



## **Occupational Injuries and Successful Returns to Work. An Assessment Based on a New Italian Dataset.**

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This research project studies the evolution of employment relationships after an occupational injury. Most of the existing economic literature on the topic has focused on the U.S. experience. Very little is known about the applicability of the existing empirical results to institutional backgrounds that are different from the U.S.. Our analysis focuses on the Italian labour market where workers' earnings are fully guaranteed during the disability period but injuries can still have long lasting "scarring" consequences affecting workers' employability. Our research goes beyond a study of the hazard of returning to work after an injury. We assume that before the incident the employment match was profitable. We assess to which extent a first return to work is successful against the alternative outcome of potential future separations (e.g. unemployment, invalidity-retirement, new job).

Our analysis uses a new and unique dataset that combines at the individual level work histories from WHIP (Work Histories Italian Panel) and work-related injuries from INAIL (Italian Worker Compensation Authority). The data span the period 1994-2003. This is the first Italian database integrating on an individual basis a sample of work histories, injuries and occupational diseases.