

# Virginia Tech

## Spring 2017 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

**Course:** GEOS\_1004\_14414\_201701: Physical Geology-GEOS\_1004\_14414\_201701

**Instructor:** Neil Johnson \*

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1A - The instructor was well prepared.

Neil Johnson

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly disagree	(1)	2	2.53%				5.47	5.31	5.34		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	1.27%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	3.8%								
Agree	(5)	23	29.11%								
Strongly agree	(6)	50	63.29%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College	Department
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
79/133 (59.4%)	5.47	0.96	6.00	23,152	5.31	0.97	6.00	1,324	5.34	0.93	6.00

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1B - The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.

Neil Johnson

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly disagree	(1)	3	3.8%				5.19	4.99	4.99		
Disagree	(2)	0	0%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	4	5.06%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	7	8.86%								
Agree	(5)	23	29.11%								
Strongly agree	(6)	42	53.16%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College	Department
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
79/133 (59.4%)	5.19	1.19	6.00	23,028	4.99	1.23	5.00	1,318	4.99	1.21	5.00

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1C - The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.

Neil Johnson

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly disagree	(1)	3	3.8%				4.92	4.93	4.84		
Disagree	(2)	3	3.8%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	5	6.33%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	9	11.39%								
Agree	(5)	25	31.65%								
Strongly agree	(6)	34	43.04%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College	Department
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
79/133 (59.4%)	4.92	1.33	5.00	23,059	4.93	1.25	5.00	1,319	4.84	1.34	5.00

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Instructor: Neil Johnson \*

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1D - The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Neil Johnson

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly disagree	(1)	2	2.53%			5.44	5.35	5.27			
Disagree	(2)	0	0%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	1.27%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	3.8%								
Agree	(5)	25	31.65%								
Strongly agree	(6)	48	60.76%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College	Department
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
79/133 (59.4%)	5.44	0.96	6.00	23,017	5.35	0.99	6.00	1,316	5.27	1.08	6.00

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1E - Overall, the instructor's teaching was effective.

Neil Johnson

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly disagree	(1)	3	3.8%			5.14	4.99	4.96			
Disagree	(2)	2	2.53%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	3	3.8%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	6	7.59%								
Agree	(5)	24	30.38%								
Strongly agree	(6)	41	51.9%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College	Department
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
79/133 (59.4%)	5.14	1.26	6.00	22,886	4.99	1.25	5.00	1,315	4.96	1.27	5.00

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**Instructor:** Neil Johnson \*

