

1. IOWA NEWS: "Report: Aging population could strain state budgets," by Fred Love (\_Mason City [IA] Globe Gazette\_, December 2, 2008).

<http://www.globegazette.com/articles/2008/12/02/news/state/doc4934c78ef40de625274580.txt>

2. WISCONSIN NEWS: "Amid budget crisis, Wis. cuts Social Security tax," by Ryan J. Foley (Associated Press via \_Chicago Tribune\_, December 2, 2008).

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-wi-socialsecurity,0,7752988.story>

3. "Seniors with 'Purpose' win prizes," by Janet Kornblum (\_USA Today\_ [McLean, Virginia], December 3, 2008). [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-12-03-purpose-prize\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-12-03-purpose-prize_N.htm)

4. IOWA NEWS: "Iowa's public employee pension fund falls" (Associated Press via \_Chicago [Illinois] Tribune\_, Dec. 5, 2008).

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-ia-ipersfundcorrecti,0,570576.story>

5. AARP REPORTS, PRIME TIME RADIO:

A. "Power of Attorney Abuse: What States Can Do About It," by Lori A. Stiegel and Ellen VanCleave Klem (December 2008, .pdf format, 79p.).

[http://www.aarp.org/research/legal/legalrights/inb164\\_poa.html](http://www.aarp.org/research/legal/legalrights/inb164_poa.html)

Click on "Full Report (PDF)" for link to full text.

B. "Impact of the Economy on Health Behaviors," by Teresa A. Keenan (November 2008, .pdf format, 15p.).

[http://www.aarp.org/research/health/carefinancing/healthcosts\\_08.html](http://www.aarp.org/research/health/carefinancing/healthcosts_08.html)

6. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT RESEARCH INSTITUTE PERIODICAL, REPORT UPDATE:

A. \_EBRI Notes\_ (Vol. 29, No. 11, November 2008, .pdf format, 10p.). The lead article is "Retirement Annuity and Employment-Based Pension Income Among Individuals Age 50 and Over: 2007," by Ken McDonnell. <http://www.ebri.org/publications/notes/>

B. "401(k) Balances and Changes Due to Market Volatility--Data to November 26, 2008" (.pdf format). <http://www.ebri.org/whatsnew/index.cfm?fa=401kbalances>

7. CENTER FOR ECONOMIC STUDIES/Ifo INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH (CESifo) [Munich, Bavaria, Germany]: "Population, Pensions, and Endogenous Economic Growth," by Burkhard Heer and Andreas Irmen (WP 2480, November 2008, .pdf format, 43p.). Links to an abstract and full text are available at:

[http://www.cesifo-group.de/portal/page/portal/ifoHome/b-publ/b3publwp/wp\\_abstract?p\\_file\\_id=16391](http://www.cesifo-group.de/portal/page/portal/ifoHome/b-publ/b3publwp/wp_abstract?p_file_id=16391)

8. INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH (ISER) [UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX, COLCHESTER, UK]: "Population Ageing: Crisis or Opportunity?" by John F. Ermisch (WP 2008-38, November 2008, .pdf format, 38p.).

Abstract:

Population ageing reduces the working population relative to the number of pensions by one-third over next 30 years. The challenge presented by this development is how best to support pensioners incomes without suppressing the net incomes of the working population and capital accumulation too much. The ability of private savings and occupational pensions to meet this challenge is doubtful. There is a related issue of inter-generational equity: how do we share the burden of population ageing between generations, rather than passing it on to future generations. Given the uncertainty about future demographic and economic developments, it is important to have adaptable or self-correcting policies to address population ageing.

<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/pubs/workpaps/pdf/2008-38.pdf>

9. NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MODELLING (NATSEM) [UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA]: "The Impact of Mutual Obligation on Mature Age NewStart Allowance Recipients: a program evaluation," by Hazel Lim-Applegate (Discussion Paper 65, December 2008, .pdf format, 61p.).

Abstract:

Australia joined the other OECD countries in employing active labour market policies (ALMPs) in the early 1990s, when labour force participation rates, especially of mature age men, continued to fall and unemployment benefit continued to rise. While there is consensus in the literature regarding the negative association between social security benefits and labour force participation, the empirical findings to date are limited to linking aggregate trends as appropriate individual-level data were not available then.

Nevertheless, the government continues to use ALMPs despite inconclusive empirical evidence. In July 2002, the coverage of the Mutual Obligation (MO) was increased to include mature age NewStart Allowance (NSA) recipients aged 35 to 49. The Welfare Reform Task Force hailed MO as the key to addressing social and economic disadvantage of job seekers. Participation in community service, training or part-time work are supposed to enable NSA recipients to exit NSA and work. In this research, the effectiveness of MO in facilitating exits from NSA is assessed by applying program evaluation methods. The longitudinal administrative dataset is used to represent the individual's workforce participation decision-making by taking into account his/her time-use preference, participation barriers and expected labour demand. It is found that MO is not effective in the way the previous government envisioned it to be. MO is more of a policy-tightening exercise than an active labour market policy aimed at enhancing the skills of the mature age NSA recipients. Only 2.2 percent of mature age NSA entrants manifested the behavioural change the government intended - take up an MO activity, complete it and leave income support to work. This raises questions on the cost-effectiveness of MO as an ALMP given the expenditure on the program.

[https://guard.canberra.edu.au/natsem/index.php?mode=download&file\\_id=900](https://guard.canberra.edu.au/natsem/index.php?mode=download&file_id=900)