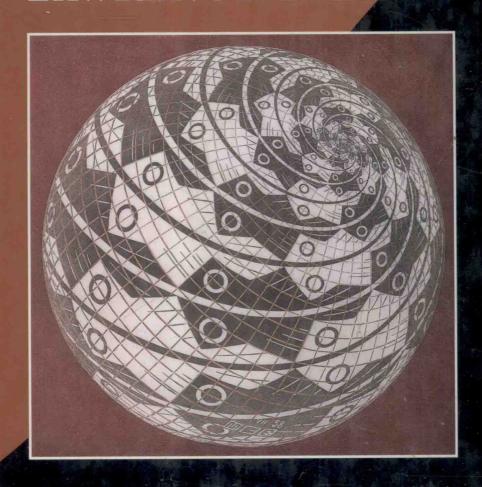
LAWRENCE L. LAPIN



Statistics for Modern Business Decisions

SIXTH EDITION

Statistics for Modern Business Decisions

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LAWRENCE L. LAPIN

San Jose State University

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PREFACE

In writing this introductory statistics book for students of business and economics, my overriding goal has been to enliven statistics, to make it more interesting, relevant, and easier to learn. It is no secret that today's student too often finds statistics boring and irrelevant and more difficult than necessary. Reflecting the evolution of statistical methodology, a *new goal* has been incorporated into this *sixth edition* that gives proper coverage of *exploratory data analysis*. This topic, along with descriptive and inferential statistics, is treated as essential to everyone's understanding of statistics.

To illustrate that statistics is really interesting and relevant, this book treats it as essentially a decision-making tool and includes many modern concepts and applications. All topics are introduced by carefully chosen examples that illustrate more than technical mathematical concepts. The stage is set, the motivation is provided, and the rationale is given as each new concept is presented. Accordingly, the importance of inferences is highlighted when a statistics professor compares the effectiveness of a new textbook with the book she currently uses. Testing for the equality of several proportions, an ad agency wishes to determine whether there are any differences in terms of reader recall among three different kinds of magazine advertisements. The fact that sampling is just one source of potential error is emphasized by detailing some of the blunders committed in taking the U.S. Decennial Census. Many of the examples and exercises are clearly related to present-day issues, such as health, conservation, and the environment. Several examples of each major area of business and economics—such as accounting, marketing, finance, production, forecasting, and consumer behavior—serve to richly illustrate the applications of statistics.

A course in high school algebra is the only background required. And although this book should prove more accessible than most, the relevant nature of its presentation has not been achieved at the cost of avoiding reputedly difficult material. Probability, hypothesis testing, and other more difficult topics receive generous explanation, often from several viewpoints. The reader is encouraged to rely more on intuition than on rote memory; less than the customary emphasis is placed on the mechanical and computational aspects of statistics. Purely mathematical symbology has been minimized; for example, instead of the Boolean cup and bowl notation, the italicized *and* and *or* are used in describing probability concepts.

This sixth edition introduces several major improvements in presentation. The book's original character of being easy to use is enhanced by chapter opening lists titled "Before reading this chapter, make sure you understand" and "After reading this chapter, you will understand"; the former concisely itemizes prerequisite concepts that the reader should understand before reading; the latter poses major *questions* that the reader will want to answer while reading the chapter. The *answers* to the opening questions are given in the reformatted end-of-chapter *summary*. Most chapters have a "Real-Life Statistical Challenge" section, followed by questions, and a "Statistics in Practice" problem set, both of which feature *real data*. These

new course enrichment features are more challenging and less rigidly structured than the regular exercises and complement end-of-chapter *cases*. Computer applications are more prominent, with expanded coverage given to *Minitab*.

The sixth edition is the most extensively revised ever. New examples illustrate key concepts. Stock buying decisions give added flavor to the concept of variance, which serves as a *measure of risk* as well as a measure of dispersion. An expanded section on sampling and random variables employs *repeated* sampling experiments to give credence to the central limit theorem. *More diagrams* are used. *More real data* serve to introduce concepts. For example, baseball superstar performance statistics are used, not only to add perspective for understanding basic regression and correlation concepts, but also to make statistics *more interesting and relevant*.

