

---

E-ALERT is compiled based on an email service we receive from the Department of State's Office of International Information Programs. We are sending it to you to alert you of the latest issues and debates in the United States.

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.

Please contact the Information Resource Center if you have problem retrieving any of the documents listed. To cancel this service, please reply to the present message and type "unsubscribe" as the text of your message.

---

### **Title Index**

- [Item#1](#) The Entrepreneurship Gender Gap: Women Entrepreneurs as Economic Drivers
- [Item#2](#) Fighting Poverty in a Tough Economy, Americans Move in with Their Relatives
- [Item#3](#) The Four Horsemen of Economics
- [Item#4](#) Managing a Greek Default
- [Item#5](#) Ponzi Schemes and Social Security
- [Item#6](#) Reinvigorating the U.S.-Thailand Alliance
- [Item#7](#) Slum Clearance and Urban Renewal in the United States
- [Item#8](#) Trade Preferences for Developing Countries and the World Trade Organization (WTO)
- [Item#9](#) The White Population: 2010

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Reports**

#### [Item#1](#)

The Entrepreneurship Gender Gap: Women Entrepreneurs as Economic Drivers. Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. Lesa Mitchell. September 28, 2011.

Women who are capable of starting growth companies that serve global markets may be the nation's secret weapon for achieving sustained economic growth. Research shows that startup companies - particularly high-growth startups - are the most fruitful source of new U.S. jobs and offer the economy's

best hope for recovery. However, despite the fact that about 46 percent of the workforce and more than 50 percent of college students are female, and that women have risen to top positions in corporate and university hierarchies, they represent only about 35 percent of startup business owners. Their firms also tend to experience less growth and prosperity than do firms started by men. The paper explores the reasons behind lower business startup rates among women and proposes actions that would help to realize the promise of female entrepreneurs in escalating the economy.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

[http://www.kauffman.org/uploadedFiles/Growing\\_the\\_Economy\\_Women\\_Entrepreneurs.pdf](http://www.kauffman.org/uploadedFiles/Growing_the_Economy_Women_Entrepreneurs.pdf) [PDF format, 15 pages].

[http://www.kauffman.org/uploadedFiles/Gender\\_Gap\\_Infographics.pdf](http://www.kauffman.org/uploadedFiles/Gender_Gap_Infographics.pdf) Infographic [PDF format, 1 page].

### Item#2

Fighting Poverty in a Tough Economy, Americans Move in with Their Relatives. Pew Research Center Social & Demographic Trends. October 3, 2011.

Large numbers of Americans enacted their own anti-poverty program in the depths of the Great Recession: They moved in with relatives. This helped fuel the largest increase in modern history in the number of Americans living in multi-generational households. From 2007 to 2009, the total spiked from 46.5 million to 51.4 million. Living with extended family appears to be a financial lifeline for many. Although their adjusted incomes overall are lower, the poverty rate among people living in multi-generational households is substantially smaller than for those in other households -- 11.5% vs. 14.6% in 2009, according to a new Pew Research Center analysis of Census Bureau data.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2011/10/Multigenerational-Households-Final-10-03-11.pdf> [PDF format, 49 pages].

### Item#3

The Four Horsemen of Economics. YaleGlobal. Stewart Wallis. September 28, 2011.

Humans are not necessarily stuck with the unsustainable, unstable economic constructs they have created. Political systems can shape local and global economies, either deliberately or by default. Stewart Wallis urges nations to work in concert to address crises that promise to arise with greater frequency and severity, whether extreme weather events and devastated croplands or over-reliance on debt. Political leaders and citizens proceed along an economic path with four systemic problems, what Wallis calls the four U's, unsustainable, unfair, unstable and unhappy way of life. The New Economics Foundation aims to improve global quality of life with innovative solutions that challenge conventional wisdom, and a key goal is maximizing well-being, by finding and using measures that demonstrate true success or failure. The current course toward greater unsustainability and inequality is not only dangerous and reckless, but completely avoidable.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/four-horsemen-economics> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#4

Managing a Greek Default. Council on Foreign Relations. Christopher Alessi. September 29, 2011.

Despite a German parliamentary vote to boost the eurozone's bailout mechanism, Greek sovereign debt levels appear unsustainable and a default may be inevitable. Most economists think the question now is how to make the process orderly.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://www.cfr.org/financial-crises/managing-greek-default/p26060> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#5

Ponzi Schemes and Social Security. Urban Institute. Rudolph G. Penner. September 2011.

Earlier this month Texas Gov. Rick Perry made waves when he called Social Security a Ponzi scheme during a Republican Party presidential debate, an assertion he originally made in his 2010 autobiography "Fed Up." Penner explains what a Ponzi scheme is, how it compares with Social Security, and what can be done to fix the program's underlying structural problems.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://www.urban.org/publications/500248.html> [HTML format, video, and commentary].

#### Item#6

Reinvigorating the U.S.-Thailand Alliance. The Heritage Foundation. Walter Lohman. September 28, 2011.

The United States and Thailand have a long history of close relations. After 9/11, the U.S. renewed its attention to the relationship, identifying shared interests and values. The military coup in 2006 weakened the relationship, but the return of a newly elected civilian government may present an opening for the U.S. to reinvigorate economic, political, and military relations with Thailand. Since World War II, the U.S.-Thai alliance has been the linchpin of U.S. relations with the region. By demonstrating its commitment to Thailand, the U.S. can greatly strengthen its position in Southeast Asia and hedge against China's growing diplomatic, economic, and military presence and intentions in the region.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

[http://thf\\_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2011/pdf/bg2609.pdf](http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2011/pdf/bg2609.pdf) [PDF format, 11 pages].

#### Item#7

Slum Clearance and Urban Renewal in the United States. National Bureau of Economic Research. William J. Collins and Katharine J. Shester. September 2011.

The report studies the local effects of the Housing Act of 1949, which established a federally subsidized program that helped cities clear areas for redevelopment, rehabilitate deteriorating structures, complete comprehensive city plans, and enforce building codes. The authors use an instrumental variable strategy to estimate the program's effects on city-level measures of median income, property values, employment and poverty rates, and population. The estimates are generally positive and

economically significant, and they are not driven by differential changes in cities' demographic composition. The results are consistent with a model of spatial equilibrium in which local productivity is enhanced.

*[Note: contains copyrighted material].*

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w17458.pdf> [PDF format, 43 pages].

#### Item#8

Trade Preferences for Developing Countries and the World Trade Organization (WTO). Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Jeanne J. Grimmett. September 23, 2011.

Article I:1 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (GATT 1994) requires World Trade Organization (WTO) Members to grant most-favored-nation (MFN) treatment "immediately and unconditionally" to the like products of other Members with respect to tariffs and other trade-related measures. Programs such as the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), under which developed countries grant preferential tariff rates to developing country goods, are facially inconsistent with this obligation because they accord goods of some countries more favorable tariff treatment than that accorded to like goods of other WTO Members.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RS22183.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

#### Item#9

The White Population: 2010. U.S. Bureau of Census. September 29, 2011.

The white alone population grew by 6 percent from 211.5 million in 2000 to 223.6 million in 2010. In comparison, the total U.S. population grew by 9.7 percent over the decade from 281.4 million in 2000 to 308.7 million in 2010. While the white alone population increased numerically over the 10-year period, its percentage of the total population declined from 75 percent to 72 percent.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-05.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].