



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

Issue 14-119

May 14, 2014

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ten Economic Facts about Crime and Incarceration in the United States. By Melissa S. Kearney, et al. The Hamilton Project. May 2014. 28 p.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2014/05/01%20crime%20facts/v8_thp_10crimefacts.pdf

“Despite the ongoing decline in crime, the incarceration rate in the United States remains at a historically unprecedented level [more than 700 out of every 100,000 people].... In addition, this high rate of incarceration is expensive for both federal and state governments. On average, in 2012, it cost more than \$29,000 to house an inmate in federal prison.... In total, the United States spent over \$80 billion on

corrections expenditures in 2010, with more than 90% of these expenditures occurring at the state and local levels.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***The Shifting Religious Identity of Latinos in the United States.* Pew Research Center. May 7, 2014. 182 p.**

<http://www.pewforum.org/files/2014/05/Latinos-and-Religion-05-06-full-report-final.pdf>

Although the majority of Latinos in the United States continue to identify with the Roman Catholic Church, the overall trend is towards increasing percentages of Hispanics affiliating with Protestant Christianity or being unaffiliated with any religion. A previous Pew survey found that, as recently as 2010, 67% of Latinos identified as Catholic. That number has dropped in the most recent survey to only 55%, representing a twelve percentage point drop in four years.

ECONOMY

***Final Report: John Wayne Airport Economic Impact Study.* InterVISTAS Consulting. Mar. 4, 2014. 75 p.**

<http://www.ocair.com/reportspublications/EconomicImpact/JWAEconomicImpactStudy.pdf>

“John Wayne Airport (JWA) provides a total of 43,000 full and part time jobs and \$6 billion in total economic output, including \$2.8 billion directly for the four Southern California counties—generating important employment and economic contributions to the Southern California economy. This report summarizes the economic contributions of the airport, its airlines, their partner businesses, and in-bound visitors to the Orange County region. The study measures the direct, indirect and induced economic impacts created by JWA in Orange County, Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino. The report also estimated that 2.4 million visitors who spent \$1.9 billion in the region flew through JWA in 2012.” (*IOCBC Indicator: eNewsletter*, Mar. 11, 2014).

EDUCATION

***The Short- and Long-term Impacts of Large Public Early Care and Education Programs.* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Mar. 2014. 5 p.**

http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/14/longTermImpact/rb_longTermImpact.pdf

“Research consistently finds that high-quality early care and education (ECE) programs promote children’s school readiness and other positive outcomes. This brief describes what’s known about the short- and long-term impacts of large public (i.e., at-scale) ECE programs in the United States for children prior to kindergarten entry.... ECE programs are often ‘packages’ of services in that they are multi-faceted, and serve children and families in a variety of different ways, making it difficult to determine exactly which components are important to outcomes.... However, we know that stimulating, supportive teacher-child interactions constitute the most important aspect of a high-quality ECE program.”

EMPLOYMENT

U.S. Employment Outlook for 2014: Can the U.S. Economy Stand on Its Own? By Randall W. Eberts. Upjohn Institute. Apr. 2014. 10 p.

<http://research.upjohn.org/perarticles/35/>

“For the past two years, employment in the U.S. has grown at a respectable rate of 182,000 jobs per month, and the unemployment rate has fallen to 6.7%.... [T]he recession and slower-than-normal recovery have left the economy with several critical imbalances. Chief among these is the large pool of unemployed ... who have been unsuccessfully looking for a job for a half year or more. This legacy of the recession has reduced the number of skilled workers available to fill job openings and has left millions of people dependent on the nation’s social safety nets.”

ENERGY

Governors’ Guide to Modernizing the Electric Power Grid. By Andrew Kambour. National Governors Association. Mar. 2014. 20 p.

<http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/2014/1403GovernorsGuideModernizingElectricPowerGrid.pdf>

“[T]he [electric power] grid needs modern technologies and new infrastructure to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, including mitigating increased storm- and cyber-related threats, integrating the use of more renewable energy resources, and capitalizing on the greater availability of data on grid performance and electricity usage.... Governors can help regulators, utilities, and customers better understand the benefits of grid modernization in terms of increased reliability, resiliency, and energy efficiency and how those benefits compare to the costs.”

ENVIRONMENT

Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States. U.S. Global Change Research Program. May 2014.

Draft report. 841 p.: <http://www.globalchange.gov/ncadac>

Impacts in the U.S.: <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>

“This [National Climate Assessment] report assesses the science of climate change and its impacts across the United States, now and throughout this century.... [It] documents climate change-related impacts and responses for various sectors and regions, with the goal of better informing public and private decision-making at all levels.” California is expected to see declining snowpack and stream flow rates. Increased drought is also expected to lead to increased risk from wildfires and damaging impacts on crop production. The report projects that California’s coastal areas will experience increased flooding and erosion along with rising sea levels that pose a threat to low-lying communities.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Town of Greece, New York v. Galloway, et al. U.S. Supreme Court, No. 12-696. May 5, 2014. 80 p.

http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/13pdf/12-696_4f57.pdf

In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court ruled that town boards may begin meetings with prayer. The majority ruled that these prayers were largely ceremonial with marked solemnity for the occasion. As a result, this decision now allows prayers before all local government meetings with little judicial intervention.

HEALTH

State of American Wellbeing. Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. Mar. 2014. 43 p.

<http://info.healthways.com/wbi2013>

[Free registration required]

Published annually, this report is “a barometer of Americans’ perceptions of their well-being.” Three prominent trends noted in this year’s report are decreases in the rate of those with health insurance, rising obesity, and declining work environment scores. This year, California ranks 17th in perceived well-being of its residents. The report also ranks well-being by community and congressional district.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Debt, State by State. By Jake Grovum. Pew Charitable Trusts. Apr. 29, 2014.

<http://www.pewstates.org/research/data-visualizations/unemployment-insurance-trust-fund-debt-state-by-state-85899544475>

“States’ unemployment insurance trust funds were battered by the Great Recession. Thanks to a spike in demand for jobless benefits, some went deep in debt to pay for help for the unemployed. Some still have billions left to repay.” This interactive tool presents data on states’ unemployment insurance trust fund balances from March 2007 through March 2014. California’s March 2014 balance was -\$9.9 billion.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Reducing Black Carbon Emissions from Diesel Vehicles: Impacts, Control Strategies, and Cost-Benefit Analysis. By Ray Minjares, et al. The World Bank. Apr. 2014. 80 p.

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2014/04/19342185/reducing-black-carbon-emissions-diesel-vehicles-impacts-control-strategies-cost-benefit-analysis>

“This study aims to inform the growing effort to control black carbon emissions (as part of particulate matter) from diesel vehicles while recognizing that developing countries face a number of on-the-ground implementation challenges and lack an analytical framework to factor the economic benefits of diesel emissions controls into a project’s cost-benefit analysis.... This report summarizes a wide range of black carbon emissions control strategies in OECD countries in North America, East Asia, and Europe—from technology (e.g., diesel particulate filters and refinery upgrades) to policy measures (e.g., vehicle emission standards, fuel quality standards, scrappage programs, and tax incentives).” California is acknowledged as having set global precedents for diesel emissions control, along with the European Union (EU), the United States, and Japan.

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