**Zeitschrift:** IABSE reports = Rapports AIPC = IVBH Berichte

**Band:** 40 (1982)

**Artikel:** Approach to automated construction cost estimating

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**DOI:** https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-30885

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# Approach to Automated Construction Cost Estimating

Approche d'une estimation automatique des coûts de construction

Automatisierte Kosten-Kalkulation

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Robert Williamson, born 1946, B.S. degree in aerospace eng. at Park College of St. Louis Univ., M.S. degree in eng. management at Univ. of Missouri – Rolla. For the past 13 years, involved with developing and implementing project management scheduling and cost control systems. Currently responsible for MCAUTO's new construction cost estimating system.

### SUMMARY

The article describes a computerized construction cost estimating system. The system uses a comprehensive cost data base composed of more than 37000 detail items, labor wages rates and major material prices which may be supplemented or overridden by the estimator. Work packages calculate quantities and select the proper items from the cost data. The equations and logic of the work packages may be modified without reprogramming. Flexible reporting is achieved by selection criteria which control selecting and sorting of reports.

## RESUME

Un système informatisé d'estimation des coûts de construction est présenté. Il met à contribution une base de données des coûts portant sur plus de 37 000 articles, ainsi que sur les taux horaires et les prix des matières premières par région. Ces données peuvent être complétées ou modifiées par l'utilisateur. Le système calcule les quantités et extrait les valeurs appropriées de la base de données. La logique et la formulation des fonctions peuvent être modifiées sans reprogrammation. L'édition des rapports est flexible, elle peut être effectuée sur la base de critères de sélections multiples et de tri.

# ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Dieser Bericht beschreibt ein EDV-Kosten-Kalkulationssystem für Bauwerke. Das Programm benützt eine umfassende Kosten-Datenbank, bestehend aus über 37000 Detail-Einheiten, örtlichen Arbeitslöhnen und Materialpreisen, die vom Kalkulator hinzugefügt oder überschrieben werden können. Verschiedene Programmteile beschreiben die Mengen und wählen die richtigen Einheiten aus den Kosten-Daten. Die einzelnen Abhängigkeiten können ohne Neuprogrammierung geändert werden.



#### INTRODUCTION

In January 1980, a team was formed consisting of the R. S. Means Company, McDonnell Douglas Automation Company (MCAUTO), and Comprehensive Management Services, Inc./Smith, Hinchman, & Grylls (CMSI·SH&G). The objective of the partnership was to develop a powerful, comprehensive automated tool to aid in the preparation of detailed construction estimates. The system was to be flexible and would allow the estimator to use his judgement in easily overriding standard cost information and equations used in the system. Another major design consideration was to make the system flexible and open so that it could be easily adaptable to systems and budget level estimates without reprogramming. ESTEK is the result of the combined efforts of the three organizations.

The R. S. Means Company has been the United State's leading publisher of construction cost books for the past 40 years. They are responsible for the cost data base used by ESTEK.

CMSI • SH&G are members of the Smith Group, an affiliation of ten architectural/ engineering firms. They are responsible for the algorithms and decision logic used in ESTEK's work packages.

MCAUTO, a division of McDonnell Douglas Corp., is one of the leading data processing service bureaus. MCAUTO's responsibilities are for the system analysis, programming, data processing services, and support of ESTEK. Figure 1 shows the basic system outline of ESTEK.

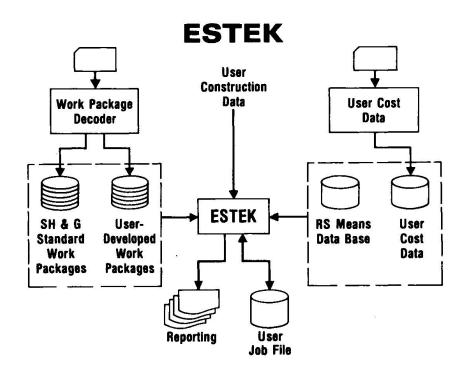
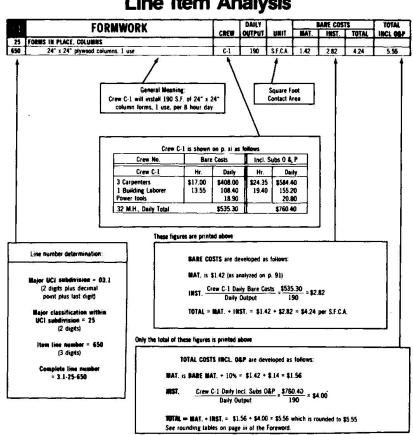


Figure 1



#### COST DATA BASE

The ESTEK Cost Data Base has more than 37,000 line items developed from the Means publications, Building Construction Data and Mechanical Electrical Cost Data (see Figure 2). Labor rates for 46 trades are used to compute the installation costs. Material prices are derived by contacting manufacturers, dealers, and distributors throughout the United States and Canada.



# Line Item Analysis

Figure 2

The labor rates for 46 construction trades and material prices for 109 key materials have been used to develop zip code location factors. These factors are used to compute the cost for any specific location defined by the first 3 digits of the Postal Zip Code.

The format of the ESTEK Cost Data Base is illustrated in Figure 3. definition of the column titles is as follows:

1. UCI Code is patterned after the 16-division Uniform Construction Index, adopted by the American Institute of Architects, Associated General Constructors of America, Inc. and the Construction Specifications Institute, Inc. The system is widely used by most segments of the building industry.

(Example 03.1-250-6500) = FORMWORK

2. UNIFORMAT Number is a U. S. Government General Services Administration (GSA) logical numbering framework for classification of building systems. It redefines the 16 Trade Systems into 12 Building Systems.

