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THE EVOLUTION OF BRAND PREFERENCES:  
EVIDENCE FROM CONSUMER MIGRATION

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**ABSTRACT**

We study the long-run evolution of brand preferences, using new data on consumers' life histories and purchases of consumer packaged goods. Variation in where consumers have lived in the past allows us to isolate the causal effect of past experiences on current purchases, holding constant contemporaneous supply-side factors such as availability, prices, and advertising. Heterogeneity in brand preferences explains 40 percent of geographic variation in market shares. These preferences develop endogenously as a function of consumers' life histories and are highly persistent once formed, with experiences 50 years in the past still exerting a significant effect on current consumption. Counterfactuals suggest that brand preferences create large entry barriers and durable advantages for incumbent firms, and can explain persistence of early-mover advantage over long periods. Variation across product categories shows that the persistence of brand preferences is related in an intuitive way to both advertising levels and the social visibility of consumption.

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If an intelligent being from a remote planet was presented with certain facts about the trivial physical differences in brands and identical prices which exist in many product categories here on earth and asked to develop a model of consumer choice behavior for these conditions, he might assert with little hesitation that: consumers would be indifferent with respect to the available brands, choice would be a random process, and the market shares for the brands would be equal. (Bass 1974)

## 1 Introduction

Consumers appear to have high willingness to pay for particular brands, even when the alternatives are objectively similar. The majority of consumers typically buy a single brand of beer, cola, or margarine (Dekimpe et al. 1997), even though relative prices vary significantly over time, and consumers often cannot distinguish their preferred brand in blind “taste tests” (Thumin 1962, Allison and Uhl 1964). Consumers pay large premia to buy homogeneous goods like books and CDs from branded online retailers, even when they are using a “shopbot” that eliminates search costs (Smith and Brynjolfsson 2001). A large fraction of consumers buy branded medications, even though chemically equivalent generic substitutes are available at the same stores for much lower prices (Ling et al. 2002).

Theorists have long speculated that willingness to pay for brands today could depend on consumers’ experiences in the past. Willingness to pay could be a function of past consumption, which could enter expected utility directly (Becker and Murphy 1988), through switching costs (Klemperer 1987), or through beliefs about quality (Schmalensee 1982). It could depend on past exposure to advertising (Schmalensee 1983, Doraszelski and Markovich 2007), or on past observations of the behavior of others, as in Ellison and Fudenberg (1995). At the extreme, brand preferences could be entirely determined by experiences in childhood (Berkman et al. 1997). Under these assumptions, consumers’ accumulated stock of “preference capital” could be a valuable asset for incumbent firms and a source of long-term economic rents.<sup>1</sup> In Bain’s (1956) view, “the advantage to established sellers accruing from buyer preferences for their products as opposed to potential entrant products is on average larger and more frequent in occurrence at large values than any other barrier to entry” (p. 216).

Existing empirical evidence provides little support for the view that past experiences have a long-lasting

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<sup>1</sup>Throughout the paper, we use “brand preferences” as a shorthand for willingness to pay. We intend this term to encompass channels such as learning that do not work through the utility function *per se*.

impact on brand preferences. Large literatures have measured the effects of advertising, but these studies often find no effects (e.g., Lodish et al. 1995), and the effects they do measure are estimated to dissipate over a horizon ranging from a few weeks to at most five or six months (Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984, Bagwell 2007). Empirical studies of habit formation and consumer switching costs have been limited to estimating short-run effects using panel data spanning no more than 1 or 2 years (e.g., Erdem 1996, Keane 1997, Dubé, Hitsch and Rossi 2010).

In this paper, we study the long-run evolution of brand preferences, using a new dataset that combines Nielsen Homescan data on purchases of consumer packaged goods with details of consumers' life histories. Building on Bronnenberg, Dhar, and Dubé's (2007) finding that market shares of these goods vary significantly across regions of the US, we ask how consumers' current purchases depend on both where they live currently, and where they lived in the past. This approach allows us to hold constant contemporaneous supply-side factors such as quality, availability, and advertising, and to isolate the causal effect of past experience on current purchases.

Our data include current and past states of residence for 38,000 households, which we match to 2006-2008 purchases in 238 consumer packaged goods product categories. Our primary dependent variable consists of the purchases of the top brand as a share of purchases of either of the top two brands in a category. Consistent with Bronnenberg, Dhar, and Dubé (2007), we show that this share varies significantly across space, with a mean of 0.63 and a cross-state standard deviation of 0.15 in the average product category.

We find strong evidence that past experiences are an important driver of current consumption. We first examine the way consumption patterns change when consumers move across state lines. Both cross-sectional and panel evidence suggest that approximately 60 percent of the gap in purchases between the origin and destination state closes immediately when a consumer moves. So, for example, a consumer who moves from a state where the market share of the top brand among lifetime residents is  $X\%$  to one where the market share is  $Y\%$  jumps from consuming  $X\%$  to consuming  $(.4X + .6Y)\%$ . Since the stock of past experiences has remained constant across the move, while the supply-side environment has changed, we infer that approximately 40 percent of the geographic variation in market shares is attributable to persistent brand preferences, with the rest driven by contemporaneous supply-side variables. We next look at how consumption evolves over time following a move. The remaining 40 percent gap between recent migrants

and lifetime residents closes steadily, but slowly. It takes more than 20 years for half of the gap to close, and even 50 years after moving the gap remains statistically significant. Finally, we show that our data also strongly reject the hypothesis that *all* that matters is where consumers lived in childhood: consumers who move after age 25 still eventually converge to the consumption patterns of their new state of residence.

As a lens through which to interpret these results, we introduce a simple model of consumer demand with habit formation (Becker and Murphy 1988). Consumers in the model are myopic. Their choices in each period depend on the contemporaneous prices, availability, and other characteristics of the brands in their market, and on their stock of past consumption experiences, or “brand capital.” The model has two key parameters: the weight on current product characteristics relative to the stock of past consumption ( $\alpha$ ), and the year-to-year persistence of brand capital ( $\delta$ ).

We next present evidence for two key identifying assumptions. The first is that a consumer’s migration status is orthogonal to stable determinants of brand preferences. Panel evidence shows directly that migrants look similar to non-migrants in their birth state before moving, and that age of migration is uncorrelated with purchases prior to moving. As additional evidence, we consider a subset of brands that were introduced late in our sample, and show that where a consumer lived before a brand pair was available does not predict her current consumption. The second assumption is that a brand’s past market share in a given market is equal in expectation to the share today. We introduce historical data on market shares and show that, despite large changes over time in shares, the identifying assumption is approximately satisfied.

Under these two assumptions, we estimate that the weight on current characteristics in utility is  $\alpha = .62$  and that the effect of a given year’s consumption experiences depreciates at a rate of  $1 - \delta = .026$  per year.

To shed more light on the economic implications of our findings, we simulate two counterfactual scenarios. First, we imagine that two brands enter a market sequentially, and ask how difficult it will be for the second brand to equalize the market share advantage of the first. We show that a head start of even a few years creates a formidable barrier, with a second entrant needing to maintain a large advantage in supply-side variables (lower prices, more promotions, etc.) to catch up in the subsequent decade. Second, we introduce a simple model of endogenous firm choices, and use it to study the persistence of brand advantages in the face of idiosyncratic shocks. We show that even with significant noise in the environment, our estimates can easily rationalize persistence of market shares over many decades, as observed in Bronnenberg, Dhar, and

Dubé (2009).

In the final section, we present evidence on the specific mechanisms that underlie our results. We show that the relative importance of brand capital is higher in categories with high levels of advertising and high levels of social visibility. Although we cannot interpret these relationships as causal, they are consistent with a model in which both advertising and observed consumption of peers make the the stock of brand capital more important. At the same time, we observe substantial persistence even in categories where advertising and visibility are low, suggesting that some element of habit formation is likely necessary to rationalize the data. We also assess how much of the geographic variation in shares not explained by brand capital can be attributed to variation in prices, display advertising, and feature advertising.

Our empirical strategy is closely related to work that uses migration patterns to study the formation of culture and preferences. Logan and Rhode (2010) show that nineteenth-century immigrants' expenditure shares for different types of food are predicted by past relative prices in their countries of origin. Luttmer and Singhal (2010) link immigrants' preferences for redistribution of wealth to the average preference for redistribution in their birth countries. Atkin (2010) shows that migrants within India are willing to pay higher prices to consume foods that are common in their state of origin. Our results also relate to the literature on the formation of preferences more broadly (Bowles 1998). Our work further relates to the broader literature on sources of entry barriers and incumbent advantages (e.g., Bain 1950, Williamson 1963). In particular, Foster, Haltiwanger, and Syverson (2010) show that the demand curves of manufacturing plants shift out over time, and that a model of endogenous demand-side capital formation similar to the one we develop herein can explain a significant share of older plants' size advantage relative to newer plants. Finally, our work relates to the conceptual literature on the long term effects of brand equity in marketing (e.g., Aaker 1991, Keller 1993).

Section 2 introduces our data. Section 3 presents descriptive evidence on the evolution of brand preferences. Section 4 introduces our model and estimation strategy. Section 5 presents evidence supporting our key identifying assumptions. Section 6 presents estimates of the model parameters, and derives implications for first-mover advantage and share stability. Section 7 presents evidence on mechanisms. Section 8 concludes.

## **2 Data**

### **2.1 Purchases and demographics**

We use data from the Nielsen Homescan Panel on the purchases and demographic characteristics of 48,501 households. The panel is drawn from 50 regional markets throughout the United States and covers purchases made between October 2006 and October 2008, inclusive. Each household receives an optical scanner and is directed to scan the barcodes of all consumer packaged goods they purchase, regardless of outlet. The data thus include purchases not only from supermarkets, but also from convenience stores, drug stores, and so on. The data cover food, beverages, and many non-food items commonly found in supermarkets. See Einav et al. (2010) for a recent validation study of the Homescan Panel.

The most granular notion of a product in the data is a UPC code. Nielsen groups UPCs into categories they call modules. Examples include “canned soup,” “regular cola,” “cough drops,” and “bar soap.” Nielsen also groups UPCs by brand, with Coca-Cola 12-ounce cans and Coca-Cola 2-liter bottles both grouped under the brand “Coca-Cola.” A single brand may span multiple modules. Our raw data include 382 modules and 51,316 brands.

We define the total number of purchases by a household of a particular module-brand combination to be the number of observed shopping trips on which the household purchased at least one UPC in that module-brand. A trip counts as a single purchase regardless of the size, number of units bought, or price paid. In Appendix B we show that our results are robust to alternative quantity measures.

We rank brands within each module by the total number of purchases across all households in the sample. Our main analysis focuses on the top two brands in each module. We refer to the best-selling brand in a module as brand 1 and to the second-best-selling brand as brand 2, respectively.

For each household, we observe a vector of demographics that includes household income, whether the household’s residence is rented or owned, and the household head’s race and Hispanic status.

### **2.2 Consumer life histories**

We supplement the purchase and demographic data with a survey of Homescan panelists’ life histories, which we administered in cooperation with AC Nielsen. The survey was sent electronically to households

in the panel, and we requested that each adult in the household complete the survey separately. The questionnaire asked individuals their country and state of birth, and their current state of residence. For those not currently living in their state of birth, we asked the age at which they left their state of birth, and the number of years that they have lived in their current state. Respondents also reported their gender, their date of birth, their highest level of educational attainment, whether they are currently employed, whether they personally make the majority of the household's purchase decisions (whether they are the "primary shopper"), and whether they are the "head of household."

The survey was sent to 75,221 households. From these, 80,077 individuals in 48,951 households responded for a response rate of 65 percent. The surveys were completed between September 13, 2008, and October 1, 2008.

From each household, we select a single individual whose characteristics we match to the purchase data. We first focus on individuals born in the United States. For the set of households with multiple respondents, we then apply the following criteria in order, stopping at the point when only a single individual is left: (i) keep only primary shopper(s) if at least one exists; (ii) keep only household head(s) if at least one exists; (iii) keep only the female household head if both a female and a male head exist; (iv) keep the oldest individual; (v) drop responses that appear to be duplicate responses by the same individual; (vi) select one respondent randomly.

We define a household to be a *non-migrant* if the selected individual's current and birth state are the same and a *migrant* otherwise.

We use the reported birth date to define a respondent's age, assuming all surveys were completed on September 22, 2008. We define the "gap" in a consumer's reported history to be the difference between her age and the sum of the number of years she lived in her birth state and the number of years she has lived in her current state. In cases where the sum of a respondent's reported years living in her birth state and current state exceeds her age (i.e., the gap is negative), we either recode the number of years lived in her birth state to be the difference between her age and the reported years in her current state (if the difference is only one or two years), or drop the household from the data (if the difference is more than two years).



### 2.3 Additional data sources

We supplement our core dataset with data on the historical market shares of a subset of the brands in our data from Consolidated Consumer Analysis (CCA). These volumes are published jointly by a group of participating newspapers from 1948 to 1968.<sup>2</sup> They aggregate results from consumer surveys conducted by the newspapers in their respective markets. For each product category and market, the surveys give the share of consumers who report purchasing each brand.<sup>3</sup> We match these brand-category pairs to brand-module pairs in the Nielsen data. We collapse to the state level, averaging each brand's share purchasing across years from 1948 to 1968 and across markets within states. We then define each brand's average share to be the share of consumers purchasing divided by the sum of this share across brands within the category.

To interpret our counterfactuals in terms of equivalent price changes, we use aggregate store-level data on 2001-2005 purchases and prices, spanning 30 product categories from the IRI Marketing Data Set (Bronnenberg, Kruger, and Mela 2008).

To measure module-level advertising intensity, we use data on 2008 advertising expenditures for each module from the TNS Media Intelligence Ad\$penders database. We download total expenditures for each top-two Homescan brand in our sample, treating cases where no TNS data exist for the brand in question as zeros. We then sum expenditures by module, and code the top 25 percent of modules by advertising expenditure as "high advertising."

### 2.4 Final sample definition and sample characteristics

We exclude modules from the main analysis in which we do not observe at least 5,000 households making purchases. We also exclude a small number of modules in which the top two brands as defined by Nielsen are in fact two varieties of a single brand (e.g., "Philadelphia" and "Philadelphia Light" in the Cream Cheese module). We exclude migrant households for which the gap as defined above is greater than 5 years. For households with a gap greater than zero and less than five years, we set the gap to zero. That is, we assume the age at which the shopper left her birth state was her current age minus the number of years she reports

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<sup>2</sup>From 1948-1950, the *Milwaukee Journal* is listed as publisher. In 1948, the title is *Thirteen Market Comparison of Consumer Preferences*. In 1949 and 1950, the title is *Fourteen Market Comparison of Consumer Preferences*. From 1951 to 1968, all of the participating newspapers are listed as publisher (the exact set of newspapers varies by year). In 1951 and 1952 the title is *Consolidated Consumer Analysis Information*, and from 1953 to 1968 the title is *Consolidated Consumer Analysis*.

