

DISSERTATION REVIEW

Title: Analysis of Czech agricultural exports based on mirror statistics of Russian imports

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The dissertation is focused on the possibilities of mirror statistics of Russian imports to analyze and identify problems of Czech **Agricultural products and foodstuffs** exports to the Russian market, including those unobserved by Czech national statistics and contains six main chapters covering both theoretical and empirical parts.

Chapter 1: The introduction is focused on the dissertation background, motivation and relevance, statement of the problems, objectives, and research questions and introduces the significance and structure of the dissertation. Chapter 2: Literature review introduces mirror statistics as an information base for the analysis of foreign trade. This includes asymmetry of mirror data and features of the methodology of customs statistics and, Asymmetry due to various errors in customs value calculations. The conceptual and theoretical framework of the foreign trade indices as a tool for statistics and analysis, consolidated indices in foreign trade statistics and additional possibilities of using FT indices in the analysis. Chapter 3: Data and methodology describe the data and methodology used in the empirical part. Chapter 4 and Chapter 5: Results and discussion present own results. Chapter 6: Conclusions and recommendations provide the overall conclusion and some recommendations. Besides these main chapters, the dissertation contains references, appendixes, a list of tables, figures, and abbreviations. The abstract, keywords, dedication, declaration, acknowledgement, and contents are also included.

The dissertation examines current and relevant topics. The main idea of the analysis of the study is focused on the possibilities of mirror statistics of Russian imports to analyze and identify problems of Czech APF exports to the Russian market and the possibility of its increase and support can be appreciated. Also, the methodology selected can be considered suitable.

First, in Chapter 1, the study is subdivided in the following themes and areas and focuses. As a data foundation for examining Czech APF exports, the first subtopic inquiry used mirror statistics. When transferring commodities from an exporting nation to the market of a consumer nation, the accuracy of statistics and the general asymmetry of mirror data are considered from the perspective of the acceptability of its values. According to the list of primary products and the top three products, the tolerance of the asymmetry of mirror data on their worth is examined. The analysis of Czech exports to the Russian market led to the conclusion that figures on Russian APF imports could be used to examine those exports, allowing the study to employ mirror statistics as its informative base. Consideration of foreign trade (FT) indices as a tool for analysing changes in foreign trade is the focus of the second sub-topic. The possibilities of using usage FT indices for the simultaneous analysis of the volume of physical supply and their average prices, in addition to the value flows of commodities, were investigated. The investigation of the Czech APF supply to the Russian market led to the conclusion that statistics about resolving economic problems did not adequately implement the FT indices. Monetary statements of the problem are considered by identifying groupings of significant goods with distinct characteristics of changes in value indices, prices, and physical volumes of commodities, and methods of aggregating and disaggregating FT indices are proposed. The third subtopic investigated the supply of Czech APFs to the Russian market using mirror import figures. Here, the top three items and the major product categories are highlighted in a list of the most significant products. FT indices are used to examine the dynamics and trends of their trading. Then, the Chapter 2 Literature review. In the part of the literature review, the theoretical background for the selected Mirror statistics as an information base for analyzing foreign trade and foreign trade, in general, would be expected. The author discussed the methodology of the study; the study was conducted using benchmarking where in addition to the Czech Republic, other V4 countries (Poland, Slovakia and Hungary) were included as a focus group for which the level of trade recovery was compared (achieving pre-crisis trade volumes in 2012-2013), and a leader was identified. The identified leader was the Czech Republic which was the only one among other V4 countries that reached the level of pre-crisis APF trading in the Russian market. Then for the Czech Republic, APF supplies were analyzed using mirror statistics of Russian imports. The analysis was carried out for the groups of the essential commodities and the top three commodities of trade leaders for which recommendations for developing trade were formulated. The Discussion, Conclusions, and recommendations show an effort of the author to fulfil the objectives of the dissertation. For Czech beer, as the leader of trade, the problem of re-export not observed by Czech statistics was identified and analyzed. Based on

this analysis, the proposals to expand the export of Czech beer taking into account the factor of intellectual property were formulated.

The literature review section should have been structured according to the analyzed topic. The presented thesis covers wide range of explanation with no clear link to the indicated research questions. In the submitted thesis I miss a better explanation of the used method and better explanation of the used steps. In my view, it would be better if the author structures the thesis according to the research questions. It would help to better understand his results. On the other hand, I have to highlight that most of the parts of the thesis results have been published in high-impact scientific journals.

I would like to ask the candidate the two following questions:

1. What is the relevance of your thesis?
2. What is the novelty of your thesis?

Despite the comments that I have indicated in my review, the thesis fulfils all requirements posed in theses aimed at obtaining PhD degree. This thesis is ready to be defended in front of the public committee.

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