

Using Forum and Search Data for Automotive Sales Prediction

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Many studies use social media data to predict offline economic results. However, recent studies point to the fact that these data may be subject to various limitations and biases, which can be detrimental to prediction. At the same time, a growing body of research shows that a new source of online information – search engine logs – can predict offline outcomes. We investigated the relationship between these two sources of information in the context of sales forecasting. Focusing on the automotive industry, we used Google’s comprehensive index, which covers online discussion forums, as well as data from search trends. We found that adding data from search trends to social media-based models significantly improves predictive accuracy. We also found that prediction models based on lower cost search trends data provide predictive accuracy that is at least equivalent to that of forecasting models based on social media data.

Concentration and Competitiveness in the Israeli Banking System during 2000-2014: an Inter-temporal and International Analyses



Itay Sharoni and Eli Amir

We study the concentration and competitiveness in the Israeli banking system, both over time and relative to other countries, during the years 2000-2014. We compute common indices for concentration and competition within worldwide banking systems and show that the Israeli banking system is more concentrated when compared to the average sample. We also suggest possible explanations for the concentrated Israeli banking system and discuss the regulator’s agenda in increasing the level of competition.