<sup>3</sup>Until 1958, consumers were asked to report the brand they "usually buy" in each category. From 1959 on, they were asked to report the brand they "bought last."

living in her current state. We also exclude individuals with a reported age less than 18 or greater than 99. Our final sample consists of 38,098 households and 238 modules. See Appendix Table 2 for a list of these modules.

Table 1 summarizes the migration patterns in our final sample. Approximately 16% of respondents are born in a different census region than the one in which they currently live. The most common moves have been out of the Northeast and Midwest and into the South and West regions of the United States.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of age of respondents in our final sample, along with the distributions of the age at which respondents moved out of their state of birth, the number of years respondents have lived in their current state of residence, and the gap between the year when they moved out of their state of birth and the year when they moved into their current state of residence. The figure shows that there is substantial variation in all of these measures, and that the majority of sample households have no gap between leaving their state of birth and arriving in their state of residence.

### 3 Descriptive Evidence

#### 3.1 Measurement Approach

Index consumers by  $i$ , modules by  $j$ , and states by  $s$ . We focus on the top two brands in each category as defined above. Let  $i$ 's observed *purchase share* in category  $j$ ,  $\hat{y}_{ij}$ , be the number of purchases of brand 1 in category  $j$  divided by the total purchases of brands 1 and 2. Let  $\hat{\mu}_{sj}$  be the mean of  $\hat{y}_{ij}$  across all non-migrant households in state  $s$ .

For each migrant consumer  $i$ , we define the *relative share* in category  $j$  to be  $i$ 's purchase share, scaled relative to the average purchase share of non-migrants in her current and birth states:

$$\beta_{ij} = \frac{\hat{y}_{ij} - \hat{\mu}_{sj}}{\hat{\mu}_{s'j} - \hat{\mu}_{sj}}, \quad (1)$$

where  $s'$  is  $i$ 's current state and  $s$  is  $i$ 's birth state.

We take  $\beta_{ij}$  as a summary of the way migrants' purchases compare to those of non-migrants. If purchases depend only on contemporaneous supply-side variables like prices, availability, and advertising, migrants should behave identically to non-migrants in their current state and  $\beta_{ij}$  should equal one on average. If

purchases depend only on experiences early in life, migrants should behave identically to non-migrants in their birth state and  $\beta_{ij}$  should equal zero on average. If preferences evolve endogenously throughout the life cycle,  $\beta_{ij}$  should fall between zero and one, on average, and should depend on the age at which a migrant moved and the number of years they have lived in their current state.

To look at these patterns in the data, we estimate regressions of the form

$$\beta_{ij} = f(a_i, t_i) + \eta_{ij}, \quad (2)$$

where  $a_i$  is the age at which  $i$  moved and  $t_i$  is the number of years  $i$  has lived in her current state. The exact form of  $f()$  will vary depending on the specification. Assuming  $\eta_{ij}$  mainly captures sampling variability in  $\hat{y}_{ij}$ , its standard deviation will vary inversely with the denominator of equation (1). We therefore weight observations in equation (2) by  $(\hat{\mu}_{s'j} - \hat{\mu}_{sj})^2$ .

### 3.2 Cross-Section

Table 2 summarizes variation in purchase shares. The average of the purchase share  $\hat{y}_{ij}$  across all consumers and modules in our sample is 0.63. Conditional on purchasing at least one of the top two brands, consumers in the typical category make 3.0 purchases of the top brand and 1.7 purchases of the second-place brand. The cross-state standard deviation of the purchase share is 0.15. The absolute value of the gap between the purchase share in a migrant's current state and in her birth state is 0.11 on average. These geographic differences are broadly consistent with the patterns reported in Bronnenberg, Dhar and Dubé (2007). Appendix Table 2 reports the average purchase share and cross-state standard deviation for each module individually.

Figure 2 plots the key information in our data: how the relative share,  $\beta_{ij}$ , varies with a migrant's age at move ( $a_i$ ) and years since move ( $t_i$ ). We plot estimates of equation (2), parameterizing  $f(a_i, t_i)$  with dummies for each combination of  $a_i$  and  $t_i$ , pooled in ten-year bins. The figure shows that  $\beta_{ij}$  is clearly less than one on average, rejecting the view that purchases are entirely driven by contemporaneous supply-side variables. It shows that  $\beta_{ij}$  is clearly greater than zero, rejecting the view that purchases are entirely driven by childhood experiences. The figure also suggests that the purchases of migrants converge gradually toward those of non-migrants in their destination states.

To illustrate the patterns of convergence more clearly, Figures 3 and 4 show the same information as

Figure 2 collapsed to two dimensions. Figure 3 shows variation with respect to years since move, pooling across the age-at-move categories. Notice, first, that even very recent movers have relative shares far from zero. This fact suggests that there is a discrete “on-impact” change in purchases at the time an individual moves, equal to approximately 60 percent of the gap between the two states. Referring back to Figure 2, we see that this jump is of similar magnitude regardless of the age at which a consumer moves. Second, note that migrant purchases converge slowly toward those of non-migrants in the years following a move. It takes 25 years for half of the remaining gap in relative shares to close (reaching  $\beta_{ij} = 0.8$ ), and even after 50 years the difference between migrants and non-migrants remains statistically significant.

Figure 4 shows variation with respect to age at move, pooling across the years-since-move categories. Migrants who moved during childhood have relative shares close to those of non-migrants in their current states, while those who move later look closer to non-migrants in their birth states. This pattern is consistent with the brand capital model we introduce below, which predicts that the preferences of a consumer who has spent more time in her birth state will converge less quickly following a move. It is also consistent with results in marketing that show older consumers consider fewer brands when making a choice and are less likely to switch brands (Lambert-Pandraud and Laurent 2010, Drolet et al. 2008). Interestingly, even consumers who moved before age 5 have relative shares slightly below 1, possibly reflecting the influence of parental preferences on childhood consumption.

Note that the mechanical correlation between age at move and years since move means that Figures 3 and 4 partly repeat the same information. To separate the effect of age and years, Table 3 presents estimates of equation (2) where we include linear terms in  $a_i$ ,  $t_i$ , and  $t_i$  squared. To make the coefficients easier to read, we divide both  $a_i$  and  $t_i$  by ten. For reference, the first column shows the regression analogue of Figure 3 where we only condition on years since move. The constant in this regression gives the “on-impact” effect of moving, which we estimate to be 0.62. Relative shares start out converging at a rate of 10 percentage points per decade. The quadratic term is significantly negative, suggesting the rate of convergence slows over time. The second column adds age at move,  $a_i$ , which we find is significantly negative, showing that the preferences of older migrants indeed converge less quickly to those of their new state even after controlling for time since moving. The third and fourth columns control flexibly for time since move and age at move respectively. The linear and quadratic terms remain strongly significant and similar in magnitude in these

regressions, confirming that time since move and age at move have independent effects.

The final column repeats the regression of column (2) with the sample restricted to those moving at age 25 or later. We present this regression as a further test of the hypothesis that childhood experiences are decisive in shaping preferences. Both the jump on moving and convergence over time remain similar in magnitude and highly significant. So preferences do change, even for those who move late. This result provides some evidence against the common assertion that parental influence is dominant in shaping children's preferences (e.g., Moore, Wilkie, and Lutz 2002).<sup>4</sup>

### 3.3 Panel

Under assumptions we discuss in more detail in section 5 below, the cross-sectional variation in relative shares shown in Figure 2 is informative about how a given migrant's purchases evolve over time. In this section, we look at within-consumer variation in purchases more directly. The panel dimension of our data is limited, but we do observe a small number of consumers who move during the two years of our sample. For these consumers, we can follow purchases before and after their move, and ask whether the panel lines up with our inferences from the cross-section.

Restricting attention to those for whom the gap between leaving their state of birth and arriving in their current state is zero, we observe 115 consumers who report moving in the past year and 111 consumers who report moving between one and two years ago. Given that our survey was fielded in September 2008, we expect the first group to have moved between October 2007 and September 2008, and the second group to have moved between October 2006 and September 2007.

Figure 5 shows relative shares by month for those who report moving in the past year. Their relative shares for the months up to October 2007 are close to zero, indicating that their purchases before they move are similar to those of non-migrants in their states of birth. If moves are distributed uniformly within the October 2007 to September 2008 period, and if an individual's relative share jumps to 0.62 on moving, we should expect the points to increase linearly from zero to 0.62 in the second half of the figure. This pattern is exactly what we observe.

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<sup>4</sup>Consumer behavior textbooks cite examples of parental influence. For instance, Berkman, Lindquist, and Sirgy (1997) state that "[i]f Tide laundry detergent is the family favorite, this preference is easily passed on to the next generation. The same can be said for brands of toothpaste, running shoes, golf clubs, preferred restaurants, and favorite stores" (pp. 422-3).

Figure 6 shows relative shares by month for those who report moving between one and two years ago. As we would expect based on the cross-sectional evidence, relative shares increase roughly linearly from October 2006 to September 2007 and then are flat at 0.62 or slightly increasing thereafter.

## 4 Model and Estimation

As a lens through which to interpret these results, we introduce a simple model of consumer demand with habit formation (Becker and Murphy 1988). The model serves two purposes. First, it allows us to quantify the preference persistence we observe in terms of an economically meaningful structural parameter: the rate at which the stock of preference “capital” derived from past experience decays. Second, it lets us consider the implications of our results for firms’ short-run and long-run demand curves, the importance of first-mover advantage, and the stability of market shares over time.

### 4.1 Setup

We model a consumer deciding which of the top two brands to purchase in a particular module. We treat states as the relevant product market, assuming that supply-side characteristics of all brands are constant within state. We add subscripts for consumers, modules, and states when we turn to estimation in section 4.3 below.

The difference between the consumer’s indirect utility from the top brand and the second brand is

$$U = \alpha \mu(X, \xi) + (1 - \alpha)k - v. \quad (3)$$

Here,  $\mu(X, \xi) \in (0, 1)$  is the consumer’s *baseline utility*,  $X$  is an observed vector of consumer characteristics,  $\xi$  is an unobserved vector of product characteristics,  $k \in [0, 1]$  is the consumer’s stock of *brand capital*,  $\alpha \in (0, 1]$  is a parameter governing the relative importance of past consumption in current preferences, and  $v \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 1)$  is a utility shock drawn independently across purchase occasions.

We assume the consumer prefers the top brand to the second brand if and only if  $U \geq 0$ . The probability that the consumer chooses the top brand (conditional on purchasing one of the top two) is therefore:

$$y = \alpha \mu(X, \xi) + (1 - \alpha)k. \quad (4)$$

Equation (4) is a version of the standard linear probability model of demand (Heckman and Snyder 1997).

The baseline utility,  $\mu(X, \xi)$ , captures the influence of all demand factors other than past consumption.  $X$  includes consumer characteristics such as age and income.  $\xi$  includes all relevant state-level characteristics of the top two brands, including their prices, availability, advertising levels, and qualities.

The stock of brand capital summarizes the consumer's past consumption experiences. We define the stock of brand capital to be the discounted average of past purchase shares:

$$k = \frac{\sum_{a=1}^{A-1} \delta^{A-a} \hat{y}_a}{\sum_{a=1}^{A-1} \delta^{A-a}} \quad (5)$$

where  $A \geq 1$  is the consumer's age and  $\hat{y}_a$  is the consumer's actual purchase share across all purchase occasions at age  $a$ . The parameter  $\delta \in [0, 1]$  governs the persistence of capital over time.

We assume that equation (3) describes the consumer's purchases at all earlier ages. We also assume that  $\alpha$  and  $X$  are constant; but that the capital stock,  $k$ , and the product characteristics,  $\xi$ , may have changed over time (for example, because the consumer moved from one state to another). When  $A = 1$ , and thus  $k$  is undefined, we assume  $U = \mu(X, \xi) - v$ . We can thus think of  $\mu(X, \xi)$  as the expected utility of a consumer who has never before purchased either of the top brands in module  $j$ , and so has acquired no brand capital.

It is straightforward to show that the linear recursive structure of equations (4) and (5) means we can write  $y$  as a weighted average of past  $\mu(X, \xi)$  plus a mean zero shock:

$$y_A = \sum_{a=1}^A w_a^A \mu(X, \xi_a) + \varepsilon_A \quad (6)$$

where  $\xi_a$  is the vector of product characteristics the consumer faced at age  $a$ ,  $E_v(\varepsilon_A) = 0$ ,  $w_a \in [0, 1]$ , and  $\sum_{a=1}^A w_a = 1$ .

Consider, now, the special case in which product characteristics,  $\xi$ , vary across states but are constant over time. It is immediate that if the consumer has lived in the same state throughout her life, her expected purchase share is simply  $y = \mu(X, \xi) + \varepsilon$ , where  $\xi$  are the product characteristics in her current state. Suppose instead that the consumer has moved exactly once: she lived in a state with characteristics  $\xi$  until

age  $a^*$  and then moved to a state with characteristics  $\xi'$ . It is immediate from equation (6) that

$$y_A = \beta \mu(X, \xi') + (1 - \beta) \mu(X, \xi) + \varepsilon_A. \quad (7)$$

where  $\beta = \sum_{a=a^*+1}^A w_a^A$  and, hence,  $\beta \in (0, 1)$ .

It is straightforward to derive an explicit expression for  $\beta$  as a function of the age at which the consumer left her birth state ( $a^*$ ) and the number of years she has lived in her current state ( $t^* = A - a^*$ ):

$$\beta = 1 - (1 - \alpha) \left[ \prod_{r=1}^{t^*-1} \left( 1 - \frac{\alpha}{\sum_{k=0}^{a^*+r-1} \delta^k} \right) \right], \quad (8)$$

if  $t^* > 1$ , and  $\beta = \alpha$  if  $t^* = 1$ . See Appendix A for the derivation of equation (8). Note that  $\lim_{t^* \rightarrow \infty} \beta = 1$ , and that  $\beta$  is increasing in  $t^*$ . Note also that  $\beta$  is decreasing in  $a^*$  for  $t^* > 1$ .

## 4.2 Discussion

The weight,  $\beta$ , in equation (7) is the model analogue of the relative share defined in section 3:  $\mu(X, \xi)$  is the average purchase share among non-migrants in a migrant's birth state,  $\mu(X, \xi')$  is the average purchase share among non-migrants in her current state, and  $\beta = \frac{y - \mu(X, \xi)}{\mu(X, \xi') - \mu(X, \xi)}$ .

