

Female Labor Force Participation Ali Alkhamis

This paper investigates female labor force participation across a range of developed, developing, and underdeveloped countries in different geographical regions of the world. Using regression analysis the objective is to establish the extent to which different factors influence female labor force participation. Research reviewed indicates that researchers have addressed the effect of each factor in some detail in different countries. However, no report appears to address the relative importance of each factor in a cross-section of different countries with varying socio-cultural environment. The proposed research will attempt to bridge this gap.

GOVERNMENTS EFFECT ON CONSUMPTION Matthew Ambridge

This paper examines the relationship between the growth rates of consumer expenditures and growth rates of government discretionary spending as well as federal debt. Given that government actions that may increase or decrease government spending and debt lead to changes in availability to credit, wealth effects, and disposable income changes. I find that consumer expenditures growth rates increase in response to increases in wealth effects (financial capital markets performance) and increases in disposable income growth rates. Finally, if increased government expenditures are used to decrease risk of recession, policy aimed directly at market stabilization with positive disposable income effects may be effective to maintain consumption levels as well as creating a stimulus effect.

MACROECONOMIC FACTORS THAT EXPLAIN YIELD ON CORPORATE BONDS Oriyomi Atuluku

This study examines the impact of macroeconomic factors on the expected rate of return on Moody BAA rated corporate bonds. This paper discuss the relevance of three macroeconomic variables namely three month Treasury bill rate variable , unemployment rate variable and budget deficit variable scaled by the GDP all expressed in percentage. Using quarterly data for the period 1970.1–2010.4, regression estimations show that the three month Treasury bill variable has a positive and statistically significant impact on the expected rate of return on Moody BAA rated corporate bonds, the dependent variable. It is also found that unemployment rate variable is statistically significant to the expected rate of return on Moody BAA rated corporate bonds. The two variables are significantly correlated. The study also shows that the budget deficit variable scaled by the GDP is statistically insignificant to the expected rate of return on Moody BAA rated corporate bonds.

Income Inequality: What can be done to overcome it? Shahed Chowdhury

This paper uses a cross section of data from 187 countries over the period of 2004-2009, to investigate the factors that affect income inequality such as ratio of boys of girls in education, labor participation rate, Life expectancy at birth, Women empowerment, Government spending and Trade freedom. The results suggest that gender inequality in life expectancy at birth has a direct impact on income distribution through lowering the average quality of human capital. In addition, government spending is directly affected through the impact of investment and population growth, which ultimately affect the income distribution of the country.

Food Security in Developing Countries Safiatou Diallo

How can we explain great food security disparities among developing countries four years to go from the Millennium Development goal of halving the number of hungry people by 2015? This paper, using panel data from 83 low income, middle income and upper middle income countries, over 1995-2005, gives evidence in support of a statistically significant and strong negative impact of health environment, government lack of effectiveness, population growth and armed conflicts, showing that food availability yet necessary is not sufficient to grant food security. In order to respond adequately to the global concern of ending poverty, it is essential for the vulnerable people to be able to fulfill their basic needs, such as the right to sufficient and adequate food to live a healthy and active life. Therefore, policy makers need to focus on non-food factors such as gender equality and political stability to promote sustainable food security.

Foreign Aid in Sub-Saharan Africa Moussa Diakite

Foreign aid has been constantly flowing into Africa for the past three decades. Yet, too frequently it arrives with little coordination among donors over accountability to where the funds are actually going. This raises the question of the effectiveness of foreign aid in the region. We used World Development Indicators data from the World Bank in order to investigate the relation between foreign aid and per capita GDP growth rate. Using a cross section analysis to compare 49 sub Saharan countries; we found that countries with high aid/GDP ratio are growing slower compared to countries with low aid/GDP ratio. It is acknowledged that aid works better in a good policy environment. Our study shows that the policy variable is indeed significant. Nonetheless its negative coefficient suggests that the advocated policy is not pertinent in African case. Thus aid can lead to growth in Africa if the advocated policies are adapted to the social and economic environment of the region.

TEACHER SALARY AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:
A Study of Nebraska's Metropolitan Areas
Michael Meduna

The 2009 OECD's PISA results show that the United States of America ranked 31st in math test scores despite spending the second most on education per student. One of the largest expenditures in education is teacher compensation. This paper investigates the effect that teacher salary has on student achievement outcomes in mathematics and reading test scores in the public high schools in Nebraska's metropolitan statistical areas. The average results for each school from the 2010-11 Nebraska State Accountability test are regressed against teacher salary and seven other variables. The results of this model show that teacher compensation does not impact student achievement on either test. However, the model does show that the percentage of low income students has a significant negative effect on a school's average test score, while the percentage of Asian student enrolled has a significant positive effect on a school's average test score.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
THE DOW JONES INDEX AND U.S. FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICIES
Jiawei He

This paper studies the impact of U.S. fiscal and monetary policies to the Dow Jones Industrial Average Index relative price changing by using a time series (monthly basis) data of national inflation rate, national unemployment rate, federal debt as percentages of GDP, and real GDP growth rate from July 1954 to September 2010. The result proved the hypothesis theories about the effect of fiscal and monetary policies on stock market performance. However, the result also pointed out the limitation of the impacts. Change in stock market price cannot only based on the fiscal and monetary policies, other elements such as trading policy, industry performance, or other internal or external financial environments change will also act on the stock market price.

