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5

6 **Title: Influence that job characteristics, personality, and burnout have on fatigue in**
7 **professional drivers.**

8

9 **Background:** Professional drivers drive for many hours without rest. This factor, in addition
10 to the characteristics of the job, the vehicle, the environment and the driver, causes driver
11 fatigue. Fatigue is one of the most common risk factors when driving because it causes
12 drowsiness, decreases their attention, and may make them fall asleep at the wheel. In this
13 paper we propose a predictive model for professional drivers using the following variables:
14 age, number of children, time spent at work, Time spent inside the vehicle, Personality
15 (OPERAS), Job characteristics (JDS), Job content (JCQ) and Burnout. **Method:** Participants
16 were 509 professional drivers from various transport sectors recruited by non-probabilistic
17 sampling. SPSS version 25.0 was used for statistical analysis. **Results:** The predictive
18 capacity of variables that cause driver fatigue was determined. Exhaustion best predicts
19 fatigue positively, while Openness to Experience best predicts it negatively. Burnout and
20 certain personality characteristics are good predictors, whereas other variables, such as JCQ
21 and JDS, are weak predictors. **Conclusions:** This study extends our knowledge of the factors
22 that cause fatigue in professional drivers and underlines the importance of designing
23 interventions aimed at reducing the incidence of fatigue, promoting greater driver well-being,
24 and lowering the incidence of accidents.

25

26 **Keywords:** Professional drivers; Fatigue; Burnout; Personality; Occupational health; Labor
27 risks

28 **1. Introduction**

29 This work aims to highlight importance and relevance of the study of fatigue in
30 professional drivers. We constantly hear about road safety and this is because every year,
31 according to the World Health Organization, about 1.3 million people die on the world's
32 roads, while a further 20 and 50 million people are injured. These two statistics alone indicate
33 a significant public health problem, as is the fact that traffic accidents are the primary cause
34 of death among young people aged 15 to 29 years old (1).

35 Among the factors involved in an accident, the human factor is the most important,
36 with driving whilst fatigued among the most important, along with gender, age, abilities, skill
37 training, attitudes, experiences and behaviors (2). In the present study, we want to identify
38 those variables that can help prevent fatigue in professional drivers. Driving as a profession is
39 characterized by driving for many hours without resting and high level of stress caused by job
40 characteristics (e.g. vehicle) and environmental factors. All these factors increase driver
41 fatigue – one of the most common risk factors when driving and one that is closely related to
42 the occurrence of traffic accidents (3–7).

43 Fatigue is an adaptive mechanism that indicates our need to rest. Phillips described
44 fatigue as a subjective complaint that can cause weakness, a lack of energy, tiredness, and an
45 inability to concentrate, etc. (8). The above author combined various definitions of fatigue to
46 propose this one: “fatigue is a poor psychophysiological condition that is caused by exertion”
47 (p.53). So, fatigue is a complex sensation that displays physical and psychological symptoms
48 ranging from feeling good to feeling exhausted (9). According to Norman fatigue affects the
49 whole organism physically and psychically, but at different way; in other words, people feels
50 fatigue, for example, at different intensities. It seems to depend on situation and personal
51 characteristics (10). Furthermore, fatigue is associated to multiple detrimental outcomes. For
52 example, many accidents are caused by drowsiness while driving when fatigued. Fatigue

53 reduces a driver's ability to maneuver the vehicle and increases their probability of falling
54 asleep at the wheel (11). Thus, this leads to high mortality rates and the loss of infrastructure
55 (12). Fatigue at work has traditionally been related to the number of hours worked (13). A
56 high level of fatigue increase the risk of drivers exiting their lanes, changing direction, and
57 decreasing their reaction time to sudden braking (14). Mental fatigue also predicts sleep
58 disturbance (15), which contributes greatly to truck accidents (16–18). Some authors (2), in
59 their review of the literature, concluded that there are three main factors that can cause
60 fatigue in vehicle drivers: (a) labor, e.g. working long hours with no time for recovery; (b)
61 sleep factors, e.g. the alteration of circadian rhythms (driving at times when one is usually
62 asleep, or vice versa) and the number of hours slept; and (c) health and lifestyle. Poor sleep
63 influences both general health and certain pathologies. It also impoverishes relationships
64 because it is more difficult to share leisure activities with friends and family). In addition,
65 recently, added other additional factors: lowers work performance, and increases the
66 probability of errors and accidents (19).

67 In this work, we want to study whether through other types of variables we could
68 prevent fatigue in professional drivers and, consequently, reduce the accident rate caused by
69 an excess of it. These variables are the driver's personality characteristics, burnout or the
70 characteristics and content of the task.

71 *1.1. Driver Characteristics*

72 Increasing age has a negative effect on performance because it decreases our reaction
73 time (20). For example, the initial performance of younger subjects is better than that of older
74 subjects, and younger subjects are significantly better than older subjects when rested. On the
75 other hand, lack of sleep significantly affects younger subjects, while the performance of

76 older subjects is unaffected (21). In a study of road accidents, young drivers were found to
77 have a 5–10 times higher risk of being involved in an accident at night or in the morning (22).

