

SUMMARY

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The research project at this phase involved collecting and cleaning government data related to textile imports into the United States. We were attempting to analyze the effects that the Multifiber Agreement (MFA) import quotas had on the countries to which these quotas applied. My primary responsibility was cleaning the dataset using the Stata statistical software. I also spent much time taking data that was previously not in a usable form and converting it into a form that could be analyzed. This included copying import data from government CD's, entering a concordance of US Trade codes to MFA codes into the computer, and transferring government footnotes and trade data from text files into Excel using macros. I also did a literature review to examine more specific details about quota management with respect to China in particular. The overall findings from the data are currently unclear, since we spent most of the summer gathering and preparing the data. However, I learned how to use several features of Stata, and I gained good experience writing Visual Basic code for Excel, which I used to create the macros for transferring data.

I found the SRO to be a very enjoyable and rewarding experience. I worked with two professors and a graduate student, and even though one of the professors and the grad student were both in Washington D.C. during most of the summer, I found communication to be very open and easy. Assignments were given to me with ample time to complete them, which gave me extra opportunity to familiarize myself with the software I was using, as well as to tutor myself in coding Visual Basic, with which I had no experience prior to this summer. Moreover, I always received very prompt and clear answers to my questions whenever I had them, permitting me to move forward without hindrance.