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FINANCIAL CRISES AND MORTGAGE ASSIGNMENTS:
MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS FROM 1990-2010

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This paper analyzes the number of mortgage assignments in McLean County, Illinois from 1990 to 2010, attempting to identify a relationship between the number of mortgage assignments and the general business cycle through the use of time series analysis techniques, including trend-fitting and identification of seasonal effects. Monthly data, from January 1990 to December 2010, was collected from the McLean County Recorder’s Office database, a total of 252 observations. For the most part, the number of mortgage assignments follows a constant and linear pattern. However, several spikes in the number of mortgage assignments in the years 1993, 2003, and 2006 appear to coincide with economic recessions in the United States. These spikes indicate that, although the number of mortgage assignments per month tends to remain constant, the number increases during recessions.