

CHAPTER 1: Data and Statistics

Learning Objectives

After reading this chapter and doing the exercises, you should be able to:

1. Obtain an appreciation for the breadth of statistical applications in business and economics.
2. Understand the meaning of the terms elements, variables, and observations as they are used in statistics.
3. Obtain an understanding of the difference between qualitative, quantitative, cross-sectional and time series data.
4. Learn about the sources of data for statistical analysis both internal and external to the firm.
5. Be aware of how errors can arise in data.
6. Know the meaning of descriptive statistics and statistical inference.
7. Be able to distinguish between a population and a sample.
8. Understand the role a sample plays in making statistical inferences about the population.