

INSIGHTS

For the Mainstream Investor

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 11, 2017 EDITION 206



WEATHER EFFECT ON EUROPE

Quantifying deaths from weather hazards

Europe has been hit with a heat wave this summer. And it may only get worse. Scientists are saying that extreme weather could kill up to 152,000 people yearly in Europe by 2100 (50 times more deaths than current estimates) if nothing is done to curb the effects of climate change.

According to the [study](#), heat waves would cause 99% of all weather-related deaths with southern Europe being worst affected. In addition, it suggests that there will be a "substantial rise in deaths from coastal flooding, from six victims a year at the start of the century to 233 a year by the end of it". [READ MORE](#)

WE'RE WATCHING

Driverless buses have been introduced in Estonia. In the first few days of operation, there were no incidents reported, although there were a few close calls. [READ MORE](#)

US WITHDRAWS FROM PARIS

US confirms withdrawal from landmark agreement

Last Friday, the US state department notified the UN that the administration does in fact intend to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement reached in 2015.

The statement confirms the decision that President Trump made in June. While some note that the US withdrawing from the agreement sends a negative message to the world, others noted that its impact to date has been negligible. Of course, the full implications have yet to play out. [READ MORE](#)

DID YOU SEE?

China plans on no longer accepting imports of 24 categories of waste products, including scrap copper and waste paper. [READ MORE](#)

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

7,000

distinct languages are spoken globally

6,000

farmers are partaking in Cotton connect and Self-Employed Women's Association program to promote sustainable farming

26

percent of computer and maths jobs are held by women in the US

25

percent of the world's carbon budget could be consumed by the aviation industry says [CarbonBrief](#)

23

African-American-owned banks are left in the US with numbers declining for the last 15 years

20

percent is the gender wage gap in the US and its worse in middle-skill occupations

5

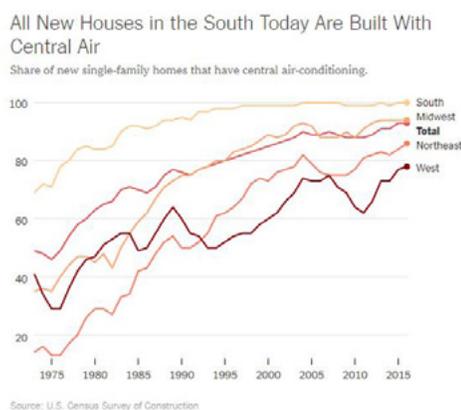
month low was reached for China's coal imports as pollution limits on utilities take effect

2

nd warmest year to date is apparent in the USA, says the NOAA

INFOGRAPHIC OF THE WEEK

New houses built with central air conditioning through time



Source: [New York Times](#)

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FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT

Battle lines drawn in San Francisco

A 'high stakes' vote was planned on [fossil fuel divestment](#) at the San Francisco Employees' Retirement System (SFERS). If it goes through it would mark a rare divestment by a US public pension plan. NEPC, investment consultant to SFERS, as well as its own staff, have issued recommendations against divesting from the fund's USD 473m fossil fuel portfolio.

It is a divisive issue. Many think San Francisco should be a national leader, taking a stand against fossil fuels. Others, such as the SFERS' CIO, William Croaker, don't believe divestment is the right approach. "Divestment does not reduce fossil fuels, simply changes ownership", he said.

Editor's note: the vote has been postponed

TAKING NOTE

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia has been sued for failing to disclose climate change investment risks. [READ MORE](#)

NOW THAT'S SMART

A city in the UK is testing technology which switches engines to electric depending on pollution. [READ MORE](#)

DATA

How reliable is greenhouse gas data? And are countries cheating? Some say yes, after emissions in Switzerland couldn't be traced back to any official inventories. [READ MORE](#)

CREDIT AGENCY & ESG

All ratings affected when agency integrates ESG

Paris-based firm [Beyond Ratings](#), has applied to become the world's first credit ratings agency to integrate environmental factors into all of its ratings. The firm specializes in "analyzing the default risk of sovereign issuers globally, with an enhanced focus on risks from energy and climate policies." It will use both quantitative and qualitative analysis as part of its ratings methodology.

The firm hopes the program will grow. "With the help of the sponsors, we have designed a programme that will allow us within the next 18 months to make the transition towards a fully-fledged financial credit ratings agency," Beyond Ratings' CEO and co-founder Rodolphe Bocquet, noted. [READ MORE](#)

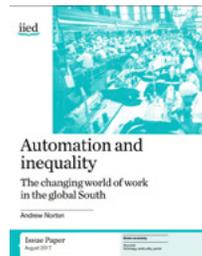
WORTH A LOOK

A website tracks the "Status of Women" across the US along various metrics: Employment & Earnings, Poverty & Opportunity, and Work & Family. See website [here](#).

'G' IS FOR GOVERNANCE

The Japanese Government is promoting good [governance](#) by stepping in to help with the sale of Toshiba's memory chip business.

WHAT WE'RE READING



IIED

Automation and inequality



Swiss Re

Lights out: The risks of climate and natural disaster related disruption to the electric grid

And if you still have time... Don't miss:

New York Times:
9 Takeaways From the
National Climate Report

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Scientists have discovered a way to create food from just electricity and CO₂.
[READ MORE](#)

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