78 With regard to personality factors, a relationship has been found in professional
79 drivers between conscientiousness, which predicts the prevention of dangers positively, and
80 agreeableness, which predicts the search for sensations negatively (23). Drivers who score
81 highly in search for experiences and extraversion may also be more sensitive to road
82 monotony, which makes them more prone to fatigue-related driving errors in less demanding
83 road environments (24).

84

85 *1.2. Job Characteristics*

86 Some authors found that drivers involved in fatigue-related accidents had worked and
87 driven the longest on the days of their accidents (25). Taylor and Dorn asserted that fatigue and
88 stress in bus drivers is related to the risk of having accidents and suffering health problems
89 (26). Driving many hours and being responsible for passenger safety produce stress (27). On
90 average, bus drivers work 16 hours a day (28). Working for more than 12 hours a day, together
91 with excessive daytime sleepiness, is associated with constant risk driving (29), a greater risk
92 of accidents, and more serious accidents than those suffered by non-professional drivers (30–
93 32). Risk behaviors that occur when driving quickly to avoid being late or to load and unload
94 passengers should also be taken into account (28).

95 Another important factor is the link between accidents involving professional drivers
96 on the one hand and fatigue and shift work on the other (33). Shift work makes driving become
97 severely affected by drowsiness due to a decrease in sustained surveillance and reaction times
98 (30). It has been found, for example, that drivers who work in shifts suffer high rates of stress,
99 exhaustion, exhaustion-related stress, and traffic accidents (34). Work pressures and few

100 rewards or low support from coworkers can also lead to mental health problems in drivers (35),
101 while sleep dysfunctions have also been related to long working hours (36) and fatigue (15).

102 With regard to Job content (JCQ), fatigue and the need to recover have been found to
103 mediate between social support and risky driving (37). Husain, Mohamad and Idris also
104 report significant direct and indirect effects between individual and daily emotional demands
105 and self-reported shocks mainly in acute fatigue and safety motivation (38). With regard to
106 job characteristics that influence these results, measured via the Job Diagnostic Survey on
107 professional drivers, it was found that: Task identity positively predicts relaxed driving and
108 hazard prevention; feedback from work negatively predicts fatigue and anxiety; and feedback
109 from agents negatively predicts alertness and vigilance (23).

110 *1.3. Burnout*

111 Several authors have associated the stressors caused by driving with Burnout (39–43).
112 Olivares et al. indicate that Burnout correlates with the driver's mental load and especially
113 with cynicism, which possibly relates to the cognitive area and manifests itself in self-
114 criticism and personal devaluation, causing drivers to distrust and despise their work (44,45).
115 Useche et al. (34) found that among bus drivers work stress and Exhaustion are significantly
116 high and that work stress is related to burnout, both of which are associated with traffic
117 accidents. On the other hand, Mc Vicar suggested that lack of sleep may predict burnout (46).
118 The most potent predictor of mental fatigue is therefore sleep disturbance (15).

119 *1.4. Objective and hypotheses*

120 The general aim of this study is to develop a prediction model for job fatigue in
121 professional drivers using the following Indicators: Age, Children, personality, job

122 characteristics, time spent at work, time inside the vehicle, job content and Burnout. Our
123 study hypotheses are as follows:

124 *H₁*: If Lack of energy among professional drivers is influenced by Age, Children, time spent
125 at work, time inside the vehicle, personality (OPERAS), job characteristics (JDS), job content
126 (JCQ) and Burnout, a good prediction of Lack of energy can be made from a model that
127 incorporates these predictors.

128

129 *H₂*: If Physical exertion among professional drivers is influenced by Age, Children, time
130 spent at work, time inside the vehicle, personality (OPERAS), job characteristics (JDS), job
131 content (JCQ) and Burnout, a good prediction of Physical exertion can be made from a model
132 that incorporates these predictors.

133

134 *H₃*: If Physical discomfort among professional drivers is influenced by Age, Children, time
135 spent at work, time inside the vehicle, personality (OPERAS), job characteristics (JDS), job
136 content (JCQ) and Burnout, a good prediction of Physical exertion can be made from a model
137 that incorporates these predictors.

138

139 *H₄*: If Lack of motivation among professional drivers is influenced by Age, Children, time
140 spent at work, time inside the vehicle, personality (OPERAS), job characteristics (JDS), job
141 content (JCQ) and Burnout, a good prediction of Physical exertion can be made from a model
142 that incorporates these predictors.

143

144 *H₅*: If Sleepiness among professional drivers is influenced by Age, Children, time spent at
145 work, time inside the vehicle, personality (OPERAS), job characteristics (JDS), job content

146 (JCQ) and Burnout, a good prediction of Physical exertion can be made from a model that
147 incorporates these predictors.

148

149 **2. Method**

150 *2.1. Participants*

151 Participants in this study were 509 professional drivers (90.9% men and 9.1%
152 women) with an average age of 41.3 (SD = 13.15). Their marital status was as follows:
153 married or in a stable relationship (69.5%), single (21.9%), divorced or separated (8.1%) and
154 widowed (.5%). Their educational level was follows: university studies (5.1%), lower
155 secondary school, vocational training-II or prep school (21.4%), upper secondary school,
156 professional training-I or compulsory secondary education (52.3%); and unfinished primary
157 education (21.2%). The sectors in which the participants were employed were: freight
158 transportation (51.3%), machinery transportation (5.8%), passenger transportation (17.7%),
159 ambulances and assistance drivers (7.1%), taxi drivers (14.8%), and others (3.3%). The
160 participants had an average of 12.01 (SD = 12.68) years' experience.

