

Intellectual Property Rights Protection and its Effect on US Music Exports
By Olusola Ajala

This paper examines the effect of a country's IPR laws on U.S exports of music CD's. Average U.S. music export data to 102 countries from 2002-2006 are used. A regression analysis is used to determine the relationship between IPR and U.S. music CD exports. Results show that no statistic significant correlation exists between the strength of importing countries IPRs and the level of U.S. music CD exports to the countries. However, significant correlation and relationships exist between U.S. music CD exports and importing countries levels of GDP, their proximity and language similarities to the U.S.

CHILD LABOR PREVALENCE AND THE ROLE OF REMITTANCES
IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD
By Justin Brewer

Child labor is a problem that many developing countries still struggle to eliminate. With income considered to be the primary determinant of child labor, remittances received from migrant workers abroad could help improve income and allow for children to focus on study rather than work. OLS regression analysis is used to analyze the potential impact remittances and other common explanatory variables have on child labor prevalence in a cross-section of developing countries in 2005. Results of the analysis show that although remittances are believed to have an impact on income, there is not necessarily strong evidence that remittances play a role in the decision to send a child to work or school.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS THAT IMPACT CHILDHOOD OBESITY
By Manxi Chen

With the increasing trend of childhood obesity rates in the US and large expenditures on Medicare which associated with obesity, so the purpose of this paper is try to examine whether environmental factors play a role in childhood obesity in the Environmental facts include physical activity, parental education level and family income, eating fast food and school lunch program. The result shows all variables have either significant positive or negative effect on childhood obesity except the variable of parental educational level and suggest the change of policy.

THE EFFECTS OF FINANCIAL SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT ON COUNTRIES' ECONOMIC GROWTH

By Lennis H. Gahona

Financial system development measured by credit provided by banks to the private sector and the size of the financial system, using 2003 to 2007 data, influence economic growth of countries used in the study. Education and research and development are also expected to influence economic growth; however, time between when an educational policy and/or research and development is implemented may result in the delay of their effects on the economy. This analysis is a cross-sectional examination of developing as well as developed countries, with financial system information. Countries seeking to increase economic growth can use these results to improve their economic conditions.

PREDICTING A US RECESSION

By Marc Haiar

Increases in oil prices and the Federal funds rate, as well as decrease in personal savings have occurred prior to many U.S. recessions. Previous empirical studies have shown that when the yield curve inverts it may indicate a recession. Incorporating the previous explanatory variables through the use of a multivariate probit model, I am successful in predicting a recession nine months prior to occurrence. The inclusion of the personal savings rate is significant, and takes characteristics of the long run Solow Growth Model.

GENDER WAGE GAP AND FERTILITY

By Xiaoting He

This article use linear regression analysis to show how fertility, female labor force participating rate, education and per capita GDP affect gender wage gaps across countries. The estimates imply that one more woman get tertiary education compared with 100 men get tertiary education in a country reduces gender wage gap by 0.0023 on average. So more polices to promote women get high educations are crucial for decreasing gender wage gap in country. Unfortunately, fertility which I want to focus on and other factor do not affect national gender wage gap statistically significant. The main possible reasons are the limited cross county data and different measurement ranges for fertility rate and gender wage gap. Future research that would get more countries level data on all kind of wages of men and women would be much worthy.

INFLATION AND FACTORS AFFECTING IT

By Aylar Japarova

Inflation is considered one of the most significant economic problems. It affects not only individuals, but also causes problems for the whole economy. This paper examines money growth, exchange rate regimes, and capacity utilization as the factors affecting inflation. The cross sectional comparative analysis of monetary policies, exchange rate regimes, and capacity utilization of 151 countries with distinct economic development level is carried out using the International Monetary Fund and World Bank data for the period of 2005-2007. The research reveals the evidence that: 1) money growth is the most important determinant of changes in inflation; 2) both freely floating and pegged exchange rate regimes may lead to inflation decrease, but the latter may influence more significantly; 3) the capacity utilization is insignificant in affecting inflation.

IS UNIONIZATION A DETRIMENT TO INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE?

By Kyungae Jun

In recent decades, the perception of the unionized workforce has suffered due to often-public tension during contract negotiations and the wage premium that may come with union contracts. This perception persists in spite of productivity advantages that unionization provides, because those benefits are not viewed as outweighing the costs – such as strikes and wage hikes – associated with unions. I examine 2002 industry sales using independent variables such as union coverage, sales growth, net changes in establishments, and concentration ratio to determine unionization's effects on industry performance. The results are mixed – unionized workers can have both favorable and unfavorable effects on industry performance, depending on the union bargaining power structure and other related characteristics of an industry. I suggest that the broad negative perception of unions should not be adopted by management, in favor of a strategic approach toward utilizing them effectively.

FACTORS DETERMINING PROFITABILITY IN U.S. MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

By Akira Kikuoka

This study developed a model to explore the relationships between price-cost margin, four-firm concentration ratio, advertising expenditure to sales ratio, capital cost to sales ratio and the natural log of industry shipments (as approximation to total revenue). The data of four-digit level manufacturing industries by NAICS in 2002 are used. Advertising intensity is founded as a factor determining industry's profitability. The results of this cross-sectional research support the SCP School's theory and empirical researches about the effect of advertisement. This investigation affirms that increased advertising expenditure raised entry barriers and resulted in increased profits. Although some previous researched claimed that market power and capital intensity lead to higher profitability, those effects are not founded. And the size of industry is also not significant.