(Example 0311) = SUPERSTRUCTURE STRUCTURAL FRAME



# **Building Construction Cost Data**

1	2	3	•	(5)	<b>6</b>	1	8	9		10		1
UCI CODE	UNI-	DESCRIPTION	MAT	MAT	WKMEN	CREW	DAILY	UNIT	В	IARE COST	S	TOTAL
OCI CODE	FORMAT	DESCRIPTION	CODE	FACTOR	COMP	CODE	OUTPUT	OMI	MAT	INST	TOTAL	INCL O&P
** ** *** ****				10.01070	2000000	200		1000ana 10	2000	2000000	TO STATE OF THE ST	1000000
03.1-250-5000	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 8" SQ 1 USE	PBB6	.0029	5213	C1	165.00		1.80	3.24	5.04	6.60
03.1-250-5050	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 8" SQ 2 USE	PBB6	0015	5213	C1	195.00	S.F.C.A.	1.03	2.75	3.78	5.05
03.1-250-5100	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 8" SQ 3 USE	PBB6	.0011	5213	C1	210.00	S.F.C.A.	.78	2.55	3.33	4.48
03.1-250-5150	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 8" x 8" SQ 4 USE	PBB6	.0009	5213	C1	215.00	S.F.C.A.	.65	2.49	3.14	4.25
03.1-250-5500	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 12" SQ 1 USE	PBB6	.0025	5213	C1	180.00	S.F.C.A.	1.60	2.97	4.57	6.00
03.1-250-5550	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 12" SQ 2 USE	PBB6	.0014	5213	CI	210.00	S.F.C.A.	.92	2.55	3.47	4.63
03.1-250-5600	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 12" SQ 3 USE	PBB6	.0010	5213	C1	220.00	S.F.C.A.	.69	2.43	3.12	4.22
03.1-250-5650	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 12" SQ 4 USE	PBB6	.0008	5213	CI	225.00	S.F.C.A.	.57	2.38	2.95	4.01
03.1-250-6000	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 16" SQ 1 USE	<b>PB86</b>	.0024	5213	Cl	185.00	S.F.C.A.	1.46	2.89	4.35	5.70
03.1-250-6050	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 16" SQ 2 USE	PBB6	.0013	5213	C1	215.00	S.F.C.A.	.84	2.49	3.33	4.46
03.1-250-6100	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 16" SQ 3 USE	<b>PBB6</b>	.0009	5213	Cl	230.00	S.F.C.A.	.63	2.33	2.96	4.00
03.1-250-6150	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 16" SQ 4 USE	PBB6	.0008	5213	C1	235.00	S.F.C.A.	.52	2.28	2.80	3.81
03.1-250-6500	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 24" SQ 1 USE	PBB6	.0023	5213	C1	190.00	S.F.C.A.	1.42	2.82	4.24	5.55
03.1-250-6550	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 24" SO 2 USE	PBB6	.0013	5213	C1	220.00	S.F.C.A.	81	2.43	3.24	4.35
03.1-250-6600	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 24" SO 3 USE	PBB6	.0009	5213	C1	235.00	S.F.C.A.	.60	2.28	2.88	3.90
03.1-250-6650	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 24° SO 4 USE	P886	.0008	5213	C1	240.00	S.F.C.A.	.50	2.23	2.73	3.72
03.1-250-7000	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 36" SO 1 USE	P886	0027	5213	C1	200.00	S.F.C.A.	1.53	2.68	4.21	5.50
03.1-250-7050	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 36" SO 2 USE	PBB6	.0015	5213	C1	230.00	S.F.C.A.	.86	2.33	3.19	4.25
03.1-250-7100	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 36" SO 3 USE	PBB6	.0011	5213	C1	245.00	S.F.C.A.	64	2.18	2.82	3.81
03.1-250-7150	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 36" SO 4 USE	P886	.0009	5213	C1	250.00	S.F.C.A.	.53	2.14	2.67	3.62
03.1-250-7500	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL STL PLY 8" SO 4 U/M	PBB6	.0006	5213	CI	290.00	S.F.C.A.	.54	1.85	2.39	3.22
03.1-250-7550	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL STL PLY 10" SO 4U/M	PB86	.0005	5213	Cl	300.00		43	1.78	2.21	3.01
03.1-250-7600	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL STL PLY 12" SO 4U/M	PBB6	.0005	5213	CI	310.00	S.F.C.A.	.36	1.73	2.09	2.85
03.1-250-7650	0311	FRMS IN PLC COL STL PLY 16" SQ 4U/M	PBB6	.0004	5213	Cl	335.00	S.F.C.A.	.34	1.60	1.94	2.64
03.1-250-7700	10000000	FRMS IN PLC COL STL PLY 20" SO 4U/M	PBB6	.0004	5213	CI	350.00		.30	1.53	1.83	2.50
V3.1-23Q-7700	0311	TRMS IN FLU OUL SIL FLY 20 SQ 407M	r000	.0004	3213	CI	330.00	3.F.C.A.	.30	1.33	1.83	2.30

Figure 3

3. DESCRIPTION is the general description of the item written in a maximum of 35 characters.

(Example FRMS IN PLC COL PLY 24" SQ 1 USE)

4. MATERIAL CODE is a four-digit alphanumeric code that represents a material similar to the main material in the line item.

(Example PBB6) is 3/4" PLYFORM, BB CLASS I that has a unit of measure of MSF.

5. MATERIAL FACTOR is generated on January 1 of every year, based on the Means 30-city average rate for the particular material that is being referenced.

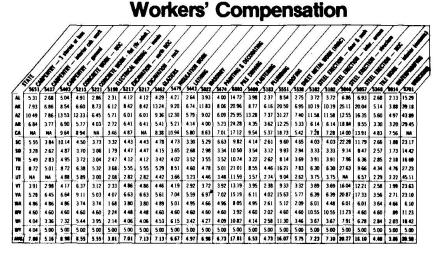
(Example: Material Code PBB6) = \$592.30 1/1/82

 $\frac{\text{Jan 1, 1982 Line Item $1.42}}{\text{Jan 1, 1982 Material $592.30}} = .0023 \text{ Factor}$ 

6. WORKER'S COMPENSATION Insurance is a four-digit number assigned to each different work classification. The rates vary by trade, state, and contractor (see Figure 4).

(Example 5213) = CONCRETE WORK - NOC, TEXAS - 6.38

- 7. CREW CODE is the trade or trades required to install the described item. The C-1 Crew is shown in Figure 2 with 3 carpenters, 1 building laborer, and some power tools. The crew will always show:
  - a) The number and type of tradesmen required
  - b) The number, size, and type of equipment required, if any.



