

This is an impressive piece of work from an undergraduate. The thesis uses a large data set. Much of the dissertation is beautifully written and structured (though the blurry printer font does not help the reader). A great deal of care has gone into experimentation and into study of the different kinds of comparison effects. Although it is certainly possible to raise questions about causality in this kind of pooled 1972-2005 US data set, the work, which suggests that envy effects operate over large rather than narrow comparison groups, is probably publishable in an economics journal. Very nice work.