

GSS/SSS April 2016 NEWSLETTER
Government Statistics and Social Statistics Sections
American Statistical Association

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**UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:**

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|----------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>May 1</b>   | ASA Elections <b>DEADLINE!</b> |
| <b>June 20</b> | ICES-V; Geneva, Switzerland    |
| <b>July 30</b> | JSM 2016; Chicago, Illinois    |

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1ST SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT PRACTITIONERS WORKSHOP

NEW!

Submitted by Wendy Martinez (GSS Past-Chair)

**SAPW/2016:
The 1st Seasonal Adjustment Practitioners Workshop**

Kathleen McDonald-Johnson, Brian Monsell, and Demetra Lytras
US Census Bureau

Date:	Friday, November 4, 2016
Location:	Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference and Training Center 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20212
Check-in:	8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Schedule:	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Plenary and concurrent session schedule to follow)
Abstract Submissions Due:	August 15, 2016 to esmd.seasonal.workshop@census.gov
Register Online By:	November 2, 2016 at noon at EventBrite There is no charge for participation.

The Government Statistics Section is proud to sponsor the 1st Seasonal Adjustment Practitioners Workshop. The SAPW 2016 is a one-day conference for public employees and those actively involved in seasonal adjustment, so they can

- share experiences in producing seasonal adjustments;
- give details of interesting problems and possible solutions;
- discuss best practices in seasonal adjustment and time series modeling;
- share lessons learned, tips, and shortcuts;
- present applied research in seasonal adjustment practice.

Modeled after the successful Federal Forecasters Conference, this workshop will provide an opportunity for those who work with official statistics and seasonal adjustment to present interesting issues, problems and applied research to a knowledgeable audience. There will be a plenary session in the morning with four speakers and a discussant, followed by lunch on your own and contributed sessions in the afternoon.

The organizers are soliciting abstracts for presentations of interest to practitioners of seasonal adjustment. The abstracts should be less than 100 words in length, for a presentation of about 15-20 minutes. Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

- seasonal adjustment methodology (model-based seasonal adjustment, high frequency data, etc.);
- issues in seasonal adjustment production (residual seasonality, revisions policy, etc.);
- calendar effect estimation and adjustments (trading and working day, moving holidays);
- seasonal adjustment software;
- seasonal adjustment diagnostics.

Please note, papers may cover any subject relating to seasonal adjustment methodology or the process of seasonally adjusting series at a statistical agency. Please send your abstract of 100 or fewer words to: esmd.seasonal.workshop@census.gov by August 15, 2016.

Even if you do not plan to present a paper, please register for the conference and join the conversation at this history-making event. The SAPW is organized by the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics and is sponsored by the ASA-GSS.

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**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

**NEW!**

*Submitted by Matt Jans (SSS Publications Officer)*

The California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) is seeking a new director. It is a great opportunity for someone with survey or statistics management experience to lead (with our academic PI and strong support staff) the largest single-state health survey in the U.S. We are looking for someone with strong management experience and also methodological and statistical substantive interest that fit with the CHIS mission (see more in the job description and info about CHIS at the links below). PhD preferred but not required.

CHIS director JD: <https://recruit.apo.ucla.edu/apply/JPF02117>

CHIS main site: <http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/chis/Pages/default.aspx>

CHIS methodology site: <http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/chis/design/Pages/overview.aspx>

**Interested people should contact Melissa Reitkopp ([melreitkopp@talenthunter.net](mailto:melreitkopp@talenthunter.net)) who is the recruiter we are working with.**

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DATA.GOV: A GREAT RESOURCE FOR DATA

Submitted by Jill Montaquila (GSS-Past Chair)

Looking for data? Data.gov is a one-stop-shopping resource for the U.S. Government's open data--Federal, state, local government, and university-collected data on topics ranging from agriculture to energy to public safety. There is a general search box (useful in situations in which the name of the target dataset is known), as well as the ability to filter by location, topic, topic category, dataset type, tag words, format, organization type, organization, and/or publisher. The website provides metadata on each dataset, along with links to the data and to the agency/organization providing the dataset. It also contains a list of (and links to) apps that use the U.S. Government open data, including, for example, the Alternative Fueling Station Locator, the College Affordability and Transparency Center, the Home Energy Saver app, and a Product Recalls app. So, if you are searching for data, information about datasets, or apps that use these datasets, data.gov could be a valuable resource!

