



JSM FAQs

What is the Joint Statistical Meetings, or JSM?

[JSM](#) is North America's largest gathering of statisticians.

Attended annually by more than 6,000 people, JSM activities include oral presentations, panel sessions, poster presentations, professional development courses, an exhibit hall (with state-of-the-art statistical products and opportunities), a career service, society and section business meetings, committee meetings, social activities and networking opportunities.

Who attends JSM?

JSM attracts statisticians from academia, government and industry from the U.S. and around the globe.

When did JSM begin?

The Joint Statistical Meetings were formally organized in 1974. The ASA began holding its annual meeting with this group at that time.

How did the ASA come to have its annual meeting with JSM?

The inaugural annual meeting of the newly formed American Statistical Society (as it was briefly called at its establishment in 1839) was held in Boston February 5, 1840. Attendance at the meeting was 10. No presentations were made at the first meeting, but one was made at a meeting held in April that year. Meetings continued to be held in Boston through the early 1900s. Scheduling meetings outside Boston and in conjunction with other societies was part of an attempt to make the association more national. The 71st annual meeting in 1909 in New York was held in conjunction with nine other associations and featured four presentations over several days.

For two decades afterward, the ASA annual meeting—with one exception—was held annually in December for two to four days. The 90th meeting in 1928 had 17 sessions with multiple competing time slots each day. From 1929 through 1948, the ASA held 18 meetings. By the 1937 meeting, there were 38 presentations.

In 1935, the ASA combined with several associations, with which it often met, to form the Allied Social Sciences Association. This association's first sponsored meeting, called the Allied Meetings, was held in 1936 in Chicago, and the ASA held its annual meeting with this group once every three years until 1974.

With the formation of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics in 1935 and the International Biometrics Society in 1948, meetings with only statistical societies—called “Joint Meetings”—were initiated, and the ASA held its annual meetings with these groups in the years it did not meet with the allied group. Since 1974, when the Joint Statistical Meetings were formally organized, the ASA has continually held its annual meeting with this group.

What are late-breaking sessions?

Late-breaking sessions were introduced at JSM 2002 to enable the inclusion of important, newly emerging topics in the program. Due to the size and complexity of JSM, sessions typically are planned about one year in advance. This helps JSM run more smoothly, but does not address some issues in the timeliest fashion. Late-breaking sessions cover one or more technical, scientific or policy-related topics that have arisen in the one-year period before JSM in which the session is intended to appear.

What are speed sessions?

Introduced at JSM 2013, speed sessions consist of oral presentations of approximately five minutes each and floor discussion time followed by a poster session later the same day.