The Relationship between National Income and Occupational Injury

ABSTRACT

In this paper, we analyze the relationship between national GDP and safety standards by determining if the rate of fatal occupational injury is high or low. We examine countries in two broad categories: the developed markets and the emerging markets. This study is limited for the seven year range of 2001 through 2007. Among the selected countries in the developed economies are the USA, Norway, Germany, and United Kingdom. Among the selected countries in the emerging market countries are Russia, India, Mexico, and Thailand. We determine that countries in the emerging markets have higher rate of fatal occupational injury compared to the countries with developed economies. This analysis also demonstrates that national income and safety standards relate by determining the level of rate of fatal occupational injury low or high.

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11 Keywords: National income, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), occupational injury, safety12 standards

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1. INTRODUCTION

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17 Is there a significant correlation between the wealth of a nation and its rate of fatal 18 occupational injury? The quest to address that question is the focus of this study. In order to 19 examine this problem it is deemed that the study must be limited to a manageable number of 20 selected nations that represent either developed or emerging economies. This study has 21 narrowed the number of developed and emerging economies to four nations each. The main 22 reason for this small sample size is that these eight nations have complete and pertinent 23 data which has allowed for proper analysis and comparisons to be made. We are using a 24 linear regression model to determine the relationship between the rate of fatal occupational 25 injury, which is a dependent variable and the independent variable of GDP and the number 26 of cases of fatal occupational injury. This study is not an exhaustive attempt to compare 27 every major developed and developing economy. It is rather an analysis of four 28 representative nations for each category to determine if a correlation does exist. With this 29 limitation, the chosen emerging nations are Russia, India, Mexico, and Thailand and the 30 developed ones are the USA, Norway, Germany, and United Kingdom.

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32 In order to show the relationship between these two sets of economies, a few assumptions 33 have been made. The first assumption is that the developed economies have more robust 34 regulatory statutes that better prevent occupational injury and that these laws are more 35 rigorously enforced. The second assumption is that regulations in emerging economies are either less demanding and/or less assiduously enforced. Despite these assumptions, 36 37 occupational accidents happen in all nations, even in highly developed economies. The 38 Fukuhima nuclear power plant accident in 2011, in Japan has killed an estimated 1,600 39 people from post evacuation conditions [1]. The evidence for this study is derived from 40 statistics on these eight selected nations GDP, their number of workers, cases of fatal 41 occupational injury, and their rates of fatal occupational injury. The connection between national income and occupation injury which may be empirically assumed is strongly verifiedby the data presented.

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45 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

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47 The key purpose of this study is to understand the core reasons of man-made accidents. Various researchers have studied similar questions to the one posed here. Khazai, Merz, 48 Schulz, & Borst have used a framework to describe a regions exposure to indirect disaster 49 This proposed framework enables the combination of sub-systems including 50 losses. 51 industrial and social ones and identifies a regions vulnerability to losses. It further exposes the characteristic fragilities of the region and the coping capacities of the people within 52 affected areas to deal with such damages. An advantage of this indicator-based approach is 53 54 that it can be widened to include the vulnerably of other sub-systems such as Agricultural or 55 Ecological. One of the key advantages of this technique is that it can identify the most 56 vulnerable regions and even rank different regions as to their susceptibility. This in turn can 57 lead to better planning and implement the most cost effective mitigation measures. The 58 model is implemented through multi-criteria decision analysis software [2].

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A study by Park (2011) has recognized a set of statistically significant relationships which 60 quantifies the variables that determine the safety performance of a society. The findings 61 largely confirm the inverted u-curve or Safety Kuznet curve. This hypothesis identifies the 62 relationship between the safety performance in a society and its level of national income. 63 These findings have some potential implications. The first is for the policy makers in nations 64 that show a higher potential for man-made disasters. Included among these are the rapidly 65 growing economies and newly industrialized countries such as China and India. 66 The repeated mining accidents in China, for example, are likely the result of failure to 67 68 comprehend the root cause of the disasters. The other major implication is for multinational 69 insurance companies. They need to exhibit extra caution for those countries that are at higher risk, and they can develop a better strategy which may be more culturally sensitive 70 71 but may have a justifiably higher premium due to greater risk [3].

