continue to make progress in strengthening both the *Survey Statistician* and the IASS website (<http://www.cbs.nl/isi/iass/>). I was very pleased to learn that the team largely responsible for this progress: Steve Heeringa (Editor, *Survey Statistician*), Anders Christianson (Ask the Experts section), Jim Lepkowski (Software Reviews), John Kovar (Country Reports), and Eric Rancourt (IASS website) will all be continuing in these volunteer roles for the coming period.

Congratulations to the winner of the 2005 Cochrane-Hansen prize, **Maiki Ilves** from Estonia, for her paper, *Variance and its Estimator for a Practical Self-Weighting Two-Phase Design*. She presented her paper during the Sydney meetings in a session devoted to winners of prizes for young statisticians. Despite the high quality of the winning entry, concerns about the low number of entries received and the future of the prize were discussed in Sydney. We have resolved to continue with this prize, but will review and clarify some of the rules surrounding it. In the meantime, I encourage all members, especially those supervising students or young employees from non-OECD countries, to start thinking now of possible nominations for the 2007 prize. The official request for nominations will appear later.

Those of you who are ISI members will have read of ISI initiatives on strategic planning and strengthening the ISI family. One aspect of these initiatives is a reconsideration of the relationships between ISI and its sections. No proposals in this regard have yet been made, but an ISI committee is being struck to consider options and develop proposals that might be brought forward at the 2007 meetings. While strengthening the ISI family is an objective most of us would share, any changes that may be proposed are bound to have some impact on the way IASS and other sections operate. As these discussions and ideas develop we will try to ensure that the interests of IASS members are properly considered. To this end, I would welcome any comments or suggestions members may have now, or in the future, on these ISI initiatives as they evolve.

As you can see, a variety of issues and activities are facing our Association. Let me end by saying that I look forward to serving IASS over the next two years, and would welcome any views or suggestions members may have on IASS issues or activities at any time.

Gordon Brackstone
President
Gordon.brackstone@sympatico.ca

Report from the IASS Scientific Secretary

I like to begin my first *Survey Statistician* report by expressing my thanks to my predecessor, Marina Signore. She has already been a great support and has kindly offered her expertise in the future.

Marina put together a very impressive course package for the Sydney meeting. There were six courses altogether, covering a broad set of topics. It is very important to IASS to be able to offer these courses. They are always much appreciated by the students, and we are in debt to our highly committed instructors who give their time and skills to our organization. Some of these instructors have assisted IASS for a long time. For the Lisbon 2007 meeting we hope to repeat the success from Sydney and offer a nice course package to

conference participants. You can read more about the courses in Sydney in Marina's report below.

Although the Lisbon 2007 meeting might seem far away, it is time to start the planning. As Gordon mentioned in the President's letter, we are looking for sponsors who can help us get survey methodologist from developing countries to attend our courses. If you have any suggestions regarding potential sponsors or related contacts, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The Lisbon 2007 Programme Committee, chaired by David Steel, has put together a list of interesting topics for the Invited Papers Sessions. The topics range from technical to more general ones such as teaching survey methodology. You will find the complete list of topics in David's report below.

Let me finish by saying that I look forward to working for the IASS for the next two years. I also like to encourage anyone who has suggestions about the IASS and our activities to contact me.

Lilli Japac
Scientific Secretary
lilli.japac@scb.se

IASS Short Courses in Sydney 2005

The IASS traditionally organizes Short Courses on survey methodology in connection with the ISI Session. The Short Courses are a very well known and appreciated activity. Indeed, they represent an opportunity for survey statisticians to follow courses held by high level international experts and to share experiences.

I started organising the Short Courses just after the ISI Session in Berlin, August 2003. In order to define the program of the Short Courses, I consulted the IASS Council and the past Scientific Secretaries. The consultation took place during the period September-December 2003. It helped to find a good balance of topics in order to cover new issues as well as consolidated aspects of survey methodology. I would like to thank the

IASS Council, Daniel Kasprzyk and Seppo Laaksonen that kindly shared their experience and know-how. I am particularly grateful to Graham Kalton and John Kovar for their timely and experienced advice.

Program and attendance:

Course A: *Workshop on Survey Sampling*, 1-3 April, presented by: Graham Kalton (Westat); Steven Heeringa (Survey Research Center, University of Michigan). 21 participants

Course B: *Variance Estimation in Complex Surveys*, 3-5 April, presented by: Wayne Fuller (Iowa State University); Kirk Wolter (University of Chicago); F. Jay Breidt (Colorado State University); Anthony An (SAS Institute). 19 participants

Course C: *Workshop on Editing and Imputation of Survey Data*, 4-5 April, presented by: John G. Kovar (Statistics Canada); Eric Rancourt (Statistics Canada). 42 participants

Course D: *Introduction to Survey Quality*, 3-5 April, presented by: Paul Biemer (RTI International and University of North Carolina); Lars Lyberg (Statistics Sweden). 18 participants

Course E: *Statistical Disclosure Control*, 13-14 April, presented by: Eric Schulte Nordholt (Statistics Netherlands); Peter-Paul de Wolf (Statistics Netherlands). 18 participants

Course F: *Design and Analysis of Repeated Surveys*, 13-14 April, presented by: David Steel (University of Wollongong); Craig McLaren (Australian Bureau of Statistics). 23 participants

In total, 125 persons attended the Short Courses. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the prestigious lecturers who accepted to run the courses and who attracted so many participants from many different countries. Indeed, the attendance was really successful despite Australia being quite far away from other continents and the lack of financial support from the U.N. Statistical Division. Nevertheless, the lack of financial support seriously affected the participation of people from developing and transition countries. The IASS Council

supported participants from developing and transition countries by waiving their fees.

The venue of the courses was the Australian Bureau of Statistics in Sydney. ABS kindly offered the training rooms, the equipment required for the courses and the coffee breaks. I am sincerely grateful to Dennis Trewin and to Geoff Lee, Chair of the Local Organising Committee for their generosity. I would like to acknowledge Anna Poskitt, Helen Vallance, Paul Sutcliffe and Mike Kulmar for the professionalism and for the excellent local organisation which contributed to the successful edition of the Short Courses.

Finally, I would like to thank the IASS Secretariat in France, and in particular Claude Olivier and Anna Maria Vespa for their organisational support.

Marina Signore
Scientific Secretary, 2003-2005

Report on IASS Lisbon 2007 Programme Committee

A programme committee consisting of a total of 22 members developed an initial list of 46 topics for the Invited Paper Meetings. The list was considered and consolidated into a list of 37 distinct topics by combining similar and closely related topics. This list was ranked by the committee and considered at the Sydney ISI meeting in April 2005 in consultation with the ISI programme coordinating committee. The resulting list of topics for Invited Paper Meetings is given below. In addition to the listed topics there is an opportunity for sessions of related papers on a theme to be suggested as Special Topics Contributed Papers.

