

# Oracle® Retail Regular Price Optimization

Release Notes

Release 13.4

December 2012

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Oracle Retail Regular Price Optimization (RPO) assists retail price managers in pricing hard-line and grocery items. It is suited for long lifecycle items with infrequent price changes. It recommends permanent prices 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. Users can input objective functions and pricing constraints that define the optimization problem. Once these inputs are defined, the pricing optimizer recommends prices. Multiple scenarios can be created and evaluated side by side, and what-if analysis can be performed within the context of a pricing scenario. After analyzing the what-if results and recommended prices, the user can make a final decision to submit the recommended prices for the given set of merchandise items and locations.

RPO integrates with an application called Oracle Retail Analytic Parameter Calculator for Regular Price Optimization (APC-RPO). APC-RPO calculates self and cross-item elasticities, which RPO uses to make price recommendations. APC-RPO is a separate application with its own installer, but it is available as an additional component in the RPO installation media pack.

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**Note:** Because RPO uses the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server (RPAS) platform, Oracle Retail recommends that you review the *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Release Notes* for fixed and known issues that may affect RPO.

In addition, RPAS 13.3 and later releases have significant technical enhancements related to hierarchy management (such as integer indexing) that have an effect on the configuration and maintenance of RPO. You must upgrade to key RPAS versions and complete the upgrade process as described in the chapter, "Patch Installation", in the *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Installation Guide* before upgrading to a 13.4 RPO domain.

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## Upgrade Note

While not directly related to RPO, the 13.3 Release of Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server (RPAS) had undergone a major change to simplify hierarchy administration. Full details of these changes are outlined in the 13.3 *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Release Notes*. Due to these changes, configuration updates have been made to RPO, and you will need to perform additional steps to upgrade your RPO domain, such as setting dimension sizes. The upgrade to RPAS 13.3 or later for this application includes a conversion process in addition to the normal upgrade process. Details are provided in the chapter, "Patch Installation" in the *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Installation Guide*.

## Hardware and Software Requirements

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

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

## Technical Enhancements

RPO 13.4 includes the following technical enhancement.

### Batch Script Architecture

All batch scripts that are developed and delivered as part of this application have been rewritten using the Batch Script Architecture. The Batch Script Architecture (BSA) is designed to provide a robust, enterprise-ready architecture for parallel process control, restart control, log consolidation, and dependency checks.

Functionally, the batch operability is enhanced by making it easier to diagnose and correct problems. Errors and exceptions are isolated (contained) within the domains in which they occur. Processing is designed to easily restart and proceed with execution. Parallel tasks are managed, logged, and checked for errors, to the same standard as non-parallel tasks.

### Oracle Retail Batch Script Architecture Implementation Guide

The *Oracle Retail Batch Script Architecture Implementation Guide* is new for this release. It documents the features and configuration details for implementing the Batch Script Architecture.

## Noteworthy Defect Fixes

The following noteworthy defect fixes are included in RPO 13.4.

Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
The average log price and average log sales measures had the wrong NA values. The NA values are changed from 0 to 9999.	14611901

Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
With the transition to Batch Script Architecture, various scripting errors are fixed.	14269960, 14269923, 14269868, 14269838, 14269820, 14269521, 14269495, 14012178, 13982534
In RPO batch, the optimization is run in parallel which causes lock contention. This issue is corrected by running the optimization sequentially.	14269668

## Known Issues

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

Known Issue/Defect	Defect Number
While doing What If in the Price Analysis workbook, if the user enters a price that is not on the price ladder, the simulation returns a "Some price conflict with constrain(s)" message. After the price is changed to a value that is on the price ladder, the message does not disappear.	15856716
Optimize custom menu cannot be run in an RPO domain on Oracle Solaris on SPARC.	15924638

## Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Regular Price Optimization 13.4 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Batch Script Architecture Implementation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Regular Price Optimization Implementation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Regular Price Optimization Installation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Regular Price Optimization Online Help for the RPAS Fusion Client*
- *Oracle Retail Regular Price Optimization User Guide for the RPAS Classic Client*
- *Oracle Retail Regular Price Optimization User Guide for the RPAS Fusion Client*

For more information about the Analytic Parameter Calculator for Regular Price Optimization (APC-RPO) application, see the Oracle Retail Analytic Parameter Calculator for Regular Price Optimization documentation set.

For more information about the RPAS Fusion Client, see the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server documentation set.

For more information about RPAS and the ODI enabled integration, see the following documentation sets:

- Oracle Retail Enabled ODI Integration documentation
- Oracle Data Integrator documentation
- Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server documentation

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Oracle® Retail Regular Price Optimization Release Notes, Release 13.4

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