### 2 - 2A - What did the instructor do that most helped in your learning?

Neil Johnson

- He provided student involvement by using the iclicker to ask questions during class.
- Answered questions in class
- He made the subject for interesting and fun, making students want to learn and pay more attention to the lectures.
- yea
- iClicker questions were used on the exams which helped encourage class attendance and participation.
- Posting the powerpoint slides so you can go back and review them.
- The instructor provided current and recent event examples to the material being presented in class, which was very helpful.
- Mr. Johnson really knew what he was talking about which made the material easy to understand. Any questions were answered in a way that everyone would be able to learn from.
- Be funny and enthusiastic
- the iclicker questions
- He was very passionate about the subject making me want to learn about it!
- iClicker questions and practice tests!
- Was always available for assistance.
- The instructor always helped me in office hours and always explained even the hardest of topics in class very effectively. He is a phenomenal instructor.
- He's just a cool dude.
- had a strong understanding of the material and was able to answer any and all questions about anything related to the topic and even somethings that weren't related
- presented the information clearly and allowed us to ask questions
- He helped us with remembering by giving us mnemonics and made little jokes that made the class more interesting when talking about rocks for 75 minutes.
- Thorough powerpoints and iClicker questions
- curved exams
- Made the class fun and not boring like I thought it was going to be.
- Helpful exam study materials and great powerpoints
- lectures were interesting, iclicker questions helped comprehension
- Explained in detail
- He made all the information very obtainable online and was very engaged with the students in class.
- he explained everything quite clearly and gave us helpful tips
- Visuals were very helpful in understanding the concepts being taught.
- Very helpful at office hours
- His lectures were very informative and I'm grateful for the iClicker and quiz points.
- Helped by explaining the material well
- He would give a lot of examples for what we learning about which would help cement the ideas in my mind.
- Neil likes to show lots of diagrams and videos as well as tell corny jokes, which helped me understand the material and stay focused in class much better.
- He used a lot of comparisons to real life things, which made me understand what he was teaching.
- Provided ample resources to study.
- He was very vocal and concise during his lectures, making it easy to understand and follow along. He was also entertaining which made the lectures somewhat interesting.
- Loved his enthusiasm.
- iClicker questions
- Practice Exams and thorough presentation of content in class.
- Provided practice exams before each exam given.
- took the time to meet with me when needed
- If we did not understand something, he was able to break it down so that we could understand it more clearly.
- Went over powerpoints
- Nothing
- Iclicker questions were on the exams, which helped me to know what to study.
- posted the powerpoints online and kept the lectures interesting
- His lectures are honestly great. Nice dad jokes too.
- Explained notes really well.
- He made sure everyone had an understanding of the material before moving on.
- He explained every subject clearly with less jargon.
- He posts his slides online. I really love this because it always helped me study.
- Explained the course material thoroughly.
- Explained the material in depth and to where all students could understand.
- Post PowerPoints ahead of time.
- Tied concepts together to provide a solid understanding of the overall topic
- Professor Johnson provided all the lecture notes from the rest of the semester which helped students get ahead in the course.

**Virginia Tech**  
**Spring 2017 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)**

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**Instructor:** Neil Johnson \*

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Course: GEOS\_1004\_14414\_201701: Physical Geology-GEOS\_1004\_14414\_201701

Instructor: Neil Johnson \*

3 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

3A - I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses				Means					
Strongly disagree	(1)	1	1.27%					5.04		5.02		4.94	
Disagree	(2)	2	2.53%					Instructor		College		Department	
Somewhat disagree	(3)	2	2.53%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	18	22.78%										
Agree	(5)	21	26.58%										
Strongly agree	(6)	35	44.3%										
<b>Return Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>		
79/133 (59.4%)	5.04	1.10	5.00	20,829	5.02	1.14	5.00	1,028	4.94	1.22	5.00		

3 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

3B - My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses				Means					
Strongly disagree	(1)	4	5.06%					4.66		4.66		4.61	
Disagree	(2)	3	3.8%					Instructor		College		Department	
Somewhat disagree	(3)	10	12.66%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	12	15.19%										
Agree	(5)	20	25.32%										
Strongly agree	(6)	30	37.97%										
<b>Return Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>		
79/133 (59.4%)	4.66	1.45	5.00	20,748	4.66	1.39	5.00	1,026	4.61	1.44	5.00		

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**Instructor:** Neil Johnson \*

### 4 - 4A - What could you have done to be a better learner?

- Paid better attention in class
- Pay more attention in class
- Studied harder for exams.
- yea
- Payed attention better in class.
- Made sure to read the chapters more in depth as most of the material from the test was also covered in the textbook.
- I could have spent more time engaging the material in the textbook.
- Pay more attention
- Read the textbook more thoroughly
- Could have taken more in depth notes.
- I could have read the textbook a lot more.
- Idk.
- followed along with the lecture on my own computer so i could see the slides better
- Read the chapters ahead of class
- I could have read the textbook prior to class.
- studied more
- Not have been stupid and forgot about the quizzes and not have missed iClicker questions.
- Taking better notes
- attended office hours
- No distractions in class
- I could paid more attention in class, I used my phone very often.
- studied for a good amount of days
- Paid more attention
- nothing really
- Took better notes
- Read the textbook and take better notes
- take notes
- I could have paid more attention and studied more. Also, I could have gone to office hours to comprehend the material.
- Studied more.
- Taken better notes
- time management
- Read beforehand
- Read the textbook.
- Payed more attention.
- Taken better notes in class.
- studied more
- I feel that there really wasn't much that I could have done to be a better learner.
- Read the book
- I don't know. Read the book and study more
- went to office hours to know what to study.
- read more out of the book.
- Remembered the quizzes. They were easy to forget about on Scholar, since literally everything else has moved to Canvas.
- Paid closer attention to lectures
- Gone to more lectures.
- Read the textbook and gone to class every day. Also pay more attention in class.
- Studied the lecture notes more before tests.
- Not have ACL surgery and miss a lot of class.
- Study more for tests.
- studied the textbook more and listened to neil johnson less
- I could have been more engaging with the course material.

