

Report on Bachelor Thesis

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

Student:	Michaela Preclíková
Advisor:	Mgr. Milan Ščasný, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Factors influencing the transport mode decision – case of 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.

Contribution

The thesis makes clear its aims and directions to which it contributes. The author takes a part of the data from INHERIT survey conducted at an individual level. After a preprocessing and filtering the data, around 700 observations are used to study socio-demographic/economic effects on the use of public transport in the Czech Republic. The text formulates four hypotheses, which help with an interpretation of the data and finding particular characteristics effects on the mode of transportation. However, it is hard to find the use of H1 and H2 for a policymaker, for instance.

Methods

The selected methods seem appropriate to model the proposed hypotheses in the study. The use of the multinomial logit model, related marginal effects and relative risk ratios for the interpretations is valid.

The author could improve the description of the model since it is not clear why there are $j=0, \dots, J$ and $j=1, \dots, J$ options of the multinomial situation in the formulas (2) and conditions required for logit.

Regarding descriptive statistics, in Figure 5, it might be useful for the reader to see the results in a table too, since these distributions appear equal, which is surprising. It would be nice the author could double-check the results. Also, it is not evident from the figure which row of graphs corresponds to CZE and which to 4-EU.

Literature

In the literature review, the author summarizes the use of the mode of transportation in the Czech Republic and worldwide. It also, in an adequate way, lists the studies already published on the topic of discrete choice models.

In the comment in the paragraph on p.7. starting with „I noticed that there are quite remarkable differences in results between studies....“ the author observes facts which in my opinion are valid, and there is nothing doubtful with them because the surveys mentioned in the text are just different. The last phrase concluding, in general, is not necessary to make such a summary. In case for the overview of the Czech Republic transport surveys, purposes of travels differ, which is understandable. Complementary, the reader might benefit from getting more information about the surveys/studies, like distributions of age, city size, access to public transport, etc. The author writes about this in section 1.2, and thus, it would be beneficial to apply these considerations when describing the current state of knowledge.

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Manuscript form

The manuscript form is acceptable. The thesis is written in English, and it would benefit of use of Grammarly (provided by the faculty to all students) before publication. Typos exist, and articles always cause troubles.

Also, tables with results should be provided in the text, where the text comments on them.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

The bachelor thesis satisfies the standard of the institute. The analysis sheds light on an interesting topic of transport with adequate use of multinomial logit model.

Q1) In the literature review, what are the difference in survey methods that cause variations in the results of the use of transport? By car, public transport and walking – how do these differ in surveys?

Q2) Could we run estimation and look at some cross-products of features to bind and observe effects and behaviour of specific groups, as in Hypothesis 1?

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	20
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	23
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	15
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	10
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	68
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	D

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *Luboš Hanus*

DATE OF EVALUATION: *May 30, 2020*



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.*

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.*

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

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.*

Overall grading:

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