

**UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME**  
**Department of Economics**  
**Fall 2023**

**ECON 70604: Labor and Economic Demography**  
M/W 11:00-12:15, 315 Malloy Hall

Prof. Kasey Buckles, Ph.D.  
E-mail: [kbuckles@nd.edu](mailto:kbuckles@nd.edu)  
Office: 3052 Nanovic Hall  
Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:15-2:45, or by appointment.

In this graduate course, you will develop an understanding of how economic forces contribute to trends in fertility, marriage, migration, and mortality, and how these in turn interact with the labor market and public policy. You will learn to apply the tools of labor economics and applied econometrics to the study of economic demography, including causal inference, data analysis, and measurement. You will have the opportunity to present to the class, and will have assignments that are complementary with dissertation work. The course assumes a solid background in economic theory and a basic understanding of regression analysis and empirical methods.

**Requirements (and grading weight):**

- A. Participation (15%)** Everyone is expected to participate in class discussions. Quality is valued over quantity. Attendance is expected as part of your participation grade.
- B. Reaction papers to assigned readings (15%)** By 8:00 a.m. on each class day for which we have assigned reading, you will submit a one-page paper (double-spaced) summarizing your thoughts on the material and identifying any questions you have or items you would like to discuss with the class. You have a lot of flexibility in what you write, but it should *not* just be a summary—it should reflect meaningful engagement with the reading. Papers should be uploaded to Canvas as a .pdf file. You may skip one reaction paper during the course.
- C. In-class paper presentation (15%)**  
Each student will be assigned one paper to present to the class, in a 25-minute presentation. Roughly, the first 15 minutes should be a summary of the paper, with a format similar to a conference presentation. The last 10 minutes should be a discussion that critiques the paper and/or proposes directions for future research.
- D. Paper and Related Presentations (35% and 20%, respectively)**  
The main assignment for the course is a paper. For the first part of the paper, you will produce 3 tables and/or figures that document a trend in fertility, marriage, migration, mortality, or income distribution. This may replicate or extend a paper we have seen in class by (for example) using data from another country or time period, or by documenting heterogeneity in the trend across groups. We will share these tables and figures in class on Sept. 27 & 29 to get feedback. For the second part of the paper, you will list three research questions that are inspired by your tables/figures, and develop one of them in detail. *The paper is due on Oct. 13, in Canvas.*

**Canvas:** Our website within Canvas ([canvas.nd.edu](https://canvas.nd.edu)) will have slides, assignment information, and more. You will also use it to submit your reaction pieces and final paper.

**Honor Code information:** In signing the university's honor code, you agreed not to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. I expect you to adhere to this strictly, and any violations will be reported to the Associate Provost. Please ask if you have any questions or need clarification about the expectations.

**Use of AI:** For the purposes of this class, you may not use ChatGPT or other AI software without checking with me first. If you have ideas about how to use AI in a way that is complementary with the learning objectives for the course, I would be happy to hear them.

**Privacy:** As a learning community, we are collectively responsible for upholding privacy protection standards. As your instructor, I am committed to protecting your privacy by only using University-approved course technologies and adhering to Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) guidelines. This includes only using your educational data for legitimate educational purposes and only sharing that with the University for legitimate purposes (for instance, submitting your final grades to the Registrar). As learning community members, I ask that each of us commit to the following basic privacy protection standards:

- Do not pin, take screenshots, or share video of our class sessions or any recorded lectures, and do not share discussion thread posts from Canvas.
- Do not post images or identifiable conversations that occur in class to social media or to those beyond our learning community (this violates both general privacy and FERPA standards).

**Accommodations and Resources:**

If you are in need of support for your mental or emotional health for any reason, you can talk to me. You can also find helpful resources at <https://supportandcare.nd.edu/>, including information about Care and Wellness Consultants. The Writing Center, Gender Relations Center, Multicultural Student Services and Programs, and International Student and Scholar Affairs are also available on campus.

Information on requesting accommodations for students with disabilities is available at <https://supportandcare.nd.edu/for-students/current-students/accessibility-support/>.