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**Instructor:** Neil Johnson \*

### 5 - 5A - Please add any additional comments regarding the course and/or instructor here:

**Neil Johnson**

- yea
- I have no doubt that Professor Johnson is very smart and interested in geology, but I think that he did not do a good job of presenting the simple material of an intro class in a way that as easy for students to understand.
- Overall good class, wish the iClickers didn't skip ahead so that we could actually answer the questions.
- Keep doing what you're doing!
- Really nice and warm
- Talking slower in class on important slides could have been helpful.
- Best jokes around
- Dr. Johnson is very prepared. It really impressed me how well he knew this content. He doesn't have to look at a paper or even look at the notes on the screen. He just talks about it and you can see his love for the topic. He makes this class fun. He is an excellent public speaker and a very helpful person.
- He's a good teacher and a funny dude.
- It would be more helpful if we were allowed to have the powerpoint slides in powerpoint rather than PDFs because we aren't able to see the different pictures on each slide
- your exams are very hard relative to the notes that you give the class
- He's a cool guy and makes the material fun to learn.
- Glve Johnson a raise
- great instructor
- Teacher is a nice guy but class is super boring.
- he is very informative and open to questions and discussions
- You can tell he enjoys what he's teaching and that always makes a class better. I think grade proportions were well-rounded.
- Very good teacher overall. Kept the class interesting most of the time so I never dreaded going to that class.
- Mr. Johnson is an extremely nice and approachable teacher who seems to love Geology and want to help students succeed. I learned a lot from him.
- Lectures often don't exactly reflect what is on exam. Provide answer keys after exam. Would rather have exam before spring break and not the week coming back from spring break.
- n/a
- Doesn't give much of a chance to improve your grade besides tests
- Fantastic professor, always made the class fun and interesting.
- I love this professor. Has a great attitude and way of teaching. Sometimes have the urge to zone out though, as the content can be a little boring. I would suggest maybe making the slides a little more clear, as they can sometimes confuse me when studying.
- I thought that he did a pretty good job teaching the course.
- N/a
- Lectures were boring, and put the class to sleep.
- I thought your lectures are interesting!
- See 4A
- Remind us about the quiz deadlines, since we don't get notifications for them so it's easy to miss.
- I liked him. Quick to respond to emails. He's a personable professor who makes jokes and references to real life things. He's not hard to pay attention too. His tests were a little harder than they should be. But overall, I can't complain about him or his class.
- Understanding and flexible.
- I have none.
- Stop talking about graduate material and make the tests less specific. This is a 1000 level class that you described as "rocks for jocks"
- Very approachable and friendly; knowledgable on the subject

### 6 - 6A - How would you rate the physical environment in which you took this class based upon your ability to see, hear, concentrate, and participate?

