

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

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Title of the thesis:	Price Elasticity of Alcohol Demand: A Meta-Analysis

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

The aim of this thesis is discover more about the eventual effects that publication bias might have in the alcohol-related literature. This study aims to estimate true effect elasticity in order to show how elastic the demand for alcoholic beverages behaves. The main objective is whether the reported estimates of own-price elasticity of alcohol suffers from publication bias; with using meta-analysis method in 41 pages of survey and 1 page of appendix. The methods applied 91 estimates from 11 different studies. The main finding is that the demand for alcoholic beverages might be perfectly inelastic; evidence of publication bias is quite strong and it appears that the economics research cycle hypothesis is also valid in this literature. The topic clearly defined and methodology followed well. However, I have some minor concerns:

- The Author took studies only published after 2007 in Chapter 3 (explains that studies published before 2007 have been already included in previous meta-analysis), what is the main object for this selection? Is not sample selection bias?
- "This means that the country effects will be taken into account as well and each country will have the same weight regardless of the number of its observations" (page 19). What is the country level? Does author mean cluster at the study level? The Author also explains different methods for suitability to take country effect into account (page 27). Still it is not understandable what does country effect mean?
- Whether results are consistent if author will combine (sum three types of alcohol beverage) all three alcoholic beverage?
- Methodological part did not explain in detail. Whether this study is just update Fogarty's (2010) findings and/or there are different contribution?
- The author did not explain the reasons why he did not take consider "grey literature" into account; however, there might be legitimate concern that a meta-analysis may overestimate the true effect size of climate sensitivity.
- Why not expand search query towards EconLit, RePEc, SSRN, Google Scholar, because it might happened that the important studies were left out.

Suggested question for the defense is:


Could it be that the finding of this study that publication bias is present in the literature which is contrast with the Fogarty's (2010) study might be related to the Author's identification, methodological choice and/or less updated variables?

In the case of successful defense, I recommend "**velmi dobře**"

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
Literature (max. 20 points)	15
Methods (max. 30 points)	20
Contribution (max. 30 points)	10
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	15
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	60
GRADE (1 - 2 - 3 - 4)	3

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Ayaz Zeynalov
DATE OF EVALUATION: 28 August 2014


Referee Signature