The predictions of the model are consistent with the facts documented in section 3. A migrant's expected purchase share falls between the share among non-migrants in her market of current residence and non-migrants in her market of birth ( $0 < \beta < 1$ ). When an individual moves, a fraction  $\alpha$  of the market share gap between the two markets is closed immediately, as the product characteristics the consumer faces change from  $\xi$  to  $\xi'$  ( $\beta = \alpha$  at  $t^* = 1$ ). The parameter  $\alpha$  therefore captures the "on-impact" effect of moving. The on-impact effect is the same regardless of the age at which the consumer moved. The remaining  $1 - \alpha$  portion of the share gap closes gradually over time as her stock of brand capital adjusts. The adjustment is slower if  $\delta$  is close to one, and if the consumer was older when she moved (since in this case she has accumulated a larger stock of past brand experiences).

The model is restrictive in several important ways. First, we only model the relative utilities of the top two brands. We do not model the extensive margin of whether or not to make a purchase in a module at all, and we suppress substitution with other brands.



Second, we assume that the capital stock,  $k$ , and the current demand characteristics,  $\mu(X, \xi)$ , are separable in the indirect utility function. The influence of prices or advertising on indirect utility, and hence on demand, will be the same regardless of a consumer’s past experiences. The separability assumption delivers the prediction that the jump in relative share on moving (or “on-impact” effect) is the same regardless of the age at which a consumer moves. We make this assumption for tractability, and because it is consistent with the observed data, as seen in Figure 2.

Third, consumers in our model are myopic. We assume the consumer prefers the top brand to the second brand if and only if  $U \geq 0$ . A sophisticated, forward-looking consumer would take account of the way purchases today will affect her capital stock, and thus her expected utility, tomorrow. Demand would therefore depend not only on current product characteristics, but also on expected future product characteristics.

Finally, we assume that the capital stock is a weighted average of past consumption. As discussed above, past experiences could affect present demand through other channels. Past consumption might matter because of learning, and so enter current demand through beliefs rather than preferences. Past exposure to advertising or past observation of peers might matter independently of the level of past consumption. We see our evidence as potentially consistent with all of these stories and our data do not allow us to distinguish them completely. We specialize to a habit model mainly because it is a simple way to capture the key facts. We consider evidence for advertising and peer effects in section 7 below.

### 4.3 Estimation

Index consumers by  $i$ , modules by  $j$ , and states by  $s$  as in section 3. Index years by  $t$ . For each consumer  $i$ , we observe a vector of purchase shares with typical element  $\hat{y}_{ij}$ , a vector of observables  $X_i$ , and a vector  $M_i$  which encodes  $i$ ’s history of migration—her current and birth state, the age at which she moved ( $a_i^*$ ), and the number of years she has lived in her current state ( $t_i^*$ ). We use  $\hat{y}$ ,  $X$ , and  $M$  to denote the matrices which pool these vectors across  $i$ .

We parametrize baseline demand  $\mu()$  as:

$$\mu(X_i, \xi_{jst}) = \gamma_{jst} + X_i \lambda_j, \tag{9}$$

where  $\lambda$  is a vector of parameters and  $\gamma_{jst}$  is shorthand for the value  $\gamma(\xi_{jst})$  of a function mapping the vector of product characteristics  $\xi_{jst}$  to a scalar. The vector  $X_i$  includes log income, as well as dummies for age, Hispanic identity, race, educational attainment, and employment status.

Our first identifying assumption is that there are no unobserved consumer characteristics correlated with both purchases and the exogenous variables  $M_i$  and  $X_i$ :  $E(\hat{y}_{ij} - y_{ij}|X, M) = 0$ .

Our second identifying assumption is that, conditional on observables, the expectation of baseline demand in a given module-state pair in a past period is equal to the expectation in the current period. Denoting the value of  $\gamma_{jst}$  in the current period by  $\gamma_{js}$ , we assume:  $E(\gamma_{jst} - \gamma_{js}|X, M) = 0 \forall t$ .

For a consumer born in state  $s$  and currently living in  $s'$ , we then have:

$$E(\hat{y}_{ij}|X, M) = \begin{cases} \gamma_{js} + X_i \lambda_j & \text{if } s = s' \\ \beta(a_i^*, t_i^*; \alpha, \delta) [\gamma_{js'} + X_i \lambda_j] + [1 - \beta(a_i^*, t_i^*; \alpha, \delta)] [\gamma_{js} + X_i \lambda_j] & \text{if } s \neq s' \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

where  $\gamma_{js}$  denotes the current value of  $\gamma_{jst}$ , and  $\beta(a_i^*, t_i^*; \alpha, \delta)$  is given by equation (8). Note that we now allow  $\xi_{jst}$  to vary over time within a market. It is straightforward to show that  $\beta(a_i^*, t_i^*; \alpha, \delta)$  is the same as in equation (8), where we assumed that  $\xi$  was constant over time within a market.

We estimate the parameters of this model using a two-step, non-linear least squares estimator. In the first step, we estimate the parameters  $\{\gamma_{js}\}_{\forall s}$  and  $\lambda_j$  for each module  $j$  by running an OLS regression of  $\hat{y}_{ij}$  on  $X_i$  and a vector of state dummies using only the non-migrant consumers (for whom  $s = s'$ ). In the second step, we estimate the remaining parameters,  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$ , by minimizing  $[\hat{y}_{ij} - E(\hat{y}_{ij}|X, M)]^2$ , holding  $\{\gamma_{js}\}_{\forall j, s}$  and  $\{\lambda_j\}_{\forall j}$  constant at their estimated first-step values.<sup>5</sup>

We compute bootstrap standard errors, clustered by module. That is, we sample  $J$  modules with replacement at each iteration, and include all households in each selected module. Our standard error estimates are therefore robust to within-module correlation induced by, for example, variation over time in  $\gamma_{jst}$  or household-module-level unobservables.

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<sup>5</sup>We weight observations equally in our main specification. In Appendix B we show that our estimates are similar if we give more weight to households for which the observed number of purchases is large.

## 5 Evidence on Identifying Assumptions

### 5.1 No Selection on Unobservables

Our first identifying assumption is that there are no unobserved consumer characteristics correlated with both purchase shares,  $\hat{y}_{ij}$ , and the observables,  $M_i$  and  $X_i$ .

Of particular concern is the possibility that migrants are selected to have unobserved brand preferences intermediate between the typical non-migrant in their state of birth and their current state of residence. It could also be the case that migrants who stay in a state for many years after moving have characteristics more similar to lifetime residents of that state than migrants who only stay for a few years.

The first test of our identifying assumption is the within-consumer analysis presented in Figures 5 and 6 and discussed in section 3 above. We see that the migrants look similar to non-migrants in their birth states in the months before they move. The mean relative share pooling months 10/06 to 9/07 for migrants living in their current state less than a year is 0.093, the 95 percent confidence interval is  $(-0.025, 0.211)$ , and we fail to reject  $\beta = 0$  at the 10 percent level ( $p = 0.12$ ). The data are also consistent with a discrete jump in migrant purchases on moving. Moreover, purchase shares for these consumers prior to moving are not significantly related to the age at which they moved ( $p = 0.37$ ), providing no support for the hypothesis that the correlation between relative shares and age at move or years since moving in Figure 2 is primarily driven by selection on unobservables.

As a second test of our identifying assumption, we consider a sub-sample of brands that were introduced relatively recently. Under the assumptions of our model, a migrant who moved before either of two brands was introduced should have an expected purchase share no different from non-migrants in her current state of residence. If the identifying assumption was violated, where a consumer lived before the brands were introduced would be predictive of her characteristics, and so migrants who moved before a brand pair was introduced would look significantly different from non-migrants.

To execute this test, we select pairs of brands that we have confirmed were introduced in 1955 or later. To maximize the power of the test, we do not restrict attention to top-two brands, but include all brand pairs we could identify that were introduced late and have a significant number of purchases in our data. Our final sample includes 52 brand pairs. We compute relative shares,  $\beta_{iw}$ , for each pair  $w$  as in equation (1), and

estimate the regression

$$\beta_{iw} = (\omega_0 + \omega_1 t_i^*) I(t_i^* \leq T_w) + [\omega_2 + \omega_3 t_i^*] I(t_i^* > T_w) + \varepsilon_{iw}, \quad (11)$$

where  $T_w$  is the number of years at least one brand in pair  $w$  has been available,  $t_i^*$  is the number of years since  $i$  moved, and  $I(\cdot)$  is the indicator function. We weight observations by  $(\hat{\mu}_{s'j} - \hat{\mu}_{sj})^2$  as in equation (2) above. Under our identifying assumption, we expect  $\omega_1 > 0$ ,  $\omega_2 = 1$ , and  $\omega_3 = 0$ .

Table 4 presents the results. Consistent with our assumption, the coefficient on decades since moving is highly significant for those moving after the pair in question was introduced ( $\omega_1 > 0$ ), but insignificant for those moving before the pair was introduced ( $\omega_3 \approx 0$ ). Moreover, we cannot reject that the average shares of migrants who moved before the pair was introduced have the same average shares as non-migrants in their current state of residence ( $\omega_2 \approx 1$ ). The results are robust to focusing on the complete set of pairs introduced since 1955, pairs introduced after 1975, and pairs introduced after 1985.

## 5.2 Expected Past Shares Equal Present Shares

Our second identifying assumption is that, conditional on observables, the expectation of baseline demand in a given module-state pair in any past year is equal to the expectation in the current year.

To test this assumption, we study the 27 modules for which we observe purchases of both current top-two brands in the historical CCA data. For each module-state pair, we compute the current purchase share in the Homescan data across both migrants and non-migrants. We then compare this share to the analogous share in the CCA data for the years 1948-1968, computed as described in section 2.3 above. Under our identifying assumption, we expect that the regression of past shares on current shares should have an intercept of zero and a slope of one.

Note that this prediction would only hold exactly if we compared past and current purchases of non-migrants. We cannot perform this test, because the CCA data do not report shares by migration status. The regression of past on current shares will still be informative, however, so long as migrants are a relatively small share of the population and/or migration patterns have been relatively stable over time.

Figure 7 presents a scatterplot of current versus past purchase shares. Each observation is a state-module pair. The diameters of the circles are proportional to the number of years of CCA data we have for the

observation. The current and past shares are clearly not equal, possibly reflecting real changes in market structure over time as well as sampling variability. However, the fitted values, indicated by the dotted line, are very close to the 45-degree line.

Table 5 presents the corresponding regression of past shares on current shares, weighting by the number of years of CCA data, and clustering by module. The estimated constant is 0.084 and the estimated slope is 0.822. We cannot reject the joint hypothesis that the constant equals zero and the slope equals one ( $p = 0.30$ ).

A possible concern is that the coefficient in this regression may be attenuated by measurement error in the current shares. Consistent with this hypothesis, restricting the regression to state-module pairs where we observe at least 200 households making purchases in the Homescan data increases the estimated slope to 0.926 and reduces the estimated constant to 0.027. Restricting the sample to state-module pairs with at least 500 households increases the estimated slope to 1.039 and reduces the estimated constant to 0.001.

Together, this evidence supports the assumption that the best predictor of a past purchase share given the data we observe is the present purchase share.

## 6 Results

### 6.1 Parameter Estimates

Table 6 presents estimates of the brand-stock model described by equations (4) and (5). The first parameter of interest is  $\alpha$ , which represents the “on-impact” effect of moving to a different state. We estimate  $\alpha = 0.623$ , which is consistent with our descriptive analysis above and confirms that about 60% of the preference gap between territories is crossed on-impact when moving. Under the assumptions of our model, it also implies that 60% of the observed cross-state dispersion can be attributed to variation in supply-side factors  $\xi$ . The remainder, about 40% of regional share variation, can be attributed to consumers’ stock of brand capital.

The estimate of the persistence parameter,  $\delta$ , is 0.974. This magnitude is consistent with the earlier evidence that preferences appear highly persistent. The estimates suggest that it takes 26.5 years for half of a given year’s contribution to the capital stock to decay.

Figure 8 shows the analogue of Figure 2 predicted from the model at the estimated parameters. Figure

9 shows the residuals. The residuals do not show any strong systematic patterns, suggesting the model successfully matches the qualitative features of the data.

## 6.2 Demand Dynamics

To see what these estimates imply for long-run and short-run price responses, consider a hypothetical market in which the top two brands,  $A$  and  $B$ , have equal market shares ( $\mu(X, \xi) = 0.5$ ). Assume that the market has the same age distribution as the one observed in our Homescan sample, and that the current capital stock is  $k = 0.5$  for all consumers.

Suppose, now, that brand  $A$  cuts its price to a level that increases baseline demand,  $\mu(X, \xi)$ , from 0.5 to 0.6.<sup>6</sup> This change causes an immediate increase in brand  $A$ 's purchase share from 0.5 to  $\alpha 0.6 + (1 - \alpha) 0.5 = 0.56$ .

For a permanent price cut, the model implies that the purchase share will eventually rise to 0.6. These long-run payoffs will take many years to materialize, however. The dynamics of the purchase share following a permanent price cut will, by assumption, be the same as the dynamics of a migrant's share following a move, and so will have a path very similar to that shown in Figure 3.

Our model also implies that the price cut will have long-run effects even if it is temporary. Given the estimated parameters, however, these effects will typically be very small. If brand  $A$  reverts to its original price after one year, its purchase share falls from 0.562 to 0.501. The long-run effect of the price cut is thus 1.6 percent of the on-impact effect (although the slight increase will last for a long time). This observation may explain why studies of temporary changes in advertising intensity have generally failed to detect significant long-run effects beyond a horizon of a few months (Assmus, Farley, and Lehmann 1984, Bagwell 2007). It also suggests that the long-run preference formation we are studying here is a distinct phenomenon from the habit effects documented by Dubé, Hitsch and Rossi (2010), where brief price cuts lasting days or weeks have large effects on subsequent purchase behavior.

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<sup>6</sup>In Appendix C, we show that for a typical category this would amount to a discount of approximately 15 percent.

### 6.3 Early entry and catching up by the later entrant

In this section, we consider the implications of our findings for first-mover advantage. We simulate a hypothetical market in which two *ex-ante* symmetric brands,  $A$  and  $B$ , enter sequentially. For a given head start by brand  $A$ , we ask how much and for how long brand  $B$  would have to invest to achieve parity in purchase shares.

