

allows screens containing raw data and results to be modified for presentation quality printing. STATGRAPHICS also offers the second greatest variety of statistical techniques among the programs discussed here. It can read the greatest variety of file formats more easily than the others. The fact that it can read a WKS file directly means that it is not necessary to save a spreadsheet in ASCII format thus saving disk space and time. Highly experienced users can also write procedures for STATGRAPHICS in the manufacturer's version of the language APL (a separate purchase). But with all its strengths, this program's severely limited data handling capacity might remove it from consideration for many.

We would recommend SYSTAT or STATGRAPHICS to anyone whose applications fit these programs' specifications, and this would include a large majority of political scientists. However, at over \$400 they might exceed some budgets.

If its inability to handle large numbers without their being down scaled is not a problem, NCSS at \$99 represents an outstanding value. It exceeds the others by most standards, and it is one of the more likable. Its menu screens are very clear, and it contains many unusual extras, such as the ability to plot raw data or calculated results without leaving a particular part of the program. Its greatest operational weakness is its frequent accessing of the disk drive on which data are stored. This can be ameliorated by using RAM disk software. Given the performance of this package and the appearance of the presentation quality graphics in earlier versions, we expect that the new NCSS graphics supplement which includes three-dimensional plots will make this an even more useful program.

Except for the nonstarters, all the other programs are useful tools and two have features worth mentioning here. StatPac Gold's data entry customizing feature could be quite useful for some applications, and its statistical and transformation capabilities are quite substantial. The StatPac Gold manual is not as clearly written as most represented here, but a newly written tutorial is quite helpful.

STATA's commands constitute a lan-

guage that can be used to develop highly impressive statistical functions beyond those provided with the program. Many of its other capabilities, discussed above, also make this another good choice.

References

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Finding Jobs: Placement of Political Scientists in 1985-86

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The placement success rate of new political science Ph.D.s continued to be in 1986 what it has been since the mid 1970s: approximately seven out of ten new Ph.D.s were successful in finding employment with over 90% of them taking positions in academia. What is remarkable about the job market for political scientists is its continuing stability, with only marginal changes during the past decade in the placement success of firm candidates (Table 1). There have not yet been any major shifts in the numbers of men or women looking for employment or the number of employment opportunities.

It is true, however, that there have been some changes in the job market. Over the past five years more than two-thirds of job placements have gone to Ph.D.s and the 1986 figure of 69% confirmed this trend (Table 1). This is contrasted to the 1960s and 70s when at least half of new faculty

Table 1. Trends in Placement*

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Number of firm candidates	779	697	611	523	672	715	690
% repeats	36	35	36	41	38	37	32
Placement success of firm candidates	68	73	62	79	72	70	69
% of placement in temporary positions	33	28	36	33	24	43	38
% placement of Ph.D.s	54	56	64	65	64	69	69
Placement success of Ph.D.s (%)	74	81	72	87	77	81	83
% of placement in nonacademic jobs	24	18	19	19	18	17	9

*Figures are estimates of total population based on samples of 97 departments in 1980 (79% response rate), 94 departments in 1981 (76% response rate), 91 departments in 1982 (76% response rate), 87 departments in 1983 (73% response rate), 83 departments in 1984 (71% response rate), 82 departments in 1985 (68% response rate), 83 departments in 1986 (70% response rate).

had not completed their Ph.D. before taking their first full-time job. Although some 57% of men and women ABDs found employment (Table 2), only 31% of placements went to ABDs.

In 1986, 83% of job seekers with a Ph.D. in hand successfully found full or part-time employment. The placement success of women Ph.D.s (88%) was again somewhat higher than for men Ph.D.s (81%). Among ABDs this was also the case (Table 2).

One of the most striking aspects of the 1986 market, however, was the still large percentage of job seekers placed in temporary positions. Some 38% of those candidates successfully placed were in temporary positions. Although down slightly from 1985, if one takes into account the numbers not placed (31%) and temporarily placed (38%), the prospects for a congested job market in the near future are very high. This situation could well lead to those in nontenure track positions encountering difficulties.

Placement by Specialty and Academic Institution

Again in 1986, placement success was spread primarily across three major subfields. Twenty-nine percent of the overall job placements were in American government, 25% in comparative/area studies and 18% in international relations. For the last five years, some two-thirds of the job placements have been in just these three fields (Table 3).

These data, however, tell only half the story, as it is necessary to look at the placement success in a field measured as a percentage of the total candidates in that field. For example, what percentage of American government specialists on the market were successfully placed? In 1986, the answer was again 86%. This has to be compared with the 65% placement rate for comparativists and a 54% placement rate among international relations specialists.

The distribution of placements by type of hiring institution demonstrates some market changes. The largest single em-

Table 2. Degree Completion and Placement Success, 1982-86 (%)

	Placement Success*		
	Total	Men	Women
ABD			
1982	55	54	58
1983	54	53	57
1984	68	64	83
1985	51	52	50
1986	57	56	62
Ph.D.			
1982	68	63	79
1983	87	87	88
1984	77	80	69
1985	81	78	90
1986	83	81	88

*Placement success measures number placed within each category as a percentage of the total candidates within each category.