List of topics:

- Information integration: statistical theory for combining and using multiple data sets in concert
- Design and updating of longitudinal samples
- Statistical disclosure control of microdata
- Using multiple modes to collect data in surveys

- Confidentialising tables and data with geographically fine breakdown
- Prioritising Nonresponse follow up to minimise MSE
- What can Censuses and administrative sources tell us about Nonsampling Errors?
- Measuring and reporting quality of small area estimates
- Randomization-assisted model-based survey sampling
- New methods of sampling
- Opinion Polls: Do they do more Harm than Good?
- How the IASS and IAOS can encouraging donor and international organizations to strengthen themselves statistically
- The impact of new information technologies on survey research design and on a totally new information production model
- Teaching of survey statistics

David Steel
Chair Lisbon 2007 Programme Committee

Report from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics

In the context of the UN Literacy Decade, the **Literacy Assessment and Monitoring Programme (LAMP)** was conceived to improve policy-making by increasing the validity, reliability and comparability of literacy statistics worldwide. The aim is to measure literacy skills of the population along a continuous scale and to report on the population distribution across this ability scale in developing countries. It is the first household survey to be designed and managed by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) which usually relies on data from administrative sources, population censuses or surveys of institutions. As the name LAMP implies the survey will include an assessment (or test) of literacy proficiency and in this way will be an improvement on the current most common methods of collecting literacy data in developing countries which rely on people's reports of their abilities.

The programme is being piloted in developing countries which have varying literacy

situations, languages, economies, and cultures: Kenya, Mongolia, Morocco, Niger, and El Salvador. Indeed a key objective is to determine empirically the comparability of the instruments across different cultural and linguistic environments, both between and within countries. These five countries are true partners in the exercise and are contributing to the development of the surveys and assessment instruments.

For the assessment instruments, one test module is based on the International Adult Literacy Survey (IALS) and its successor the Adult Literacy and Lifeskills survey (ALL). Several items from these surveys are included in LAMP in order to link the tests, so as to be able to compare estimates from LAMP with those of IALS/ALL. Another test module ensures that differentiation can be made between people with low level of literacy skills (which are expected to include a large majority of the population in many developing countries), by testing 'component literacy skills', which are the building blocks for proficient literacy and include, for example, decoding ability, and automatic recognition of common words.

A model-based approach will be used to provide estimates for subgroups and geographical areas for which this would otherwise not be possible, given the limited resources for countries to collect large samples in such a complex data collection (sample sizes are about 3,000 adults). The reliability of these estimates will depend on how well the models hold. This strategy may also be used to provide estimates when no full literacy survey can be conducted. A questionnaire module is being developed that could be piggy-backed on other surveys to gather auxiliary data as well as some indication of the respondent's literacy situation (though not a literacy score).

Draft assessment and survey instruments have been prepared with the five country teams, with assistance from Statistics Canada and Educational Testing Service (USA). A workshop with country representatives took place in February 2005 to discuss these drafts together with the plans for the implementation. Countries are now reviewing their test items and planning reports. Field-tests are planned for early 2006.

As indicated above the new methodology of LAMP is totally different from the current data collection, where countries communicate any literacy data they have collected (for example through self-declaration by the household head or using educational attainment as a proxy). Such data are often unreliable, incomplete, and non-comparable, but better data are not yet available. Given the time lag before data can be gathered through the LAMP survey in a large number of countries the UIS has a dual aim of trying to improve the current data at minimal cost. Depending on the progress of LAMP, countries will in future be encouraged to revise their data plans to include occasional assessment surveys to integrate with the cruder methods of data collection.

In **Science and Technology**, the UIS recently finalised its 2004 survey of Research & Development personnel and expenditure. Together with data provided by partner organisations such as OECD, Eurostat and RICYT, responses covered over 50 per cent of the 219 countries and territories addressed, and the resulting data provide a more complete global picture than available hitherto.

An expert group on Careers of Doctorate Holders held its first meeting in early February in Montreal, to plan the development of an international survey tool to track the careers of doctorate holders. There is an especial policy interest in cross-national mobility of this highly educated part of the population and the research requires co-operation across countries. At least two groups of countries with different challenges were identified. For those which have an existing data collection tool, the challenge is to harmonise the existing practices. Those who do not yet have a survey tool may collaborate with the UIS and other partners to develop one.

In order to support these activities, three task forces were created. The first, led by Canada and the OECD secretariat, will focus on output indicators and tabulations, verifying which indicators can be produced with the available data and drafting common definitions. The second, under the lead of Portugal and Eurostat, will concentrate on input harmonisation of sampling frames and survey

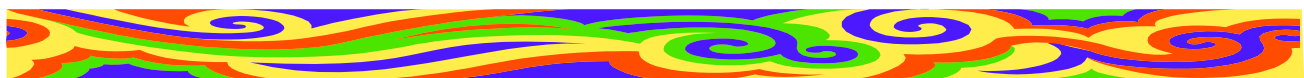
methods. The third task force, led by UIS, will work on the development of a model survey. The expert group on Careers of Doctorate Holders will hold its second meeting in May 2005 in Luxembourg.

For more information on LAMP please contact Bénédicte Terryn at b.terryn@uis.unesco.org, and for science and technology please contact Ernesto Fernández-Polcuch at e.fernandez-polcuch@uis.unesco.org.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Members are encouraged to inform the IASS Secretariat of changes of address as soon as possible. Mailings of the proceedings of the IASS papers presented at the ISI sessions, and “The Survey Statistician” will be delayed and may be lost if the Secretariat does not have your correct address.

You may notify Ms. Claude Olivier of your change of address by completing and mailing the Change of Address form given at the end of this newsletter. Alternatively, you can provide the same information to Ms. Olivier by email to claudes.olivier@insee.fr.



Country Reports



Australia
Geoff Lee

The **Water Survey - Agriculture 2002-03** was run in response to strong user demand for nationally comparable water use and water management data. Currently the agricultural sector accounts for approximately 70% of water use in Australia. A sound understanding of the volume, purpose and location of water use in the agricultural sector is essential to the overall understanding of water use and management in Australia.

Approximately 8,000 agricultural businesses were included in the Water Survey - Agriculture. Units were selected for inclusion according to their response to a trigger question placed on the Agricultural Survey 2002-03. Linking the surveys by a trigger question allowed for the integration of agricultural production data with data collected on irrigation practices. Questions on the Water Survey covered water entitlements and allocations, volume of water applied to crops and pastures, irrigation techniques, sources of irrigation water, water-trading, expenditure on water and irrigation equipment and changes made to improve water efficiency.

Use of the trigger question introduced complexity to the processing of the survey, with final estimates adjusted for non-response and incorrect response to the question. Extensive development work was undertaken to implement Missing Item Donor Imputation (MIDI) for the collection. A different strategy to that used previously with agricultural data, the use of MIDI contributed significantly to the quality of the final estimates produced. Output significance editing and an extensive data confrontation exercise further enhanced the quality of final estimates.

Final estimates from the Water Survey - Agriculture 2002-03 were released in March 2005. These estimates will form the basis of a new time series of statistics on water use in the agricultural sector with on-going data collected on future Agricultural and Natural Resource Management surveys.

For further information please contact David Brereton, Director, Environment BSC (david.brereton@abs.gov.au)

The ABS is currently investigating the use of improved compilation methods to enhance the accuracy of the **quarterly house price index**, and also the use of alternative data sources to improve the timeliness of publication of the index. By improving stratification techniques, the effects of compositional change in the property sales market will be minimised. Major financial institutions have been approached to provide loan applications data, subject to suitability, will be used as a leading indicator of house price movements in Australian capital cities. The redeveloped index will attempt to measure house prices on an exchange of contracts basis, rather than settlement of contracts basis, and will be published closer to the end of the reference period.

In the longer term, the ABS hopes to develop a database of property information that will enable cross matching of records from a wide variety of sources. Data will be stored in an information warehouse, which will facilitate the construction of a repeat sales index, and also potentially the use of hedonic techniques.