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses				Means					
Very Bad	(1)	0	0%					5.47		5.14		5.17	
Bad	(2)	0	0%										
Poor	(3)	0	0%										
Fair	(4)	8	10.26%										
Good	(5)	25	32.05%										
Very Good	(6)	45	57.69%										
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College	Department		
<b>Return Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>		
78/133 (58.65%)	5.47	0.68	6.00	20,677	5.14	0.91	5.00	1,019	5.17	0.92	5.00		

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### 7 - 7A - Please add any comments about the physical environment here:

- People would talk in the back of the auditorium a lot
- yea
- classroom seemed big for number of students in attendance.
- N/A
- Amazing classroom
- Good enough to focus but huge classroom.
- it was fine
- It was a good physical environment, people stayed quiet and were very attentive.
- n/a
- Always felt involved in class.
- The physical environment was fine.
- N/a
- People need to clean up after themselves. Trash and wrappers were littered all over the floor of McBryde.
- McBryde is underrated
- I love McBryde 100. It's a nice auditorium classroom.
- N/A
- I have none.
- Too few students. Too big of a room

### 8 - I improved my ability to think independently about the course material.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses				Means			
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0%					5.03	4.98	4.87	
Disagree	(2)	1	1.28%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	4	5.13%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	14	17.95%								
Agree	(5)	32	41.03%								
Strongly agree	(6)	27	34.62%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College	Department
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
78/133 (58.65%)	5.03	0.93	5.00	19,806	4.98	1.00	5.00	1,021	4.87	1.11	5.00

### 9 - I learned to identify problems and explore different solutions.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses				Means			
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0%					4.81	4.93	4.75	
Disagree	(2)	2	2.53%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	4	5.06%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	25	31.65%								
Agree	(5)	24	30.38%								
Strongly agree	(6)	24	30.38%								
				0	25	50	75	100	Instructor	College	Department
Return Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
79/133 (59.4%)	4.81	1.01	5.00	19,688	4.93	1.03	5.00	1,021	4.75	1.18	5.00



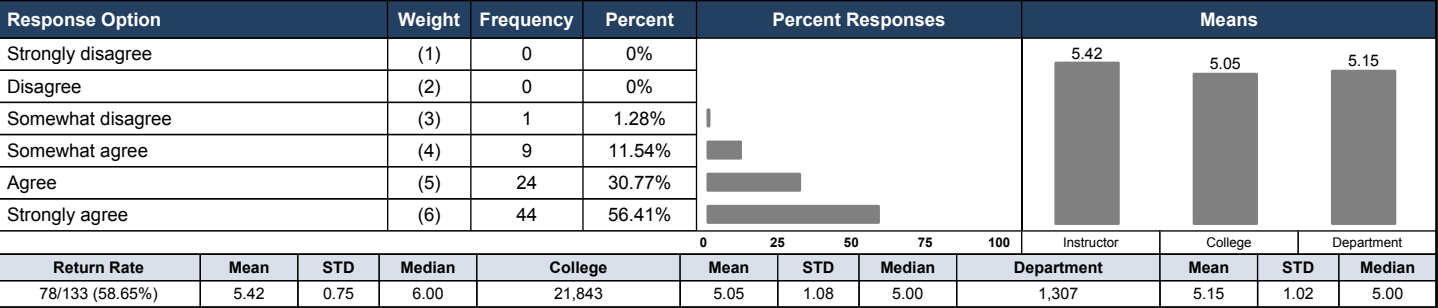
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Instructor: Neil Johnson \*

10 - The instructor used a scholarly approach in presenting content (referencing theory, research, and debates in the field).

