Preston Watts

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EDUCATION

London School of Economics & Political Science, UK   July 2021
MSc in Economics, Merit

Louisiana State University College of Business, LA   May 2018
Economics B.S., Empirical Economic Analysis Concentration

EXPERIENCE

GEICO, Washington, D.C.

Product Research and Development Analyst II   Sept. 2021 – Oct 2021

- Collaborated on CBA's evaluating three competing vendor products by joining their external datasets to internal data and determining the change in segmentation, premium levels, and costs associated with each product
- Wrote reusable script in R to check datasets containing underwriting variables and used in production
- Wrote functions in R with embedded SQL queries for analysis of policyholders with special life circumstances and for other analysts to use them in later analyses
- Estimated the number of policyholders that become widowed on GEICO books and the share of those that have other changes to their policies on the same day or soon after
- Helped onboard new hires by answering questions on databases, internal resources, and ongoing projects
- Independently documented new IT processes relevant to the team as I learned them to reduce duplications of efforts researching data security protocols, software requests, and common I.T. bugs

Product Research and Development Analyst I   April 2021 – Sept. 2021

- Employed SQL to join and analyze millions of rows of customer data for ad hoc business questions, including analyzing changes to policies over time to estimating the volume of missing driver suspensions from vendor data
- Queried and joined data from multiple tables to acquire the number of electric vehicles GEICO insured in each zip code in the U.S. for targeted advertising at charging stations
- Participated in the Agile methodology by checking teammates work, talking about my blockers on projects, helping others with blockers, and providing feedback in retrospectives
- Compared internal data to prospective vendor data to determine the magnitude of additional traffic violations from implementing the vendor's product
- Formatted Excel sheets with R so similar outputs could be produced without recurring point and click manipulation
- Attended and took notes at a webinar series provided by the Highway Loss Data Institute and reported on emerging industry trends and technologies to my team
- Updated the underlying data and made stylistic revisions to internal reports and dashboards created with R Shiny for upper management and C-suite
- Drafted email shared with upper management (AVP and VP) in a report style highlighting trends in the automobile industry and GEICO's insured fleet to accompany the publishing of one of my team's dashboards to R Server

Economics & Policy Research Group, Baton Rouge, LA

Research Associate   July 2018 - May 2019

- Wrote, organized, and annotated Stata code to clean and analyze large data sets that included panel data on all historical production by individual mineral leases in the Gulf of Mexico
- Analyzed macroeconomic trends and aided in generating the Louisiana unemployment forecast based upon multiple considerations, including the state's diminished dependence on the energy sector or the growing gig economy
- Conducted literature review relating to projects and communicated findings to superiors on a variety of topics, including an entirely independent review of early education literature
- Conveyed sophisticated results of analyses to nontechnical clients by constructing creative visualizations showing the impact on state revenues if tax legislation had passed earlier
- Forecast all or part of each source of Louisiana revenues—bidding, rental payments, and royalties—from offshore oil and gas activity in the Gulf of Mexico
- Mapped leasing activity in the Gulf of Mexico using ArcMap GIS software to visualize and understand ramifications of oil and gas extraction off the gulf coast and to convey the information to clients
- Compiled data from different statistical sites such as the BLS, Fred Economic Data, or the Louisiana Workforce Commission for use in various projects
- Created charts and graphs for the Louisiana Health Insurance Survey compiled for the Louisiana Department of Health, which gave the department an update on the rates of coverage after the Louisiana Medicaid Expansion
- Analyzed oil production data in Excel and presented results to project head, informing him of the major causal driver of tax revenue growth from leasing activity in the Gulf of Mexico

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Proficient: Statistics, SQL, R, Stata, Excel, Econometrics, Statistics, Forecasting, MS Office Suite
- Medium proficiency: Python, Shiny, ArcMap, Machine Learning, Data Mining

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Interests: Baking, board games, and breweries. Love being on water and am an aspiring boat owner.
- Volunteering: Flood relief work after the 2016 floods in southern Louisiana and after Hurricane Harvey in 2017.