Future houses are likely to be eco-friendly, eschewing CO₂-heavy manufacturing processes. Your home might incorporate building blocks constructed from natural cement churned out by bacteria (1), or be fashioned from fungi (2)—indeed several companies including MycoWorks and EvocativeDesign are exploring the potential of mushroom-based materials. Alternatively, if retro-chic is your thing, super-insulating straw-bale panels appear to be in for a renaissance, while new developments with aerogels also promise a well-insulated abode. Roofs, too, will be working hard. And it’s cheers all round as be-splattered recipe books and pastry-flecked screens get the boot in favour of hygienic upgrades. I’m surrounded by some of the most modern houses in the world. Each one has been built as an experiment, designed to test the latest technology and ideas for living. Some of these houses can evolve as people’s lives change. Thinking of having more housemates? Just add on another layer like children’s building blocks. Peter White is the Marketing Manager of the Innovation Park, where the houses are built. Amandeep: Peter, are these houses really a glimpse of the future? Peter White: They are. In the next few years, we’ll be living in houses that look like this. This book’s title betrays at once that it belongs in the forecast literature. Peering into the future is a notoriously treacherous venture. Nevertheless, it has become a practice endemic to the business and government worlds as well as to academia, especially economics. We like to believe that the enormous growth of forecasting in the face of some disappointments reflects real needs of decision makers (as well as the general public’s well-warranted curiosity about the future). Fashion alone could hardly explain the sustained increase in the market for forecast services during the p...Income as a Determinant of Housing Demand, 72. Trends in the Ethnic Population Mix.