

20.10.2010  
World Statistics Day



Service - Professionalism - Integrity

## ***Media Advisory For Immediate Release***

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## **US Statistics Organizations to Observe World Statistics Day October 20**

On Wednesday, October 20, statistical agencies and associations in the United States will join governments and organizations around the globe to observe the first World Statistics Day (WSD), declared by the United Nations to celebrate the service provided by the global statistical system and to help strengthen awareness and trust of the public in official statistics.

Here in the Washington area, a consortium of statistical organizations are sponsoring “National Statistics: Sound Science, Sound Policy, Strong Democracy,” a breakfast briefing and open house on Capitol Hill to celebrate the contributions of statistics toward informing public policy and improving human welfare.

**WHO:** Appearing on the program will be Chief Statistician of the United States Katherine Wallman, Office of Management and Budget as Moderator. Speakers include current U.S. Census Bureau Director Dr. Robert Groves, former Census Director Dr. Kenneth Prewitt, and J. Steven Landefeld, Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The organizing/planning committee for the event includes the following organizations, which also are co-sponsors: American Academy of Political and Social Science (AAPSS), American Statistical Association (ASA), Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT), Council on Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS), Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP), and the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS).

The Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP), also a co-sponsor of the event, consists of 14 federal statistical agencies: Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), Census Bureau, Economic Research Service (ERS), Energy Information Administration (EIA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Science Foundation (NSF), Social Security Administration (SSA), and Statistics of Income (SOI) Division of IRS.

**WHAT:** The **formal program** will take place from 9:15—9:45 a.m., and will include remarks that highlight the many contributions of government statistics to economic and social development and smarter, more effective government.

**Breakfast** will be available beginning at 8:30. Prior to and following the formal program, attendees will have the opportunity **to meet and talk with senior leaders of each of the federal statistical agencies** listed above. The AAPPS will be introducing Volume 631 of its Annals which focuses on “The Federal Statistical System: Its Vulnerability Matters More Than You Think.” The latest issue of *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* will be distributed at the event.

**WHEN/WHERE:** Wednesday, October 20, Rayburn Gold Room (2168 RHOB), from 8:30—10:30 am

**WHY:** The organizers and sponsoring agencies want to raise awareness of the many achievements of official statistics premised on the core values of service, integrity, innovation and professionalism--the UN’s impetus for the worldwide event.

**RESOURCES:**

The international World Statistics Day website:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/wsd/>

The ASA’s “Statistical Significance” (StatSig) series highlights the important contributions that statisticians make to society, from healthcare and economy to national security and the environment. Click on the links to view individual posters.

<http://www.amstat.org/outreach/statsig.cfm>

Biographies of statisticians in history include such notables as Florence Nightingale:

<http://www.amstat.org/about/statisticianinhistory/index.cfm?fuseaction=bios>

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*Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics*

## **Facts About Statisticians**

- Hal Varian [Google's Chief Economist] believes that statistician is the “sexy job” of the next 10 years. “What’s ubiquitous and cheap?” Varian is quoted asking in a *Wired* article. “Data. And what is scarce? The analytic ability to utilize that data.”
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics\*, statisticians held about 22,600 jobs in 2008. Approximately 20 percent of those jobs were in the federal government, where statisticians were concentrated in the Departments of Commerce, Agriculture, and Health and Human Services. Another 10 percent of jobs were in state and local governments.
- The remaining 70 percent of jobs were in the academic sector and in private industry, where employers included scientific research and development services, insurance carriers, and pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing.
- Employment of statisticians is projected to grow 13 percent from 2008 to 2018, fueled by a tsunami of digital data. Some jobs will be in occupations with titles other than statistician. Job titles include: statistician, statistical analyst, education research analyst, research associate, clinical biostatistics director, clinical statistics manager, institutional research director, program research specialist, research analyst, statistical reporting analyst.
- A master's degree in statistics or mathematics is the minimum educational requirement for most jobs. Many jobs involve the analysis and interpretation of data from economics, biological science, psychology, computer software engineering, education, and other disciplines.
- In 2008, American institutions of higher education awarded 213 doctoral, 1,539 master’s, and 537 bachelor’s degrees in statistics; 105 doctoral and 310 master’s degrees in biostatistics; and 857 doctoral, 3,480 master’s, and 14,670 bachelor’s degrees in math.
- Median annual income for statisticians was \$72,610 in May 2008. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$39,740, while the highest 10 percent earned more than \$117,190. The average annual salary for statisticians in the federal government was \$92,322 in March 2009, while mathematical statisticians averaged \$107,015.
- The following states have the highest concentration of workers in the occupation:statistician category: Maryland, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, and Oregon.
- Top-paying states are District of Columbia, West Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey and Minnesota.
- Statistician has been identified in the top 10 best jobs by the Wall Street Journal and CareerCast.com.



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## **About The American Statistical Association**

The American Statistical Association (ASA), a scientific and educational society founded in Boston in 1839, is the world's largest community of statisticians and the second oldest, continuously operating professional society in the United States. For 170 years, the ASA has supported excellence in the development, application, and dissemination of statistical science through meetings, publications, membership services, education, accreditation, and advocacy. Its members serve in industry, government, and academia in more than 90 countries, advancing research and promoting sound statistical practice to inform public policy and improve human welfare.

The ASA mission is to promote excellence in the application of statistical science across the wealth of human endeavor, specifically to:

- support excellence in statistical practice, research, journals, and meetings
- work for the improvement of statistical education at all levels
- promote the proper application of statistics
- anticipate and meet member needs
- use the discipline of statistics to enhance human welfare
- seek opportunities to advance the statistics profession

### **Membership**

Today, ASA serves 18,000 members in the U.S., Canada, and around the world. In government, academia, and the private sector, ASA members apply their expertise to diverse and vital areas that include:

- research in medical areas such as AIDS
- environmental risk assessment
- the development of new therapeutic drugs
- the exploration of space
- quality assurance in industry
- the examination of social issues such as the homeless and the poor
- analytic research on current business problems and economic forecasting
- the setting of standards for statistics used at all levels of government
- the promotion and development of statistical education for the public and the profession, and
- the expansion of methods and the use of computers and graphics to advance the science of statistics

### **Organizational Structure**

ASA is organized in Sections, Chapters, and Committees. Chapters are arranged geographically, representing 78 areas across the US and Canada. Sections are subject-area and industry-area interest groups covering 24 sub-disciplines. ASA has more than 60 committees coordinating meetings, publications, education, careers, and special-interest topics involving statisticians.

### **Key Activities**

**Meetings** – ASA sponsors meetings and workshops around the United States, including the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) and many smaller, more specialized regional meetings.

**Publications** – ASA publishes scholarly journals, general interest magazines, statistical research guides, informational brochures, membership information, and books of interest to statisticians.

**Education** – ASA sponsors educational programs and meetings to enrich statistical knowledge and is an active participant in K-12 education initiatives involving statistics and mathematics.

**Career Services** – ASA provides assistance in all aspects of career planning, placement, and enhancement through information, salary surveys, online job ads, and career development tools.

**Awards, Scholarships and other Honors** – ASA acknowledges and recognizes members who have made outstanding contributions to statistics or the association by sponsoring awards, honors, and fellowships.

**Accreditation** – Established in 2010, ASA's accreditation program is modeled after programs in Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Accreditation is a portfolio-based credential that is renewable every five years. Accreditation is voluntary; applicants seek accreditation because they believe the credential is worthwhile to them, but it is not a requirement for practice.

**Advocacy** – ASA, through its Science Policy department, conducts a variety of activities to raise the profile of statistics in policymaking discussions and advocate on matters of interest to statisticians.

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