

Oracle® Retail Regular Price Optimization

Release Notes

Release 13.0.4

July 2009

Oracle Retail Regular Price Optimization (RPO) assists retail price analysts in pricing hard-line and grocery items. It is suited for long lifecycle items with infrequent price changes. It recommends permanent prices and inventory volumes based on initial estimates of an item's total sales volume over a planning period, and on price-related sales of items and related items.

RPO includes grouping in its pricing analysis because it considers cross-item elasticities; that is, RPO considers how price changes for one item may affect the sales volume of other items that belong to the same demand group. Users can input objective functions and pricing constraints that define the optimization problem. Once these inputs are defined, the pricing optimizer recommends prices and associated volumes. What-if cases may also be created and evaluated side by side within the context of a pricing scenario. Once an analysis of the what-if cases and recommended prices is complete, the user can make a final decision to submit the recommended prices for the given set of merchandise items and locations.

Hardware and Software Requirements

See the *Regular Price Optimization Installation Guide* for information about the following:

- Hardware and software requirements
- Oracle Retail application software compatibility information

Note: The RPAS Client will not be supported on Windows 2000 after the 13.0.4 release. The RPAS Server will not be supported on Sun Solaris 9 after the 13.0.4 release.

Functional Enhancements

Regular Price Optimization 13.0.4 includes the following functional enhancements.

Hard and Soft Constraints

In the Price Analysis workbook, all item and item group price range, margin, competitive, and inter-item constraints can be set as hard or soft. The Global Goals and Constraints worksheet contains a new parameter, Relax Constraints, that controls whether the optimizer relaxes (1) neither hard nor soft constraints, (2) only soft constraints, or (3) hard and soft constraints.

Margin Constraints

The Price Analysis workbook has a new Min/Max Margin constraint type, specifiable at the item or item group level. This allows specification of a minimum and maximum percentage change range for an item or item group.

Like-Items Outside the Demand Group

Like-item specification has been moved from the Price Analysis workbook to a distinct Like-Item workbook. This allows you to assign like-items to any item in the (local) domain and makes like-item assignments persistent at the global level rather than the scenario level.

Enhanced Global Goals and Constraints

The Pricing Analysis workbook's Global Goals and Constraints worksheet has been enhanced to allow the user to set the absolute as well as percent-of-current goals. The read-only display of values of all global metrics at the current price has also been added.

Edit and Commit of Competitive Prices

Competitive prices are now editable by all users in the Price Analysis workbook. Only qualified manager-role users may commit changes to competitive prices.

Improved Solution Consistency

Many enhancements have been made to initial solution seeding and iteration patterns to ensure consistency in successive runs of the solver.

Technical Enhancements

Regular Price Optimization 13.0.4 includes the following technical enhancements.

Translated Files

The translated .ovr files are now released in UTF-8 encoding. Any changes to these files need to be done with a UTF-8 capable editor.

Handling of Items with No Competitive Items

The feasible price range for items without assigned competitive items are now considered unconstrained with respect to competition. Previously, this phenomenon could result in consideration of a competitive price of zero.

Integration Enhancements

Regular Price Optimization 13.0.4 includes the following integration enhancements.

Forecast (RDF) Integration

The integration of RDF forecast (or forecast in RDF export format) has been fully productized.

Performance Enhancements

Regular Price Optimization 13.0.4 includes the following performance enhancements.

What-if Logic

Calculation logic has been refined to remove unnecessary what-if metric calculations, enhancing user interface responsiveness.

Copy-Scenario

The performance of the Copy-Scenario functionality in the Scenario Management workbook has been dramatically improved.

Known Issues

The following table contains issues that have been identified for the current release.

Table 1 *Known Issues and Defects*

Known Issue/Defect	Defect Number
Under certain conditions, changing one or more item or item group level constraints from hard to soft results in a less desirable solution when the reasonable expectation of loosening the constraints would be a more desirable solution.	8539622

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Regular Price Optimization 13.0.4 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Regular Price Optimization Installation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Regular Price Optimization Implementation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Regular Price Optimization User Guide*

Supplemental Documentation at My Oracle Support

The following document is available through My Oracle Support (formerly Metalink). Access My Oracle Support at the following URL:

<https://metalink.oracle.com>

Oracle Retail Regular Price Optimization Release 13.0.4 Configuration Specification (Doc ID 843905.1)

This document contains configuration information for RPO 13.0.4.

For more information, contact Oracle Customer Support.

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Value-Added Reseller (VAR) Language

Oracle Retail VAR Applications

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