



# WSS NEWS

June 2002

**WASHINGTON  
STATISTICAL  
SOCIETY**

## Open Board Meeting

The open meeting of the WSS Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, June 25, 2002; 12:30 pm, in the BLS Conference Center (Downstairs), Postal Square Building, 2 Massachusetts Avenue.

In order to attend the meeting, you will need to contact Tom Mule by email ([vincent.t.mule.jr@census.gov](mailto:vincent.t.mule.jr@census.gov)) or by phone (301 457 8322) before June 18th so your name can be added to the BLS visitor list.

You will need to check in at the guard's desk. The building is across First Street from the Union Station metro stop.

## WSS Audit

The audit of the WSS financial statements for August 1, 2000 to December 31, 2001 has been completed. The statements were found to be in order. The auditor thanks Treasurer Jill Montaquila for providing copies of the necessary records.

The December 31, 2001 balance in the business economy checking account was \$27,147.03 with another \$819.09 in a non-profit interest checking account.

Michael P. Cohen, WSS Auditor

<b>WSS and Other Seminars</b> (All events are open to any interested persons)	
<b>June 13</b>	<b>Thur.</b> <b>Why Are Semiconductor Prices Falling So Fast? Industry Estimates and Implications for Productivity Measurement</b>  <b>ANNUAL DINNER</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Tues.</b> <b>STATISTICS FOR A NEW CENTURY: MEETING THE NEEDS OF A WORLD OF DATA</b>

Also available on the World Wide Web at the following URL: <http://www.science.gmu.edu/~wss>

## Announcements

### 2002 Annual Dinner

The WSS Annual Dinner will be held Tuesday, June 18, at Maggiano's Little Italy in Washington, DC. Please see the attached flyer for details and a reservation form. This is a great opportunity to join with friends, meet colleagues, and make new acquaintances! All are invited.

### SIGSTAT Schedule: June, 2002

June 12, 2002 – PROC KDE in SAS/STAT

**SIGSTAT** is the Special Interest Group in Statistics for the **CPCUG**, the Capital PC User Group, and **WINFORMS**, the Washington Institute for Operations Research Service and Management Science.

All meetings are in Room 3056, 1800 M St, NW from 12:30 to 1:30. Enter the South Tower & take the elevator to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor to check in at the guard's desk.

First-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan, 202-694-5051, [hallahan@ers.usda.gov](mailto:hallahan@ers.usda.gov), and leave their name. Directions to the building & many links of statistical interest can be found at the **SIGSTAT** website, [www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/](http://www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/).

### Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the Summer 2002 WSS NEWS should be submitted no later than June 20, 2002. Items for publication in the September 2002 WSS NEWS should be submitted no later than July 30, 2002. E-mail items to Michael Feil at [michael.feil@usda.gov](mailto:michael.feil@usda.gov).

### Notice about Seminars at the Bureau of Labor Statistics

A new list of attendees of WSS seminars at the Bureau of Labor Statistics begins April 1, 2002 (the previous list is being discarded). If you plan to attend a seminar at BLS, you will need to do one of the following: (1) e-mail name, affiliation, and name of seminar to [wss\\_seminar@bls.gov](mailto:wss_seminar@bls.gov) (underscore after 'wss') or (2) call 202-691-7524 at least 2 days ahead and leave a message. Finally, bring a photo ID. NOTE: Once on the list, you need not contact BLS for subsequent seminars through June 28, 2002.

### JPSM Short Course

#### AN INTRODUCTION TO NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

A one-day short course sponsored by the Joint Program in Survey Methodology titled "**AN INTRODUCTION TO NATIONAL ACCOUNTS**" will be held on July 24, 2001 at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, VA. The instructor is Carol S. Carson who is the Director of the Statistics Department at the International Monetary Fund.

The registration fee is \$350 for nonstudents and \$200 for full-time university students (with supervising faculty advisor's signature). Checks, charges and purchase orders should be made payable to "JPSM / University of Michigan. If your agency wishes to be invoiced please send JPSM a copy of the purchase order information or training order form that includes the billing number and address. Payment information may be faxed to 734-764-8263 or mailed to "JPSM / University of Michigan, 426 Thompson Street, Room 315, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1248.