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What may be the worst industrial disaster ever, may have resulted, according to recently released documents, from the attempt to reduce operating costs which led Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) to cost cutting design flaws according to MacKenzie. The disaster which occurred at the <u>pesticide</u> plant in Bhopal, India on December 2–3, 1984 resulted in about 8,000 people killed and another 150,000 injured [4].

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79 The central thesis of an investigation by Saaroni is that while the risk of disaster may be mitigated, not all disasters can be prevented. The very concept of risk itself is based on 80 human perception and may not account for the infinite and unknown number of possible 81 82 variables. It is not possible to find all risk factors that may result in industrial disasters. In 83 those instances where crucial risks are identified, they still may not be manageable in an 84 industrial setting which is usually a complex system. A further complication is that industrial 85 complexes are created and run by humans. This alone puts doubt into industrial disaster 86 prevention. Other factors such as environmental factors and conflict may also avert industrial disaster prevention [5]. 87

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Passariello reported in the Wall Street Journal that well-known American and Western retailers became part of factory disaster legacy of Bangladesh in 2012 and 2013. Tazreen Fashion Limited violated fire safety rules that resulted in tragedy affecting a great number of employees and their family. Tazreen Fashion Limited was making clothes for Walmart and Sears. Liberty Fashion Wears Ltd had structural failures at their facility, and the Rana Plaza Factory also had a structural fault that led to a collapsed building. With these aforementioned industrial disasters, many famous retailers associate, such as Hennes &
Mauritz AB, Zara parent Inditex SA, British retailer Primark, part of Associated British Foods
PLC, Tesco PLC, Carrefour SA, Debenhams PLC, PVH Corp., Calvin Klein, N Brown Group
PLC, Wal-Mart Stores Inc., and Gap Inc. all demanded that the manufacturers enforce
improved safety practices [6].

This literature examines major industrial accidents since 1917. The information from these has been used to create a database called MInA (Major Industrial Accidents) which exists at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. The authors of this work Mihailidou, Antoniadis, and Assael, have made some interesting observations. They revealed that developed nations had a far greater number of industrial accidents compared with developing ones. The U.S.A. is only one of the 52 nations in the study and yet it accounts for 193 out of the total of 319 documented accidents (39%). The study acknowledges that developed nations have far greater industrialization and thus a greater potential for industrial accidents, but the much lower numbers in developing economies for such accidents may also be due to "the political, economic or social conditions" which discourage proper reporting. Although the total number of accidents in developed nation is much greater, the mortality rate in developing nations is much greater. This rate for developing countries is about 254 deaths per accident compared to 14 per accident in developed nations [7].

3. METHODOLOGY

Our hypothesis is that the relationship between safety performance in a society and level of
 national income determine the occurrence of fatal occupational injuries (See Graph 1).

H1: If the country has low criteria for safety standards then the country, the evidence shows,
 has more cases of fatal occupational injuries.

H2: On the other hand, countries with higher safety standards generally have fewer cases of
 occupational injuries.

We compare four countries from the emerging markets and four countries from the developed economies. The four selected countries from the emerging markets are Russia, India, Mexico, and Thailand. The ones from the developed economies are USA, Norway, Germany, and United Kingdom. Our data focus on the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), its number of workers, the number of cases of fatal occupational injury, and the rate of fatal occupational injury.





