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2 Grau, J. (2021). Variables that predict Burnout in professional drivers. *International Journal*  
3 *of Occupational Safety and Ergonomics* <https://doi.org/10.1080/10803548.2021.1929701>  
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5

6 **Title: Variables that predict burnout in professional drivers**

7

8 **Abstract**

9 **Background:** Stress maintained over time leads to a state of exhaustion known as burnout  
10 syndrome. This syndrome constitutes an occupational health problem, leading to high  
11 absenteeism. It can also mean that workers come to the workplace feeling unwell, which  
12 increases occupational collisions and injuries at work. In this study we developed a predictive  
13 model of burnout in professional drivers using the following indicators: age, hours worked,  
14 seniority, educational level, fatigue, personality, attitudes towards driving, safety behaviors in  
15 the vehicle, and work characteristics and content. **Method:** A total of 523 professional  
16 drivers from different transport sectors, obtained through non-probability sampling,  
17 participated in the study. We used the SPSS version 25.0 program to analyze the data.

18 **Results:** We determined the predictive capacity of certain variables that affect drivers and  
19 cause burnout. Exhaustion can be predicted with Fatigue (48.8%), Professional efficiency  
20 with Emotional Stability (39.8%) and Cynicism with Lack of motivation (28%) being the best  
21 predictors. **Conclusions:** The results contribute to a better knowledge of those factors that  
22 cause burnout in professional drivers. It is important to design individual interventions to  
23 reduce burnout, which would help reduce sick leave and possible collisions, in addition to  
24 providing greater wellbeing for drivers.

25

26 **Keywords:** Professionals Drivers; Burnout; Personality; Work Characteristics, Occupational  
27 Health; Labor risks.

## 28 **1. Introduction**

29 Work stress is an increasingly frequent phenomenon in our society. This stress  
30 maintained over time leads the person to enter a state of exhaustion known as burnout  
31 syndrome. This syndrome is an occupational health problem. Burnout syndrome is an  
32 advanced phase of work stress and is the cause of high absenteeism and workers leaving their  
33 profession. We are therefore talking about an imbalance between the worker's expectations  
34 and the reality of their daily work (1).

35 According to the European Agency and Health at Work, burnout has negative effects  
36 for the organization because it causes poor performance at the overall company level due to  
37 the increase in absenteeism and because workers come to work feeling tired and sick and are  
38 therefore not effective (presenteeism). This leads to higher rates of collisions and injuries at  
39 work. Furthermore, these absences tend to be longer, producing high costs for both  
40 companies and society (2).

41 Maslach and Jackson (3) described burnout as a multidimensional model  
42 characterized by exhaustion, depersonalization, and reduced personal fulfillment that, pushed  
43 to the limit, could lead to death. Thus, burnout is a progressive and dynamic process that is  
44 produced by an accumulation of negative stimuli and an inadequate way of managing chronic  
45 work stress, that is, factors related to work, the company and also to the worker's situation  
46 and personality (4).

47 In the case of professional drivers, we find that the characteristics of their work cause  
48 them stress, and this stress ends up becoming burnout (5). Stress and exhaustion in bus  
49 drivers are related to traffic collisions (6). Arias et al. (7) found a high percentages of burnout  
50 in public transport drivers. These drivers showed high levels of emotional exhaustion and  
51 depersonalization. Various authors have also linked driving with burnout (7–11). Burnout has

52 also been found to be a mediating variable between compliance with regulations and  
53 improper driving behaviors (12), which makes it an important factor in preventing traffic  
54 collisions. Burnout is a pathological entity that occurs due to chronic stress in those who  
55 provide public care services or care for other people (1). There is a high incidence of this  
56 syndrome in health professionals, and specialties such as intensive care workers, primary  
57 care, palliative care and oncology are particularly affected (13–15). Nurses are also a widely  
58 studied group (16–18), as well as teachers (19,20), and firefighters (21,22).

59           However, there are few studies on the impact of burnout on professional drivers,  
60 although its incidence in railway personnel (23), and ambulance drivers (24) has been  
61 studied. In addition, the prevalence of job stress and burnout are significantly high among bus  
62 drivers (6,7), and burnout has also been associated with the mental load of these drivers (8). It  
63 has been related in particular to cynicism, which is possibly related to the cognitive area and  
64 manifests itself in self-criticism and personal devaluation that potentially leads to distrust and  
65 contempt for work (25).

66           The predictive variables of burnout have also been extensively studied. Quiceno and  
67 Alpi (26) summarize them in personal components such as age, gender, family variables, and  
68 personality; Inadequate training; Labor or professional factors such as labor organization,  
69 working conditions, social support and work overload; Social factors such as the need for  
70 prestige or social consideration; and environmental factors such as significant life changes  
71 (deaths, marriage, divorce, etc.). In addition, it has been verified that informality, independent  
72 work, vehicle expenses and long working hours, including nights and holidays, increase  
73 stress in taxi drivers (27). These authors found that 70% of taxi drivers had emotional  
74 burnout, 66% scored highly in cynicism and 44% in personal efficacy, concluding that these  
75 workers experience a large number of situations that lead to burnout. Shi and Zhang (12)  
76 warned that personality traits can predict driving behaviors, concluding that they have not

77 been sufficiently studied. Taylor and Dorn (28) related stress and fatigue in bus drivers to the  
78 risk of collisions. In bus drivers, stress was associated with exhaustion, traffic collisions and  
79 pressure for not being late, which forces them to behave in risky ways and load passengers in  
80 a hurry (6,29).

