

Report on Master Thesis

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

Student:	Bc. Sokheang Srin
Advisor:	doc. PhDr. Adam Geršl, Ph.D.
Title of the thesis:	Exploring Bank Efficiency in Cambodia

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

Short summary

This Master's Thesis focuses on an interesting topic of efficiency of banks' operations in a developing country (Cambodia) and offers value added for our understanding of the determinants of bank efficiency and its development over time.

Contribution

This thesis estimates efficiency scores for individual banks in Cambodia, using bank level data received from the country's central bank. There are similar studies on this topic but this one offers additional value added in (i) providing more reliable estimate of bank efficiency in Cambodia due to the availability of detailed official bank data, and (ii) exploring the link between risk and efficiency of banks.

Methods

The thesis applies both traditional approaches to calculating efficiency scores – DEA and SFA. Both approaches yield somewhat different results, but this is discussed in the thesis and used in parallel in subsequent analysis. Ultimately, the efficiency scores are explained by a combination of bank-level and macroeconomic variables within a panel framework.

The student demonstrates good data analysis skills and good knowledge of econometrics for this type of research. The methods used are appropriate and the results informative. The study could have used a somewhat more elaborated approach on the last part and also spend more time in discussing alternative specifications of both DEA and SFA, but what has been done there is fully in line with literature.

Literature

The review of literature and the overview of concepts in the bank efficiency research is well written and relevant existing papers and articles are mentioned.

Manuscript form

The thesis is written quite well – all is explained and illustrated, the language is understandable.

Overall evaluation and suggested questions for the discussion during the defense

The student has worked intensively on the thesis and consulted with me frequently. The Turnitin analysis does not indicate significant text similarity with other available sources. In my view, the thesis fulfills the requirements for a Master's Thesis at IES, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, I recommend it for the defense and suggest a grade B.

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

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Contribution (max. 30 points)</i>	25
<i>Methods (max. 30 points)</i>	25
<i>Literature (max. 20 points)</i>	18
<i>Manuscript Form (max. 20 points)</i>	18

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TOTAL POINTS	<i>(max. 100 points)</i>	86
GRADE	(A – B – C – D – E – F)	B

NAME OF THE REFEREE: Doc. Adam Geršl

DATE OF EVALUATION: June 10, 2024

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