

Statisticians Explore Challenges to Economic Recovery at the 2009 Joint Statistical Meetings

ALEXANDRIA, VA (PRWEB) JULY 22, 2009 --- At the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Washington DC, the economy takes center stage with sessions on the recession, the current financial crisis and the challenges of economic recovery, the American Statistical Association said today. JSM, the largest annual gathering of statisticians in North America, will be held at the Washington (DC) Convention Center August 1—6.

“Statisticians produce and analyze the federal government’s key economic indicators, including measures of unemployment, inflation and market volumes,” said Sally Morton, ASA president. “From tracking economic trends and developments to using good data and analysis to correct misperceptions, statisticians play a significant role in our economy.”

Participants in JSM roundtables and other sessions include statisticians from the Brookings Institution, the UK Office of National Statistics, Bloomberg News, companies, non-profit institutes, and colleges and universities across the country. Sessions are organized in two-hour timeframes, with several presentations of about 15 minutes, followed by Q&A. Statistical posters stand alone; they visually tell a story from the data about some phenomena revealing the conclusions that can be drawn.

*****Note: Members of the press can register to attend any of the conference sessions online at <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2009/index.cfm?fuseaction=presregistration>*****

Some of the JSM sessions focusing on the economy are described below; additional sessions on this and many other subjects can be found via the JSM online program, where you can search on keywords, date, type of program, presenter’s name or affiliation. Link to the program: <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2009/onlineprogram/index.cfm?fuseaction=main>.

Rebalancing the American Economy: Challenges to Recovery Tuesday, August 4, 12:30—1:50 pm, Roundtable with Lunch

Presenter: *Barry Bosworth, The Brookings Institute*

A sustained economic recovery seems unlikely until the uncertainty surrounding the solvency of major financial institutions has been resolved. This presentation will focus on the challenges that the U.S. faces in mounting a recovery, including both the budget deficit and the trade deficit.

http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2009/onlineprogram/index.cfm?fuseaction=abstract_details&abstractid=305914

GDP—Getting it wrong the first time: A review of revisions Monday, August 3, 8:30—10:20 am, Room CC 208B

Presenters: *Gary Brown, Tullio Bucciato, Nigel Stuttard and Robin Youll, Office of National Statistics (UK) – (this presentation begins at 8:35 am)*

Revisions to published data are a fact of life for most National Statistical Institutes, but are criticized by users and the press nevertheless. This session summarizes the current information provided on revisions and reviews other potential ways of explaining revisions - from additional summary statistics and graphics, to the information gained from modeling the revisions themselves.

http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2009/onlineprogram/index.cfm?fuseaction=abstract_details&abstractid=304103

Presentation and Interpretation of Statistical Results to Track Economic Developments Tuesday, August 4, 10:30 am—12:20 pm, Room CC 202A

Presenter: *John Berry, Bloomberg News (Berry’s talk begins at 10:35 am)*

Berry will talk about his outstanding career of reporting on developments in the nation’s economy and about his assessments of technical strengths and weaknesses of statistical measures and methods used to track economic trends and developments. He will also discuss the presentation and interpretation of statistical results and methods to the public in general.

http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2009/onlineprogram/index.cfm?fuseaction=abstract_details&abstractid=303049

Recession Statistics 101

Monday, August 3, 8:30—10:30 am, CC-Hall D, Poster Presentation

Presenters: *Les Yen, University of Phoenix; Heather Posey, University of Phoenix/NVA*

The presenters examine the trend of R-GDP growth and the past and present recessions in terms of both intensity and duration. They identify and compare the causes and effects of recessions, and discuss various strategies for moving out of a recession.

http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2009/onlineprogram/index.cfm?fuseaction=abstract_details&abstractid=305553

The End of the Great Moderation? How Better Monetary Statistics Could Have Signaled the Systemic Risk Precipitating the Financial Crisis

Thursday, August 6, 10:30 am—12:30 pm, Room CC-155

Presenters: *William A. Barnett, University of Kansas; Marcelle Chauvet, University of California, Riverside (presentation begins at 10:35 am)*

Data driven misperceptions about the "great moderation" of the business cycle contributed to the excess risk-taking that precipitated the recent financial crisis. This session comprises a survey of a half century of research on monetary aggregate data.

http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2009/onlineprogram/index.cfm?fuseaction=abstract_details&abstractid=303098

About JSM

JSM is held jointly with the American Statistical Association (ASA), the International Biometric Society (ENAR and WNAR), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS), and the Statistical Society of Canada. More than 5,000 statisticians from government, industry and academia are expected to attend the 2009 JSM, which features a range of activities, including more than 2,500 presentations, panels, roundtables, poster presentations, and continuing education courses. There also is an exhibit hall (with state-of-the-art statistical products and opportunities); a career placement service; and social and networking opportunities. Complete program and registration information for the 2009 JSM is available at the JSM web site at <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2009/>.

About the American Statistical Association

The American Statistical Association (ASA), a scientific and educational society founded in Boston in 1839, is the second oldest continuously operating professional society in the United States. For 170 years, ASA has been providing its 18,000 members serving in academia, government, and industry and the public with up-to-date, useful information about statistics. The ASA has a proud tradition of service to statisticians, quantitative scientists, and users of statistics across a wealth of academic areas and applications. For additional information about the American Statistical Association, please visit the association's web site at <http://www.amstat.org> or call 703.684.1221.

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