

Report on Bachelor Thesis

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

Student:	Kristýna Křížová
Advisor:	Doc. PhDr. Ladislav Křišťoufek, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Utilizing Online Data in Modelling Unemployment Rates in the Czech Republic

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.

The idea of the thesis builds on results of using online data (mostly Google searches for un/employment-related queries) for modeling unemployment rates for various countries. Only now, the data utilized are the ones provided by the online portal Jobs.cz for the Czech Republic. The data from the portal should be available straightaway whereas the unemployment statistics are available with a delay, even though the delay is not as long as it used to be (and which originally motivated the research in this area).

Contribution

The thesis shows that the online data from Jobs.cz improve the in-sample models quite considerably. However, the out-of-sample performance is not convincing. This might be connected to the specific dynamics of the Czech labor market in 2017 and 2018 when the unemployment rates hit the lower bound whereas the vacancies kept increasing (without any space for the unemployment dynamics). The limits of the contribution are thus exogenous. What I miss is some discussion of the Beveridge curve as the dataset allows for it and it was originally a plan.

Methods

The utilized methods are more in the master's level of studies (vector autoregressive models). The models are treated without issues.

Literature

I found no issues here.

Manuscript form

There are some tiny issues here and there. Tables could have been given a bit more work but nothing important or disturbing.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

Overall, this is a nice thesis and I suggest grade A. During the defense, Kristyna can discuss the Beveridge curve in the thesis context.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	91
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	A

NAME OF THE REFEREE:

doc. PhDr. Ladislav Krištofek, Ph.D.

DATE OF EVALUATION: 30.5.2019

Referee Signature