



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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U.S. government hit by 16 major cyber incidents in FY 2016

ECONOMY

Fifty Years of Growth in American Consumption, Income, and Wages. By Bruce Sacerdote.

National Bureau of Economic Research. Apr. 14, 2017. 23 p.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w23292> (Available to .gov accounts or from the California State Library)

“In a provocative new study, economist Bruce Sacerdote of Dartmouth College reviewed the material well-being of the poorest 50% and 25% of Americans. What he concluded was that even these families had achieved a ‘meaningful growth in consumption ... [despite] a prolonged period of increasing income inequality ... and a decreasing share of national income accruing to labor.’” The poorest 25% have nearly

twice as many cars, 8% larger houses, improved plumbing and many economic improvements related to technology. Mismeasurement of inflation may be to blame for misconceptions. ([Washington Post](#), Apr. 11, 2017).

***Does Growing Mismeasurement Explain Disappointing Growth?* By David Byrne, et al. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. Feb. 13, 2017. 5 p.**

<http://www.frbsf.org/economic-research/publications/economic-letter/2017/february/does-growing-mismeasurement-explain-disappointing-productivity/>

“Despite ongoing IT-related innovation, aggregate U.S. productivity growth slowed markedly after about 2004. Some observers (such as Hatzius 2016) argue that some of this discrepancy might reflect mismeasurement. Although we find evidence of substantial IT-related mismeasurement of growth, that mismeasurement does not appear to have increased over time. Indeed, despite some offsetting effects, the net effect appears a bit larger in the period before 2004. Hence, the productivity slowdown remains sizable.... If not mismeasurement, why did productivity growth slow? Fernald (2015, 2016) argues that, in the past 40 years, the real anomaly is the fast growth from 1995 to 2004. A number of changes came together around the same time, including the emergence of the Internet and reorganization of distribution and other sectors.”

EDUCATION

***50-State Review: Tuition Assistance Programs for Foster Youth Pursuing Postsecondary Education.* By Emily Parker, et al. Education Commission of the States. Mar. 6, 2017. 8 p.**

<http://www.ecs.org/50-state-review-tuition-assistance-programs-for-foster-youth-pursuing-postsecondary-education/>

“A 2016 Education Commission of the States special report, [Strengthening Policies for Foster Youth Postsecondary Attainment](#), reviews how state policies can increase higher education access for foster youth and highlights states’ autonomy to develop initiatives to best support this population. In an effort to provide ongoing support for state policymakers and education leaders, this 50-State Review expands on the mentioned report to focus specifically on state-based tuition assistance programs for foster youth. This comparison of various state tuition assistance programs can serve as a tool to better understand the supports for this vulnerable student population and provide a guidepost for possible policy redesign.”

***Convenience Plus A Conscience: Lessons for School Integration.* By Richard R. Reeves, et al. Brookings Institution. Mar. 24, 2017. 15 p.**

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/convenience-plus-a-conscience-lessons-for-school-integration/>

Using Wake County, North Carolina as an example, this study looks at how convenience and school transportation systems can play a role in maintaining a school integration plan. The county’s integration plan was ended in favor of “neighborhood schools,” while the student population increased—with little state support for building new schools. School transportation (long bus rides) and unusual schedules (year-round schools vs. traditional) were more of a concern among parents than the integration policy itself. The researchers concluded that, “[t]he fall of the policy was as much about practical failures as political persuasion. Many parents want their children in diverse schools; few of them want their children riding a school bus for an hour each day. Conversely, if integration is relatively convenient for families because the district offers manageable school schedules and reliable bus service, they’ll be more likely to embrace it.”

EMPLOYMENT

Half of Mature U.S. Workers Will Wait Until at Least Age 70 to Retire or Won't Retire at all. Career Builder. Mar. 31, 2017. 1 p.