161

162 *2.2. Instruments*

163 To measure Driver Fatigue, we used the Spanish version (47) of the Swedish
164 Occupational Fatigue Inventory (SOFI) (48), which is used for multidimensional evaluation
165 of work-related fatigue. This inventory comprises five subscales, each of which has three
166 items. These subscales are “F1. Lack of energy”, which describes general feelings of
167 decreased strength ($\alpha = .92$; e.g. 12. Exhausted (e.g. lacking strength)); “F2. Physical
168 exertion”, which describes sensations throughout the body that may result from dynamic
169 work and signs of metabolic depletion ($\alpha = .87$; e.g. 15. Breathing with difficulty (e.g. having
170 difficulty inhaling and expelling air)); “F3. Physical discomfort”, which represents the most

171 localized bodily sensations, which may result from static or isometric workload ($\alpha = .81$; e.g.:
 172 8. With seized joints (elbows, knees, etc.)); “F4. Lack of motivation”, which describes feeling
 173 uninvolved or unexcited ($\alpha = .92$; e.g. 10. Indifferent (e.g. when something does not matter
 174 one way or another); and “F5. Sleepiness”, which describes feelings of drowsiness ($\alpha = .89$;
 175 e.g. 13. Sleepy (e.g. feeling heavy and clumsy due to sleep)). The items are evaluated using a
 176 Likert scale ranging from 0 (*nothing at all*) to 10 (*to a high degree*).

177 The Overall Personality Assessment Scale (OPERAS; Vigil-Colet, Morales-Vives,
 178 Camps, Tous, & Lorenzo-Seva, 2013) comprises 40 items and is based on the Big Five
 179 personality traits model. The items are evaluated using a 5-point Likert scale ranging from 1
 180 = *totally disagree* to 5 = *totally agree*. It is made up of five dimensions: “F1. Extraversion”
 181 ($\alpha = .86$; e.g. 14. I don’t speak very much); “F2. Emotional Stability” ($\alpha = .86$; e.g. 32. My
 182 mood changes often”); “F3. Conscientiousness” ($\alpha = .77$; e.g. 28. I am a perfectionist); “F4.
 183 Agreeableness” ($\alpha = .71$; e.g. 23. I am very critical of others); and “F5. Openness to
 184 Experience” ($\alpha = .81$; e.g. 24. I like to visit museums).

185 The Spanish language version (50) of the Job Diagnostic Survey (JDS-21; Hackman
 186 & Oldham, 1974, 1975) comprises 21 items divided into seven subscales, each of which has
 187 three items. This questionnaire evaluates the job characteristics that influence the results. The
 188 dimensions are as follows: “F1. Skill variety” ($\alpha=.78$; e.g. 5. The work is quite simple and
 189 repetitive); “F2. Task identity” ($\alpha=.78$; e.g. 11. The work allows me to completely finish the
 190 tasks I undertake); “F3. Significance” ($\alpha=.71$; e.g. 14. The work itself is not very significant
 191 or important in the general context); “F4. Autonomy” ($\alpha=.73$; e.g. 9. The work does not give
 192 me any chance to use my initiative or personal judgment); “F.5. Feedback” ($\alpha=.70$; e.g. 12.
 193 The work itself provides me with very few indications about my performance); “F6.
 194 Feedback from agents” ($\alpha=.70$; e.g. 10. My superiors often let me know what they think
 195 about my performance at work); and “F7. Dealing with others in their jobs” ($\alpha=.72$; e.g. 2.

196 My work requires a lot of cooperation with other people). The response format is a 7-point
197 Likert scale ranging from 1 (*Very little*) to 7 (*A lot*).

198 The Job Content Questionnaire (JCQ-25; Karasek & Theorell, 1990) analyzes work
199 situations in which stressors are chronic, and pays special attention to the psychosocial
200 characteristics of the work environment. We used the Spanish version (54), which comprises
201 28 items divided into three dimensions: “F1. Job Demands”, which assesses the amount of
202 work, the intellectual demands, and the pressure of working time (9 items; $\alpha=.74$; e.g. K19.
203 My work requires a lot of hard work); “F2. Job Control”, which assesses the possibility of
204 making decisions creatively and applying and developing one’s own abilities, (9 items;
205 $\alpha=.74$; e.g. K3. My work requires me to be creative); and “F3. Support”, which assesses the
206 support received from colleagues and superiors (11 items; $\alpha=.87$; e.g. K43. The people I work
207 with are nice). The response format is a four-point Likert scale ranging from 0 (*Strongly*
208 *disagree*) to 3 (*Strongly agree*).