For further information please contact Mark King, a/g Assistant Director, Prices Research & Development (mark.king@abs.gov.au), ph (+612) 6252 5342, fax (+612) 6252 8555

Canada
John Kovar

Starting in the 1990s, to meet a growing need for data on the **health status of the population** and on the determinants of health for informed policy making and monitoring, Statistics Canada has greatly increased the amount of information that it collects on the health of the population. The Agency has initiated a number of innovative household health surveys, most notably the longitudinal National Population Health Survey (NPHS) in the previous decade and the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) in the current one. All of these surveys involved obtaining data on health related issues from respondents via the administration of a questionnaire.

The newest health survey, the **Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS)**, will, in addition to administering a questionnaire to respondents, obtain direct measurements including height, weight, blood pressure and lung function, administer a fitness test and collect blood and urine specimens for laboratory analysis. Comprehensive physical measures have not been collected by surveys of the Canadian population since the 1978 Canada Health Survey. Past experience has shown such information to be very valuable to researchers in confirming or revising hypotheses and in understanding the determinants of health as well as for robust surveillance and health planning.

A limited pre-test was conducted in the fall of 2004 in the Calgary area on a sample of 865 dwellings. Interviewers contacted the respondent at home and administered a questionnaire. The respondent was then asked to make an appointment and go to a nearby clinic, set-up specifically for the survey, where physical measures, blood and urine collection was done.

This pre-test had many objectives which have helped us learn more about the logistic, operations, costs, response rates, survey material/manuals, potential bias, etc. The test results have shown that people were willing to participate in this survey. The logistics, operations and sample size need to be

reconsidered for the survey mainly because of higher costs than anticipated.

The objective of the survey is to produce reliable national estimates by sex and age groups for a set of measured health indicators. A sample of 5,000 respondents is currently being considered. The survey is expected to be in the field in the fall of 2006.

For further information on the CHMS, contact Renée Langlois (613-951-0878; renee.langlois@statcan.ca), Health Statistics Division, or Suzelle Giroux (613-951-1481; suzelle.giroux@statcan.ca), Household Survey Methods Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6

Hungary
Laszlo Mihalyffy

At the mid-time between two consecutive decennial population censuses, the Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO) usually conducts a **Microcensus** and a series of **Supplementary Surveys** based on a 2 per cent probability sample. The legal framework of the microcensus is in each case a special Act passed by the Parliament, which makes it a mandatory survey. The questions of the microcensus are, apart from slight changes, the same as those of the population and housing census. The last microcensus took place in 1996, the next will be conducted with the reference time of 1 April 2005.

In comparison to its predecessors, a special feature of the 2005 microcensus is that it should provide reliable estimates also for some main indicators of each of the General Election Districts (GEDs) of the country, the number of which amounts to 176. The importance of those data is attributed to the fact that in the spring of 2006 general elections will be held in Hungary. The unusual requirement on the GEDs had a strong impact on the sample design: the conclusion was that each GED should have a 2 per cent sample of its own, ensuring proper representation of the GEDs. Since all GEDs are roughly of the same size (the size is measured in terms of housing units), the requirement is feasible. In

addition, its impact on the national sample is unambiguously positive.

In general, a GED consists of a set of localities of different size, and the number of localities within a GED ranges from 1 to 102. A city with 100,000 inhabitants or more is divided in two or three GEDs. Using the method of *natural classes*, each GED was stratified by the size of its localities. Strata containing a single locality (or a segment of a major city) determined the function of that locality (or segment) as self-representative, all other localities became non-self-representative. In each stratum of the latter, a single locality was selected with PPS, and housing units (i.e., addresses) in all sampled localities were selected with systematic random sampling, taking advantage of a proper ordering of addresses before selection (implicit stratification). The 2 per cent national sample created in this way contains

- 839 strata each represented by a single locality (or by a segment of a major city), and
- 83,132 addresses, but
- no institutional households.

Of the institutional population amounting to 253,000 in 2001, a separate 2 per cent sample had to be selected. For this purpose, institutions were stratified by type (e.g., old-age homes, students' hostels, etc.) and by size measured by the capacity of the institutions. The selection took place generally in two stages. For each stratum two sampling fractions were determined, one for selecting from among the institutions and another for selecting from persons living in the sampled institutions. The product of the two sampling fractions had to equal 2 percent. All large institutions were included in the sample, while in the case of very small sampled institutions all persons living there are to be interviewed.

Considering a number of aspects, decisions were taken that on the non-institutional part of the microcensus sample, proper sub-samples should be identified for

- an income survey, with a sample size of 22561 dwellings,

- the first wave of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC), with a sample size of 13625 dwellings, and
- the first wave of the survey on ICT usage in households and by individuals, with a sample size of 10000 dwellings.

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The samples of these surveys were created from the microcensus sample by collapsing strata and preserving the “one locality per stratum” property. As a rule, within each county, microcensus strata of smaller localities were collapsed, while those of bigger localities remained unchanged. The numbers of strata (and the numbers of localities) for the income survey, the SILC and the ICT survey are 559 (526), 403 (370) and 374 (341), respectively. The sample of the SILC is a real subset of that of the income survey, while there is no overlap between the sample of the ICT survey and the other ones. For more information, please contact Ödön Éltető (odon.elteto@office.ksh.hu), Gergely Fraller (gergely.fraller@office.ksh.hu) or László Mihályffy (laszlo.mihalyffy@office.ksh.hu).

Italy
Claudio Quintano

One of the tasks of national statistical offices is to disseminate data in an effective and timely way. Under the spreading of internet, now ISTAT utilizes more and more dissemination on line for statistical information. According to this principle, “**Territorial Information System on Justice**” is born to enhance the spread of statistical data and indicators about justice and to improve the level of flexibility and detail in the access to this kind of information, respecting law regulating privacy safeguard (Law n. 675/96).

The information system will be realized in two steps. First version is based on browsing of already planned tables and it will be ready by the end of July 2004. The user can browse tables without predefined access paths, independently choosing survey, data type, time period and level of territorial detail. He can increase level of territorial detail and so get fine grained information, or decrease it, and so get general information. It is possible

to access different information having the same level of territorial detail or to shift from one type of table to another by clicking on a table number. This kind of navigation is provided for data starting from year 2000, but there are summary tables for previous data, too.

The data warehouse is built in such a way that new subjects can be put in also in a subsequent time. The information system includes a "Documentation Section" with: glossary of most important statistical terms used in the tables, informative cards about surveys, main publications dealing with justice statistics, laws regulating different surveyed phenomena. There is a users' comments form and in "Download Area" statistical tables can be saved in Excel format on personal computer. An "International Comparisons" section is also present and it will be a landmark in compared justice statistics for European partners.

Secondly, after July 2004, a more advanced version will be developed to allow dynamic access to data (so the user becomes free to create desired table by choosing variables he wants), interactive cartography and time series. From a technological point of view, the system uses a traditional 3-tier, web based software architecture. It provides a predefined set of tables that Internet users can access through simple thin-client PCs with a common web browser installed. Furthermore, some specialized fat-clients are available for ISTAT users to accomplish client-server administration and system management tasks.