**Lauren's Promise: I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening or harassing you.**

Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year old student at the University of Utah and the daughter of economist Jill McCluskey, was murdered on Oct. 22, 2018 by a man she briefly dated. I am committed to doing what I can to make sure this does not happen again.

If you are in immediate danger, call 911. If you are experiencing sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, or harassment you can report it to me. You should be aware that I am a mandatory reporter, which means that I am required to report these instances to the university's Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator to investigate. **You can also learn about your options (on-campus and off-campus, confidential and not) at <http://titleix.nd.edu>.**

## Schedule

*(Subject to change.)*

\* = Assigned Reading

Dates	Topic for Readings and Lectures	Student Paper Presentation
Aug. 23	<b>Introduction</b> What is economic demography? The power of descriptive work.	
Aug. 28	<b>Economic Theories of Fertility</b> * Lindo (2010); Angrist, Lavy, & Schlosser (2010); Black et al. (2013).	
Aug. 30	<b>Empirical Studies of Fertility</b> * Bailey, 2010; Kearney & Levine (2012)	González & Trommlerová (2023)
Sept. 4	<b>Baby Booms and Busts</b> * Downes (2023); Albanesi & Olivetti (2009); Berman, Iannoccone, & Ragusa (2012); Buckles, Guldi, & Schmidt (2021).	
Sept. 6	<b>Children and Women's Labor Force Outcomes</b> * Kleven, Landais, & Sogaard, 2019; Kleven, Landais, & Sogaard, 2021; Meyer & Rosenbaum, 2001.	Miller, Wherry, and Foster (2019)
Sept. 11	<b>Family Structure and Human Capital</b> *Black, Devereux, & Salvanes, 2005; Buckles & Munnich, 2012.	Price (2008)
Sept. 13	<b>Economic Models of Marriage</b> * Bronson & Mazzocco (2023); Stevenson & Wolfers (2007); McKinnish (2007)	
Sept. 18	<b>Empirical Studies of Marriage and Divorce</b> Abramowitz (2016); Brien, Dickert-Conlin and Weaver (2004); Buckles, Guldi, and Price (2010); Lowes (2022)	Folke & Rickne (2020)
Sept. 20	<b>Assortative Mating, Inequality, and Intergenerational Transmission</b> * Olivetti et al. (2020); Eika, Mogstad, & Zafar, 2019.	Clark & Cummins (2022)
Sept. 25	<b>Intergenerational Mobility Estimates</b> * Ward (2023); Chetty et al. (2017)	
Sept. 27 & Sept. 29	<b>In-class discussions of tables &amp; figures (note extra Friday class, meeting in 3<sup>rd</sup> floor seminar room)</b>	
Oct. 2	<b>No class</b>	

Oct. 4	<b>Migration</b> * Derenoncourt (2022); Black et al. (2015); Bazzi et al. (2023); Jia et al. (2023)
Oct. 9	<b>Mortality: Deaths of Despair (?)</b> * Case & Deaton, 2015, and comments; * Currie & Schwandt (2016); Muennig et al. (2018); Buckles, Evans, & Lieber, 2020.
Oct. 11	<b>Racial Disparities in Mortality</b> * Phelan & Link (2015); Logan & Parman (2018); Gould & Wilson (2020); * Spriggs (2020)

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## Resources

### A. Fertility

Becker, Gary. 1960. "An Economic Analysis of Fertility," in *Demographic and Economic Change in Developed Countries*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1960.

Becker, Gary and H. Gregg Lewis. 1973. "On the Interaction between the Quantity and Quality of Children." *Journal of Political Economy*, 81(2): S279-88.

Kearney, M. S., & Levine, P. B. 2014. "Media Influences on Social Outcomes: The Impact of MTV's 16 and Pregnant on Teen Childbearing" (No. w19795). National Bureau of Economic Research.

Bailey, Martha. 2010. "'Momma's Got the Pill': How Comstock and *Griswold v. Connecticut* Shaped U.S. Childbearing," *American Economic Review*, 100(1): 98-129.