81         The relationship between stress and long working hours and responsibility for  
82 passenger safety has been studied (30). Driving for long hours has been found to be related to  
83 a higher risk of collisions and a greater severity of these (31,32). Therefore, fatigue at work is  
84 related to the number of hours worked (33). Working for more than 12 hours a day and  
85 excessive daytime sleepiness have been associated with constant risky driving (34), an  
86 increased probability that the driver will go out of their lane and a decreased reaction time for  
87 sudden braking (35). In addition, fatigue has contributed greatly to trucking collisions (36–  
88 38). There is clear evidence of the association between traffic collisions and fatigue and shift  
89 work mainly due to sleep loss, so that sustained vigilance and reaction time are affected  
90 (31,39). Lack of sleep can be a predictor variable of burnout (40), and sleep disturbance is the  
91 most powerful predictor of mental fatigue (burnout) (41).

92         In terms of job characteristics, Quiceno and Alpi (26) indicated that social factors  
93 could predict burnout. In truck drivers, a positive correlation has been found between the  
94 three dimensions of burnout and role ambiguity, which has been positively related to low  
95 personal achievement (42). Just as work or professional factors such as work organization,  
96 working conditions, social support and work overload could influence burnout, it has also  
97 been found that task identity positively predicts relaxed driving and hazard prevention, job  
98 feedback negatively predicts fatigue and anxiety, and feedback from agents negatively  
99 predicts alertness and vigilance (43). Therefore, these factors could also influence burnout in  
100 professional drivers. The work characteristics become vitally important when we find that

101 fatigue and the need for recovery are moderating variables in the association between social  
102 support and risky driving (44).

103 Other variables, such as the driver's age, have a negative effect on performance due to  
104 the decrease in reaction times with age (45). It has also been found that lack of sleep affects  
105 young people significantly more than older subjects, whose performance is not altered (46).

106 Personality variables have been studied little in this group. It has been found that high  
107 scores in the variables "search for experiences" and extraversion make drivers more prone to  
108 driving errors related to fatigue in undemanding road environments (47). However, it has also  
109 been found that conscientiousness positively predicts prevention of dangers and  
110 agreeableness negatively predicts the search for sensations in professional drivers (43).

111 After looking at the relationship that these variables have in other groups, we set  
112 ourselves the objective of studying their predictive power in professional drivers. We  
113 considered the following hypothesis:

114 *H<sub>1</sub>*: If burnout in the professional driver is influenced by age, hours worked, seniority,  
115 educational level, fatigue, job characteristics (JDS), personality (OPERAS), safety behaviors  
116 in the vehicle, the content of the work (JCQ) and the attitudes towards driving, then a good  
117 prediction of burnout can be made with a model that includes these predictors.

118

## 119 **2. Method**

### 120 **2.1. Participants**

121 The sample was made up of 523 professional drivers (91.3 % men, 8.7 % women),  
122 and the average age was 41.6 (*SD*= 13.01). The civil status was: married or in a couple  
123 relationship (69.1 %), single (22.1 %), separated/divorced (8.1 %) and widowed (0.7 %). The  
124 educational level of the participants was: university studies (3.4 %), upper secondary school,  
125 Professional Training-I or Compulsory secondary education diploma (50.3 %), lower

126 secondary school, Professional Training-II or Prep School (22.1 %), and not finished primary  
127 education (24.2 %). The average years of experience was 12.07 (SD=12.21). The job  
128 characteristics were: transport of merchandise (46.8%), transport of machinery (4.4%),  
129 passenger transportation (22.7 %), ambulances and assistance drivers (7.8 %), taxi drivers  
130 (12.6 %) and others (5.5 %).

## 131 **2.2. Instruments**

132 Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI-GS; Salanova, Schaufeli, Llorens, Peiró, & Grau,  
133 (2000) assesses burnout, it consists of three scales and 15 items that are answered using a 7-  
134 point Likert scale (0 = *Never* to 6 = *Always / Everyday*). The instrument measures:  
135 Exhaustion (5 items;  $\alpha = 0.87$ ; e.g. "6.-I am 'burned out' by work"), Cynicism (4 items;  $\alpha =$   
136 0.85; e.g. "9. I have lost enthusiasm for my work") and Professional efficiency (6 items;  $\alpha =$   
137 0.78; e.g. "12.- I have achieved many valuable things in this position").

138 Driver Fatigue (DF-8)(49), is an 8-item unifactorial scale with Likert type response  
139 format ( $\alpha = 0.88$ ), (e.g., "3. Driving nerves cause me physical discomfort"). The response  
140 format of the items was a Likert-type scale from 1 to 5 (1 = *Never* to 5 = *Always*).

141 The Overall Personality Assessment Scale (OPERAS) (50) is a questionnaire based on  
142 the Big Five personality traits. It consists of 40 items that are answered using a 5-point Likert  
143 scale (1 = *totally disagree* to 5 = *totally agree*). This instrument measures Agreeableness ( $\alpha$   
144 = 0.71; e.g. "6. I usually speak well of others"), Extraversion ( $\alpha = 0.86$ ; e.g. "20. I make  
145 friends easily"), Conscientiousness ( $\alpha = 0.77$ ; e.g. "22. I leave my things untidy"), Emotional  
146 Stability ( $\alpha = .86$ ; e.g. "15. I often feel sad") and Openness to Experience ( $\alpha = 0.81$ ; e.g. "30.  
147 I like living in new places").

