

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

Institute of Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Student:	Tiep Luu Danh
Advisor:	Mgr. Petr Polák, MSc.
Title of the thesis:	Smoking ban: A data analysis of sales

OVERALL ASSESSMENT (provided in English, Czech, or Slovak):

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Tiep Luu Danh focuses in his thesis on the effect of smoking ban legislation on the sales in the hospitality industry. The opportunity to test any effect is provided by the availability of daily data from EET (electronic evidence of sales) in the Czech Republic. Tiep Luu Danh has one year long data from EET, since the hospitality was the first industry for which electronic evidence was introduced in late 2016. Smoking ban is valid since mid-2017, hence the dataset captures the change when the legislation starts to be effective. For robustness check, monthly data from Czech statistical office are used. The topic is quite controversial, since EET is claimed to be the main driver of close downs of small shops and pubs in small villages. The available dataset however, allows to test for the change in the whole industry, since the data are aggregated.

Tiep Luu Danh worked on his thesis very independently and with interest expressed for the topic. He managed to tackle all the methodological issue for only one year long data and the analysis concludes, that no significant effect of smoking ban on the hospitality industry took place.

Contribution

The thesis uses original dataset, and the topic itself has not been examined for the Czech republic yet on the academic level. This thesis may be a starting point for usage of EET data for academic purposes and political debate about effect of EET policy.

Methods

The thesis uses relevant and suitable methods for time series analysis. Tiep prefers this to panel data analysis (another dimension can be the region), but the time dimension is only one year. The methods used are consistent with similar works in policy restriction area.

Literature

Literature overview is sufficient, and covers both VAT fiscalization as well as literature about policy effects for smoking and alcohol restrictions on hospitality industry, which are relevant for this thesis. Citations and usage of other papers follows required standards. High quality sources from refereed journals are used to form the model and hypotheses.

Manuscript form

The thesis itself is very readable and typeset using standard LaTeX template which provides well-formatted tables, figures, and references. From my perspective, the empirical part (chapter "Results") is very technical and I miss more explanation and description directly with the results, in the similar manner as in the chapter "Discussion and further research". On the other hand, I must admit, that Tiep Luu Danh improved this substantially since the first attempt.

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Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

I have no further questions regarding the content of the thesis, since I had the opportunity to see it before and my comments were incorporated. For the defense I would ask to elaborate about other possible usage of EET data and his personal opinion about EET.

I recommend the thesis for defence and for reasons stated above I suggest grade A.

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
Contribution (max. 30 points)	30
Methods (max. 30 points)	28
Literature (max. 20 points)	20
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	15
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	93
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	A

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Petr Polák

DATE OF EVALUATION: 28. 5. 2019



Referee Signature

EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:

CONTRIBUTION: *The author presents original ideas on the topic demonstrating critical thinking and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and empirics. There is a distinct value added of the thesis.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	0

METHODS: *The tools used are relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the author's level of studies. The thesis topic is comprehensively analyzed.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	0

LITERATURE REVIEW: *The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	0

MANUSCRIPT FORM: *The thesis is well structured. The student uses appropriate language and style, including academic format for graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables and disposes with a complete bibliography.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	0

Overall grading:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F