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DISSERTATION REVIEW

Doctoral student: Mgr. Sergey Yurik
Supervisor: prof. Ing. Prof. Luboš Smutka, Ph.D.
Opponent: Ing. Jaroslav Halík, MBA, Ph.D.
Thesis title: Analysis of Czech Agricultural Exports Based on Mirror Statistics of Russian Imports

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Outline of the review:

1. Topicality of the dissertation theme and relevance of the formulated aim
2. Achievement of the stated objective and the level of analysis of the current state of the problem
3. The way the methods were applied and the accuracy of the results obtained
4. Applicability of the results for practice
5. Demonstration of knowledge and fulfilment of the formal requirements
6. Final evaluation

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1. Topicality of the dissertation theme and relevance of the formulated aim

The theme of the dissertation is highly actual, I agree with the author's initial premise that the mirror statistics, as opposed to the national statistics, are closer to the real conditions of the exports and imports among countries. However, the aim formulation as „… to determine the possibilities of mirror statistics of Russian imports to analyze and identify problems of Czech agricultural exports to the Russian market, including unobserved by Czech national statistics" seems not fully correspond with the title of the dissertation, as „Analysis of Czech Agricultural Exports Based on Mirror Statistics of Russian Imports". Additionally added research questions (pp. 5-6) clarify the real intentions of the author and the answers to them are reflected in the conclusions and recommendations. I also appreciate that the author mentioned the dynamic development in the given area, which may significantly modify his results in the future. Especially because the data used in his analysis fall into the period before the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

2. Achievement of the stated objective and the level of analysis of the current state of the problem

Based on extensive data analysis, the author concludes that deviations (asymmetries) of two mirror flows - the imports, based on CIF prices, and exports, using FOB prices - not exceeding 10%, is good enough for mirror statistics to serve as a full-fledged information base. He admits, however, that the „speed" of exports and imports and their „value, physical volume, and price" represent important foreign trade indices (FTI) that might modify final statistical records. As the FT indices of consolidated HS commodity groups are published by UN/IMF in too aggregated form, the author had to develop his methodology based on aggregation and disaggregation of indices, as well as matrix-table analogues of these algorithms for computer implementation. He applied it to APF-trade volumes of the V4 countries and found out that the Czech Republic became the leader among the V4 countries in terms of the recovery of APF trade in the Russian market after the introduction of Russian counter-sanctions. I can state that the objectives of the thesis have been met and that the present text represents a creative contribution to the given area of research.

3. The way the methods were applied and the accuracy of the results obtained

I assess the choice of methods used in the dissertation as correct and fit for purpose. The volume of the processed data is adequate, and the results of the analyses were relevantly used for the argumentation and evaluation of the established hypotheses. My only comment is the sometimes confusing arrangement of chapters and paragraphs, both in the analytical part and when presenting outcomes and conclusions.

4. Applicability of the results for practice

The author's contribution consists in developing his methodology of implementing FT indices into export-import mirror statistics and the ability to apply it to real examples from practice. He formulated algorithms for aggregating and disaggregating FT indices in calculating and studying the group dynamics of the most important APF goods within the Czech-Russian trade.

5. Demonstration of knowledge and fulfilment of the formal requirements

The author has demonstrated extensive knowledge of mirror statistics of Czech-Russian APF exports and imports, a good understanding of methods of aggregation and disaggregation of FT-indices and their use in mirror statistics, and, in particular, the ability to analyze possible causes of data inconsistencies (asymmetries) and develop practical recommendations on expanding trade for business, statistics and trade policy. From a formal point of view, the layout meets the prescribed standards, and the language and stylistics are at an acceptable level, nevertheless, tables and graphs are slightly disorganized, sources are properly cited, bibliography, lists of tables, figures, graphs and abbreviations used are also formally in order. There is no acknowledgement (e.g. IGA FEM). The scope of the text is in line with the regulations.

6. Final evaluation

Overall, I evaluate the submitted dissertation as adequate scientific work that meets the requirements of doctoral studies at the university. The author has provided new insights into Czech agricultural exports based on mirror statistics of Russian imports, and his conclusions are useful for further theoretical research as well as for practical application. His knowledge and ability to work scientifically have been proven.

I can therefore conclude:

I have read the dissertation "Analysis of Czech Agricultural Exports Based on Mirror Statistics of Russian Imports" and I RECOMMEND it for oral defence in front of the Dissertation Committee of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague.

Prague, February 2, 2023

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