Let equation (4) be stated in terms of relative demand for brand  $B$ , so that  $y = 0$  corresponds to all consumers buying from  $A$  and  $y = 1$  corresponds to all consumers buying from  $B$ .

For simplicity, we consider a stylized setting in which the only brand characteristic that enters baseline demand is the allocation of shelf space in retailers. Firms  $A$  and  $B$  can make payments to retailers to give their brands more or less space. The brand characteristic  $\xi$  is the share of space devoted to  $B$ . Since the brands are otherwise symmetric, we assume an inexperienced consumer's probability of purchasing  $B$  will be equal to its share of space, so that  $\mu(X, \xi) = \xi$ .

In Appendix C, we present auxiliary estimates using store-level price and quantity data from IRI that allow us to give an alternative interpretation of our shelf-space counterfactuals in terms of relative price changes. Pooling across 30 categories, we estimate an average demand elasticity of substitution of  $\frac{\partial \log(\frac{y_A}{y_B})}{\partial \log(\frac{\text{price}_A}{\text{price}_B})} = -1.54$ .

Suppose that  $A$  has a head start of 5 years. During this period,  $y = 0$  as all consumers buy brand  $A$ . The accumulated capital stock at the end of those 5 years is  $k = 0$ . Brand  $B$  then enters and the two firms play a game that determines shelf space allocations. Abstracting from the details of this game, we know that if space allocations are equal ( $\xi = 0.5$ ), we will have  $y < 0.5$ , and  $y$  will converge toward 0.5 but never reach it. Brand  $B$  will, thus, never achieve parity in the purchase share. If  $B$  has the majority of shelf space ( $\xi > 0.5$ ), both  $y$  and  $k$  will reach 0.5 in some finite number of years. The larger is  $\xi$ , the faster the convergence. We can therefore ask how many years  $B$  would need to maintain a certain share of shelf space,  $\xi$ , to achieve purchase share parity.

More generally, we assume brand  $A$ 's head start is  $t \in \{1, 5, 10, 15, 25\}$  years and ask how fast the second firm achieves convergence using a level of  $\xi \in \{0.55, 0.60, 0.65, 0.70, 0.75\}$ . From the estimates in Appendix C, these shelf-space allocations are equivalent to price discounts of  $1 - p_B/p_A \in \{0.08, 0.15, 0.22, 0.28, 0.34\}$ . Over sufficiently long horizons, it is important to account for the fact that some consumers will die (destroy-

ing some of  $A$ 's capital) and others will be born (with much less of  $A$ 's capital). We run the simulations assuming that the age distribution is stable over time and matches the empirical distribution we observe in our Homescan sample.

Table 7 shows the required number of years to catch up. The results show that at the estimated  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$ , equalizing shares in a reasonable amount of time requires significant investment. If  $A$ 's head start is 5 years,  $B$  would need to hold 60 percent of shelf space (or discount its price by 15 percent) to reach market share parity in just more than a decade. To catch up in only 2 years,  $B$  would need to hold three quarters of shelf space or discount its price by more than 30 percent. If  $A$ 's head start were 15 years,  $B$  would require 23 years at 60 percent of shelf space, or 3 years at 75 percent of shelf space, to reach market share parity.

#### 6.4 Persistence under market shocks

Bronnenberg, Dhar, and Dubé (2009) show that regional share differences in consumer packaged goods industries persist over remarkably long periods of time. Current local shares are strongly predicted by who was the first entrant in a market, even when that entry happened a century ago, few consumers alive remember a time when both brands were not widely available, and the intervening years have seen large shocks to the economic environment such as the growth of supermarkets, changes in real income, wars, depression, and so on.

Our model does not predict how much persistence we should expect to see because it does not endogenize firm choices. The previous section showed that a second entrant would have to make large investments to catch up to the first entrant; it does not say anything about whether or not we will see those investments in equilibrium. In this section, we consider a specific assumption under which our model does have strong implications about persistence: complementarity between the stock of capital ( $k$ ) and current investments in gaining market share ( $\xi$ ).

In particular, extend the example of the previous section and suppose that supermarkets allocate shelf space in proportion to expected market share. That is, the shelf space allocation in period  $t$  is

$$\xi_t = \frac{1}{N_t} \sum_i y_{it}, \tag{12}$$

where  $N_t$  is the number of consumers in the market. Allocating shelf space proportional to market share



is in fact a common rule of thumb for retailers, and one that some argue will be approximately optimal.<sup>7</sup> Such a rule will lead intuitively to persistence in shares because a brand that has a lead in the capital stock of experienced consumers will have a larger share of shelf space and consequently be purchased more often even by inexperienced consumers.

We ask how much persistence this dynamic can explain in the presence of shocks to the two brands' shares in each period. As above, we assume  $\mu(X, \xi) = \xi$ , where  $\xi$  is the share of shelf space allocated to brand  $B$  and is given by equation (12). Expected purchase shares are:

$$y_{it} = \alpha \xi_t + (1 - \alpha) k_{it} + \kappa_t, \quad (13)$$

where  $\kappa_t$  is an i.i.d. shock distributed uniformly on  $[-\bar{\kappa}, \bar{\kappa}]$ . Because of transmission through the capital stock,  $k_{it}$ ,  $y_{it}$  depends on both past and present shocks.

We assume an existing market share for the leading brand of 0.75, which has been in place for as long as consumers live. We fix  $\alpha = 0.623$  (our empirical estimate), and simulate the evolution of market shares for different values of  $\delta$ , from 0.974 (our empirical estimate) in steps of 0.25 down to 0.224. We assume that the parameter governing the shock process is  $\bar{\kappa} = 0.05$ , a number we choose because it is at the upper end of typical annual share movements in consumer packaged goods.<sup>8</sup> We then forward simulate 100 years of evolution for our hypothetical market.

Figure 10 plots the distribution of the market shares in the final year of the simulation across 1000 replications. The first panel shows that when we fix  $\delta$  at its estimated value (0.974), long-run market shares remain closely concentrated around their initial value of 0.75, even after 100 years of shocks. The probabilities that market shares are within 10 or 20 share points of their initial value after 100 years are 72 percent and 100 percent respectively. The mechanism generating the persistence is the recency-weighted window of past experiences in the consumer's brand capital stock. Within this window, shocks tend to cancel out over time. It is, thus, the stock of brand capital that buffers against the reinforcement of demand and supply shocks. The weaker the brand stock, the more market shares are subject to exogenous shocks that

<sup>7</sup>See, e.g., references in Bultez and Naert (1988).

<sup>8</sup>Under the allocation in Equation (12), observe that equation (13) can be aggregated to  $y_t = \alpha y_t + (1 - \alpha) \int_i k_{it} f(i) di + \kappa_t$ , where  $f(i)$  is the age distribution in the population. Rearranging this aggregation, we obtain  $y_t = \int_i k_{it} f(i) di + \kappa_t / (1 - \alpha)$ . Hence, taking into account the allocation rule, the shocks on market shares are uniformly distributed on  $[-\bar{\kappa} / (1 - \alpha), \bar{\kappa} / (1 - \alpha)] \approx [-0.12, +0.12]$  at our estimated value for  $\alpha$ .

accumulate across time. Accordingly, the persistence weakens when we consider lower values for  $\delta$  and, effectively, shorten the relevant window of past experiences. The probability that market shares are within 10 share points of the initial values drops from 72% with  $\delta = 0.974$ , to 22% with  $\delta = 0.224$ , which is barely above the 20 percent one would expect if shares after 100 years attain a uniform distribution. As  $\delta$  decreases towards 0, historical advantages are all but erased.

From this simple simulation, we conclude that our estimates of preference persistence, combined with complementarity between current investment and brand capital, can rationalize stable market shares over long periods of time even in the presence of large shocks.

## 7 Mechanisms

### 7.1 Brand Capital

We estimate that 40 percent of current geographic variation in purchase shares is explained by variation in consumers' brand capital stocks. For tractability and ease of exposition, we have modeled brand capital formation in a habit framework, assuming the current capital stock is a function only of past consumption. As mentioned in the introduction, however, the brand capital stock may be partly a function of other variables, such as past exposure to advertising (Schmalensee 1983, Doraszelski and Markovich 2007), or past observations of consumption by peers (Ellison and Fudenberg 1995).

To provide a first look at the mechanism behind brand capital, we ask how our parameter estimates depend on whether a category has high or low levels of advertising. Recall that we define a category to have high advertising if total expenditure by the top two brands is greater than the 75th percentile among all categories in our dataset. We re-estimate our main model allowing both the weight on brand capital ( $1 - \alpha$ ) and the rate of persistence in brand capital  $\delta$  to differ by advertising intensity.

We also divide categories by the extent to which their consumption is socially visible. We code this measure subjectively. We judge products to be socially visible if (i) they are frequently consumed together with others in social situations, and (ii) they are frequently consumed or served directly from a package with the brand name visible. Products such as beer, soda, chips, ketchup, and cigarettes are therefore coded as socially visible. Products such as baby food, toothpaste, and cold remedies are not socially visible because

they fail criterion (i). Products such as gravy mixes, frozen pasta, and shredded cheese are not socially visible because they fail criterion (ii). See Appendix Table 2 for the module-by-module coding.

As with advertising, we allow both  $(1 - \alpha)$  and  $\delta$  to differ by social visibility. Note that the correlation between the dummy for high advertising and the dummy for high visibility is low, so the sample splits by advertising and visibility should capture independent variation.

Table 8 presents the results. We find that advertising-intense categories have a significantly lower value of  $\alpha$ , and thus a significantly larger weight on the brand capital stock in utility. We cannot interpret this difference as causal, but it is consistent with the stock of past advertising exposure influencing current willingness to pay above and beyond the effect of past consumption. We find no significant differences in  $\delta$ , consistent with the influence of past consumption and past advertising decaying at a similar rate.

We see a similar pattern with social visibility. We find that categories with a high degree of social visibility have a smaller estimated  $\alpha$ , implying greater weight on brand capital. This finding is consistent with past observations of peer consumption exerting an independent influence on current willingness to pay. We again find no significant difference in  $\delta$ .

## 7.2 Baseline Demand

The remaining 60 percent of geographic variation in purchase shares is driven by differences in baseline demand  $\mu(X, \xi)$ . Recall that the source of this result is the observation that when migrants move, their consumption shifts immediately toward the dominant brand in the destination market, closing 60 percent of the gap in purchase shares. It must be that migrants encounter some combination of lower prices, higher advertising, widespread availability, or other advantages of the dominant brand that lead to this jump in consumption. The results above do not speak to the role of specific supply-side variables, however.

We can use the aggregate IRI data to get some feel for the role of prices, display advertising, and feature advertising. Details of this exercise are provided in Appendix D. First, for each category, we compute the share of cross-market variation in the log difference in purchase shares explained by the following independent variables: (i) log relative prices, (ii) relative display intensity, (iii) relative feature intensity, and (iv) log relative prices, display intensity, and feature intensity together. We then compute the mean and standard deviation of these shares across categories.

We find that the cross-market correlation between relative shares and prices is  $-0.50$  in the average category. The average share of variance explained by prices is 32 percent. Clearly, one reason migrants adjust their purchases immediately on moving is that they encounter lower prices. We find that the cross-market correlation of relative shares with feature and display advertising is 0.44 and 0.42 respectively, explaining 28 percent and 24 percent of cross-market variation on average. Migrants also encounter more features and displays for the dominant brand. Together, prices, feature, and display explain 49 percent of the cross-market variation in the average category.

If prices, feature, and display are correlated with other market-level product characteristics such as shelf space allocations, however, these regressions will overstate the share of variation explained. To address this issue, we exploit the panel structure of our data. For each category, we regress the log difference in purchase shares at the category-market-week level on market and week dummies, plus each of the independent variables above. From each of these regressions, we compute predicted values by multiplying the independent variable(s) of interest by their estimated coefficient(s). We estimate the share of variance explained by dividing the variance of the predicted value by the variance of the dependent variable. Finally, we compute the mean and standard deviation of the estimated shares across categories.

From these specifications, we estimate that variation in relative prices explains 20 percent of cross-market variation (*std.dev.* = 13 percentage points). Variation in relative feature intensity explains 7 percent (*std.dev.* = 5 percentage points), variation in relative display intensity explains 11 percent (*std.dev.* = 9.8 percentage points), and all three marketing variables together explain 21 percent (*std.dev.* = 12 percentage points).

A candidate variable we are unable to measure is shelf space allocation, or availability more broadly. Marketing models used in practice to determine shelf space allocations often recommend that they be proportional to market share (Bultez and Naert 1988). To the extent that shelf space exerts a significant effect on consumption, shelf space could explain a significant share of the remaining variation.

Finally, it is possible that baseline demand depends in part on the observed consumption of others. This role for peer effects differs from the contribution to the brand capital stock discussed above. It would imply we might expect to see faster adjustment (higher  $\alpha$ ) for highly visible categories. As already discussed, Table 8 shows the opposite is true. This could mean that peer effects are not an important contributor to

baseline demand, or that this effect is outweighed by their contribution to brand capital.

## **8 Conclusions**

Our results suggest that much of consumers' observed willingness to pay for brands may reflect the influence of past experiences. We estimate that heterogeneity in brand capital explains a substantial share of geographic variation in purchases. Brand capital evolves endogenously as a function of consumers' life histories, and decays slowly once formed. Brand capital can explain large and long-lasting advantages to first movers. Finally, our results suggest that brand preferences play an especially important role in categories with high levels of advertising and social visibility.

