

A Description of the Data Sets and Programs to Accompany
“An Economic Framework for Modeling Mail Processing Costs”
by Mark J. Roberts

All data sets and programs are in the format to be used in STATA version 8.

1. Construction of FHP for incoming and outgoing sorting operations

Program: make2fhp.do	This program takes FHP data for approximately 250 three digit MODS operations and aggregates it into FHP in incoming and outgoing operations for each of the sorting operations used in the labor demand study. The output file for this program is make2fhp.log
Inputs: 3digitfhp.dta	Observation is a plant in a year:quarter. The variables are the FHP levels in each of the three-digit MODS operations.
maps.dta	An observation is a three-digit MODS operation. The variables are the name of the operation, the sorting operation it is assigned to in LR-K-56 data sets and the operation it is assigned to in LR-K-137. The spreadsheet mapsfinal.xls is a copy of this data set with an additional variable called OUTGOING. It equals 1 if the MODS category was assigned to the outgoing mail processing stream, and 0 if incoming, when constructing the FHP variables for incoming and outgoing sorting.
Output: fhp2.dta	An observation is a plant in a year:quarter. The variables are the FHP in incoming and outgoing operations for each of the sorting operations in the LR-K-56 data sets

2. Construct the data set used in the regression analysis

Program: datastep.do	Takes the MODS data supplied in LR-K-56, adds in FHP variables for incoming and outgoing and creates all variables used in the labor demand equations. The log file for this program is datastep.log
Inputs: combine9904.dta	The plant level data supplied in LR-K-56. It is a combination of the spreadsheets reg9904.xls and add9904.xls. All variable names are the same
fhp2.dta	From step (1) above

kstock.dta A data set of capital stocks by sorting operation. These were constructed from the underlying PCN records for each plant. The data ends in 2003 and these variables were not used in any of the empirical analysis.

Output: regest.dta Data set containing all variables used in the labor demand estimation. An observation is a plant in a year:quarter

3. Estimation Programs and Log Files

aggraph.do and aggraph.log - program to create figures 1 and 2 and table 3 in the paper

finalest.do and finalest.log - program containing the IV estimation of the labor demand models. Provides results for tables 4, 5, and 6.

finalestq.do and finaestq.log- program containing the IV estimation of the labor demand models which include quarterly dummies. Provides results for table 8.

shapefinal.do and shapefinal.log - program to construct the aggregate elasticities by shape. Provides results for Table 7.