Courses fill up quickly so please register online. Course information and online registration forms are located under JPSM Short Courses at <http://www.jpsm.umd.edu/>. Printable, faxable, registration forms are also available online. Fax the printable form to 734-764-8263. All registration materials must be received by June 24. Confirmation of registration and instructions will be sent after the registration form has been processed. Registration is not firm until you receive a confirmation letter. Please notify the JPSM as soon as possible if you need to cancel your registration. Cancellation after June 24<sup>th</sup> is subject to the full fee amount.

## Program Abstract

- Topic:** Why Are Semiconductor Prices Falling So Fast? Industry Estimates and Implications for Productivity Measurement
- Speaker:** Ana Aizcorbe, Federal Reserve Board
- Discussant:** Marshall Reinsdorf, Bureau of Economic Analysis
- Chair:** Linda Atkinson, Economic Research Service, USDA
- Date/Time:** Thursday, June 13, 2002; 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 2, Postal Square Building (PSB), 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. Please use the First St., NE, entrance to the PSB. To gain entrance to BLS, please see "Notice" at the end of this announcement.
- Sponsor:** Economics Section
- Abstract:** By any measure, price deflators for semiconductors fell at a staggering pace over much of the last decade. These rapid price declines are typically attributed to technological innovations that lower constant-quality manufacturing costs. But, given Intel's dominance in the microprocessor market, those price declines may also reflect changes in Intel's profit margins. Disaggregate data on Intel's operations are used to explore these issues. There are three basic findings. First, the industry data show that Intel's markups from its microprocessor segment shrank substantially from 1993-99. Second, about 3-1/2 percentage points of the average 24 percent price decline in a price index for Intel's chips can be attributed to declines in these profit margins over this period. And, finally, the data suggest that virtually all of the remaining price declines can be attributed to quality increases associated with product innovation.

### NOTICE

To attend this seminar, you will need to do one of the following:

- (1) e-mail name, affiliation, and name of seminar to [wss\\_seminar@bls.gov](mailto:wss_seminar@bls.gov) (underscore after 'wss') by noon 1 day ahead or
- (2) call 202-691-7524 at least 2 days ahead and leave a message. Finally, bring a photo ID.

## **Program Abstracts**

### **WSS Annual Dinner Speaker:**

Richard L. Scheaffer, Professor Emeritus, University of Florida, and Past ASA President

**June 18, 2002 at Maggiano's Little Italy**

### **STATISTICS FOR A NEW CENTURY: MEETING THE NEEDS OF A WORLD OF DATA**

The world is awash in data. Many are aware of the importance and power of data in their professional and personal lives, but few are educated in ways that would allow them to more fully comprehend the vast array of uses (and misuses) of data or to effectively use the quantitative information that confronts them daily. Even fewer are aware of the fact that formal study of statistics can serve to strengthen their own academic preparation for a wide variety of careers. Some successes are being achieved, however, through recent efforts to infuse statistics into the school (K-12) curriculum and to enhance opportunities for undergraduates to learn more statistics. The goals of these efforts are to empower students through improved quantitative literacy and to provide strong foundations for careers that depend increasingly on data.

Modern statistics education has generated terrific interest among educators and students at all levels; it now must prove itself by making effective use of this opportunity to produce new generations of graduates that will not drown in their world of data.

## EMPLOYMENT

As a service to local statisticians, *WSS News* provides notification of employment opportunities and description of those seeking employment here in the Washington, DC, area. Readers are encouraged to take advantage of this feature of the newsletter. The deadline for inserting notices is five (5) weeks before the publication date. Those interested should email or call Fotios Kokkotos at [fkokkotos@hotmail.com](mailto:fkokkotos@hotmail.com) or (703) 251-1850.