The data warehouse is based on Oracle RDBMS and Java Server Pages software development environment. More precisely, the system is made up of three main components: a database server, an application server and a set of user or administrator clients. The database server is an IBM AIX host with an Oracle 8i instance, for safe, reliable and high available data management, and a set of PL/SQL stored procedures, mainly used to produce macrodata from microdata and statistic tables from macrodata. The application server is an IBM AIX host with a TomCat web server installation and a set of JSP web pages, to provide a user friendly

web interface to access statistic tables and their related metadata (documents, glossary, etc.). As formerly described, each user client is a PC with a browser installed, whilst administrator clients can be of two different types: the first one is a Visual Basic software module that is used to load microdata, typically available as text flat files, into the information system database; the latter is an Oracle Forms software component that basically provides all the needed functionalities to design, produce and publish statistic tables.

The information system has been designed and developed by ISTAT people, supported by external IT human resources. Of course, the main features the data warehouse provides are related to the web navigation, with some browsing functionalities that allow users to select, view and download one or more statistic tables or their related metadata. But the system also includes a set of features that allow researchers to define a set of data or indicators to be published. This complex task is accomplished following the stream of a main process that transforms microdata related to a specific survey into a set of statistic tables available on the Internet. In more detail, the main process starts with a couple of steps through which an administrator user (a) loads microdata of a specific survey into the database server and (b) runs a macrodata production task. At the same time, a process of statistic tables definition allows researchers to specify, for each table, information to be included, rules to be applied for calculation and layouts to be used. Based on macrodata availability and statistic tables definitions, it is possible to produce and publish the whole set of predefined data and indicators.

Besides this main process, the system also includes a process of loading and publishing of metadata components. This process can be merely considered as a simplified version of the main process, through which an administrator user is able to load a set of documents or information related to one or more specific surveys and make them available to Internet users. These documents and information can be read on line or downloaded for off line use.

Finally, the information system is also made of some minor processes (i.e., users management and thesauri management), needed to support the couple of processes just described. In 2003 a prototype with browsing of some subjects and levels of detail has been realized. For more information, please contact Annamaria Urbano (Istat, Central Directorate of Statistics and Surveys on Social Institutions, urbano@istat.it) or Massimiliano Renzetti (Istat, Central Directorate of Statistical Methodologies and Information Technologies, marenzet@istat.it).

Philippines

Gervacio G. Selda, Jr.

The National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), the highest policy and coordinating body on statistical matters in the Philippines, is spearheading the formulation of the Philippine Statistical Development Program (PSDP) for 2005-2010, which is expected to be completed by June 2005. The PSDP is a tool for integrating and coordinating the statistical activities of the government for the medium term. It also addresses the information requirements of the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan of the government and lays the necessary framework for generating statistics and indicators needed by various stakeholders and data users.

The PSDP 2005-2010 will be the seventh PSDP that the Philippine Statistical System (PSS) will have. The previous PSDPs covered the following periods: 1976-2000, 1978-1982, 1983-1987, 1990-1992 (Perspectives 1993-1995), 1993-1998 and 1999-2004. As in the previous PSDPs, a Steering Committee composed of members from the government, academe and the private sector was created in order to provide guidance and direction. The Steering Committee acts as the overall advisory committee for the formulation of the PSDP while the NSCB Executive Board approves the program and endorses it to the Office of the President for adoption through a Presidential Proclamation. To date, the Steering Committee has approved the preparation guidelines which include the vision, goals and key result areas as bases for

formulating the statistical programs, projects and activities for the medium term.

The PSDP is made up of several chapters which include the PSS-wide concerns, various economic and social sectors, subnational statistical system and emerging concerns. Thus, sectoral working groups have also been organized to formulate sectoral statistical programs, projects and activities with corresponding indicative budgets for the first three years. The existing inter-agency committees and working groups have been tapped to work on the PSDP while new working groups have been created for some of the sectors. Prior to the formulation of the successor PSDP, activities include an assessment of the PSS's accomplishments in the last six years, identification of the statistical issues and concerns as well as the thrusts and strategies of the different sectors. Once PSDP is completed, dissemination and advocacy activities shall be conducted. Annual monitoring of the programs and activities shall also be undertaken.

For more information, you may visit the PSDP webpage at <http://www.nscb.gov.ph> and for any inquiries you may use the email address: psdp@nscb.gov.ph.

Poland

Janusz Wywiał

Rotation sampling strategies are being studied through research programs developed by the Central Statistical Office. It is well known that values of variables under study observed earlier can improve the accuracy of estimation in the current occasion. This suggests that the rotation sampling designs and schemes could also take advantage of this strength. For instance, Jacek Wesolowski (wesolo@mini.pw.edu.pl) is studying the problem of generalization of the dynamic Rao-Graham estimator for rotated samples. Since few years, the rotation designs have been considered in the Polish Study of the Population Economic Activity Survey (BAEL). Some new experiences in this field are considered by Czesław Bracha (cbrach@sgh.waw.pl). Applications of the

bayesian empirical estimators are especially interesting.

Empirical survey sampling research can verify the properties of theoretical methods and eventually can inspire statisticians to look for new procedures. Waldemar Popiński's (W.Popinski@stat.gov.pl) reports on the estimation and precision assessment problems in population economic activity survey presented by the survey methodology of Central Statistical Office. The estimation method actually used for estimating the population characteristics is discussed there, as well as some methods of nonresponse correction procedures and adjustments based on demographical data.

Non-sampling errors continue to be present in all population sample studies. Wojciech Gamrot (gamrot@ae.katowice.pl) considers two-stage, two-phase sampling for non-response. In particular, he studied a subsampling procedure, in two-stage surveys with nonresponse. Arbitrary sampling designs characterised by inclusion probabilities were assumed in both stages and in both phases. An unbiased estimator of the population mean was proposed for this sampling procedure. Its variance under general stochastic non-response mechanism was derived. An unbiased estimator of this variance was also proposed.

The third conference on "**Survey sampling in Economical and Social Research**" was held in October, 2004 in Katowice, Poland. The scope of the conference covered theory and application of survey sampling methods. The main topics of the conference were as follows: sampling designs, application of discrimination methods to mean value estimation, small area estimation, sampling in more than

one occasion, optimisation of sample size, prediction of total value, estimation in the case of nonresponse. The summaries of the conference proceedings are available at the website of the Department of Statistic: <http://www.ae.katowice.pl/stat> . More details can be obtained from Janusz Wywiał at wywial@ae.katowice.pl .

Country Representatives from John Kovar

As indicated elsewhere in the newsletter, the Association's president Gordon Brackstone has asked me to strengthen our network of country representatives. As most of you on the list below know, I have been confirming your availability over the last number of weeks since the Sydney meetings. Currently, the representatives with an 'A' beside their name are those that have either indicated that they are willing to continue to represent their country or those that have sent at least one country report to The Survey Statistician in the past five years (or both). If there are any errors in this list of "active" representatives, please let me know.

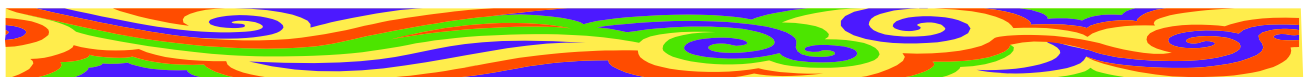
The remaining names on the list below are those of past representatives who may or may not wish to continue in their role. As well, there are some vacancies in the list due to recent resignations, while some countries do not appear on the list at all. If your country does not have an active representative and you would like to consider taking on this role, please contact me at John.Kovar@statcan.ca. Also, if you would like the address of your country representative, I can provide it.

