

Deregulation Data Documentation

QuantGov

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1 Purpose

The deregulation dataset attempts to capture deregulation of the *Code of Federal Regulations* through the publication of the *Federal Register*. While RegData projects successfully track the addition of regulation, or more broadly speaking, the growth rate of regulation, RegData projects don't innately identify text that is deregulatory in nature. This dataset attempts to capture just that, deregulatory text.

2 Content

The deregulation dataset is created from the same documents that support the [RegPulse](#) dataset. The RegPulse dataset tracks the all movement in the Federal Register and can be downloaded in bulk [here](#). However, instead of focusing on notices, rules, and proposed rules like RegPulse, the deregulation dataset looks only at final rules. The text (including the titles) of these final rules are processed, and QuantGov NLP algorithms identify specific terms that typically indicate deregulation. Just like RegData provides counts of *shall*, *must*, *required*, etc., the deregulation dataset provides counts of the following terms: *13771*, *delay*, *deregulate*, *eliminates*, *eliminate*, *unnecessary*, *obsolete*, *repeal*, *withdraw*, *withdrawing*, *remove*, and *replace*. We have identified these terms as terms that strongly proxy deregulatory activity. These word counts, as well as metadata, can be retrieved for each final rule in the *Federal Register* from January 1, 2010 through June 19, 2020.

3 Technical Notes

- The deregulatory dataset is currently available for the last eight years of *Federal Register* activity. We plan to update this in a future quarterly release to include upwards of 10 more historical years.
- While we have only published the data for final rules, please contact us directly if you are interested in data pertaining to proposed rules, notices, or presidential documents which are also tracked by the *Federal Register*.

4 Citation

If you use this data, please cite:

McLaughlin, Patrick A., and Stephen Strosko. Deregulation US 1.0 (dataset). QuantGov, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, Arlington, VA, 2020.

Current Version: 1.0