148 The Job Diagnostic Survey (JDS-21) (51,52), in the Spanish version (53), evaluates  
149 the work characteristics that influence work results. It consists of seven subscales with three  
150 items each. The response format is a 7-point Likert scale (1 = *Very little* to 7 = *A lot*). 1. Skill

151 variety ( $\alpha = 0.78$ ; e.g. “1.- The job requires me to use complex skills or a high level of  
152 specialization”), 2. Task identity ( $\alpha = 0.78$ ; e.g. “11.- The work allows me to completely  
153 finish the tasks I undertake”), 3. Significance ( $\alpha = 0.71$ ; e.g. “14.- The work itself is not very  
154 significant or important in the general context”), 4. Autonomy ( $\alpha = 0.73$ ; e.g. “9.- The work  
155 does not give me any opportunities to use my initiative or personal judgment”), 5. Feedback  
156 ( $\alpha = 0.70$ ; e.g. “12.- The work itself provides me with very few indications about my  
157 performance”), 6. Feedback from agents ( $\alpha = 0.70$ ; e.g. “10.- My superiors often let me  
158 know what they think about my performance at work”), and 7.- Dealing with others in their  
159 jobs ( $\alpha = 0.72$ ; e.g. “6.- The work can be carried out by a single person without consulting  
160 other people”).

161 We used the Spanish version (54) of the Job Content Questionnaire (JCQ-25) (55).  
162 This scale is used to analyze work situations in which stressors are chronic and pays  
163 particular attention to the psychosocial characteristics of the work environment. It is made up  
164 of 28 items in three factors: Job Demands (9 items,  $\alpha = 0.74$ ; e.g. “19.- My work requires a  
165 lot of hard work”), assesses the amount of work, the intellectual demands and the pressure of  
166 working time; Job Control (9 items;  $\alpha = 0.74$ ; e.g. “4.- My work allows me to make many  
167 decisions by myself”) assesses the possibility of making decisions creatively and applying  
168 and developing one's own abilities; and Support (11 items;  $\alpha = 0.87$ ; e.g. “41.- The people I  
169 work with are interested in me”) assesses the support received from colleagues and superiors.  
170 It has a four-point Likert scale response format (0 = *Strongly disagree* to 3 = *Strongly agree*).

171 We used the Spanish version (56) of the Attitudes Towards Safety Regulations Scale  
172 (ATSRS) (57), which consists of three factors: F1. Effectiveness of Enforcement (5 items;  $\alpha$   
173 = 0.81; e.g. “1. The existing safety regulations are consistently applied across states”); F2.  
174 General Regulatory Attitudes (4 items;  $\alpha = 0.80$ ; e.g. “8. Safety regulations in general have  
175 placed unfair burdens on truckers”); F3. Regulatory Effectiveness (4 items;  $\alpha = 0.70$ ; e.g. “13.

176 Regulations that do not let truckers perform certain maneuvers help keep roads safe”). It has a  
177 7-point Likert type response format (1 = *Totally disagree* to 7 = *Totally agree*).

178 We used the Swedish Occupational Fatigue Inventory (SOFI) (58), in the Spanish  
179 version (59). It consists of five subscales of three items each: “F1. Lack of energy” ( $\alpha = 0.92$ ;  
180 e.g.: “12. Exhausted, for example, having low energy”); “F2. Physical exertion” ( $\alpha = 0.87$ ;  
181 e.g.: “1.- With palpitations, for example, in the heart”); “F3. Physical discomfort” ( $\alpha = 0.81$ ;  
182 e.g.: “8. Having stiff joints, for example, in the elbows, knees, etc.”); “F4. Lack of  
183 motivation” describes the feeling of not feeling involved or excited ( $\alpha = 0.92$ ; e.g.: “5.-  
184 Apathetic, for example, feeling very left out”); and “F5. Sleepiness” describes the feelings of  
185 drowsiness ( $\alpha = 0.89$ ; e.g.: “6.- Falling asleep, for example, being sleepy”). The items are  
186 answered using a 10-point Likert scale (0 = *Nothing at all* to 10 = *A lot*).

187 The Trans-18 Scale (TRANS-18) (60) detects personal safety levels as well as safety  
188 in vehicle behaviors and psychophysiological disorders. The response format is a 5-point  
189 evaluation scale (1 = *Never* to 5 = *Always*). The scale consists of three factors and 18 items:  
190 “F1. Psychophysiological disorders of the driver” ( $\alpha = 0.81$ ; e.g.: “8. My job has at some time  
191 caused me digestive problems (e.g. constipation)”); “F2. Personal safety behaviors” ( $\alpha =$   
192 0.80; e.g.: “7.- I avoid driving while smoking and I don’t hold the cigarette, cigar in my  
193 hand”); and “F3. Safety behaviors in the vehicle” ( $\alpha = 0.70$ ; e.g.: “18.- I take a rest after every  
194 4 hours of driving.”).

195

### 196 **2.3. Procedure**

197 To obtain the sample, we used non-probability sampling (61) also known as accidental-  
198 random sampling (62). Participants were informed that the data obtained are completely  
199 confidential and anonymous and they answered voluntarily and did not receive any kind of  
200 compensation. A protocol (PAPI) was prepared for the participant that included a cover letter,

201 informed consent and the questionnaires to be answered. The questionnaires were answered at  
202 their usual workplace. The confidentiality of the data provided by participants is fully  
203 guaranteed. The response rate was 86%.

#### 204 **2.4. Data Analysis**

205 We started by using Pearson's correlation coefficients to calculate the correlations  
206 between the predictor variables and the criterion variable. We then calculated multiple  
207 regressions using the stepwise option with the IBM SPSS version 25 program (63).