### Statisticians

The Consumer Product Safety Commission, an Agency of the U. S. Government, has several openings for Statisticians. They are located in the Division of Hazard Analysis which has a major role in describing and analyzing the hazards associated with a wide variety of consumer products. Candidates with degrees in statistics, epidemiology, or mathematics preferred. For job information, contact Sue Ahmed, Ph.D. at 301-504-0470, ext. 1371 or visit our website [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) (CPSC announcement number CPSC-004-02). The CPSC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Selection for these positions shall be determined on the basis of merit and without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, political preference, marital status, sexual orientation, labor affiliation or non-affiliation or other non-merit factors.

### STATISTICIANS

WESTAT is an employee-owned survey research firm headquartered in Rockville, Maryland. We provide statistical consulting and survey research to agencies of the U.S. Government and to a broad range of business and institutional clients. With a strong technical and managerial staff and a long record of quality research, Westat has become one the leading survey research and statistical consulting organizations in the United States. Our company was founded in 1961 by three statisticians. The current staff of more than 1,500 includes over 55 statisticians, as well as research, technical, and administrative staff. In addition, our

professional staff is supported by data collection and processing personnel situated locally and in nationwide field sites. The atmosphere is open, progressive, and highly conducive to

professional growth. Our statistical efforts continue to expand in areas such as the environment, energy, health, education, and human resources. Several WESTAT statisticians are actively involved in teaching graduate-level courses in statistical methods and survey methodology in collaborative arrangements with area colleges and universities. We are currently recruiting for the following statistical position:

**Survey Sampling Statistician (Job Code WSS/DRM/2001):** Relevant experience in sample design, sample selection, frames development, weighting, imputation or variance estimation is highly desirable. Must have a master's or doctoral degree in statistics.

WESTAT offers excellent growth opportunities and an outstanding benefits package including life and health insurance, an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), a 401(k) plan, flexible spending accounts, professional development, and tuition assistance. For immediate consideration, please send your cover letter, **indicating the Westat Job Code**, and resume, by one of the following methods to:

WESTAT  
Attn: Resume System  
1650 Research Boulevard  
Rockville, MD 20850-3195  
FAX: (888) 201-1452  
Email: [resume@westat.com](mailto:resume@westat.com)

Job Code is **REQUIRED** to apply.  
We are an equal opportunity employer.  
[www.westat.com](http://www.westat.com)

### Sampling Statisticians

Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (MPR) has these openings in its Washington, DC and Princeton, NJ offices for statisticians to support its survey sampling and statistical analysis activities:

!Senior Sampling Statistician: requires a Ph.D. degree in statistics and at least five years of experience or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

!Sampling Statistician: requires a Ph.D. degree in statistics or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Survey Sampling Specialist: requires a Masters degree in statistics or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

These positions involve sample design, frame construction, sample selection, weight calculation, missing data imputation, methodological and statistical analyses, and report and proposal preparation. Strong communication skills, familiarity with statistical software, and knowledge of sampling methodologies are desirable, as well as additional experience and programming skills.

One of the foremost public policy research organizations in the United States, MPR attracts clients from federal and state government agencies, foundations, universities, professional associations, and businesses. MPR's contributions to public policy formation crisscross the nation's social policy agenda from childcare to eldercare, from job training to retirement. Our projects use interdisciplinary teams composed of subject matter specialists, statisticians, data collectors, and systems analysts.

We offer a stimulating work environment, a competitive salary and benefits package, as well as the advantages of employee ownership. We also provide on-site fitness centers, and employees enjoy three weeks vacation in their first year of employment. Qualified candidates should submit a letter of interest, resume, salary requirements, DC or NJ location preference, and references to:

Michael Beary Human Resources Dept.  
Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.  
600 Maryland Avenue, SW, Suite 550  
Washington, DC 20024-2512  
Fax: (202) 484-4510  
e-mail: HRDC@mathematica-mpr.com

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## **George Washington University**

### **The Biostatistics Center**

#### **CLINICAL TRIAL BIOSTATISTICIANS MS and Ph.D. Level Positions**

With an opportunity for substantial leadership responsibility in studies of international public health import.