Bailey, Martha, & William Collins. 2011. "Did Improvements in Household Technology Cause the Baby Boom? Evidence from Electrification, Appliance Diffusion, and the Amish." *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 3(2): 189-217.

Albanesi, Stefania and Claudia Olivetti. 2009. "Gender Roles and Medical Progress." *NBER Working Paper #14873*. (Later published in 2016 *Journal of Political Economy*, 124(3), pp.650-695.)

Lugauer, Steven. 2012. "Estimating the Effect of the Age Distribution on Cyclical Output Volatility across the United States." *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 94(4): 896-902.

Kotschy, R., Bloom, D.E., 2023. Population Aging and Economic Growth: From Demographic Dividend to Demographic Drag? (No. w31585). National Bureau of Economic Research.

Berman, Eli, Laurence Iannaccone, and Giuseppe Ragusa. 2012. "From Empty Pews to Empty Cradles: Fertility Decline Among European Catholics." *NBER Working Paper #18350*.

Bassi, V. and Rasul, I., 2017. "Persuasion: A case study of papal influences on fertility-related beliefs and behavior." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 9(4), pp.250-302.

Buckles, Kasey, Melanie Guldi, and Lucie Schmidt. 2021. "The Great Recession's Baby-less Recovery: The Role of Unintended Births." *Mimeo*, [https://www.kaseybuckles.com/s/BGS\\_babyless.pdf](https://www.kaseybuckles.com/s/BGS_babyless.pdf). (Previous version: *NBER Working Paper #25521*.)

- Sussman, Annal Louie. 2019. The End of Babies. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/11/16/opinion/sunday/capitalism-children.html>
- Angrist, Joshua, Victor Lavy, and Analia Schlosser. 2010. "Multiple Experiments for the Causal Link Between the Quantity and Quality of Children," *Journal of Labor Economics*, 28(4): 773-823.
- Lindo, Jason. 2010. "Are Children Really Inferior Goods?" *Journal of Human Resources*, 45(2): 301.
- Black, D.A., Kolesnikova, N., Sanders, S.G. and Taylor, L.J., 2013. Are Children "Normal"? *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, 95(1), pp.21-33.
- Buckles, Kasey and Daniel Hungerman. 2013. "Season of Birth: Old Questions, New Answers." *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 95(3): 711-724.
- Mulligan, K., 2015. "Contraception Use, Abortions, and Births: The Effect of Insurance Mandates." *Demography*, 52(4), pp.1195-1217.
- Doepke, M. and F. Zilibotti. 2019. The Parent Trap: How Economic Inequality Gives Rise to Hyper-Parenting. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/posteverything/wp/2019/02/22/feature/how-economic-inequality-gives-rise-to-hyper-parenting/?p9w22b2p=b2p22p9w00098>
- Doepke, M., Sorrenti, G. and Zilibotti, F. 2019. "The economics of parenting." *Annual Review of Economics*, 11, pp. 55-84.
- Gruber, Jonathan, Phillip Levine, and Douglas Staiger. 1999. "Abortion Legalization and Child Living Circumstances: Who is the 'Marginal Child?'" *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 114(1): 263-291.
- Baughman, Reagan and Stacy Dickert-Conlin. 2003. "Did Expanding the EITC Promote Motherhood?" *The American Economic Review* 93(2): 247.
- González, L. and Trommlerová, S.K., 2023. Cash transfers and fertility: How the introduction and cancellation of a child benefit affected births and abortions. *Journal of Human Resources*, 58(3), pp.783-818.

## **B. Family and Women's Labor Force Outcomes**

- Goldin, Claudia. 2004. "The Long Road to the Fast Track: Career and Family," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 596: 20-35.
- Meyer, Bruce and Dan Rosenbaum. 2001. "Welfare, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the Labor Supply of Single Mothers," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 116: 1063-1114.
- Angrist, Joshua and William N. Evans. 1998. "Children and Their Parents' Labor Supply: Evidence from Exogenous Variation in Family Size," *American Economic Review*, 88: 450-77.
- Waldfoegel, J. 1998a. "Understanding the 'Family Gap' in Pay for Women with Children," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 12: 137-156.
- Waldfoegel, J. 1998b. "The Family Gap for Young Women in the United States and Britain: Can Maternity Leave Make a Difference?," *Journal of Labor Economics*, 16(3): 505-545.

