CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT
CA’s hate crime rate rose in 2017

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY
Sexist norms of birthplace can affect women, even after moving to less sexist states

ECONOMY
Revoking NAFTA lowers real wages across nearly all regions and sectors

EDUCATION
Report tracks impact of recession, state education policy shifts

EMPLOYMENT
An interactive analysis of low-wage workers in CA

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT
Western wildfire increase linked to lower levels of summer precipitation

GENERAL GOVERNMENT
CA rated with 5th most volatile tax revenues among states

HUMAN SERVICES
How do Walmart Supercenters impact food security?

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
CA expecting a labor gap of 19,500 cybersecurity workers

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
CA has top 5 cities for electric car sales

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/resources/publications

“Crime in California 2017 presents an overview of the criminal justice system in California.” Statistics are provided by California law enforcement agencies. This year’s report finds that hate crime events over the
last year increased 17.4%, with the total number of victims increasing over 10%. The annual homicide rate decreased in 2017. Firearms were identified as the weapon in over 70% of the homicides. The purpose of the reports published by the Department of Justice is to “help Californians better understand how the criminal justice system shapes various aspects of their lives.” (Press release, July 9, 2018).

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY


“Sexism is highest in the Southeast and least extreme in New England and the West.’… [T]hese state-level distinctions can have significant impacts on women’s lives. ‘Sexism in a woman’s state of birth and in her current state of residence both lower her wages and likelihood of labor force participation, and lead her to marry and bear her first child sooner.’ … Even more striking, the prevalence of sexism in a woman’s birth state seems to affect her later earnings and outcomes even if she moves to a place with less sexism…. [T]he General Social Survey data shows sexist attitudes are declining across the board…. But the state-level differences persist, and they have been remarkably consistent over time.” (Washington Post, Aug. 21, 2018).

ECONOMY

https://www.bis.org/publ/work739.pdf

“Any benefits from reduced foreign competition would be offset by higher prices for imported intermediate goods and higher tariffs on exports. If tariffs and other trade barriers default to international norms, GDP would decline by 0.22% in the United States, 1.8% in Mexico and 2.2% in Canada. Total combined losses would be about US$ 99 billion a year. Real wages would fall in all Canadian provinces and Mexican states, and in all but one of the 435 U.S. Congressional districts…. The large majority of [U.S.] sectors experience wage decreases, with five sectors, all in manufacturing, seeing reductions in excess of 1%.”

EDUCATION


“Many states were able to work their way out of the recession due to a stimulus package commissioned by the Obama administration and a $145 billion relief appropriation from congress to states, with school districts receiving $80 billion for relief … [but] that funding ran dry in 2011, the study says, and states never adjusted their tax rates to maintain a steady stream of revenue for their school districts…. Per the report, 25 states having spent less on education in 2016 than they did in 2008 when the economy sunk into a recession. There were 41 states that funded higher education institutions less-so in 2016 than they did in 2008.” (Axios, July 21, 2018).
EMPLOYMENT

http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/low-wage-work-in-california/

“Wage inequality in California has increased dramatically since the late 1970s. Workers at the bottom and in the middle of the wage distribution have seen their earnings stagnate in real terms, after adjusting for inflation, while high-wage workers have seen their earnings rise sharply. Absent significant shifts in the policy or economic context, California’s low-wage jobs problem will likely continue, since official employment projections to 2024 do not show a substantial change to the state’s mix of jobs. The state’s minimum wage is scheduled to increase to $15 per hour by 2023, which should help raise pay for low-wage workers, but more work remains to be done.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

“Decreasing Fire Season Precipitation Increased Recent Western US Forest Wildfire Activity.”
http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2018/08/14/1802316115 (Available from the California Research Bureau)

“Wildfires in the western U.S. have been increasing in number and have been getting bigger over the past several years. Prior research has suggested that the primary reason for the change is an increase in temperatures in the region. In this new report, the researchers wanted to know whether changes in precipitation were also playing a role.” The group proposed three factors contributing to wildfires: reduced snowpack, higher temperature in the region, and reduced rainfall. They found reduced snowpack was not a factor, but that there was a somewhat higher correlation between higher average temperatures and wildfire patterns, and “an even more pronounced correlation between declining amounts of summer precipitation and the number and size of wildfires.” (Phys.org, Aug. 21, 2018).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT


“Although states can raise or lower tax revenue by changing tax policies, the underlying volatility of individual tax streams is often driven by a variety of factors, many outside policymakers’ control…. In this analysis, The Pew Charitable Trusts removes the estimated effect of state tax policy changes to calculate a volatility score for the underlying trends in each state’s overall tax revenue and major taxes—those that account for at least 5 percent of its tax revenue on average over the past decade.” California, which typically fluctuated at 8.6% above or below its overall growth trend, was more volatile than the national benchmark of 5.0%. Alaska, North Dakota and Wyoming, with their natural-resource dependent economies, had the highest volatility at 37.6%, 16.1% and 13.6%, respectively.
**HUMAN SERVICES**


“This paper examines the effect of Walmart Supercenters, which lower food prices and expand food availability, on household and child food insecurity…. We estimate the impacts of Walmart Supercenters on food security using data from the 2001-2012 waves of the December Current Population Study Food Security Supplement…. [T]he results show that closer proximity to the nearest Walmart Supercenter leads to sizeable and statistically significant improvements in all food security measures except the indicator for very low food security. Subsample analyses reveal that the effects are especially large for low-income households and children, though they are also sizeable for middle-income children.”

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**


This study, released by the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-Biz), finds that “California’s educational institutions are not currently supplying enough qualified candidates to fill the thousands of cybersecurity job openings that exist.” In a survey of California businesses, 60% reported “some or great difficulty” finding qualified cybersecurity experts. “There is an estimated annual supply of 15,720 candidates from accredited postsecondary institutions in California. However, an annual undersupply exists of approximately 19,500 cybersecurity workers in the state.” Recommendations include ways to expand the state’s education programs.

**TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**


“This paper analyzes electric vehicle market development in the U.S. and the actions that are driving it. The report catalogues forty unique city, state, and utility electric vehicle promotion actions and their implementation across the 50 most populous U.S. metropolitan areas in 2017. The work identifies exemplary practices and discerns connections between various state and local policies, public and workplace charging infrastructure, consumer incentives, model availability, and the share of new vehicles that are plug-in electric.”

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