



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

2017 San Joaquin Valley Survey—Results on High-Speed Rail. Institute for Leadership and Public Policy. Fresno State College of Social Sciences. May 8, 2017. 4 p.

<http://fresnostate.edu/socialsciences/departments/add-programs/leadershippublicpolicy/documents/2017%20Survey%20Results%20Summary%20on%20High-Speed%20Rail.pdf>

A telephone survey of 541 adults from eight counties in the San Joaquin Valley found that interest in the high-speed rail project is mixed. “Among those who voted in the 2016 presidential election, there is a very marked split in their views of the high-speed rail project. Forty-seven percent of voters support the completion of the project, while 46% oppose it. In contrast, non-voters are much more supportive of high-speed rail, with 74% of them in favor of it.... Across racial and ethnic groups, non-white groups are the most supportive of the high-speed rail project. Seventy-six percent of Latinos and 60% of non-white, non-

Latinos, which includes blacks and Asians, support construction of the project. In contrast, a majority of whites (64%) oppose the construction of the high-speed train through the Valley.”

ECONOMY

***Survival of the Fittest: The Impact of the Minimum Wage on Firm Exit.* By Dara Lee Luca, et al. Harvard Business School. Apr. 2017. 33 p.**

http://www.hbs.edu/faculty/Publication%20Files/MW_Exit_7a89f82f-b2fa-42f2-9a0e-f8a61e95b679.pdf

“The study ... analyzed almost 10 years of Yelp rating and closure data from more than 30,000 San Francisco Bay area restaurants. By comparing closure rates to user ratings and the timing of the region’s multiple minimum-wage increases, the Lucas, who are married, were able to determine how the hikes impacted a restaurant’s chances of closing.... Luca has a few theories on why minimum-wage hikes might impact low-quality restaurants more than high-quality ones. For starters, five-star restaurants generally have better service. (That’s a component of the Yelp score.) It makes more economic sense for a restaurant that values and depends on good service to invest more heavily in its workforce.... ‘At any wage level, some businesses are doing well and some aren’t,’ Luca said. ‘If you’re closest to the margin already, then something like a minimum-wage increase is more likely to push you over the edge.’” ([Washington Post](#), Apr. 24, 2017).

EDUCATION

***Supporting Higher Education for People with Disabilities.* By Kyle Ingram. National Conference of State Legislatures. Mar. 2017. 2 p.**

http://www.ncsl.org/documents/legisbriefs/2017/lb_2511.pdf

“By the end of the decade, two out of every three job postings will require some form of postsecondary education. This increased emphasis on a postsecondary educated workforce stands to disproportionately affect people with disabilities. They are less likely than their non-disabled peers to earn a diploma or credential beyond high school. Through policies that target financial and programmatic barriers, states and the federal government are supporting increased access to inclusive postsecondary education for people with disabilities. In an inclusive setting, students with disabilities attend classes and engage in college life alongside their peers without disabilities, rather than being segregated into disabilities-only programs.”

EMPLOYMENT

***Future Job Automation to Hit Hardest in Low-Wage Metropolitan Areas.* By Johannes Moenias. Institute for Spatial Economic Analysis. May 2017.**

<http://www.iseapublish.com/index.php/2017/05/03/future-job-automation-to-hit-hardest-in-low-wage-metropolitan-areas-like-las-vegas-orlando-and-riverside-san-bernardino/>

Interactive employment map: <http://www.iseapublish.com/map/>

“Economists expect that millions of American jobs are going to be replaced by automation in the coming decades. But where will those job losses take place? Which areas will be hardest hit?... A new analysis suggests that the places that are going to be hardest-hit by automation in the coming decades are in fact outside of the Rust Belt. It predicts that areas with high concentrations of jobs in food preparation, office or administrative support, and/or sales will be most affected—places such as Las Vegas and the Riverside-San Bernardino area may be the most vulnerable to automation in upcoming years, with 65% of jobs in Las Vegas and 63% of jobs in Riverside predicted to be automatable by 2025.” ([The Atlantic](#), May 3, 2017).

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

ESIF 2016: Modernizing Our Grid and Energy System. National Renewal Energy Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy. Mar. 2017. 41 p.

<http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy17osti/68026.pdf>

“This 2016 ESIF [Energy Systems Integration Facility] annual report highlights our work in finding new ways to control and protect electric grids, showing how they can accommodate more renewables, demonstrating that utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) installations can provide grid services, challenging inventors to create a smaller inverter, determining the best way to dispatch battery energy storage systems (BESS), using big data to improve solar forecasting, and developing new test devices for hydrogen refueling.”

HEALTH

“Direct-to-Consumer Telehealth May Increase Access to Care but does not Decrease Spending.” By J. Scott Ashwood, et al. *Health Affairs*, vol. 36 no. 3 (Mar. 2017) 8 p.

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/36/3/485.full.pdf+html> (Available at the California State Library)

“Telehealth has been promoted by direct-to-consumer telehealth companies and by health plans as a way to decrease health care spending. While we found that per episode spending was lower if the patient had a direct-to-consumer telehealth visit, compared to an in-person visit, the convenience of telehealth led to greater use of care and therefore increased health care spending. Creative strategies such as increasing patient cost sharing, targeted patient outreach, and the integration of telehealth in overall care may make it possible to use this emerging and popular service as a way to increase the value of care.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Verizon 2017 Data Breach Investigations Report, 10th Edition. Verizon. Apr. 2017. 76 p.

<http://www.verizonenterprise.com/verizon-insights-lab/dbir/2017/> (Free registration required)

“Cyber-spies backed by nation-states were behind a majority of data breaches experienced by manufacturing companies in 2016.... Roughly 91% of material stolen in these breaches had been categorized as ‘secret,’ relating to proprietary information owned solely by the victim. Cybersecurity experts say hackers largely target the manufacturing industry in order to steal trade secrets, business plans and valuable intellectual property.... Social engineering and malware-based cyberattacks combined for a whopping 73% of all data breaches in the manufacturing sector last year. Spies are known to favor email phishing techniques and using malware to compromise victims.” ([Cyberscoop](#), Apr. 27, 2017).

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Rethinking the Corporate Campus: The Next Bay Area Workplace. By Jacob Mason, et al. UC Davis Institute of Transportation Studies. Apr. 20, 2017. 23 p.

<http://www.spur.org/publications/spur-report/2017-04-20/rethinking-corporate-campus>

“The suburban corporate campus remains the predominant real estate solution for the [Bay Area’s] employers. With isolated single-use buildings set behind vast parking lots, far away from the public street, it is a model that reinforces dependence on cars and pushes sprawl development into open spaces and farmland.... Rethinking the Corporate Campus examines the forces that shape our employment landscape, highlights the implications of different models, and recommends policies and practices to

tackle two key questions: How do we encourage employers to choose efficient, sustainable, high-performance locations[; and] how do we create new locations that are more efficient, sustainable and high-performing?”

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