# Figure 4

- 8. DAILY OUTPUT indicates the number of units the crew will produce in one 8-hour day. This is an average figure, and job conditions will determine the actual field productivity. ESTEK provides ways to override the average productivity with the user's own (see Figure 2).
- 9. UNIT is the unit of quantity by which the items are measured and priced.
- 10. BARE COSTS consist of 3 columns that tabulate the unit costs of the items not including the subcontractor's overhead and profit.
  - a) MATERIAL is the average contractor purchase price for the items, including delivery to the job within a 10-mile radius.
  - b) INSTALLATION is calculated by dividing the daily bare crew cost by the daily output, as shown in the Figure 2.
  - c) TOTAL Bare Costs are the arithmetic total of costs from a) and b).
- 11. TOTAL, INCL O&P represents the total price for the item, including the installing contractor's overhead and profit. It is determined in the following manner (see Figure 2):
  - a) Material cost is the bare material cost plus 10%.
  - b) Installation cost is calculated by dividing the crew cost, including subcontractors 0 & P, by the daily output.
  - c) The TOTAL, INCL O & P is the arithmetic sum of a) and b) above.
- R. S. Means statisticians maintain the Data Base Material File with quarterly pricing surveys from across the United States and Canada. This file also allows monitoring the state sales tax for fine-tuning the estimate. The quarterly material cost data is keyed to the first three digits of the postal zip code (see Figure 5) for adjusting an estimate to any specific location.

The labor prices used in the ESTEK System are from the Means' Labor Rate File, Figure 6. The rates include the union local number, base wage, plus the fringe benefit package. There are over 360 cities that report on the 46 building trade rates. This amounts to over 16,500 current rates. The file can provide historical as well as future wages under contract with trade unions.



# Zip Code to City Cross Reference

726	ZIP C	DDE STATE	CITY	LABOR CITY CODE	MATERIAL CITY CODE
727	724	APKANSAS	HARRISON	ARLR	
728	723			ARFS	
729   ARKANSAS   FORT SMITH   ARFS	/2/			ARFS	
730	/20			APPS	
731 DKLAHOMA DKLAHOMA CITY OKOC 734 OKLAHOMA ARDMORE OKLM OKOC 735 OKLAHOMA LAMTON OKLM 736 OKLAHOMA CLINTON OKCC 737 OKLAHOMA ENID OKEN OKOC 738 OKLAHOMA HODDMARD OKEN OKOC 739 OKLAHOMA GUYMON OKEN OKOC 740 OKLAHOMA TULSA OKTL 741 OKLAHOMA TULSA OKTL 743 OKLAHOMA TULSA OKTL 744 OKLAHOMA MIAMI OKTL 745 OKLAHOMA MIAMI OKTL 746 OKLAHOMA MIAMI OKTL 747 OKLAHOMA HUSKOGEE OKTL 747 OKLAHOMA PONCA CITY OKEN 747 DKLAHOMA PONCA CITY OKEN 748 OKLAHOMA PONCA CITY OKEN 749 OKLAHOMA POTEAU IXBY TXHS 750 TEXAS SEAUMONT TXBN 751 TEXAS SEAUMONT TXBN 752 TEXAS SEAUMONT TXBN 752 TEXAS SEAUMONT TXBN 753 TEXAS SAN ANTONIO TXSN 781 TEXAS SAN ANTONIO TXSN 781 TEXAS SAN ANTONIO TXSN 782 TEXAS SAN ANTONIO TXSN 782 TEXAS SAN ANTONIO TXSN 783 TEXAS SAN ANTONIO TXSN 784 TEXAS SAN ANTONIO TXSN 785 TEXAS SAN ANTONIO TXSN 786 TEXAS SAN ANTONIO TXSN 787 TEXAS SAN ANTONIO TXSN 788 TEXAS SAN ANTONIO TXSN	729	ARKANSAS	PUKI SHILIH	AK! J	
751	730	OKLAHOMA	OKLAHOMA CITY		
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738	/36			DKEN	OKOC
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781 TEXAS SAN ANTONIO TXSN 782 TEXAS SAN ANTONIO TXSN	779				
782 TEXAS SAN ANTONIO 125N	780			IXSH	
782 TEXAS SAN ANTONIO 125N	781	TEXAS			
	782	TEXAS			
783 TEXAS CORPUS CHRISTI IXCC	783	TEXAS	CORPUS CHRISTI	TXCC	

Figure 5

# **Labor Rates**

* HOUSTON, TEXAS		1,232	802		
			JANUARY	1, 1982	100100
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	LOCAL				
	UNION	BASE	FRINGE	TOTAL	
TRADES	NO	WAGE	BENEFIT	WAGE	
		PATE	PACKAGE	RATE	
COMMON BUILDING LABORERS	19	10.85	1.66	12.51	92 .5
AIR TOOL	1.5	10.03	1.66	11.69	₹4.6
ASBESTOS WORKERS	22	15.05	2.36	17.41	52.7
BOILER MAKERS	74	14.80	2.28	17.09	89 . 3
HRICHLAYERS	7.	15.05	2.21	17.26	98.C
HELPERS	18	11.34	1.56	12.90	53.3
CARPENTERS	213	14.90	2.02	16.92	99.5
CARPET & LINGLEUM LAYER	1863			£16.20	98 . 5
CENENT FINISHERS	681	14.50	1.88	16.38	98 .7
ELECTRICIANS	716			E 20 . 50	51.4
ELEVATOR CENSTRUCTORS	31	13.90	3.16		58.5
EQUIPMENT OPERATORS-HEAVY	450			£17.55	
EQUIPMENT CPERATORS-MEDIUM	450	15.09		17.10	59 - 5
EQUIPMENT BPERATORS-LIGHT	450	13.32	2.09	15 - 41	94 - 1
EQUIPMENT OPERATORS-DILERS		12.39	2.09	14.48	58.0
EQUIP OPERATOR HASTER NECH				E10.40	59.0
GLAZIERS	1778			E16.49	98.3
LATHERS	224	14.90		16.29	99.0
NAROLE SETTERS	20	13.67	1.50	15.17	50 -5
MOSAIC & TERRAZZO WORFERS	20		A 2000	15 - 17	52.4
MUSAIC & TERR HELPERS	108	9.45	1.30	10.75	60.0
MILLWRIGHTS	2252	15.29		17.31	59 . C
PAINTERS ORDINARY	130	14.44	2.23	16.67	103.3
PAINTERS SPRAY	130	14.61	2.23	17.04	101.3
PAINTERS STRUCTURAL STEEL	130	14.81	2.23	17.04	101.7
PAPER HANGERS	130	14.44	2.23	16.67	101.6
PILE BRIVERS	2079	14.90	2.02	16.92	98 - 8
PLASTERERS	79		80 00000	£16.65	101.0
PLASTERERS HELPERS	10	11.34		12.90	51.6
PLUNDERS	68	15.12	1.69	16.61	e7 . 1
PLUMBERS HELPERS	68	ì		E11.79	66.9
RODMEN (REINFORCING)	84	14.76		17.36	94 . 3
ROOFERS, COMPOSITION	116	11.03		13.31	\$2.6
ROOFERS, PRECAST	116	12.71		14.19	26.8
HOUSERS, TILE & SLATE	116	12.71	1.40	14.19	95 . 1
RODFERS HELPERS (COMP)	116	l		£11.60	
SHEET HETAL WORKERS	669	15.26	1.98	17.24	51.3
SPRINKLER INSTALLERS		l		17.11	90 - 3
STEAMFITTERS/PIPEFITTERS	211			17.22	88.4
STONE MASONS	.7	15.05		17.26	98 -1
STRUCTURAL SPEEL WORKERS	84			17.36	93.6
STRUCTURAL STEEL WELDERS	84	14.76	2.60	17.36	53.6
TILE LAYERS (FLOOR)	20	9		15.17	93.2
TILE BAYEPS HELPERS	100	9.45		10.75	£2 . 2
TRUCH DRIVERS-LIGHT	1111	10.75		12.64	51.7
TRUCK DRIVERS-HEAVY	1111	11.21	1.85	13.66	52 . 9
				16.66	\$5.

