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## A Career in Statistics: Beyond the Numbers

By Gerald J. Hahn, Necip Doganaksoy



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**A valuable guide to a successful career as a statistician**

*A Career in Statistics: Beyond the Numbers* prepares readers for careers in statistics by emphasizing essential concepts and practices beyond the technical tools provided in standard courses and texts. This insider's guide from internationally recognized applied statisticians helps readers decide whether a career in statistics is right for them, provides hands-on guidance on how to prepare for such a career, and shows how to succeed on the job.


The book provides non-technical guidance for a successful career. The authors' extensive industrial experience is supplemented by insights from contributing authors from government and academia, Carol Joyce Blumberg, Leonard M. Gaines, Lynne B. Hare, William Q. Meeker, and Josef Schmee. Following an introductory chapter that provides an overview of the field, the authors discuss the various dimensions of a career in applied statistics in three succinct parts:

- **The Work of a Statistician** describes the day-to-day activities of applied statisticians in business and industry, official government, and various other application areas, highlighting the work environment and major on-the-job challenges
- **Preparing for a Successful Career in Statistics** describes the personal traits that characterize successful statisticians, the education that they need to acquire, and approaches for securing the right job
- **Building a Successful Career as a Statistician** offers practical guidance for addressing key challenges that statisticians face on the job, such as project initiation and execution, effective communication, publicizing successes, ethical considerations, and gathering good data; alternative career paths are also described

The book concludes with an in-depth examination of careers for statisticians in academia as well as tips to help them stay on top of their field throughout their careers. Each chapter includes thought-provoking discussion questions and a Major Takeaways section that outlines key concepts. Real-world examples illustrate key points, and an FTP site provides additional information on selected topics.

*A Career in Statistics* is an invaluable guide for individuals who are considering or have decided on a career in statistics as well as for statisticians already on the job who want to accelerate their path to success. It also serves as a suitable book for courses on statistical consulting, statistical practice, and statistics in the

workplace at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

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## **A Career in Statistics: Beyond the Numbers** By Gerald J. Hahn, Necip Doganaksoy Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1189526 in Books
- Published on: 2011-06-28
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1

- Dimensions: 9.20" h x .72" w x 6.12" l, 1.15 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 358 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

"From now on whenever someone asks me about a career in statistics I will point them to this book which I think addresses their questions and concerns much better than I could with just my personal account."  
(*Significance*, 1 September 2011)

"This book needs to be readily available to majors or potential majors at any college or university that grants degrees in mathematics or statistics." (Mathematical Association of America Reviews, 16 March 2012)

"A valuable guide to a successful career as a statistician *A Career in Statistics: Beyond the Numbers* prepares readers for careers in statistics by emphasizing essential concepts and practices beyond the technical tools provided in standard courses and texts ... *A Career in Statistics* is an invaluable guide for individuals who are considering or have decided on a career in statistics as well as for statisticians already on the job who want to accelerate their path to success." (Green Technology, 29 November 2011)

### **From the Back Cover**

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#### About the Author

**Gerald J. Hahn**, PhD, worked at the GE Global Research Center for 46 years, where he managed its statistics group for 28 years and was elected a Coolidge Fellow, the organization's highest honor, in 1984. A Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and American Society for Quality (ASQ), Dr. Hahn is the author of numerous papers and the coauthor of *Statistical Models in Engineering*; *Statistical Intervals: A Guide for Practitioners*; and *The Role of Statistics in Business and Industry*, all published by Wiley. He has received many professional awards and served as adjunct professor at various universities.

**Necip Doganaksoy**, PhD, is a Statistician and Principal Technologist at the GE Global Research Center, where he has worked for over 20 years; he is also an Adjunct Professor at Union Graduate College. A Six Sigma Master Black Belt and a Fellow of ASA and ASQ, Dr. Doganaksoy has written more than 60 articles on quality, reliability, and productivity improvement and coauthored *The Role of Statistics in Business and Industry* (Wiley). He received ASQ's William G. Hunter Award in 2009.

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