167 The rates for Russia, Mexico and Thailand are similar. The trend for India is significantly

- 168 higher, compared to Russia, Mexico, and Thailand.
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170 171 172 The rates for the four developed economies range from less than 1% to about 4%. 173 174 To assess the relationship between a dependent (rate of fatal occupational injuries in this study) and independent variables (the GDP and the number of cases of fatal occupational 175 injuries), this study incorporates a descriptive-correlation. This relationship between 176 177 variables requires implementing a linear regression. The results are evaluated based on the 178 Fisher F test, by utilizing SPSS software. The significance of the independent variables are 179 assessed when the Fisher F statistic is less than 5% (Sig F <5%). 180 181 The following linear regression model (1) is used to test the hypotheses: 182 Rate FOI_n = β_0 + β_1 * GDP_n + β_2 * Cases FOI_n 183 (x) 184 Rate FOI_n - the rate of fatal occupational injury (FOI) in the country in year n; 185 GDP_n - national income of the country in year n; 186 Cases FOIn - the number of fatal occupational injury in the country in year n; and 187 • β_0 is the constant coefficient and the β_1 to β_2 are the coefficients of all independent 188 189 variables in the regression equation. 190 191 Table 1 illustrates the research variables: 192 193 Table 1. Research Variables **Symbol** Variables **Description** Rate FOI **Dependent** Rate of Fatal Occupational Injury **GDP** Independent National Income

Cases of Fatal Occupational Injury

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Cases FOI

Independent

196 **Regression Analysis for Developed Markets** 197 198 199 The analysis for developed markets is based on the collected data from the four selected 200 countries, the USA, Norway, Germany, and United Kingdom from 2001 to 2007, and is found in Appendices 4, 5, and 6. As previously discussed, we assess the influence on the rate of 201 202 fatal occupational injuries from the GDP and the number of cases of fatal occupational 203 injuries in countries with the developed economies by utilizing the developed linear regression model (x). The results in Tables 2, 3, and 4 are derived from regression analysis 204 205 based the developed model using the statistics found in Appendices 4, 5, and 6.

		Table 2. Coeffi	cients ^a				
		Unstandardize	ed Coefficients	Standardized			
Model		B Std. Error		Beta	t	Sig.	
1	(Constant)	<mark>1.856</mark>	<mark>.159</mark>		<mark>11.655</mark>	.000	
	GDP	-5.162E-13	.000	<mark>-1.873</mark>	<mark>-4.376</mark>	<mark>.000</mark> .	
	CasesFOI	.002	.000	<mark>2.677</mark>	<mark>6.255</mark>	.000	

a. Dependent Variable: RateFOI

The linear regression model for developed markets is Rate FOI=1.856 – 5.162E-13 GDP+ 0.002 Cases FOI In terms of this problem, the above results demonstrate that every dollar of GDP lowers the rate of occupational injury by 0.0000000000005162 (5.12E-13) in the country with the developed economy. This relationship is significant because GPD's pvalue is 0.000, which is smaller than 5%. At the same time, every case of occupational injury increases the rate of occupational injury by 0.002, and the coefficient for Cases of FOI is statistically significant because its p-value of 0.000 is less than 5%.

	Table 3. ANOVA ^a											
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.						
<mark>1</mark>	Regression	<mark>32.430</mark>	2	<mark>16.215</mark>	<mark>60.180</mark>	.000 ^b						
	Residual	<mark>6.197</mark>	<mark>23</mark>	.269								
	Total	<mark>38.627</mark>	<mark>25</mark>									

a. Dependent Variable: RateFOI

b. Predictors: (Constant), CasesFOI, GDP

Based on the ANOVA table results for developed markets, the p-value is 0.000, and this value is less than the level of 5%. It tells that if the p-value is smaller than 5%, the independent variables reliably predict the dependent variable.

Table 4. Model Summary							
			Adjusted R	Std. Error of the			
Model	R	<mark>R Square</mark>	<mark>Square</mark>	<mark>Estimate</mark>			
1	<mark>.916^a</mark>	<mark>.840</mark>	.826	. <mark>5191</mark>			

a. Predictors: (Constant), CasesFOI, GDP

According to the results, 84% of the variation in the rate of fatal occupational injuries is
 explained by GDP and cases of fatal occupational injuries in the countries with developed
 economies.