209 The Maslach Burnout Inventory-General Survey (MBI-GS; Salanova, Schaufeli,
210 Llorens, Peiró, & Grau, (2000)) evaluates burnout and comprises 15 items divided into three
211 subscales that are answered using a 7-point Likert scale ranging from 0 (*Never*) to 6
212 (*Always/Every day*). This instrument measures the following dimensions: “F1.Exhaustion” (α
213 = .87), which comprises five items (e.g. 6. I am ‘burned out’ by my work); “F2.Cynicism” (α
214 = .85), which comprises four items (e.g. 9. I have lost my enthusiasm for work); and “F3.
215 Professional efficiency” ($\alpha = .78$), which comprises six items (e.g. 12. I have achieved many
216 valuable things in this position).

217

218 2.3. Procedure

219 The sample was obtained by non-probabilistic sampling (56), also known as accidental-
220 random sampling (57). The data were collected by telephoning the directors of several

221 companies and arranging the best time to meet with their employees. Participation was
222 voluntary and no participant received any kind of gratification. The response rate was 87%.

223 *2.4. Data Analysis*

224 Data analyses were performed using the SPSS version 25.0 statistical package.
225 Reliability was obtained using Cronbach's α . We used Pearson's correlation coefficients to
226 calculate the correlations between the predictor variables and the criterion variable. Multiple
227 regressions were also calculated using the stepwise option (58). With this method, the variables
228 were incorporated into the regression model to check the regressions with the criteria variables
229 (Lack of energy, Physical exertion, Physical discomfort, Lack of motivation, and Sleepiness).
230 There were twenty-three variables: Age, Number of children, Hours worked per week, Minutes
231 in vehicle, JDS (Variety, Identity, Significance, Autonomy, Feedback, Agents and Dealing),
232 JCQ (Social Support, Job Demand and Job Control), Burnout (Exhaustion, Cynicism, and
233 Professional efficiency), and Personality (Extraversion, Emotional Stability,
234 Conscientiousness, Agreeableness and Openness to experience). So, we used a multiple
235 regression model to test the effects of the twenty-three predictor variables on the criterion
236 variables in relation to Fatigue.

237

238 **3. Results**

239 *3.1. Reliability analysis*

240 Table 1 shows the instruments we used. The indices for internal consistency were
241 appropriate since they ranged from .70 (JDS.7 Dealing) to .88 (SOFI.S Sleepiness).

242 INSERT TABLE 1 HERE

243

244 *3.2. Correlation analyses*

245 Table 2 shows the correlations between the five dimensions of the SOFI (criterion
246 variable) and the twenty-three predictor variables.

247 Our findings were as follows. Lack of energy correlated positively with four variables
248 (Minutes in the vehicle, Job demand, Exhaustion and Cynicism) and negatively with twelve
249 (Age, Variety, Significance, Autonomy, Dealing, Social Support, Job Control, Professional
250 efficiency, Extraversion, Emotional Stability, Agreeableness, and Openness to experience).
251 Physical exertion correlated positively with three variables (Minutes in the vehicle,
252 Exhaustion, and Cynicism) and negatively with fourteen (Age, Variety, Identity,
253 Significance, Autonomy, Feedback, Dealing, Social Support, Professional efficiency,
254 Extraversion, Emotional Stability, Conscientiousness, Agreeableness, and Openness to
255 experience). Physical discomfort correlated positively with four variables (Minutes in the
256 vehicle, Job demand, Exhaustion and Cynicism) and negatively with twelve (Variety,
257 Identity, Autonomy, Feedback, Dealing, Social Support, Job Control, Professional efficiency,
258 Extraversion, Emotional Stability, Agreeableness, and Openness to experience). Lack of
259 motivation correlated positively with three variables (Job Demand, Exhaustion, and
260 Cynicism) and negatively with fifteen (Age, Variety, Identity, Significance, Autonomy,
261 Feedback, Dealing, Social Support, Job Control, Professional Efficiency, Extraversion,
262 Emotional Stability, Conscientiousness, Agreeableness and Openness to experience). Finally,
263 Sleepiness correlated positively with four variables (Minutes in the vehicle, Job demand,
264 Exhaustion, and Cynicism) and negatively with ten (Age, Number of children, Variety,
265 Identity, Significance, Feedback, Dealing, Job control, Professional efficiency, and Openness
266 to experience).

267 INSERT TABLE 2 HERE

268

269 *3.3. Multiple regression*

270 Tables 3 to 7 show the data corresponding to the adjusted R^2 indices and the significant
271 typified beta coefficients between the criteria variables and the predictive variables in this
272 study, for which our aim was to identify the degree to which these predictive variables can
273 predict the various types of fatigue among professional drivers.

274 Table 3 shows that the model that best predicts Lack of energy is model 5, accounting
275 for 50% of the criterion variable's variance. Exhaustion is the best predictor variable,
276 accounting for 47.2% of variance. One of the most important aspects are the beta
277 coefficients, which show that the predictor variables found to be statistically significant
278 were: Exhaustion ($\beta = .624$), Openness to experience ($\beta = -.094$), Job Demand ($\beta = .158$), Job
279 Control ($\beta = -.141$) and Agents ($\beta = .087$).

280 Table 4 shows that the greatest predictor of Physical exertion is model 6, accounting
281 for 33.2% of the criterion variable's variance. Exhaustion is the best predictor variable,
282 accounting for 27.6% of variance. The beta coefficients show that the predictor variables
283 found to be statistically significant were: Exhaustion ($\beta = .482$), Responsibility ($\beta = -.122$),
284 Minutes in the vehicle ($\beta = .108$), Openness to experience ($\beta = -.103$), Agents ($\beta = .093$), and
285 Significance ($\beta = -.093$).

