This thesis studies the influence of work on job and life quality, for the latter, I use as a proxy the perception that men and women have of their own health.

The first chapter of this research focuses on the long-term effects of job losses due to plant closure on job quality and satisfaction. Our results underline a large and long-lasting impact of job displacement on all dimensions of job quality and worker satisfaction. Specifically, for the former, we find a strong effect on wages,, perception of job insecurity, and the quality of the working environment.

The two last chapters investigate gender differences in self-reported health. Our results show that, conditioning on physical health, women report poorer health status than men. However, when mental health is accounted for, the reverse is true: women declare themselves to be in better health than men. These results underline the importance of mental health – and more particularly, depression – in accounting for gender differences in self-assessed health.

Finally, when we study the influence of social norms, approximated by the gender structure of the workplace environment, both women and men working in female-dominated environments declare more specific health problems than those who work in male-dominated environments.

Our findings are twofold. First, losing a job has a negative effect on several dimensions of job quality and satisfaction in the long run. Secondly, unrest and social norms at work are important to understand gender-related differences in health perceptions.