

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” (under review)
- “Roads and Retail Consumption” (JMP) (ready for submission)
- “Uniform Brand Variant Pricing and Cost Pass-Through to Retail Prices” (under review), with Danna Thomas
- “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

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

Seminar and Conference Participation

Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings, November 2024 (upcoming)

University of South Carolina, Department of Economics, September 2024

University of South Carolina, Department of Economics, April 2024

University of South Carolina, Department of Economics, March 2023

Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings, November 2021

Professional Service and Activities

Conference Discussant

Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings, November 2024 (upcoming)

Computer Skills

Python, Stata, MATLAB, R, SAS, EViews

Language

English, Uyghur (native), Chinese

References

Jason DeBacker (Chair)

Associate Professor
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Danna Thomas

Assistant Professor
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William Hauk

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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 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. Second, interstate highways not only increase the supply of unique products in stores but also the variety of products purchased by consumers. Finally, 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 impact of cost-of-living differences across U.S. households on the real effects of the federal tax and transfer system, the paper examines a counterfactual policy that adjusts the 2020 stimulus payments based on these regional and household group-specific price indexes. The results reveal significant variation in the real impact of the stimulus payments. For instance, to achieve the same real impact, the nominal value of a stimulus payment to a household in California would need to be approximately two and a half times higher than the payment to a household with the same income in Arkansas.

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

Abstract: We show that price uniformity is prevalent within stores and across products of the same brand, termed uniform brand variant pricing. We then study how this impacts input cost pass-through by developing a simple theoretical framework that we use to inform empirical pass-through models. We find that (1) cost pass-through for all inputs is identical across all brand variants, (2) cost pass-through for inputs contained in all brand variants is higher than

cost pass-through for inputs used in only a subset of brand variants, and (3) input cost pass-through increases as the share of brand variants containing that input increases.