ECONOMY
Tariff increases lead to ‘higher inequality,’ little impact on trade balance

EDUCATION
Open enrollment policies among states summarized
Teacher belief about intelligence affects minority student grades

EMPLOYMENT
Women scientists receive smaller grant awards

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT
Researchers assert progress on generating clean energy from ocean waves

GENERAL GOVERNMENT
CA’s November 2018 wildfires cost more than federal government shutdown

HEALTH
PPIC: No evidence ACA responsible for increased emergency department use

HUMAN SERVICES
GAO: Eligible college students not accessing food assistance program

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
Insufficient electrical vehicle charging infrastructure in CA cities

ECONOMY


“Tariff increases lead, in the medium term, to economically and statistically significant declines in domestic output and productivity. Tariff increases also result in more unemployment, higher inequality, and real exchange rate appreciation, but only small effects on the trade balance. The effects on output and productivity tend to be magnified when tariffs rise during expansions, for advanced economies, and when tariffs go up, not down.”
**EDUCATION**


“Open enrollment is a form of school choice allowing students to select and transfer to a school of their choice, rather than attending a school based on where they live.” This brief discusses how some states allow open enrollment to expand student options. Florida is highlighted for its 2016 law, which “makes both intradistrict and interdistrict open enrollment mandatory rather than voluntary,” and “establishes a list of student groups that districts must prioritize when accepting open enrollment transfers, such as children of active-duty military personnel, children in foster care and students living in the school district boundaries.”

http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/5/2/eaau4734/tab-pdf

“Black and Latino students tend to perform more poorly than their white and Asian counterparts in math and science classes. It would be easy to assume this is partly based on the prejudices of professors, and new research suggests that's a valid critique. But the problem it identifies isn't overt racism. Rather, the issue is whether an instructor believes intelligence and ability are fixed or malleable. In a study featuring more than 15,000 students, the racial achievement gap in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses was found to be twice as large in courses taught by professors who expressed the latter attitude.” (*Pacific Standard*, Feb. 18, 2019).

**EMPLOYMENT**

https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2726973

“The study, by researchers at Northwestern University, confirms longstanding disparities between men and women in the field of science. In recent years, a cavalcade of studies has documented biases that favor male researchers in hiring, pay, prize money, speaking invitations and even the effusiveness displayed in letters of recommendation…. [Researchers] analyzed 54,000 grants awarded from 2006 to 2017 and used key benchmarks to ensure recipients were at similar points in their careers. Among the top 50 institutions funded by the N.I.H., the researchers found that women received median awards of $94,000 compared with $135,000 for men. At the Big Ten schools, including Penn State, the University of Michigan and Northwestern, female principal investigators received a median grant of $66,000 compared with $148,000 for men.” (*New York Times*, Mar. 05, 2019).
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT


Researchers from England and Italy working on generating energy from waves, have improved upon existing models to develop a less-expensive, less-complex, more durable design that appears capable of generating sufficient energy to power 100 homes. They state that when deployed in fleets, the devices could produce electricity on a large scale. Professor David Ingram of the University of Edinburgh's School of Engineering, who took part in the study, said: “Wave energy is a potentially valuable resource around Scotland's coastline, and developing systems that harness this could play a valuable role in producing clean energy for future generations.” (Science Daily, Feb. 12, 2019).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT


“Insurance payouts from the November fires alone now stand at $11.4 billion—and counting, California’s Department of Insurance reported Monday. That's more than the government shutdown cost the whole U.S. economy, according to an analysis by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, also released yesterday. More than 46,000 claims have been reported so far, with more than 13,000 insured homes and business suffering a total loss, said Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, who called the numbers ‘massive.’” (CALmatters, Jan. 29, 2019).

HEALTH


“We find no evidence that the ACA [Affordable Care Act] was responsible for increased ED [emergency department] use—which is to say, indeed, our analysis suggests that ED visit rates for non-elderly adults would have been higher in the absence of the coverage expansions…. While our findings on the impact of the ACA are encouraging, the growing use of EDs for complex needs requires closer consideration of how EDs fit into our evolving health care system. Medi-Cal has a key role to play in monitoring and managing ED use…. More broadly, as state policymakers contemplate further insurance expansions with an eye toward universal coverage, it will be essential to continue monitoring patterns of health care use and to carefully evaluate efforts aimed at curbing ED use.”
HUMAN SERVICES


The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has found that “almost 2 million at-risk students who were potentially eligible for SNAP [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program] did not report receiving benefits in 2016. According to GAO’s analysis, having a low income is the most common risk factor for food insecurity among college students. Among low-income students, most have one additional risk factor associated with food insecurity, such as being a first-generation student or a single parent. Federal student aid generally does not cover all college costs for low-income students, and college students may have limited access to federal food assistance programs such as SNAP because of program eligibility restrictions.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

https://www.theicct.org/publications/charging-gap-US

“This report quantifies the gap in charging infrastructure to power more than 3 million expected electric vehicles by 2025. Based on the expected growth across the 100 most populous U.S. metropolitan areas, [the authors] estimate the amount of charging of various types that will be needed to power these vehicles…. The largest charging gaps are in markets where electric vehicle uptake will grow most rapidly, including in many California cities, Boston, New York, Portland, Denver, and Washington, D.C.”

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