

Commercial Statistically Adjusted End-Use Model

The traditional approach to forecasting monthly sales for a customer class is to develop an econometric model that relates monthly sales to weather, seasonal variables, and economic conditions. From a forecasting perspective, the strength of econometric models is that they are well suited to identifying historical trends and to projecting these trends into the future. In contrast, the strength of the end-use modeling approach is the ability to identify the end-use factors that are driving energy use. By incorporating end-use structure into an econometric model, the statistically adjusted end-use (SAE) modeling framework exploits the strengths of both approaches.

There are several advantages to this approach.

- The equipment efficiency trends and saturation changes embodied in the long-run end-use forecasts are introduced explicitly into the short-term monthly sales forecast. This provides a strong bridge between the two forecasts.
- By explicitly introducing trends in equipment saturations and equipment efficiency levels, it is easier to explain changes in usage levels and changes in weather-sensitivity over time.
- Data for short-term models are often not sufficiently robust to support estimation of a full set of price, economic, and demographic effects. By bundling these factors with equipment-oriented drivers, a rich set of elasticities can be built into the final model.

This document describes this approach, the associated supporting Commercial SAE spreadsheets, and *MetrixND* project files that are used in the implementation. The source for the commercial SAE spreadsheets is the 2011 Annual Energy Outlook (AEO) database provided by the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Commercial Statistically Adjusted End-Use Model Framework

The commercial statistically adjusted end-use model framework begins by defining energy use ($USE_{y,m}$) in year (y) and month (m) as the sum of energy used by heating equipment ($Heat_{y,m}$), cooling equipment ($Cool_{y,m}$) and other equipment ($Other_{y,m}$). Formally,

$$USE_{y,m} = Heat_{y,m} + Cool_{y,m} + Other_{y,m} \quad (1)$$



Although monthly sales are measured for individual customers, the end-use components are not. Substituting estimates for the end-use elements gives the following econometric equation.

$$USE_m = a + b_1 \times XHeat_m + b_2 \times XCool_m + b_3 \times XOther_m + \varepsilon_m \quad (2)$$

Here, $XHeat_m$, $XCool_m$, and $XOther_m$ are explanatory variables constructed from end-use information, weather data, and market data. As will be shown below, the equations used to construct these X-variables are simplified end-use models, and the X-variables are the estimated usage levels for each of the major end uses based on these models. The estimated model can then be thought of as a statistically adjusted end-use model, where the estimated slopes are the adjustment factors.

Constructing $XHeat$

As represented in the Commercial SAE spreadsheets, energy use by space heating systems depends on the following types of variables.

- Heating degree days,
- Heating equipment saturation levels,
- Heating equipment operating efficiencies,
- Average number of days in the billing cycle for each month, and
- Commercial output and energy price.

The heating variable is represented as the product of an annual equipment index and a monthly usage multiplier. That is,

$$XHeat_{y,m} = HeatIndex_y \times HeatUse_{y,m} \quad (3)$$

where, $XHeat_{y,m}$ is estimated heating energy use in year (y) and month (m),

$HeatIndex_y$ is the annual index of heating equipment, and

$HeatUse_{y,m}$ is the monthly usage multiplier.

The heating equipment index is composed of electric space heating equipment saturation levels normalized by operating efficiency levels. The index will change over time with changes in heating equipment saturations (*HeatShare*) and operating efficiencies (*Eff*). Formally, the equipment index is defined as:



$$HeatIndex_y = HeatSales_{04} \times \frac{\left(\frac{HeatShare_y}{Eff_y} \right)}{\left(\frac{HeatShare_{04}}{Eff_{04}} \right)} \quad (4)$$

In this expression, 2004 is used as a base year for normalizing the index. The ratio on the right is equal to 1.0 in 2004. In other years, it will be greater than one if equipment saturation levels are above their 2004 level. This will be counteracted by higher efficiency levels, which will drive the index downward. Base year space heating sales are defined as follows.

$$HeatSales_{04} = \left(\frac{kWh}{Sqft} \right)_{Heating} \times \left(\frac{CommercialSales_{04}}{\sum_e kWh/Sqft_e} \right) \quad (5)$$

Here, base-year sales for space heating is the product of the average space heating intensity value and the ratio of total commercial sales in the base year over the sum of the end-use intensity values. In the Commercial SAE Spreadsheets, the space heating sales value is defined on the *BaseYrInput* tab. The resulting *HeatIndex_y* value in 2004 will be equal to the estimated annual heating sales in that year. Variations from this value in other years will be proportional to saturation and efficiency variations around their base values.

Heating system usage levels are impacted on a monthly basis by several factors, including weather, commercial level economic activity, prices and billing days. Using the COMMEND default elasticity parameters, the estimates for space heating equipment usage levels are computed as follows:

$$HeatUse_{y,m} = \left(\frac{BDays_{y,m}}{30.5} \right) \times \left(\frac{WgtHDD_{y,m}}{HDD_{04}} \right) \times \left(\frac{Output_y}{Output_{04}} \right)^{0.20} \times \left(\frac{Price_{y,m}}{Price_{04}} \right)^{-0.18} \quad (6)$$

where, *BDays* is the number of billing days in year (y) and month (m), these values are normalized by 30.5 which is the average number of billing days

WgtHDD is the weighted number of heating degree days in year (y) and month (m). This is constructed as the weighted sum of the current month's HDD and the prior month's HDD. The weights are 75% on the current month and 25% on the prior month.

