

# Report on Bachelor Thesis

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

<b>Student:</b>	<b>Magdalena Anne Zucek</b>
<b>Advisor:</b>	<b>PhDr. Mgr. Jana Votápková, Ph.D.</b>
<b>Title of the thesis:</b>	<b>Do Current Childcare Costs Cause Women to Leave their Jobs? A Workforce Retention Regression Analysis</b>

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

## Short summary

The thesis thoroughly examines how childcare costs, family composition, and socio-economic factors influence maternal employment. It reveals that while higher childcare costs initially reduced maternal employment, recent trends suggest a potential increase in employment probabilities, possibly due to evolving labor market dynamics and better childcare policies. Overall, the thesis offers valuable insights but may benefit from a broader consideration of additional influencing factors.

## Contribution

I appreciate the choice of this topic, as it highlights the significant yet often overlooked challenges modern mothers face in balancing childcare and professional responsibilities. The author has clearly put considerable effort into exploring the complexities of maternal employment in the context of childcare costs and socio-economic factors.

## Methods

The tools employed are appropriate for the research question and suitable for the author's level of study. The thesis provides a comprehensive analysis of the topic, and the chosen model type is appropriate for a bachelor's thesis.

## Literature

The thesis illustrates the author's comprehensive understanding of recent literature, with correct and relevant use of citations.

## Manuscript form

The thesis is well-organized, with the student employing suitable language and style, including proper academic formatting for graphs and tables.

## Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

The thesis demonstrates a solid understanding of the research topic, effectively analyzing the relationship between childcare costs, family composition, and maternal employment. The author skillfully utilizes relevant tools and methodologies, such as logistic and Tobit regression models, to investigate the complex interplay of these factors over different years and datasets. The thesis is well-structured, with clear and concise language, appropriate use of academic formatting, and thorough referencing of recent literature.

The Turnitin analysis results show no significant text similarity with other available sources.

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Overall, the thesis meets the academic standards required for a bachelor's degree at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, and is recommended for defense with a suggested grade of A.

## Suggested Questions for the Defense Discussion:

1. How might other factors, such as workplace flexibility or access to remote work opportunities, influence maternal employment outcomes, and how could these have been incorporated into your analysis?
2. Based on your findings, what specific policy recommendations would you suggest to support maternal employment, and how might these policies be practically implemented?

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

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Contribution</i> (max. 30 points)	27
<i>Methods</i> (max. 30 points)	28
<i>Literature</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<i>Manuscript Form</i> (max. 20 points)	20
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> (max. 100 points)	<b>95</b>
<b>GRADE</b> (A – B – C – D – E – F)	<b>A</b>

**NAME OF THE REFEREE:** *Mgr. Veronika Plachá*

**DATE OF EVALUATION:** 25.8.2024

Digitálně podepsáno (25.8.2024):  
Veronika Plachá

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**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