286 Model 7 was the best predictor of Physical Discomfort (Table 5), accounting for
287 41.9% of the criterion variable's variance. Exhaustion was the best predictor, accounting for
288 38.5% of variance. The beta coefficients show that the predictor variables found to be
289 statistically significant were: Exhaustion ($\beta = .565$), Openness to experience ($\beta = -.139$),
290 Extraversion ($\beta = -.071$), Job Demand ($\beta = .090$), Professional efficiency ($\beta = -.133$), and
291 Responsibility ($\beta = .104$).

292 Model 8 was best predictor of Lack of motivation, (table 6), accounting for 41.6% of
293 the criterion variable's variance. Exhaustion was the best predictor, accounting for 34.1% of
294 variance. The beta coefficients show that the predictor variables found to be statistically

295 significant were: Exhaustion ($\beta = .410$), Cynicism ($\beta = .200$), Openness to experience ($\beta = -$
296 $.139$), Extraversion ($\beta = -.129$), Emotional Stability ($\beta = .193$), Professional efficiency ($\beta = -$
297 $.097$), Agreeableness ($\beta = -.092$), and Number of children ($\beta = -.070$).

298 Model 6 was best predictor of Sleepiness, (table 7), accounting for 34.6% of the
299 criterion variable's variance. Exhaustion was the best predictor, accounting for 31.4% of
300 variance. The beta coefficients show that the predictor variables found to be statistically
301 significant were: Exhaustion ($\beta = .541$), Openness to experience ($\beta = -.119$), Emotional
302 Stability ($\beta = .144$), Age ($\beta = -.107$), and Significance ($\beta = -.077$).

303

304 INSERT TABLE 3 HERE

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308 INSERT TABLE 7 HERE

309

310 **4. Discussion**

311 Our results show that certain variables have predictive power in relation to fatigue
312 among professional drivers (table 8). In this study we have tested personality variables and
313 work-related variables, as well as others such as age, number of children, hours worked per
314 week, and the number of minutes the driver remains seated inside the vehicle. Our five
315 hypotheses are only partially satisfied since not every research variable was incorporated into
316 the various models.

317 Age is shown to be a negative predictor of Sleepiness. This is in line with the results
318 of the study by Philip et al. (2004), which found that lack of sleep significantly affects young
319 people, whereas the performance of older subjects is unaffected. Other authors found no

320 relationship between lack of sleep and age. Among young people this result is probably
321 associated with bad habits (smoking, alcohol, noise, mobile phones, tablets), while older
322 adults have a greater prevalence of illness (59).

323 The number of children negatively predicts lack of motivation. This may be because
324 the drivers in this group have very long working hours and would like to spend more time
325 with their family. The number of minutes in the vehicle is shown to be a positive predictor of
326 Physical exertion. In this context, Gander et al. found that drivers involved in fatigue-related
327 accidents had been driving for longer on the day they had the accident (25).

328 Regarding Burnout, we found that Exhaustion best predicts all the fatigue types we
329 analyzed in this study. Several authors have already related driving with Burnout (39,41,42).
330 Åkerstedt et al. (2004) relate Burnout to sleep disturbance, which we also found had a 31.4%
331 influence on Sleepiness. Similarly, Useche, Cendales, et al. (2017) found that Work stress
332 and Exhaustion are significantly high among Colombian bus drivers. The other two
333 dimensions of Burnout have also been shown to be predictive variables. Professional
334 efficiency negatively predicts physical discomfort, while Lack of motivation and Cynicism
335 positively predict Lack of motivation. This is in line with the results of other authors who
336 relate cynicism to distrust and disregard for work (39,44).

337 With regard to personality variables, Openness to Experience is shown to be a
338 negative predictor in all models. Thiffault and Bergeron (2003) showed that drivers who
339 obtained high scores in the search for experiences may be more sensitive to road monotony
340 and more prone to fatigue-related driving errors in less demanding road environments. Since
341 the environment of the drivers in our sample is demanding, this personality trait acts as a
342 protective variable. Emotional stability is shown to be a positive predictor of Lack of
343 motivation and Sleepiness, while a relationship is also found between Emotional stability and
344 Conscientiousness that positively predicts Physical discomfort and negatively predicts

345 Physical exertion. Other authors, e.g. Serrano-Fernández et al. (2019), have shown that these
346 variable acts positively in hazard prevention. These authors have also shown that
347 Agreeableness negatively predicts Lack of motivation and that it also negatively predicts the
348 search for sensations in professional drivers, which in turn affects Lack of motivation.
349 Extraversion is shown to be a negative predictor of Physical discomfort and Lack of
350 motivation, while drivers with high extraversion have been shown to suffer fewer accidents
351 (60).

352 With regard to Job Content (JCQ), we found that Job Demand positively predicts
353 Lack of energy and Physical discomfort. This could be because drivers invest more physical
354 energy in order to meet these demands. On the other hand, we found that Job control
355 negatively predicts Lack of energy, while Social Support does not appear to be a predictor
356 variable. Regarding Job characteristics (JDS), we found that Significance negatively predicts
357 Physical exertion and Sleepiness, possibly because giving greater meaning to the job makes
358 workers feel more active rather than physically tired or sleepy. On the other hand, we found
359 that Feedback from Agents positively predicts Lack of energy and Physical exertion, though
360 Serrano-Fernández et al. (2019) found no relationship between these variables.

