

Washington Statistical Society

CHAPTER • AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1956

DESIGNS, DATA, AND DEDUCTIONS

Statistics has become an indispensable tool for the study of nature, be it in laboratory experiments or in the observation of chemical or geophysical phenomena. Since, in the last analysis, all applications of statistics are concerned with the interpretation of data, it is reasonable to expect that statistical methods developed in one field of application may well find valuable use in many other fields.

CHAIRMAN: W. J. Youden, Consultant, National Bureau of Standards

SPEAKERS: Herman E. Ellingson, Physicist, Acoustics Division,
Naval Ordnance Laboratory

Subject: Statistical Experiences of a Physicist

John B. Wachtman, Physicist, Mineral Products Division,
National Bureau of Standards

Subject: An Application of a Novel Experimental
Design to Laboratory Experiments

Glenn W. Brier, Chief of Meteorological Statistics
Section, Weather Bureau

Subject: Some Applications of Statistics to
Meteorology

Date : Monday, February 20, 1956

Time : 8:00 p.m.

Place: Room 1, Downstairs, Hall of Government
George Washington University
21st and G Streets, N.W.

(over)

REPORT ON EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ACTIVITIES FOR 1955

A report has been received from the Professional Office of the U. S. Employment Service for the District of Columbia on activities resulting from our cooperative agreement during 1955. Although the number of statisticians looking for jobs is not large, I think we can be pleased with the results of our cooperative endeavor. The Washington Professional Office received new applications from 55 persons whom they classified as statisticians and received 38 new job openings in statistics from employers. Thirty-five statisticians were hired as a result of referral by the USES-DC and in another 27 cases individuals have been referred and the cases are "pending."

These figures do not include persons with statistical skills in related occupations such as economists or psychometrists. Furthermore, there were 118 young men and women with college training in the use of statistics who were referred to positions which offered promotional opportunities into the field of statistics at the professional level. Thirty-five of this group were reported as "hired."

Miss Fox, Manager of the Professional Office, reports:

"In November and December of this year our activities were concerned primarily with the convention placement service provided by the New York State Employment Service in cooperation with the American Statistical Association and allied organizations. Our local liaison officer was successful in developing a total of 50 openings from 18 employers who attended the meetings late in December. The job orders were prepared and forwarded to the NYSES for convention placement service action. It is interesting to note that all of the job openings forwarded were from Federal government agencies although many private research firms and educational institutions were contacted. We also forwarded applications for 18 statisticians seeking employment through the convention service. Despite our efforts to publicize this service, many employers and applicants waited until the groups convened in New York to file their requests for assistance."

The Professional Office has been developing material on the duties of statisticians as an aid to interviewers. A draft of an "interviewing aid" has been referred to the Washington Statistical Society for our comments and suggestions. An ad hoc committee is being organized to review the draft statement and make comments.

In closing her report on the year's activities, Miss Fox stated:

"It is felt that progress has been made in our joint undertaking over the last twelve months. The references made to our Professional Office in your official publication have been most valuable to us in directing attention to our work and establishing confidence in the minds of individuals seeking employment and employers recruiting capable persons at the professional level."

A wide selection of applicants and job openings is the surest way to insure the success of the cooperative agreement between the USES-DC and the American Statistical Association. If you are looking for a statistician or for a statistical position, I suggest you get in touch with Mr. Todd of the Professional Office of the USES-DC, telephone District 7-7000 (Code 187), ext. 62.

Margaret Martin
Liaison Representative to the USES-DC