208 This method incorporates the variables into the regression model. There were twenty  
209 variables: Age, Gender, Seniority, Education Level, Driver Fatigue (DF-8), Lack of energy  
210 (SOFI.1), Physical exertion (SOFI.2), Physical discomfort (SOFI.3), Lack of motivation  
211 (SOFI.4), Sleepiness (SOFI.5), Extraversion (OP.EX), Emotional Stability (OP.EE),  
212 Responsibility (OP.CO), Agreeableness (OP.Ag) and Openness to experience (OP.OE),  
213 Psychophysiological Disorders (Trans.1), Personal Safety Behaviors (Trans. 2) and Vehicle  
214 Safety Behaviors (Trans. 3), Variety (JDS.1), Identity (JDS.2), Significance (JDS.3),  
215 Autonomy (JDS.4), Feedback (JDS.5), Agents (JDS.6), Dealing with others (JDS.7), Social  
216 Support (JCQ.SS), Job Demand (JCQ-JD), Job Control (JCQ.JC), Effectiveness of  
217 Enforcement (ATRS.ENF), General Regulatory Attitudes (ATRS.ATT) and Regulatory  
218 Effectiveness (ATRS.EFF).

### 219 **3. Results**

#### 220 **3.1. Reliability analysis**

221 Table 1 shows the instruments used and their internal consistency index. The indices  
222 are appropriate given that they range between 0.71 Dealing with others (JDS.7) and 0.89  
223 Sleepiness (SOFI.5).

224 INSERT TABLE 1 HERE  
225

### 226 **3.2. Correlation analyses**

227 The correlation analysis is shown in Table 2. The results show that Exhaustion correlates  
228 positively with 9 variables and negatively with 16 variables. The Cynicism variable  
229 correlated with 19 variables negatively, and with 8 variables positively. Professional  
230 efficiency correlated positively with 22 variables and negatively with seven.

231

232 INSERT TABLE 2 HERE

233

### 234 **3.3. Multiple regression**

235 A multiple regression model was performed to test the effects that predictor variables  
236 (thirty-one) have on criterion variables in connection with burnout in professional drivers.  
237 Tables 3 to 5 show the data corresponding to the adjusted  $R^2$  indices and the significant  
238 typified beta coefficients between the criteria variables and the predictive variables of this  
239 study. The objective of the models studied is to identify the degree to which these predictor  
240 variables will be able to predict the three dimensions of burnout (Figure 1).

241 INSERT FIGURE 1 HERE

242

243 Table 3 shows the model as the highest predictor of the exhaustion variable (model 8)  
244 and a summary of the model in which we can see that the predictor variables Driver fatigue  
245 (DF8), Lack of energy (SOFI.1), Social Support (JCQ.SS), Psychophysiological disorders  
246 (Trans.1), Age, Physical exertion (SOFI.2), Significance (JDS.3) and Personal safety  
247 behaviors (Trans.2) account for 61.9 % of the criterion variable's variance. The Driver  
248 fatigue (DF8) variable stands out as the best predictor, accounting for 48.8 % of variance.

249 Among the most important aspects are the beta coefficient values. If we take a look at these  
 250 coefficients we can see that the predictor variables that were found to be statistically  
 251 significant were: Driver fatigue ( $\beta = 0.370$ ), Lack of energy ( $\beta = 0.269$ ), Social Support ( $\beta =$   
 252  $-0.175$ ), Psychophysiological disorders ( $\beta = .158$ ), Age ( $\beta = -0.092$ ), Physical exertion ( $\beta =$   
 253  $0.095$ ), Significance ( $\beta = 0.059$ ), and Personal safety behaviors ( $\beta = 0.062$ ).

254

255 In Table 4 we can see the model that is the highest predictor of the variable Cynicism  
 256 (model 12) and a summary of the model in which the predictor variables Lack of motivation  
 257 (SOFI.4), Psychophysiological disorders (Trans.1), Job Control (JCQ.JC), Safety behaviors  
 258 in the vehicle (Trans.3), Significance (JDS.3), Driver fatigue (DF8), Academic level, Social  
 259 Support (JCQ.SS), ATRS.ATT, Conscientiousness (OP.CO, Emotional stability (OP.EE) and  
 260 Job Demand (JCD-JD) account for 44.80 % of the criterion variable's variance. The Lack of  
 261 motivation (SOFI.4) variable stands out as the best predictor, accounting for 42.15 % of  
 262 variance. Among the most important aspects are the beta coefficient values. If we take a look  
 263 at these coefficients we can see that the predictor variables that were found to be statistically  
 264 significant were: Lack of motivation ( $\beta = 0.251$ ), Psychophysiological disorders ( $\beta = 0.159$ ),  
 265 Job Control ( $\beta = -0.178$ ), Safety behaviors in the vehicle ( $\beta = -0.124$ ), Significance ( $\beta = -$   
 266  $0.112$ ), Driver fatigue ( $\beta = 0.160$ ), Academic level ( $\beta = 0.105$ ), Social Support ( $\beta = -0.115$ ),  
 267 ATRS.ATT ( $\beta = 0.070$ ), Conscientiousness ( $\beta = -0.164$ ), Emotional stability ( $\beta = 0.118$ ) and  
 268 Job Demand ( $\beta = 0.090$ ).

269 In Table 5 we can see the model that is the highest predictor of the variable  
 270 Professional efficiency (model 9) and a summary of the model in which the predictor  
 271 variables Emotional stability (OP.EE), Job Control (JCQ.JC), ATRS.EFF, Conscientiousness  
 272 (OP.CO), Seniority, feedback (JDS.5), Safety behaviors in the vehicle (Trans.3), Physical  
 273 discomfort (SOFI.3) and Lack of energy (SOFI.1) account for 56.5 % of the criterion

274 variable's variance. The Emotional stability (OP.EE) variable stands out as the best  
275 predictor, accounting for 39.8 % of variance. Among the most important aspects are the beta  
276 coefficient values. If we take a look at these coefficients we can see that the predictor  
277 variables that were found to be statistically significant were: Emotional stability ( $\beta = 0.251$ ),  
278 Job Control ( $\beta = 0.255$ ), ATRS.EFF ( $\beta = 0.164$ ), Conscientiousness ( $\beta = 0.172$ ), Seniority ( $\beta$   
279 = 0.110), feedback ( $\beta = 0.089$ ), Safety behaviors in the vehicle ( $\beta = 0.090$ ), Physical  
280 discomfort ( $\beta = -0.177$ ) and Lack of energy ( $\beta = 0.138$ ).