To facilitate these changes, some chapters have been revamped. An expanded Chapter 1, "About Statistics," includes coverage of the basic ideas of data analysis. The descriptive statistics in Chapter 2 includes many *more data display types*. Chapter 3, which presents statistical measures (mean, etc.), has been *streamlined* to facilitate data analysis as well as traditional statistics. Chapter 5 now has a shorter and dramatically *simplified probability* discussion that gives only the essentials. (No probability topics have been lost in the shuffle; the more difficult material has been relocated later in the book.) Time-series in Chapter 12 now includes *seasonal* exponential smoothing. A *model-building* segment has been added to multiple regression (Chapter 11), and a discussion of *stepwise multiple regression* procedures has been included.

The sixth edition has been reorganized by grouping the chapters into coherent parts.

Part I Basic Statistical Concepts

Part II Drawing Conclusions from Samples: Inferential Statistics

Part III Important Business Applications of Statistics

Part IV Further Topics in Inferential Statistics

Part V Probability Applications for Business Analysis

Part VI Decision Analysis

Parts I and II provide the key concepts for introductory courses. Part III houses the important business applications—time series, quality control, and index numbers which now appear earlier in the book. Advanced inference topics are positioned in Part IV, facilitating the picking and choosing of course materials. To that end, further probability topics are now grouped into Part V, conveniently arranged so that instructors can separate probability material, making it easier to customize and enrich courses. The more challenging counting methods and Bayes' theorem are discussed here in the new Chapter 20. Chapter 21 covers subjective probability, a topic of broad interest whose relocation should make it more accessible. Chapter 22 presents further probability distributions, now separated from goodness-of-fit testing in Chapter 23. As in previous editions, decision theory appears at the back of the book, in Part VI, a convenient placement for the many instructors who use some of those topics in a second statistics course. This segment includes new material on Bayesian sampling with the mean (Chapter 28) and utility theory (Chapter 29). Users of earlier editions will find a detailed synopsis of the book's major changes in the Instructor's Manual.

Many new problems have been added, and a number of the original ones have been updated or modified. Most sections within chapters have their own problem sets, permitting the student to relate the questions easily to the concepts just covered. This arrangement also gives the instructor flexibility in picking topics within a chapter. All problems are graded, so that each set begins with easy exercises and increases in difficulty. As a further improvement, much of the statistical jargon and notation has been simplified. All of these changes should make the book easier to use and to teach from.

The book has been thoroughly class tested in a variety of circumstances and courses in many colleges and universities. The experience of hundreds of instructors has been drawn upon in writing this sixth edition.

The modern flavor of the book is enhanced by the expanded computer coverage. Great care has been taken not to tie this book too closely to any particular software or computer. It can still be used *without* computers, and all passages involving computers are primarily of an enrichment nature and are strictly *optional*. The exercises have been expanded to include *optional* computer problems having data sets too large to be reasonably solved by hand.

An examination of the table of contents reveals that there is much to choose from in this book. The chapters have been constructed to make it easy for the instructor to design a course to fit individual needs. Classical statistics has not been mixed with statistical decision theory—this book may be used with either emphasis. Many modern texts supplant classical statistics; both the old and the new are available here. Overall, the presentation is familiar except for the inclusion of several topics omitted from most texts. Chapter 15 considers two-sample inferences. Chapters 16, 17, and 18 discuss analysis of variance and chi-square applications. Chapter 17 includes several probability distributions—the hypergeometric, Poisson, exponential, and uniform. These may be conveniently omitted or incorporated in a course without loss of continuity. Chapter 19 contains some nonparametric statistics most useful for business applications. The Bayesian decision-making procedures of Chapters 24–29 emphasize decision trees; much of the symbology and terminology of decision theory is avoided to allow a simpler and more pragmatic presentation. The chapters on so-called Bayesian methods have been used primarily to extend statistics to areas where classical procedures have proved inadequate in analyzing decisions under uncertainty.

A glossary of statistical symbols is provided on the endpapers for easy reference. Abbreviated answers to all even-numbered exercises are included in the back of the book. Complete solutions to all exercises are available in the Instructor's Manual, and nearly 200 additional exercises and more than 600 examination questions and their solutions are available in a Testbook. The Instructor's Manual also provides teaching suggestions and hints on structuring courses. A *Study Guide* containing more than 200 solved problems is also available for student use as a workbook.

