

## About ICES

The idea for an International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES) came from a conversation between Brenda Cox of Mathematica Policy Research and B. Nanjamma Chinappa of Statistics Canada about the lack of opportunities for researchers in business survey methods to present and share their work. This idea led to the inaugural ICES-I in 1993 in Buffalo, New York, as well as to a well-received book "Business Survey Methods" (Cox et al., Wiley 1995).

Encouraged by the first conference, subsequent ones were held in 2000 and 2007 and were organized as stand-alone events with a considerable time lap of seven years between them.

At ICES-III it was felt that the stand-alone nature of the conferences should not continue and that the series of ICES conferences deserved a more permanent structure to ensure that the next ICES conference would take place. For that purpose, a Continuation Committee was set up in 2010 as well as the span between the conferences reduced to five and then to four years.

Establishing a permanent structure included formulating an [ICES Mission statement](#) and a [Business model](#). A permanent administrative host was sought, with the American Statistical Association (ASA) being selected to perform that role. Although located in the United States, the ASA is capable of providing the required administrative support for conferences around the world.

Reflecting a change from direct data collection through surveys to the use of broader sources for production of business and economic statistics, in 2018 the name of the conference series was changed to the International Conference on Establishment *Statistics*.

Further details on the origin and development of the ICES series of conferences can be found in Cox et al. (Wiley, 1995), the December 2014 special issue of the [Journal of Official Statistics](#) (Smith and Phipps), and the June 2018 special issue of the [Journal of Official Statistics](#) (Thompson, Phipps, Miller and Snijkers).

Details about individual conferences, including their proceedings, can be found by following the links in the column to the right.

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