Figure 6



#### USER-SUPPLIED COST DATA BASE

ESTEK is not limited to using only the R. S. Means cost data. The estimator may supply his own information to be used exclusively or in conjunction with the Means data. The types of data that can be supplied include labor rates, crews, major material prices, and the basic line items. ESTEK has multiple options for determining which cost data is used: only user-supplied cost, only R. S. Means cost data, or a combination of both. In this manner, the estimator may supply only a portion of the cost data base and rely on Means for the remaining information.

### WORK PACKAGE CONCEPT

ESTEK uses work packages to simplify the preparation of estimates. A work package describes a grouping of related construction tasks that are required to install a particular building system. It computes quantities and logically determines which items are to be selected from the cost data base.

To use a work package, estimators supply dimensions and pick appropriate choices from a matrix describing construction methods and quality of materials. Figure 7 shows the work package (SD03050) used for taking off concrete walls, columns, and piers. This work package routine calculates quantities for concrete walls used in exterior or interior construction, retaining walls, and foundation walls. The package will also calculate quantities for columns and piers (round or square), including capitals. Other capabilities of the work package include descriptions of forms and form liners, reinforcing, moisture protection, curing methods, finishes, accessories, and insulation.

An example of the use of this work package is to describe a wall 10 feet high (3.05m) by 30 feet long (9.14m) by 1 foot thick (.30m) with vertical reinforcing, #6 bars every 12 inches (305mm) and horizontal reinforcing, #4 bars every 18 inches (457mm). Other specifications for the wall are 4000 psi concrete (27575 kPa), 1-inch (25.4mm) urethane sheet insulation, and a 5-foot (1.52m) by 4-foot (1.22m) block out.

The required input to ESTEK would first be the dimensions:

- A Wall Length
- B Wall Thickness
- C Wall Height
- E Vertical Reinforcing
- F Horizontal Reinforcing
- L Block-out Length
- M Block-out Height
- Q Insulation Thickness

Next the appropriate choices are picked from the decision matrix:

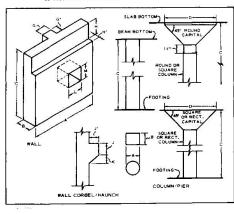
Several choices in the decision matrix, particularly columns 4, 5, 7, and 8 on concrete placing method and forms, are not given in the specifications or dimensions. The estimator has to bring his knowledge of construction to the preparation of the estimate, but the decision matrix also serves as a handy reminder or checklist. Figure 8 is the Quantity Survey Report showing the takeoff produced by this example.

Extensive error checking is also performed by the work package routines. Illogical errors, such as conflicting decision matrix choices or out-of-scope dimensions, produce messages of various error severity (from informational messages to major error conditions).

# CONCRETE WALLS, COLUMNS, AND PIERS \$003050

Calculates quantities and costs for concrete wails used in exterior and interior construction, retaining walls and foundation walls. The package also calculates round and square columns and piece including capitals. Other capabilities includes

forms and form liners reinforcing curing and finishes accessories and insulation



VARIABLE HAME	DEFINITION	UNIT OF MEASURE	
A	MALL LENGTH LONG SIDE OF SQUARE/RECT COLUMN -OR ROUND COLUMN DIAMETER -OR	FEET FEET FEET	السييا
8	WALL THICKNESS -OR- OTHER COLUMN SIDE	FEET	
C	MALL OR COLUMN HEIGHT	FEET	
D	LONGER SIDE OR DIAMETER OF CAPITAL	FEET	
E	VERTICAL BARS:WALL- SPACING (INCHES) (POS 1-4) AND SIZE (#) (POS 5-6) -GR- :COLUMN- NUMBER (EACH) (POS 1-4) AND SIZE (#) (POS 5-6)		
F	HORIZONTAL BARS-WALL SPACING (INCH) (POS 1-4) AND SIZE (8) (POS 5-6) -OR WALL REINF, ALLOWANCE (POS 1-4) -OR COLUMN REINFORCING ALLOWANCE (POS 1-4)		
G	PILASTER WIDTH OR DIAMETER (PGS 1-4) AND PROJECTION (POS 5-6)	INCHES	
H	BEARING LEDGE - HEIGHT (POS 1-4) AND WIDTH (POS 5-6)	INCHES	
J	CORBEL/HAUNCH - CAP HEIGHT (POS 1-4) AND WIDTH (POS 5-6)	INCHES	
K	CORBEL/HAUNCH HEIGHT	INCHES	
L	BLOCK-OUT LENGTH OR DIAMETER	FEET	
н	BLOCK-OUT HEIGHT (ZERO IF ROUND)	FEET	
H	LENGTH OF ACCESSORIES	FEET	100 F
•	WATERSTOP WIDTH (4, 6 OR 9 IN)	IN	
9	INSULATION THICKNESS	IM	