The Biostatistics Center of The George Washington University, founded in 1972, is a leader in the statistical coordination of clinical trials conducted by the National Institutes of Health. We enjoy over \$45 million per year of NIH research funding for major studies in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, maternal/fetal medicine, osteoporosis, urology, and the genetic basis for various diseases. The center has a staff of nearly 100 with 24 biostatisticians/epidemiologists, including 11 faculty. We are recruiting MS and Ph.D. level staff to participate in these and future studies. Please visit our web site (below).

We are seeking individuals who want to join a highly competent team of academic biostatisticians and epidemiologists; who desire to contribute to the design and analysis of major medical studies, seek substantive scientific and statistical responsibility, enjoy interacting with medical investigators; take pride contributing to the publication of major papers in leading medical journals, and desire to make an impact on the public health. Our faculty also participate in graduate programs in biostatistics, epidemiology and statistics which afford opportunities for teaching at the graduate level. The research projects also provide an environment rich in methodological problems, with opportunities for collaboration with research active Center faculty and graduate students.

Assistant to Full Research Professor (3 or more openings): Ph.D. level positions available on or about July 1, 2002. To serve as Associate Project Director (Co-Investigator) or future Project Director (Principal Investigator). Minimum Requirements: Doctorate in Biostatistics, Statistics or Epidemiology, 1-5 years' experience with clinical trials, especially study design and statistical analysis of study results using SAS, excellent oral and written English communication skills, and supervisory experience. Review of applications will begin June 10, 2002 and will continue until the positions are filled.

Master's Level Research Positions (up to 2 openings): Minimum Requirements: Master's in Biostatistics or Statistics and 1-5 years experience in analysis, supervision of data management and study design for biomedical applications. Good written and oral communication skills, and detailed knowledge of SAS required.

Rank/position title and salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Tuition benefits for employee (including Ph.D. in Statistics,

Biostatistics and Epidemiology) and for spouse and dependent children. Letter and CV to: Colleen Foster, HR Manger, The George Washington University Biostatistics Center, 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 750, Rockville, MD 20852. No phone calls please. [HTTP://WWW.BSC.GWU.EDU](http://www.bsc.gwu.edu)  
The George Washington University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer

#### **Statistician - EPA, Office of Solid Waste**

This position is located in the Office of Solid Waste (OSW); Economics, Methods and Risk Analysis Division (EMRAD) in Alexandria, VA. The Office of Solid Waste provides national level policy direction for the nation's recycling, waste management and cleanup programs under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The EMRAD provides technical support to the office and specifically focuses on human health and ecological risk assessment, economic analysis, and chemical analytical methods development support to all EPA Headquarters RCRA programs. The division is looking to expand its expertise and include a statistical consultancy to its repertoire of support.

We are looking for candidates that will be able to conduct and apply a variety of statistical techniques to help with the development and evaluation of data in support of EPA's waste programs. In particular we are interested in applicants that are familiar with survey statistics, engineering reliability and performance, quality assurance or human and ecological risk analysis. Applicants are expected to be proficient in at least one statistical software package and will be expected to apply statistical and other software tools to assist with analysis. The ability to work and communicate collegially and productively in a team environment is critical. In addition, all applicants must be able to demonstrate the ability to prepare written and oral presentations of technical information for nontechnical and policy-making audiences.

The position will be filled as a GS-13, Statistician and will be offered through EPA's EzHire web site. Applicants can prepare their profile information prior to the posting of the position. U.S. citizenship is required. EPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Interested parties can contact Barnes Johnson, EPA, Mail Code 5307W, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC, 20640; [johnson.barnes@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.barnes@epa.gov); 703-308-8881 for more details regarding the position.

#### **Statistician**

Statistician to provide support for medical research projects. Position duties include data analysis and presentation of findings. Successful candidates must possess a PhD in Statistics/Epidemiology or a Masters in Applied Statistics with demonstrated experience in medical research. Strong oral and written communication skills are required. Salary commensurate with experience. For immediate consideration, please send resume with cover letter describing your interests to Medlantic Research Institute, The Statistics and Computer Center by email to [kathleen.a.jablonski@medstar.net](mailto:kathleen.a.jablonski@medstar.net). EOE M/F/D/V



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