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# Appendix

## A Derivation of Equation (8)

We first write  $y_{A+1}$  recursively as a function of  $y_A$ . Define  $\zeta_a = \hat{y}_a - y_a$ . For any  $A > a^*$ , we can expand equation (4) as:

$$y_A = \alpha \mu(X, \xi') + (1 - \alpha) \frac{\sum_{a=1}^{A-1} \delta^{A-a} (y_a + \zeta_a)}{\sum_{a=1}^{A-1} \delta^a} \quad (\text{A.1})$$

Combining equation (A.1) with the analogous expression for  $y_{A+1}$  we can show that :

$$y_{A+1} = \alpha \mu(X, \xi') \frac{\delta}{\sum_{a=1}^A \delta^a} + \left(1 - \alpha \frac{\delta}{\sum_{a=1}^A \delta^a}\right) y_A + \frac{(1-\alpha)}{\sum_{a=1}^A \delta^a} \delta \zeta_A \quad (\text{A.2})$$

Next, we write  $\beta(a^*, t^* + 1)$  as a function of  $\beta(a^*, t^*)$ . We know from equation (7) that for each  $a^*$  and  $t^*$  there exists  $\beta(a^*, t^*)$  such that

$$y_A = \beta(a^*, t^*) \mu(X, \xi') + (1 - \beta(a^*, t^*)) \mu(X, \xi) + \varepsilon_A.$$

Using this fact along with equation (A.2), we can show that:

$$\beta(a^*, t^* + 1) = \frac{\alpha}{\sum_{a=0}^{a^*+t^*} \delta^a} + \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{\sum_{a=0}^{a^*+t^*} \delta^a}\right) \beta(a^*, t^*)$$

Starting from the fact that  $\beta(a^*, 1) = \alpha$ , it is then straightforward to show that

$$\beta(a^*, t^* + 1) = 1 - (1 - \alpha) \prod_{j=1}^{t^*} \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{\sum_{i=0}^{a^*+j-1} \delta^i}\right).$$

## B Robustness Checks

Appendix Table 1 reports the results of several robustness checks. We re-estimate the brand-stock model described by equations (4) and (5) using alternative dependent variables. The top row in this table reports estimates using shares based on the number of purchases made. This is the case that is also reported in table 6 and serves as the benchmark. As alternatives, we use market shares based on three additional quantity variables: equivalent units, expenditures, and units. The variable “equivalent units” expresses a purchase in terms of weight, volume, or other measurement unit that allows for aggregation across different package sizes. The variable “expenditures” equals the amount of money that is spent on the brands under study. Finally, the variable “units” simply measures the number of discrete units bought. Appendix Table 1 shows that our results are not sensitive to our choice of quantity variable in computing brand shares.

Finally, denote the share of the top brand in module  $j$  by  $\bar{y}_j$  and the total number of purchases of the top 2 brands for household  $i$  by  $n_{ij}$ . The last row of estimates is obtained with brand shares defined by the number of purchases made by a household (as with the benchmark), but where each observation is weighted by the inverse of our estimate of the sample variance in household-level purchase shares  $\bar{y}_j (1 - \bar{y}_j) / n_{ij}$ . The results show that the estimated values of  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$  fall slightly, but the overall picture remains very similar.

## C Estimation of Elasticity of Substitution using IRI Data

We use aggregate store-level data on 2001-2005 purchases and prices from the IRI Marketing Data Set (Bronnenberg, Kruger, and Mela 2008) to estimate the average elasticity of substitution between the top two brands in a typical consumer packaged goods category. These data cover sales in 30 consumer packaged goods categories for 260 weeks across 47 markets. We use total volume by brand-market-week as our measure of purchases. We compute prices by dividing expenditure for each brand-market-week by volume. We focus on the top two brands in each category by total volume across all markets and weeks. For the top two brands in category  $j$ ,  $P_{1jmt}$  and  $P_{2jmt}$  are prices,  $F_{1jmt}$  and  $F_{2jmt}$  are the feature advertising intensity levels,  $D_{1jmt}$  and  $D_{2jmt}$  are the display advertising intensity levels, and  $y_{jmt}$  is the top brand's purchase share (as a fraction of all purchases of the top two brands). We define a brand's promotional intensity as the fraction of total volume sold in market  $m$  during week  $t$  under a given promotional advertising type.

We estimate the following reduced-form regression:

$$\log\left(\frac{y_{jmt}}{1-y_{jmt}}\right) = \tilde{\beta}_0^{jm} - \tilde{\beta}_1 \log\left(\frac{P_{1jmt}}{P_{2jmt}}\right) + \tilde{\beta}_2 \Delta Feat_{jmt} + \tilde{\beta}_3 \Delta Disp_{jmt} + \zeta_{jmt},$$

where  $j$  indexes IRI product categories,  $m$  indexes markets, and  $t$  now indexes weeks. The constant  $\tilde{\beta}_0^{jm}$  is a category-market fixed effect. We assume the error term  $\zeta_{jmt}$  is conditionally mean zero, and cluster standard errors by category.

Our estimate of the parameter  $\tilde{\beta}_1$ , the elasticity of substitution  $-\partial \log\left(\frac{y}{1-y}\right) / \partial \log\left(\frac{P_1}{P_2}\right)$  across these categories, is 1.54 with a standard error of 0.052.

Consider a hypothetical category where  $P_1 = P_2$ , the initial purchase share  $y$  is 0.5, and initial baseline demand  $\mu$  is also 0.5. We ask what change in relative prices would be equivalent to increasing baseline demand to  $\mu' > \mu$ . Note, first, that by equation (4)  $\log\left(\frac{y}{1-y}\right)$  increases from zero to  $\log\left(\frac{\alpha\mu' + (1-\alpha)0.5}{\alpha(1-\mu') + (1-\alpha)0.5}\right)$ . To produce this increase by cutting  $P_1$  to  $P_1'$  (holding  $P_2$  constant), we must have

$$\log\left(\frac{\alpha\mu' + (1-\alpha)0.5}{\alpha(1-\mu') + (1-\alpha)0.5}\right) = -\tilde{\beta}_1 \log\left(\frac{P_1'}{P_2}\right).$$

Solving this equation for  $\mu' \in \{0.55, 0.60, 0.65, 0.70, 0.75\}$  yields price discounts of  $1 - \frac{P_1'}{P_2} \in \{0.08, 0.15, 0.22, 0.28, 0.34\}$ .

## D Estimation of Correlations Between Shares and Marketing Variables using IRI Data

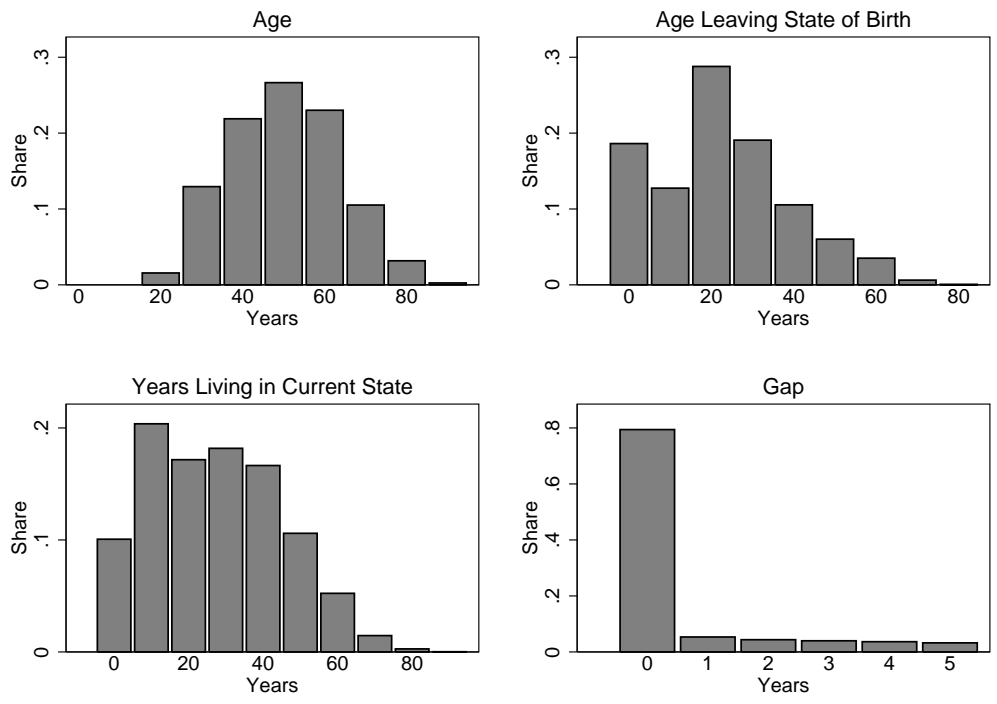
We use the same IRI data as in Appendix C to assess the extent to which point-of-purchase marketing variables drive the geographic variation in market shares. We focus on relative prices, feature advertising intensity, and display advertising intensity.

Following the analysis in Appendix C we define the dependent variable of interest to be the log ratio of purchase shares  $\log\left(\frac{y_{jmt}}{1-y_{jmt}}\right)$ , and we define log relative prices, relative feature intensity, and relative display intensity to be  $\log\left(\frac{P_{1jmt}}{P_{2jmt}}\right)$ ,  $\Delta Feat_{jmt}$ , and  $\Delta Disp_{jmt}$  respectively.

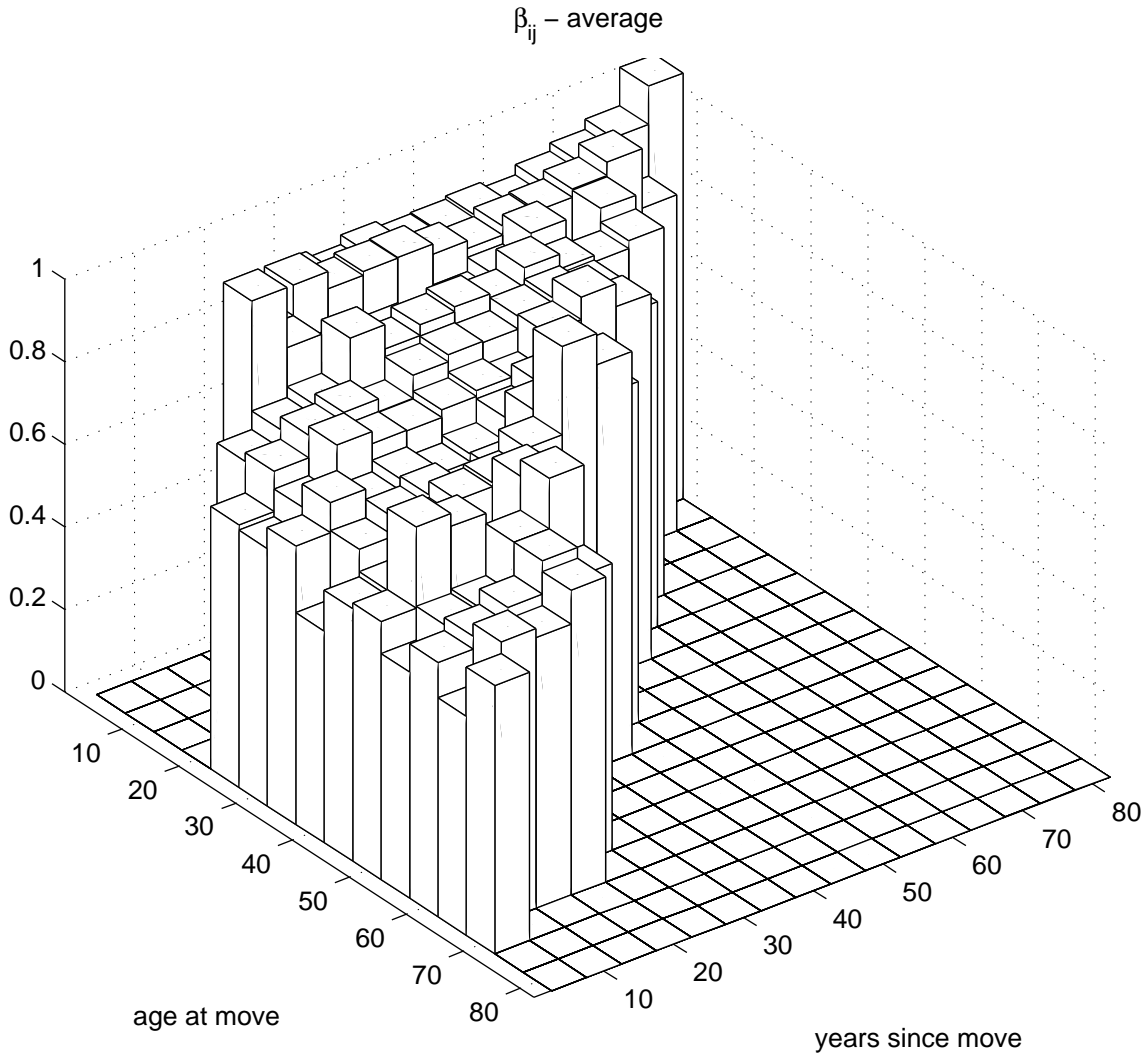
We first collapse the data to the category-market level by taking means across weeks of each variable. We then estimate the raw cross-market correlation in each category between the log ratio of shares and each marketing variable. We also run a regression in each category of the log ratio of shares on all three marketing

variables jointly and compute the  $R^2$ . We report the mean and standard deviation of the correlation and  $R^2$  across categories.

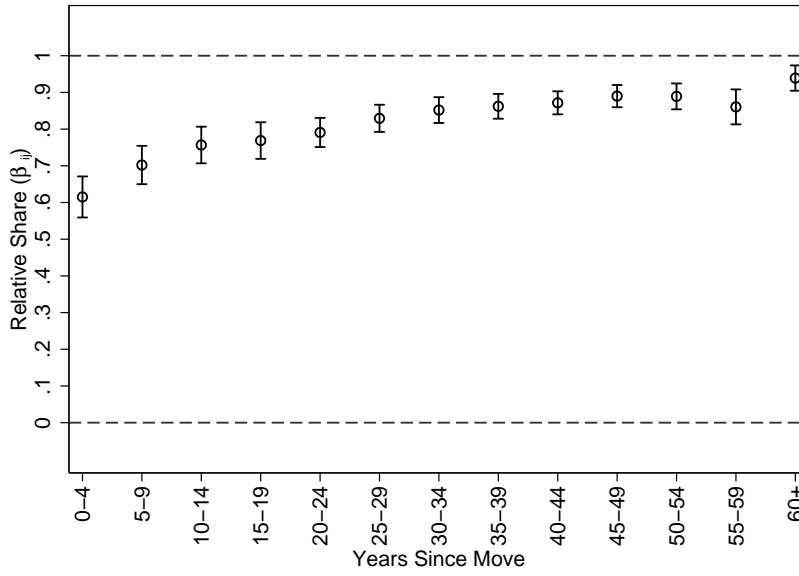
To address spurious correlation between these marketing variables and time-constant unobservables, we also estimate panel regressions with market and week fixed effects for each category. From each of these regressions, we compute predicted values by multiplying the independent variable(s) of interest by their estimated coefficient. We estimate the share of variance explained by dividing the share of the predicted value by the total variance of the dependent variable. Finally, we compute the mean and standard deviation of the estimated shares across categories.



