

the Survey Statistician

The Newsletter of the International Association of Survey Statisticians

No. 61

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SURVEY STATISTICIANS
International Statistical Institute
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DE STATISTICIENS
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Dear Colleagues,

I hope you have all enjoyed a happy and peaceful festive season, and are looking forward to a productive and satisfying year.

Having been honoured with the Presidency of the IASS, I look forward to the challenge of building on the work done by our past President Pedro Silva. In this regard I would strongly encourage any members who would like to be more actively involved in the work of the Association, and join the network of those supporting its various activities, to get in touch. There are always jobs to do and we would love to hear from you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pedro Silva, for his excellent work in leading the IASS over the last two years. Elsewhere in this issue is a report on the various activities undertaken during this period. These include the 17 IASS Invited Paper Meetings at the ISI in Durban last August (with special thanks to our Programme Chair for Durban Leyla Mohadjer), the program of 7 Short Courses in Durban ahead of the ISI Session (with special thanks to Steve Heeringa), and support for a number of international conferences furthering IASS objectives (thanks to Pierre Lavallee for co-ordination of council consideration of requests for such support).

In terms of future activities, work is well underway in finalising the IASS Invited Paper Meetings for Dublin in 2011 with Geoff Lee as Programme Chair. Work is just commencing for the ISI Session in Hong Kong in 2013 with Eric Rancourt (Eric.Rancourt@statcan.gc.ca) as the Programme Chair, and now would be a good time to start thinking about topics for Hong Kong. Leyla Mohadjer has also started work on the program of Short Courses to be held in Dublin at the time of the ISI.

We are always keen to hear of other activities that promote the IASS objective of encouraging interest in surveys and censuses, and the study and development of related theory and practice. Any proposals for IASS support of conferences or workshops should be addressed in the first instance to Peter Lynn (plynn@essex.ac.uk) who is co-ordinating IASS Council consideration of such proposals.

The Report on Activities 2007- 2009 elsewhere in the issue, also sets out the results of Council elections and I would like to thank the outgoing council members and congratulate those newly elected. The new Council met for the first time in Durban in August 2009, and considered a report on Services to IASS Members prepared by an ad hoc committee, chaired by Don Royce and including Sarah Nusser and Geoff Lee. A copy of the report, and a summary of the executive council consideration of it, are given on the IASS website. It was agreed to focus on a small number of key issues over the next two years. In particular attention will be given to improving website functionality, and revitalising our approach to 'Ask the Expert'. We will also look at moving to an electronic version of The Survey Statistician, while recognising that some members may want to continue to receive a hard copy.

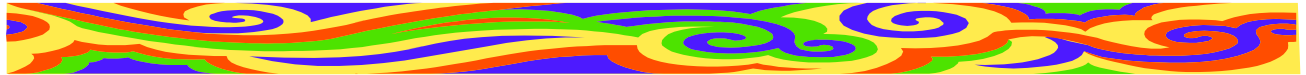
This issue of the Survey Statistician is the last for our current editor, Dan Hedlin, and I would like to thank him for all the work he has put into this. We have two new joint editors for future issues, Natalie Shlomo (n.shlomo@soton.ac.uk) and Frank Yu (frank.yu@abs.gov.au). If you have any suggestions for future issues of The Survey Statistician, I am sure Natalie and Frank would warmly welcome them.

I would also like to note that we have a new Executive Director of the IASS, Catherine Meurnier, and welcome her to the position, noting the continued generous support of

INSEE in France to the running of the IASS. I would also like to thank Michel Peronnet, our past Executive Director, for his significant contribution to IASS.

The IASS is always keen to welcome new members both individual and institutional. The registration form for individual members can be found on the website. For those wishing to enquire about institutional membership, please contact the Executive Director, Catherine Meunier (catherine.meunier@insee.fr). I wish you all the very best for a happy and prosperous 2010,

Susan Linacre



International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) - Report of Activities 2007-2009

Pedro Luis do Nascimento Silva
August 2009, Southampton, UK

IASS Mission and Membership

The International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS-AISE) was founded in 1973. Operating in English and French, it aims to promote the study and development of the theory and practice of statistical censuses and surveys and associated subjects. It also aims to foster interest in these subjects among statisticians, organizations, governments, and the general public in different countries of the world.

At present, the IASS has approximately 950 members from 102 countries, and 22 institutional members.

Executive Committee

The IASS Executive Committee for the period 2007-2009 was composed as follows:

President:	Pedro Luis do Nascimento Silva (Brazil)
President-Elect:	Susan Linacre (Australia)
Vice-Presidents:	Pierre Lavallée (Canada) Seppo Laaksonen (Finland)
Scientific Secretary:	Steve Heeringa (USA)
Executive Director:	Michel Péronnet (France)
Director ISI:	Daniel Berze / Wim Senden (Netherlands) (<i>ex officio</i>)

Council Members

The policy of the Association and the main decisions are discussed and decided by the Executive Committee with the support of the Council, which is composed of twelve members elected for a four-year period. The composition of Council was the following:

2005-2009	2007-2011
Giuliana Coccia (Italy)	Jairo Arrow (South Africa)
Geoffrey Lee (Australia)	Louise Bourque (Canada)
Leyla Mohadjer (USA)	Kathryn Inglis-Clark (Australia)
Sarah Nusser (USA)	Dalisay Maligalig (Philippines)
Don Royce (Canada)	Paul-André Salamin (Switzerland)
Wei Yuan (China)	Shyam Upadhyaya (Nepal)