Also available to accompany this book is the *Guide to EasyStat*, a computer manual that incorporates a complete software package called *EasyStat*, all included on a diskette that comes inside every manual. *EasyStat* is a user-friendly program for any IBM PC-compatible system. The computer manual is keyed to the text and contains its own detailed examples and hundreds of problems. A special feature of *EasyStat* is a master data set comprising U.S. Decennial data for 1,000 urban employed homeowners. Students can select their own random samples from 14 different categories and analyze them separately. Class results can be pooled to illustrate concepts of sampling error.

The new end-of-chapter features, "Real-Life Statistical Challenge" and "Statistics in Practice," were written by my colleague, Jerome Burstein, of San Jose State University. I wish to thank Jerry for helping to make my book more relevant, interesting, and functional. I am greatly indebted to the many people who have assisted me in preparing this book. Special thanks go to Janet Anaya of San Jose State

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I am deeply grateful to my students, who over many years of debugging the book helped identify the problems a reader might face.

Lawrence L. Lapin

CONTENTS

Preface vii

PART I BASIC STATISTICAL CONCEPTS 1

		artists and a second	1000			
70	A D	ALIT.	CTA	TISTIC	i ger	-
	AA PS		3 I A			

- 1-1 The Meaning of Statistics 3
 The Role of Statistics 4 / Types of Statistics: Descriptive, Inferential, and Exploratory 5 / Exercises 7
- 1-2 Statistical Data 7
 Classifications for Data and Variables 7 / Types of Quantitative
 Data 8 / Exercises 9
- 1-3 The Population and the Sample 9
 Distinguishing Between the Data Set, Population, and Sample 10 /
 Elementary Units 11 / Working Population and the Frame 12 /
 Qualitative and Quantitative Populations 12 / Deductive and
 Inductive Statistics 13 / Statistical Error 15 / Exercises 15
 Summary 16
 Real-Life Statistical Challenge 17
 Review Exercises 20
 Statistics in Practice 21

2 DESCRIBING AND DISPLAYING STATISTICAL DATA 22

- 2-1 The Frequency Distribution 23
 Finding a Meaningful Pattern for the Data 23 / Graphical Displays:
 The Histogram 24 / Graphical Displays: The Frequency Polygon 25 /
 Describing a Population: The Frequency Curve 26 / Descriptive
 Analysis 27 / Constructing a Frequency Distribution: Number and
 Width of Class Intervals 28 / Stem-and-Leaf Plots 30 /
 Accommodating Extreme Values 31 / Computer-Assisted
 Construction 32 / Qualitative Frequency Distributions 32 / The Pie
 Chart 33 / Exercises 36
- 2-2 Relative and Cumulative Frequency Distributions
 Relative Frequency Distributions
 39 / Cumulative Frequency
 Distributions
 42 / Exercises
 43
- 2-3 Common Forms of the Frequency Distribution 45
 Exercises 47
- 2-4 Displaying Data in Multiple Dimensions 48
 Quantitative Data Displays—The Scatter Diagram 48 / Qualitative
 Data Displays—The Cross Tabulation 49 / Higher Dimensional Data
 50 / Exercises 50

2-5 Special Data Displays 51

The Box Plot 51 / The Control Chart 53 / The Time Series Plot 53 / Exercises 53

Summary 54

Real-Life Statistical Challenge 55

Review Exercises 58

Statistics in Practice 60

Case: Ingrid's Hallmark Shop I 62

3 SUMMARY DESCRIPTIVE MEASURES 64

3-1 The Arithmetic Measures 65

Symbolic Expressions for Calculating the Arithmetic Mean 65 / The Population and Sample Mean 66 / Using a Computer to Calculate the Mean 66 / Decision Making with the Mean 67 / Approximating the Mean Using Grouped Data 68 / Exercises 69

3-2 The Median and the Mode 72

The Median 72 / The Median Contrasted with the Mean 72 / The Mode 73 / Finding the Median and Mode From a Stem-and-Leaf Plot 74 / Positional Comparison of Measures: Skewed Distributions 74 / Bimodal Distributions 76 / Exercises 76

- 3-3 Percentiles, Fractiles, and Quartiles 79 Exercises 84
- 3-4 Measuring Variability 86

