

EC951 ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC DATA Empirical Project 2021/22



You are required to submit one empirical project which contributes to 20% of the final mark for this class. You must submit your essay electronically via MyPlace by **12noon on Tuesday 30 November 2021**. Feedback and marks will be made available via MyPlace by **Tuesday 21 December 2021**. The maximum number of words is 1500 (not including diagrams and model output). Penalties for late submission and exceeding the word limit can be found below.

By submitting your essay to MyPlace you are confirming authorship of your work.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

A well-written empirical report should fulfil the following expectations:

- The report has a clear, focused and relevant introduction explaining the question and the dataset.
- Descriptive statistics, empirical models and hypotheses should be discussed.
- Charts and tables should be labelled and explained.
- The student backs up assertions with explanation and/or evidence.
- Appropriate evidence is used, with source information provided and the evidence explained sufficiently.
- The sources cited are appropriately placed in the body of the report, and are included in a correctly presented bibliography.
- The report includes a conclusion summarising the key findings of the empirical models.

LATE SUBMISSIONS OF COURSEWORK

The University employs an institution-wide “sliding-scale” penalty system for late submission of coursework. Coursework is deemed to be late when it is submitted after the published deadline without an agreed extension and in the absence of exceptional circumstances. Full details and penalties for late submission can be found in the University’s [Policy and Procedure for Late Submission of Coursework](#).

PENALTY FOR EXCESS WORDS

Any words after the limit will not be marked. The word count **must** be given at the end of the project.

1. As part of the EC951 course, you will analyse a provided dataset and prepare a report explaining your analysis and results. The report should be submitted via MyPlace by **12noon on Tuesday 30th of November 2021** (Week 11).
2. The full mark of the project will be awarded on the basis of the report. This project will count for 20% of the course grade.
3. The goal of the analysis is to produce a model which you will use to explain the variation of a variable of interest.
4. The expectation is that you will use the econometric techniques taught up to (and including) week 8 (when we covered techniques for heteroscedasticity). That would include, among other topics: Descriptive Statistics, Multiple Regression, Goodness of Fit and Tests of Hypotheses.
5. The analysis within the report should demonstrate your ability to use econometric techniques in a practical context.

Question: What are the determinants of a healthy body mass index (BMI)?

Dataset: Health Survey for England, 2011: Teaching Dataset

Documentation (user guide, including description of variables):

<https://beta.ukdataservice.ac.uk/datacatalogue/studies/study?id=7402&type=D ata%20catalogue#!/documentation>

Information on BMI: <https://www.nhs.uk/common-health-questions/lifestyle/what-is-the-body-mass-index-bmi/>

Dependent Variable: *bmival*

Description of dependent variable: *Valid BMI.*

Some notes

- In general, there is not a perfect/unique model. Several competing models could be equally good at explaining the data.
- It is up to you to decide what variables to include to explain the dependent variable.
- It is up to you to decide what the equation of the model should look like.
- It is up to you to decide what the descriptive analysis of the dependent variable should incorporate.
- You should include information on the null and alternative hypotheses of your study.