281

282 INSERT TABLE 3 HERE

283 INSERT TABLE 4 HERE

284 INSERT TABLE 5 HERE

285

#### 286 **4. Discussion**

287 The results presented above are in line with the concept that certain variables related  
288 to personality and job characteristics have predictive power over burnout in professional  
289 drivers. The hypothesis is partially confirmed as we found that there are several factors that  
290 predict, both positively and negatively, burnout in professional drivers. These factors include  
291 Age, the older the driver the less emotional exhaustion, in accordance with research that  
292 indicates that the older the driver the less burnout they experience (64,65). The academic  
293 level positively predicts Cynicism, and Seniority positively predicts professional efficiency,  
294 in accordance with de Chávez Ramírez et al. (64). Fatigue measured with DF-8 positively  
295 influenced the Exhaustion factor and Cynicism. While the measures from the SOFI  
296 questionnaire indicated that Lack of energy influenced Exhaustion and professional  
297 Efficiency, Physical exertion influenced the exhaustion factor, Physical discomfort negatively

298 predicted professional efficiency and Lack of motivation positively predicted the Cynicism  
299 factor.

300       Regarding the work characteristics, we found that social support negatively predicts  
301 Exhaustion and Cynicism, Job demands positively predicts Cynicism, and Job control  
302 positively predicts Cynicism and professional efficiency. Significance positively predicts  
303 Exhaustion and negatively predicts Cynicism. Feedback received at work positively predicts  
304 Professional efficiency, which is in accordance with the findings of Ching-Fu and Yuan-  
305 Chun (66), who conclude that organizational support is negatively associated with emotional  
306 exhaustion.

307       Psychophysiological disorders positively predict Exhaustion and Cynicism. Personal  
308 safety behaviors that positively predict exhaustion and Safety behaviors in the vehicle  
309 negatively predict Cynicism and positively predict Professional efficiency. In addition, the  
310 personality variables that are shown as predictors in this research are Emotional stability,  
311 which positively predicts Cynicism and Professional efficiency, and Consciousness, which  
312 negatively predicts Cynicism and positively predicts Professional efficiency. Duarte and  
313 Pinto-Gouveia (67) conclude that psychological factors predict 29% of burnout in nurses.  
314 Bakker et al. (68) found that some personality factors moderate the relationship between  
315 negative experiences and burnout, and therefore these factors can help protect against the  
316 risks of developing burnout.

317

318

## 319 **5. Conclusion**

320           The results of this study provide relevant information for research into the factors that  
321 cause burnout in professional drivers. We determined the predictive capacity of certain  
322 variables that affect drivers and cause burnout. Exhaustion can be predicted with Fatigue  
323 (48.8%), Professional efficiency with Emotional Stability (39.8%) and Cynicism with Lack  
324 of motivation (28%) being the best predictors. The results contribute to a better knowledge of  
325 those factors that cause burnout in professional drivers.

326           The scales used allow prevention professionals to obtain data. This information may  
327 be used for a scientifically based evaluation. In addition, personality and fatigue measures  
328 provide information that can aid detection and help to manage and train these drivers. In  
329 conclusion, the results highlight the importance of designing individual interventions to  
330 reduce the incidence of burnout, which would help reduce sick leave and possible collisions,  
331 in addition to providing greater driver well-being.

## 332 **6. Limitations of the study**

333           This study is not without limitations. First, female representation is low because there  
334 are very few women who are professionally engaged in transportation. Furthermore, the data  
335 have been obtained through self-reports and this can produce biases that can range from  
336 social desirability to lack of sincerity. Finally, future research should consider the use of  
337 qualitative information collection strategies that would enable better understanding of the  
338 studied variables.

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**Table 1***Descriptive statistics and reliability values with Cronbach's  $\alpha$  coefficient.*

Variable	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD	$\alpha$
Exhaustion (MBI.E)	0	29	9.16	5.871	0.87
Cynicism (MBI.C)	0	24	6.23	4.781	0.83
Professional efficiency (MBI. PE)	0	36	27.56	6.132	0.78
Emotional Stability (OP.EE)	4	83	47.01	12.019	0.85
Conscientiousness (OP.CO)	12	76	49.12	12.028	0.78
Agreeableness (OP.AG)	16	81	50.06	11.527	0.72
Openness to experience (OP. OE)	11	69	42.71	10.332	0.80
Driver Fatigue (DF-8)	8	36	18.11	5.912	0.84
Lack of energy (SOFI.1)	0	30	11.24	7.024	0.86
Physical exertion (SOFI.2)	0	30	7.11	5.312	0.73
Physical discomfort (SOFI.3)	0	30	11.12	6.374	0.84
Lack of motivation (SOFI.4)	0	30	8.47	6.320	0.82
Sleepiness (SOFI.5)	0	30	11.02	7.112	0.89
Enforcement (ATRS.ENF)	5	35	22.12	6.208	0.84
General attitudes (ATRS.ATT)	4	28	14.33	6.222	0.88
Effectiveness (ATRS.EFF)	4	28	18.22	4.546	0.79
Variety (JDS.1)	3	21	10.83	40.220	0.79
Identity (JDS.2)	3	21	15.76	4.351	0.78
Significance (JDS.3)	4	21	14.62	3.834	0.72
Autonomy (JDS.4)	3	21	14.01	4.547	0.75
Feedback (JDS.5)	5	21	16.17	3.442	0.72
Agents (JDS.6)	3	21	10.29	4.213	0.73
Dealing with others (JDS.7)	3	21	12.99	4.009	0.71
Social Support (JCQ.SS)	10	40	27.14	5.998	0.87
Job Demand (JCQ-JD)	8	32	20.12	3.423	0.75
Job Control (JCQ.JC)	7	28	18.03	4.552	0.76
Extraversion (OP. EX)	18	74	42.38	9.767	0.84
Psychophysiological disorders (Trans.1)	6	30	11.62	4.42	0.82
Personal safety behaviors (Trans.2)	6	30	20.69	5.59	0.73
Safety behaviors in the vehicle (Trans.3)	6	30	23.95	4.98	0.75

