

# Major Themes in Economics

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## Introduction

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## Introduction

Welcome to Volume 20 of *Major Themes in Economics*. All papers in *Major Themes* are written by senior economics majors at the University of Northern Iowa.

Division I college football and men's basketball generate vast sums of money. Yet the star athletes who make this possible are not allowed to earn anything in excess of their scholarships. There have been renewed calls to pay the athletes. **Trey Kilburg** takes a thoughtful and thorough look at the issue and offers a workable solution that won't cost schools any more money.

Food insecurity persists in the United States. In 2016 around 13% of Americans were food insecure. **Destiny Leitz** uses regression analysis to update and enhance previous research on the factors associated with food insecurity. She finds both household characteristics and state-level characteristics matter.

Love it or hate it, gentrification is here to stay. **Danielle Massey** looks at the extent of gentrification in Polk County, Iowa from 2000 to 2016. She then employs an ordered logit regression to identify the factors that may make an area more prone to gentrification. Her results offer support for demand-side theories of gentrification.

Ever since the Industrial Revolution people have been worried about the effect of machines on employment. Particular jobs have been destroyed, but the higher productivity machines give workers has so far meant that more jobs have been created than destroyed. The rapid pace of modern technological change and the rise of artificial intelligence have caused some people to argue that this time may be different. **Courtney Krousie** uses a two-stage least-squares model to investigate the question for the United States from 2002 to 2013.

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