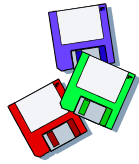
<u>Country (Region)</u>	<u>Name</u>	
Algeria	Mme Nacer-Eddine Hammouda	A
Argentina	Mme Alicia Masautis	A
Australia	Mr. Paul Sutcliffe	A
Bahrain (Arabian Gulf)	Mr. Mohamed F. Abulata	
Belgium	Dr. (Mr.) Camille Vanderhoeft	A
Bolivia	Mr. Walter Castillo Guerra	
Botswana	Mrs. Masego Mokubung	A
Brazil	Dr. Pedro Louis do Nascimento Silva	A
Burkina Faso	M. François Ilboudo	
Cameroon	Mme Règine Zebaze	
Canada	Mr. John Kovar	A
Cape Verde	Mme Maria de Lurdes Fernandes Lopes	A
Chad	M. Ouagadjio Bandoumal	
Chile	Mr. Juan Eduardo Munoz	
China	Mr. Huang Langhui	A
Comoros	M. Mhadji Nailane	A
Congo	M. Alexis Lukaku Nzinga	A
Cuba	Mr. Luis Carlos Silva	
Czech Republic	Mr. Vaclav Cermak	
Denmark	Mr. Peter Linde	
Estonia	Dr. Imbi Traat	A
Finland	Mr. Paavo Väisänen	A
France	M. Benoît Riandey	A
Gabon	M. Jean-Pierre Zima Mefe	
Germany	Prof. Rolf Wiegert	
Ghana	Mrs. Elisabeth A. Allotey	
Greece	Mr. Anastassios Iliakopoulos	
Guatemala (Central America)	Mr. David Fitch	A
Guinea	Mme Fatoumata Danfaca	A
Haiti	M. Emmanuel Charles	
Hungary	Mr. Laszlo Mihalyffy	A
India	<i>Vacant</i>	
Indonesia	Mrs. Sri Budianti Sukmadi	
Israel	Luisa Kadun Burck	A
Italy	Prof. Claudio Quintano	A
Ivory Coast	M. Cakpo Benjamin Zanou	A
Japan	Dr. Chikio Hayashi	A
Kenya	Mr. Philip Gachuki	
Korea	Prof. Hae-Young Lee	
Latvia	Dr. Janis Lapins	A
Lebanon	Prof. Bechara Hanna	
Libya	Mr. Farouk El Bishiti	
Lithuania	Dr. Danute Krapavickaite	A
Luxembourg	Mr. Antonio Baigorri Matamala	
Madagascar	Mme Julia Rachel Ravelosoa	A
Malawi	Dr. Suresh Chandra Babu	
Mali	Mr. Lamine Diop	
Mauritania	M. Sidna Ould N'Dah	
Mexico	Mr. Miguel Cervera	

Morocco	<i>Vacant</i>	
Netherlands	Mr. Jos de Ree	
New Zealand	Ms. Sharleen Forbes	A
Nigeria	Mr. O.O. Ajayi	
Pakistan	Mr. Mohammad Ishaq (S.O.)	
Palestine	Mr. Faisal Awartani	
Papua-New Guinea	Mr. John Shadlow	
Peru	Ms. Leonara Laguna	A
Philippines	Mr. Gervacio G. Selda, Jr. (Sun)	A
Poland	Mr. Janusz Wywial	A
Portugal	Mr. Paulo Jorge Gomes	
Russia	Mrs. Galina N. Sotnikova	
Senegal	M. Matar Gueye	A
Spain	Ms. Dolores Lorca Lopez	A
Spain (Basque Region)	Mrs. Anjeles Iztueta Azkue	A
Sweden	Mr. Peter Lindquist	A
Switzerland	Mr. Philippe Eichenberger	
Syria	Mr. Ibrahim Ali	A
Tanzania	Mr. Vitalis Eustach Muba	
Togo	M. Ousman Koriko	
Trinidad & Tobago	<i>Vacant</i>	
Tunisia	M. Abdellatif Sellami	
Turkey	Mr. Oztas Ayhan	A
United Kingdom	Prof. Peter Lynn	A
United States	Mr. Howard R. Hogan	
Uruguay	Mr. Daniel la Buonora	
Vietnam	Mr. Nguyen Quoc Anh	A

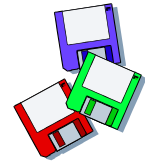
To All Members

- ◆ The IASS needs your contribution.
- ◆ Please do not forget to renew your membership.
- ◆ As of January 2002, French Francs are no longer accepted. As a consequence, the payment of dues and subscriptions must be made in either Euros or U.S. dollars.





SOFTWARE --- REVIEW



Software reviews over the last several years have presented summaries of the features of a number of systems or components of systems that deal directly with survey estimation issues, particularly sampling error and weighting procedures. They have addressed such systems as EpiInfo, Wesvar, SUDAAN, SAS sampling error PROCedures, Stata, IVEware, and software for generalized regression weighting. Some of this software is available for free over the internet, and others require payment of a licensing fee.

We are considering additional reviews, and we would like to get reader advice about software that has not been reviewed to date,

or for updated reviews on some software. We also would like to hear from you about whether there are software systems that address other survey sampling issues that you'd like us to review. Please keep in mind that we review only software that is available for purchase or for free download. We do not review proprietary or other software that our readers cannot purchase or access through a download.

Please send your advice and ideas to Jim Lepkowski, the review editor, at jimlep@umich.edu.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Anders Christianson

Q. We made a survey last year in the housing sector, and we are going to repeat it next year in order to measure changes. What do we need to think of? Should we make an independent sample?

A. Anders Christianson, Sweden

An independent sample is probably not a very good idea. The reason is that you could benefit largely from the positive correlations that occur for many housing survey variables, between the two years that you compare, by using (a large part of) last year's sample again, and basing your inference on the differences for individual households. Such a sampling procedure can create very large gains in sampling variances as compared to the one based on two independent samples, because the positive correlations are very favorable for the same sample used at both occasions with an estimator based on differences.

Another issue that is important to keep in mind is that the estimators really will estimate the true change. If you make changes to the methodology of the survey, you will have to exclude those as explanation of the difference that is obtained. So, the same mode of data collection, and the same questionnaire at the two occasions, would be a wise design decision.

Q. What is a tolerable nonresponse rate?

A. Anders Christianson, Sweden

This is a somewhat controversial question. Historically, the view of what is a tolerable nonresponse rate was stricter, say 40 years ago, than it is today. Some agencies even applied so-called minimum performance standards, implying that survey results were suppressed when standards were not met. Improved weighting methods and a hardening survey climate have made the view of what is a tolerable nonresponse rate more liberal. However, there is still a common agreement in two respects:

First, it depends on the purpose of the survey if the nonresponse rate should be considered acceptable or not. Some decisions demand a higher degree of accuracy than others do. It is the survey user's responsibility to take the uncertainty of nonresponse into account when she or he makes decisions.

Thus, it is the obligation of the survey producer (if other than the user) to communicate a fair account of this uncertainty to the users. There are also limits as to when a probability sample still is a probability sample when the nonresponse increases, thus jeopardizing the basis of inference from a sample to the population from which it is drawn.

So, there is no straightforward answer to your question in terms of a specific percentage. An interesting discussion on this, giving different points of view, is to be found in the July 2002 issue of the Survey Statistician in the "discussion corner" starting with an article entitled "Avoid the Need to Impute."



