

Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	Eliška Tonarová
Advisor:	Mgr. Petr Polák, MSc. Ph.D
Title of the thesis:	Phillips curve and Google searches

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

Please provide a short summary of the thesis, your assessment of each of the four key categories, and an overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion. The minimum length of the report is 300 words.

Short summary

In her thesis Eliška Tonarová focuses on a well established economic phenomena that describes the relation between inflation and unemployment – Phillips curve. This concept is well researched, but even nowadays the discussion about the slope of the curve is still ongoing and Eliška also uses alternative data source for the analysis – internet searches. She confirms the existence of a not so flat PC in the Czech republic and shows that Google searches are a good indicator for development of inflation.

Contribution

Eliška used innovative approach to a classical economic topic to look at it from a different perspective and to utilize different data. Internet searches statistic are available more frequently and sooner than official statistical data. She discovered 1) that not every assumed relation can be seen on the searched data, but it might be by the keyword selection 2) that internet search data are relevant. Unfortunately, local search engine (seznam.cz) does not provide longer data history for the analysis.

Methods

The thesis uses simple methods to focus on the relations, which was the goal. Input data are well described and I appreciate also the story behind it as well as the attempts to link it to the real applications.

Literature

All sources are well referenced, studies used belong to the core of the studied topic. I like that Eliška uses all variety of available sources.

Manuscript form

The thesis itself is very well written, using standard template which is appreciated and data are also depicted in charts to make it more visual, which is great.

Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

From the perspective of a supervisor, Eliška worked on her thesis continuously and reached for help quite often. She focused on understanding the data and the message the analysis is telling us. We discussed the used methods in the academic literature and decided to stick to a simple regressions to „try“ to use alternative data source instead of using more advanced methods beyond bachelor level of econometric. Hence I am happy with the thesis as Eliška fulfilled the given topic. The only improvement could be made by collecting the data for the thesis earlier, which would give her 2 years of domestic searches.

I do not have a specific question for the defense and I would suggest that Eliška elaborates about possibilities for the application of her research outcomes.

The results of the Urkund analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

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In my view, the thesis fulfills the requirements for a bachelor thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, I recommend it for the defense and suggest a grade A.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution (max. 30 points)</i>	28
<i>Methods (max. 30 points)</i>	28
<i>Literature (max. 20 points)</i>	20
<i>Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)</i>	20
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	96
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	A

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Petr Polák

DATE OF EVALUATION: 30. 5. 2023

*Digitally signed (30. 5. 2023)
Petr Polák*

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.*

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.*

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

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.*

Overall grading:

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