361

362 INSERT TABLE 8 HERE

363

364 **5. Conclusion**

365 Our study provides useful information for conducting research into the factors that
366 produce fatigue in professional drivers. Exhaustion best predicts fatigue positively, while
367 Openness to Experience best predicts it negatively. Burnout and personality characteristics
368 were good predictors, while JCQ and JDS were weak predictors. In conclusion, to reduce
369 accidents and ensure that professional drivers have greater well-being, it is important to

370 design individual interventions aimed at reducing their fatigue. The scales used allow
371 prevention professionals to obtain data. This information may be used for a scientifically
372 based evaluation. In addition, personality measures provide information that can aid detection
373 and help to manage and train these drivers.

374 These results have important practical implications that should be considered for
375 proper strategic management of human resources within organizations so that the variables
376 that influence fatigue can be detected. Addressing these factors separately may greatly help to
377 identify factors that help workers to improve their health and companies to reduce the number
378 of collisions and traffic violations.

379

380 6. Limitations of the study

381 This study is not without a number of limitations. First, few women are professionally
382 engaged in transportation, it would have been interesting to have the female population better
383 represented in order to determine whether gender differences exist. Second, the data were
384 obtained via self-report measures, which can lead to bias ranging from social desirability to
385 lack of sincerity (61). Third, the methodology should be examined because for some
386 variables it may lead to biased results since the drivers may not be aware of the symptoms or
387 the effects of the variable we are measuring. Fourth, it would also have been interesting to
388 use alternative physiological indicators of fatigue. Finally, future research should consider the
389 use of qualitative information collection strategies that would enable better understanding of
390 the characteristics of the work and the impact they may have on fatigue (driving shifts, time
391 pressure, rest periods, performance, etc.).

392

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Table 1*Descriptive statistics and reliability values with Cronbach's α coefficient.*

Variable	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD	α
Lack of energy (SOFI.LE)	0	30	10.94	7.03	.87
Physical exertion (SOFI.PE)	0	30	6.19	5.32	.72
Physical discomfort (SOFI.PD)	0	30	10.14	6.94	.85
Lack of motivation (SOFI.LM)	0	30	8.46	6.30	.83
Sleepiness (SOFI.S)	0	30	10.13	7.12	.88
Variety (JDS.1)	3	21	11.34	41.18	.77
Identity (JDS.2)	3	21	15.81	4.23	.77
Significance (JDS.3)	4	21	15.62	3.91	.71
Autonomy (JDS.4)	3	21	13.91	4.54	.74
Feedback (JDS.5)	5	21	15.59	3.36	.71
Agents (JDS.6)	3	21	10.71	4.22	.72
Dealing (JDS.7)	3	21	13.17	4.10	.70
Social Support (JCQ.SS)	10	40	26.25	6.01	.88
Job Demand (JCQ.JD)	8	32	21.15	3.53	.74
Job Control (JCQ.JC)	7	28	17.91	4.64	.74
Exhaustion (MBI.E)	0	29	9.28	5.91	.88
Cynicism (MBI.C)	0	24	6.43	4.97	.85
Professional efficiency (MBI.PE)	5	36	27.61	6.37	.79
Extraversion (OP.EX)	18	74	49.30	9.87	.86
Emotional Stability (OP.EE)	4	83	48.82	13.70	.87
Conscientiousness (OP.CO)	12	76	48.98	11.98	.77
Agreeableness (OP.AG)	16	81	49.07	11.85	.71
Openness to experience (OP.OE)	11	69	43.75	10.02	.81

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Table 2

585

Correlations between the predictor variables and the criterion variables (SOFI).

586

PREDICTOR VARIABLE	CRITERION VARIABLE				
	Lack of energy	Physical exertion	Physical discomfort	Lack of motivation	Sleepiness
Age	-.110*	-.145**	-.045	-.114**	-.161**
Gender	.063	.010	.060	.023	.065
Number of children	-.069	.024	-.038	-.078	-.095*
Hours worked per week	.010	-.068	.020	-.053	-.028
Minutes in the vehicle	.104*	.147**	.112*	.070	.093*
Variety (JDS.1)	-.183**	-.108*	-.175**	-.226**	-.180**
Identity (JDS.2)	-.078	-.135**	-.114**	-.144**	-.092*
Significance (JDS.3)	-.089*	-.165**	-.083	-.156**	-.091*
Autonomy (JDS.4)	-.119**	-.104*	-.123**	-.122**	-.070
Feedback (JDS.5)	-.027	-.163**	-.094*	-.125**	-.105*
Agents (JDS.6)	.044	.056	.015	-.030	.052
Dealing (JDS.7)	-.137**	-.091*	-.093*	-.153**	-.107*
Social Support (JCQ.SS)	-.121**	-.067	-.111*	-.140**	-.065
Job Demand (JCQ.JD)	.173**	.038	.148**	.121**	.107*
Job Control (JCQ.JC)	-.170**	-.073	-.132**	-.167**	-.129**
Exhaustion (MBI.E)	.688**	.527**	.621**	.585**	.561**
Cynicism (MBI.C)	.480**	.420**	.434**	.530**	.397**
Professional efficiency (MBI.PE)	-.096*	-.163**	-.147**	-.171**	-.101*
Extraversion (OP.EX)	-.110*	-.116**	-.151**	-.179**	-.079
Emotional Stability (OP.EE)	-.104*	-.170**	-.101*	-.087*	-.015
Conscientiousness (OP.CO)	-.009	-.210**	-0,037	-.089*	.002
Agreeableness (OP.AG)	-.121**	-.218**	-.135**	-.160**	-.028
Openness to experience (OP.OE)	-.219**	-.228**	-.252**	-.261**	-.223**

