

## Statistical Terminology

### Census

"An enumeration of people, houses, firms, or other important items in a country or region at a particular time . . . Modern censuses refer to a precisely delimited territory and subareas and, for this reason, are normally planned and conducted with the aid of detailed maps. They aim to enumerate every person within the designated territory. A "de jure" census tallies people according to their regular or legal residence, whereas a "de facto" census allocates them to the place where enumerated—normally where they spend the night of the day enumerated. By either method, the reported territorial distribution is according to where people sleep (nighttime population) rather than where they work (daytime population)."

"Census." *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Retrieved March 11, 2005, from Encyclopædia Britannica Online. <<http://www.search.eb.com/eb/article?tocId=9022060>>

### Sample

"When it is difficult to conduct a census of an entire population, a researcher will work with a portion of that population, a sample, which is thought to be representative of the population in question. Researchers typically try to ensure that a sample has been drawn in a random fashion. This ensures that the distribution of population characteristics corresponds to the assumptions of probability theory. This allows inferences to be drawn about the population. Many times non-random samples are used, however."

"Sample." *Online Dictionary of the Social Sciences*. Retrieved March 11, 2005 <<http://bitbucket.icaap.org/dict.pl>>

### Economic Indicator

"Statistic used, along with other indicators, in an attempt to determine the state of general economic activity, especially in the future. A "leading indicator" is one of a statistical series that fairly reliably turn up or down before the general economy does . . . Other types of indicators normally move in line with the overall economy ("coincident indicator") or change direction after the economy does ("lagging indicator")."

"Economic indicator." *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Retrieved March 11, 2005, from Encyclopædia Britannica Online. <http://www.search.eb.com/eb/article?tocId=9031933>

### Index, e.g. Consumer Price Index

"Many of the concepts social scientists study are quite complex and cannot adequately be measured by a single indicator. In these cases researchers develop several indicators and in some case will give different weights to each indicator. This combination of indicators and weights is an index. Socio-economic status is difficult to measure and typically the indicators of income, occupation and education are used. If occupation is seen as more central it may be given more weight. An index of socio-economic status is developed."

"Index." *Online Dictionary of the Social Sciences*. Retrieved March 11, 2005 <<http://bitbucket.icaap.org/dict.pl>>

## Getting Started with Statistics: Basic Statistics for the Generalist

### Index, e.g. Consumer Price Index

"A quantitative social, economic, or political measure, often a weighted combination of a number of selected individual indicators for the domain of interest. One example is the Federal Bureau of Investigation's uniform crime **index** for the USA. Many countries have some kind of retail prices **index** which measures the rate of inflation in consumer goods. **Indexes** usually employ standardization to facilitate comparisons, for example showing the initial year of the time-series as base 100, or using the national figure as base 100 for presenting sub-national figures . . . "

"Index." *A Dictionary of Sociology*. Ed. Gordon Marshall. Oxford University Press, 1998. *Oxford Reference Online*. Oxford University Press. University of Washington (Orbis). 11 March 2005  
<<http://www.oxfordreference.com/views/ENTRY.html?subview=Main&entry=t88.e1083>>

### Fiscal Year

"In national finance, the period covered by a budget is usually a year, known as a financial or fiscal year, which may or may not correspond with the calendar year."

"Government budget." *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Retrieved March 14, 2005, from Encyclopædia Britannica Online. <<http://www.search.eb.com/eb/article?tocId=9106263>>

The U.S. federal government fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30.