**Figure 1:** Summary Statistics for Migrants

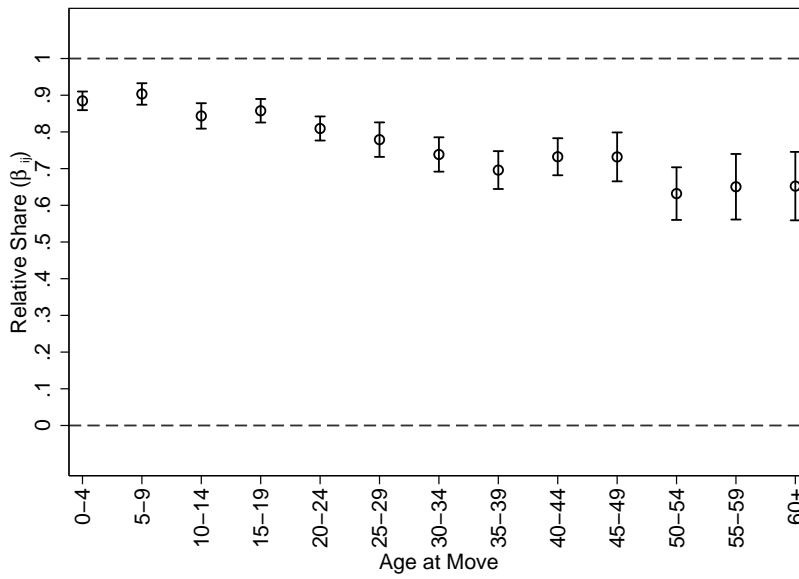


**Figure 2:** Relative Shares by Age at Move and Years Since Move



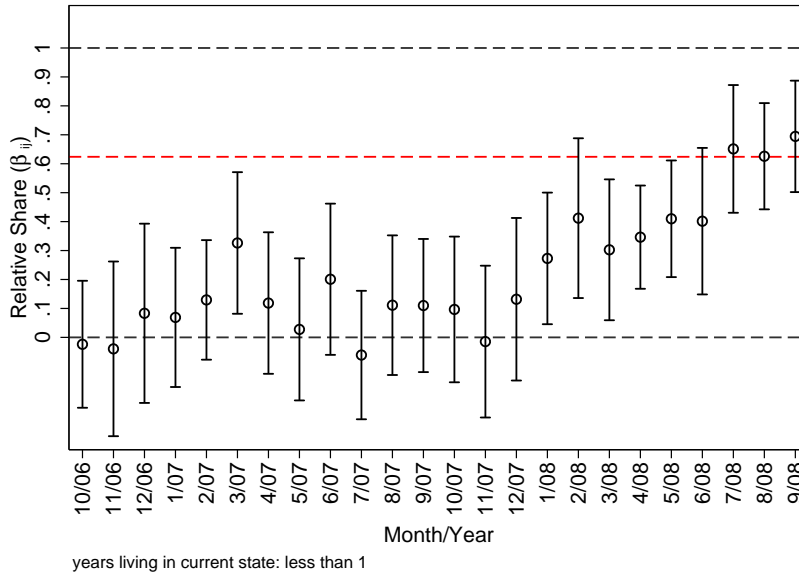
**Figure 3: Relative Shares by Years Since Move**

Notes: Whiskers indicate 95% confidence intervals. Standard errors clustered by module.



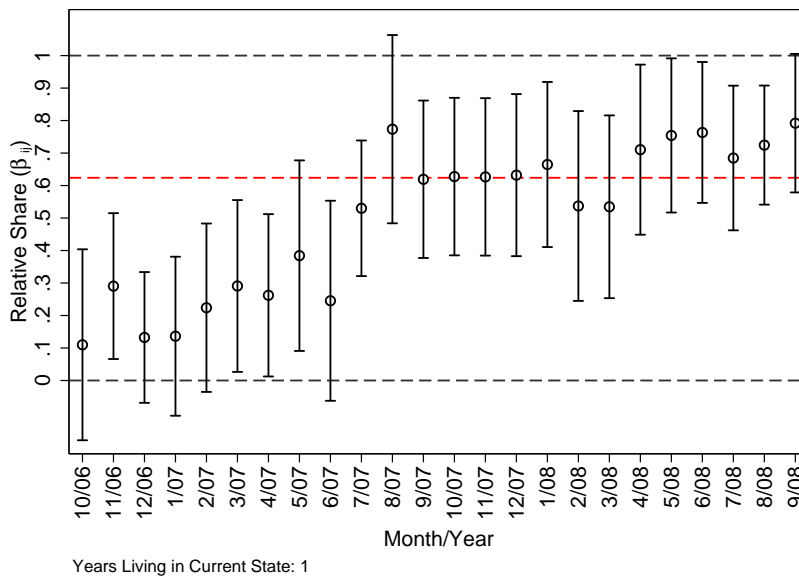
**Figure 4: Relative Shares by Age at Move**

Notes: Whiskers indicate 95% confidence intervals. Standard errors clustered by module.



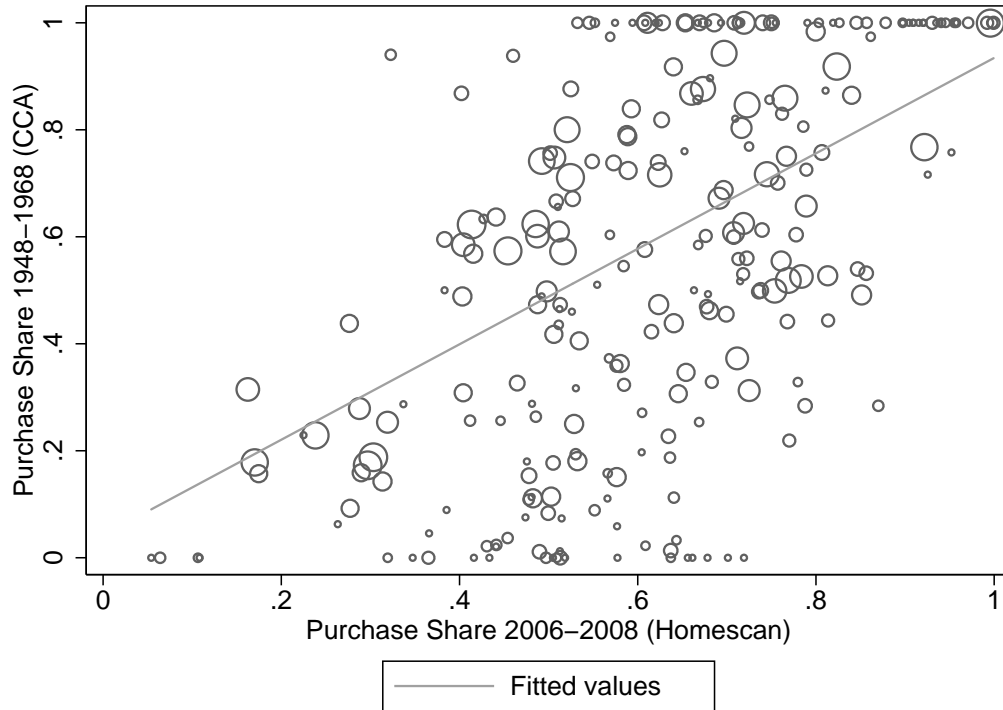
**Figure 5:** Relative Shares by Month (Moved 10/07-9/08)

Notes: Whiskers indicate 95% confidence intervals. Standard errors are clustered by module. The sample consists of migrants who report having lived in their current state less than 1 year. The dotted line at 0.62 indicates the relative share of recent migrants predicted from the cross-section.



**Figure 6:** Relative Shares by Month (Moved 10/06-9/07)

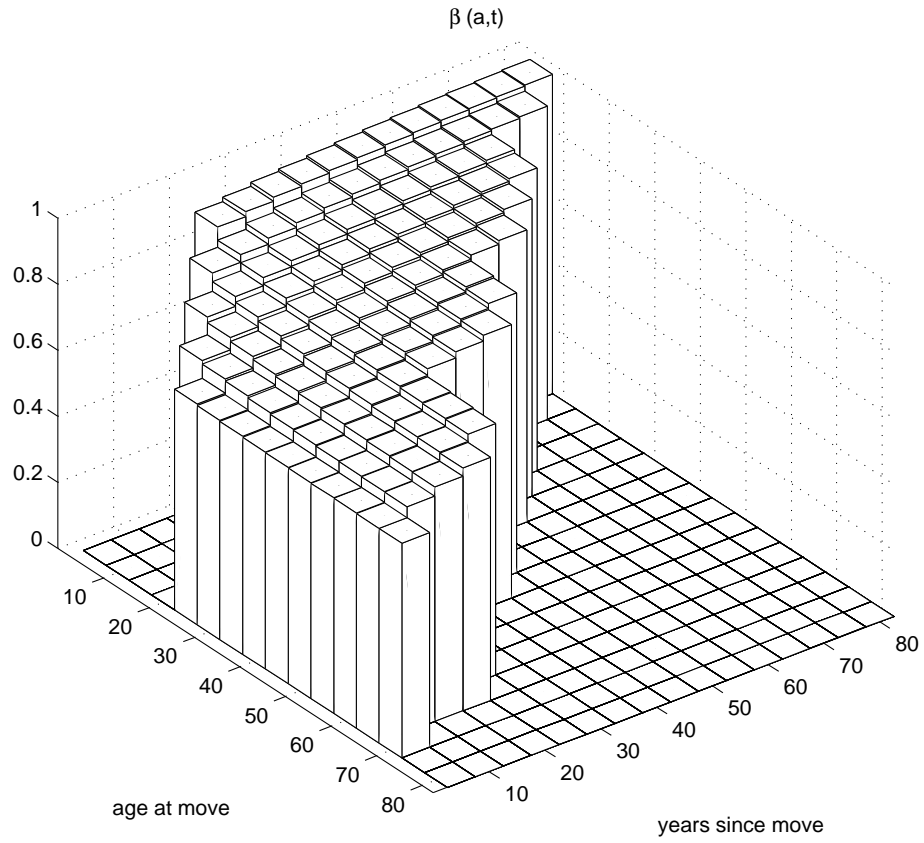
Notes: Whiskers indicate 95% confidence intervals. Standard errors are clustered by module. The sample consists of migrants who report having lived in their current state between 1 and 2 years. The dotted line at 0.62 indicates the relative share of recent migrants predicted from the cross-section.



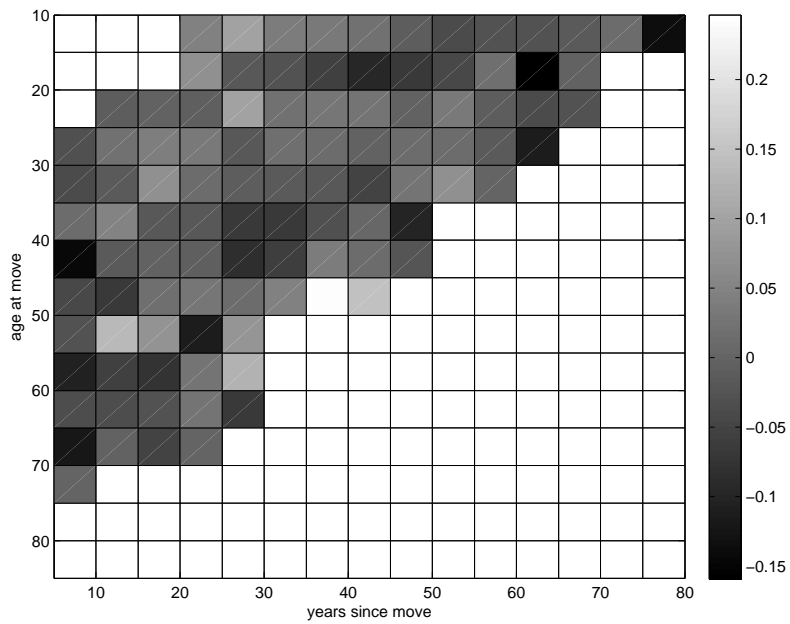
**Figure 7: Historical and Current Purchase Shares**

Notes: Each observation is a state-module pair. The y axis is average purchase share between 1948 and 1968, calculated using Consolidated Consumer Analysis. The x axis is the average purchase share in the 2006-2008 Homescan sample. The size of the circles indicates the number of years of CCA data used to calculate the historical purchase share. See section 5.2 for details.

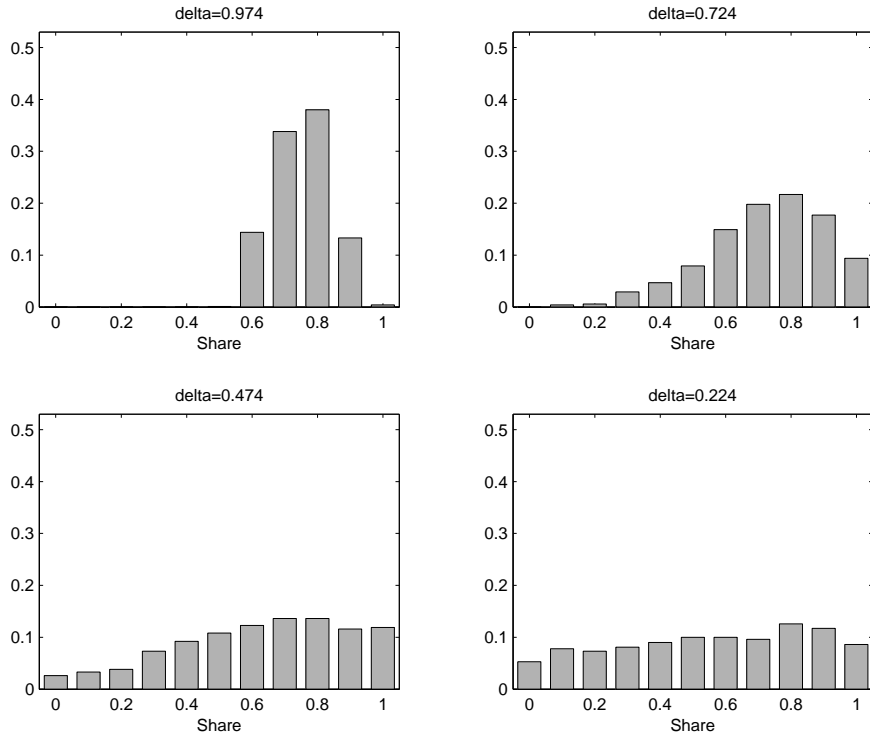




**Figure 8: Relative Shares (Fitted Values)**



**Figure 9: Relative Shares (Residuals)**



**Figure 10: Persistence of Market Shares under Exogenous Shocks**

Notes: Each panel contains the distribution of the long run predictions of market shares,  $y_t$ , at  $t = 100$ . To initialize the stock of brand capital in each age cohort, market shares are assumed to have a life-time history of  $y_t = 0.75$  for  $-100 < t < 1$ , so that the stock of brand capital has formed at 0.75 properly in each age cohort in our empirical sample. Distributions are computed across 1000 draws of the random shocks  $\kappa_t$ , [ $t = 1, \dots, 100$ ]. Comparisons across panels show the effect of the degree of persistence,  $\delta$ , in brand capital on long run stability of market shares subject to demand and supply shocks.

