

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Student:</b>             | <b>Y My Vu Thi</b>  |
| <b>Advisor:</b>             | <b>PhDr. Mgr. Jana Gutiérrez Chvalková</b>  |
| <b>Title of the thesis:</b> | <b>An Analysis of Households Expenditure of Vietnamese Community living in the Czech Republic</b> |

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

The thesis analyses the consumption of Vietnamese households in the Czech Republic. In the first part, the author provides general information about the Vietnamese community in the Czech Republic. Next, she describes microeconomic / econometric theory used for the analysis and how the data for the analysis was gathered (by means of questionnaires). Finally, she describes the gathered data on expenditures by means of basic statistics and tries to test and quantify various hypotheses based on the regression model.

The topic of the thesis is very original and the major contribution is provided by the data collected by the author. Since the topic has not been covered sufficiently in the literature, the thesis contains no standard literature review. Instead, the author describes the econometric methodology used for the analysis.

There are some issues and ambiguities in the thesis:

- could the author elaborate on a puzzling result that households with income under 40,000 have average expenditures CZK 39,487 (p. 26). Does it mean that they spend almost all the money they earn and some of the households borrow some money at the same time (I assume the mean income is lower than 40,000 in the group)? Also, a few words about savings of the households could have been spent.

What I find most problematic is the statement of hypotheses and their testing:

- H2: "The higher the number of family members is, the higher level of expenditure is." Does it make sense to test this hypothesis? Other things being equal (which is the case in the regression analysis), I cannot imagine a situation, when a larger number of household members would mean lower expenditures.

- H5: "Families who visit Vietnam on a regular basis have a higher expenditure." I believe that travel costs can be larger than expenditures of some poorer households, so this hypothesis does not make sense to me and is an example of reverse causality (a case of endogeneity), which makes the OLS estimates inconsistent.

A note to the bibliography: all references listed in the bibliography should be cited, which is not the case in the thesis (e.g. Miles, Haughton et al.).

Given the student's undergraduate level and no other major issues in the thesis, I suggest "výborně" (A, 1) grade.

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Student:</b>             | <b>Y My Vu Thi</b>  |
| <b>Advisor:</b>             | <b>PhDr. Mgr. Jana Gutiérrez Chvalková</b>  |
| <b>Title of the thesis:</b> | <b>An Analysis of Households Expenditure of Vietnamese Community living in the Czech Republic</b> |

## **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)         | 25            |
| <i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)    | 25            |
| <i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points) | 17            |
| <b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)   | <b>82</b>     |
| <b>GRADE</b> (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)            | <b>1</b>      |

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** *Tomáš Adam*

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** 6. 6. 2013

---

*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 |