<http://press.careerbuilder.com/2017-03-31-Half-of-Mature-U-S-Workers-Will-Wait-Until-At-Least-Age-70-to-Retire-or-Wont-Retire-at-All>

According to a Harris Poll survey of full-time, private sector workers, “30% of U.S. workers ages 60 and older plan to retire at age 70 or older. Another 20% don't believe they will ever be able to retire. While delaying retirement can be fueled by a number of reasons, financial motivations typically top the list as mature workers work to ensure they have a large enough nest egg. But, just how much they'll need in the bank to enjoy their golden years remains a mystery or moving target for some. One third of workers ages 60+ (34%) say they aren't sure how much they'll need to save in order to retire.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Clean Energy-Related Economic Development Policy Across the States: Establishing a 2016 Baseline. By Jeffrey Cook. U.S. Department of Energy. Jan. 2017. 35 p.

<http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy17osti/67656.pdf>

“States implement clean energy-related economic development policy to spur innovation, manufacturing, and to address other priorities.... To date, no one source has collected all of the clean energy-related economic development policies available across the 50 states. Establishing a baseline of existing policy is a critical first step in determining the potential holistic impact of these policies on driving economic growth in a state. The goal of this report is to document the clean energy-related economic policy landscape ... with a focus on new or existing [clean energy] manufacturing.” California has the 4th-most number of total clean energy policies with 35. (New York is first with 42.)

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Examining the Election Process. By Michael Caudell-Feagan. Pew Charitable Trusts. Jan. 27, 2017.

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/analysis/2017/01/27/examining-the-election-process>

In 2012, The Pew Charitable Trusts published [*Inaccurate, Costly, and Inefficient—Evidence that America's Voter Registration System Needs an Upgrade*](#). This brief discusses the updates states have made and describes utility of the [Electronic Registration Information Center \(ERIC\)](#). California is not currently a member of ERIC. “Since the study was released in 2012, great strides have been made. Election officials from both parties from across the country have been working to upgrade their state voter registration systems, using advanced technology to achieve greater accuracy, increase savings, and improve processes.... Not only are states sharing voter registration data, which helps them improve the accuracy of their lists, they have also made significant progress in improving and upgrading the voting experience. New tools and technology make it easier for voters to register—and find their polling place.”

HEALTH

Community Health Counts: Sinai Community Health Survey 2.0. By J.L. Hirschtick, et al. Sinai Urban Health Institute. Mar. 2017. 78 p.

https://media.wix.com/ugd/6b5ac9_bee17298461e4e00862737df7b304ca4.pdf

A three-year study on factors impacting health and well-being revealed stark disparities in health determinants and outcomes of residents from nine Chicago neighborhoods. “Our findings reveal

important differences in community health status that would have been masked with city-level data. Together, these findings underscore several important implications. First, it is clear that the health of Chicago needs to be tackled neighborhood by neighborhood. Second, alarming health inequities continue to exist and demand attention. Lastly, helping all individuals attain optimal levels of health requires an understanding of the relationship between the social factors that impact health.” Understanding the health factors causing these disparities could help policy makers address health inequities in California cities.

HUMAN SERVICES

***What Does Good Child Care Reform Look Like?* By Elise Gould, et al. Economic Policy Institute. Mar. 29, 2017. 16 p.**

<http://www.epi.org/files/pdf/123954.pdf>

“The difficulties of achieving high-quality care for America’s children are widespread and multifaceted, but can be boiled down to three major problems: lack of resources for parents to stay home with very young children, lack of access to affordable care and education, and low and uneven service quality of early child care and education options.... Effective child care policy would provide for uniform paid family leave—allowing both mothers and fathers to stay home with their newborns, newly adopted children, or new foster children—along with access to affordable, high-quality early child care and education for all families.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

***Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014: FY 2016 Annual Report to Congress.* Office of Management and Budget. Mar. 10, 2017. 121 p.**

https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/briefing-room/presidential-actions/related-omb-material/fy_2016_fisma_report%20to_congress_official_release_march_10_2017.pdf

“Federal agencies were not immune to [cybersecurity] exploits in 2016, with over 30,899 cyber incidents that led to the compromise of information or system functionality. Sixteen of these incidents met the threshold for a major incident, a designation that triggers a series of mandatory steps for agencies, including reporting certain information to Congress.” Agencies made progress in performance over key cybersecurity metrics, including: continuous monitoring capabilities, multi-factor authentication, and anti-phishing and malware defense capabilities.

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