

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Longer Commutes, Shorter Lives: The Costs of Not Investing in America](#)

Article Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/17/magazine/us-public-investment.html>

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Summary: The speed at which people can get from one place to another is one of the most basic measures of a society's sophistication. It affects economic productivity and human happiness; academic research has found that commuting makes people more unhappy than almost any other daily activity. Yet in one area of U.S. travel after another, progress has largely stopped over the past half-century. The scheduled flight time between Los Angeles and New York has become about 30 minutes longer [since 1959.] In 1969, Metroliner trains made two-and-a-half-hour nonstop trips between Washington and New York. Today, there are no nonstop trains on that route, and the fastest trip, on Acela trains, takes about 20 minutes longer than the Metroliner once did. Related: Leonhardt On Investment and US Capital is Depreciating Faster and Capital Allocation

Primary Topic: Investment

Topics: Fiscal Policy, GDP, Growth, Investment, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Productivity, Regulation

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