**Table 1: Migration Patterns**

Region of birth	Region of residence			
	North East	Midwest	South	West
North East	6765	269	1539	448
Midwest	165	10654	1377	885
South	193	435	9725	292
West	56	214	341	4740

Notes: Table shows the number of households in the Nielsen Homescan sample by census region of birth and current residence.

**Table 2: Summary Statistics for Final Sample**

---

# Categories	238
# Households	
Non-migrant	27686
Migrant	10412
Mean across categories:	
Avg. purchases of #1 brand	3.0
Avg. purchases of #2 brand	1.7
Avg. purchase share ( $\hat{y}_{ij}$ )	0.63
Cross-state standard deviation of avg. purchase share for non-migrants	0.15
Avg. absolute difference between purchase share in birth and current state for migrants	0.11

---

Notes: #1 and #2 brand in each module defined by total purchases. Purchase share  $\hat{y}_{ij}$  is purchases of #1 brand / (purchases of #1 brand + purchases of #2 brand). Cross-state standard deviation is computed by averaging  $\hat{y}_{ij}$  within each state-module pair, taking the standard deviation across states within each module, and then taking the mean of this standard deviation across modules.

**Table 3:** The Evolution of Brand Preferences for Migrants

Dependent variable: Relative share ( $\beta_{ij}$ )					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Decades since move	0.098 (0.009)	0.079 (0.009)	0.075 (0.010)	- -	0.092 (0.016)
Decades since move squared	-0.009 (0.001)	-0.008 (0.001)	-0.007 (0.001)	- -	-0.010 (0.004)
Age (in decades) when moved	- -	-0.018 (0.005)	- -	-0.019 (0.005)	-0.013 (0.008)
Constant	0.624 (0.029)	0.705 (0.026)	- -	- -	0.668 (0.037)
Decades since move fixed effects	no	no	no	yes	no
Age when moved fixed effects	no	no	yes	no	no
Sample	all	all	all	all	age moved $\geq 25$
# modules	238	238	238	238	238
# HH-module observations	528621	528621	528621	528621	212957

Notes: The dependent variable  $\beta_{ij}$  is the share of a migrant's top-two brand purchases going to the top brand, scaled relative to non-migrants in her current and birth states.  $\beta_{ij} = 1$  implies her purchase share matches non-migrants in her current state.  $\beta_{ij} = 0$  implies her purchase share matches non-migrants in her birth state. See section 3 for details.

**Table 4:** Brand Pairs Introduced after 1954

Dependent variable: Relative share ( $\beta_{ij}$ )			
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Moved after brand introduced:			
Decades since move ( $\omega_1$ )	0.007 (0.002)	0.007 (0.003)	0.018 (0.005)
Constant ( $\omega_0$ )	0.657 (0.055)	0.701 (0.075)	0.693 (0.090)
Moved before brand introduced:			
Decades since move ( $\omega_3$ )	0.001 (0.002)	0.001 (0.002)	0.001 (0.002)
Constant ( $\omega_2$ )	0.854 (0.100)	0.852 (0.101)	0.880 (0.101)
Only brand pairs introduced after			
	1954	1975	1985
# brand pairs	52	24	11
# HH-pair observations	86805	43083	22088

Notes: The dependent variable  $\beta_{ij}$  is the share of a migrant's top-two brand purchases going to the top brand, scaled relative to non-migrants in her current and birth states.  $\beta_{ij} = 1$  implies her purchase share matches non-migrants in her current state.  $\beta_{ij} = 0$  implies her purchase share matches non-migrants in her birth state. The sample includes purchases of brand pairs introduced in 1955 or later. The coefficients in the first two rows apply to migrants who moved after the first brand in the pair in question was introduced. The coefficients in the following two rows apply to migrants who moved before the first brand in the pair was introduced. See section 5.1 for details.

**Table 5: Current and Historical Purchase Shares**

Dependent variable: Purchase share 1948-1968			
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Current purchase share	0.822 (0.119)	0.926 (0.105)	1.039 (0.089)
Constant	0.084 (0.082)	0.027 (0.077)	0.001 (0.080)
Only include obs. if # Homescan HHs	$\geq 0$	$\geq 200$	$\geq 500$
<i>p</i> -value for (coeff=1) & (cons=0)	0.300	0.746	0.793
# Modules	27	25	21
# State-module obs.	325	188	115

Notes: Each observation is a state-module pair. The dependent variable is the estimated average purchase share in the state-module between 1948 and 1968, calculated using Consolidated Consumer Analysis. The right-hand side variable is the average purchase share in the 2006-2008 Homescan sample. All regressions weighted by the number of years of CCA data used to calculate the historical purchase share. The second column excludes observations where the number of observations used to compute the current purchase share is less than 200. The third column excludes observations where the number of observations is less than 500. See section 5.2 for details.

**Table 6: Structural Parameters**

$\alpha$	0.623 (0.025)
$\delta$	0.974 (0.006)
Mean of $\gamma_{js} + X_i \lambda_j$	0.636 (0.013)
Half-life of brand capital (years)	26.5
fval ( $10^6$ )	0.089

Notes: Table reports two-stage NLLS estimates of model parameters as defined in section 4.1.



**Table 7: First Mover Advantage***Investment years to equate shares*

First Entrant's Head Start ( $t$ )	Shelf Space Investment ( $\xi$ ) by Second Entrant				
	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.75
1 year	10	4	2	1	1
5 years	27	12	6	3	2
10 years	34	19	10	5	2
15 years	36	23	13	7	3
25 years	38	26	17	9	4
Price Discount by Second Entrant Equivalent to this Shelf Space Investment ( $\xi$ )	8%	15%	22%	28%	34%

Notes: An entry in the table is the number of years that a second entrant would need to maintain a certain share of shelf space in order to achieve parity in brand shares, under the assumption that baseline demand  $\mu(X, \xi)$  is equal to the share of shelf space. Rows indicate the assumed number of years that the first entrant was in the market alone. Columns indicate the investment level of the second entrant. See section 6.3 for details. Equivalent price discounts are estimated from aggregate IRI data on prices and quantities as described in Appendix C.

**Table 8:** Structural Parameters by Advertising Intensity and Social Visibility

	Advertising			Visibility		
	low	high	diff	low	high	diff
$\alpha$	0.652 (0.028)	0.492 (0.030)	0.160 (0.042)	0.669 (0.035)	0.544 (0.027)	0.125 (0.046)
$\delta$	0.976 (0.007)	0.965 (0.012)	0.011 (0.014)	0.981 (0.008)	0.964 (0.011)	0.017 (0.014)

Notes: The first through third columns report parameter estimates from a specification in which  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$  are allowed to differ for “low advertising” and “high advertising” categories. The fourth through sixth columns report parameter estimates from a specification in which  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$  are allowed to differ for “low social visibility” and “high social visibility” categories. See section 7 for details.

**Appendix Table 1: Robustness of Structural Parameters**

Dependent Variable	Weights	$\alpha$	(s.e. $\alpha$ )	$\delta$	(s.e. $\delta$ )
purchases	no	0.623	(0.025)	0.974	(0.006)
equivalent units	no	0.623	(0.027)	0.974	(0.008)
expenditures	no	0.622	(0.025)	0.974	(0.006)
unit sales	no	0.623	(0.025)	0.974	(0.006)
purchases	yes	0.607	(0.040)	0.948	(0.008)

Notes: The table reports our estimates for  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$  using different dependent variables and weights. Weights are defined in appendix B. Standard errors (s.e.) appear in parentheses and were computed using the bootstrap, drawing the purchases of a random set of modules with replacement across 25 replications.

**Appendix Table 2: Modules, Top Two Brands, and Selected Module Characteristics**

Module	Brand 1	Brand 2	Aggregate Purch Share	Cross-State SD	Ad Intense	Socially Visible
Abrasive Clnsr-Liq	Soft Scrub	Comet	.90	.07	0	0
Abrasive Clnsr-Pwdr	Comet	Ajax	.78	.08	0	0
Adult Incont. Prod	Poise	Tena Serenity	.68	.15	0	0
Analgesic/Chest Rubs	Icy Hot	Vicks Vaporub	.55	.12	0	0
Antacids	Prilosec	Rolaids	.71	.08	1	0
Anti-Gas Products	Beano	Gas-X	.52	.13	0	0
Auto. Dishwshr Cmpnd	Cascade	Electrasol Jet-Dry	.73	.08	0	0
Baby Food-Strained	Gerber	Beechnut Stages	.70	.17	0	0
Bakery Bagels	Thomas'	Sara Lee	.74	.29	0	0
Bakery Bfast Rolls	Little Debbie	Entenmann's	.64	.24	0	0
Bakery Bread	Nature's Own	Sara Lee Soft & Smth	.50	.32	0	0
Bakery Buns	Sara Lee	Wonder	.61	.32	0	0
Bakery Cakes	Little Debbie	Hostess	.91	.07	0	0
Bakery Cheesecake	The Father's Table	Cheesecake Factory	.59	.24	0	0
Bakery Doughnuts	Hostess	Entenmann's	.52	.27	0	0
Bakery Misc.	Homestyle	Flatout	.51	.26	0	0
Bakery Pies	Little Debbie	JJ's	.52	.29	0	0
Bakery Rolls	King's Hawaiian	Martin's	.51	.36	0	0
Baking Cups & Liners	Reynolds	Wilton	.78	.07	0	0
Bath Additive-Liq	Lander	Mr. Bubble	.73	.20	0	0
Beer	Budweiser	Miller High Life	.64	.19	1	1
Bouillon	Wyer's	Knorr	.61	.25	0	0
Breath Sweetener	Tic Tac	Breath Savers	.72	.07	0	1
Butter	Land O Lakes	Challenge	.86	.27	0	0
Candy-Choc Minis	M&M Mars Snickers	Reese's Pnt Btrr Cup	.51	.07	0	1
Candy-Chocolate	M&M Mars M&M Plain	Reese's Pnt Btrr Cup	.52	.06	1	1
Candy-Diet. Non Choc	Life Savers	Baskin-Robbins	.68	.14	0	1
Candy-Dietetic Choc	Russell Stover	Whitman's Wgt Wtchrs	.81	.14	0	1
Candy-Hard Rolled	Pez	Smarties	.52	.11	0	1
Candy-Lollipops	Tootsie Roll Pops	Spangler Dum Dum Pop	.67	.11	0	1
Candy-Non Choc Minis	Tootsie Roll	M&M Mars Skittles	.76	.08	0	1
Candy-Non Chocolate	Y&S Twizzlers	Just Born	.51	.13	0	1
Candy-Special Choc	Hershey's Kisses	Russell Stover	.54	.07	0	1
Caramel Corn	Crunch 'n Munch	Cracker Jack	.71	.09	0	1
Cat Food-Dry	Meow Mix	Purina Cat Chow	.50	.07	0	0
Catsup	Heinz	Hunt's	.66	.13	0	1
Cereal-Dry	G M Cheerios	Post Hny Bnchs Oats	.54	.07	1	0
Cereal-Granola	Sunbelt	Nature Valley	.55	.16	0	0
Cheese-Amren Cheddar	Kraft	Cracker Barrel	.66	.33	0	0
Cheese-Amren Colby	Kraft	Crystal Farms	.81	.23	0	0
Cheese-Grated	Kraft	4C	.92	.06	0	0
Cheese-Misc.	Kraft	Sargento	.66	.12	0	0
Cheese-Mozzarella	Frigo Cheese Heads	Kraft Snkbls Polly-O	.68	.18	0	0
Cheese-Muenster	Sargento	Finlandia	.79	.22	0	0
Cheese-Shredded	Kraft	Sargento	.72	.15	0	0

Module	Brand 1	Brand 2	Aggregate Purch Share	Cross- State SD	Ad Intense	Socially Visible
Cheese-Specialty	Athenos	Sargento	.52	.16	0	0
Cheese-Swiss	Sargento	Kraft Deli Deluxe	.61	.15	0	0
Cigarettes	Marlboro	Doral	.83	.11	0	1
Cleaner-Bathroom	Scrubbing Bubbles	Arm & Hammer Cn Shwr	.81	.05	1	0
Cleaner-Disinfectant	Clorox	Lysol	.52	.11	1	0
Cleaner-Metal	Jet-Dry	Dishwasher Magic	.58	.21	0	0
Cleaner-Non Disfnct	Pine-Sol	Mr. Clean	.51	.16	0	0
Cleaner-Window	Windex	Sprayway	.92	.07	0	0
Coffee & Tea Filters	Melitta	Brew Rite	.60	.13	0	0
Coffee-Grnd/Bean	Maxwell House	Folgers	.50	.17	1	0
Coffee-Soluble	Folgers	Nescafe Taster's Chc	.54	.11	0	0
Coffee-Soluble Flv	General Foods Int'l	Hills Bros	.74	.15	0	0
Cola-Diet	Diet Coca-Cola	Diet Pepsi	.55	.11	1	1
Cola-Regular	Coca-Cola Classic	Pepsi	.52	.12	1	1
Cold Remedies-Adult	Benadryl	Vicks Nyquil	.55	.10	1	0
Cold Remedies-Child	Tylenol Plus	Benadryl	.50	.21	0	0
Conditioner	Pantene Pro-V	Suave Naturals	.51	.09	1	0
Contact Lens Soln	Alcon Opti-Free Rpl	B&L Renu Multiplus	.62	.17	0	0
Cookies	Little Debbie	Nabisco Oreo	.55	.12	1	1
Corn Chips	Fritos	Wise Dipsy Doodles	.99	.02	0	1
Corn Dogs	State Fair	Foster Farms	.69	.21	0	0
Cough Drops	Halls	Ricola	.91	.08	0	0
Cough Syrups/Tablets	Mucinex DM	Delsym	.66	.13	1	0
Crackers-Butter	Nabisco Ritz	Keebler Townhouse	.76	.09	1	0
Crackers-Cheese	Sunshine Cheez-It	Pepprdge Fm Goldfish	.65	.06	1	0
Crackers-Flake	Keebler Club	Lance	.97	.04	0	0
Crackers-Oyster	Nabisco Dandy	Vista	.76	.15	0	0
Crackers-Sandwich	Austin	Lance	.55	.22	0	1
Crackers-Soda	Nabisco Premium	Keebler Zesta	.76	.19	0	0
Dental Floss	J&J Reach	Crest Glide	.59	.08	0	0
Denture Cleanser	Polident	Efferdent	.56	.15	0	0
Deodorant-Misc.	Secret	Mitchum	.58	.15	0	0
Deodorant-Solid	Degree	Secret	.54	.07	1	0
Depilatories-Women's	Nair	Sally Hansen	.54	.16	0	0
Detergent-Heavy Duty	Tide	Purex	.56	.05	1	0
Detergent-Light Duty	Dawn	Palmolive	.56	.09	1	0
Detergent-Packaged	Tide	Gain	.60	.21	0	0
Dip Mix	Hidden Valley Ranch	Concord Foods	.78	.11	0	0
Dip-Canned	Frito-Lay	Tostitos	.65	.14	0	1
Dishwshr Rinsing Aid	Jet-Dry	Cascade Crystal Clr	.80	.07	0	0
Disinfectants	Lysol	Clorox	.80	.06	0	0
Disposable Cups	Dixie	Dart	.77	.16	0	0
Disposable Diapers	Pampers	Huggies	.53	.13	1	0
Disposable Dishes	Dixie	Hefty	.68	.16	0	0
Dog & Cat Treats	Whiskas Temptations	Milk-Bone	.60	.12	0	0
Dog Food-Dry	Purina Beneful	Iams	.52	.14	1	0
Dog Food-Wet	Purina Alpo	Pedigree	.53	.13	0	0