Articles

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE CORPORATION OF THE COMPANIONS OF THE LIBERATION

Head Office
Hôtel National des Invalides
51 bis, bd de la Tour-Maubourg - 75007 PARIS
Tel: 01.47.05.35.15 – 01.47.53.84.13
Office of the President

Paris, January 18, 2005

Dear Colleague:

I have just received *The Survey Statistician* No. 51 of January 2005, and my attention was attracted on reading the article by our colleague, Anders Christianson.

While the article does not seem inaccurate, I would like to point out that certain persons seem to have been left out, and the author seems unaware of a brief work entitled *25 years of the history of the IASS*. In fact, at the request of Ms Nanjamma Chinnappe, a history of the A.I.S.E. covered the period 1973-1998 among all members of the A.I.S.E.

Furthermore, among the initial team from the early years that set up the A.I.S.E., there is no mention even of our colleagues S. Zarcovic and J. Desabie, who are now deceased but whose contributions and accomplishments are on a par with those of the members cited in the article. I would add that as early as the war years, 1939-1945, our colleague Thionnet had made considerable progress in the area

of survey methods. He too could have been cited as one of the precursors.

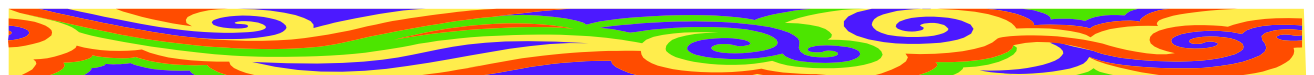
Personally, I would like these omissions to be addressed in an appendix in the Association's next edition.

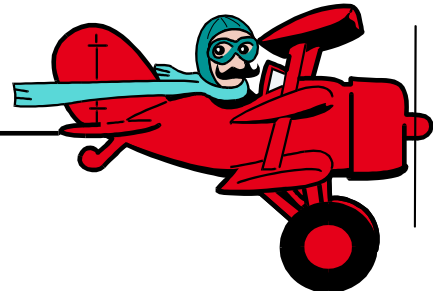
Thanking you for your attention,

Yours sincerely,
(signed)
G Theodore

Anders Christianson's response

Every conference is perceived in different and personal ways by its participants. My article is not aimed at giving *the* story of the launching of the IASS; it is my subjective story, which is clearly stated in it. Using my report to my employer, I expressed my enthusiasm, as a young survey statistician by the time, over the attempts at addressing important issues in survey methodology provided by the new association. It is aimed to give a complement to *25 years of the history of the IASS*, and to encourage other participants to give their views of the foundation of the association. AC





We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

Country	First Name	Last Name
Australia	Maria Rosario	Ampon
	Joy	Asfour
	Rachel	Barker
	Cathy	Bates
	Andrew	Beitsch
	Lynne	Bismire
	Lillian	Bocquet
	Kerry	Brady
	John	Brewer
	Eden	Brinkley
	Kellie	Browning
	Stephen	Bush
	Merran	Butler
	Michael	Clarke
	Rosemary	Conway
	Fiona	Cotsall
	John	Cowper
	Dave	Coxall
	Tanya	Dart
	Kim	Davis
	Martin	Donadio
	Michele	Dubois
	Marianne	Durack
	Elizabeth	Edwards
	Kevin	Fagan
	Keith	Farwell
	Adrian John	Flanagan
	Bruce	Fraser
	Laz	Georgiadis
	Caterina	Giglio
	Debbie	Graf
	Noel	Hansen
	Mark	Harding
	Barry Kevin	Haworth
	Jacky	Heath
	Dennis	Horton
	Heather	Jackson
	Sanjeet	Johal
	Nita	Kambouris
	Natalie	Karavarsamis
	Mazzen	Kassis
	Carmen	Kong
	Esther	Lauw
	Michael	Lazzarini

Country	First Name	Last Name
	Colin	Lin
	Graham	Litteljohn
	Sarah	Long
	Rick	Loyd
	Phillip	Lui
	Robyn	Mac Donald
	Jonathan Donald	Macleod
	Allan	McLean
	Bob	McInnes
	Selma	Mujagic
	Phillip	Newbound
	Christopher	Nobbs
	Geoffrey	O'Donnell
	Mike	Overall
	Kylie	Patman
	Janine	Phasavath
	Gayle	Pollard
	Francine	Pritchard
	Adam	Pursey
	John	Ridley
	Raj	Singh
	Kirstine Maree	Sketcher Baker
	Philippa	Smedley
	Nell Ellen	Stetner-Houneling
	Nicholas	Stokes
	Alex	Stuckey
	Alice	Thomson
	Charles	Tran
	Robert	Trotter
	Donna	Tulloch
	Marcel	Van Kints
	May	Wah
	Dale	Wallace
	David	Whitford
	Amy	Williams
	Linda	Williams
	Mark	Wise
	Bernard	Wong
	Janice	Wooton
	Zheng	Xiaosu
	Danny	Youlden
	Daniel	Zaarour
Belgium	Anna	Nobre
Canada	Benedicte Mamadou	Terryn Thiam
China	Wei	Yuan
Denmark	Thomas	Elkjaer

Country	First Name	Last Name
Egypt	Somaya	El Saadani
Italy	Franca	Crippa
Kenya	Luka Biong	Dang
New Zealand	Meraud Mike Blair John Emma Bill Lynley Joy Stephanie Jessie Elisabeth	Bawden Camden Cardno Crequer Doets Humphrey Povey Prosser Wells
Portugal	Manuela	Maia
Thailand	Roberto	Pagan
Turkey	Ali Serhan	Koyuncugil
Ukraine	Maryna	Ogay
United Kingdom	Heather	Wagstaff
Uruguay	Cecilia Federico	Presto Segui

Dear New Member:
For questions or input regarding *The Survey Statistician*,
please contact:
Steven Heeringa
Institute for Social Research
426 Thompson St., Rm 4046
Ann Arbor, MI 48104 USA
sheeringa@isr.umich.edu



Announcements

Call for Invited Paper Session Proposals

Third International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-III)

June 18-21, 2007

Hyatt Regency Montréal
Montréal, Québec, Canada

Cosponsored by: American Statistical Association (ASA), ASA Section on Survey Research Methods, ASA Section on Government Statistics, International Association of Survey Statisticians, and Statistical Society of Canada.

We invite you to submit proposals for invited paper sessions for presentations to the third International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-III) by December 1, 2005. The ICES-III Program Committee will review the proposals and notify session organizers by the end of February, 2006 if their proposal has been accepted or not. The deadline for contributed papers (including topic contributed sessions) will be June 15, 2006.

Details on how to submit the proposal can be found at: <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2007/index.cfm>

Invited sessions will have four slots of twenty-five minutes each. These will be used for three 25-minute presentations, followed by a 15-minute formal discussion, and a ten-minute floor discussion.

The first International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-I) in 1993 convened more than 400 experts in the area of surveys of businesses, farms, and institutions. This conference set the stage by formally documenting the state of the art in 1993. In 2000 a second conference took a forward look at methods for surveying businesses, farms, and institutions.

The Conference also will include:

- Three short courses on Monday, June 18,
- A keynote speaker and reception on

Monday evening,

- Poster sessions, and software demonstrations throughout the conference, and
- Following the conference, a CD ROM of all presented papers will be sent to all Conference participants.

