

Policy Matters



Your weekly digest of policy reports that **matter**.
Edited by [Toby Green](#) and [Gary Price](#) of *Policy Commons*.

The most important chart in the world

"If you're wondering how and why it is that so many parts of the UK and US have deindustrialised so fast, or why China has such a commanding lead in the production of everything from steel and concrete to solar panels and electric car batteries, [then this chart provides part of the explanation](#)," writes Sky News's Ed Conway. (And once you've read Ed's excellent post, to spare you from having to hunt, [it comes from this OECD paper](#).)

Renewables: now generating thirty percent of world electricity

"[The renewables future has arrived](#)," said Dave Jones, Ember's director of global insights. "Solar, in particular, is accelerating faster than anyone thought possible." And fossil fuel generation may be declining, even as total demand for electricity continues to grow.

How the Russia-Ukraine war is damaging communities on the US Gulf Coast

Because of the war, Europe was obliged to look for new sources of gas, which prompted the US to boost liquefied natural gas production and export. [This report looks at the social, environmental, economic, and health impacts](#) of this shift on Gulf Coast communities.

US research infrastructure: it needs an upgrade

The US National Science and Technology Council has just issued a report titled [US Federal Research and Development Infrastructure](#). It focuses on facilities and research infrastructure managed by federal agencies, notably national and federal labs but also a variety of other facilities. Many of these are in great need of maintenance and upgrades.

COVID's ongoing impact...

...on the poorest nations, making them poorer

A new World Bank report, [The Great Reversal](#), takes a comprehensive look at the opportunities and risks confronting some of the world's poorest countries. It finds that a third of International Development Association (IDA) countries are poorer today than before COVID. However, because their populations are young, they could enjoy a so-called demographic dividend by 2070.

...on employers' senior talent

With the official end of the COVID-19 pandemic, debates about the return to the office have taken center stage among companies and employees. [A new paper from Chicago's Harris School](#) finds that policies that force staff back to the office can backfire, with senior staff in particular likely to leave.

...on artists in Australia

[How did they cope in the wake of COVID-19?](#) The seventh report of a forty-year longitudinal study into artists as workers, conducted by Professor Throsby and colleagues at Macquarie University with support from Creative Australia (formerly Australia Council), was released. It's accompanied by a [summary and response from Creative Australia](#).

Climate chaos: Another paper shows it will be more costly and make us poorer.

A couple of weeks ago (*Policy Matters*, April 17th), we drew your attention to [a paper from PIK](#) that estimated climate costs to be six times higher than mitigation costs and that they could reduce global GDP by ~19%. On June 7th, Northwestern's Diego Känzig and Harvard's Adrien Bilal will present at a [conference](#) a new working paper that estimates that the macroeconomic damage from climate change will be six times larger than previously thought. [The paper \(which is yet to have a final home, but we sourced an advanced copy\)](#) also reckons global GDP will be 12% lower.

What's a week anyway?

In 1929, the Soviet government launched the *nepreryvka*, a five-day week. They split workers into five groups—each working four days on and one day off, so that production would never stop. Eventually, after a six-day variant, the government returned the week to its original seven days, but only after thoroughly shattering people's mental model of time and their family and community lives. [For all of time's inherent malleability, people want it to be consistent, and more importantly, they want it to be theirs](#).

What's in our new *Public Health and Social Care* module?

We're sharing examples of what you'll find in our new *Public Health and Social Care* module. The following are this week's examples.

Revenues from cannabis sales

Twenty US states are taxing adult-use cannabis sales, and through the first quarter of 2024 they [reported a combined total of more than \\$20 billion in tax revenue](#) from legal sales. In many states, the revenues are allocated for social services and other social programs.

America's hospitals face financial instability

[This briefing from the American Hospital Association paints a grim picture](#). Persistent workforce shortages, severe fractures in the supply chain for drugs and supplies, and high levels of inflation have collectively fueled hospitals' costs. Yet inadequate increases in reimbursement by government payers, along with increasing administrative burden due to inappropriate commercial health insurer practices, are crimping income.

Read more about our new *Public Health and Social Care* module [here](#).

***Mentions*—a new tool for measuring impact**

“There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about.” – Oscar Wilde

Until now, it's been very hard to measure how often an organization is being talked about and by whom. Now, with our new *Mentions* tool, you'll know.

To learn more about how *Mentions* tells you much more about impact than journal citations alone, speak to your Coherent Digital representative or [read more here](#).

Thanks for staying informed with *Policy Matters* from Policy Commons—with over 11 million working papers, policy briefs, data sources, and media from 32,000 municipalities, IGOs, NGOs, think tanks, and research centers around the world.

We choose reports from definitive sources around the globe that are data-rich and timely. Most often they'll be hot off the press, but sometimes we'll include older reports we've just uncovered. From time to time, we also share key product updates and information through this channel.

You may [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

[Visit us!](#)

