



PACIFIC REGION TECHNICAL NOTES

80-045

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AN UPDATE ON THE PUBLIC FORECAST VERIFICATION SCORES AT VANCOUVER

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INTRODUCTION

A routine program of verification of the 5 a.m. Greater Vancouver public forecast continues at the PWC. The procedure, as well as results from 1972-78, are described in PRTN 78-047. The verification scores for 1979 and 1980 are presented here in order to bring the results up to date.

THE DATA

In 1979 the mean monthly scores (Fig. 1) vary from the low seventy percents during the winter months to the mid-eighties during the summer and early fall. When compared to the average of the monthly means (1972-80), it is seen that the scores during the first four months were well below the median values of the previous years. The February scores are 7 percentage points below the mean of the past 8 years. December scores are also below the mean values.

Higher than average scores were achieved during October and November. The remaining months are seen to have scores very close to the means of the past 8 or 9 years.

The mean monthly scores for 1980 (Fig. 2) are seen to be aligned quite closely to the average of the past 9 years. The January mean is almost 5% below the average but the remaining months are very close to the average of past years.

The mean monthly scores and the corresponding standard deviations for each month (1972-80) are shown in Figure 4 (a, b, c). The horizontal broken line depicts the average of the mean scores for each month.

Figure 3 shows the trend of the mean annual scores over the past years. The highest scores (82%) are seen to have occurred in 1977 and 1978. In 1979, the scores slide down to 79%. For the first 10 months of 1980, the average of the monthly scores is 80.2%. With the expected lower scores in during the last 2 months of the year, the annual figure will once again be below 80%. While the mean annual scores of the past 2 years are lower than those of the best years, they are not very far removed from the average value (79.7%) of the past 8 or 9 years.

The verification program attempts to gauge the accuracy of the forecasts. Accuracy is dependent on the correctness of the guidance and the skill of the forecaster in utilizing this guidance. This utilization includes the rejection of incorrect or misleading guidance.

Verification scores are dependent on:

- (1) value of guidance and skill in using the guidance;
- (2) experience of the forecaster in using all available data;
- (3) morale - how much effort goes into forecast;
- (4) climate - complexities of weather patterns;
- (5) scoring procedure - subjectiveness of evaluation.

CONCLUSIONS

Scores for the years 1979 and 1980 are comparable to the values achieved in 1974 and 1975. It is assumed that these figures are part of an ongoing oscillation rather than the indication of a developing downward trend.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks to Pat Carroll for ensuring that the computer verification file was updated during the past 2 years.

REFERENCES

- Morin, P. 1980 - Second Day Forecast Trends - Part A
PRTN 80-044
- 1980 - Second Day Forecast Trends - Part B
- Puss, V. 1978 - Public Forecast Verification Scores
for Greater Vancouver 1972-78.
PRTN 78-047
- 1978 - Another Quick Look at Verification
Scores. PRTN 78-048

