

# Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Bc. Petra Linhartová</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>Petr Janský, Ph.D.</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Distributional Effects of Inflation in the Czech Republic</b>

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

The aim of this thesis was to estimate the distributional effects of inflation in the Czech Republic. Petra Linhartová fulfilled this objective in an excellent way.

Petra applied the state-of-the-art methods to the best available household-level data to expand our knowledge about how inflation affects various groups of households in the Czech Republic. There are a number of aspects to like about Petra's thesis, mostly from the point of view of results and methodological approach. Petra came up with a new way how to evaluate that households have inflation close to the mean inflation. One of the challenges Petra dealt with in a successful way was the application of standard methods to relatively old and unused household-level data from as early as 1990. The main methodological contribution of Petra's thesis to the international literature is the unbalanced panel data regression (although its application and interpretation might need some refinements, especially if Petra aimed to publish a revised version in an academic journal). Also, often when some of Petra's results are not new to the literature, she presents them in a novel way (such as when she stresses that the biggest difference was in 2009 between low- and high-income households, when it reached 3.67 percentage points).

The few existing shortcomings of the thesis are hard to deal with, for Petra or any other researcher. For example, in the case of data insufficiencies (researcher are for example worried that some items such as alcohol are underreported in the surveys) she did what is usually done (acknowledges a potential problem). Also, it should be interesting to directly compare the time-series and other results with other countries, but that is difficult due to availability and comparability of the data.

During the course of writing her thesis, Petra transformed from having difficulties working with Stata and more generally with empirical analysis to being able to apply the appropriate methods in a confident way. I very much enjoyed observing this transformation and the ability to acquire new skills as well as the acquired skills themselves should be very useful in Petra's career.

Petra Linhartová did a very good job of writing a thesis and I recommend a grade of **excellent (výborně, 1)**.

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	25
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	17
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>90</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	<b>1</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** Petr Janský, Ph.D.



**Referee Signature**

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2015

**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