

Report on Master Thesis

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

Student:	Bc. Jana Tůmová
Advisor:	doc. Mgr. Holub Tomáš, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Deflation and the Czechoslovak experience

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

Analyses of the costs of deflation have become very topical in recent years, given the global low inflation environment and deflation in many European economies. At the same time, empirical investigation of this topic is constrained by the fact that until recently, historical episodes from the post-WWII period have been very rare. One thus needs to go farther into the history. The submitted master thesis contributes to the literature by examining as a case study inter-war Czechoslovakia.

First and foremost, I appreciate the tedious work that the author undertook in terms of data collection, as the time series are naturally not available in an electronic form and had to be researched from numerous historical statistical publications. The thesis thus provides a survey of interesting and useful stylized facts from our economic history, which were previously not easy to get. At the same time, the focus on historical data series, which are incomplete, limited the scope for any econometric analysis. The applied correlation analysis in Chapter 4 is thus a relatively low-skill exercise for the master level, and the applied methods thus can be assessed as average at best.

Among other strong points, I can highlight a nice literature survey, including the ongoing debate of "good, bad, and ugly" deflations, logical structure of the thesis and its decent English (even though some further editing would help).

During her work, the author consulted with me the content of her thesis very actively, and has incorporated all my major comments. Therefore, I have no further specific remarks. The debate at the defence could focus on the lessons that one can draw from the Czechoslovak experience for the current monetary policy debate in the Czech Republic, and more generally in Europe.

I recommend the thesis to be accepted. Given the relatively lower technical difficulty, the adequate grade is "good" (2, velmi dobře).

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
Literature (max. 20 points)	19
Methods (max. 30 points)	15
Contribution (max. 30 points)	20
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	18
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	72
GRADE (1 – 2 – 3 – 4)	2

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Tomáš Holub

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Referee Signature