Importance of Variability 86 / Distance Measures of Dispersion 88 / The Interquartile Range 88 / The Box Plot and Quartiles 90 / Measures of Average Deviation 90 / The Variance 91 / The Sample and Population Variance 92 / The Standard Deviation 92 / Using a Computer to Calculate the Standard Deviation 93 / Shortcut Calculations for the Variance and Standard Deviation 94 / A Practical Use for the Standard Deviation 96 / Exercises 98

3-5 The Proportion 100

Exercises 101

Summary 102

Real-Life Statistical Challenge 104

Review Exercises 107

Statistics in Practice 110

Case: Ingrid's Hallmark Shop II 111

4 THE STATISTICAL SAMPLING STUDY 114

4-1 The Need for Samples 115

The Economic Advantages of Using a Sample 115 / The Time Factor 115 / The Very Large Population 116 / Partly Inaccessible Populations 116 / The Destructive Nature of the Observation 116 / Accuracy and Sampling 117 / Exercises 117

- 4-2 Designing and Conducting a Sampling Study
 The Importance of Planning 118 / Data Collection 120 / Data Analysis and Conclusions 120
- 4-3 Bias and Error in Sampling 120
 Sampling Error 120 / Sampling Bias 121 / Nonsampling Error 122 / Exercises 124

- 4-4 Selecting the Sample 125
 The Convenience Sample 125 / The Judgment Sample 126 / The Random Sample 126 / Sample Selection Using Random Numbers 127 / Types of Random Samples 129 / Exercises 131
- 4-5 Selecting Statistical Procedures
 Summary 135
 Real-Life Statistical Challenge 136
 Review Exercises 139
 Statistics in Practice 139
 Case: Boomville 141

- 5-1 Basic Probability Concepts 146
 Probability as Long-Run Frequency 146 / The Random Experiment and Its Elementary Events 146 / Complicating Issues 148 / Objective and Subjective Probabilities 148 / The Law of Large Numbers 149 / Exercises 149
- 5-2 Probabilities for Composite Events 150
 The Sample Space, Composite Events, and Event Sets 150 / The
 Count-and-Divide Method for Computing Probabilities 152 /
 Probability Estimates 152 / Certain and Impossible Events 154 /
 Alternative Expressions of Probability 154 / Probability and Samples
 154 / Exercises 155
- 5-3 Joint Probability and the Multiplication Law
 The Joint Probability Table 156 / Mutually Exclusive and
 Collectively Exhaustive Events 157 / Joint Events and Probabilities
 157 / Marginal Probabilities 157 / The Multiplication Law for
 Finding "And" Probabilities 158 / Some Advice and Warnings
 About the Multiplication Law 159 / Joint Probabilities Involving
 More Than Two Events 160 / Probabilities When Elementary Events
 are not Equally Likely 160 / Exercises 161
- 5-4 Finding Probabilities Using the Addition Law 162
 The Addition Law for Finding "Or" Probabilities 163 / Some
 Advice and Warning About the Addition Law 163 / Mutually
 Exclusive and Collectively Exhaustive Events 165 / Application to
 Complementary Events 165 / Exercises 166
- 5-5 Statistical Independence 167
 A Definition of Statistical Independence 167 / A Basic Test for Independence Between Events 167 / Commonly Encountered Instances of Statistical Independence 168 / Independent Events and the Multiplication Law 169 / Finding Joint Probabilities For Dependent Events 169 / Constructing a Joint Probability Table Without a Cross Tabulation 170 / Exercises 171
- 5-6 Conditional Probability and the General Multiplication
 Law 171
 Computing Conditional Probabilities 172 / Conditional Probability and Statistical Independence 176 / The General Multiplication Law 176 / Constructing a Joint Probability Table with the Assistance of the General Multiplication Law 178 / Exercises 179

5-7 Probability Trees and Further Laws 181
The Probability Tree Diagram 181 / Multiplication Law for Several
Events 183 / The General Addition Law 184 / Common Errors in
Applying the Laws of Probability 185 / Exercises 186
Summary 188
Real-Life Statistical Challenge 190
Review Exercises 192
Statistics in Practice 197
Case: The Three Marketeers 198

