

1. UK NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE REPORT: "Pensions Analysis 2007" (March 2008, .pdf format, 1p., which links to several tables in Microsoft Excel format).

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14058>

## 2. URBAN INSTITUTE REPORT:

A. "Employment at Older Ages and the Changing Nature of Work," by Richard W. Johnson, Gordon Mermin, and Matthew Resseger (November 2007, .pdf format, 41p.).

<http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=1001154>

B. "Taking Back Our Fiscal Future," by Joseph Antos, Robert Bixby, Stuart Butler, Paul Cullinan, Alison Fraser, William Galston, Ron Haskins, Julie Isaacs, Maya MacGuineas, Will Marshall, Pietro Nivola, Rudolph G. Penner, Robert D. Reischauer, Alice M. Rivlin, Isabel V. Sawhill, and C. Eugene Steuerle (April 2008, .pdf format, 11p.).

<http://www.urban.org/url.cfm?ID=1001155>

3. WATSON WYATT WORLDWIDE REPORT: "2008 Global Pension Assets Study," (January 2008, .pdf format, 33p.). Note: Watson Wyatt requires free registration prior to providing content.

<http://www.watsonwyatt.com/research/resrender.asp?id=200801-GPAS08&page=1>

4. MEDICAL EXPENDITURE PANEL SURVEY: "Estimated Effects of Increased Coverage on Prescription Drug Expenditures among Seniors," by Merrile Sing, Edward Miller, and Jessica S. Banthin (Working Paper No. 8005, March 2008, .pdf format, 32p.). Links to the abstract and full-text can be found at:

[http://www.meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data\\_stats/Pub\\_ProdResults\\_Details.jsp?pt=Working%20Paper&opt=2&id=856](http://www.meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_stats/Pub_ProdResults_Details.jsp?pt=Working%20Paper&opt=2&id=856)

## 5. NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH:

A. "The Impact of Medicare Part D on Pharmaceutical R&D," by Margaret E. Blume-Kohout and Neeraj Sood (w13857, March 2008, .pdf format, 17p.).

Abstract:

Recent evidence suggests that Medicare Part D has increased prescription drug use among the elderly, and earlier studies have indicated that increasing market size induces pharmaceutical innovation. This paper assesses the impact of Medicare Part D on pharmaceutical research and development (R&D), using time-series data on the number of drugs in preclinical and clinical development by therapeutic class. We demonstrate that the passage of Medicare Part D was associated with significant increases in pharmaceutical R&D, especially for classes with high elderly market share.

<http://papers.nber.org/papers/W13857>

B. "The Other Ex-Ante Moral Hazard in Health," by Jay Bhattacharya and Mikko Packalen (w13863, March 2008, .pdf format, 50p.).

Abstract:

It is well known that public or pooled insurance coverage can induce a form of ex-ante moral hazard: people make inefficiently low investments in self-protective activities. This paper points out another ex-ante moral hazard that arises through an induced innovation externality. This alternative mechanism, by contrast, causes people to devote an inefficiently high level of self-protection.

As an empirical example of this externality, we analyze the innovation induced by the obesity epidemic. Obesity is associated with an increase in the incidence of many diseases. The induced innovation hypothesis is that an increase in the incidence of a disease will increase technological innovation specific to that disease. The empirical economics literature has produced substantial evidence in favor of the induced innovation hypothesis.

We first estimate the associations between obesity and disease incidence. We then show that if these associations are causal and the pharmaceutical reward system is optimal the magnitude of the induced innovation externality of obesity roughly coincides with the Medicare-induced health insurance externality of obesity. The current Medicare subsidy for obesity therefore appears to be approximately optimal. We also show that the pattern of diseases for obese and normal weight individuals are similar enough that the induced innovation externality of obesity on normal weight individuals is positive as well.

<http://papers.nber.org/papers/w13863>

C. "Deconstructing Lifecycle Expenditure," by Mark Aguiar and Erik Hurst (w13893, April 2008, .pdf format, 56p.).

Abstract:

In this paper we revisit two well-known facts regarding lifecycle expenditures. The first is the familiar "hump" shaped lifecycle profile of nondurable expenditures. We document that the behavior of total nondurables masks surprising heterogeneity in the lifecycle profile of individual sub-components. We find, for example, that while food expenditures decline after middle age, expenditures on entertainment continue to increase throughout the lifecycle. These patterns pose a challenge to models that emphasize inter-temporal substitution or movements in income, including standard models of precautionary savings, myopia, and limited commitment, to explain the lifecycle profile of expenditures. Second, we document that the increase in the cross-sectional dispersion of expenditure over the lifecycle is not greater for luxuries. In particular, the dispersion in entertainment expenditure declines relative to food expenditures as households become older, casting further doubt on theories that emphasize (exclusively) shocks to permanent income to explain the rising cross sectional expenditure dispersion over the lifecycle. We propose and test a Beckerian model that emphasizes intra-temporal substitution between time and expenditures as the opportunity cost of time varies over the lifecycle. We find this alternative model successfully explains the joint behavior of food and entertainment expenditures in the latter half of the lifecycle. The model, however, is less successful in explaining expenditure patterns early in the lifecycle.

<http://papers.nber.org/papers/W13893>

6. AARP/NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGING: "Stimulus Payment Tool," (March 2008). "The Stimulus Payment Tool is for people who normally don't have to file a tax return, but need to do so this year to get a Stimulus Payment." <https://aarp-stimulus2008.benefitscheckup.org/>