# DECISION MATRIX

\$003050

Concrete Walls, Columns, and Piers

	WALL TYPE (CHOOSE ONE)	COLUMN / PIER Type (CHOOSE ONE)	CONCRETE REGULAR WEIGHT	CONCRETE PLACING METHOD	FORMS (WALLS)	FORM LINERS WALL- DNE SIDE COLUMNS - ALL	FORMS (COLUMNS)	FORM USE	REINFORCING WALL / COLUMN	FINISHES	MOISTURE PROTECTION W/ PROTECT, BOARD	CONCRETE CURING	ACCESSORIES	WALL INSULATION (APPLIED-ON)	CONCRETE ADDITIVES	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
0	FOUNDATION WALL	RECTANGULAR OR SQUARE COLUMN	2000 PSI	DIRECT POUR	MODULAR PREPAB PLYWOOD # STEEL FRAMED	AGED WOOD	PREFAB PLYMOOD & STEEL FRAMED	RENTED - ) USE PER MONTH	WALL - 1 FACE SPACING & SIZE STOP WITHIN WALL	POINT 8 PATCH	BITUMINOUS DAMPPROOFING 2 - COAT BRUSH	LIQUID MEMBRANE	CHAMPER STRIP	GLASS FIBER SHEET 1/2 TO 3 IN	HIGH EARLY CEMENT	0
1	BASEMENT WALL	CIRCULAR	2500 PSI	CRANE & Bucket	MODULAR PREFAB PLYWOOD	FRACTURED ROPE RIB	JOB BUILT PLYFORM	2 USE PER MONTH	WALL + 2 FACE SPACING & SIZE STOP WITHIN WALL	BURLAP RUB WITH GROUT	SILICONE DAMPPRODFING	MATERPROOF PAPER	FLASHING REGLET	POLYSTYRENE SHEET _ 1/2 TO 3 IN _	SET ACCELERATOR ADMIXTURE	1
2	EXTERIGR WALL (STRUCTURAL)	RECTANGULAR OR SQUARE COLUMN WITH RECT/SQ. CAPITAL	3000 PSI	PUMP	JOB BUILT PLYFORM	#188ED LOOK 1/2.3/4 IN DP	ROUND FIBER TUBE 8 - 48 INCHES	3 USE PER MONTH	WALL - 1 FACE SPACING # 51ZE WITH FLOOR LAPP	CARBORUNDUM DRY RUB	CEMENTITIOUS DAMPPROOFING (CEMENT PARGING)	PLSTIC SHEETING	DOVETALL INSERTS	URETHANE SHEET 1/2 TO 3 IN	WATER REDUCING ADMIXTURE	2
3	EXTERIOR WALL NON- STRUCTURAL)	RECTANGULAR OR SQUARE COLUMN WITH ROUND CAPITAL 4 - 7 FT DIAM	3540 PSI	CARTS	RADIAL SMOOTH	STRIATED RANDOM 3/8X3/8 IN DP	ROUND FIBER TUBE SEAMLESS 8 - 48 INCHES	4 USE PER MONTH	WALL - 2 FACE SPACING & SIZE WITH FLDOR LAPP	CARBORUHDUM MET RUB	MEMBRANE Waterproofing	BURLAP	UNISTRUT INSERTS 7/8 IN DEEP	FOAMED GLASS SMEET 1 TO 3 IN	INTEGRAL WATERPROGFING	3
4	INTERIOR WALL (STRUCTURAL)	CIRCULAR COLUMN MITH ROUND CAPITAL 4 - 7 FT DIAM	4000 PSI	CONVEYOR BELT	RADIAL 2 FT CORD	SOLID BOARD FINISH UNIFORM	RDUND FIBERGLASS 12 - 35 INCHES	JOB BUILT 1 USE	WALL - LB/SF ALLDWANCE BY ESTIMATOR	BUSH HAMMER GREEN CONCRETE	METALLIC WATERPROOFING (IRON OXIDE)	CURING BLANKET	UNISTRUT INSERTS 1 3/8 IN DEEP	PERLITE BOARD 1 TO 3 IN	WHITE CEMENT	4
5	INTERIOR WALL (PARTITIOH)	RECTANGULAR DR Square Pier	4500 PSI		SLIPFORM Straight	SOLID BOARD FINISH NON-UNIFORM	ROUND STEEL 12 - 60 INCHES	2 USE	COLUMN - HO OF BARS # SIZE STOP HITHIN COLUMN _	BUSH HAMMER CURED CONCRETE	BENTONITE CLAY WATERPROOFING (PANELS)	ELECTRICALLY HEATED PAD 18 W PER SF	KEYMAY - VERTICAL WITH BULKHEAD FORMS		WARM-TONE CEMENT	5
6	PITS TRENCHES	CIRCULAR PIER	5000 PSI		SLIPFORM RADIAL	RUSTIC BRICK PATTERN		3 USE	COLUMN - NO OF BARS & SIZE WITH FLOOR LAP	SANDBLAST LIGHT PENETRATION	BENTONITE CLAY WATERPROOFING - TROWELED ON ADMIXTURE	ELECTRICALLY HEATED PAD 20 W PER SP	KEYMAY HORIZONTAL		INTEGRAL COLORS (REDS)	6
7	TUMMEL MALLS	COMCRETE ENCASING OF STEEL COLUMN RECT/SQUARE	FIELD MIX 2250 PSI					4 USE	COLUMN - LB PER LF ALLOWANCE BY ESTIMATOR _	SANDBLAST MEDIUM PENETRATION			VERTICAL KEYWAY & PVC WATERSTOP 4.6.9 IN DEEP	_	INTEGRAL COLDRS (BLACK)	7
8	SITE STRUCTURES WALLS	CONCRETE ENCASING OF STEEL COLUMN ROUND	FIELD MIX 3000 PSI						WALLS/COLUMNS PROGRAMMED LB PER CY ALLOWANCE	SANDBLAST HEAVY PENETRATION			HORIZONTAL KEYWAY & PVC WATERSTOP 4.6.9 IN DEEP		INTEGRAL COLORS (GREENS)	8
9	RETAINING WALLS								STEEL COLUMN WRAP	ACID ETCH			EXPANSION JOINT PRE-MOLDED FILLER			9



