

Guide to Tabular Presentation

Example of Table Structure

Table 519. **Border Patrol Enforcement Activities: 2000 to 2004**

[As of September 30. Excludes Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) investigations' data. The source of the data is administrative records that come from the Performance Analysis System (PAS)]

Activities	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Persons processed by the Border Patrol ¹	1,689,195	1,277,577	967,044	946,684	1,179,296
Deportable aliens located by the Border Patrol	1,676,438	1,266,214	955,310	931,557	1,160,395
Mexican aliens	1,636,883	1,224,046	917,994	882,012	1,085,006
Working in agriculture	1,330	1,248	1,821	1,908	1,647
Working in trades, crafts, industry, and service	2,167	2,678	2,897	3,856	3,634
Seeking employment	1,525,422	1,107,550	822,161	810,671	997,986
Canadian aliens	2,211	2,539	1,836	1,611	1,497
All others	37,344	39,629	35,480	47,934	73,892
Smugglers of aliens located	14,406	8,720	8,701	11,128	16,074
Aliens located who were smuggled into the United States	236,782	112,927	68,192	110,575	193,122
Seizures (conveyances)	17,269	5,892	7,250	9,355	18,024
Value of seizures (mil. dol.)	1,945	1,581	1,564	1,680	1,696
Narcotics	1,848	1,519	1,499	1,608	1,620
Other	97	62	65	72	75

¹ Includes deportable aliens located and nondeportable (e.g., U.S. citizens).

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, 2004*. See also <<http://uscis.gov/graphics/shared/aboutus/statistics/ybpage.htm>>. Data as of 8 May 2006.

Headnotes immediately below table titles provide information important for correct interpretation or evaluation of the table as a whole or for a major segment of it.

Footnotes below the bottom rule of tables give information relating to specific items or figures within the table.

Unit indicators show the *specified quantities* in which data items are presented. They are used for two primary reasons. Sometimes data are not available in absolute form and are estimates (as in the case of many surveys). In other cases we round the numbers in order to save space to show more data, as in the case above.

EXAMPLES OF UNIT INDICATOR INTERPRETATION FROM TABLE

Year	Item	Unit Indicator	Number shown	Multiplier
2000	Value of seizures	\$ Millions	1,945	1,000,000

To Determine the Figure it is Necessary to Multiply the Number Shown by the Unit Indicator:

Value of seizures by Border Patrol – 1,945 x \$1,000,000 = \$1,945,000,000 (over \$1.9 billion)

When a table presents data with more than one unit indicator, they are found in the headnotes and column headings (Tables 2 and 31), spanner (Table 44), stub (Table 29), or unit column (Table 128). When the data in a table are shown in the same unit indicator, it is shown in boldface as the first part of the headnote (Table 2). If no unit indicator is shown, data presented are in absolute form (Table 1).

Vertical rules are used to separate independent sections of a table (Table 1), or in tables where the stub is continued into one or more additional columns (Table 2).

Averages—An average is a single number or value that is often used to represent the “typical value” of a group of numbers. It is regarded as a measure of “location” or “central tendency” of a group of numbers.

The *arithmetic mean* is the type of average used most frequently. It is derived by summing the individual item values of a particular group and dividing the total by the number of items. The arithmetic mean is often referred to as simply the “mean” or “average.”

The *median* of a group of numbers is the middle number or value when each item in the group is arranged according to size (lowest to highest or visa versa); it generally has the same number of items above it as well as below it. If there is an even number of items in the group, the median is taken to be the average of the two middle numbers.

Per capita (or per person) quantities—a per capita figure represents an average computed for every person in a specified group (or population). It is derived by taking the total for an item (such as income, taxes, or retail sales) and dividing it by

the number of persons in the specified population.

Index numbers—An index number is the measure of difference or change, usually expressed as a percent, relating one quantity (the variable) of a specified kind to another quantity of the same kind. Index numbers are widely used to express changes in prices over periods of time, but may also be used to express differences between related subjects for a single point in time.

To compute a price index, a base year or period is selected. The base year price (of the commodity or service) is then designated as the base or reference price to which the prices for other years or periods are related. Many price indexes use the year 1982 as the base year; in tables this is shown as “1982 = 100.” A method of expressing the price relationship is: The price of a set of one or more items for a related year (e.g. 1990) **divided by** the price of the same set of items for the base year (e.g. 1982). The result multiplied by 100 provides the index number. When 100 is subtracted from the index number, the result equals the percent change in price from the base year.

Average annual percent change—Unless otherwise stated in the *Abstract* (as in Section 1, Population), average annual percent change is computed by use of a *compound interest formula*. This formula assumes that the rate of change is constant throughout a specified compounding period (1 year for average annual rates of change). The formula is similar to that used to compute the balance of a savings account that receives compound interest. According to this formula, at the end of a compounding period the amount of accrued change (e.g., school enrollment or bank interest) is added to the amount that existed at the beginning of the period. As a result, over time (e.g., with each year or quarter), the same rate of change is applied to a larger and larger figure.

The *exponential formula*, which is based on continuous compounding, is often used to measure population change. It is preferred by population experts, because they view population and population-related subjects as changing without interruption, ever ongoing. Both exponential and compound interest formulas assume a constant rate of change. The former, however, applies the amount of change continuously to the base rather than at the end of each compounding

period. When the average annual rates are small (e.g., less than 5 percent) both formulas give virtually the same results. For an explanation of these two formulas as they relate to population, see U.S. Census Bureau, *The Methods and Materials of Demography*, Vol. 2, 3d printing (rev.), 1975, pp. 372–381.

Current and constant dollars—Statistics in some tables in a number of sections are expressed in both current and constant dollars (see, e.g., Table 660 in Section 13, Income, Expenditures, and Wealth). Current dollar figures reflect actual prices or costs prevailing during the specified year(s). Constant dollar figures are estimates representing an effort to remove the effects of price changes from statistical series reported in dollar terms. In general, constant dollar series are derived by dividing current dollar estimates by the appropriate price index for the appropriate period (e.g., the Consumer Price Index). The result is a series as it would presumably exist if prices were the same throughout, as in the base year—in other words, as if the dollar had constant purchasing power. Any changes in this constant dollar series would reflect only changes in real volume of output, income, expenditures, or other measure.

Explanation of Symbols

The following symbols, used in the tables throughout this book, are explained in condensed form in footnotes to the tables where they appear:

- Represents zero or rounds to less than half the unit of measurement shown.
- B Base figure too small to meet statistical standards for reliability of a derived figure.
- D Figure withheld to avoid disclosure pertaining to a specific organization or individual.
- NA Data not enumerated, tabulated, or otherwise available separately.
- S Figure does not meet publication standards for reasons other than that covered by symbol B, above.
- X Figure not applicable because column heading and stub line make entry impossible, absurd, or meaningless.
- Z Entry would amount to less than half the unit of measurement shown.

In many tables, details will not add to the totals shown because of rounding.