

Blinded Scoring Data for Baldrige Award Applicants

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are data available only through 2006?

The Baldrige Award process changed significantly in 2007. Before then, not all award applicants received a Consensus Review; some received only an Independent Review. Since 2007, all applicants have gone through Independent and Consensus Review.

Is the Independent Review total score the average or median score given by each team of examiners?

It's the median score. During Independent Review, 6 to 10 examiners individually evaluate each application. Based on the data from these individual evaluations, the Panel of Judges selected which applicants would move on to Consensus Review.

Has the Baldrige Program always reported the *median* Independent Review score?

Before 1996, the *average* Independent Review scores were reported and used during the award process. Thereafter, median scores were used. The median score is more appropriate for small datasets, as it attaches less importance to outliers. Since each applicant is reviewed by approximately 8 examiners, the median score describes the applicant more suitably than the average does. For consistency, this dataset is based on the median Independent Review scores for all applicants.

What is the difference between an Independent Review score and a Consensus Review score?

An Independent Review score is the output of an examiner who is reviewing an application with no input from other team members; this is the initial evaluation in the award process. A Consensus Review score is the output of collaboration and consensus among a team of examiners later in the process.

What does the "Stage" column in the Excel spreadsheet indicate?

Just that these are Independent Review (Stage 1) scores.

Why do the numbers assigned to each applicant suddenly jump to 500s and 800s in 1995?

In 1995, the Baldrige Program piloted the application process for health care and education organizations. Health care applicants participating in the pilot were assigned numbers in the 500s, and participating education applicants were assigned numbers in the 800s.

Why is there a multiyear gap between the pilot evaluations and the first actual award applications for the education and health care sectors?

The Baldrige Program conducted the pilot evaluations in 1995. In 1998, the president signed legislation declaring education and health care organizations eligible for the Baldrige Award; therefore, they were first eligible to apply for the award in 1999.

When will more recent data become available?

Our current focus is to provide detailed segmentation of the existing dataset. Once this dataset has been completed, we will turn our attention to the possibility of releasing more recent data.