TAKE-OFF ORIGIN	VARIABLE CODE	U.C.I. CODE	TAKE-OFF NUMBER	UNIFORMAT NUMBER	QUANTITY	UNIT OF MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL \$ (BURDENED)
SD03050	***********	03.1-650~2550 03.2-040~0720 03.3-120-0300 03.3-160~0250 03.3-280-0010 03.3-280-0700 03.3-380-5200 07.1-700-0100 07.2-800-1500		041100 041100 041100 041100 041100 041100 041100 041100	609.00 0.60 11.04 6.00 600.00 300.00 11.04 300.00	5.F.C. TON C.Y. 5.F. 5.F. C.Y. 5.F.	FRMS IN PLC JOB BLT PLY TO 16' 4USE REINFORCING GRADE 60 WALLS CONCRETE. REDI MIX REG WT 4000 PSI CONCRETE CURING PLASTIC SHEETHING FIN WIS BREAK TIES & PATCH FIN WLS SAND BLST LT PENTH PLC CONCAVBRT WALLS 12" THK C&B SILICONE/STEARATE SPRA ON MASON 2CT WALL INSUL RIGID URETHANEN BKG 1"T	2,051 429 741 213 173 229 157

Figure 8

Table 1 lists the 48 work packages that are currently available in ESTEK. These work packages are divided into the major categories of General Conditions, Civil, Architectural, Structural, Mechanical, and Electrical.

#### WORK PACKAGE DECODER

One of the more important features of ESTEK is that it allows the user to modify the algorithms and logic of the work packages and to add new work packages. This is accomplished through the work package decoder subsystem of ESTEK. The estimator (not a programmer) may modify or create work packages directly without reprogramming the system. The types of functions available with the decoder are:

- Input definitions of variables
- Decision matrix definitions
- Internal or intermediate variables
- Equations with algebraic, trigonometric, and logarithmic functions.
- Logic conditions
- Table lookups
- Error message definitions

The basic function of the work package is to compute quantities from the input dimensions and to determine logically which UCI codes the quantities should be assigned. The work packages also allow the user to create or modify the production rate and the Uniformat code of the takeoff item selected from the cost data base.

Available as part of the user documentation of ESTEK is a set of manuals containing all of the inputs used to define the standard work packages. By modifying the standard work packages or creating new ones, the estimator may develop his own private library of work packages that satisfy his own special requirements.

## UPDATING/FINE TUNING AN ESTIMATE

ESTEK is designed so that any processing of the system may include a mix of work package executions, updates to previous takeoffs, updates to control information (i.e., labor rates, major material, and prices) and report requests. The updating process was designed to be flexible and to allow fine tuning of the estimate easily. The types of updates available fall into two categories: control information (global changes) and line item information (detail changes). When a new estimate is started, all the required control information (labor rates, major material prices, equipment rates, and overheads) is initialized from the R. S. Means or the user-supplied cost data bases. The estimator may modify any of this control information and cause all of the appropriate values on the detail takeoff items to be recalculated.



# Table 1 Work Packages

# General Conditions

Personnel

Job Requirements

### Civil

Site Earthwork

Excavation

Piles and Caissons

Sewers

Site Utilities

Site Paving

#### Structural

Foundations

Concrete Walls, Columns, and Piers

Concrete Beams and Slabs

Slab on Grade

Masonry, Stone Work, and Accessories

Structural Steel Framing

Miscellaneous Metals and Stairs

Metal Deck and Concrete Fill

#### Architechtural

Built-up, Single Ply, and Fluid Applied Roofing

Shingle, Metal, and Special Roofing

Roof Accessories

Interior Finishes (Floors and Ceilings)

Interior Finishes (Walls)

Plaster Work (Walls)

Drywall Work (Walls)

Washroom Accessories

**Elevators** 

### Mechanical

Ductwork

Piping (HVAC)

Piping (Waste, Vent, and Storm)

Plumbing Fixtures

Piping (Water, Fuel, and Lab gases)

Fire Protection Piping Systems

Mechanical Controls

# Electrical

Conductor and Conduit

Busway Systems

**Busway Devices** 

Switchboard and Distribution Panels

Circuit Breaker Panel Boards

Transformers

Wiring Devices (Receptacles)

Wiring Devices (Switches)

Motor Controllers and Connections

Cable Trays

Under Floor Duct

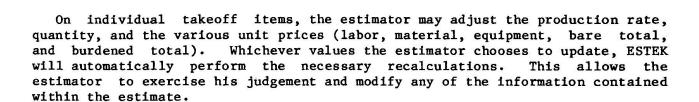
Under FLoor Duct (Trench)

Lighting Fixtures

**Emergency Power Sources** 

Electric Heating

Motor Control Centers



### REPORTING

ESTEK produces a variety of reports that can be segregated into three categories: processing diagnostics, file maintenance, and analysis reports. The processing diagnostics convey information about the status and execution of the system. These are used by the estimator to ensure that the input data and processing of the system is correct. These reports are produced automatically or semiautomatically.

The file maintenance reports are used to verify the results of the system, but they are primarily used for turnaround documents. The Update Report, for example, is in a format that may be marked up and used as a data entry document.

There are a variety of analysis reports produced by ESTEK. In general these reports may display detail or summarized information. In addition to the basic formats of the reports, selection criteria options allow the estimator to tailor the reports to his needs by means of sorting, selecting, and titling features. Figure 9 is an example of the Quality Survey Report. It displays all the takeoff items and quantities produced by the work packages. The major sort order is by work package ID so the estimator may verify the quantities calculated.

Figures 10 and 11 are examples of the Project Cost Report. This report can be used for analysis and as a final reporting document. The information may be displayed in detail or summarized formats by UCI or Uniformat codes. Figure 10 is a UCI detail format, and Figure 11 is a summarized Uniformat report. The Project Cost Report also has various options for displaying subcontractor and general contractor overheads and profits.

Another example of the type of reports available is Figure 12, the Labor Hours Analysis Report. This report can produce detail or summarized information (as shown) for each labor trade. The report displays statistics, such as number of hours, average base rates, fringe, and overhead rates, and the distribution between foremen, journeymen, and apprentices.