HDD is the annual heating degree days for 2004,

Output is a real commercial output driver in year (y),



Price is the average real price of electricity in month (m) and year (y),

By construction, the $HeatUse_{y,m}$ variable has an annual sum that is close to one in the base year (2004). The first two terms, which involve billing days and heating degree days, serve to allocate annual values to months of the year. The remaining terms average to one in the base year. In other years, the values will reflect changes in commercial output and prices, as transformed through the end-use elasticity parameters. For example, if the real price of electricity goes up 10% relative to the base year value, the price term will contribute a multiplier of about .98 (computed as 1.10 to the -0.18 power).

Constructing XCool

The explanatory variable for cooling loads is constructed in a similar manner. The amount of energy used by cooling systems depends on the following types of variables.

- Cooling degree days,
- Cooling equipment saturation levels,
- Cooling equipment operating efficiencies,
- Average number of days in the billing cycle for each month, and
- Commercial output and energy price.

The cooling variable is represented as the product of an equipment-based index and monthly usage multiplier. That is,

$$XCool_{y,m} = CoolIndex_y \times CoolUse_{y,m} \quad (7)$$

where, $XCool_{y,m}$ is estimated cooling energy use in year (y) and month (m),

$CoolIndex_y$ is an index of cooling equipment, and

$CoolUse_{y,m}$ is the monthly usage multiplier.

As with heating, the cooling equipment index depends on equipment saturation levels ($CoolShare$) normalized by operating efficiency levels (Eff). Formally, the cooling equipment index is defined as:

$$CoolIndex_y = CoolSales_{04} \times \frac{\left(\frac{CoolShare_y}{Eff_y} \right)}{\left(\frac{CoolShare_{04}}{Eff_{04}} \right)} \quad (8)$$



Data values in 2004 are used as a base year for normalizing the index, and the ratio on the right is equal to 1.0 in 2004. In other years, it will be greater than one if equipment saturation levels are above their 2004 level. This will be counteracted by higher efficiency levels, which will drive the index downward. Estimates of base year cooling sales are defined as follows.

$$CoolSales_{04} = \left(\frac{kWh}{Sqft} \right)_{Cooling} \times \left(\frac{CommercialSales_{04}}{\sum_e kWh/Sqft_e} \right) \quad (9)$$

Here, base-year sales for space cooling is the product of the average space cooling intensity value and the ratio of total commercial sales in the base year over the sum of the end-use intensity values. In the Commercial SAE Spreadsheets, the space cooling sales value is defined on the *BaseYrInput* tab. The resulting *CoolIndex* value in 2004 will be equal to the estimated annual cooling sales in that year. Variations from this value in other years will be proportional to saturation and efficiency variations around their base values.

Cooling system usage levels are impacted on a monthly basis by several factors, including weather, economic activity levels and prices. Using the COMMEND default parameters, the estimates of cooling equipment usage levels are computed as follows:

$$CoolUse_{y,m} = \left(\frac{BDays_{y,m}}{30.5} \right) \times \left(\frac{WgtCDD_{y,m}}{CDD_{04}} \right) \times \left(\frac{Output_y}{Output_{04}} \right)^{0.20} \times \left(\frac{Price_{y,m}}{Price_{04}} \right)^{-0.18} \quad (10)$$

where, *WgtCDD* is the weighted number of cooling degree days in year (y) and month (m).

This is constructed as the weighted sum of the current month's CDD and the prior month's CDD. The weights are 75% on the current month and 25% on the prior month.

CDD is the annual cooling degree days for 2004.

By construction, the *CoolUse* variable has an annual sum that is close to one in the base year (2004). The first two terms, which involve billing days and cooling degree days, serve to allocate annual values to months of the year. The remaining terms average to one in the base year. In other years, the values will change to reflect changes in commercial output and prices.

Constructing *XOther*

Monthly estimates of non-weather sensitive sales can be derived in a similar fashion to space heating and cooling. Based on end-use concepts, other sales are driven by:

- Equipment saturation levels,
- Equipment efficiency levels,
- Average number of days in the billing cycle for each month, and
- Real commercial output and real prices.

The explanatory variable for other uses is defined as follows:

$$XOther_{y,m} = OtherIndex_{y,m} \times OtherUse_{y,m} \quad (11)$$

The second term on the right hand side of this expression embodies information about equipment saturation levels and efficiency levels. The equipment index for other uses is defined as follows:

$$OtherIndex_{y,m} = \sum_{Type} Weight_{04}^{Type} \times \left(\frac{Share_y^{Type} / Eff_y^{Type}}{Share_{04}^{Type} / Eff_{04}^{Type}} \right) \quad (12)$$

where, *Weight* is the weight for each equipment type,

Share represents the fraction of floor stock with an equipment type, and

Eff is the average operating efficiency.

This index combines information about trends in saturation levels and efficiency levels for the main equipment categories. The weights are defined as follows.

$$Weight_{04}^{Type} = \left(\frac{kWh}{Sqft} \right)_{Type} \times \left(\frac{CommercialSales_{04}}{\sum_e kWh / Sqft_e} \right) \quad (13)$$

Further monthly variation is introduced by multiplying by usage factors that cut across all end uses, constructed as follows:

$$OtherUse_{y,m} = \left(\frac{BDays_{y,m}}{30.5} \right) \times \left(\frac{Output_y}{Output_{04}} \right)^{0.20} \times \left(\frac{Price_{y,m}}{Price_{04}} \right)^{-0.18} \quad (14)$$



In this expression, the elasticities on output and real price are computed from the COMMEND default values.