

THE EVOLUTION OF THE ASTIN MEMBERSHIP

A large majority of ASTIN members never attend ASTIN Colloquia. Hence they do not have the occasion to listen to the Chairman's, Treasurer's and Secretary's reports at the General Assemblies. Their only contact with the ASTIN Committee is this Bulletin. Therefore, it seems appropriate to convey, from time to time, important news concerning our Association in the pages of the ASTIN BULLETIN.

As stated by article 2 of our rules, the objective of ASTIN is the promotion of actuarial research, particularly in non-life insurance. To this end, the Association organizes the ASTIN Colloquia and publishes the ASTIN BULLETIN. Promotion of research includes its dissemination to the largest possible audience. So the ASTIN Committee considers the increase of the membership as one of its most important goals.

The recent news concerning the evolution of the number of members is particularly good, as Figure 1 shows. Since its foundation in 1957, ASTIN progressively built up its membership until 1976, when an all-time high of 1279 was recorded. The subsequent years were, however, disquieting, as our size decreased, then stagnated, dropping to 1127 in 1981. Fortunately, since 1983, we are experiencing an unprecedented growth: a 47% increase in less than 5 years leads to a current membership of 1755.

In addition, the ASTIN BULLETIN is available by subscription to libraries, non-actuaries and students. The number of such external subscriptions has been slowly increasing over the years, attaining 130 nowadays. This modest figure nevertheless adds to the circulation of the Bulletin: this issue is currently in the

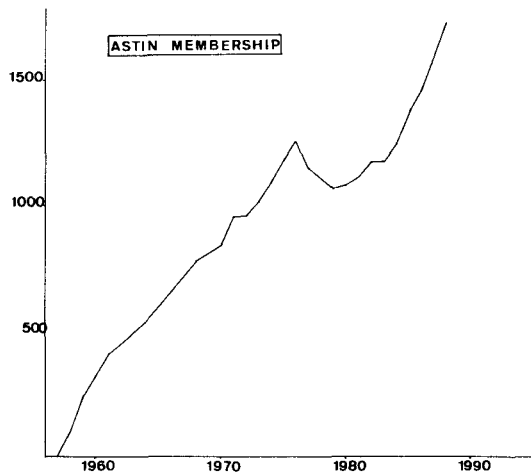


FIGURE 1. ASTIN membership since 1957.

TABLE I
ASTIN MEMBERSHIP IN 1981 AND 1988

Country	1981	1988
Argentina	3	5
Australia	78	68
Austria	9	11
Bahamas	1	0
Belgium	34	50
Bermuda	2	0
Brazil	2	1
Canada	45	65
Chile	0	1
Costa Rica	2	1
Denmark	32	52
Egypt	1	3
El Salvador	2	2
Finland	40	59
France	60	114
Germany	28	40
Great Britain	92	109
Greece	1	5
Honduras	0	4
Hong Kong	0	1
Iceland	8	7
Ireland	2	2
Israel	18	23
Italy	38	57
Jamaica	1	1
Japan	43	71
Kenya	0	1
Kuwait	0	1
Luxemburg	1	1
Mexico	23	26
Netherlands	87	121
New Zealand	11	9
Norway	28	48
Panama	1	7
Poland	2	2
Portugal	11	11
South Africa	12	22
Spain	25	42
Sri Lanka	1	1
Sweden	37	51
Switzerland	42	55
Taiwan	0	2
Trinidad & Tobago	3	0
United Arab Emirates	0	1
United States	283	583
Venezuela	18	13
Yugoslavia	0	5
Zimbabwe	0	1
TOTAL	1127	1755

hands of no less than 1879 readers. We expect to reach the 2000 mark early in 1989.

The most favourable aspect of this steady growth is of course the increased circulation of new actuarial ideas. Other consequences are not to be neglected:

- the marginal printing costs of any mathematical journal are of course a decreasing function of its circulation, due to the high type-setting costs. So the longer the membership increase continues, the longer we can maintain our dues at their present low level. The last time the dues were increased was July 1977!
- Authors have a strong incentive to submit their papers to the *ASTIN BULLETIN* knowing that it has a circulation which is much, much larger than all other non-life actuarial journals.

Table 1 presents the breakdown by country of our membership, in 1981 and in April 1988.

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