Swiss Re
Corporate Solutions

Impact of Heat Stress on Labour Productivity

Quantify the impacts of heat exposure on the productivity of your workforce across countries and business operations.

Exposure to high temperatures decreases labor productivity leading to less tasks achieved in the same amount of time. Some governments have also implemented policies that limit physical outdoor work and mandate breaks during periods of heat to protect workers health and safety. As climate change progresses, heat events become more frequent and severe increasing the economic loss of companies due to reduced employee productivity without the implementation of adaptation strategies.

Our Solution

We screen your portfolio to identify locations and business activities which experience the highest economic loss caused by the reduction in employee productivity due to heat exposure at present and under different climate change scenarios such as the Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs): SSP1-2.6, SSP2-4.5, SSP3-7.0, SSP5-8.5 scenarios.

We perform a deep-dive on metrics such as hours of productive work lost for different worker profiles ranging from office work to heavy physical labor.

We provide detailed climate metrics such as the annual number of high heat stress days which can negatively impact employee attention and cause increased error and accident rates.

What You Get

Identification of locations and business activities most vulnerable to the impacts of extreme heat at present and under different climate change scenarios and future time periods.

Detailed productivity and climate metrics to support adaptation planning.

Impact

Supports strategic decision making on business operations, workforce planning, and investments to counter climate-related decrease in productivity.

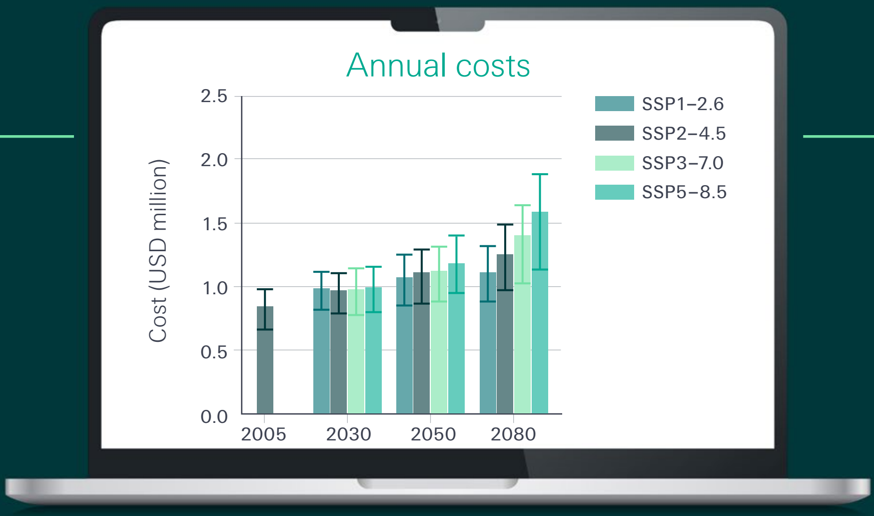
Helps risk assessment of workforce health and safety to reduce heat related health problems, absenteeism, accident rates and errors. Contributes to increased employee wellbeing, talent retention, and brand reputation.

Promotes increased supply chain resilience by identifying suppliers most vulnerable to extreme heat enabling proactive adjustments to sourcing strategies.

Key outputs:

- Annual economic loss of reduced labor productivity caused by exposure to extreme heat* for all portfolio locations and business activities.
- Annual productive time lost due to exposure to extreme heat* at present and under different climate change scenarios.
- Climate metrics to support adaptation planning. For example, the increase in extreme temperatures, number of heatwave days, number of high heat stress days, or annual cooling degree days.

Productive time lost 2050, SSP5 – 8.5 climate change scenario	
Paris	1.1 weeks
Phoenix, AZ	6.1 weeks
New Delhi	16.6 weeks



* Analysis does not cover heat exposure from industrial processes, for example from furnaces.

Interested in finding out more?
Contact your local Swiss Re Corporate Insurance representative.

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