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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch -- Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Reports

Item#1
20TH –CENTURY U.S. GENERATIONS. Population Reference Bureau. Elwood Carlson. March 2009.

The myriad decisions people make throughout lives, affect not only individual lives, but public policy and business practices as well. Governments formulate laws and policies about child and health care and Social Security based on the life choices they expect people to make. Private businesses make plans based on the life choices they expect from people as employees and customers. Generational differences in demographic experiences provide some clues about the sources of the generational divide seen in some political, social, and consumption choices.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:
http://www.prb.org/pdf09/64.1generations.pdf [PDF format, 20 pages].

Item#2
AN ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY IN CHINA. Alliance for American Manufacturing. March 2009.

According to the report, with China now among the world’s leading polluters, a real climate change solution can not be achieved unless the Administration and Congress hold China accountable for its reckless environmental practices. It provides in-depth and detailed examination to date of the flaws in China’s pollution-control regime and the damage it is doing to human health and global efforts to address climate change.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:
http://www.americanmanufacturing.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/chinaenvironmental-report-march-2009.pdf [PDF format, 106 pages].

Item#3
AT THE BRINK: TRENDS IN AMERICA'S UNINSURED. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. March 22, 2009.

With Congress and the Obama administration discussing how to reform the nation's health care system, the report looks at what has happened since the last significant reform effort ended in 1994 without any comprehensive congressional action. The analysis documents the situation since then.

[Note: contains copyright material].
Full Text:
http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/20090324ctuw.pdf [PDF format, 14 pages].

Item#4
THE CHALLENGES OF ESTABLISHING WORLD-CLASS UNIVERSITIES. World Bank. Jamil Salmi. March 20, 2009.

The highest-ranked universities are the ones that make significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge. There is no universal recipe or magic formula for "making" a world class university, says the report. National contexts and institutional models vary widely. Therefore, each country must choose, from among the various possible pathways, a strategy that plays to its strengths and resources. International experience provides a few lessons regarding the key features of such universities, high concentrations of talent, abundance of resources, and flexible governance arrangements, and successful approaches to move in that direction, from upgrading or merging existing institutions to creating new institutions altogether.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EDUCATION/Resources/278200-1099079877269/547664-1099079956815/547670-1237305262556/WCU.pdf [PDF format, 136 pages].

Item#5
CHARACTERISTICS OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES: RESULTS FROM THE 2007-2008 PRIVATE SCHOOL UNIVERSE SURVEY. U.S. Department of Education. Stephen P. Broughman et al. March 2009.

The report presents data on private schools in the United States for grades kindergarten through twelve by selected characteristics such as school size, school level, religious orientation, geographic region, urban city type, and program emphasis

Full Text:
http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009313.pdf [PDF format, 54 pages].

Item#6

COMMUNITY COLLEGES: A ROUTE OF UPWARD ECONOMIC MOBILITY. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Natalia Kolesnikova. March 2009.

Of all U.S. undergraduates, community college students constitute 46 percent. Given the significant role community colleges play in U.S. higher education, it is important to have as much information as possible about com- munity college students, their goals, educational choices and outcomes, says the report. It takes a look at community colleges compared to traditional, four-year colleges, the advantages, the types of students, the economic returns and the students' educational objectives. It also looks at whether a community college education affects a person's chances of obtaining a more advanced degree and whether students who receive an associate degree prior to obtaining a bachelor's degree have different educational and labor market outcomes than their counterparts who do not have an associate degree.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:
http://stlouisfed.org/community/assets/pdf/CommunityColleges.pdf [PDF format, 29 pages].

Item#7
EVERY STUDENT COUNTS: THE ROLE OF FEDERAL POLICY IN IMPROVING GRADUATE RATE ACCOUNTABILITY. Alliance for Excellent Education. Eric Richmond. March 2009.

The brief describes how federal policy has progressed from early attempts to simply calculate an agreed-upon high school graduation rate to present-day efforts aimed at using commonly defined rates as part of a refined accountability system to drive school improvement. The brief also includes a national and state-by-state analysis of the impact of the graduation rate regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Education.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:
http://www.all4ed.org/files/ESC_FedPolicyGRA.pdf [PDF format, 14 pages].

Item#8
GOVERNMENT CONSUMPTION VOLATILITY AND THE SIZE OF NATIONS. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. David Furceri et al. March 19, 2009.