2009 Elections

Elections for the Executive and Council of the IASS were carried out according to the Statutes in the first semester of 2009. The 2009 Election Nominations Committee was chaired by Cynthia Clark (USA). This committee has worked diligently during 2008 to identify candidates for the posts of President-Elect (2 candidates), Vice-Presidents (3 candidates), and Scientific Secretary (2 candidates) for the period 2007-2009, as well as Council members (12 candidates) to serve from

2009-2013. As a result of the vote, the IASS Executive Committee for the years 2009-2011 will be as follows:

President:	Susan Linacre (Australia)
President-elect:	Ray Chambers (Australia)
Vice-Presidents:	Peter Lynn (UK) Linda Hewitt (Republic of Trinidad and Tobago)
Scientific Secretary:	Leyla Mohadjer (USA)
Executive Director:	Catherine Meunier (France)

and the newly elected members of Council to serve from 2009-2013, replacing members who retire in 2009, are the following

2009-2013
Mike Hidioglou (Canada)
Edith D. de Leeuw (The Netherlands)
Monica Pratesi (Italy)
Mick P. Couper (USA)
Eva Elvers (Sweden)
Yves Tille (Belgium)

Secretariat

The IASS headquarters is situated in Libourne, France, and operates with support and facilities kindly provided by INSEE, the French statistical agency.

Executive Director:	Catherine Meunier
Treasurer:	Daniel Malaquin
Executive Secretary:	Anna Maria Vespa
Secretary:	Claude Olivier

Daniel Malaquin replaced Michel Kagan as Treasurer from February 2008 onwards.

Committee on services to membership

A committee of Council members under the leadership of Don Royce (Canada) and comprising Geoff Lee (Australia) and Sarah Nusser (USA) was formed to consider ways in which the IASS could improve or develop the services provided to its membership. The committee worked hard and a report was submitted to the Executive.

Survey Statistician

The Newsletter of IASS, *Survey Statistician*, continued to be published twice each year, in English and French, under the editorship of Dan Hedlin, from Sweden, who took over from Steve Heeringa and Gail Arnold from June 2008 onwards. The Newsletter provides members with current information about activities of the Association and other events of interest, about developments and applications of survey methodology across the world, and about methodological issues of current interest. The Section Editors were: John Kovar for *Country Reports*, and Jim Lepkowski for *Software Reviews*. IASS is very grateful to the Australian Bureau of Statistics for their help in printing and distributing *Survey Statistician*, to Statistics Canada for its translation into French, and to INSEE for publication and distribution of the French version.

Other Publications

In addition to the newsletter, IASS members can get discounted subscription to two excellent journals: Survey Methodology, published by Statistics Canada, and the Journal of Official Statistics, published by Statistics Sweden. The IASS is grateful to these agencies for the support provided.

The IASS website: <http://isi.cbs.nl/iass>

The IASS website continued to provide a well-structured source of current information, in English and French, for members of IASS. The IASS Webmaster, Eric Rancourt, has continued to provide direction of the site and to ensure that information remained current. The site is housed with the ISI in Voorburg and we are grateful for the technical support of the ISI office in facilitating improvements and updates.

Cochran-Hansen Prize

The IASS established the Cochran-Hansen Prize in celebration of its 25th anniversary. Every two years the Prize is awarded to the best paper on survey research methods submitted by a young statistician from a developing or transitional country. The 2009 edition of the Prize was advertised in the website, the Survey Statistician, the ISI Newsletter and via circulation of the announcement to some e-mail discussion lists. The Prize committee was chaired by Paul-André Salamin (Switzerland) and integrated by Shyam Upadhyaya (Nepal), Dalisay S. Maligalig (Philippines), Guillaume Chauvet (France) and Giuliana Coccia (Italy). The committee reviewed the entries received and selected the winner: Dr. Hukum Chandra, from India, for his paper "Small Area Estimation Under Transformation To Linearity". The winner received the Cochran-Hansen Prize including financial support to present his paper at the ISI Session in Durban plus books or journal subscriptions to the value of about € 500.

IASS Invited Paper Meetings, Durban 2009

Leyla Mohadjer (USA) chaired the IASS Programme Committee for the ISI Session in Durban 2009. IASS sponsored 17 IPM sessions, 7 of which jointly with other sections of the ISI such as the IAOS, IASC, IFC, or with the GTC and the Local Organisers. The IPMs covered a broad range of topics, from the more theoretical to the highly practical, from price index methodology to conducting surveys in adverse conditions, from new approaches to sample rare and elusive populations to developments in integrated household sample surveys.

IASS Short Courses, Durban 2009

A traditional and popular IASS activity is the organisation of Short Courses on survey methodology in connection with each ISI Session. They represent an opportunity for personal development for survey statisticians, as well as to establish closer contact with high level international experts as well as fellow course attendants.

This time the IASS had organized seven short courses offered prior to the start of the 57th Session of the ISI. They formed part of a wider programme of short courses offered by ISI, and we are happy to see this idea extended to other areas of statistics and to draw contributions from other ISI sections.

