

Q1.

A story by James R. Hagerty entitled *With Buyers Sidelined, Home Prices Slide* published in the Thursday October 25, 2007 edition of the *Wall Street Journal* contained data on so-called fundamental housing indicators in major real estate markets across the US. The author argues that... *prices are generally falling and overdue loan payments are piling up*. Thus, we shall consider data presented in the article on

Y = Percentage change in average price from July 2006 to July 2007 (based on the S&P/Case-Shiller national housing index); and
 x = Percentage of mortgage loans 30 days or more overdue in latest quarter (based on data from Equifax and Moody's).

The data are available on the book web site in the file indicators.txt. Fit the following model to the data: $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + e$. Complete the following tasks:

- Find a 95% confidence interval for the slope of the regression model, β_1 . On the basis of this confidence interval decide whether there is evidence of a significant negative linear association.
- Use the fitted regression model to estimate $E(Y|X=4)$. Find a 95% confidence interval for $E(Y|X=4)$. Is 0% a feasible value for $E(Y|X=4)$? Give a reason to support your answer.

Q2.

The manager of the purchasing department of a large company would like to develop a regression model to predict the average amount of time it takes to process a given number of invoices. Over a 30-day period, data are collected on the number of invoices processed and the total time taken (in hours). The data are available on the book web site in the file invoices.txt. The following model was fit to the data: $Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + e$ where Y is the processing time and x is the number of invoices. A plot of the data and the fitted model can be found in Figure 2.7. Utilizing the output from the fit of this model provided below, complete the following tasks.

- Find a 95% confidence interval for the start-up time, i.e., β_0 .
- Suppose that a best practice benchmark for the average processing time for an additional invoice is 0.01 hours (or 0.6 minutes). Test the null hypothesis $H_0: \beta_1 = 0.01$ against a two-sided alternative. Interpret your result.
- Find a point estimate and a 95% prediction interval for the time taken to process 130 invoices.