Module	Brand 1	Brand 2	Aggregate Purch Share	Cross-State SD	Ad Intense	Socially Visible
Eye Drops & Lotions	Visine	Alcon Systane	.53	.16	0	0
Facial Tissue	Kleenex	Puffs	.63	.07	1	0
Floor Care Cleaner	Swiffer Wet Jet	Clorox Ready Mop	.87	.11	1	0
Foot Cmfrt Products	Gold Bond	Dr Scholl's	.63	.18	0	0
Foot Prepn-Athlts Ft	Lamisil AT	Tinactin	.54	.21	0	0
Foot Prepn-Misc.	Dr Scholl's	Pro Foot	.85	.07	0	0
Frozen Dinners	Banquet	Healthy Chc Cmpt Slc	.67	.09	1	0
Frozen Pot Pies	Banquet	Marie Callender's	.52	.11	0	0
Frozen Snacks	Totino's	Superpretzel	.76	.12	0	0
Fruit Drinks-Misc.	Minute Maid	Tropicana	.65	.18	0	1
Fruit Juice-Misc.	Dole	Tropicana	.78	.14	0	1
Fruit Juice-Orange	Tropicana	Minute Maid	.67	.16	0	1
Fruit Spread	Smucker's Simply Frt	Polaner	.52	.27	0	1
Frzn Asian Entrees-1	Weight Watchers	Tai Pei	.59	.17	0	0
Frzn Asian Entrees-2	Lean Csn Cafe Clsscs	Banquet	.56	.13	0	0
Frzn Italn Entrees-1	Weight Watchers	Bertolli	.63	.08	1	0
Frzn Italn Entrees-2	Weight Watchers	Healthy Chc Simp Slc	.51	.17	1	0
Frzn Meat Entrees-1	Banquet	On-Cor	.56	.22	0	0
Frzn Meat Entrees-2	Lean Csn Cafe Clsscs	Boston Market	.51	.13	0	0
Frzn Mexcn Entrees-1	El Monterey	Jose Ole	.67	.16	0	0
Frzn Mexcn Entrees-2	Weight Watchers	Banquet	.60	.18	0	0
Frzn Misc. Entrees-1	Stouffer's	Mrs. T's	.57	.18	1	0
Frzn Pltry Entrees-1	Tyson	Banquet	.68	.10	0	0
Frzn Pltry Entrees-2	Weight Watchers	Boston Market	.62	.15	0	0
Frzn Seafd Entrees-1	Gorton's	Weight Watchers	.64	.16	0	0
Gelatin Salad-Refrig	Jell-O Ref	Winky Ref	.89	.09	0	0
Gravy Mix	McCormick	Pioneer	.74	.15	0	0
Gravy-Canned	Heinz Homestyle	Campbell's	.56	.12	0	0
Gum-Bubble	Dubble Bubble	Adams Bubblicious	.73	.11	0	1
Hair Color-Women's	Clairol Nice 'n Easy	Revlon Colorsilk	.55	.08	1	0
Hair Prepn-Women's	Sunsilk	Pantene Pro-V	.54	.18	0	0
Hair Spray-Women's	Suave	White Rain	.55	.10	0	0
Hand Sanitizer	Germ-X	Purell	.52	.13	0	0
Health Bars/Sticks	Zone Perfect	Clif	.52	.20	0	1
Hominy Grits	Quaker	Jim Dandy	.88	.11	0	0
Honey	Sue Bee	Golden Nectar	.68	.24	0	1
Horseradish	Silver Spring	Gold's	.59	.38	0	0
Ice Cream Cones	Joy	Keebler	.53	.13	0	1
Ice Cream-Bulk	Breyers	Dreyer/Edy's Slw Chn	.64	.12	0	1
Ice Milk & Sherbet	Dreyer's/Edy's	Blue Bell	.66	.36	0	1
Insoles	Dr Scholl's	Pro Foot	.77	.10	1	0
Jam	Smucker's	Welch's	.76	.10	0	1
Jelly	Welch's	Smucker's	.59	.12	0	1
Laxatives	Metamucil	Benefiber	.56	.18	1	0
Lemon/Lime-Diet	Sprite Zero	Diet Seven Up	.51	.16	0	1
Lemon/Lime-Regular	Sprite	Seven Up	.66	.14	1	1
Light Beer	Bud Light	Miller Lite	.56	.17	1	1

Module	Brand 1	Brand 2	Aggregate Purch Share	Cross- State SD	Ad Intense	Socially Visible
Lighters	Bic	Scripto	.78	.07	0	1
Lip Remedies-Misc.	Carmex	Blistex	.70	.16	0	0
Lip Remedies-Solid	Chap Stick	Blistex	.76	.05	0	0
Lunches-Refrig	Osc Mayer Lunchables	Armour Lunch Makers	.85	.09	1	0
Margarine & Spreads	Shedd's	Blue Bonnet	.51	.12	0	0
Marshmallows	Kraft Jet Puffed	Campfire	.94	.05	0	1
Mayonnaise	Hellmann's	Kraft	.55	.25	0	1
Meat Snacks	Jack Link's	Slim Jim	.55	.15	0	1
Medical Accsry-Misc.	Ezy-Dose	Apex	.53	.17	0	0
Medical Wrap/Brace	Mueller Sport Care	Ace	.66	.14	0	0
Minerals	Nature Made	Caltrate 600 + D	.60	.13	0	0
Misc. Carb. Bev-Diet	Diet Dr Pepper	Diet Mountain Dew	.51	.13	1	1
Misc. Carb. Bev-Reg	Mountain Dew	Dr Pepper	.53	.14	1	1
Mustard	French's	Gulden's	.86	.10	0	1
Nasal Product	Afrin	Zicam	.62	.13	0	0
Nutritional Supplmt	Nature Made	Rexall	.56	.16	0	0
Oral Rnse/Antiseptic	Listerine	Crest Pro-Health	.74	.05	1	0
Pain Remedy-Chld Liq	Children's Motrin	Chldrn's Tylenol Liq	.63	.12	0	0
Pain Remedy-Headache	Tylenol	Aleve	.52	.07	1	0
Paper Napkins	Mardi Gras	Vanity Fair	.57	.11	0	0
Paper Towels	Bounty	Kleenex Viva	.70	.06	1	0
Pasta-Frzn	Rosetto	Celentano	.60	.36	0	0
Pasta-Refrig	Buitoni	Monterey Pasta Co.	.85	.10	0	0
Peanut Butter	Jif	Skippy	.64	.19	0	1
Pet Care-Bird Food	Pennington	Morning Song	.58	.31	0	0
Pet Care-Pet Food	Wardley	Kaytee	.58	.12	0	0
Petroleum Jelly	Vaseline	Personal Care	.72	.14	0	0
Pizza-Frozen	DiGiorno	Red Baron	.51	.07	1	0
Pizza-Refrig	Mama Rosa's	Uno	.85	.20	0	0
Popcorn-Popped	Smartfood	O-Ke-Doke	.65	.35	0	1
Popcorn-Unpopped	Orville Rdnbacher's	Act II	.63	.09	0	0
Pork Rinds	Baken-Ets	Mac's	.74	.23	0	1
Potato Chips	Lay's	Pringles	.54	.07	0	1
Pre-Moistened Towels	Kleenex Cttnlle Frsh	Huggies	.61	.09	0	0
Precut Salad Mix	Fresh Express	Dole Fresh Favorites	.70	.21	0	0
Preserves	Smucker's	Polaner	.89	.09	0	1
Pretzels	Snyder's of Hanover	Rold Gold	.60	.17	0	1
Proc. Cheese Slices	Kraft Singles	Borden	.67	.22	0	0
Proc. Cheese Snacks	The Laughing Cow	Kraft Easy Cheese	.57	.15	0	0
Proc. Cheese-Amrcn	Kraft Singles	Borden	.76	.11	0	0
Razor-Disposable	Schick Xtrme 3 Cmft+	Bic Comfort 3	.54	.16	0	0
Razor-Non Disposable	Bic Soleil	Gillette Venus Embrc	.52	.21	1	0
Rectal Medication	Preparation H	Tucks	.77	.13	0	0
Refrig Entrees	Tyson	Perdue	.57	.30	0	0
Rug Cleaner	Resolve	Bissell	.53	.14	0	0
Salad Dressing Mix	Hidden Valley Ranch	Good Seasons	.50	.21	0	0
Salad Dressing-Light	Kraft Free	Wish-Bone Sld Sprtzz	.67	.10	0	1

Module	Brand 1	Brand 2	Aggregate Purch Share	Cross- State SD	Ad Intense	Socially Visible
Salad Dressing-Liq	Kraft	Ken's Steak House	.64	.17	0	1
Salad Dressing-Refrg	Marie's	Marzetti	.56	.31	0	1
Salad Toppings-Dry	Hormel	Oscar Mayer	.67	.13	0	1
Salads-Misc.	Reser's	Ready Pac Bistro Sld	.63	.24	0	0
Sandwiches-Frzn/Ref	Lean Pockets	Hot Pockets	.52	.07	0	0
Sauce Mix-Taco	Old El Paso	McCormick	.54	.21	0	0
Sauce-Asian	Kikkoman	La Choy	.70	.11	0	1
Sauce-Barbecue	Kraft	Sweet Baby Ray's	.61	.17	0	1
Sauce-Chili	Heinz	Tuong Ot Sriracha	.81	.18	0	0
Sauce-Cocktail	Kraft	McCormick	.64	.26	0	1
Sauce-Cooking	Hunt's Manwich	Del Monte	.92	.06	0	0
Sauce-Dipping	Marzetti	Litehouse	.81	.28	0	1
Sauce-Hot	Louisiana	Texas Pete	.59	.34	0	1
Sauce-Marinara	Prego	Hunt's	.52	.08	0	0
Sauce-Meat	A.1.	Heinz 57	.80	.15	0	0
Sauce-Mexican	Pace	Tostitos	.53	.19	1	1
Sauce-Misc.	Prego	Kraft	.59	.20	0	1
Sauce-Pepper	Tabasco	Frank's Redhot	.57	.19	0	1
Sauce-Pizza	Ragu	Contadina	.70	.18	0	0
Sauce-Worcestershire	Lea & Perrins	French's	.69	.15	0	1
Sauces & Gravies	Buitoni	Garden Fresh Gourmet	.61	.26	0	0
Seasoning Mix-Chili	McCormick	Carroll Shelby's	.84	.12	0	0
Seasoning Mix-Misc.	McCormick	Sun Bird	.54	.13	0	0
Shampoo	Suave Naturals	Pantene Pro-V	.53	.07	1	0
Shave Cream-Men's	Edge Advanced	Barbasol	.51	.10	0	0
Shave Cream-Women's	Skintimate	Gillette Satin Care	.65	.07	0	0
Sinus Remedies	Tylenol Sinus	Sudafed PE	.66	.14	0	0
Snacks-Misc.	SunChips	GM Chex Mix	.52	.05	0	1
Snacks-Variety Pk	Frito-Lay	Wise	.98	.04	0	1
Soap-Bar	Dove	Dial	.53	.09	0	0
Soap-Liq	Softsoap	Dial	.77	.06	0	0
Soap-Specialty	Suave Naturals	Dove	.52	.11	1	0
Soda Straws	Forster	Glad	.75	.19	0	0
Soup Mix-Dry/Bases	Maruchan	Lipton	.61	.11	0	0
Soup-Canned	Campbell's	Progresso	.80	.06	1	0
Soup-Frzn/Refrig	Tabatchnick	Skyline	.57	.32	0	0
Throat Lozenges	Ricola	Halls Breezers	.64	.12	0	0
Toast/Breadsticks	Old London	Wasa	.51	.16	0	0
Toilet Bowl Cleaner	Lysol	Clorox	.52	.06	0	0
Toilet Tissue	Charmin	Angel Soft	.54	.07	1	0
Toothbrushes	Colgate 360	Oral-B Indicator	.55	.11	1	0
Tortilla Chips	Doritos	Tostitos	.64	.06	0	1
Trail Mix	Planters	GM Chex Mix	.79	.13	0	1
Vinegar	Heinz	Pompeian	.73	.15	0	0
Vitamins-Children	Flintstones	L'il Crttrs Gummy Vt	.71	.13	0	0
Vitamins-Misc.	Nature Made	Nature's Bounty	.71	.13	0	0
Vitamins-Multi	One A Day	Centrum Silver	.60	.08	1	0



Module	Brand 1	Brand 2	Aggregate Purch Share	Cross- State SD	Ad Intense	Socially Visible
Water-Sparkling	Vintage	Perrier	.62	.30	0	1
Water-Still	Glaceau Vitmn Water	Nestle Pure Life	.52	.13	1	1
Wave Setting Product	Garnier Fructis Styl	Pantene Pro-V Style	.66	.11	0	0
Yogurt-Frozen	Turkey Hill	Wells Blue Bunny	.57	.37	0	1
Yogurt-Refrig	Yoplait	Dannon	.62	.10	1	0

Notes: Brand 1 and brand 2 in each module defined by total purchases. Aggregate purchase share for a given module is total purchases of brand 1 / (total purchases of brand 1 + total purchases of brand 2), and is calculated using all households in the Nielsen Homescan data. Cross-state standard deviation of the average purchase share for non-migrants is computed by averaging purchase share within each state-module pair, and then taking the mean of the standard deviation across states for each module. Cross-state standard deviation is calculated using the final sample as described in section 2.4.