

Report on Bachelor Thesis

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

Student:	Hana Tomanová
Advisor:	Mgr. Petr Polák, MSc., Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Lego as investment

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, Hana Tomanová investigates the determinants affecting the annual growth in value of retired LEGO sets. The study uses a multiple linear regression model to analyze a substantial dataset derived from Brickeconomy.com, focusing on two dependent variables: the annual growth in value of sealed sets and the average annual growth in value of used sets. The thesis aims to provide insights that could be valuable for LEGO collectors and investors.

Contribution

The thesis contributes to a niche but growing area of economic research—alternative investments, specifically in collectible items like LEGO sets. The study stands out by using a novel data source (Brickeconomy.com) and by focusing on a relatively underexplored investment category. The findings that age, number of pieces, and retail price significantly impact the annual growth in value of LEGO sets offer practical insights for both investors and collectors.

Methods

The thesis employs a quantitative approach using the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method. The model is based on collected data and hypotheses raised by Dobrynskaya & Kishilova (2022). The use of over 11,000 observations adds significant weight to the analysis, enhancing the reliability of the findings. Data cleaning process is described, however some more details should be added so that the process is more transparent. Such as why certain limits were used or how many observations were affected. A graphical tools could also help to investigate outliers in the data. It would be also nice if thesis would elaborate more about possible value drivers raised by Dobrynskaya & Kishilova (2022) and build upon that stating, if some of those drivers are possible to investigate using the data or not.

Literature

The literature review in the thesis covers both traditional and alternative investment options. The inclusion of recent studies on LEGO investments helps position the thesis within the current academic discourse. While the thesis cites relevant sources, it could benefit from a more extensive exploration of economic theories related to investment behavior, which would provide a stronger theoretical foundation for the empirical analysis. The usage of the literature follows academic standards

Manuscript form

The thesis uses standardized Latex template, but I found a few typos and strange characters (e.g. page 3). Unfortunately, the thesis does not use any graphical tools to describe the dataset.

Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

As a supervisor I am sad about how the final form of the thesis turned out, as Hana was working on the thesis on regular basis and spent a lot of time with the dataset and I hoped for better. I understand that there were other reasons, but since I have to evaluate the final draft my grading suggests that this thesis could be much better. The thesis uses great dataset, but does not fully use its potential and nor does fully elaborates about implications that can be taken from the results. So in esence, for a better grade suggestion, the thesis would have to be enhanced and weak spots improved as now the thesis is kind of unfinished.

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During the defense, Hana should elaborate about her results and interpretation of those to show the strengths of the thesis.

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

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 D.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution (max. 30 points)</i>	22
<i>Methods (max. 30 points)</i>	15
<i>Literature (max. 20 points)</i>	15
<i>Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)</i>	15
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100 points)	67
GRADE (A – B – C – D – E – F)	D

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Petr Polák

DATE OF EVALUATION: 26. 8. 2024

Digitally signed (26. 8. 2024)
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