PART II DRAWING CONCLUSIONS FROM SAMPLES: INFERENTIAL STATISTICS 201

- 6 PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTIONS, EXPECTED VALUE, AND SAMPLING 202
 - 6-1 Random Variables and Probability Distributions 203
 The Random Variable 203 / The Probability Distribution 203 /
 Finding the Probability Distribution 206 / Probability Trees and
 Sampling 208 / Discrete and Continuous Random Variables 212 /
 Exercises 213
 - 6-2 Expected Value and Variance 214
 The Expected Value of a Random Variable 214 / The Variance of a Random Variable 215 / Expected Value and Variance in Decision Making 216 / Exercises 217
 - 6-3 Population Parameters and Sampling 219
 Population Parameters 219 / Probability for a Randomly Selected
 Observation 220 / Exercises 221
 - 6-4 The Sampling Distribution of the Mean 222
 Sampling with and without Replacement 224 / An Empirical
 Approximation of the Sampling Distribution of the Mean 225 / Some
 Theoretical Properties of the Sampling Distribution of the Mean 228 /
 Exercises 230
 - 6-5 Binomial Probabilities: The Sampling Distribution of the Proportion 230

 The Bernoulli Process 232 / The Number of Combinations 232 / The Binomial Formula 234 / Important Properties of the Binomial Distribution 236 / The Cumulative Probability Distribution 238 / Using Binomial Probability Tables 240 / Expected Value and Variance of a Binomial Random Variable 243 / The Sampling Distribution of the Proportion 243 / Exercises 245
 - 6-6 Continuous Probability Distributions 248
 Smoothed Curve Approximation 249 / Probability Density Function
 250 / Cumulative Probability Distribution 251 / The Expected Value
 and the Variance 252
 Summary 252
 Real-Life Statistical Challenge 254

Review Exercises 256

Statistics in Practice 259 Case: AlphaComp 260

7 THE NORMAL DISTRIBUTION 263

- 7-1 Characteristics of the Normal Distribution 264
- 7-2 Finding Areas Under the Normal Curve 267
 Using the Normal Curve Table 269 / Cumulative Probabilities and Percentiles 273 / The Standard Normal Random Variable 274 / Additional Remarks 276 / Exercises 276
- 7-3 Sampling Distribution of the Sample Mean for a Normal Population 277

 The Role of the Standard Error 279 / Exercises 282
- 7-4 Sampling Distribution of \overline{X} When the Population Is Not Normal 283

 A Multiple-Sample Experiment 283 / The Central Limit Theorem 285 / Exercises 290
- 7-5 Sampling Distributions of *P* and the Normal Approximation 291
 Advantages of Approximating the Binomial Distribution 291 / The Normal Distribution as an Approximation 292 / An Application of the Normal Approximation to Acceptance Sampling 297 /

Exercises 298
Summary 299

Real-Life Statistical Challenge 300

Review Exercises 302

Statistics in Practice 303

Case: MBA Income and Stature 304

7-6 Optional Topic: Sampling Distribution of \overline{X} When the Population Is Small 307 Finite Population Correction Factor 308 / Optional Exercises 309

8 STATISTICAL ESTIMATION 311

- 8-1 Estimators and Estimates 312
 The Estimation Process 312 / Credibility and Precision in Estimation 314 / Choosing an Estimator 314 / Criteria for Statistics Used as Estimators 314 / Commonly Used Estimators 316 / Exercises 318
- 8-2 Interval Estimates of the Mean When σ Is Known 319 Confidence and Meaning of the Interval Estimate 321 / Constructing the Confidence Interval 321 / Features Desired in a Confidence Interval 323 / Computer-Generated Confidence Intervals 324 / Exercises 324
- 8-3 Interval Estimates of the Mean When σ Is
 Unknown 326
 The Student t distribution 326 / Constructing the Confidence Interval 328 / Computer-Generated Confidence Intervals 330 / Confidence Intervals When n Is Large 330 / Exercises 332
- 8-4 Interval Estimates of the Population Proportion 334 Exercises 335

8-5 Choosing the Sample Size and Selecting the

Estimator 336

Error and Reliability 336 / Steps for Finding the Required Sample Size to Estimate the Mean 338 / Three Influences on Sample Size 340 / Finding a Planning Estimate of σ 341 / Steps for Finding the Required Sample Size to Estimate the Proportion 343 / Choosing the Estimator 344 / Reliability Versus Confidence and Tolerable Error Versus Precision 346 / Exercises 346