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**SECTION WEBSITES**

**NEW!**

*Submitted by Bill Wong (Amstat Online Assistant Editor)*

Soon the ASA will no longer provide web space for section websites. Instead, we are moving all sections to microsites. Microsites are extensions of the ASA Community area of the ASA website. These microsites are open to the public, have the same look and feel of a normal website, and have all the functionality needed for a section's web presence. The advantages to microsites are they are secure and no special web software or expertise is needed to keep them updated. Be on the lookout for your GSS and SSS section microsites, which should be available in early May.

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EXPANDING SOCIAL MEDIA USE

Submitted by Matt Jans (SSS Publications Officer)

Follow our new Twitter feed [@SocStat_AMSTAT](#) and look for a Facebook group over the next year. As always, check our website for updated newsletters and other information.

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**GSS DATA CHALLENGE**

**NEW!**

*Submitted by Wendy Martinez (GSS Past-Chair)*

The Government Statistics Section is sponsoring the Data Challenge 2016 to take place at the JSM 2016 meetings. This contest challenged participants to analyze a government dataset using statistical and visualization tools and methods.

The dataset for the GSS Data Challenge 2016 is the Department of Transportation's General Estimates System (GES). The GES is collected by the National Highway

Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA). GES is a representative sample of police-reported motor vehicle crashes of all types. Crashes recorded in the GES database must involve at least one motor vehicle traveling on a traffic way, have a corresponding police accident report (PAR), and result in property damage, injury, or death. Because GES data are obtained from a probability sample of police-reported crashes, each crash included in the database is associated with a sampling weight, which can be used to obtain population estimates. The data encompass the years from 1988 to 2013. A link to the website with the data and other useful information (data dictionaries, manuals, etc.) is given here: <ftp://ftp.nhtsa.dot.gov/GES/> .

We have 14 contestants giving presentations on their work at the JSM in topic-contributed sessions and SPEED posters. The topic-contributed sessions take place on Tuesday August 2, and the SPEED posters will be given on Monday. We will announce the winners at the GSS Membership meeting and social to take place on Tuesday evening.

We are also happy to announce that we have an opportunity to organize a special issue of the journal *Computational Statistics* that will focus on the Data Challenge. After the JSM, many of the participants in this GSS competition will be invited to submit a paper to the journal. The competition judges will make the decision on which papers get invited. Based on the experience of previous special issues for JSM competitions, the prize winners and several additional papers will be invited. Papers submitted to the special issue will be refereed. For more information on the journal, see <http://www.springer.com/statistics/journal/180>.

## GOVERNMENT STATISTICS SECTION

*The mission of the Government Statistics Section (GSS) is to promote the use of sound statistical theory and methods in the production of data at all levels of government--be it Federal, State, local, or international; assist in the broad dissemination of those data; and encourage good statistical practice by all users. Areas of interest for the Section include all that involve the production, dissemination, and application of governmental statistics, including concern with statistical policy issues, quality and usefulness of governmental data products, special problems of State and local data, comparability of data among different countries, and the role of professional statisticians in the public sector.*

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## SOCIAL STATISTICS SECTION

*The Social Statistics Section seeks to advance research in social statistics, both in areas which involve the use of methods of statistical inquiry, and in those which involve the use of statistical data and the development of statistical measurement. This section will also plan for active participation in the affairs of the American Statistical Association by those interested in these matters and for representation of activities in this major field in the program of the ASA.*

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