

## WAGE RATES IN INDUSTRIES ... in Electricity, Gas and Water Supply (Fifth of an 18-Part Series)

This issue of the LABSTAT Updates on the results of the 2006 Occupational Wages Survey (OWS) highlights the wage rates of selected occupations in electricity, gas and hot water supply. This major industry group is made up of electricity, gas, steam and hot water supply; and collection, purification and distribution of water.

The monthly wage rates of the 10 covered occupations in the power production industry ranged from ₱7,312 to ₱25,217. In the water industry, which also covered 10 occupations, wage rates varied from ₱6,717 to ₱20,393. The wage rates of other occupations in specific industries covered in the OWS are posted on the BLES website.

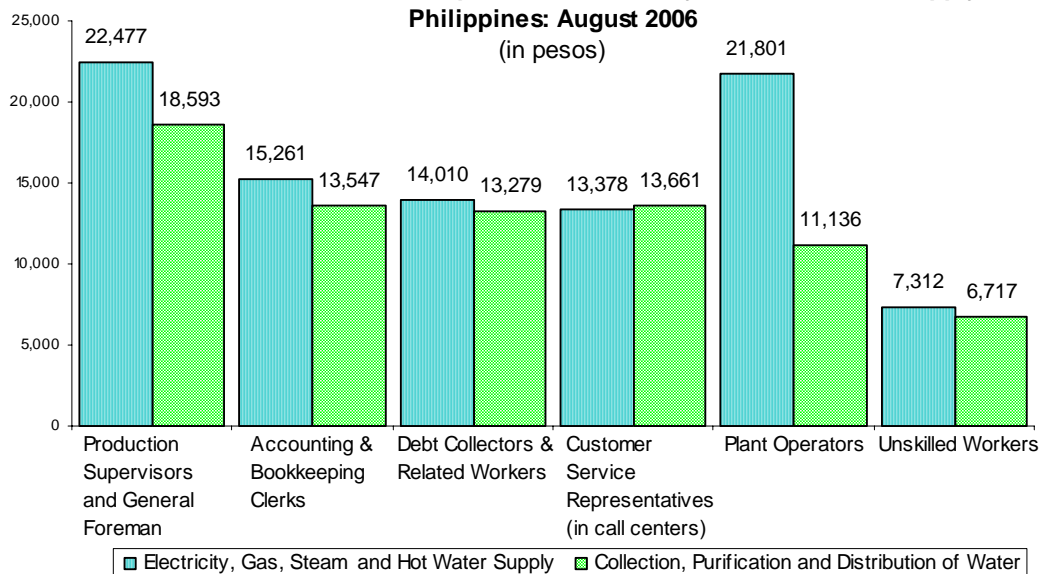
### Workers in power production paid higher than those in the water industry

In almost all of the six occupations common to the two industry groups under electricity, gas and water supply, workers in electricity, gas, steam and hot water supply (except Customer Service Representatives/ Associates in call centers) enjoyed higher wage rates than their counterparts in collection, purification and distribution of water. (Figure 1)

Noticeably, the average wage rate of plant operators in power production at ₱21,801 was almost double the rate of water plant operators at ₱11,136.

Least paid among occupations were unskilled workers except janitors, messengers and freight handlers: ₱7,312 in electricity, gas, steam and hot water supply and ₱6,717 in collection, purification and distribution of water.

**FIGURE 1 - Average Monthly Wage Rates of Time-Rate Workers on Full-Time Basis in Selected Occupations in Electricity, Gas and Water Supply, Philippines: August 2006**  
(in pesos)



Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, Occupational Wages Survey.

Among all the selected occupations, in the major industry group, electrical engineers in electricity, gas, steam and hot water supply received the highest wage rate at ₱25,217.

#### **Electricity, Gas, Steam and Hot Water Supply**

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Electrical engineers                        | 25,217 |
| Electrical mechanics and fitters            | 17,382 |
| Electrical engineering technicians          | 17,269 |
| Linemen, line installers and cable splicers | 12,673 |

The average monthly wage rates of the other covered occupations specific to the two industry groups are as follows:

#### **Collection, Purification and Distribution of Water**

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Civil engineers                                 | 20,393 |
| Quality inspectors                              | 15,497 |
| Plumbers, pipefitters and other related workers | 11,186 |
| Civil engineering technicians                   | 10,749 |

### **Monthly basic pay and allowances higher than the national average**

Nationwide, the median<sup>1</sup> monthly basic pay of time-rate workers on full-time basis in non-agricultural industries employing at least 20 workers was ₱8,035 while median monthly cash allowances (for workers given allowances) was ₱1,278.

Time-rate workers in electricity, gas, and water supply had an average wage rate of ₱12,734 which was higher by 58.5% than the national monthly basic pay. Similarly, cash allowances at ₱2,077 was higher by 62.5% than the all industry median allowance.

Across sub-industries, basic pay of workers in electricity, gas, steam and hot water supply averaged to ₱13,479 which was 34.6% more than the ₱10,014 average pay in collection, purification and distribution of water.

In contrast, the median monthly allowances of workers in the water industry at ₱3,537 was more than double the ₱1,532 received by workers in the power production industry.

<sup>1</sup> The terms "average" and "median" are used interchangeably in the analysis of basic pay and allowances.

#### **Definition of Terms:**

- **Wage rate** refers to the sum of basic pay and regular/guaranteed allowances.
- **Basic pay** refers to pay for normal/regular working time before deductions for employees' social security contributions and withholding taxes. It excludes overtime, night shift differential and other premium pay; commissions, tips and share of employees in service charge; and payment in kind.
- **Allowances** refer to regular/guaranteed cash payments. These include living allowance but exclude reimbursements for travel, entertainment, meals and other expenses, etc. incurred in conducting the business of the employer; cost of uniform/working clothes; bonuses and gratuities; family allowances.
- **Median** divides the wage distribution into two equal parts. It is the value where half of the workers in the distribution receive more while the other half receives less.

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#### **FOR INQUIRIES:**

Regarding this report contact **LABOR STANDARDS STATISTICS DIVISION** at 527-3000 loc 311/527-9325

Regarding other statistics and technical services contact **BLES Databank** at 527-3000 loc 317

Or write to BLES c/o Databank, 3/F DOLE Bldg. Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila 1002

FAX 527-9325

E-mail: bleslssd@bles.dole.gov.ph

Website: <http://www.bles.dole.gov.ph>

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