Steve Heeringa, Scientific Secretary, started organising the Short Courses shortly after the ISI Session in Lisbon. A call for new course proposals was issued via the *Survey Statistician* and the *website*, and a final programme was then developed with a mix of courses which were successful in the past and some new courses being offered for the first time. The programme has been advertised through several dissemination channels. The Programme comprised the following Courses:

IASS Short Courses for the ISI 2009 Durban Meetings

Session 1: Aug 12-13, 2009

Course	Volunteer Instructors
Editing and Imputation	John Kovar Eric Rancourt
Business Survey Design	Wesley Yung Michael Hidioglou
Sample Design	Steve Heeringa Azam Khan

Session 2: Aug 14-15, 2009

Course	Volunteer Instructors
Survey Quality (August 15 only)	Paul Biemer
Seasonal Adjustment of Data	Craig McLaren Brian Monsell
Analysis of Complex Sample Data	Jay Breidt Kirk Wolter Wayne Fuller
Small Area Estimation	Jon Rao Isabel Molina

IASS Satellite Meetings to the 2007 ISI Session

IASS has sponsored two satellite meetings which took place immediately after the 2007 ISI session. A Conference on Small Area Estimation 2007 (SAE2007) was held in Pisa, Italy, from September 3-5 2007, and a Conference on Innovative Methodologies for Censuses in the New Millennium was held in Southampton, U.K. from August 30 to September 2, 2007. Both attracted strong interest and international participation.

SAE2011 in Germany

IASS is now considering a proposal to sponsor the next Small Area Estimation conference (SAE2011) as a satellite meeting to the ISI in Dublin 2011. Liaison with the conference organisers in Germany is in progress and a decision shall be made during the Council meeting in Durban.

IASS Invited Paper Meetings, Dublin 2011

The IASS Programme Committee for 2011 was formed under the leadership of Geoff Lee, from Australia. The Committee has been working hard developing proposals for IPM topics for the 2011 session. These will be considered by the ISI Programme Coordinating Committee during the Durban session.

International Conferences and support

IASS frequently receives requests for support to international conferences and meetings. To enable a more structured approach to how it responds to such requests, a "Policy on the use of IASS funds to provide financial support to relevant international workshops, conferences and similar events of which it is not an organiser or co-organiser" was developed and approved by Council. This policy now informs decision making on such requests, and the policy is available on the IASS website.

Three requests received prior to the formal adoption of the policy were assessed in the spirit of the policy, and the IASS has agreed to offer financial support for two meetings: the first one is the Summer School on the topic "Measurement Errors in Surveys", in Arild (south of Sweden), from September 21-25, 2009; the other is the 2nd Brazilian School on Sampling and Survey Methodology, coupled with its satellite International Workshop on Surveys for Policy Evaluation.

A subsequent request was also received for support to the next "*Colloque francophone sur les sondages*" to be held in Tangier (Morocco) on March 22-25, 2010.

IASS has been approached by the organising committee in charge of the next International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES IV) and has agreed to co-sponsor this conference, which is planned to take place in Montreal, Canada, from 11-14 June 2012. IASS has also been approached to consider becoming a host organization for ICES in the future.

Collaboration with ISI

Prof. Ray Chambers (Australia) has represented IASS on the restructured ISI Publications Committee, led by Karen Kafadar.

IASS President Pedro Silva took part in a panel convened by ISI President Prof. Denise Lievesley to select the Director of the ISI Permanent Office.

Council member Kate-Inglis Clark agreed to coordinate a taskforce to assist the ISI in redesigning the survey of participants to the ISI session in Durban.

Other collaboration

Council member Louise Bourque and Vice-president Pierre Lavallée were tasked with presenting a proposal to organise a guest invited paper session during the Joint Statistical Meetings in Washington, DC, during August 2009. The session proposal was accepted by JSM and a session on "Use of Administrative Data in Policy Making" took place on August 5th. It was chaired by Marie-Ève Tremblay (Canada), and had one invited paper on "Use of Income Tax Data of Individuals for Demographic Purposes", by Sonia Demers (Canada), and two invited discussants: John L. Eltinge (USA) and Dean Michael Resnick (USA).

Country Reports



Australia

Paul Sutcliffe

Great Barrier Reef Land Management Practices Survey 2008-09: The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is conducting a baseline survey of land management practices undertaken in 28 river catchments draining into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. This information will assist the Australian Government in targeting investments to improve practices, as part of the Caring for our Country program between 2008 and 2013.

In particular, this (and a future follow-up survey) will assess the rate by which land managers are adopting practices contributing to improving the quality of water discharge.

The land parcel based sampling frame was developed through amalgamating a number of files, which, in combination provide spatial land parcel boundaries, together with information about each land parcel including ownership details, contact information, land use information and a common ownership indicator (property indicator). Parcels under common ownership/management within the same catchment were combined to form holdings, which are the statistical unit from which information is collected.

The survey sample was designed to provide estimates of practices by catchment and, within catchments, high priority agricultural activities. Auxiliary data listing the area of the holding was available on the frame, and was used as a stratifying variable. A total of 4,502 units (holdings) were selected in the survey from a population of 19,430. This sample represents 43% of the in-scope agricultural landmass.

The survey uses a self completed mail-out form. The first half of the form comprises generic management practice questions to be

completed by all respondents. The questions cover land use, soil testing, fertiliser use, chemical use, and surface water management practices. The second half of the form comprises questions relating to the specific activities undertaken in the period by agricultural activity (sugar cane growing, horticulture, broadacre cropping and beef cattle grazing). The majority of questions require tick box responses, with only a small number of questions requiring quantitative information to be provided (area/weight).

The survey form sent to each holding was customised to include a map of the selected holding. The map is a key tool to support accurate reporting - it provides the respondent with a clear understanding of the area in scope for the survey and allows them to alert the survey team if the holding presented on the form does not reflect current land management arrangements. In past surveys where a map of the holding has been used, it has also been found to be a useful tool to engage the interest of respondents and hence boost response. Additional maps are used when the number and size of the land parcels making up a holding (within each catchment) are too large, or too dispersed, for a single map.

