

State of the union

[A] broad sweep of statistics reveals a peculiar weariness spreading through the economy.

Belying breathless headlines about the fabulous opportunities that technology is about to bestow on society, it suggests that many rich market democracies have lost much of their dynamism. Their companies are getting old, and their labor markets are getting stuck. Productivity growth has slumped. And many workers in their prime are peeling off from the labor force.

**Eduardo Porter,
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