

Alan B. Krueger Paper:

This paper provides two new methods and data for tracking and evaluating changes in time allocation. The first uses cluster analysis to categorize activities based on six dimensions of participants' reported affective experiences during those activities. The second uses the U-index, a measure of the percentage of time in which the strongest emotion is negative. The index was computed for seventy-two harmonized activities in 2006 and assigned to 1965-2005 data. Main findings include a decrease in share of time devoted to mundane chores and an increase in time spent on affectively neutral downtime activities such as watching television. Men have reduced their time in work-related activities while women have increased theirs. On net, there have not been major shifts in time allocation toward more or less unpleasant activities for men and women as a whole, although men have experienced a gradual downtrend in time spent in unpleasant activities.

JEL classification codes: J22