Kleven, H., Landais, C. and Sogaard, J.E., 2019. "Children and gender inequality: Evidence from Denmark." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 11(4), pp.181-209.

Lundborg, P., Plug, E., and Rasumssen, A. W. 2017. "Can Women Have Children and a Career? IV Evidence from IVF Treatments." *American Economic Review*, 107(6), 1611-37.

Cortes, P., and Tessada, J. 2011. "Low-skilled immigration and the labor supply of highly skilled women." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 88-123.

Bana, S., Bedard, K., & Rossin-Slater, M. 2018. "The Impacts of Paid Family Leave Benefits: Regression Kink Evidence from California Administrative Data." (No. w24438). National Bureau of Economic Research.

Hotz, Joseph, Susan McElroy, and Seth Sanders. 2005. "Teenage Childbearing and Its Life Cycle Consequences: Exploiting a Natural Experiment," *The Journal of Human Resources* 40(3): 682-715.

Greenwood, Jeremy, Ananth Seshadri and Mehmet Yorukoglu. 2005. "Engines of Liberation," *Review of Economic Studies* 72: 109-133.

Gelbach, Jonah. 2002. "Public Schooling for Young Children and Maternal Labor Supply," *American Economic Review*, 92(1): 307.

Lalive, Rafael and Josef Zweimuller. 2009. "How does parental leave affect fertility and return to work? Evidence from two natural experiments," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 124(3): 1363-1402.

Goldin, Claudia and Lawrence Katz. 2002. "The Power of the Pill: Oral Contraceptives and Women's Career and Marriage Decisions." *Journal of Political Economy*, 110(4).

Miller, S., Wherry, L.R. and Foster, D.G., 2023. "The Economic Consequences of Being Denied an Abortion." *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 15(1), pp.394-437.

Kleven, H., Landais, C. and Sogaard, J.E., 2021. "Does Biology Drive Child Penalties? Evidence from Biological and Adoptive Families." *American Economic Review: Insights*, 3(2), pp.183-198.

### **C. Family Structure**

Black, Sandra, Paul Devereux, and Kjell Salvanes. 2005. "The More the Merrier? The Effect of Family Size and Birth Order on Children's Education." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 120(2): 669.

Black, Sandra, Paul Devereux, and Kjell Salvanes. 2010. "Small Family, Smart Family? Family Size and the IQ Scores of Young Men." *Journal of Human Resources* 45(1): 33-58.

Buckles, Kasey and Elizabeth Munnich. 2012. "Birth Spacing and Child Outcomes." *Journal of Human Resources*, 47(3): 613-642.

Price, Joseph. 2008. "Parent-Child Quality Time: Does Birth Order Matter?" *Journal of Human Resources*, 43(1): 240.

Kaestner, Robert. 1997. "Are Brothers Really Better? Sibling Sex Composition and Educational Achievement." *Journal of Human Resources*, 32(2): 250-284.

Brenøe, A. 2018. "Origins of Gender Norms: Sibling Gender Composition and Women's Choice of Occupation and Partner." IZA Working Paper #11692.

#### **D. Marriage and Divorce**

Becker, Gary. 1981. *A Treatise on the Family*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Ribar, David. 2004. "What Do Social Scientists Know About the Benefits of Marriage? A Review of Quantitative Methodologies." IZA Discussion Paper No. 998.

Waite, Linda. 1995. "Does Marriage Matter?" *Demography*, 32(14), pp. 438-508.

Bergstrom, Theodore C. 1997. "A Survey of Theories of the Family." In *Handbook of Population and Family Economics*. Edited by M. R. Rosenzweig and O. Stark. Elsevier. Vol. 1A, pp. 21-79

Stevenson, Betsey and Justin Wolfers. 2007. "Marriage and Divorce: Changes and Their Driving Forces." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 21(2).