572 Note: MBI.E = Exhaustion; MBI.C = Cynicism; MBI. PE = Professional efficiency; OP.EE = Emotional  
573 Stability; OP.CO = Conscientiousness; OP.AG = Agreeableness; OP. OE = Openness to experience; DF-8 =  
574 Driver Fatigue; SOFI.1 = Lack of energy; SOFI.2 = Physical exertion; SOFI.3 = Physical discomfort; SOFI.4 =  
575 Lack of motivation; SOFI.5 = Sleepiness; ATRS.ENF = Enforcement; ATRS.ATT = General attitudes;  
576 ATRS.EFF = Effectiveness; JDS.1 = Variety; JDS.2 = Identity; JDS.3 = Significance; JDS.4 = Autonomy;  
577 JDS.5 = Feedback; JDS.6 = Agents; JDS.7 = Dealing with others; JCQ.SS = Social Support; JCQ-JD = Job  
578 Demand; JCQ.JC = Job Control; OP. EX = Extraversion; Trans.1 = Psychophysiological disorders; Trans.2 =  
579 Personal safety behaviors; Trans.3 = Safety behaviors in the vehicle.

580

581 **Table 2**582 *Correlations between the predictor variables and the criterion variables (Burnout).*

PREDICTOR VARIABLE	CRITERION VARIABLE		
	Exhaustion	Cynicism	Professional efficiency
Age	<b>-0.168**</b>	<b>-0.167**</b>	<b>0.332**</b>
Academic Level,	-0.024	0.060	<b>0.117**</b>
Seniority	-0.042	-0.020	<b>0.217**</b>
Hours worked per week	0.007	<b>-0.120**</b>	<b>0.299**</b>
Enforcement (ATRS.ENF)	<b>-0.139**</b>	<b>-0.204**</b>	<b>0.413**</b>
General attitudes (ATRS.ATT)	<b>0.136**</b>	<b>0.109*</b>	<b>0.131**</b>
Effectiveness (ATRS.EFF)	-0.015	<b>-0.125**</b>	<b>0.478**</b>
Variety (JDS.1)	<b>-0.181**</b>	<b>-0.287**</b>	<b>0.207**</b>
Identity (JDS.2)	<b>-0.138**</b>	<b>-0.124**</b>	<b>0.253**</b>
Significance (JDS.3)	-0.057	<b>-0.257**</b>	<b>0.292**</b>
Autonomy (JDS.4)	<b>-0.153**</b>	<b>-0.155**</b>	<b>0.235**</b>
Feedback (JDS.5)	<b>-0.089*</b>	<b>-0.168**</b>	<b>0.312**</b>
Agents (JDS.6)	-0.028	-0.059	0.056
Dealing with others (JDS.7)	<b>-0.122**</b>	<b>-0.171**</b>	<b>0.163**</b>
Social Support (JCQ.SS)	<b>-0.216**</b>	<b>-0.266**</b>	<b>0.356**</b>
Job Demand (JCQ.JD)	<b>0.131**</b>	-0.003	<b>0.426**</b>
Job Control (JCQ.JC)	<b>-0.188**</b>	<b>-0.303**</b>	<b>0.506**</b>
Lack of energy (SOFL.1)	<b>0.688**</b>	<b>0.480**</b>	<b>-0.096*</b>
Physical exertion (SOFL.2)	<b>0.527**</b>	<b>0.420**</b>	<b>-0.163**</b>
Physical discomfort (SOFL.3)	<b>0.621**</b>	<b>0.434**</b>	<b>-0.147**</b>
Lack of motivation (SOFL.4)	<b>0.585**</b>	<b>0.530**</b>	<b>-0.171**</b>
Sleepiness (SOFL.5)	<b>0.561**</b>	<b>0.397**</b>	<b>-0.101*</b>
Driver Fatigue (DF-8)	<b>0.699**</b>	<b>0.481**</b>	<b>-0.141**</b>
Extraversion (OP. EX)	<b>-0.126**</b>	<b>-0.176**</b>	<b>0.264**</b>
Emotional Stability (OP.EE)	<b>-0.177**</b>	<b>-0.202**</b>	<b>0.631**</b>
Responsibility (OP.CO)	<b>-0.110*</b>	<b>-0.244**</b>	<b>0.575**</b>
Agreeableness (OP. Ag)	<b>-0.135**</b>	<b>-0.205**</b>	<b>0.380**</b>
Openness to experience (OP. OE)	<b>-0.198**</b>	<b>-0.151**</b>	0.074
Psychophysiological disorders (Trans.1)	<b>0.566**</b>	<b>0.438**</b>	<b>-0.150**</b>
Personal safety behaviors (Trans.2)	<b>-0.088*</b>	<b>-0.133**</b>	<b>0.317**</b>
Safety behaviors in the vehicle (Trans.3)	<b>-0.249**</b>	<b>-0.309**</b>	<b>0.486**</b>

\*\* . The correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (bilateral).