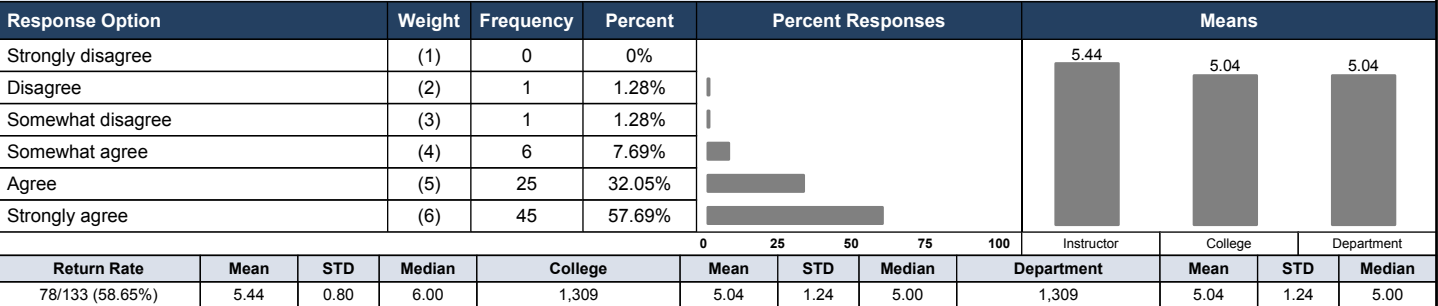
Neil Johnson



11 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

The instructor seemed concerned about whether students learned the material.

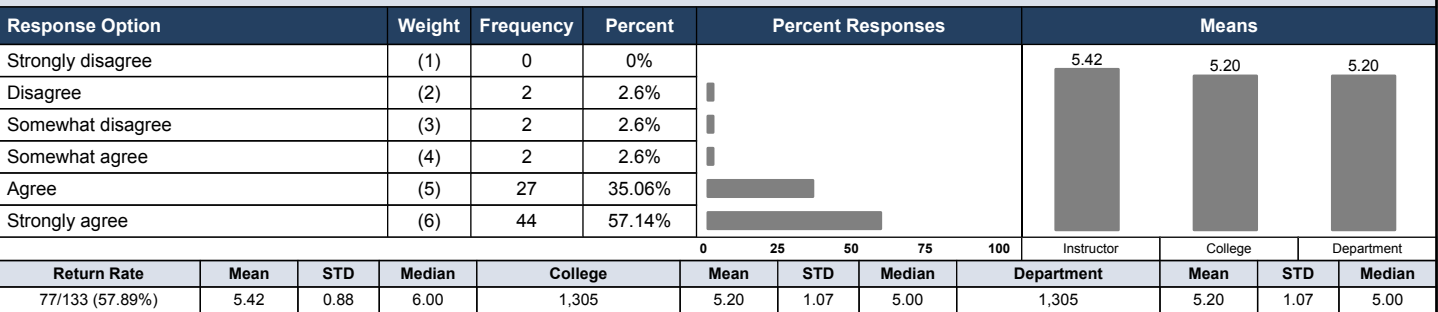
Neil Johnson



11 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

The instructor clearly defined students' responsibilities related to the course.

Neil Johnson



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Instructor: Neil Johnson \*

11 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

The instructor related theories and concepts to practical issues.

Neil Johnson

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0%		5.47	5.22	5.22	Instructor	College	Department	
Disagree	(2)	1	1.28%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	1.28%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	5	6.41%								
Agree	(5)	24	30.77%								
Strongly agree	(6)	47	60.26%								
				0	25	50	75	100			
<b>Return Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
78/133 (58.65%)	5.47	0.78	6.00	1,298	5.22	1.00	5.00	1,298	5.22	1.00	5.00

12 - I became more aware of multiple perspectives on issues in this field.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0%		5.13	5.01	5.01	Instructor	College	Department	
Disagree	(2)	1	1.28%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	1.28%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	18	23.08%								
Agree	(5)	25	32.05%								
Strongly agree	(6)	33	42.31%								
				0	25	50	75	100			
<b>Return Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
78/133 (58.65%)	5.13	0.90	5.00	1,020	5.01	1.08	5.00	1,020	5.01	1.08	5.00

13 - I learned to apply principles from this course to new situations.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses			Means				
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0%		4.94	4.84	4.84	Instructor	College	Department	
Disagree	(2)	2	2.6%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	5	6.49%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	17	22.08%								
Agree	(5)	25	32.47%								
Strongly agree	(6)	28	36.36%								
				0	25	50	75	100			
<b>Return Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
77/133 (57.89%)	4.94	1.04	5.00	1,025	4.84	1.21	5.00	1,025	4.84	1.21	5.00