Table 3. Placement Success by Field of Specialization, 1982-86 (%)

Placement Success ^a	Total						Men						Women							
	1982		1983		1984		1985		1986		1982		1983		1984		1985		1986	
American Government	71	99	80	86	86	86	73	100	79	87	82	66	96	88	84	100				
Public Policy	81	60	83	58	95	58	87	54	88	56	96	67	75	71	63	94				
Comparative/Area Studies	52	73	67	57	65	64	46	75	66	59	64	74	67	54	51	68				
International Relations	52	66	67	59	54	53	51	75	62	60	53	61	31	93	55	59				
Public Administration	100	73	90	86	80	86	100	62	89	89	72	67	100	91	78	100				
Political Theory	42	43	60	67	73	67	41	45	58	57	75	57	30	71	—	65				
Methodology	88	80	100	40	100	100	100	80	100	25	100	100	—	—	100	—				
Other	100	85	100	—	100	100	100	29	100	42	100	100	67	100	—	100				
Percentage of Those Placed ^b																				
American Government	30	30	29	26	29	26	30	28	22	16	30	32	40	7	9	28				
Public Policy	10	11	11	7	8	7	9	9	8	5	6	9	20	3	2	11				
Comparative/Area Studies	20	19	22	22	25	24	18	20	15	15	24	23	15	6	6	29				
International Relations	19	14	16	20	18	19	19	16	12	16	19	18	5	4	4	14				
Public Administration	25	10	8	9	5	9	5	9	5	7	5	9	10	3	2	4				
Political Theory	9	9	9	13	12	10	10	10	7	9	13	5	5	1	3	10				
Methodology	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	0	1	—	—	—	0	—				
Other	5	6	4	5	2	4	5	5	3	4	2	5	5	1	1	3				

^aPlacement success measures number placed in a field as a percentage of total candidates in each of the respective fields.

^bPercentage of those placed measures the total number placed in a particular field as a percentage of the total number placed in all fields.

Table 4. Placement by Type of Hiring Institution, 1982-86 (%)

	Total														
	Men						Women								
	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Ph.D. department	29	34	37	37	41	29	32	36	38	41	31	40	40	35	41
M.A. department	20	18	17	18	16	20	18	19	16	16	18	15	12	23	18
Undergraduate political science	25	27	24	23	28	26	27	24	23	28	21	29	27	22	28
Undergraduate social science	4	1	3	3	4	3	-	2	3	5	6	8	3	3	3
Two-year college	1	1	1	2	1	3	2	2	2	1	6	-	-	1	1
Nonacademic	24	19	18	17	9	20	21	18	18	9	17	4	19	16	9
Total	99	100	100	100	99	101	100	101	100	100	99	96	101	100	100

Table 5. Placement of Job Candidates by Sex, 1982-86

	Total*	Men	Women
Number of Firm Candidates			
1982	611	485	126
1983	523	390	133
1984	672	504	168
1985	715	522	193
1986	690	510	180
Number Placed			
1982	379	298	81
1983	414	326	88
1984	485	365	119
1985	497	363	134
1986	477	344	133
Placement Success (%)			
1982	62	61	64
1983	79	79	66
1984	72	72	71
1985	70	70	69
1986	69	67	74
Percent in Temporary Positions (%)			
1982	36	37	36
1983	33	32	39
1984	33	33	34
1985	43	43	43
1986	38	40	35

*Adjusted total.

ployer for all candidates are still Ph.D.-granting departments, taking 41% of all placements. This trend has been increasing for the past five years. Undergraduate political science departments are the second largest employers of all candidates (28%) and take equivalent numbers of men and women. The M.A. departments continue to take over 15% of placements and here the rates are slightly higher for women. The most significant change is the decline in nonacademic positions to just under 10%. It is still too early, however, to confirm whether this will be a permanent decrease (Table 4).

Gender

Once again women made up over one-quarter of the placement class (26%). The placement success rate of women is somewhat higher than for men (74% versus 67%) and continues a slow upward trend (Table 5). However, much as men and women have almost equally shared placement success, over one-third of each gender group found only temporary employment. The number of women Ph.D.s entering the job market continues to alter the profile of the political science professoriat. Their greatest impact, however, is still at the nontenured level where they now constitute 25% of the full-time assistant professors according to the *APSA 1985-86 Survey of Departments*. It will be several more years though before substantial numbers of women at this rank enter the tenured professoriat.

Race and Ethnic Background

The placement success of Blacks and Hispanics is another area of relative stability in the job market. Their numbers are still small: less than 6% of the 1986 placement class was Black; less than 3% was Hispanic. The placement success rate of Black and Hispanic political scientists was 66%, marginally lower than the overall placement rate in 1986.

Prospects for Change

Although the recent history of the job market for political scientists has shown great stability in terms of placement success, are there prospects for significant change? Several elements stood out for 1986: the continued high level of temporary appointments, a decrease in non-academic positions, and a higher placement success rate for women. All of these factors may have significant long-term impact on the profession if they are confirmed, and they will be reviewed again in the 1987 report.