

## ABSTRACT

Simple techniques of forecasting have been employed in analysing data pertaining to weather conditions, population and industrial activities in Trinidad and Tobago, with a view to forecasting absolute values and confidence limits for the above parameters for the period 1980 to 1985.

The source of these data is the Central Statistical Office Digest from which the most up to date past data available (1940 - 1979) were procured and on which the forecasts are based.

It has been found that the Curve Fitting Technique provided the best forecasts, based on the usual Least Standard Error Criterion for 7 out of 13 of the categories analysed.

Applying the very broad term of "Graphical technique" to include Curve Fitting, using standard mathematical models and Graphical Plots - Visual, it has been found that this method (Graphical Technique) provided the best forecast for 11 out of the 13 categories analysed.

It was also found that Professor Mahadeva's rough and ready method of comparing the efficacy of different forecasting techniques by using the simple averages of absolute errors, rather than by considering the Standard Errors (which are much more difficult and time-consuming to calculate) yielded the same conclusions as when the Standard Error Criterion was used, in 10 out of thirteen cases and pretty well the same conclusions in the other 3 cases.