Report on Bachelor / Master Thesis

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

Student:	**Kateřina Kozlíková**
Advisor:	**Doc. PhDr. Zuzana Havránková, Ph.D.**
Title of the thesis:	**Price Elasticities of Meat, Fish and Seafood: A Meta-Analysis**

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

Short summary

The thesis uses 459 estimates from 56 distinct studies to quantitatively synthesize the literature on the price elasticity of meat, fish, and seafood. The author delivers up-to-date estimates for the mean elasticities, both Marshall and Hicks, corrected for publication bias – which, however, is a substantial problem only for the Marshall elasticity. Moreover, the author examines in detail the reasons why individual estimates vary, how they depend on context. The results are useful both for scientists and practitioners as I discuss below.

Contribution

The contribution of the thesis is clear: it is the first work that uses modern techniques to correct for publication bias and model uncertainty in this literature. Consequently the results are much more credible than those of earlier meta-analyses. The price elasticity of meat (and fish and seafood) demand is useful for two general reasons, as is also well described in the thesis. The first reason is microeconomic: for example, supermarket chains need price elasticity estimates. Second, on the macroeconomic level the price elasticity is important for taxation, which could be motivated by health or climate considerations. The author went the extra mile by consulting a private pricing firm to gain a clearer understanding of the real-world applications of price elasticities. With some relatively straightforward effort, the thesis could be converted to a paper that would be publishable in a solid international journal, such as Food Policy.

Methods

The thesis is executed well and uses modern meta-analysis techniques. I have no objections here because the author consulted her progress with me on a regular basis. Among the things I highly appreciate is laborious data collection, reasonable distinction between Marshall and Hicks elasticities, the use of study-level fixed effects, clustering of standard errors at the study level, the use of nonlinear techniques (such as WAAP, selection model, stem-based model, kink model, p-uniform*), Bayesian model averaging with a dilution prior, frequentist model averaging.

Literature

The relevant literature is covered well.

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Manuscript form

The paper is typeset nicely in LaTeX and written in competent English.

Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

In my view, the thesis fulfills the requirements for a bachelor's thesis at the IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, I recommend it for the defense and suggest a grade A. Because the author delivers much more than can be expected of a BA student, I believe the thesis should be awarded. The results of the plagiarism software analysis do not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources.

Question for defense: Could you explain to the committee the usefulness of the dilution prior in BMA related to your analysis of VIFs?

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
Contribution (max. 30 points)	28
Methods (max. 30 points)	28
Literature (max. 20 points)	20
Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)	19
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	**95**
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	A*

NAME OF THE REFEREE: doc. PhDr. Zuzana Havránková, Ph.D.

DATE OF EVALUATION: 12.8.2024   Digitally signed, Zuzana Havrankova

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Referee Signature

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**