The ESTEK reporting features are designed to display information in a variety of formats so the estimator may choose those that satisfy his needs. These standard reports, when used with the selection criteria options, allow flexible reporting.



QUANTITY S FILE NAME FILE NUMBE	SURVEY REPORT = PAPER2 ER = 001			QUANTITY	ESTEK SURVEY REPOR STON	EXAMPLE TEXAS		PAGE 5 05/26/82
TAKE-OFF ORIGIN	VARIABLE CODE	U.C.I. CODE	TAKE-OFF NUMBER	UNIFORMAT NUMBER	QUANTITY	UNIT OF MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL \$ (BURDENED)
								2,217
SD15150		15.2-320-2960 15.2-560-8200 15.2-680-0050 15.2-800-1000		081400 081400 081400 081400	2.00 1.00 1.00 2.00	EA. EA. EA.	LVIRY/FTG WHT VNTY VICHN 20"X17"1BL SHOWER ENAM STEEL RECEPTOR 30"5QARE URNL WHNG PECI FLSHPIP&STRAIN4'X18" WC INKTYP VCHN,SET SUP&STP FLR 1 PC	317 155 535 1.170
*SUBTOTAL	(SD15150)*							2,177
SD15200		15.1-401-1180 15.1-410-0120 15.1-410-0500 15.1-800-3440 02.3-180-0400 15.1-551-0580 15.1-560-5100 02.3-190-2100 15.1-401-1180 15.1-410-0120		081100 081100 081100 081100 082100 082100 082100 082100 081100 081100	90.00 15.00 6.00 9.00 4.58 2.43 30.00 1.00 30.00 30.00	L.F. EA. EA. C.Y. C.Y. L.F. EA.	PIPE COPR TYPE K 50/50 SOLDR 3/4" PIPE COPPER 90 <el 1"="" 1258="" 1508="" 18"="" 1ee="" 3="" 4"="" 40="" 4cy="" 50="" 51l="" 6"="" 90<el="" and="" b="" backfill="" bkho="" blk="" brhz="" by="" chain="" copp="" copper="" deep="" excav="" excavig="" f="" gate="" hydlc="" jt="" k="" machine="" mi="" mkought="" mrought="" pipe="" sch="" sdr="" sdr<="" soldr="" td="" thd="" threded="" trch4*wx8*d5="" trench="" type="" valve="" w="" wd=""><td>511 154 97 231 3 5 159 16 10 170 62</td></el>	511 154 97 231 3 5 159 16 10 170 62
*SUBTOTAL								
SD16000		16.0-200-1871 16.0-200-2130 16.0-200-5041 16.0-200-5041 16.0-200-6220 16.0-200-6240 16.0-200-6540 16.0-550-1500 16.0-550-1500 16.0-550-2960 16.1-100-4120 16.1-100-4120 16.1-100-4120		091200 091200 092100 092100 092100 092100 092100 091200 091200 091200 092100 092100 092100	5.00 2.00 1,443.82 110.66 119.00 70.00 2.00 4.00 1.00 3.50 18.48 6.68 26.67	L.F. L.F. EA. EA. EA. EA. EA. EA. C.L.F. C.L.F.	CONDUIT TO 15' HIGH GALV. 2" COND ELBOW GALVANIZED 2" DIA CONDUIT TO 15' HIGH EMT 3/4" COMDUIT TO 15' HIGH EMT 1" EMT CPLING SET SCREW STEEL 3/4" DIA EMT CPLING SET SCREW STEEL 1" DIA EMT BOX CONN SET SCR SIL 3/4" DIA CONDUIT LOCKNUT 2" DIA CONDUIT BUSHING STEEL INSUL 2" D CONDUIT BUSHING STEEL INSUL 2" D WIRE 600V THEM COPPER STRANDED #12 WIRE 600V TO COPPER STRANDED #12 WIRE 600V TW COPPER STRANDED #12 WIRE 600V TW COPPER STRANDED #12	38 66 591 278 101 15 48 7 39 123 469 85 190 276

Figure 9

PROJECT COST REPORT FILE NAME = PAPER2 FILE NUMBER = 002	PROJECT COST SUMMARY	ESTEK EXAMPLE - DETA: ON TEX	IL UCI REPORT			PAGE 1 06/16/82
UCI SUBDIVISION DESCRIPTION	UNIT QUANTITY MEAS	OF TOTAL SURE UNIT \$	TOTAL MATERIAL \$	TOTAL LABOR \$	TOTAL EQUIPMENT \$	TOTAL \$ (BURDENED)
02 - SITE WORK						
02.1 - SITE CLEARING & EXPLORATION CLEAR & GRUB BRUSH	1.03 ACR	1,437.085	0	613	1,129	1,742
SUBTOTAL (BURDENED)			0	613	1,129	1,742
02.3 - EARTHWORK BACKFILL BY HAND NO COMP LIGHT SOIL BACKFILL COMPACTION VIB PLATE ADD TRENCH BACKFILL BY MACHINE W/EXCAV BACKFILL DOZER BULK 300 AIR TAMPED BORROW BANK RUN GRAVEL SPREAD/ D-7 EXCAVIG TRCH4 MXS*1D1/2CY TRCTR BKNO EXCAVIG TRCH6 MXS*1D3/4CY HYDLC BKNO EXCAVIG TRCH6 MXS*1D3/4CY HYDLC BKNO EXCAVIG TRCH6 MXS*1D3/4CY HYDLC BKNO EXCAVIG TRCH FINS SIDES/BIM REGULAR CHAIN TRENCH AND B/F 6 M MD 18" DEEP GRADING HAND GRADING FINISH HAUL DISPLEXV NAT ON SITE 4LOADS/H HAULING SOIL 16CY DP TR 4M RT1.6L/H SUBTOTAL (BURDENED)  DIVISION TOTAL (BURDENED)	4.98 C.Y. 4.58 C.Y. 249.98 C.Y. 68.89 C.Y. 833.33 C.Y. 300.58 C.Y. 5.66 C.Y. 30.00 L.F. 413.78 S.Y. 958.33 C.Y.	2.404 0.675 4.746 7.261 5.304 0.000 2.129 0.000 0.349	0 0 0 0 0 353 2,329 0 0 0 0 0 0 2,682	59 11 416 75 919 0 3 0 6 914 788 3,192	0 3 3 981 161 1,955 0 3 0 6 0 0 1,885 	59 14 4 1,396 55,202 6 12 914 2,673 10,869
03 - CONCRETE				¥1		
03.1 - FORMWORK & EXPANSION JOINTS FRMS IN PLC COL RD FIBTU 8"D I USE FRMS IN PLC FTGS CONTIN WALL 4 USE FRMS IN PLC EDGE FRM TO 12" H 4 USE FRMS IN PLC JOB BLT PLY TO 16' 4USE	32.67 S.F	c 2.226	31 242 21 709	54 0 63 4,022	2 0 2 100	86 242 86 4,831
SUBTOTAL (BURDENED)			1,003	4,139	104	5,245
03.2 - REINFORCING STEEL RESTL IN PL:FOOTINGS #4-#7 REINFORCING GRADE 60 WALLS WELDED WIRE FABR ROLLS 6x6 #8/8	0.44 TON 1.20 TON 37.24 C.5	887.566 714.318 .F. 23.785	262 685 475	198 324 567	0 0	460 1,009 1,043
SUBTOTAL (BURDENED)			1,422	1,089	0	2,512
03.3 - CAST IN PLACE CONCRETE						

