

Economies to die for: Impacts on human health embodied in production and trade

Topic: World Input-Output Modeling and Databases I

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Using an extended input-output model of 41 regions, this study evaluates impacts on human health embodied in production and trade. The input-output methodology is used in a similar manner as done in environmental studies related to ecological footprints. The study covers deaths attributable to pollution and payments made to the health industry by economic activities. These measures are assessed when output is delivered to satisfy final demands locally and abroad.

Findings show that Bulgaria, China, Indonesia, India, Latvia, Romania, Russia, and the Rest of the world are net producers of fatalities embodied in trade. It can be said that these regions save the rest of their trade partners from having to deteriorate some of the health from their citizens. Conversely, counteracting health deterioration, industries with highest levels of payments to the health sector per direct and indirect unit of output intended for final demand are mostly located in the developed world, with the clear exception of China, whose heavy industries appear to be making larger investments in human capital.