

S/P/R

STATE POLICY REPORTS

VOLUME 37

ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Disaggregating Population Changes

In addition to the annual change in state population, recently released census estimates include births, deaths, and domestic and international migration. This detail can provide insights into what's driving changes in a given state.

SALT in the Wound

Federal and state revenue officials—as well as individual tax filers—are about to learn the impact of limiting the federal deduction for state and local taxes to \$10,000.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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ISSUE 2

JANUARY 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Stress Testing States

Moody's Analytics has begun stress-testing states to assess their vulnerability to economic downturns and their capacity to respond.

A SNAP Gap

Some households could see as much as a 55-day gap between their February and March SNAP benefits because of the recent government shutdown.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Millennials and Boomers Go Their Own Ways

A recent paper focuses on migration patterns for two demographics: young adults and retirees.

Growing Organics

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports on the number of certified organic farms, acreage, and sales by state and by commodity.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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FEBRUARY 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

What If? (Federal Budget Edition)

What if the Budget Control Act spending caps return for fiscal year 2020?

Peril on Two Wheels, Two Feet

A voluminous new report updates bicycle and pedestrian safety in the United States.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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MARCH 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Gee Whiz Data: Education

The *Digest of Education Statistics 2017*, released in January by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), may not be a quick read, but it does contain scores of interesting state-specific data tables.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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ISSUE 6

MARCH 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Index of State Economic Momentum

The Index of State Economic Momentum ranks states based on their most recent performance in three key measures of economic vitality: personal income growth, employment growth, and population growth. *Reports* updates the index each quarter. In the first quarter of 2019, **Nevada** retained the top spot, while **Delaware** most closely approximated the national average economic performance.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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APRIL 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

The 2019 Camelot Index

The Camelot Index was developed by *Reports* founding editor Hal Hovey, a longtime observer and analyst of state budgets and economies. It ranks states on six “quality of life” measures: economy, health, crime, education, society, and state government. This year, the top-ranking state is **Wyoming**.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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ISSUE 8

APRIL 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Camelot Components: State Solvency

Hal Hovey, *Reports* founding editor, developed the State Solvency Index in 1993 to evaluate state finances and financial management. This issue of *Reports* delves into the details of the most recent index.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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MAY 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Remembering Alice Rivlin: Sorting Out

Alice Rivlin passed away earlier this month. To honor her memory, this issue of *Reports* revisits her “sorting out” proposal from *Reviving the American Dream*.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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MAY 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

A Teaching Penalty?

An updated report finds that teachers face a wage penalty compared to other professionals, which is only partly offset by a fringe benefits advantage.

How to Adjust the Official Poverty Measure

A recent request by a federal agency is purportedly intended to gather information to inform a future decision, but some observers see a wolf in sheep's clothing.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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JUNE 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment Decline

Thirty-eight states saw the enrollment of children in their Medicaid and CHIP programs decline between December 2017 and December 2018.

On Merit and Need

The Education Commission of the States (ECS) has released a 50-state comparison of student aid programs.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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JUNE 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Index of State Economic Momentum

The Index of State Economic Momentum ranks states based on their most recent performance in three key measures of economic vitality: personal income growth, employment growth, and population growth. *Reports* updates the index each quarter. In the second quarter of 2019, **Nevada** retained the top spot, while **Minnesota** and **Alabama** most closely approximated the national average economic performance.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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JULY 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Twenty Years On, Remembering Hal Hovey

Reprinted here is an interview Hal Hovey gave shortly before his death in October 1999, which ran in *Reports* Volume 17, Issue 10, plus an accounting of how well his observations have stood the test of time.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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JULY 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

A CRS Summary of School Finance Practices

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) has released a survey of school finance practices among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The report highlights a dearth of school-level finance data at a time when there is heightened federal interest in it.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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JOINT ISSUE 15-16

AUGUST 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

A Federal Budget Update

This issue of *Reports* summarizes the federal budget update that Federal Funds Information for States has been providing to its subscribers this summer.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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SEPTEMBER 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Revisiting Federal Fiscal Relief

Recent economic signals suggest that the long economic expansion following the Great Recession may be winding down. Accordingly, state fiscal observers, policy makers, and analysts are wondering what this could mean for state fiscal conditions and whether the federal government will step in to help, as it did in the previous two recessions.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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SEPTEMBER 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Index of State Economic Momentum

The Index of State Economic Momentum ranks states based on their most recent performance in three key measures of economic vitality: personal income growth, employment growth, and population growth. *Reports* updates the index each quarter. In the third quarter of 2019, **Nevada** retained the top spot, while **Alabama** most closely approximated the national average economic performance.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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OCTOBER 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Disaster Relief, Fiscal Capacity, and Total Taxable Resources

The high cost of disaster assistance has been on the federal government's radar for some time. This year, the feds took a step toward doing something about it.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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OCTOBER 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

It Pays to Play

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has released national and state data that measure the outdoor recreation economy in 2017.

Poverty Rates: Down but Up

Based on the recent release of 2018 American Community Survey (ACS) data, the Economic Policy Institute examines poverty rates by state.

Unemployment Rates: Low. But Rising?

Reports tracks changes in state unemployment rates in recent months.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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NOVEMBER 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

State and Local Finances in FY 2017

The Census Bureau has released its state and local finance series for fiscal year (FY) 2017, which allows an apples-to-apples comparison of tax structures and burdens among the states. This issue highlights the revenue data.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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NOVEMBER 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Gee Whiz Data: Sin Taxes

Everything you ever wanted to know about sin taxes is available in a new Tax Policy Center analysis.

Tracking Unemployment Rates

Reports monitors state unemployment rates to look for signs of weakening state economies.

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STATE POLICY REPORTS

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JOINT ISSUE 23-24

DECEMBER 2019

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Index of State Economic Momentum

The Index of State Economic Momentum ranks states based on their most recent performance in three key measures of economic vitality: personal income growth, employment growth, and population growth. *Reports* updates the index each quarter. In the final quarter of 2019, **Utah** claimed the top spot, while **Arkansas** most closely approximated the national average economic performance.

The Continuum of State Fiscal Stress

Reports developed the Continuum of State Fiscal Stress to highlight four measures that can signal state fiscal stress. This edition focuses on fiscal year 2019, another banner year for state finances.

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