

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Vít Kulhánek</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>Mgr. Roman Kalabiška</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Salary determinants of NHL players</b>

## **OVERALL ASSESSMENT:**

The thesis submitted by Vít Kulhánek studies the topic of salary determinants of ice hockey players in the National Hockey League (NHL), one of the most famous ice hockey leagues all over the world. It analyses individual statistics of both performance and physical characteristics to evaluate the effect of these statistics on the salaries of the NHL players. Vít aims to bring a deeper insight into a players' valuations by analyzing it for every position in the hockey field separately. Moreover, he claims that his study updates the existing literature since it is quite outdated.

Vít Kulhánek first introduces the topic of his thesis and shortly reviews the necessary literature of the hockey and football sports industries immediately afterward. Vít somewhat lacks in his thesis deeper theoretical background that I have seen in similar theses I reported on previously. He follows up immediately with a description of the data he uses and continues with model selection and description. His analysis is based on the OLS regression and consists of four main models. Three models are focused on skaters while the fourth is concerned with goaltenders. He further extends the basic analysis by studying the effect of a reputation of the most well-known players.

## **Contribution**

There is a lot of attention given to, not only American, sports in the literature. Even though very difficult from my position to evaluate, Vít seems to bring contribution to the field by providing the analysis for different player posts separately. Moreover, Vít studies the effect of the reputation of well-known players on their salaries by providing a quantile regression for the group of players with the highest salaries. Next, his „goalies“ model is said to explain goaltenders' salaries in more detail than previous literature (Fullard 2012). In my opinion larger contribution could have been provided in case Vít would not limit his dataset that much. Nevertheless, I consider the contribution of this thesis sufficient for a bachelor thesis.

## **Methods**

Vít Kulhánek provides an analysis of ice hockey players' salaries based on various characteristics. For this purpose, he uses data from the online database [www.capfriendly.com](http://www.capfriendly.com). I suggest not to call one source of data a „numerous existing websites“ since it is quite misleading for the reader. Moreover, I would be more restrained in considering the webpage „an appropriate and relevant source of information“ based only on the fact that it was used in previous studies. Even though I know that sport statistic websites are usually very good and reliable sources since there is a lot of money in professional sports, I suggest introducing more solid arguments in the academic text. I also have one more point regarding the dataset used for the analysis. From quite a large database Vít filters the data only of the 2018-2019 season and moreover, he restricts the data even more according to Vincent and Eastman (2009). Even though he explains some of the reasons I suggest asking for a more detailed explanation at the dissertation defense.

Vít Kulhánek analyze data by simple, yet appropriate methods. He introduces models he uses, discusses simply the nature of the data, and applies standard analytical methods. The cornerstone of his thesis lies in the analysis of different player posts separately after performing a standard joint analysis

## **Literature**

According to my experience with similar theses at our institute, the literature of this thesis is quite weak. The volume of scientific papers used in the thesis is low, there are not many papers cited throughout the text. For example, there have been some interesting theses devoted to statistical analyses of professional sports data lately at our institute that could have been used to improve the quality of this thesis. Moreover, I sometimes missed a reference that would anchor certain statements to a particular piece of literature. Citation usage, nevertheless, meets academic standards.

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## Manuscript form

The level of formal correctness of this thesis is average but sufficient, the flow of the text is simple but coherent. I am not satisfied with the style of the tables in the thesis, they seem to be scattered in the text (e.g. Table 1 being in the appendix) and seem to be screenshot and inserted as images out of focus.

## Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

I am pleased to summarize here that Vít Kulhánek managed all aspects of a bachelor thesis at a satisfactory level. The thesis shows the author's knowledge of both the presented topic as well as analytical methods. The results of the Urkund analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources. I recommend the thesis to defense at the IES FSV UK. Based on the quality of the thesis and my best knowledge I suggest the grade "D."

Suggested questions for the defense:

- Describe a procedure how you filter the database and restrict the filtered results in order to obtain your dataset for analysis. What are your reasons for this procedure? Explain in detail.
- Explain your model for Goalies analysis. How does your model explain goaltenders' salaries in more detail than Fullard (2012) does?

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Contribution (max. 30 points)</i>	20
<i>Methods (max. 30 points)</i>	21
<i>Literature (max. 20 points)</i>	12
<i>Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)</i>	10
<b>TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)</b>	<b>D</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** *Jindřich Matoušek*

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** 27.5.2021

*Digitálně podepsáno (27.5.2021)  
Jindřich Matoušek*

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**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