Adding the Power of SAS/OR® to Spreadsheet Optimization
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ABSTRACT
Optimization facilities built into commercial spreadsheet applications are used quite widely but suffer from a number of drawbacks. Spreadsheets’ inherent limits on data size hinder organizations whose optimization needs grow beyond these boundaries. Working within a spreadsheet also makes building, reviewing, and modifying optimization models much more difficult. Consequently, spreadsheet-based optimization models are less likely to grow and be adapted for new uses and ultimately are less likely to provide long-term value.

We will demonstrate how SAS/OR®, working via stored processes and the SAS® Add-In for Microsoft Office, overcomes these problems to introduce real power, insight, and flexibility into optimization with spreadsheets. We will show how you can develop an optimization model with the SAS/OR OPTMODEL procedure, register stored processes, and surface both the model and its results through Excel. This enables you to build a large, complex model with clarity, create a quick, easy user interface, and maintain a version of the model that can be read, updated, and adapted by others as needed.

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