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210 The regression analysis demonstrates the positive relationship between the national 211 income and the rate of occupational injury in the developed markets. However, higher GDP 212 and the status of developed countries may provide greater opportunities to invest in safety 213 standards and better enforcement.

215 **Regression Analysis for Emerging Markets**

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The analysis for emerging markets is based on the collected data from the four emerging market countries, of Russia, India, Mexico, and Thailand from the years 2001 to 2007, and which are cited in Appendices 1, 2, and 3. We can calculate the influence on the rate of fatal occupational injuries from the GDP and the number of cases of fatal occupational injuries in these four countries by utilizing the developed linear regression model (x).

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-				Standardized		
		Unstandardize	ed Coefficients	Coefficients		
Model		B Std. Error		Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	<mark>19.036</mark>	<mark>17.999</mark>		<mark>1.058</mark>	<mark>.300</mark>
	GDP	4.010E-11	.000	<mark>.347</mark>	<mark>1.794</mark>	.085
	CasesFOI	<mark>005</mark>	.007	<mark>143</mark>	<mark>737</mark>	.468

a. Dependent Variable: RateFOI

223 The linear regression model for emerging markets is Rate FOI =19.036+4.010E-11 GDP – 224 0.005 Cases FOI. In terms of this problem, the above results demonstrate that every dollar of GDP increases the rate of occupational injury in the countries with emerging economies 225 by 0.0000000004010 (4.010E-11). The coefficient for GDP in emerging markets is not 226 227 significantly different from 0 because its p-value is 0.085 or 8.5%, which is larger than 5%. 228 This reverse relationship can be explained by growing the GDP in countries with emerging 229 economies that do not invest in safety standards or enforcement of their standards. At the 230 same time, every case of fatal occupational injury decreases the rate of fatal occupational 231 injury by 0.005. This is statistically insignificant for the rate of fatal occupational injury because Cases of FOI's p-value is 0.468 or 46.8%, which is greater than 5%. 232 233

	Table 6. ANOVA ^a											
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.						
1	Regression	<mark>4865.165</mark>	2	<mark>2432.583</mark>	<mark>1.661</mark>	.210 ^b						
	Residual	<mark>36612.765</mark>	<mark>25</mark>	<mark>1464.511</mark>								
	Total	<mark>41477.930</mark>	<mark>27</mark>									

Based on the results from the ANOVA table on emerging markets, the p-value is 0.210

(21%) and is greater than 5%, it demonstrates that the group of independent variables does

not show a statistically significant relationship with the dependent variable, or that the group

a. Dependent Variable: RateFOI

b. Predictors: (Constant), CasesFOI, GDP

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Table 7. Model Summary											
			Adjusted R	Std. Error of the							
Model	R	<mark>R Square</mark>	<mark>Square</mark>	<mark>Estimate</mark>							
1	.342 ^a	.117	.047	38.2689							

of independent variables does not reliably predict the dependent variable.

a. Predictors: (Constant), CasesFOI, GDP

According to the results, only 12% of the variation in the rate of fatal occupational injuries is
 explained by both a nation's GDP and its cases of fatal occupational injuries in emerging
 economy nations.

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The results of regression analysis demonstrate the national income and the cases of
 occupational injury in the emerging markets the inverse relationship. It can be explained by
 under reporting the cases of fatal occupational injury and other factors that have a more
 direct impact on the rate of fatal occupational injury and implementing safety standards.

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250 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION251

The results from gathered data in developed and emerging economies can be summarized in the following form:

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Table 8. Summary on Occupational Injuries in Developed and Emerging Markets

Economy GDP		Cases of Fatal Occupational Injuries	Rate of Fatal Injuries	
Developed	170 – 14, 991 billion	37 - 5,840	0.6% - 4%	
Emerging	120 – 1,400 billion	605 - 4,370	9.0% - 117%	

The table details the countries with the developed economies and high national GDP implement have higher safety standards that lead to a lower rate of fatal occupational injuries. On the contrary, countries with the emerging economies and lower national GDP have lower safety standards that lead to higher rate of fatal occupational injuries.