Summary 348

Real-Life Statistical Challenge 350

Review Exercises 351

Statistics in Practice 353

Case: Brown and Becker's Budget 354

9 HYPOTHESIS TESTING 357

9-1 Basic Concepts of Hypothesis Testing: Testing a New Drug 358

The Null and Alternative Hypotheses 359 / Making the Decision 360 / Finding the Error Probabilities 362 / Choosing the Decision Rule 363 / Making the Decision 364 / Formulating Hypotheses 364 / Exercises 365

9-2 Testing the Mean 368

The Hypothesis-Testing Steps 368 / Upper-Tailed Test 372 / Lower-Tailed Tests 376 / Two-Sided Tests 379 / Hypothesis Testing and Confidence Intervals 382 / Summary of Testing the Mean 382 / Variations in Hypothesis-Testing Procedures 382 / Exercises 385

- 9-3 Testing the Proportion 391
 Using *P* as the Test Statistic 391 / Exercises 394
- 9-4 Selecting the Test 395
 Some Important Questions 395 / The Power Curve 395 /
 Efficiency and Power 396
- 9-5 Limitations of Hypothesis-Testing Procedures
 Summary 398 396

Real-Life Statistical Challenge 399

Review Exercises 400

Statistics in Practice 403

Case: SynerGentex 403

10 REGRESSION AND CORRELATION 406

- 10-1 Regression Analysis 407
 The Scatter Diagram 408 / The Data and the Regression Equation 408 / Some Characteristics of the Regression Line 411 / Fitting a Straight Line to the Data 412 / Exercises 412
- 10-2 Correlation Analysis 413
 The Correlation Coefficient 417 / Computing the Correlation
 Coefficient 418 / Exercises 421
- 10-3 Finding the Regression Equation 423

The Method of Least Squares 423 / Illustration of the Method 425 / Meaning and Use of the Regression Line 426 / Measuring Variability in Results 427 / Computer-Assisted Regression Analysis 430 / Exercises 432

- 10-4 Assumptions and Properties of Linear Regression
 Analysis 435
 Assumptions of Linear Regression Analysis 435 / Sampling and
 Regression Analysis 436 / Estimating the True Regression
 Equation 438 / Inferences Regarding Regression Coefficients
 439 / Exercises 439
- 10-5 Predictions and Statistical Inferences Using the Regression Line 440
 Predictions Using the Regression Equation 440 / Prediction Intervals for the Conditional Mean 441 / Prediction Intervals for an Individual Value of *Y* Given *X* 444 / Computer-Generated Interval Estimates 444 / Inferences Regarding the Slope of the Regression Line 445 / Exercises 445
- 10-6 Assessing the Quality of Regression Analysis 446
 The Coefficient of Determination 446 / Appropriateness of the Model: Residual Analysis 451 / Exercises 454
- 10-7 Common Pitfalls and Limitations of Regression and
 Correlation Analysis 456
 Dangers of Extrapolation in Regression Analysis 456 / Relevancy
 of Past Data 457 / Correlation and Causality 457
- 10-8 Nonlinear Regression Analysis 458
 Solving by Transformation of Variables 460 / Fitting a Polynomial 460 / Exercises 461
 Summary 461
 Real-Life Statistical Challenge 463
 Review Exercises 464
 Statistics in Practice 466

Case: La Boutique Fantasque 468

10-9 Optional Topic: Inferences Regarding Regression
 Coefficients 469
 Confidence Interval Estimate of B 469 / Testing Hypotheses
 About B 470 / Using B to Make Statistical Inferences About ρ
 471 / Computer-Assisted Inferences About Regression Coefficients
 472 / Optional Exercises 472

11 MULTIPLE REGRESSION AND CORRELATION 474

- 11-1 Linear Multiple Regression Involving Three Variables 475 Regression in Three Dimensions 475
- 11-2 Multiple Regression Using the Method of Least
 Squares 477
 Illustration: Predicting Supermarket Profits 478 / Advantages of
 Multiple Regression 480 / Residuals and the Standard Error of the
 Estimate 482 / Assumptions of Multiple Regression 484 /