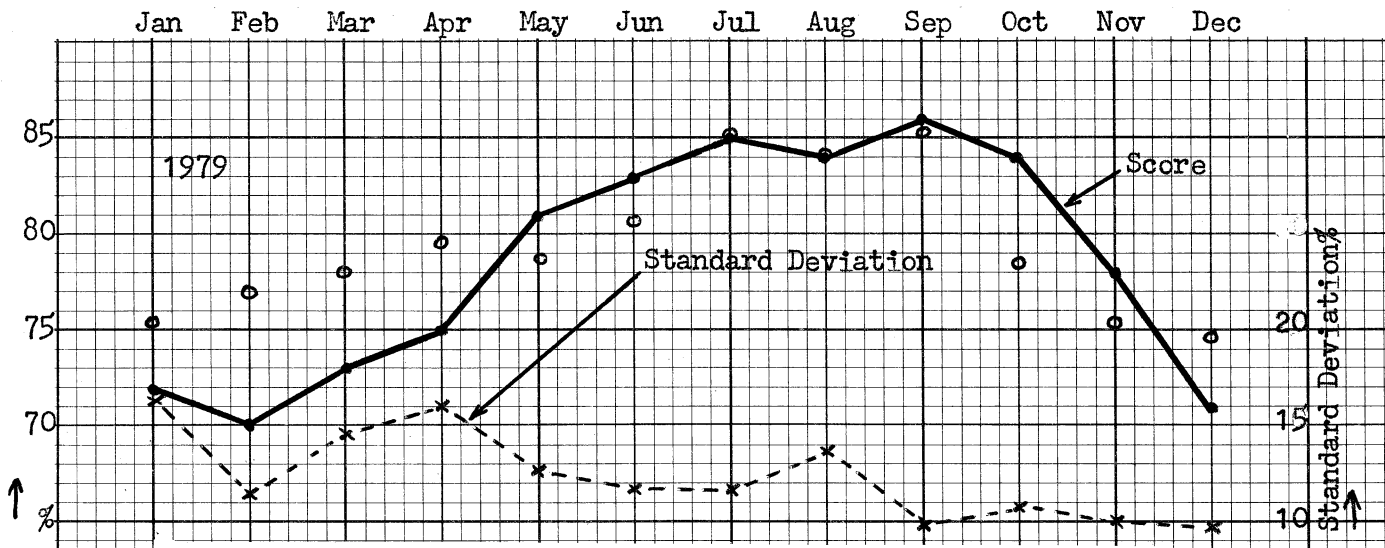


Figure 1. Mean Monthly Scores and Standard Deviations 1979.
(Average of monthly means 1972-80 indicated by o)

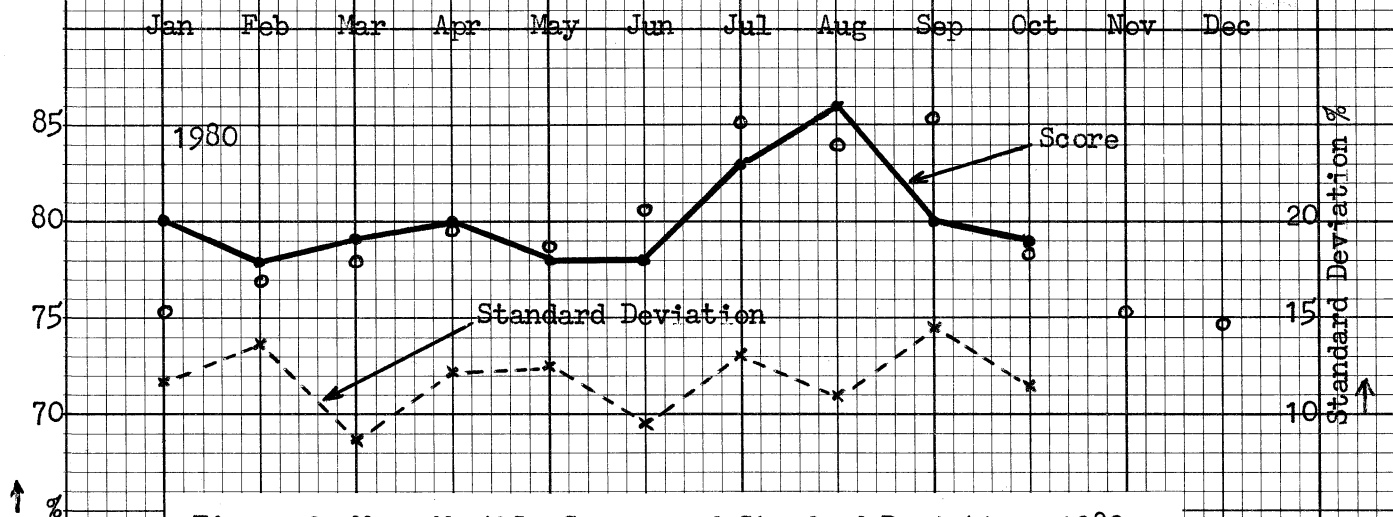


Figure 2. Mean Monthly Scores and Standard Deviations 1980.
(Average of monthly means 1972-80 indicated by o)