For further information please contact Eric Morris, Land and Agriculture Section on +61 2 6252 7332 or email: eric.morris@abs.gov.au

Canada

John Kovar

The Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS) was launched in March 2007. CHMS collects key information on the health of Canadians in the form of direct physical

measurements such as blood pressure, height and weight, blood and urine sampling and physical fitness testing. Collection consists of a combination of personal interviews using computer-assisted interviewing software and a visit to a mobile clinic for the physical examination. These mobile examination centers stay at each collection site for approximately five to six weeks. Two mobile clinics are being used for CHMS and they alternate from one site to the next.

CHMS is based on a three-stage design and uses the Canadian Labour Force Survey (LFS) area frame geography for its first stage (collection sites) and the 2006 Census for the second stage (dwellings). The person is the third selection stage. The sampling frame covers approximately 97% of the Canadian population aged 6 to 79.

Cycle 1 collection was successfully conducted from March 2007 to February 2009. Fifteen collection sites situated in different regions of Canada were visited during this period. 5600 respondents aged 6 to 79 completed the household questionnaire as well as the physical measures at the mobile clinics. Survey weights based on data collected up to the mid-cycle were produced and two releases were based on these data: one on three environmental contaminants was released in November 2008 and the other release in July 2009 was on vitamin D. Survey weights for the full cycle have been produced and will be used for the upcoming releases in January and March 2010.

Continuous funding for the survey has been obtained and a second cycle has been developed. Other data sources to update the second stage frame were used to be able to meet the new objectives (inclusion of children 3 to 5) and to improve the coverage.

Cycle 2 collection started in August 2009 and is expected to finish in the fall of 2011. Sixteen collection sites have been selected across Canada. 5700 respondents aged 3 to 79 are expected to complete the survey. For more information please contact Suzelle Giroux suzelle.giroux@statcan.ca

For **Canada's 2011 Census of Population**, multiple modes of data collection will be used

in an organized and well controlled way so as to obtain efficiencies and to target different segments of the population. Several important changes are being made to achieve these goals. The Address Register has continued to improve in quality, and so the mailout methodology will be expanded to about 80% of private dwellings. Building on the success of Internet data collection in 2006, we are targeting to double Internet use to 35% of responses in 2011. This will be achieved by mailing out an individual Internet access code and letter encouraging reply via Internet to about 60% of addresses with high Internet connectivity and a demographic make up most likely to respond to the Census via Internet.

As in 2006, a Master Control System (MCS) will play a central role in providing information on the status of every questionnaire through all steps of questionnaire delivery, return, follow-up and processing. In addition, for control of data collection, important improvements are being made in 2011 via a more timely registration procedure; registration of receipt of paper questionnaires will take place at a set of 18 regional postal plants. Registrations will be cumulated and transmitted hourly to the MCS.

An important innovation for Canada is a new Field Management System (FMS) designed as a web based application accessible from office or home by authorized field staff and managers at local and central offices. Major FMS functions include: data capture of non-mailout address lists; creation and management of non-response follow-up assignments; access for enumerators to twice daily updates of assignment lists (notifications of questionnaire registrations); a facility to send action requests to enumerators and their supervisors; messaging functions; access to much more timely and precise management information than ever before on progress, costs, enumerator performance, etc. The FMS will also include a non-response management system that will automatically send indicators of when non-response targets have been met in each area so that local collection managers can redirect resources where they are most needed.

Also for Canada's 2011 Census of Population, the use of CANCEIS (Canadian Census Edit and Imputation System) will be expanded to do both deterministic and minimum change donor imputation for all variables. CANCEIS will be improved such that outlier responses are preserved while not creating too many new outlier responses through imputation. In addition, CANCEIS will now allow failed records to be used as donors while in 2006 only passed edit records could be used as donors. Also larger groups of variables in 2011 will be processed by CANCEIS simultaneously using a single donor. All these changes should result in higher quality census data after imputation. For more information please contact Normand Laniel at Normand.Laniel@statcan.gc.ca

Statistics Canada published its fifth edition of the Quality Guidelines in October 2009. <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?catno=12-539-X&CHROPG=1&lang=eng>

The Quality Guidelines describe the typical steps in designing a survey, and provide guidelines on how to build quality in. For each step in designing a survey the scope, purpose and principles are outlined. Guidelines follow, recommending practical rules and advice on what to do, what to look out for, what pitfalls to avoid. Statistics Canada has policies and standards governing many aspects of statistical activities, and where applicable, these are referenced in guidelines. What's new in the fifth edition is a section called "Quality indicators" for each survey step. The quality indicators section describes which of the six elements of quality (relevance, accuracy, timeliness, coherence, interpretability, accessibility) are featured at this step and also recommends measures or indicators that should be reported. It includes quality aspects of both the processes and the products at each step. Information presented in the quality indicators section is especially useful to methodologists tasked with producing quality measures to accompany the statistical outputs of their projects. Data users as well as survey managers promoting and supporting their statistical products will be able to use these indicators to assess and compare the fitness for use of statistical products. Higher level managers will be able to monitor performance in terms of the quality of the processes and products in the program

area. For more information please contact Laurie Reedman at

Laurie.Reedman@statcan.gc.ca

New Zealand

John Créquer

In October 2008 Statistics New Zealand launched a web-based interactive coding tool called the **Classification Code Finder** (CCF). The CCF can be used for manually coding data or survey responses by entering a keyword to find a classification category, or by searching for a category by its classification code. CCF also allows you to browse the classification structure, view the results within the classification hierarchy and view more information such as definition or exclusion text. The CCF is intended to be extended as a web service to allow other agencies and organisations (both national and international) to utilise the classifications contained in it. CCF is available on our website http://www.stats.govt.nz/methods_and_services/access-data/ClassificationCodeFinder.aspx

