Example of Table Structure

No. 1090. Private Shipyards—Summary: 1980 to 2000

[For calendar year, unless noted. (178.0 represents 178,000)]

Item	Unit	1980	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 [1]
Employment [2]	1,000	178.0	138.3	130.8	105.0	100.4	98.6	104.4	99.1	98.1
Production workers	1,000	138.8	101.2	93.6	77.8	73.5	70.8	74.9	67.7	67.6
Building activity:										
Merchant vessels: [3]										
Under construction [4]	Number	69	10	-	3	10	14	12	5	9
Ordered	Number	7	-	3	8	5	6	1	6	-
Delivered	Number	23	3	-	1	1	4	5	2	-
Cancelled	Number	4	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	-
Under contract [5]	Number	49	7	3	10	14	12	5	9	9
Naval vessels: [3]										
Under construction [4]	Number	99	100	95	57	46	46	42	50	44
Ordered	Number	11	11	7	6	11	4	20	-	2
Delivered	Number	19	26	15	17	11	8	12	6	-
Under contract [5]	Number	91	85	87	46	46	42	50	44	46
Unfinished work: [4]										
Commercial ships	Mil. dol.	2,070	450	-	93.4	365.4	572.1	746.5	594.6	1917.0
Naval ships	Mil. dol.	7,107	12,091	24,495	20,768	17,734	20,116	19,097	22,385.6	21,589.5

- Represents zero. [1] As of June 1. [2] Annual average of monthly data. [3] Vessels of 1,000 tons or larger. [4] As of Jan. 1. [5] As of Dec. 31.

Source: 1980 and 1985, Shipbuilders Council of America, Arlington, VA., unpublished data; beginning 1990, U.S. Maritime Administration, unpublished data.

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
1980	Employment	Thousands	178.0	1,000
1980	Unfinished work	$ Millions	2,070	1,000,000

To Determine the Figure It Is Necessary to Multiply the Number Shown by the Unit Indicator:

Employment - 178.0 x 1,000 = 178,000 (Almost 180 thousand)
Unfinished work - 2,070 x 1,000,000 - $2,070,000,000 (over $2 billion).

When a table presents data with more than one unit indicator, they are found in the headnotes and column headings (Tables 2 and 4), spanner (Table 42), stub (Table 30), or unit column (shown above). 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 if 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 which 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 which existed at the beginning 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, for example, Table 727 in Section 14, Income). 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 (for example, 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.

NS Percent change irrelevant or insignificant.

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.