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## Numerical Measures Introduction

The overall pattern of the distribution of a quantitative variable is described by its shape, center, and spread. By inspecting the histogram, we can describe the shape of the distribution, but as we saw, we can only get a rough estimate for the center and spread. A description of the distribution of a quantitative variable must include, in addition to the graphical display, a more precise numerical description of the center and spread of the distribution. In this section we will learn:

- how to quantify the center and spread of a distribution with various numerical measures;
- some of the properties of those numerical measures; and
- how to choose the appropriate numerical measures of center and spread to supplement the histogram.

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