The CCF uses the coding engine and methodology of the Statistics New Zealand corporate coding tool, the Classification Coding System (CCS). The CCS, in conjunction with support from the United Nations Statistics Division, is about to be made available as a stand-alone coding tool for developing countries to facilitate coding of industry, product and occupation information using international standard classifications. The downloadable version of the CCS is also available from the Statistics New Zealand website

http://www.stats.govt.nz/methods_and_services/surveys-and-methods/classifications-and-standards/classification-related-stats-standards/download-the-classification-coding-system.aspx

For further information about both coding tools please contact Ian Newman at lan.Newman@stats.govt.nz

In October 2009 Statistics New Zealand released the statistics from their first **General**

Social Survey. The outputs from this survey are measures of the social well-being of New Zealand. The survey aims to provide timely data on 12 social domains: population, paid work, economic standard of living, health, knowledge and skills, environment, safety and security, culture and identity, housing, leisure and recreation, social connectedness, human rights and overall life satisfaction. Our household frame was used to select households and then one person per household was randomly selected to be the respondent for the social modules. Demographic data was collected at both levels. The survey was in the field for a year to control for seasonal effects. This is to be a biennial survey. For further information please contact Deb Potter at Deborah.Potter@stats.govt.nz

Official Statistics Research (OS Research) was established in 2004 aimed at strengthening the Official Statistics System (OSS) and improving cross-sector consultation, collaboration and coordination. To date a wide range of academics, government departments and private agencies have collaborated on a number of innovative OS Research projects. The range of funded projects is diverse and has covered areas from sustainable development, to synthetic data creation, and pacific island mortality rates. The OS Research team would like to encourage you to view the completed research on the Statisphere website, under the OS Research series

<http://www.statisphere.govt.nz/official-statistics-research/series.aspx>

For any queries please contact Simon Thomson at osresearch@stats.govt.nz

Poland

Tomasz Zadło

This year marks the **220th anniversary of Polish public statistics**. On 9th March 1789 in Polish Parliament the Count Fryderyk Moszyński presented the analysis of financial situation of administrative units in Poland in order to prepare the census. The main purpose of the census was to estimate the

number of men in conscription age due to the conflict with Russia.

The **6th Conference on Survey Sampling in Economic and Social Research** was held from 21st to 22nd September 2009 at the Faculty of Management of the University of Economics in Katowice (Poland). It was organized by the Department of Statistics at the University of Economics in Katowice in cooperation with the Department of Statistical Methods of Łódź University and Polish Statistical Association. The Scientific Committee consisted of: Andrzej Barczak, Czesław Bracha, Czesław Domański, Nicholas T. Longford, Zdzisław Hellwig, Jan Kordos (chairman), Walenty Ostasiewicz, Jan Paradysz, Jan Steczkowski, Jacek Wesołowski, Janusz Wywiół. Conference participants, representing universities, statistical agencies and opinion poll companies, came from 8 countries. At the conference 3 invited lectures and 15 papers were presented. The conference was organized to give an opportunity to present latest developments in survey sampling and related fields and to exchange experience on practical applications of survey sampling. Topics discussed during the conference included: estimation of population parameters based on complex samples, statistical inference based on incomplete data, small area estimation, sample size and cost optimization in survey sampling, sampling designs, statistical inference using auxiliary information, model-based estimation, longitudinal surveys, practical applications of survey sampling. The invited lectures were presented by:

- Nicholas T. Longford (Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona), *A house price index based on the potential outcomes framework*,
- Malay Ghosh (University of Florida), *Benchmarked small area estimators*,
- Partha Lahiri (University of Maryland), *Robust mean squared prediction error estimators of EBLUP of small area total under Fay-Herriot model*

The conference was sponsored by SPSS Poland. The 7th Conference on Survey Sampling in Economic and Social Research

will take place in 2011. More information is available at <http://web.ae.katowice.pl/metoda>.

Spain

Dolores Lorca

The 2009 Spanish Agricultural Census (AC) started in October. The AC is carried out every ten years according to a Regulation of European Parliament. Due to the current monetary situation, the budget of INE had to be reduced and consequently, it has been necessary to reduce the amount allocated for the AC and to modify the census project accordingly as well.

For the first time, data is not being collected by personal interview during the last quarter of the census year. In the last AC, 8,000 interviewers were hired and data was collected from approximately 1,500,000 operators. Instead, this time around, data is collected in different phases using two separate questionnaires, one for the census variables and other for the items on the Survey on Agricultural Production Methods (SAPM). This survey is mandated by the same European Regulation and it must be carried out together with the census. SAPM data is collected by Paper and Pencil Interview (PAPI) and for census data, four different collection methods are applied as described below.

In the first phase, from 1 October to 31 December 2009, a census questionnaire was mailed to all operators. In the next phase, from 1 January to 31 March 2010, we will investigate any agricultural operators who have not returned the completed questionnaires. This will be done via a Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) or via PAPI. Those operators with telephone number available on the frame (about 80 per cent) will be followed up by CATI and the rest will be followed up by PAPI, together with special cases, operators with more than five holding, as well as the SAPM. There will also exist an option to collect data by Computer Assisted Web Interview (CAWI).

For further information, please contact Asunción Morate at amorate@ine.es

Ukraine

Olga Vasylyk

The Baltic-Nordic-Ukrainian Summer School on Survey Statistics was held on August 23-27, 2009, in Kozyn village of Kyiv region, Ukraine. It was the first event within the Baltic-Nordic-Ukrainian Network on Survey Statistics that took place in Ukraine. The Baltic-Nordic-Ukrainian Network on Survey Statistics is a non-governmental group of enthusiastic survey statisticians in Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden and Ukraine and their home institutions, most of them being a university or a national statistical agency. It started in 1996 as a Baltic-Nordic network and was extended in 2007 to include also Ukraine. The website of the Network is <http://wiki.helsinki.fi/display/BNU/Home>.