263 The regression analysis provides evidence of a significant relationship between the rate of 264 occupational injury and the level national income (GDP) with the number of cases of fatal 265 occupational injury in countries with developed economies. The insignificant impact on the 266 rate of fatal occupational injury from the level of a nation's GDP and the number of cases of 267 fatal occupational injury was found in countries with emerging economies. This might be 268 explained by underreporting the number of cases of fatal occupational injury and even by the 269 growing level of national income which may necessarily translate into developing and 270 rigorously enforcing safety standards in the nations with emerging markets.

272 **4. CONCLUSION**

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274 This analysis shows that there is a significant relationship between safety performance in a 275 society and the level of national income. This further explains the markedly greater 276 occurrence of fatal occupational injuries in nations with emerging economies compared to 277 their developed counterparts. This is very apparent when a country's GDP is lower and its 278 safety standards are substandard or poorly implemented. Countries that have developed 279 economies with higher GDPs have fewer occurrences of fatal occupational injuries and their 280 rate of fatal occupational injury is also lower. This relationship between safety performance 281 in a society and the level of national income is an important consideration for management 282 when it considers outsourcing its manufacturing or any other business overseas. The high 283 risk of fatal occupational injuries might lead to major losses or even a business extinction 284 such as the one that affected like Union Carbide Corporation after the Bhopal disaster.

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A limitation of this study is that data for many major players (both developed and emerging) on the global market such as Japan, China, Indonesia, and Bangladesh, was insufficient to be included in this study. The recent safety issues in Bangladesh, for example, have yet to yield publically available data which might have the effect of reinforcing the conclusions of this study.

292 Future investigation might be focused on other factors that impact the fatal occupational 293 injury occurrences, or other factors that may influence the rate of fatal occupational injury. 294 Perhaps the most fruitful follow-up research will be conducted when data becomes available 295 to the research community to examine the true costs of doing business in nations with lower 296 occupational standards compared with developed economies. The linear regression model 297 had shown a positive relationship on the rate of fatal occupational injury between the countries' GDP and the number of cases of fatal occupational injury in developed 298 299 economies. Nevertheless, an inverse relationship was revealed among these same factors 300 in emerging economies. This model might be implemented in further testing of causes on 301 the country's rate of fatal occupational injury by expanding it with inclusion of other potential 302 variables for direct relationships. Another vital examination would focus on the apparent 303 anomaly discussed in this work which is the insignificant correlation between the rate of fatal 304 occupational injury from the level of a nation's GDP and the number of cases of fatal 305 occupational injury in nations with emerging economies. Any reason for this discrepancy is 306 an educated guess, but is nevertheless speculative. Reliable data for such a study may be 307 difficult if not impossible to procure. It is also deemed that emerging nations may have 308 substantial degrees of underreporting. They may also have insufficient enforcement of their 309 own standards. These assumptions are also conjecture. As nations become more 310 developed, international norms and standards may encourage emerging economies to 311 enforce safety regulations and accurately and fully report all major accidents, which in turn 312 may lead to more prosperous nations.

314315 REFERENCES

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347 **APPENDIX**

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350 Appendix 1: GPD in Emerging Markets

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Emerging Market											
				GDP							
Country	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007				
Russia	306,602,673,980	345,110,438,694	430,347,770,733	591,016,690,743	764,000,901,161	989,930,542,279	1,299,705,764,824				
India	482,967,940,906	504,946,434,158	591,332,373,599	715,459,354,731	837,499,067,126	947,912,052,610	1,206,110,390,294				
Mexico	622,092,637,151	649,075,575,302	700,324,664,927	759,777,472,170	848,947,464,609	951,915,698,648	1,036,000,680,567				
Thailand	120,051,854,636	134,064,590,967	151,997,909,265	172,637,545,862	188,620,150,176	220,826,400,537	261,825,647,965				

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This table shows GDP in US dollars for seven years in the selected emerging market countries. Among the selected countries are Russia, India, Mexico, and Thailand. The data were collected from the World Bank Web site [7].

