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## Significant Statistics...*Significance*

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**Significance**, launched in 2004, is a new quarterly magazine for anyone interested in statistics and the analysis and interpretation of data. Its aim is to communicate and demonstrate in an entertaining and thought-provoking way the practical use of statistics in all walks of life and to show how statistics benefit society.

Articles are largely non-technical and hence accessible and appealing, not only to members of the profession, but also to all users of statistics. Students and teachers of statistics will find articles of interest in **Significance**, as will people working in central and local government, medicine and healthcare, administration, economics, business and commerce, industry, social studies, survey research, science and the environment. As well as promoting the discipline and covering topics of professional relevance, **Significance** contains a mixture of statistics in the news, case-studies, reviews of existing and newly developing areas of statistics, the application of techniques in practice and problem solving, all with an international flavour.

The first issue of **Significance** includes:

- *Janet Heffernan and Jonathan Tawn* on their experiences of contributing to the High Court Investigation into the sinking of the MV Derbyshire - extreme value statistics played a vital role in solving the mystery surrounding the sinking;
- *David Spiegelhalter and Nicky Best* on the Shipman Enquiry;
- *Angela Dale* on the census, focusing on issues involved in access to data versus the risk of disclosure;
- *Simon Briscoe* on why the Financial Times decided to do a house price index, what the various available measures show, what is in the FT index, and how it will be 5 years until we have a perfect index;
- *Wally Gilks* presenting a personal view of the new science of bioinformatics, and the challenges it presents to statisticians.

The magazine's editor, Helen Joyce, stated "This magazine will be essential reading for everyone who needs to know how to make decisions at work or in their daily lives, including statisticians!"