The main objectives of the Summer School were to provide an opportunity for university teachers, research students and survey practitioners to discuss their problems and to learn from the experiences in other countries. The Summer School had 48 participants from eight countries: Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden and Ukraine.

The Summer School started with an opening session: a founder of the Network Gunnar Kulldorff (Sweden) presented the overview of creation and development of the Baltic-Nordic-Ukrainian Network on Survey Statistics "Networking - from Umeå to Minsk and Dnipropetrovsk: A historical, pictorial and statistical review", and Yuliya Mishura (Ukraine) talked about statistical science in Ukrainian universities.

The Summer School had three main speakers. Each of them gave series of four lectures of teaching nature. Imbi Traat (Estonia) presented an overview of the state-of-the-art of survey sampling. Risto Lehtonen (Finland) spoke about estimation for domains and small areas with design-based and model-based methods. Susanne Rässler (Germany) delivered lectures on the analysis

of survey data with non-response. There were seven more invited speakers: Danutė Krapavickaitė (Lithuania), Jānis Lapiņš (Latvia), Mārtiņš Liberts (Latvia), Aleksandras Plikusas (Lithuania), Volodymyr Sarioglo (Ukraine), Daniel Thorburn (Sweden), and Olga Vasylyk (Ukraine). They delivered special lectures covering different topics of the theory and application of survey statistics. Most of participants presented contributed papers on their current research or applications in survey statistics. All presentations were followed by discussions. The programme also contained a session with round-table discussions on the following four topics: estimation for domains and small areas, analysis of survey data with non-response, teaching of survey sampling theory and methodology, survey sampling methodology in official statistics.

The participants of the Baltic-Nordic-Ukrainian Summer School on Survey Statistics had the opportunity to exchange experience, to gain new knowledge and to establish contacts between researchers and teachers from different countries. This event is cardinally important for promotion of survey statistics in participating countries, especially in Ukraine and Belarus.

For more information please contact Olga Vasylyk at ovasylyk@univ.kiev.ua

Development of advanced methodology of small area estimation with application to Survey of Economic Activity of Population and Household Living Conditions Survey.

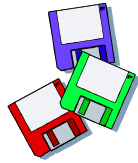
Intensive research on development and implementation of advanced methodology of small area estimation was carried out in Ukraine during 2008-2010. The main objectives of this research are increasing of reliability of labour force and poverty indicator estimates. Direct estimates of these indicators are based on data of continuous state household sample surveys: monthly Survey of Economic Activity of Population and quarterly Household Living Conditions Survey (HLCS). Sample designs of these nation-wide probabilistic household samples are based on procedures of stratified multistage sampling.

Surveys are integrated: common geographical areas are selected for surveying; common interviewers' network is used; concerted procedures of interviewer's work scheduling and controlling, training etc are realized.

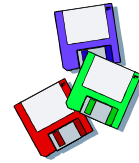
The methodological base of approaches to reliable estimation of labour force indicators is developed during implementation of European Commission project "Reform of Official Statistics - Statistics 10". According to objectives of this project type and form of small area models, which enable to estimate employment and unemployment indicators at the subregional level (NUTS3 - NUTS4 levels) with the defined level of reliability, were tested, data sources and indicators which can be used for adequate models selection were determined, estimation for five pilot regions was provided. It is expected that till the end of the year experts from ISTAT will give some consultations on models verification and implementation. It is planned to implement the approach in the state statistics of Ukraine by 2011.

Development and implementation of the methodology of reliable estimation of basic poverty indicators at the regional level (NUTS 2) are objectives of the Social Assistance System Modernization Project (2008-2010) which is managed in Ukraine by the World Bank. Researches of local experts in this direction are supported by Dr N.T. Longford. The project provides also development of recommendations for HLCS sample design optimization to ensure the most cost-effective requirements to reliable estimation of basic poverty indicators at the regional level. It is planned that the project results will be implemented till the end of 2010.

For more information please contact Dr Volodymyr Sarioglo, Institute for Demography and Social Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, at sarioglo@idss.org.ua



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 the editor Dan Hedlin.

To All Members

- ◆ The IASS needs your contribution.
- ◆ Please do not forget to renew your membership.
- ◆ The payment of dues and subscriptions must be made either in Euros or in U.S. dollars.

Announcements

Call for Requests for Support for Workshops and Conferences

The IASS will consider providing modest financial support for workshops, conferences and similar events that

- promote the study and development of the theory and practice of statistical surveys and censuses and associated subjects, and that
- foster interest in these subjects among statisticians, organizations, governments, and the general public in different countries of the world

The proposed conference or workshop or similar event must:

- promote the study and development of the theory and practice of statistical censuses or surveys and associated subjects, or foster interest in these subjects among statisticians, organizations, governments, and the general public in different countries of the world;
- be International, with preference given to activities that promote sharing of knowledge and practice across a number of countries which would not normally have opportunities to share such knowledge and practice;
- be well governed, with a clear organizing structure, and an ability to account for the funding provided.

Preference will be given to:

- facilitating attendance at such activities by people who would be otherwise unlikely to be able to attend, but whose presence would add appreciable value to the activity in terms of furthering IASS objectives; this attendance may be by a participant from a developing country, or a student, or it may be in terms of a teacher/presenter who would particularly enrich the event, who would otherwise be unlikely to attend;
- forms of assistance that supported IASS membership attendance at the event,
- proposals giving the IASS visible credit for support provided.

