

REPORT ON MASTER THESIS
CENTER FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND GRADUATE EDUCATION

STUDENT:	Lusine Sargasyan
ADVISOR:	Doc. Ing. Daniel Münich, Ph.D.
TITLE OF THE THESIS:	Women’s employment before and during the Covid-19 pandemic: The case of Armenia

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

The thesis deals with an important topic of effects of COVID19 pandemics on the labour market. In particular, the author focuses on effects of COVID19 pandemics on female labor market participation, given that women might be particularly affected by pandemics and lock-downs due to school closure and their care responsibilities for children. The author uses Armenian Labor Force Surveys to run the analyses. The thesis is logically structured and well-written; it uses relevant methodology of literature review, descriptive analyses, and empirical regression analyses using available Labour Force Survey micro-data. Generally, the methods and results are in line with the level expected for master theses. Overall, the thesis fulfills the standards of a master thesis.

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

CONTRIBUTION:

I appreciate the choice of a topic, which is relevant and important both from the point of view of economics and for economic policy makers. The thesis contributes to the literature with analyses of the effect of COVID19 pandemics on labor market outcomes of women in Armenia, whereas previous evidence comes mostly from western developed high-income countries, and evidence from the middle-income countries such as Armenia is rather rare. The results of the thesis are in line with previous research from other countries such as that female labor force participation is negatively affected by pandemics, in particular married women and women in households with children had lower probability of labor market participation. In addition, the author shows that there are differences of the effects by education, i.e. that women with tertiary education had higher probability of participating on the labor market than those with secondary-education. Overall, the contribution of the master thesis corresponds to demands placed on masters’ theses.

METHODS:

The methodology is in line with standard state-of-the art methodology used in other studies using similar data. The student provided a detailed descriptive evidence and conducted empirical regression type analyses using available for Armenia Labor Force Survey data (12 quarters) and applying the linear probability mode (LPM) approach. Overall, the regression analyses and

interpretation of results are conducted relatively carefully and in line with previous studies in the area using similar data. Perhaps the part could be more extensive.

LITERATURE:

The literature review is based on a wealth of good quality journal articles, it provides a comprehensive overview of the available evidence on labour market effects of COVID19 pandemics. The review is thorough, although it could be better-written in terms of a story-telling fashion. Sources are properly cited.

MANUSCRIPT FORM:

The thesis is logically structured and written in a professional manner. Perhaps better work could be done with graphs and tables so that they look more professional.

SUMMARY AND SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR THE DISCUSSION DURING THE DEFENSE:

Overall, I consider the thesis interesting and well-written, and fulfilling the standards for master's thesis. I suggest to ask the following questions during the defense:

1. Could you compare results of your empirical analyses from Armenia to results from other countries e.g. studies that you cite in your literature review? Are there any differences in the direction of your findings?
2. Could you indicate what more you could do with the data in hand/if more time would be available? Could you debate on how - in ideal world - would your ideal dataset and empirical analyses look like in order to fully answer your research questions? Further, having in hand such an ideal dataset, what further important research questions would you be interested to rise?

Please indicate whether you recommend the Thesis for defense or not.

I recommend the thesis for defense.

TEXT ORIGINALITY CONTROL

I confirm that I acquainted myself with the report on the originality of the text of the thesis from

Theses Turnitin Ouriginal (Urkund)

Comments on the reported results:

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, please see the page 3)

CATEGORY	POINTS
Contribution (max. 30 points)	24
Methods (max. 30 points)	20
Literature (max. 20 points)	19
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	19
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	82
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	B

NAME OF THE REFEREE:

Doc. Ing. Mariola Pytliková, Ph.D.

DATE OF EVALUATION: 30.8.2023



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.

Strong	Average	Weak
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.

Strong	Average	Weak
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.

Strong	Average	Weak
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.

Strong	Average	Weak
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