\* . The correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (bilateral).

583 Note: ATRS.ENF = Enforcement; ATRS.ATT = General attitudes; ATRS.EFF = Effectiveness; JDS.1 =  
584 Variety; JDS.2 = Identity; JDS.3 = Significance; JDS.4 = Autonomy; JDS.5 = Feedback; JDS.6 = Agents; JDS.7  
585 = Dealing with others; JCQ.SS = Social Support; JCQ-JD = Job Demand; JCQ.JC = Job Control; SOFL.1 = Lack  
586 of energy; SOFL.2 = Physical exertion; SOFL.3 = Physical discomfort; SOFL.4 = Lack of motivation; SOFL.5 =  
587 Sleepiness; DF-8 = Driver Fatigue; OP. EX = Extraversion; OP.EE = Emotional Stability; OP.CO =

588 Conscientiousness; OP.AG = Agreeableness; OP. OE = Openness to experience; Trans.1 = Psychophysiological  
589 disorders; Trans.2 = Personal safety behaviors; Trans.3 = Safety behaviors in the vehicle.

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591 **Table 3**592 *Summary of the models, variables and coefficients of the regression analysis (stepwise method)*593 *for Exhaustion (MBI-GS)*

Model and Variable	Models						Coefficient				
	R	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>2</sup> Adjusted	R Change	F Change	sig	B	SE	$\beta$	t	sig
Model-1	0.699	0.489	0.488	0.489	492.091	0.000					
Model-2	0.751	0.564	0.562	0.075	87.991	0.000					
Model-3	0.770	0.593	0.591	0.029	36.449	0.000					
Model-4	0.779	0.607	0.604	0.014	18.027	0.000					
Model-5	0.783	0.614	0.610	0.007	8.981	0.003					
Model-6	0.786	0.617	0.613	0.004	4.907	0.027					
Model-7	0.788	0.621	0.616	0.004	5.648	0.018					
Model-8	0.790	0.625	0.619	0.003	4.205	0.041					
DF-8							0.377	0.043	0.370	8.777	0.000
Lack of energy (SOFI.1)							0.226	0.035	0.269	6.464	0.000
Social Support (JCQ.SS)							-0.172	0.028	-0.175	-6.068	0.000
Psychophysiological disorders (Trans1)							0.211	0.049	0.158	4.314	0.000
Age							-0.041	0.013	-0.092	-3.258	0.001
Physical exertion (SOFI.2)							0.106	0.039	0.095	2.679	0.008
Significance (JDS.3)							0.089	0.043	0.059	2.079	0.038
Personal safety behaviors (Trans2)							0.031	0.015	0.062	2.051	0.041

Excluded variables: ATRS.ENF, ATRS.ATT, ATRS.EFF, Variety (JDS.1), Identity (JDS.2), Autonomy (JDS.4), Feedback (JDS.5), Agents (JDS.6), Dealing with others (JDS.7), Job Demand (JCQ-JD), Job Control (JCQ.JC), Safety behaviors in the vehicle (Trans.3), Physical discomfort (SOFI.3), Lack of motivation (SOFI.4), Sleepiness (SOFI.5), Extraversion (OP.EX), Emotional Stability (OP.EE), Responsibility (OP.CO), Agreeableness (OP.Ag), Openness to experience (OP.OE), Academic Level, Seniority and Hours worked per week.

595 **Table 4**596 *Summary of the models, variables and coefficients of the regression analysis (stepwise method)*597 *for Cynicism (MBI-GS).*

Model and Variable	Model						Coefficient				
	R	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>2</sup> Adjusted	R Change	F Change	sig	B	SE	$\beta$	t	sig
Model-1	0.530	0.281	0.280	4.215	201.164	0.000					
Model-2	0.576	0.331	0.329	4.069	38.404	0.000					
Model-3	0.616	0.379	0.376	3.924	39.563	0.000					
Model-4	0.630	0.397	0.393	3.871	15.196	0.000					
Model-5	0.640	0.409	0.404	3.835	10.542	0.001					
Model-6	0.649	0.422	0.415	3.799	10.843	0.001					
Model-7	0.656	0.431	0.423	3.779	8.150	0.004					
Model-8	0.663	0.439	0.430	3.749	7.386	0.007					
Model-9	0.667	0.445	0.435	3.732	5.707	0.017					
Model-10	0.671	0.450	0.439	3.720	4.273	0.039					
Model-11	0.676	0.457	0.445	3.700	6.458	0.011					
Model-12	0.679	0.461	0.448	3.689	3.954	0.047					
Lack of motivation (SOFI.4)							0.198	0.034	0.251	5.893	0.000
Psychophysiological disorders (Trans.1)							0.178	0.048	0.159	3.721	0.000
Job Control (JCQ.JC)							-0.191	0.046	-0.178	-4.183	0.000
CS.Vehicle (Trans.3)							-0.124	0.041	-0.124	-3.029	0.003
Significance (JDS.3)							-0.142	0.045	-0.112	-3.163	0.002
Driver Fatigue (DF-8)							0.137	0.041	0.160	3.389	0.001
Academic Level							0.584	0.189	0.105	3.089	0.002
Social Support (JCQ.SS)							-0.095	0.033	-0.115	-2.926	0.004
General attitudes (ATRS.ATT)							0.056	0.028	0.070	1.990	0.047
Conscientiousness (OP.CO)							-0.068	0.020	-0.164	-3.402	0.001
Emotional Stability (OP.EE)							0.043	0.019	0.118	2.223	0.027
Job Demand (JCQ-JD)							0.126	0.063	0.090	1.989	0.047

Excluded variables: ATRS.ENF, ATRS.EFF, Variety (JDS.1), Identity (JDS.2), Autonomy (JDS.4), Feedback (JDS.5), Agents (JDS.6), Dealing with others (JDS.7), Job Demand (JCQ-JD), trans.2.CS.Personal, Lack of energy (SOFI.1), Physical exertion (SOFI.2), Physical discomfort (SOFI.3), Sleepiness (SOFI.5), Extraversion (OP.EX), and Agreeableness (OP.Ag), Openness to experience (OP.OE), Seniority and Hours worked per week.

