Labor Force Participation:
The Case of Native-Born Black and Foreign-Born Black
By Kwassi Amevor

It is now accepted that African-Americans have the lower employment rate among all races in the United States. Meanwhile, the continuous increase in the number of black immigrants has contributed to a 17 percent increase in the U.S. black population and they are now becoming a large proportion of the U.S. black labor force. Therefore, in this paper, the author tests for the labor market outcomes among native-born blacks and foreign-born blacks, using data from the U.S. Census 2010 Integrated Public Use Micro-data Series (IPUMS), and controlling for educational attainment, marital status, gender, and age among native-born blacks and foreign-born blacks, as it relates to their employment status in the labor market. This study shows that native-born blacks tend to do worse than their counterpart foreign-born blacks. In fact, the regression analysis suggests that the likelihood of one being employed if born a native black decreases significantly.

POLITICS BY THE NUMBERS: DETERMINING THE IMPACT OF POLITICAL ELECTION CYCLES ON THE REPORTING OF MACROECONOMIC DATA
By Jeffrey J. Hardy

Accurate macro-economic statistics are vital to policy makers, businesses, and voters as they make decisions about how they should act, conduct business, plan for their financial futures, and cast their political votes at the ballot box. All too often the data delivered contains a high degree of inaccuracy. This paper utilizes time series and logit analysis against a real-time data set of United State GDP measurement to determine whether a pattern exists in the degree of accuracy of official macro-economic statistics reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) with regard to political cycles. The data set consists of time-delineated snapshots (vintages) of GDP data collected by the Philadelphia Federal Reserve. An empirical analysis of the data and a thorough review of existing research indicate that, though a significant pattern is evident in the time series, additional data points are required to reach a statistical conclusion.

IS THERE A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMAN FREEDOM AND ECONOMIC GROWTH?
By Roman Kurilo

This paper investigates the relationship between human freedom and economic growth. A cross country analysis is carried out across for 92 countries from 2008 to 2012. Regression analysis is used to determine the relationship between economic growth and log of GDP per capita, domestic savings, education, human freedom, trade openness and if a country is landlocked or otherwise. The results show that there is statistically significant correlation between economic growth and log of GDP, and domestic savings. At the same time, significant correlation does not exist between human freedom and economic growth.
FARM SUBSIDIES AND PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY
By Nathan LeMar

Do farm subsidies have an effect on the amount produced per acre? Regressions using 2002 and 2007 state level data provided by the USDA to measure how the amount of corn, soy and wheat varied in the amount of bushels per acre over the two years, due to the exogenous effect of subsidy changes from the 1996 farm bill to the 2002 farm bill. The analysis suggests that subsidies do encourage farmers to produce more bushels per acre, but only to a certain point. The amount of subsidies provided today may be redundant to the needs of farm operations.

U.S Savings: Healthier than Expected?
By Philip Litwin

This paper analyzes the effectiveness of tax incentive saving programs on personal savings in the United States. I look at the date that IRA’s, Roth IRA’s, and 401(k)’s became available to the public and run a regression against the overall savings rate while accounting for variables such as unemployment rate, Federal Funds interest rate, median income etc. Analysis shows that of the three accounts only the introduction of IRA’s has had the intended effect on U.S. household savings. The introduction of the Roth IRAs was found to be statistically insignificant on the overall savings rate, and the introduction of the 401K has actually had a negative effect on the savings rate.

Do Net Capital Outflows Affect the Growth of Developing Countries?
By Jeffrey Oswald

I test the relationship between net capital outflows and growth of real per capita GDP for a set of developing countries from 2004 to 2006 using four regression models. I use a capital flight measure to capture a broad level of capital movements, rather than normal FDI. In addition, some efforts are taken to try and adjust the data for problems in reporting. The results are not conclusive, with lack of critical data as a major inhibitor.

By Tyler Ruse

Subsidizing renewable energy has become common practice in the United States. In addition to what states spent, the Federal government spent 29 billion dollars on renewable energy subsidies between 2002 and 2008. This paper will attempt to determine the effects of government subsidy on investment in renewable energy, wind energy in particular. Using data from 1992 to 2011 and covering all fifty states, I run an OLS regression to determine the effects of production and investment tax credits as well as the available land for development and the presence of a regional transmission organization on the investment in wind energy. I find that both the federal production tax credit and the investment tax credit increase investment in wind energy.
Do Creative Cities Create Jobs?
By James Scissom

This paper considers the relationship between the creative class, a local economic development theory popularized by Richard Florida, and the economic performance indicator of job creation in U.S. metropolitan statistical areas. The primary research question examined here is whether a city with a higher number or creative individuals (measured by the number or creative jobs) that exist in a city influences the overall employment growth rate of that city. I find that the number or creative jobs is not statistically significant or strongly correlated to the economic performance indicator of overall employment growth in U.S. metro areas.

A GRAVITY STUDY OF TRADE CREATION AND DIVERSION IN ASEAN
By Colin Suiter

ASEAN has recently enacted five RTAs and to date there is a lack of empirical analysis on their net effect on world trade. A gravity model using panel data from 15 ASEAN countries from 2003-2012 shows evidence of trade creation between ASEAN and the rest of the world correlated with RTAs with China, Japan, India, Korea, Australia and New Zealand. However, there is little to no evidence that the RTAs had any effect at all on intra-ASEAN trade. Additionally, the results indicate that the Hecksher-Ohlin theory holds in the region, indicating increased trade from developing (developed) countries to developed (developing) countries. The gravity model reveals that these RTAs have been beneficial for world trade, if not for the region itself, by increasing competitiveness in the manufacturing sector. This increased competition appears to come mostly from the China-ASEAN RTA, whose enactment seems to have the largest effect.

The Effect of Immigration on U.S. Housing Prices
By Di Yang

This paper studies the impact of immigration shocks on U.S. housing market. While most of the existing literature, focused on relative wage or labor market effects of immigration. By controlling all the variables that may affect the housing prices, such as GDP, native population, number of housing units, and using the parameters estimated and a simple model, we are able to simulate most of the estimated effects of immigration on housing prices. Then we find a positive association between immigration and prices of houses across U.S. states over the period 2000-2006. Also, states with higher immigration are experiencing higher housing prices.
Salary, Star Power and Revenue in Major League Baseball  
By Shaun Young

A panel model is used to estimate the importance of both a team’s payroll and the number of All-Stars on its roster to its revenue. This study complements baseball economics research that has studied the effects of other variables on revenue, including market size, bandwagon effect and wage disparity by taking a closer look at returns on payroll expenses. While payroll does indeed have a statistically significant, positive relationship with revenue, star power does not. Other variables such as market size, attendance and whether or not a team’s stadium is new are found to have a stronger relationship with revenue than payroll does.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT AND FIRM VALUE CREATION  
By Caijin Yue

Nowadays, the world has entered into post financial crisis era; risk management has become more important to all firms. However, the high costs of risk management cannot add value for an enterprise. Without risk management, it actually creates value by avoiding the high costs. Some firms are huge enough to make an investment on risk management, but the question is raised: are significant amount of money worth for enterprise to invest? The objective of my study is to find the relationship between risk management and firm value creation. However, prior studies cannot get conclusive evidences about the relationship in different industries. I will focus my attention on the U.S. companies that belong in securities and commodity contracts inter-mediation and brokerage industries in 2012. The main finding of my paper is that the relationship between risk management and firm value creation is ambiguous.