In this thesis the following research questions were addressed:

1. What is the probability that for an individual worker his LBP is caused by exposure to hazardous work?
2. What are the effects of primary preventive interventions on both mechanical exposure and musculoskeletal complaints?
3. What are prognostic factors for return to work after sickness absence due to musculoskeletal complaints?
4. What is the influence of modified work on return to work among workers on sick leave due to musculoskeletal complaints?
5. What is the contribution of perceived health status in the decision to return to work and the risk of a recurrent sick leave after a sick leave episode due to musculoskeletal complaints?