** . The correlation is significant at the .01 level (bilateral).

* . The correlation is significant at the .05 level (bilateral).

587

588 **Table 3**

589

590 *Summary of the models, variables and coefficients of regression analysis (stepwise method) for*
591 *lack of energy (SOFI)*

592

Model and Variable	Model						Coefficient				
	R	R ²	R ² Adjusted	R Change	F Change	sig	B	SE	β	t	sig
Model 1	.688	.473	.472	.473	461.295	.000					
Model 2	.693	.480	.478	.007	7.048	.008					
Model 3	.698	.487	.484	.007	6.925	.009					
Model 4	.705	.498	.494	.011	10.828	.001					
Model 5	.711	.505	.500	.007	7.521	.006					
Exhaustion (MBLE)							.743	.040	.624	18.631	.000
Openness Exp (OP.OE)							-.066	.023	-.094	-2.928	.004
Job Demand (JCQ.JD)							.314	.079	.158	4.158	.000
Job Control (JCQ.JC)							-.213	.058	-.141	-3.648	.000
Agents (JDS.6)							.145	.053	.087	2.742	.006

Excluded variables: Age, Number of children, Minutes in the vehicle, Hours worked per week, Variety (JDS.1), Identity (JDS.2), Autonomy (JDS.4), Feedback (JDS.5), Agents (JDS.6), Dealing (JDS.7), Cynicism (MBI.C), Professional efficiency (MBI.3), Extraversion (OP.EX), Emotional Stability (OP.EE) and Social Support (JCQ.SS).

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595

596 **Table 4**

597

598 *Summary of the models, variables and coefficients of regression analysis (stepwise method) for*
599 *Physical exertion (SOFI)*

600

Model and Variable	Model						Coefficient				
	R	R ²	R ² Adjusted	R Change	F Change	sig	B	SE	β	t	sig
Model 1	.527	.278	.276	.278	197.743	.000					
Model 2	.549	.301	.298	.023	17.144	.000					
Model 3	.561	.315	.311	.014	10.394	.001					
Model 4	.569	.324	.318	.008	6.394	.012					
Model 5	.576	.332	.325	.008	6.230	.013					
Model 6	.583	.340	.332	.008	6.034	.014					
Exhaustion (MBI.E)							.433	.033	.482	13.033	0.000
Conscientiousness (OP.CO)							-.054	.017	-.122	-3.166	.002
Minutes in vehicle							.001	.000	.108	2.954	.003
Openness Exp (OP)							-.055	.020	-.103	-2.719	.007
Agents (JDS.6)							.117	.046	.093	2.562	.011
Significance (JDS.3)							-.127	.052	-.093	-2.456	.014

Excluded variables: Age, Gender, Hours worked per week, Number of children, Variety (JDS.1), Identity (JDS.2), Autonomy (JDS.4), Feedback (JDS.5), Dealing (JDS.7), Cynicism (MBI.C), Professional efficiency (MBI.3), Extraversion (OP.EX), Emotional Stability (OP.EE), Agreeableness (OP.AG).

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602

603 **Table 5**

604

605 *Summary of the models, variables and coefficients of regression analysis (stepwise method) for*
606 *Physical discomfort (SOFI)*

Model and Variable	Model						Coefficient				
	R	R ²	R ² Adjusted	R Change	F Change	sig	B	SE	β	t	sig
Model 1	.621	.386	.385	.386	323.480	.000					
Model 2	.635	.404	.401	.017	14.977	.000					
Model 3	.639	.408	.405	.005	3.967	.047					
Model 4	.643	.414	.409	.006	4.843	.028					
Model 5	.648	.419	.414	.006	4.929	.027					
Model 6	.653	.426	.419	.007	5.812	.016					
Exhaustion (MBLE)							.664	.042	.565	15.912	.000
Openness Exp (OP.OE)							-.097	.024	-.139	-4.021	.000
Extraversion (OP.EX),							-.050	.025	-.071	-1.999	.046
Job Demand (JCQ-JD),							.177	.077	.090	2.287	.023
Professional efficiency (MBI.PE)							-.145	.047	-.133	-3.052	.002
Responsibility (OP.CO)							.060	.025	.104	2.411	.016

Excluded variables: Age, Number of children, Hours worked per week, Minutes in vehicle, Variety (JDS.1), Identity (JDS.2), Significance (JDS.3), Autonomy (JDS.4), Feedback (JDS.5), Agents (JDS.6), Dealing (JDS.7), Social Support (JCQ.SS), Job Control (JCQ.JC), Cynicism (MBI.C), Professional efficiency (MBI.3), Emotional Stability (OP.EE), Agreeableness (OP.AG).