		Challenges and Pitfalls of Multiple Regression Analysis 484 / Exercises 488			
	11-3	Multiple Regression: Computer Applications Computer-Assisted Multiple Regression Analysis 491 / Exercises 493			
	11-4	Inferences in Regression Analysis 496 Prediction Intervals in Multiple Regression 496 / Inferences Regarding Regression Coefficients 498 / Exercises 500			
	11-5	Multiple Correlation 500 Coefficient of Multiple Determination 500 / Partial Correlation 502 / Exercises 504			
	11-6	Finding a Predictive Regression Model 506 Goals for a Predictive Model 506 / Searching for the Best Predictors: All Regressions 507 / Stepwise Regression 507 / Illustration: Performance Predictors for Baseball Batter Superstar Salary 509 / Fine-Tuning the Model I: Eliminating Outliers 511 / Kinds of Stepwise Regression 512 / Stepwise Regression with a Computer 512 / Selecting Screening Parameters 513 / Fine-Tuning the Model II: Finding a Regression Equation that Makes Sense 516 / Exercises 516			
	11-7	Dummy Variable Techniques 518 Using a Dummy Variable 519 / Using a Dummy Variable with Time Series 522 / Using a Dummy Variable in Interactive Multiple Regression 523 / Exercises 525 Summary 528 Real-Life Statistical Challenge 530 Review Exercises 532 Statistics in Practice 537 Case: Adventures in Regression Land 538			
	11-8	Optional Topic: Polynomial Regression Optional Exercises 544 541			
PART III	ART III IMPORTANT BUSINESS APPLICATIONS OF STATISTICS 547 12 FORECASTING WITH TIME SERIES 548				
	12-1	The Time Series and Its Components 549			
	12-2	The Classical Time-Series Model 550 Illustration: A Time Series for Stereo Speaker Sales 550 / Exercises 555			
	12-3	Analysis of Secular Trend 557 Describing Trend 557 / Determining Linear Trend Using Least Squares 558 / Modifying Trend for Periods Shorter Than One Year 559 / Forecasting Sales Using a Trend Line 561 / Nonlinear Trend: Exponential Trend Curve 563 / Exercises 568			
	12-4	Forecasting with Moving Averages and Seasonal Indexes 570			

Ratio-to-Moving-Average Method 570 / Finding the Seasonal Indexes 572 / Deseasonalized Data 573 / Making the Forecast 574 / Exercises 574

- 12-5 Identifying Cycles and Irregular Fluctuation 577
- 12-6 Exponential Smoothing 577
 Forecasting Errors 578 / Two-Parameter Exponential Smoothing 579 / Computer Applications 582 / Seasonal Exponential Smoothing with Three Parameters 583 / Fine-Tuning Exponential-Smoothing Parameters 589 / Further Exponential-Smoothing Procedures 590 / Exercises 591

Summary 593
Real-Life Statistical Challenge 594
Review Exercises 595
Statistics in Practice 598

Case: BugOff Chemical Company 601

13 STATISTICAL QUALITY CONTROL 603

- 13-1 The Control Chart for Qualitative Data 604
 Establishing Control Limits for the Proportion 605 / Applying the Control Chart 607 / Further Remarks 609 / Exercises 609
- The Control Chart for Quantitative Data 610
 The Control Chart for the Sample Mean 612 / The Control Chart for the Sample Range 614 / Implementing Statistical Control 615 / Exercises 615
- 13-3 Acceptance Sampling 617

 Basic Concepts of Acceptance Sampling 617 / Producer's and Consumer's Risk 618 / Selecting the Decision Rule 618 / Sequential Sampling 619 / Exercises 620

 Summary 621

 Real-Life Statistical Challenge 622

 Review Exercises 624

14 INDEX NUMBERS 627

- 14-1 Price Indexes 628
- 14-2 Aggregate Price Indexes 630 Exercises 633
- 14-3 The Consumer Price Index Exercises 637

Case: Billings, Kidd, and Hickock 625

14-4 Deflating Time Series Using Index Numbers
Exercises 639
Summary 639
Real-Life Statistical Challenge 641
Review Exercises 642
Statistics in Practice 643
Case: The Variety Calore Stores 645