To apply for support, please write to IASS vice-president Peter Lynn (plynn@essex.ac.uk), stating clearly the amount of funds requested and how the funds will be used. Applications should address the criteria set out above. For events that will take place between July 2010 and June 2011, applications should be received by 31 March 2010. Please note that the total amount of funds available under this scheme will not exceed € 5,000 in any one year.

Social Statistics: The Interplay among Censuses, Surveys and Administrative Call for Contributed Papers

The 2010 International Methodology Symposium will take place at the Crowne

Plaza Hotel in Ottawa (located in the heart of downtown Ottawa) from October 26-29, 2010.

The Symposium will be titled “**Social Statistics: The Interplay among Censuses, Surveys and Administrative Data**”. Members of the community, such as those from private organizations, governments, or universities, are invited to attend, particularly if they have a special interest in statistical or methodological issues resulting from the use of multiple sources of data (censuses, sample surveys or administrative data).

We are soliciting contributed papers related to **the methodological aspects of using**

- Sampling Frames and Sample Design
- Coordinating Samples
- Content and Questionnaire Design
- Data Collection Methods and Acquisition of Administrative Data
- Supplementing Survey Data with Administrative Data
- Administrative Data for Direct Estimation
- Statistical Databases from Administrative Data (e.g., Population Registers)
- Imputation
- Weighting and Estimation
- Dissemination and Data Access
- Record Linkage Techniques
- Record Linkage Software
- Measurement Errors
- Response Burden
- Treatment of Nonresponse
- Confidentiality, Privacy and Ethical Issues
- Small Area Estimation
- Imputation
- Weighting and Estimation
- Dissemination and Data Access
- Record Linkage Techniques
- Record Linkage Software
- Measurement Errors
- Response Burden
- Treatment of Nonresponse
- Confidentiality, Privacy and Ethical Issues
- Small Area Estimation
-

multiple sources of data. Topics may include:

The first day will consist of workshops, while the following days will consist of both plenary and parallel sessions covering a variety of topics. Additional research and results will be presented via poster sessions.

Your proposal must be submitted by e-mail to: symposium2010@statcan.gc.ca by **March 31, 2010**. It should include a 250-word abstract (French or English) of the content of the presentation, as well as its title and your full contact information.

We will contact you by **May 14th, 2010**, to inform you whether or not your proposed communication has been accepted. In the case where it has been accepted, the final slides of your presentation will have to be submitted (in English or French) by **September 3rd, 2010**. Proceedings from the conference will be published and disseminated to participants. Your final paper will need to be sent by **December 17th, 2010**.

Visit our Internet site regularly to obtain further details about the program, workshops, registration, accommodation, tourism information and more at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/conferences/symposium2010/index-eng.htm>

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

<http://isi.cbs.nl/iass/index.htm>



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International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS)

The Premier World Organization representing who's who in Sample Survey and Census Methodologies

FOUNDATION AND OBJECTIVES:

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 the world over.

MEMBERSHIP AND EXECUTIVE:

At present the IASS has approximately 1.200 members from 130 countries and 38 institutional members.

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.

The society is run by an Executive Committee elected for a period of two years and a Council elected for a four-year period.

Anyone interested in learning more about IASS should contact

Michel Péronnet
IASS Executive Director
3 rue de la Cité
33500 Libourne
France
33 (0)5 57 55 56 02
e-mail: peronnet.michel@wanadoo.fr



Association Internationale des Statisticiens d'Enquête (AISE)

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 dan.hedlin@scb.se or annica.isaksson@scb.se if you would like to take advantage of this option.

Members are encouraged to view the IASS website (<http://isi.cbs.nl/iass/index.htm>) and provide comments or suggestions to Eric Rancourt: eric.rancourt@statcan.ca.

In Other Journals



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.

Current Issue

Innovative Statistics to Improve Our Notion of Reality
Henk K. van Tuinen

Research and Development in Official Statistics and Scientific Co-operation with Universities: A Follow-Up Study
Risto Lehtonen, Carl-Erik Särndal

Does the Effect of Incentive Payments on Survey Response Rates Differ by Income Support History?
Juan D. Barón, Robert V. Breunig, Deborah Cobb-Clark, Tue Gørgens, Anastasia Sartbayeva

Design of Web Questionnaires: The Effect of Layout in Rating Scales
Vera Toepoel, Marcel Das, Arthur van Soest

The Effect of Single-Axis Sorting on the Estimation of a Linear Regression
Matthias Schmid

Using Bayesian Networks to Create Synthetic Data
Jim Young, Patrick Graham, Richard Penny

Evaluating Alternative One-Sided Coverage Intervals for a Proportion
Yan K. Liu, Phillip S. Kott

Disclosure Risk and Data Utility for Partially Synthetic Data: An Empirical Study Using the German IAB Establishment Survey
Jörg Drechsler, J. P. Reiter



STATISTICS IN TRANSITION— n s **Journal of the Polish Statistical Association**

The first version of the journal known as Statistics in Transition was published twice a year in 1993-2006. The journal provided a forum for an exchange of ideas and experience in various fields of statistics, especially those relevant to economies undergoing transition from the communist to the market-based system.

Statistics in Transition – new series (SIT-ns), started in 2007, is an electronic journal of the Polish Statistical Association published by the Central Statistical Office of Poland.

