The Effects of Minimum Wage Increases

in the Czech Republic

Jakub Grossmann\*

January 3, 2021

Abstract

This paper analyzes employment effects of four minimum wage increases implemented in the Czech Republic during 2012-2017, which cumulatively increased the national minimum wage by 37 percent. We analyze outcomes at the level of firm-occupation-county-specific job cells and apply an intensity-treatment estimator similar to that of Machin et al. (2003). Our preferred specifications suggest that minimum wage increases led to higher wages for low-paid workers and did not have significant impacts on their employment.

**JEL Codes:** J31, J38, J68.

<sup>\*</sup>CERGE-EI, a joint workplace of Charles University and the Economics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Politickych veznu 7, 111 21, Prague 1, Czech Republic. Email: jakub.grossmann@cerge-ei.cz.

The author would like to express his gratitude to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs for consent to use data from SES and to the TREXIMA company, which provided the calculations. The author is grateful to Štěpán Jurajda for supportive guidence, and Vladimír Smolka, Mariola Pytlíková, Vasily Korovkin, as well as participants in the Workshop on Regional Economics at Ifo Institute in Dresden, TU Dresden research seminar, and Empirical Microeconometrics workshop in Bolzano for useful comments.

**Keywords:** Minimum wage, intensity treatment, job cells, Czech Republic.