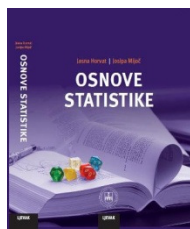


BOOK REVIEW



OSNOVE STATISTIKE Elementary Statistics

Jasna Horvat, Josipa Mijoč

(2012), Ljevak, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek
ISBN 978-953-253-097-1, 668+12 pp.

Last year Ljevak publishing issued the course book *Elementary Statistics*, written by prof. Jasna Horvat, PhD and Josipa Mijoč, univ.spec.oec. Apart from the main publisher (Ljevak), the University Josip Juraj Strossmayer in Osijek appears as the co-publisher of this book. This is also the authors' home university where they currently teach the course *Statistics* at the Faculty of Economics in Osijek.

The course book *Elementary Statistics* stands out from the rest by having contemporary content and very detailed text, graphics, tables and schemes, which clarify the content in 12 chapters. The written materials are divided into 12 chapters, on a total of 680 pages and include 310 tables, 23 schemes, 200 examples, 196 images and 91 graphs.

The sequence of chapters in the manuscript follow the curriculum for the course *Statistics* and are divided into the following sections:

1. Basic concepts
2. Frequency distribution and graphs
3. Numerical descriptive measures
4. Probability
5. Random variables
6. Sampling distribution and estimation of parameters
7. Hypothesis testing
8. Chi-square tests
9. Simple correlation analysis
10. Simple regression analysis
11. Index numbers
12. Time series and forecasting

After explaining the basic concepts of statistics in chapter 1, the authors explain the statistical tables and their types in the second chapter, as well as frequency distributions and the presentation of statistical data. The third chapter describes and explains the characteristics of descriptive statistics (measures of central tendency, dispersion and asymmetry) while the fourth chapter presents the basics of probability. The fifth chapter explains the random variable (continuous and discontinuous), and this concept is developed in the sixth chapter that introduces the reader with the description of sampling technique, sampling distribution and estimation of population parameters. Methods of inferential statistics are broadened in the seventh chapter and in parts in which analysis based on samples are presented and their indicators are used in testing

hypotheses or assumptions for rejection or not rejection. The eighth chapter discusses the chi-square test. Correlation and regression analysis are explained in the ninth and tenth chapter. The eleventh chapter reviews the concepts of time-series analysis, and individual and group indexes. At the end, the twelfth chapter deals with the trend analysis.

There is a summary with reminders to the most important issues, index and exercises at the end of each chapter. The exercises consist of theoretical questions, practical issues and cases of particular interest. Apart from these appendices, facts of particular interest are scattered throughout the book. All the above mentioned additionally stimulates and motivates to widen the knowledge of this particular area, and the interactivity encourages the reader (the preface of the book) to visit the web page (www.efos.hr/osnovestatistike) where exercise keys from the book are available.

The technique and style of the written text are pedagogically and methodologically well written in order to diminish the beginners' fear from misunderstanding the complexity of statistics.

The book *Elementary Statistics* contains thorough explanations of basic statistics vocabulary with special emphasis on analyses that are interesting to economists. It also fulfills the needs of scientific and training criteria, which are expressed in the way the basic knowledge from statistical theory and praxis is presented. The Book is multi-functional because of its interdisciplinary and interactive attributes. It can serve as a handbook or a guide to beginners in statistics, as well as to researchers of social phenomena and professionals who need statistical methodology in their work.

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