Stevenson, Betsey and Justin Wolfers. 2008. "Marriage and the Market." *Cato Unbound*. Accessed 6/24/11.

McKinnish, Terra. 2007. "Sexually Integrated Workplaces and Divorce: Another Form of On-the-Job Search." *Journal of Human Resources*, 42(2), pp. 331-352.

Korenman, Sanders and David Neumark. 1991. "Does Marriage Really Make Men More Productive?" *Journal of Human Resources*, 26(2) 282-307.

Gray, Jeffrey S. 1997. "The Fall in Men's Return to Marriage: Declining Productivity Effects or Changing Selection?" *The Journal of Human Resources*, 32(3), 481-504.

Dahl, Gordon. 2010. "Early Teen Marriage and Future Poverty." *Demography*, 47(3), 689-718.

Gruber, Jonathan. 2004. "Is Making Divorce Easier Bad for Children? The Long-Run Implications of Unilateral Divorce." *Journal of Labor Economics*, 22(4): 799-833.

Finlay, Keith and David Neumark. 2010. "Is Marriage Always Good for Children?" *Journal of Human Resources*, 45(4), 1046.

Folke, O. and Rickne, J., 2020. "All the Single Ladies: Job Promotions and the Durability of Marriage." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 12(1), pp.260-87.

Rosenfeld, M.J., Thomas, R.J. and Hausen, S., 2019. "Disintermediating Your Friends: How Online Dating in the United States Displaces Other Ways of Meeting." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 116(36), pp.17753-17758.

Abramowitz, J., 2016. "Saying 'I Don't': The Effect of the Affordable Care Act Young Adult Provision on Marriage." *Journal of Human Resources*, 51(4), pp.933-960.

Buckles, Kasey, Melanie Guldi and Joseph Price. 2010. "Changing the Price of Marriage: Evidence from Blood Test Requirements." *Journal of Human Resources*, 46(3): 539.

Brien, M., S. Dickert-Conlin and D. Weaver. 2004. "Widows Waiting to Wed? (Re)Marriage and Economic Incentives in Social Security Widow Benefits." *The Journal of Human Resources*, 39(3): 585-623.

Lowes, S., 2022. *Kinship Structure and the Family: Evidence from the Matrilineal Belt* (No. w30509). National Bureau of Economic Research.

Bronson, M.A., Mazzocco, M., 2023. Cohort Size and the Marriage Market: Explaining Nearly a Century of Changes in U.S. Marriage Rates. *Journal of Labor Economics* 724047. <https://doi.org/10.1086/724047>

Francis. 2016. Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation. *Amoris Laetitia*, 8.

## **E. Migration**

Jia, N., Molloy, R., Smith, C. and Wozniak, A., 2023. The economics of internal migration: Advances and policy questions. *Journal of economic literature*, 61(1), pp.144-180.

Derenoncourt, E., 2022. Can you move to opportunity? Evidence from the Great Migration. *American Economic Review*, 112(2), pp.369-408.

Black, Dan A., Seth G. Sanders, Evan J. Taylor, and Lowell J. Taylor. 2015. "The Impact of the Great Migration on Mortality of African Americans: Evidence from the Deep South." *American Economic Review*, 105 (2): 477-503.

Bazzi, S., Ferrara, A., Fiszbein, M., Pearson, T. and Testa, P.A., 2023. The Other Great Migration: Southern Whites and the New Right. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 138(3), pp.1577-1647.

## **F. Assortative Mating, Inequality, and Intergenerational Transmission**

Cornelson, K. and Siow, A., 2016. "A Quantitative Review of Marriage Markets: How Inequality is Remaking the American Family by Carbone and Cahn." *Journal of Economic Literature*, 54(1), pp.193-207.

Coile, C.C. and Duggan, M.G., 2019. "When Labor's Lost: Health, Family Life, Incarceration, and Education in a Time of Declining Economic Opportunity for Low-Skilled Men." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 33(2), pp.191-210.

Sacerdote, Bruce. 2007. "How Large are the Effects from Changes in Family Environment? A Study of Korean American Adoptees." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 122(1): 119.

