

# **Stress and Wages: An Economic Interpretation of the Demand-Control Theory**

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In this paper we offer an economic interpretation of a socio-psychological theory of work-related stress. The job demand - job control theory of stress is extended by postulating a relation between stress, job demands, job controls and wages. It is argued that the extension of the stress theory with wages provides a richer explanation of the causes and consequences of work-related stress. The empirical results show that workers with more stress in their job earn less. Wages do not have a statistically significant effect on stress levels. The demand-control model of stress is corroborated in some respects, but not all.

**Keywords:** Work-related stress, wages, demand-control theory, compensating wage differentials

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