Social Security and Labor Force Participation By the Elderly
Gauri Joshi Chatterjee

In recent years a large number of studies investigated the relationship between labor force participation rate of elderly individuals and social security benefits. However most of these studies have been confined to comparison between social security benefits and LFPR between different countries or between individuals. In this study the effect of changes in social security benefits on labor force participation by the elderly is explored through a time series analysis. As LFPR cannot be affected only by social security policy changes, other variables like GDP growth rate, remaining life expectancy at 65 years and home ownership rate has been taken into account. The analysis is unable to provide evidence of relationship between social security payments, GDP growth rate, Home ownership and labor force participation. Remaining life expectancy has a positive effect and is most strongly related with the increase in labor force participation.

FACTORS AFFECTING EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

Michelle Janssen

This paper tries to investigate the determinants of employment growth. I used an econometric model to describe the variables that affect employment growth rate changes. The variables included in my model were business climate tax index, economic freedom index, education expenditures as a percentage of gross state product, highway expenditures and wage. By examining these variables it is clear that they only incorporate a small part of what determines employment growth. More key variables would have to be added to my equation to create a more statistically significant model. The results confirmed that thought when a low r-squared value was calculated.

U.S. Ethanol Production Effects on Livestock Commodity Prices

Kent Johnson

Cattle commodity prices in the U.S are directly related to the percentage of annual corn harvest used in ethanol production as demonstrated in this regression study using 1980 to 2010 data. However, the upward pressure on cattle prices may not be as tightly related to ethanol production growth in general as it is to the availability of the primary cattle feed stock. If monitored and applied properly ethanol production mandates could effectively be used to encourage alternative fuel without unnecessarily burdening cattle producers and forcing cost increases to be passed on to consumers. During crop production years of low yields or tight corn supplies mandates could be reduced to ease the overall percentage of corn used in ethanol which would avoid sharp increases to cattle commodity prices. As decisions are made by Congress in the upcoming years the importance of understanding the relationship of mandates and agriculture production such as cattle prices will become more important.

THE EFFECT OF THE INFORMAL SECTOR ON THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Moctar Sadou Nouhou

This study uses the ordinary least square method to evaluate the impact of the informal sector on the economic growth of developing countries. The regression result shows that there is no evidence that the informal sector is correlated with the economic growth in the low and lower middle income countries between the period 2003-2007, contrary to the major thinking for which if the size informal sector increases, then the growth rate of the economy will decrease.

ARE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THE HAPPIEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD?

Luis Munoz

This paper investigates some socioeconomic factors which may determine how much happier some countries are than others. Happy Planet Index 2.0 (HPI) data for 143 countries in 2009 are used. Results show that a higher GDP per capita in the country will lead to a higher level of HPI, a higher income inequality in a country will lead to a higher level of HPI, and the higher unemployment rate in a country, the lower the level of HPI.

CHARACTERISTICS OF COUNTRIES WITH HIGH NET MIGRATION RATE

Ekaterina Novoselska

In this study, I explore the characteristics of the countries producing high net migration rate. Through a cross-section analysis for 157 countries in 2005, I estimate the primary characteristics of countries leading people to flee. This research demonstrates that more democratic countries tend to have greater number of migrants and people flee their countries because of economic hardship.

Efficient Reduction of Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Shruti Prabhakar

This paper examines the effects of a country's environmental tax regulation and income per capita on carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere. A cross section analysis is carried out across 103 countries for the year 2007. A regression analysis is used to determine the relationship between environmental tax regulation and carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. The results show that there is a significant statistical correlation between environmental tax regulation and levels of carbon emissions in the atmosphere. However, significant correlation and relationships does not exist between carbon emissions and natural log of gross national income per capita, passenger cars and manufacturing.

CORRUPTION AND THAILAND'S TRADE

Ratsamitat Pornkongcharoen

I study the effect of corruption on Thailand's Trade by using the gravity model with cross-section data of 2010. Effects on imports and exports are separated in two different models. The result shows that corruption has negative effect on Thailand's exports and imports flow. The correlation coefficients also show that high tariff is associated with high corruption level in the country.

Why is Sugar More Expensive in the US? Economics or Politics?
Luke Sperling

This paper attempts to determine the cause of the large price differential between United States and world sugar prices. A significant portion of the differential could be due to the large percentage of U.S. sugar produced from sugar beets, which are significantly more expensive to produce sugar from than sugar cane. In an open economy inefficient producers would exit the market, which would equalize prices; however, the persistent price differential suggests that this price equalizing arbitrage has not taken place. The availability of comprehensive data regarding lobbying expenditures is limited, which does not allow us to draw a direct relationship to domestic sugar interests but there is a strong relationship between this price differential and the trade regime. The conclusion is that although there is currently not a good proxy for the impact of special interest groups, there is evidence that there is significant distortion in the U.S. sugar market.