

## **Damned statistics**

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July 2023

### **1 Introduction**

"Lies, damned lies, and statistics" is a phrase describing the persuasive power of statistics which is sometimes used to support weak arguments.

This sentence is often used to doubt statistical results.

However, well understood and well used statistics are a powerful tool that can be used to analyze almost anything.

Statistics are essential in all capacity management activities, in fact, all these activities rely primarily on SMF records.

SMF stands for System Management Facility but it could also be called Statistics Measurement Facility because it provides thousands of important metrics and statistics about z/OS resource usage and workload activity.

This paper is intended for young z/OS performance analysts.

Its goal is to clarify the meaning of the most used statistics and show examples of appropriate use.