Aerfate Haimiti

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Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of South Carolina, 2025 (expected)

M.S. Economics, University of Nebraska at Omaha, 2020

M.A. Economics, University of New Hampshire, 2018

B.A. Actuarial Science, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, 2017

Research Interests

Public Finance, Macroeconomics, Industrial Organization

Working Papers

- "Regional Price Indexes and Stimulus Payments Allocation" (submitted)

- "Roads and Retail Consumption" (submitted)

- "Uniform Brand Variant Pricing and Cost Pass-Through to Retail Prices", with Danna Thomas (ready to submit)

- "Tax Multipliers in a DSGE Model", with Jason DeBacker and Richard W. Evans

Works in Progress

- "Cost of Living, Fiscal Transfers, and Consumption"

- "Regional Inequality and Aggregate Output"

Teaching Experience

Instructor

Department of Economics, University of South Carolina

Introduction to Economics: Spring 2023, 2024, 2025 (upcoming); Fall 2024

Teaching Assistant

Department of Economics, University of South Carolina

International Trade (Undergraduate): Fall 2020, 2021; Spring 2021

Introduction to Econometrics (Undergraduate): Fall 2020, 2023; Spring 2021, 2022

Labor Economics and Labor Markets (Graduate): Fall 2021, 2022

Applied Econometrics (Graduate): Spring 2022; Fall 2023, 2024

Quantitative Methods I (Undergraduate, Graduate): Fall 2024

Managerial Economics (PMBA): Summer 2021

Research Work Experience

Research Assistant

Department of Economics, University of South Carolina: Summer 2021, 2022, 2024; Fall, 2022, 2023; Spring 2022, 2023, 2024

Research Assistant

Department of Economics, University of Nebraska at Omaha: Fall 2018 - Spring 2020

Seminar and Conference Participation

University of South Carolina, 2024

University of South Carolina, 2023

Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings, 2021

Computer Skills

Python, Stata, MATLAB, R, SAS, EViews

Language

English, Uyghur (native), Chinese

References

Jason DeBacker (Chair)
Associate Professor
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Darla Moore School of Business
University of South Carolina
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Danna Thomas
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Working Paper Abstracts

- "Roads and Retail Consumption"

  Abstract: This paper explores the impacts of transportation infrastructure on U.S. retail markets. The identification strategy relies on the variation in historical transportation infrastructure. Using detailed scanner data, I examine the effects of U.S. interstate highways on various aspects of consumer welfare. First, the findings indicate that interstate highways reduce prices and expenditures on retail goods and improve the quality of goods purchased by consumers. Secondly, interstate highways not only increase the supply of unique products in stores but also the variety of products purchased by consumers. Lastly, the analysis reveals that interstate highways reduce the retail price index for both low and high-income consumers. Accounting for the costs of construction and maintenance, counterfactual analyses show that interstate highways improve consumer welfare within the retail sector.

- "Regional Price Indexes and Stimulus Payments Allocation"

  Abstract: In this paper, I develop regional and income group-specific price indexes by estimating demand functions derived from a model of consumer choice with non-homothetic preferences using detailed barcode-level and household survey data. To illustrate the importance of differences in the cost of living across US households on the real impacts of the federal tax and transfer system, this paper examines a counterfactual policy that adjusts the 2020 stimulus payments based on regional and household group-specific price indices. The results reveal significant variation in the real impact of stimulus payments. For example, to have the same real impact, the nominal value of a stimulus payment to a household in California would need to be about two and half times the amount as a payment to a household with the same income but living in Arkansas.

- "Uniform Brand Variant Pricing and Cost Pass-Through to Retail Prices"

  Abstract: Using scanner data, we show price uniformity is prevalent within stores and across products of the same brand, termed uniform brand variant pricing. We study how this impacts cost pass-through, developing a framework to generate predictions which we test by estimating empirical models. We find that (1) cost pass-through for all inputs is identical across all brand variants, (2) cost pass-through for inputs to all brand variants is higher than cost pass-through for inputs to only a subset of brand variants, and (3) input cost pass-through increases as the share of brand variants containing that input increases.