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357 Appendix 2: Cases of Fatal Occupational Injury in Emerging Markets

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Emerging Market											
Country		Case	s of Fata	al Occup	ational I	njury					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007				
Russia	4,370	3,920	3,540	3,290	3,090	2,900	2,990				
India	1,366	1,346	1,663	1,581	1,780	1,514	2,140				
Mexico	1,502	1,361	1,427	1,364	1,367	1,328	1,279				
Thailand	605	650	787	861	1,444	808	741				

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360 This table shows the number of fatal cases for seven years in the selected emerging market countries. Among the selected countries are

361 Russia, India, Mexico, and Thailand. The data were collected from the International Labor Organization (ILO) Web site [8].

362 Appendix 3: Rate of Fatal Occupational Injury in Emerging Markets

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Emerging Market												
Country		Rate of Fatal Occupational Injury										
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007					
Russia	15.0%	13.8%	13.1%	12.9%	12.4%	11.9%	12.4%					
India	77.9%	87.8%	82.5%	89.3%	133.4%	98.3%	116.8%					
Mexico	12.0%	11.0%	12.0%	11.0%	11.0%	10.0%	9.0%					
Thailand	10.9%	9.9%	11.2%	11.7%	18.7%	10.1%	9.1%					

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This table shows the rate of fatal cases for seven years in the selected emerging market countries. Among the selected countries are Russia, India, Mexico, and Thailand. The data were collected from the International Labor Organization (ILO) Web site.

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371 Appendix 4: GPD in Developed Markets

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Developed Market										
Country	GDP									
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007			
USA	10,233,900,000,000	10,590,200,000,000	11,089,300,000,000	11,797,800,000,000	12,564,300,000,000	13,314,500,000,000	13,961,800,000,000			
Norway	170,922,851,074	191,927,027,230	224,880,794,328	260,029,106,208	304,060,069,849	340,041,912,704	393,479,162,082			
Germany	1,880,878,023,463	2,006,678,890,909	2,423,721,432,864	2,726,341,472,500	2,766,253,792,966	2,902,749,305,068	3,323,809,686,746			
Unites Kingdom	1,468,121,585,535	1,601,561,196,401	1,855,750,258,175	2,196,860,009,521	2,295,843,320,737	2,452,970,940,716	2,825,528,324,602			

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375 This table shows GDP in US dollar for seven years in the selected developed economies. Among the selected countries are USA, Norway,

376 Germany, and United Kingdom. The data were collected from the World Bank Web site.

377 Appendix 5: Cases of Fatal Occupational Injury in Developed Markets

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Developed Market									
Country	Cases of Fatal Occupational Injury								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007		
USA			5,575	5,764	5,734	5,840	5,657		
Norway	37	39	49	38	48	31	38		
Germany	1,107	1,071	1,029	949	863	941	812		
Unites Kingdom	210	191	174	179	173	220			

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380 This table shows the number of fatal cases for seven years in the selected developed economies. Among the selected countries are USA,

Norway, Germany, and United Kingdom. The data were collected from the International Labor Organization (ILO) Web site. Data is missing from 2001 and 2002 from the U.S. and from 2007 for the United Kingdom due to the absence on provided information to the International Labor Organization.

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386 Appendix 6: Rate of Fatal Occupational Injury in Developed Markets

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Developed Market								
Country	Rate of Fatal Occupational Injury							
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
USA			4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	
Norway	1.6%	1.7%	2.1%	1.3%	2.1%	1.3%	1.6%	
Germany	3%	2.9%	2.8%	2.6%	2.4%	2.5%	2.2%	
Unites Kingdom	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.7%		

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389 This table shows the rate of fatal cases for seven years in the selected developed economies. The selected countries are USA, Norway,

390 Germany, and United Kingdom. The data were collected from the international labor organization (ILO) web site. Data is missing from

2001 and 2002 from the U.S. and from 2007 for the United Kingdom due to the absence on provided information to the international labor
 organization