

Report on Bachelor/Master Thesis

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

Student:	Jozef Regináč
Advisor:	Doc. Ing. Tomáš Cahlík CSs.
Title of the thesis:	Population and Economic Growth

OVERALL ASSESSMENT:

The thesis is an ambitious attempt to construct a theoretical model that would shed light on the impact of population growth on economic growth. At the beginning the author provides a review of relevant literature and of two empirical studies. The review is in general well structured and Jozef works with original sources. In my view it would be appropriate to devote more space to the discussion of the causality issue and of the difficulty of empirical studies to deal with this problem.

In the theoretical part of the thesis Jozef constructs a growth model. He builds on the Solow model and introduces two new features into it – subsistence consumption and distinction between total population and labor force. The model implies that higher share of economically active population has non-negative impact on economic growth while share of dependent people has non-positive impact on economic growth. The main contribution of the model is that it emphasizes an important fact that the age structure of population matters. I appreciate that Jozef is aware of limitations of the model, especially of the difficulties to test it empirically. At the very end of the thesis he suggests few policy implications of the model, however, this is done only very briefly and could be explained more clearly.

To sum up, I find the quality of the thesis sufficient for the defense at the Institute of Economic Studies and in case of successful defense I recommend grade „výborně“ (1, A). Otherwise, I recommend grade „velmi dobře“ (2, B).

I regard the defense as successful if the author satisfactorily answers the following questions:

- In the model I miss the equation that would show the parameters the economic growth depends on. Are the described effects of population and labor force on economic growth relevant in short run or in long run?
- Is "Population" the same as the number of dependent people?
- What exactly is meant by policies such as family support and migration policies? Where in the model can be seen the effects of these policies on economic growth?

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

CATEGORY		POINTS
Literature	(max. 20 points)	15
Methods	(max. 30 points)	23
Contribution	(max. 30 points)	22
Manuscript Form	(max. 20 points)	20
TOTAL POINTS	(max. 100 points)	80
GRADE	(1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	1-2

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Julie Chytilová

DATE OF EVALUATION: 2.6.2009

Referee Signature