UNINSURED CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES

By Yemi G. Makinde

This article researches what the main reasons behind the high rate of uninsured children, I used data from American Community Survey (ACS) a 3year average 2006-2008, For 2006-2008 data, the model R is 0.27, indicating that 27% of the variation in uninsurance rates is explained by the percentage of poverty, parents' education, employment status, child's immigration status, marital status and households with children. Most of my findings did not correlate with prior researches; most of my variables did not positively correlate with each other and reasons this might have happened is explained in the paper. Also this paper talks about the new health reform signed by the president in March 2010 and explained how the new reform will help reduce uninsured children in the US.

Fiscal Policy and Employment Growth in the U.S.

By Jingxuan Mu

In this paper, we used regression model to explore the relationship between fiscal policy (size of government, takings and discriminatory taxation, labor market freedom, bachelor's degree growth rate, population density and R&D) and the employment growth rate between 2001 and 2007 in fifty states. Using employment growth rate as the dependent variable and the six factors of fiscal policy as the independent variables, we found out that the six factors of fiscal policy are not statistically significant correlates of employment growth rate. We attributed the insignificant findings to 1) failure to include some important factors of fiscal policy that may have great influence on employment growth rate; 2) improper measurement of some independent variables; 3) long time period.

WHAT FACTORS AFFECT CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE?

By Quynh Nguyen

Children's learning attitudes are formed at the beginning stages of their lives. They are affected by both positive, nurturing experiences and negative, destructive ones. By looking at the factors that affect learning and thus academic performance, this paper finds the relationship among parental education, child health status, family income, preschool experience, and state spending on education with math and reading proficient levels. The results show that the level of parental education and family income most influence outcomes in children's academic performance, while the other determinants lack statistical significance possibly due to inaccurate proxies used to measure those variables.

FIRST ROUND COMPENSATION IN THE NFL DRAFT

By Greg Peters

The National Football League (NFL) is the highest level of professional American football in the United States. The National Football League is likely to generate \$7.8 billion in revenues during the 2010 football season. Negotiations are about to begin for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement, CBA, between the owners and the players' union. Comments have been made by both sides regarding the potential for a strike or lock out at the start of the 2011 NFL season; rookie compensation has been identified as a point of possible contention during upcoming negotiations. With attention being drawn to rookie compensation, the research question that will be investigated in this project is: Are rookies that are drafted during the first round of the annual NFL draft over compensated? The model of this cross-section study is the following: $\text{Log}(\text{COMP}) = \alpha + \beta_1\text{RUSH} + \beta_2\text{RECV} + \beta_3\text{TOTTD} + \beta_4\text{RESTRICT1} + \beta_5\text{EXPR} + \beta_6\text{EXPR2} + \beta_7\text{FUMBL} + \epsilon$. The results of the model suggest that restricted running backs on average may be receiving a premium for their performance and those drafted in the first round may be receiving an excess premium for their on-field performance

RECIDIVISM REDUCTION: CONTROLLING THE HIGH GROWTH OF THE U.S. PRISON POPULATION WITH ELECTRONIC MONITORING

By Jonathan Scholtes

This paper examines the effectiveness of electronic monitoring as a means to reduce state prisoner recidivism rates. The analysis is primarily concentrated on the use of electronic monitoring during parole. The results suggest that electronic monitoring is able to add an additional layer of scrutiny to the parole process and help ensure that parolees are prepared for a successful reintroduction back into society. This additional preparation reinforces the longer-term expected effect of electronic monitoring programs, reducing prisoner recidivism rates for the years after parole.

ASSET PRICE FLUCTUATIONS AND WAGES

By Robert Schneider

This paper studies the determinants of asset price fluctuations and includes per capita income (PCI), federal funds rate (FFR), inflation (INF) and the unemployment rate (UEMP). Prior research posits strong evidence in finding relationships between asset prices and economic variables. The results of econometric modeling suggest a positive relationship with PCI and no statistical significance with the others. Additional variables and possible external effects on asset fluctuations such as speculation of markets may prove supportive of further modeling. Further research into these external effects is suggested given the model results.

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT:
DO GOOD PERFORMING NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (NBA) TEAMS
IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT GROWTH OF THEIR RESPECTIVE CITIES?

By Karim Wilson Sifflet

Professional sports have been viewed as a major economic driver for the US economy. It could be viewed as an avenue for businesses in the accommodation, entertainment and retail industries capitalize from the presence of a professional sports team in their vicinity. A data panel regression adopted showed that the level of performance of an NBA team is not associated with any change in the employment growth for the aforementioned industries in these cities during the period of 1998 to 2006. Overall, the perceived economic benefits derived from the NBA cannot be used to obtain the public's approval for expenditures on professional sports franchises or facilities.

INCOME INEQUALITY: WHAT CAN BE DONE TO CURB IT?

BY Abdoul Kader Traore

This paper uses a cross section of data from 181 countries over the period of 2000-2006, to investigate the factors that affect income inequality such as government spending, public spending on education, freedom from corruption and gross domestic product. My results find that the model has a significant explanatory power at $\alpha=5\%$. Also my results show that keeping constant the variables only government spending has a significant power at $\alpha=5\%$. This brings about the question whether government spending is the only means of reducing income inequality? That led me to believe that indirect and direct influences that affect the factors that affect income inequality should also be included in the model to make a more conclusive determinant of the affects of the independent variable to income inequality.

Does Domestic Savings Still Drive Economic Growth?

By Yuejia Zhuo

I collect data of 211 countries during a period of year 2000 to 2005 from World Development Indicators, the World Bank, and use OLS method to explore whether gross domestic savings can improve GDP growth or not in an open economy. The result shows that although gross domestic savings has a positive effect on GDP growth but is not statistically significant even at 10% level in the original model with trade variable and in the adjusted model without considering trade variable. And technology and human capital have negative effect on improving economic growth, while FDI has a positive and significant effect. So policymakers should focus more on attracting FDI, rather than encourage domestic savings.