Figure 10



PROJECT COST REPORT  FILE NAME = PAPER2 PROJECT  FILE NUMBER = 001	COST SUMMARY EXAMPLE - SUMMA HOUSTON	RY UNIFORMAT RE	PORT		PAGE 2 05/26/82
UNIFORMAT LEVEL		TOTAL Material \$	TOTAL LABOR \$	TOTAL EQUIPMENT \$	TOTAL \$ (BURDENED)
063 - SPECIALTIES		799	135	0	936
DIVISION TOTAL (BURDENED)	2.86% OF TOTAL PROJECT \$0.83 PER SQUARE FOOT	1,839	1,318	140	3,301
08 - MECHANICAL	ar T				
081 - PLUMBING		2,008	1,390	5	3,408
082 - H.V.A.C.		4,620	1,008	4	5,637
DIVISION TOTAL (BURDENED)	7.83% OF TOTAL PROJECT \$2.26 PER SQUARE FOOT	6,628	2,398	9	9,045
09 - ELECTRICAL					
091 - SERVICE & DISTRIBUTION		4,703	2,169	0	6,878
092 - LIGHTING & POWER		10.964	3,389	0	14,362
DIVISION TOTAL (BURDENED)	18.40% OF TOTAL PROJECT \$5.31 PER SQUARE FOOT	15,667	5,558	0	21,240
12 - SITE WORK					
121 - SITE PREPARATION		1,978	1,970	4,220	8,169
DIVISION TOTAL (BURDENED)	7.08% OF TOTAL PROJECT \$2.04 PER SQUARE FOOT	1,978	1,970	4,220	8,169
*** TOTAL (BURDENED)	\$28.85 PER SQUARE FOOT	67,835	41,031	6,453	115,380
*** MAIN OFFICE EXPENSE OVERHEAD					8,884
*** GENERAL CONTRACTOR'S PROFIT					11,538
*** PROJECT TOTAL	\$33.95 PER SQUARE FOOT				135,802

Figure 11

LABOR HOURS REPORT  FILE NAME = PAPER2  FILE NUMBER = 001  LABOR HOURS ANALYSIS EXAMPLE - SUMMARY REPORT HOUSTON  TEXAS					PAGE 1 05/26/82
LABOR CODE DESCRIPTION	TOTAL HOURS	BASE RATE	FRINGE RATE	FIXED O/H RATE	TOTAL
BRHE - BRICKLAYER HELPERS 0.00% FOREMEN 100.00% JOURNEYMEN 0.00% APPRENTICE	376.0	11.235	1.660	2.014	5,607
BRIC - BRICKLAYERS 0.00% FOREMEN 100.00% JOURNEYMEN 0.00% APPRENTICE	373.6	15.050	2.210	2.698	7,457
CARP - CARPENTERS 10.04% FOREMEN 89.96% JOURNEYMEN 0.00% APPRENTICE	123.0	14.950	2.020	2.952	2,452
CEFI - CEMENT FINISHERS 0.00% FOREMEN 100.00% JOURNEYMEN 0.00% APPRENTICE	54.7	14.500	1.880	2.716	1,044
CLAB - COMMON BUILDING LABORERS 0.00% FOREMEN 100.00% JOURNEYMEN 0.00% APPRENTICE	100.0	10.850	1.660	2.099	1,463
ELEC - ELECTRICIANS 0.00% foremen 100.00% journeymen 0.00% apprentice	162.6	18.084	2.416	3.046	3,831
EQHV - EQUIPMENT OPERATORS, CRANE OR SHOVEL 0.00% foremen 100.00% journeymen 0.00% apprentice	4.5	15.423	2.127	6.243	108
EQLT - EQUIPMENT OPERATORS, LIGHT EQUIPMENT 0.00% foremen 100.00% journeymen 0.00% apprentice	18.1	13.320	2.090	2.420	323
EQMD - EQUIPMENT OPERATORS, MEDIUM EQUIPMENT 0.00% APPRENTICE 0.00% APPRENTICE	32.6	15.090	2.090	2.822	654
EQOL - EQUIPMENT OPERATORS, OILERS 0.00% FOREMEN 100.00% JOURNEYMEN 0.00% APPRENTICE	4.5	12.390	2.092	5.018	89
PLUM - PLUMBERS 0.00% FOREMEN 83.16% JOURNEYMEN 16.84% APPRENTICE	66.1	14.611	1.685	2.573	1,251

Figure 12



#### CONCLUSION

A comprehensive cost estimating system is comprised of three important components.

# 1. A cost data base that is:

- Comprehensive in scope and able to cover all items of cost
- Easily adjusted to local unit prices
- Maintained with up-to-date information by an experienced staff
- Accurate.

### 2. Computer software that:

- Is designed to minimized the takeoff effort
- Allows for easy adjustments to the estimate
- Is opened ended by allowing the user to customize the algorithms and logic used in computing quantities
- Has flexible reporting to meet a variety of needs.

# 3. Support that is:

- · Continuous, for development of new enhancements and features
- Available to train and assist users of the system.

ESTEK was designed by R. S. Means Company, CMSI SH&G, and MCAUTO as a comprehensive construction cost estimating tool.