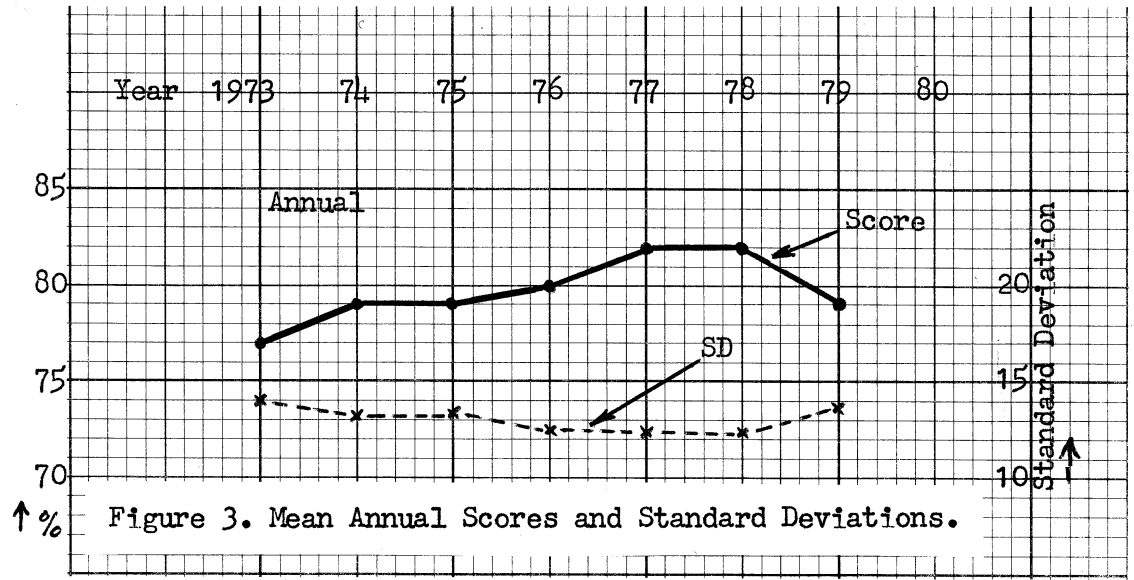


Figure 3. Mean Annual Scores and Standard Deviations.

FIG. 42 MEAN MONTHLY SCORES %
STANDARD DEVIATIONS
MEAN SCORE 1972-1980

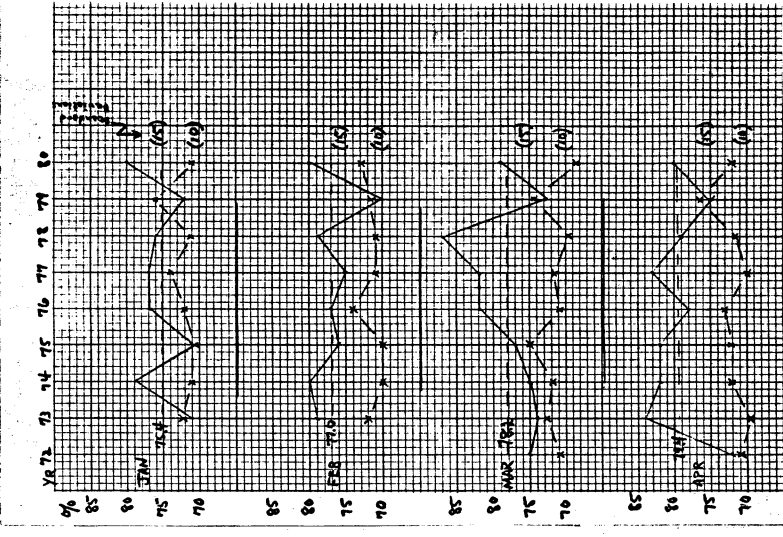


FIG. 43 MEAN MONTHLY SCORES %
STANDARD DEVIATIONS
MEAN SCORE 1972-1980

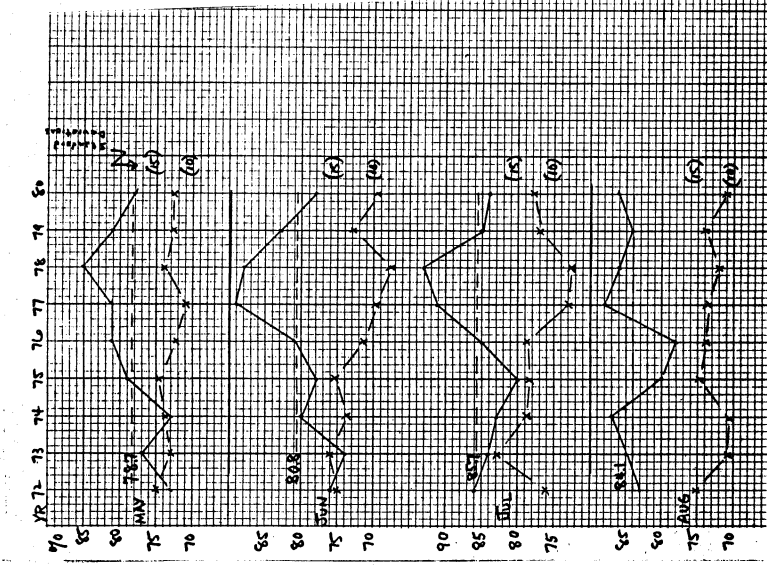


FIG. 44 MEAN MONTHLY SCORES %
STANDARD DEVIATIONS
MEAN SCORE 1972-1980