Björklund, A., Lindahl, M., & Plug, E. 2006. "The Origins of Intergenerational Associations: Lessons from Swedish Adoption Data." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 121(3), 999-1028.

Eika, L., Mogstad, M., & Zafar, B. 2019. "Educational Assortative Mating and Household Income Inequality." *Journal of Political Economy*, 127(6), 2795-2835.

Chiappori, P. A., Salanié, B., & Weiss, Y. 2017. "Partner Choice, Investment in Children, and the Marital College Premium." *American Economic Review*, 107(8), 2109-67.

Chetty, R., Grusky, D., Hell, M., Hendren, N., Manduca, R., & Narang, J. 2017. "The Fading American Dream: Trends in Absolute Income Mobility Since 1940." *Science*, 356(6336), 398-406.

Ward, Z., 2021. "Intergenerational Mobility in American History: Accounting for Race and Measurement Error." (No. w29256). National Bureau of Economic Research.



Olivetti, C., Paserman, M.D., Salisbury, L. and Weber, E.A., 2020. "Who married,(to) Whom, and Where? Trends in Marriage in the United States, 1850-1940." (No. w28033). National Bureau of Economic Research.

Clark, G. and Cummins, N., 2022. "Assortative Mating and the Industrial Revolution: England, 1754-2021." CEPR Discussion Paper No. DP17074, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4069865>.

## **G. Mortality**

Case, A., & Deaton, A. 2015. "Rising Morbidity and Mortality in Midlife among White Non-Hispanic Americans in the 21st Century." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 112(49), 15078-15083.

Case, A. and Deaton, A., 2021. "The Great Divide: Education, Despair and Death." (No. w29241). National Bureau of Economic Research.

Muennig, P. A., Reynolds, M., Fink, D. S., Zafari, Z., & Geronimus, A. T. 2018. "America's Declining Well-being, Health, and Life Expectancy: Not Just a White Problem." *American Journal of Public Health*, 108(12), 1626-1631.

Currie, J., & Schwandt, H. 2016. "Mortality Inequality: The Good News from a County-Level Approach." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 30(2), 29-52.

Mulligan, C.B., 2021. "Deaths of Despair and the Incidence of Excess Mortality in 2020." (No. w28303). National Bureau of Economic Research.

Buckles, K., Evans, W., & Lieber, E. 2020. "The Drug Crisis and the Living Arrangements of Children." (No. w27633). National Bureau of Economic Research.

Lleras-Muney, A., Price, J., & Yue, D. 2020. "The Association between Educational Attainment and Longevity using Individual Level Data from the 1940 Census." (No. w27514). National Bureau of Economic Research.

Alsan, M., & Wanamaker, M. 2018. "Tuskegee and the Health of Black Men." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 133(1), 407-455.

Gould, E., & Wilson, V. 2020. "Black Workers Face Two of the Most Lethal Preexisting Conditions for Coronavirus--Racism and Economic Inequality." *Economic Policy Institute*, 1.

Phelan, J. C., & Link, B. G. 2015. "Is Racism a Fundamental Cause of Inequalities in Health?" *Annual Review of Sociology*, 41, 311-330.

Logan, T. D., & Parman, J. M. 2018. "Segregation and Mortality over Time and Space." *Social Science & Medicine*, 199, 77-86.

Banks, J., Bär, M., Bertoli, P., Bütikofer, A., Cattan, S., Chao, B., Costa, C., Currie, J., Gonzalez, L., Gremvu, V. and Huttunen, K., 2021. "Inequality in Mortality between Black and White Americans by Age, Place, and Cause, and in Comparison to Europe, 1990-2018." (No. 16589). CEPR Discussion Papers.

Spriggs, W., 2021. A teachable moment. Minneapolis Federal Reserve, Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute. [https://www.minneapolisfed.org/~media/assets/people/william-spriggs/spriggs-letter\\_0609\\_b.pdf](https://www.minneapolisfed.org/~media/assets/people/william-spriggs/spriggs-letter_0609_b.pdf)