SIT-ns is published three times a year (April, August, December). The journal is, to some extent, a continuation of the previous journal, relating to volume numbering and logo. However, SIT-ns is now adopting a policy of extending its field of interest to a broad area of application of statistical methods. Though the priority is given to analysis of the post-communist economies and other emerging markets, manuscripts concerned with application of statistical methods in different fields, teaching statistics, and understanding of statistics are now welcome. To achieve these aims, SIT-ns seeks to publish high-quality papers that describe development in the fields of interest.

Website: http://www.stat.gov.pl/gus/45_2638_ENG_HTML.htm



Survey Research Methods

**The official journal of the
European Survey Research Association (ESRA)**

This peer-reviewed journal aims to be a high quality scientific publication that will be of interest to researchers in all disciplines involved in the design, implementation and analysis of surveys. The journal will be published electronically with free and open access via the internet. We aim for a fast review and publication process.

Website: <http://www.surveymethods.org/srm/>

Survey Methodology
 A Journal Published by Statistics Canada
 Volume 35, Number 2, December 2009

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Members are encouraged to inform the IASS Secretariat of changes of address as soon as possible. Mailings of “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 claudio.olivier@insee.fr.

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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SURVEY STATISTICIANS

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM



If your home or business address has changed, please copy, complete, and mail this form to:

IASS Secretariat
c/o INSEE-CEFIL
Att. Ms. Claude Olivier
3, rue de la Cité
33500 Libourne – France

Name: Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms. _____ First name: _____

E-mail address (please just indicate one): _____

May we list your e-mail address on the IASS web site?

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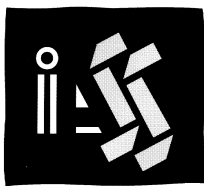
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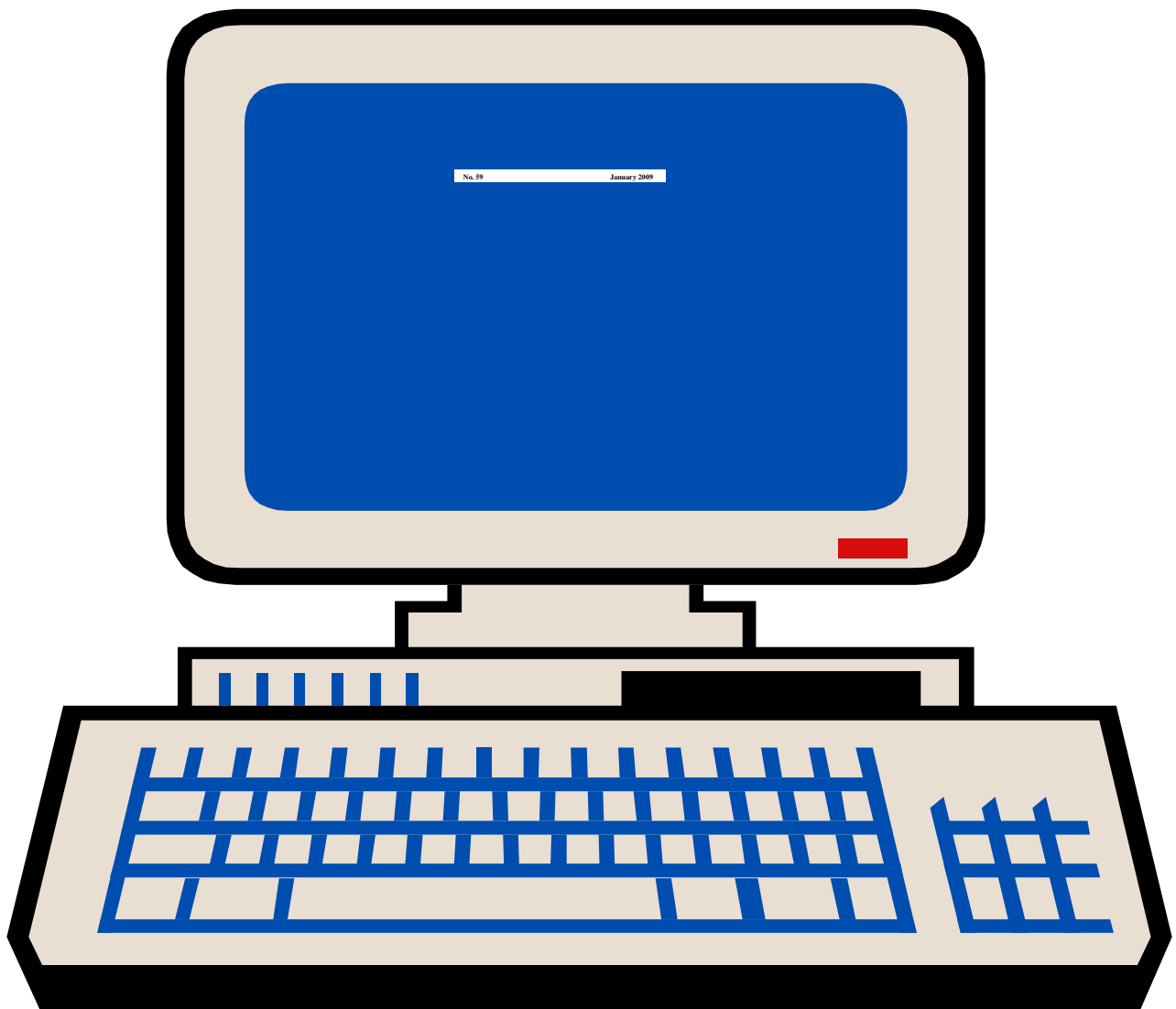
31 Bureaus of Statistics

ARGENTINA - INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADISTICA Y CENSOS - INDEC
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The Survey Statistician
on line!



<http://isi.cbs.nl/iass/index.htm>