599 **Table 5**600 *Summary of the models, variables and coefficients of the regression analysis (stepwise method)*601 *for Professional efficiency (MBI-GS).*

Model and Variable	Model						Coefficient				
	R	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>2</sup> Adjusted	R Change	F Change	sig	B	SE	$\beta$	t	sig
Model-1	0.631	0.399	0.398	4.942	0.399	0.000					
Model-2	0.690	0.476	0.474	4.616	0.078	0.000					
Model-3	0.717	0.514	0.511	4.453	0.037	0.000					
Model-4	0.729	0.532	0.528	4.375	0.018	0.000					
Model-5	0.738	0.545	0.541	4.316	0.014	0.000					
Model-6	0.746	0.556	0.551	4.268	0.011	0.000					
Model-7	0.750	0.562	0.556	4.241	0.007	0.006					
Model-8	0.753	0.566	0.560	4.226	0.004	0.031					
Model-9	0.757	0.572	0.565	4.200	0.006	0.008					
Emotional Stability (OP.EE)							0.116	0.021	0.251	5.436	0.000
Job Control (JCQ.JC)							0.350	0.045	0.255	7.768	0.000
Effectiveness (ATRS.EFF)							0.224	0.048	0.164	4.697	0.000
Conscientiousness (OP.CO)							0.091	0.023	0.172	4.042	0.000
Seniority							0.005	0.001	0.110	3.726	0.000
Feedback (JDS.5)							0.168	0.058	0.089	2.881	0.004
CS.Vehicle (Trans.3)							0.115	0.046	0.090	2.483	0.013
Physical discomfort (SOFI.3)							-0.162	0.047	-0.177	-3.432	0.001
Lack of energy (SOFI.1)							0.125	0.047	0.138	2.661	0.008

Excluded variables: ATRS.ENF, ATRS.ATT, Variety (JDS.1), Identity (JDS.2), Significance (JDS.3), Autonomy (JDS.4), Agents (JDS.6), Dealing (JDS.7), Social Support (JCQ.SS), Job Demand (JCQ-JD), Tr. Psychophysiological disorders (Trans.1), CS.Personal (Trans.2), Physical exertion (SOFI.2), Lack of motivation (SOFI.4), Sleepiness (SOFI.5), Extraversion (OP.EX), Agreeableness (OP.Ag), Openness to experience (OP.OE), DF.8, Academic Level and Hours worked per week.

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604 **Table 6**605 *Summary of the predictive models for the criterion variables.*

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PREDICTOR VARIABLE	Factor 1 <i>Exhaustion</i>		Factor 2 <i>Cynicism</i>		Factor 3 <i>Professional efficiency</i>	
	$\Delta R^2$ Correct.	$\beta$	$\Delta R^2$ Correct.	$\beta$	$\Delta R^2$ Correct.	$\beta$
Age	0.006	-0.092				
Academic Level			0.008	0.105		
Seniority					0.013	0.110
DF-8	<b>0.488</b>	0.370	0.011	0.160		
Lack of energy (SOFI.1)	0.074	0.269			0.005	0.138
Physical exertion (SOFI.2)	0.003	0.095				
Physical discomfort (SOFI.3)					0.004	-0.177
Lack of motivation (SOFI.4)			<b>0.280</b>	0.251		
Social Support (JCQ.SS)	0.029	-0.175	0.007	-0.115		
Job demand (JCQ.JD)			0.003	0.090		
Job Control (JCQ.JC)			0.047	-0.178	0.076	0.255
Psychophysiological disorders (Trans.1)	0.013	0.158	0.049	0.159		
Personal safety behaviors (Trans.2)	0.003	0.062				
Safety behaviors in the vehicle (Trans.3)			0.017	-0.124	0.005	0.090
Significance (JDS.3)	0.003	0.059	0.011	-0.112		
Feedback (JDS.5)					0.010	0.089
General attitudes (ATRS.ATT)			0.005	0.070		
Effectiveness (ATRS.EFF)					0.037	0.164
Emotional Stability (OP.EE)			0.006	0.118	<b>0.398</b>	0.251
Conscientiousness (OP.CO)			0.004	-0.164	0.017	0.172
Total explained variance (%)		61.90		44.80		56.45

607 Note: DF-8 = Driver Fatigue; SOFI.1 = Lack of energy; SOFI.2 = Physical exertion; SOFI.3 = Physical  
608 discomfort; SOFI.4 = Lack of motivation; JCQ.SS = Social Support; JCQ-JD = Job Demand; JCQ.JC = Job  
609 Control; Trans.1 = Psychophysiological disorders; Trans.2 = Personal safety behaviors; Trans.3 = Safety  
610 behaviors in the vehicle; JDS.3 = Significance; JDS.5 = Feedback; ATRS.ATT = General attitudes; ATRS.EFF  
611 = Effectiveness; OP.EE = Emotional Stability; OP.CO = Conscientiousness.

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613

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**Figure 1**

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*Model followed in this research*

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