

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Vaclav Kalous
Advisor:	Karel Janda
Title of the thesis:	Biofuels- economical and ecological impact

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

Please provide your assessment of each of the following four categories, summary and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Contribution

This bachelor thesis is a follow-up on several previous works of Karel Janda and Ladislav Kristoufek and their IES students. The most recent and most relevant paper from this Janda and Kristoufek workshop is Filip, O., K. Janda, L. Kristoufek, & D. Zilbermam (2017): "Food versus fuel: An updated and expanded evidence." *Energy Economics* - forthcoming (yes, it is on web since 2017, but it is still forthcoming article). As opposed to the previous Janda and Kristoufek et al. (xx) papers which always strived for wide commodity coverage, this thesis opted for a very narrow focus only on biodiesel, using just nine US and German biodiesel related commodities.

Methods

The thesis strongly benefited from the simultaneously prepared bachelor thesis of Matej Novotny, especially as far as data are concerned. While Vaclav Kalous assembled some additional data series by himself, the data prepared by Matej Novotny were better, so at the end a subset of Matej Novotny's data was used for this thesis. The paper uses standard time-series econometrics methods belonging to the core econometrics literacy equipment of good IES students.

Literature The thesis demonstrates author's understanding and command of recent literature. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way. This was actually relatively easy since the author has available a recent review paper (which he quotes in his thesis) Janda, K. & L. Kristoufek (2019): "The Relationship between Fuel and Food Prices: Methods, Outcomes, and Lessons for Commodity Price Risk Management." *SSRN Electronic Journal* (681228). – this is copy-and-paste item from the Bibliography of the bachelor thesis. A better characterisation of this paper would be a direct reference to CAMA WP.

Bibliography contains a number of mistakes or incomplete references, like

Flach, B. (????): "EU Biofuels Annual 2017." Technical report.

Oskin, B. (????): "Amazon Rainforest Breathes In More Than It Breathes Out."

Pal, D. & S. K. Mitra (2017): "Time-frequency contained co-movement of crude oil and world food prices: A wavelet-based analysis."

Manuscript form

The thesis is relatively well written. However it could be improved. For example the section 2.2 Legal Impacts actually deals not with legal, but with regulatory impacts. The section 2.3 on Environmental Impacts is not really related to the analytical core of this thesis.

The presentation of econometric results could be better, more conventional and more clear.

Summary and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

While the student frequently communicated with me during the preparation of the thesis, actual work on the core of the thesis and finishing of the thesis was done over the last few days before deadline. Therefore I did not have an opportunity to help student with the core content and with the overall structure and details of the thesis.

Clear question to be discussed during the exams are the reasons for some unintuitive results like the coefficients for soybeans. Treatment of currencies (conversion of prices) should be compared with approaches taken in related literature (for example in already mentioned Filip, O., K. Janda, L.

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Vaclav Kalous
Advisor:	Karel Janda
Title of the thesis:	Biofuels- economical and ecological impact

Kristoufek, & D. Zilbermam (2017): "Food versus fuel: An updated and expanded evidence." Energy Economics - forthcoming and a position on this currencies treatment should be justified.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	16
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	19
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	18
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	71
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	C

NAME OF THE REFEREE: *Karel Janda (thesis advisor)*

DATE OF EVALUATION: *May 17, 2019*

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.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	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.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
30	15	0

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

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	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.*

<i>Strong</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Weak</i>
20	10	0

Overall grading:

TOTAL	GRADE
91 – 100	A
81 - 90	B
71 - 80	C
61 – 70	D
51 – 60	E
0 – 50	F