



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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ECONOMY

From Population Growth to Firm Demographics: Implications for Concentration, Entrepreneurship and the Labor Share. By Hugo Hopenhayn, et al. NBER. Dec. 2018. 34 p.

<https://www.nber.org/papers/w25382> (Available to .gov accounts or from the California Research Bureau)

“Why is dynamism declining?... [Contrary to prior research, after controlling] for firm age we do not see ... increasing concentration.... New firms are small and young. In contrast, declining labor force growth means fewer new firms.... HNS argue that essentially all of the decline in the labor share of national income can be explained by the simple fact that larger firms use fewer non-production workers per unit of output.” ([Marginal Revolution](#), Jan. 17, 2019).

EDUCATION

How Competitive Are Your Institution's Benefits? College and University Benefits Study. Sibson Consulting. Dec. 2018. 36 p.

<https://www.sibson.com/publications-videos/cubs/>

“The number and proportion of colleges and universities offering health insurance plans with annual deductibles of \$1,000 or more is growing sharply, more colleges are reducing or eliminating their retiree health benefits, and private institutions have almost entirely stopped offering defined-benefit retirement plans, according to a new study by Sibson Consulting. The latest version of the company's annual College and University Benefits Study offers data and analysis on the benefits offered to employees at about 450 public and private institutions—most of them four-year colleges and universities.” (*Inside Higher Ed*, Jan. 2, 2019).

Respected: Perspectives of Youth on High School & Social and Emotional Learning. By Jennifer L. DePaoli, et al. Civic. Nov. 2018. 54 p.

<https://casel.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Respected.pdf>

“The central message of this report is while current and recent high school students today generally respect their teachers and give their high schools favorable marks, most see a big missing piece in their education – a lack of social and emotional skills development—and most recent students feel unprepared for life after high school.... These and other findings are the result of a nationally representative survey of current (age 14-19) and recent (age 16-22) high school students, including in-depth interviews with students in schools with and without a strong focus on social and emotional learning. Listening to the perspectives of students completes a compelling picture that has included nationally representative surveys of pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers and principals to assess the role and value of social and emotional learning in America's schools.”

EMPLOYMENT

Automation and Artificial Intelligence: How Machines Are Affecting People and Places. By Mark Muro, et al. Brookings. Jan. 2018. 108 p.

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/automation-and-artificial-intelligence-how-machines-affect-people-and-places/>

CA jobs affected by automation. Interactive map: <https://www.latimes.com/projects/la-pol-ca-next-california-work/>

“The most vulnerable jobs are those requiring less than a bachelor's degree. In warehouses such as those in California's Inland Empire, 100% of tasks performed by packaging and filling machine operators may be automated, the report suggests. In food preparation, 91% of tasks are considered to be vulnerable. The tasks of more than half of payroll and timekeeping clerks, delivery drivers, computer network support specialists and medical assistants could be automated. However, some low-paid workers have hard-to-automate jobs: just 11% of the work done by home health aides and just 18% of maids' work is vulnerable. Among the better-paid, just 4% of management analysts' tasks and 8% of software developers' are likely affected, the study found.” (*Los Angeles Times*, Jan. 24, 2019).

Mankind versus Machines? The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Labor Force in New York State. By Laura Schultz. Rockefeller Institute of Government. Nov. 2018.

<https://rockinst.org/blog/the-impact-of-artificial-intelligence-on-the-labor-force-in-new-york-state/>

“Conventional wisdom holds that low-skills jobs will likely be automated first, and they are at the greatest risk of elimination. While AI may enhance their productivity and change the way they complete some of the work, more highly educated employees are unlikely to be replaced through automation. Professions such as doctors, lawyers, managers, and teachers have a low likelihood of automation.... New technologies generate new employment opportunities just as others disappear. The challenge is that

those who lose their jobs to automation do not necessarily have the skill set and education required for the new opportunities.... While New York has a high number of well-educated workers well positioned to take these new jobs, 14.1% of New York residents over the age of twenty-five do not have a high school degree and are likely working in occupations at high risk of displacement.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Climate Change Suppresses Santa Ana Winds of Southern California and Sharpens Their Seasonality. By Janin Guzman-Morales, et al. Jan. 2019. 16 p.

<https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1029/2018GL080261>

“Climate change could cause Southern California’s infamous Santa Ana winds to reach their peak later in the year, according to a new study.... Over the next 80 years, these dry, powerful, wildfire-driving winds are expected to decrease in September and October and then grow stronger in December and January.” The authors reviewed historical data, and their findings suggest that the shift in the timing of the Santa Ana winds will also shift the peak of California’s wildfire season into December. ([Pacific Standard](#), Feb. 1, 2019).

HEALTH

The Health Care Priorities and Experiences of California Residents. By Liz Hamel, et al. Kaiser Family Foundation and California Health Care Foundation. Jan. 2019. 44 p.

<https://www.chcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/HealthCarePrioritiesExperiencesCaliforniaResidents.pdf>

Brief:

https://www.chcf.org/blog/what-matters-most-to-californians/?_cldee=cGFtZWxhLm1hcnRpbkBsawJyYXJ5LmNhLmdvdg%3d%3d&recipientid=contact-e5bbf58fbbbbe5119402005056ba5a36-698ce1b2485c48e5bf94025270fd8dbf

“In the poll, Californians rank making health care more affordable among their top overall priorities for the state’s governor and legislature, with 45% citing it as ‘extremely important,’ just behind improving public education (48%) and ahead of affordable housing (40%). Among health issues, Californians’ top priorities are ensuring people with mental health problems can get treatment (49% say it is ‘extremely important’), making sure all Californians have access to health coverage (45%), and reducing what people pay for their health care (41%). Mental health access ranks in the top two health priorities for Democrats, Republicans, and independents alike. Half of all Californians (52%) say their community does not have enough mental health providers to meet its needs.” ([California Health Care Foundation](#), Jan. 24, 2019).

HUMAN SERVICES

What Explains the Widespread Material Hardship among Low-Income Families with Children? By Michael Karpman, et al. Urban Institute. Dec. 2018. 20 p.

https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/99521/what_explains_the_widespread_material_hardship_among_low-income_families_with_children_0.pdf

“[T]his brief assesses the prevalence of material hardship among parents living with children under age 19, how this varies by family income and ages of children, and the characteristics of low-income parents who report hardships.... We find that more than two-thirds (68.5%) of low-income parents reported problems paying for housing, utilities, food, or medical care in 2017, with the highest prevalence of hardship found among parents of children under age 6. Physical and mental health problems and disabilities, unexpected declines in income, and unexpected expenses were associated with an increased risk of hardship, after controlling for other characteristics.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Internet Privacy: Additional Federal Authority Could Enhance Consumer Protection and Provide Flexibility. Government Accountability Office. GAO-19-52. Jan. 2019. 56 p.

<https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-19-52>

“The more than 100-year-old FTC [Federal Trade Commission] is under pressure to modernize to take greater action against Silicon Valley—and there’s broad consensus that the agency should be the one to enforce whatever privacy law potentially emerges in Washington. The GAO report may encourage lawmakers to further empower the FTC so it’s ready to take on this challenge as it considers how to move forward with a privacy law this year.... Industry representatives, however, warned regulations can stifle innovation and rulemakings can be lengthy.” ([Washington Post](#), Feb. 14, 2019).

About the California Research Bureau

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