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## AVERAGE INCOME OF US HOUSEHOLD WILL DECLINE BY 2100 MAINLY DUE TO GLOBAL WARMING

Submitted by Gloria Bradley on Sat, 10/24/2015 - 17:51



Climate change is impacting many species, ecosystems and is also causing environmental issues. However, a new study has evaluated the economic impact of global warming in detail. If not controlled, global warming will impact every single thing on earth. Many past researches have suggested that global warming will directly impact human health and livelihoods. Rise in earth's temperatures will lead to situations like drought, sea level rises, heat waves, floods and storms. Now, a research has suggested that incomes of American will also shrink in near future due to global warming.

In a sweeping new study published Wednesday in *Nature*, a team of researchers say there is a strong relationship between a region's average temperature and its economic productivity — adding another potential cost to a warming climate. Climate change will hit every level of an economy. Mentally and physically people work worse when they are hot. Rising seas and fiercer storms chew up infrastructure.

The study by researchers from Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley, showed that with the rise in earth's temperatures, national economies will cool down. According to the study, if global warming continues to rise, the average United States income will shrink more than 35% by 2100.



The study found that economic growth has a sweet spot: Around 55 F. If the average annual temperature falls above or below that, GDP starts to taper off—slow at first, then very fast. “The graph looks like a strong inverted U,” says Edward Miguel, economist at UC Berkeley and another co-author of the study. At either end, the GDP remains fairly stable between 32 and 77 degrees F, but drops rapidly beyond those boundaries.

The researchers created some models which showed that not all countries around the globe are going to face financial consequences of global warming. Hotter earth temperatures will be beneficial for Canada, Russia and some other Northern European countries. It will happen because these countries will reach optimal average temperature for an economy by the end of this century. That temperature is 55 degrees Fahrenheit, and the US is currently at this temperature.

Northern Europe going to get richer because it gets warmer, or because it's already rich? “This is one thing we tried to be really careful with,” says Burke. In their statistical analyses, he and his co-authors controlled for things like preexisting wealth. Temperature is only one variable affecting GDP.

The research was conducted by Solomon Hsiang, an associate professor of public policy at Berkeley, Edward Miguel of Berkeley, and Marshall Burke of earth system science at Stanford. Hsiang said, “We were surprised at how important temperature is for the global economy”.

Assuming this relationship between temperature and productivity is correct, that naturally leads to deep questions about its cause. The researchers locate them in two chief places: agriculture and people. In relation to rising temperature, Burke says, “We see that agricultural productivity declines, labor productivity declines, kids do worse on tests, and we see more violence.”

At the center of the new paper is a historical, economic analysis that culls data from 166 countries over half a century, analyzing GDP per capita against temperature fluctuations that the countries experienced.

One main point of the research is to help identify a hard cost for not taking action to stem climate change, if that is even possible at this point. Many tropical countries, in contrast, suffer economic damages in this scenario — getting hotter than they already are. “Warming may amplify global inequality because hot, poor countries will probably suffer the largest reduction in growth,” the study concludes.

According to the study, global per capita gross domestic product may get down by about 23% by 2100. In the same time, average income in Mexico will shrink 73%, while Chinese average income may shrink more than 40%.

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