The paper analyzes the relation between the volatility of government consumption and country size. Using a sample of 160 countries from 1960 to 2000 the main findings of the empirical analysis suggests that: 1) smaller countries have more volatile non-discretionary and discretionary government consumption, and also a more volatile government size; 2) the relation between government spending volatility and the size of a country is more negative for more volatile economies; 3) the relation between government consumption volatility and country size is more negative for functions of government spending that are characterized by a high level on non-rivality.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:
http://www.olis.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000EF2/$FILE/JT03261522.PDF [PDF format, 35 pages].

Item#9
THE HOUSING CRASH RECESSION AND THE CASE FOR A THIRD STIMULUS. Center for Economic and Policy Research. Dean Baker. March 2009.

The paper makes the case for a third stimulus package to in the face of economic indicators signaling that the economy is in a deeper downturn than was expected based on previous projections. Specifically, the report calls for an employer tax-credit for extending health care coverage and another per worker employer tax credit for increasing paid time off from work. The author also makes the case for a housing policy centered on the stabilization of prices in non-bubble and deflated markets rather than applying the same efforts on markets that remain at bubble inflated levels.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:
http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/housing-crash-recession-2009-03.pdf [PDF format, 21 pages].

Item#10
INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE ON THE SOCIAL CONTEXT OF WELL-BEING. National Bureau of Economic Research. John F. Helliwell et al. February 2009.

The paper uses the first three waves of the Gallup World Poll to investigate differences across countries, cultures and regions in the factors linked to life satisfaction, paying special attention to the social context. It finds that answers to the satisfaction with life are consistent in what constitutes a good life. Further, there is strong evidence for the importance of both income and social context variables in explaining within-country and international differences in well-being. The international similarity of the estimated equations suggests that the large international differences in average life evaluations are not due to different approaches to the meaning of a good life, but to differing social, institutional, and economic life circumstances, according to the paper.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:
http://www.nber.org/papers/w14720.pdf [PDF format, 30 pages].

Item#11
ONGOING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL GROUP (AIG). Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Baird Webel. March 16, 2009.

In the beginning of 2008, American International Group (AIG) was one of the world's largest insurers, generally considered to be financially sound with an AA credit rating. By the end of the year, it had undergone a near bankruptcy and had been forced to seek up to $173.4 billion in financial assistance from the U.S. government. In addition to possible continuing losses on AIG's derivative portfolio, the ongoing weakness in the economy may weigh heavily on AIG's future results. It is not clear whether the ongoing government involvement in AIG might strengthen or weaken AIG's core insurance business, as consumers could conclude that their policy with AIG is safe due to the government involvement or they could conclude that their policy with AIG is more risky since the government could change the terms of its involvement at any time.

Full Text:
http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R40438.pdf [PDF format, 14 pages].

Item#12
PENSIONS SYSTEMS FOR THE INFORMAL SECTOR IN ASIA. World Bank. Ed. Landis MacKellar. March 2009.

The paper looks at the experiences of various Asian countries in expanding the coverage of the pension system to informal sector workers. The paper argues that given aging and growing informality, a rapid forward-looking response from governments in the region is necessary to provide protection against the risk of poverty in old age. This risk is particularly acute in the case of informal sector workers, as is the difficulty of reaching them through traditional formal-sector pension approaches.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:
http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2009/03/06/000333038_20090306005144/Rendered/PDF/476790NWP0SP0D10Box338858B01PUBLIC1.pdf [PDF format, 48 pages].

Item#13
TRENDS IN 401(k) PLANS. American Benefits Council. Web posted March 20, 2009.

According to the survey, more than nine out of ten U.S. companies offer an employee 401(k) plan. In addition, despite the widely reported drop in account balances, two-thirds (66 percent) of organizations indicated that at least 70 percent of eligible employees participated in those 401(k) plans in 2008.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:
http://www.americanbenefitscouncil.org/documents/abc-waw-surveytrendsin401kplans.pdf [PDF format, 20 pages].

Item#14
WHO PAYS FOR CLIMATE POLICY? NEW ESTIMATES OF THE HOUSEHOLD BURDEN AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A U.S. CAP-AND-TRADE SYSTEM. Tax Foundation. Andrew Chamberlain. March 2009.

With climate change legislation becoming a top congressional priority in recent months, the study shows that a cap-and-trade system curbing greenhouse gas emissions would place an annual burden of $144.8 billion on American households. The average annual household burden would be $1,218, which would be approximately 2% of the average household income. The author explains that this burden would be disproportionately borne by low-income households, those under age 25 and over 75 years, those in southern states, and single parents with dependent children.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:
http://www.taxfoundation.org/files/wp6.pdf [PDF format, 36 pages].