607

608

609 **Table 6**

610

611 *Summary of the models, variables and coefficients of regression analysis (stepwise method) for*
612 *Lack of motivation (SOFI)*

Model and Variable	Model						Coefficient				
	R	R ²	R ² Adjusted	R Change	F Change	sig	B	SE	β	t	sig
Model 1	.585	.342	.341	.342	266.898	.000					
Model 2	.613	.376	.373	.034	27.910	.000					
Model 3	.630	.397	.393	.021	17.680	.000					
Model 4	.635	.403	.398	.006	5.285	.022					
Model 5	.639	.409	.403	.006	5.256	.022					
Model 6	.644	.415	.408	.006	5.421	.020					
Model 7	.649	.421	.413	.005	4.817	.029					
Model 8	.652	.425	.416	.005	4.141	.042					
Exhaustion (MBI.E)							.437	.050	.410	8.832	.000
Cynicism (MBI.C)							.253	.060	.200	4.195	.000
Openness to experience (OP.OE)							-.087	.022	-.139	-3.968	.000
Extraversion (OP.EX)							-.082	.024	-.129	-3.456	.001
Emotional Stability (OP.EE)							.089	.023	.193	3.814	.000
Professional efficiency (MBI.PE)							-.096	.044	-.097	-2.178	.030
Agreeableness (OP.AG)							-.049	.022	-.092	-2.245	.025
Number of children							-.396	.195	-.070	-2.035	.042

Excluded variables: Age, Gender, Hours worked per week, Minutes in vehicle, Variety (JDS.1), Identity (JDS.2), Significance (JDS.3), Autonomy (JDS.4), Feedback (JDS.5), Agents (JDS.6), Dealing (JDS.7), Social Support (JCQ.SS), Job Demand (JCQ-JD), Job Control (JCQ.JC), Exhaustion (MBI.E), Cynicism (MBI.C), Conscientiousness (OP.CO), Agreeableness (OP.AG).

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620 **Table 7**

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622 *Summary of the models, variables and coefficients of regression analysis (stepwise method) for*
623 *Sleepiness (SOFI)*

Model and Variable	Model						Coefficient				
	R	R ²	R ² Adjusted	R Change	F Change	sig	B	SE	β	t	sig
Model 1	.561	.315	.314	.315	236.291	.000					
Model 2	.573	.328	.325	.013	10.035	.002					
Model 3	.580	.336	.332	.008	6.334	.012					
Model 4	.589	.347	.342	.011	8.225	.004					
Model 5	.593	.352	.346	.005	4.280	.039					
Exhaustion (MBI.E)							.651	.045	.541	14.549	.000
Openness to experience (OP.OE)							-.085	.026	-.119	-3.260	.001
Emotional Stability (OP.EE)							.075	.020	.144	3.681	.000
Age							-.058	.020	-.107	-2.844	.005
Significance (JDS.3)							-.140	.068	-.077	-2.069	.039

Excluded variables: Number of children, Hours worked per week, Minutes in vehicle, Variety (JDS.1), Identity (JDS.2), Autonomy (JDS.4), Feedback (JDS.5), Agents (JDS.6), Dealing (JDS.7), Social Support (JCQ.SS), Job Demand (JCQ-JD), Job Control (JCQ.JC), Cynicism (MBI.C), Professional efficiency (MBI.3), Extraversion (OP.EX), Conscientiousness (OP.CO), Agreeableness (OP.AG), Openness to experience (OP.OE).

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626 **Table 8**627 *Summary of the predictive models for the criterion variables*

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PREDICTOR VARIABLE	Factor 1 Lack of energy		Factor 2 Physical exertion		Factor 3 Phys. discomfort		Factor 4 Lack motivat.		Factor 5 Sleepiness	
	ΔR^2 Correct.	β	ΔR^2 Correct.	β	ΔR^2 Correct.	β	ΔR^2 Correct.	β	ΔR^2 Corre ct.	β
Age									.010	-.107
Number of children							.003	-.070		
Minutes in vehicle			.013	.108						
Exhaustion (MBI.E)	.472	.624	.276	.482	.385	.565	.341	.410	.314	.541
Professional efficiency (MBI.3)					.005	-.133	.005	-.097		
Cynicism (MBI.C)							.032	.200		
Openness Exp (OP)	.006	-.094	.007	-.103	.016	-.139	.020	-.139	.011	-.119
Emotional Stability (OP.EE)							.005	.193	.007	.144
Conscientiousness (OP.CO)			.022	-.122	.005	.104				
Agreeableness (OP.AG)							.005	-.092		
Extraversion (OP.EX)					.004	-.071	.005	-.129		
Job Demand (JCQ.JD)	.006	.158			.004	.090				
Job Control (JCQ.JC)	.010	-.141								
Significance (JDS.3)			.007	-.093					.004	-.077
Agents (JDS.6)	.006	.087	.007	.093						
Total explained variance (%)	50.00		33.20		41.90		41.60		34.60	

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