

FIGURE 7 - SAMPLE ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT

TITLE OF DISSERTATION

By

YOUR FULL LEGAL NAME

DATE

Committee Chair: Dr. _____

Major Department: _____

Despite the central role played by the new firm in economic theory, little work has been done to incorporate its location decision into that role. This research develops and tests a theory to explain the location decisions of new firms in industries that provide office services. Its findings have relevance because of the importance of new firm formation as a source of employment growth and because the location choices of new firms should also indicate where growth is likely to occur through the relocation of established firms and the expansion of stationary firms. The findings presented here should also have relevance because of the increasing importance of office services relative to other sectors of the economy.

A theoretical model of new office location is developed that makes location choice a function of spatial distribution of new demand for office services, the spatial distribution of labor and other inputs, agglomeration economies, negative externalities, other users of land, transportation infrastructure, local public services, and property taxes.

An empirical model is derived and estimated as a tobit model using data from metropolitan Atlanta for new office firms choosing their locations from 1998 to 1999. Results

obtained indicate that each of the influences above had a significant effect on the location choices of the firms in the sample with the exception of the local public sector variables. In particular, the results show that the location decisions of new office firms are strongly influenced by the availability of business and professional services.

The empirical model is also estimated with the sample disaggregated by type of office (independent versus branch), size and two-digit SIC code industry. Results from these models indicate that the location decisions of new office firms vary according to type of office, size, and industry entered.