Montréal is a city rich in history, art, culture, and learning and sports. It combines the smarts of North America with the laid back *insouciance* of Europe, high tech and high style. The city's architecture too is an artful mix of old and new, with graceful historic structures lovingly preserved and merged with the cool lines of the 21st century. The visual arts flourish here at the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, the Musée D'art Contemporain, and hundreds of top-notch local galleries.

All Conference activities will be held at the Hyatt Regency Montréal. The Hyatt Regency Montréal web site is <http://montreal.hyatt.com/>. (Hotel reservations will be open on March 1, 2007.)

Attendees from outside Canada, and this could include United States passport holders, must ensure they have the proper travel documents - e.g., passport, visa - to enter and leave Canada.

Further Conference information can be accessed on the ICES-III Web link provided above.

SAE2005 Conference On Small Area Estimation

University of Jyväskylä, 28-31 August, 2005
Call for papers

SAE2005 is a scientific conference of current developments in small area estimation with applications to different fields of statistics production and research. The conference addresses, in a good balance,

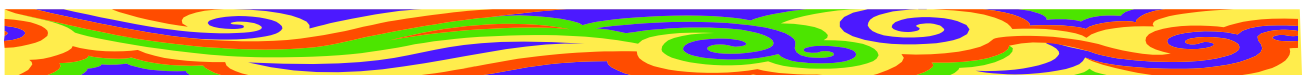
- (i) theoretical and methodological developments in small area estimation and related fields, including contributions of the EURAREA research project, and
- (ii) practical applications of small area estimation methods, including their potential uses in various research areas and European official statistics.

The conference is aimed to provide a platform for discussion and exchange of ideas for a variety of people, including statisticians, researchers and other experts of universities, national statistical institutes, research institutes and other governmental bodies and

local authorities and private enterprises dealing with research methodology, empirical research and statistics production for regional areas and other population subgroups. The following keynote speakers have accepted the call: Chris Elbers, Mike Hidioglou, Danny Pfeffermann, Jon Rao and Carl-Erik Särndal.

SAE2005 is organized by the University of Jyväskylä, Statistics Finland and the EURAREA Consortium. The SAE2005 website is <http://www.stat.jyu.fi/sae2005/index.html>

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Visit the new and improved IASS web site and
read *The Survey Statistician* on line!

<http://www.cbs.nl/isi/iass/survstat.htm>

	<p style="text-align: center;">International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) The Premier World Organization representing who's who in Sample Survey and Census Methodologies</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">FOUNDATION AND OBJECTIVES:</p> <p>Founded in 1973, the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) has as its charge and mandate to promote the study and development of the theory and practice of sample surveys and censuses. It also aims to increase interest in surveys and censuses among statisticians, governments, and the public world over.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEMBERSHIP AND EXECUTIVE:</p> <p>At present the IASS has approximately 1.200 members from 130 countries and 38 institutional members.</p> <p>IASS headquarters are situated in Libourne (FRANCE) and operate, to a large extent, under the auspices of the French statistical agency INSEE, which lends its expertise and status to aid and promote the association's work.</p> <p>The society is run by an Executive Committee elected for a period of two years and a Council elected for a four-year period.</p> <p>Anyone interested in learning more about IASS should contact</p> <p>Michel Péronnet IASS Executive Director 3 rue de la Cité 33500 Libourne France 33 (0)5 57 55 56 02 e-mail: michel.peronnet@insee.fr</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Association Internationale des Statisticiens d'Enquête (AISE)</p>
<p>More about the IASS Becoming a member Services for members Survey Statistician Publications IASS Conferences Ask the experts Links What's new</p>	
	

Important Notices

- ◆ A PDF file of the newsletter is available on the IASS web site. Currently, a few members prefer to be notified only when a new issue is posted, instead of receiving the hard copy. At this point we do not have a process in place to support this option. A process will be developed when an adequate number of members choose the above. Until that time, all members will continue to receive hard copies of the newsletter. Please send an e-mail to sheering@isr.umich.edu if you would like to take advantage of this option.
- ◆ Members are encouraged to view the IASS website (www.isi-iass.org) and provide comments or suggestions to Eric Rancourt: eric.rancourt@statcan.ca.

In Other Journals



SURVEY METHODOLOGY A Journal Published by Statistics Canada

Contents Volume 31, Number 1, June 2005

In This Issue.....	1
M. Winglee, R. Valliant and F. Scheuren A Case Study in Record Linkage.....	3
D. Krewski, A. Dewanji, Y. Wang, S. Bartlett, J.M. Zielinski and R. Mallick The Effect of Record Linkage Errors on Risk Estimates in Cohort Mortality Studies	13
Jan A. van den Brakel and Robbert H. Renssen Analysis of Experiments Embedded in Complex Sampling Designs	23
Takahiro Tsuchiya Domain Estimators for the Item Count Technique	41
Marco Di Zio, Ugo Guarnera and Orietta Luzi Editing Systematic Unity Measure Errors Through Mixture Modelling	53
Wai Fung Chiu, Recai M. Yucel, Elaine Zanutto and Alan M. Zaslavsky Using Matched Substitutes to Improve Imputations for Geographically Linked Databases	65
Balgobin Nandram and Jai Won Choi Hierarchical Bayesian Nonignorable Nonresponse Regression Models for Small Areas: An Application to the NHANES Data	73
Mingue Park and Wayne A. Fuller Towards Nonnegative Regression Weights for Survey Samples.....	85
Short Notes	
Per Gösta Andersson and Daniel Thorburn An Optimal Calibration Distance Leading to the Optimal Regression Estimator	95
Peter Lynn and Siegfried Gabler Approximations to b^* in the Prediction of Design Effects Due to Clustering.....	101
Jane L. Meza and P. Lahiri A Note on the C_p Statistic Under the Nested Error Regression Model	105



Journal of Official Statistics
An International Review Published
by Statistics Sweden

JOS is a scholarly quarterly that specializes in statistical methodology and applications. Survey methodology and other issues pertinent to the production of statistics at national offices and other statistical organizations are emphasized. All manuscripts are rigorously reviewed by independent referees and members of the Editorial Board.

Contents Volume 20, Number 3, 2004

The Twelfth Morris Hansen Lecture Simple Response Variance: Then and Now Paul P. Biemer	417
Discussion Robert M. Groves	441
Discussion Keith Rust	445
List-based Web Surveys: Quality, Timeliness, and Nonresponse in the Steps of the Participation Flow Monica Pratesi, Katja Lozar Manfreda, Silvia Biffignandi, and Vasja Vehovar.....	451
The Impact of Coding Error on Time Use Surveys Estimates Patrick Sturgis	467
On the Distribution of Random Effects in a Population-based Multi-stage Cluster Sample Survey Obi C. Ukoumunne, Martin C. Gulliford, and Susan Chinn.....	481
Estimating Marginal Cohort Work Life Expectancies from Cross-sectional Survey Data Markku M. Nurminen, Christopher R. Heathcote, and Brett A. Davis.....	495
Missing the Mark? Imputation Bias in the Current Population Survey's State Income and Health Insurance Coverage Estimates Michael Davern, Lynn A. Blewett, Boris Bershadsky, and Noreen Arnold	519
Does Voice Matter? An Interactive Voice Response (IVR) Experiment Mick P. Couper, Eleanor Singer, and Roger Tourangeau	551
In Other Journals.....	571

