

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Bc. Tomas Tesar</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>Filip Pertold, Ph.D.</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Comparative analysis of factors influencing children's smoking</b>

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

This bachelor thesis attempts to point out on main factors that determine smoking of Youth in the US and in the Czech Republic. The first part mainly describes Czech and US data sources. Second part is focused on theoretical description on possible determinants of smoking. In the third part, describe econometric model and shows the results.

I believe that author did good job in describing data, results are also clearly and nicely presented. I believe that it would better to describe literature in more detail way, especially with respect to still growing economic literature on this topic.

Concerning the model and estimation. I believe that identification issues deserve separate chapter and closer connection with discussion of results and their limitations. The author should notice that there is no way how to test endogeneity of a variable unless one has clearly defined instruments for suspicious variables. Using correlation of error term and explanatory is useless and basically does not say anything relevant. Note that if Xs are endogenous, the model is misspecified and all estimates are biased and error term is incorrectly estimated. On top of it, using linear regression the residuals have always by definition no correlation with Xs.

This thesis provides usefull insight into descriptive analysis of youth smoking. It is usefull starting point for master thesis. However, author needs to work more on literature and and be more precise and carefull in econometric methods.

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	15
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	20
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	26
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20

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TOTAL POINTS	<i>(max. 100 points)</i>	81
GRADE	<i>(1 – 2 – 3 – 4)</i>	1

***NAME OF THE REFEREE: Filip Pertold, Ph.D.***

***DATE OF EVALUATION: 8.5.2011***

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***Referee Signature***

### **EXPLANATION OF CATEGORIES AND SCALE:**

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

Strong                  Average                  Weak  
20                          10                          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.*

Strong                  Average                  Weak  
30                          15                          0

**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.*

Strong                  Average                  Weak  
30                          15                          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.*

Strong                  Average                  Weak  
20                          10                          0

### **Overall grading:**

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE		
81 – 100	<b>1</b>	= excellent	= výborně
61 – 80	<b>2</b>	= good	= velmi dobře
41 – 60	<b>3</b>	= satisfactory	= dobře
0 – 40	<b>4</b>	= fail	= nedoporučuji k obhajobě