Contents Volume 20, Number 4, 2004

Revisions to Official Data on U.S. GNP: A Multivariate Assessment of Different Vintages Kerry D. Patterson and S.M. Heravi.....	573
Discussion Dennis Trewin	603
Discussion Peter van de Ven and George van Leeuwen.....	607
Discussion Don M. Eggington	615

Discussion Robin Lynch and Craig Richardson	623
Rejoinder Kerry D. Patterson and S.M. Heravi.....	631
The Best Approach to Domain Estimation Precludes Borrowing Strength Victor Estevao and Carl-Erik Särndal	645
Perceptions of Disability: The Effect of Self- and Proxy Response Sunghee Lee, Nancy A. Mathiowetz, and Roger Tourangeau	671
Maintaining Race and Ethnicity Trend Lines in U.S. Government Surveys Elizabeth Greenberg, Jon Cohen, and Dan Skidmore.....	687
Confidence Intervals for Proportions Estimated from Complex Sample Designs Alistair Gray, Stephen Haslett, and Geoffrey Kuzmich	705
Editorial Collaborators	725
Index to Volume 20, 2004	729

Contents Volume 21, Number 1, 2005

Inference for the Population Total from Probability-Proportional-to-Size Samples Based on Predictions from a Penalized Spline Nonparametric Model Hui Zheng and Roderick J.A. Little	1
The Accuracy of Estimators of Number of Signatories to a Petition Based on a Sample Duncan I. Hedderley and Stephen J. Haslett.....	21
A Two-stage Nonparametric Sample Survey Approach for Testing the Association of Degree of Rurality with Health Services Utilization John S. Preisser, Cicely E. Mitchell, James M. Powers, Thomas A. Arcury, and Wilbert M. Gesler	39-51
Improving Comparability of Existing Data by Response Conversion Stef van Buuren, Sophie Eyres, Alan Tennant, and Marijke Hopman-Rock	53
The Nature of Nonresponse in a Medicaid Survey: Causes and Consequences Patricia M. Gallagher, Floyd Jackson Fowler, Jr., and Vickie L. Stringfellow	73
Telephone, Internet and Paper Data Collection Modes for the Census 2000 Short Form Sid J. Schneider, David Cantor, Lawrence Malakhoff, Carlos Arieira, Paul Segel, Khaan-Luu Nguyen, and Jennifer Guarino Tancreto	89
The Productivity of the Three-step Test-interview (TSTI) Compared to an Expert Review of a Self-administered Questionnaire on Alcohol Consumption Harrie Jansen and Tony Hak	103
Underpinning the E-Business Framework. Defining E-Business Concepts and Classifying E-Business Indicators Xander J. de Graaf and Robin H. Muurling.....	121
In Other Journals.....	137

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STATISTICS IN TRANSITION
Journal of the Polish Statistical Association

CONTENTS Volume 6, Number 7, December 2004

From the Editor 1027

Sampling Methods

B. KOWALCZYK
Ranked Set Sampling and Its Applications in Finite Population Studies 1031

M. KOZAK
Multivariate Sample Allocation Problem in Two Schemes of Two-Stage Sampling 1047

H. P. SINGH, L. N. UPADHYAYA and P. CHANDRA
A General Family of Estimators for Estimating Population Mean Using Two Auxiliary Variables in Two-Phase Sampling 1055

H. P. SINGH and N. MATHUR
Estimation of Population Mean with Known Coefficient of Variation under Optional Randomized Response Model Using Scrambled Response Technique 1079

S. UPADHYAYA
An Optimum Size of Sampling Units for Tajikistan Household Survey 1095

M. SAXENA and A. SAXENA
A New Approach to π PS Sampling Scheme-I 1105

N. FARMAKIS
Manipulation of the Irresolute Voters in Political Sample Surveys: A Mathematical Process 1111

Other articles

M. MĘCZARSK
Stochastic Orders and Classes of Prior Distributions 1121

A. GLUCHOWSKA
Towards Further Development of the Polish Consumer Price Statistics 1131

H. GURGUL and P. MAJDOSZ
The Information Content of Analysts' Recommendations: The Empirical Evidence from the Warsaw Stock Exchange 1151

G. LJUNGGREN, K. SAKS., E-M. TIIT., B. OSBERG, T. KIVASTIK
Care needs and clinical characteristics of in-patients in Southern Estonia. 1165

M. MALINA
The Factor Analysis in Research of the Spatial Differentiation of Poland's Economic Structure 1175

Reports

Celebrating Statistics - International Conference in Honour of Sir David Cox on the Occasion of His 80th Birthday, Neuchâtel, 14-18 July 2004 (prepared by B. Kowalczyk) (prepared by I. Zagoździńska) 1197

XXIII Conference on Multivariate Statistical Analysis (MSA 2004) & Symposium on Statistics to Commemorate the 110th Anniversary of Jerzy Neyman's Birthday, Łódź, Poland, 8-10 November 2004 (prepared by M. Pekasiewicz) 1205

Obituary

Professor A. Ryszard Wójcik (1937 – 2003)	1211
---	------

Acknowledgements

Referees of Volume 6	1215
----------------------------	------

CONTENTS Volume 7, Number 1, June 2005

From the Editor	1
-----------------------	---

Sampling Methods and Estimation

M. KOZAK and R. WIECZORKOWSK PPS Sampling Versus Stratified Sampling – Comparison of Efficiency in Agricultural Surveys	4
--	---

M. S. AHMED and Mohanad Al-KHASAWNEH Ratio and regression type estimators sing higher order moments	13
--	----

G. N. SINGH On the Use of Chain-Type Ratio Estimator in Successive Sampling	21
--	----

P. CHANDRA and H. P. SINGH A Family of Estimators for Population Variance Using the Knowledge of Kurtosis of an Auxiliary Variable in Sample Surveys	27
--	----

H. P. SINGH and L. N. UPADHYAYA Estimation of Spherical Probable Error	35
---	----

J. KORDOS Some Aspects of Small Area Statistics and Data Quality	63
---	----

Other Articles

F.B. LOSA, A. M. ZERBONI and M. GAMBETTI Analysing Cross-Country Comparability of Statistics at Regional Level	85
---	----

U.A.M. NUR, N.T. LONGFORD, J.E. CADE and D.C. GREENWOOD Dealing with incomplete data in questionnaires of food and alcohol consumption	111
---	-----

L. NERI, F. BALLINI and G. BETTI Poverty and Inequality Mapping in Transition Countries	135
--	-----

H. GURGUL and P. MAJDOSZ Linear Granger Causality in the Stock Price–Volume Relation	161
---	-----

Reports

Celebrating Statistics - Conference in Honour of Professor Zdzisław Hellwig on the Occasion of His 80 th Birthday, Wrocław, Poland, 23-25 May 2005 (prepared by W. Ostasiewicz)	181
---	-----

Conference on Survey Sampling in Economical and Social Surveys, Katowice, Poland, October 11-12, 2004 (prepared by J. Wywiał)	196
--	-----

Announcement

Journal of Official Statistics (JOS), Special Event, 20th Anniversary, August 24-26, 2005.....	199
--	-----

Amendment

Amendment of Referees' list of Volume 6	201
---	-----

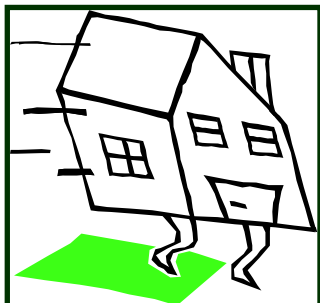
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