

## SAFETY AND HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE

### . . . Cases of Occupational Injuries

(First of a series)

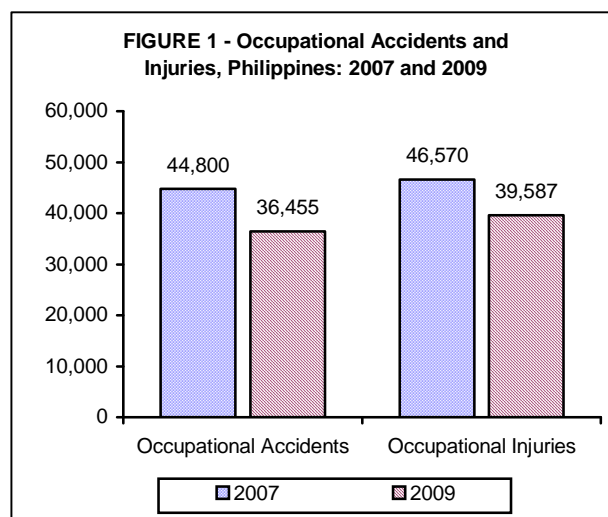
This series of LABSTAT Updates present statistical briefs on cases of occupational injuries and diseases that affected workers in private sector establishments in 2009. The statistics were based on the results of the 2009/2010 BLES Integrated Survey (BITS) conducted in 2010 by the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES) in coordination with the DOLE Regional Offices.

The BITS is a nationwide survey covering 6,780 non-agricultural establishments with 20 or more workers in 65 industry groups. It also generates statistics on employment of specific groups of workers; occupational shortages and surpluses; practices on balancing work and family responsibilities; working time arrangements; and occupational safety and health practices that can be used as basis for policy and program formulation and evaluation.

Specifically, this initial issue of the series discusses the results of the survey regarding the count of occupational accidents, and the number and type of cases of injuries due to these accidents covering the period 2009 compared with those of 2007. The metadata and the statistical tables of the survey are posted on the BLES website. (The earlier series of LABSTAT Updates on occupational injuries and diseases were entitled "Are our workplaces safe?")

### Work-related injuries declined by 15.0%

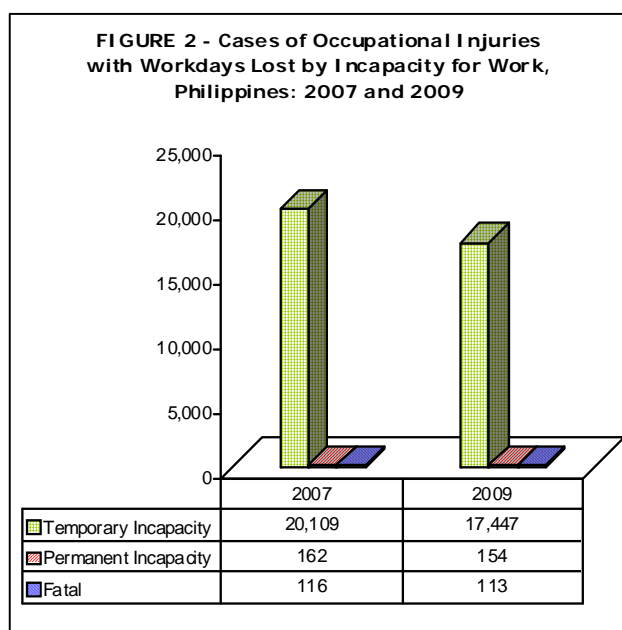
- Occupational accidents in 2009 reached 36,455, lower by 18.6% than the 44,800 accidents in 2007. (Figure 1)
- Similarly, occupational injuries that resulted from these workplace accidents declined by 15.0%, from 46,570 to 39,587.
- The highest share in occupational injuries in 2009 was observed in manufacturing industry (59.5% or 23,548), lower than the 66.1% or 30,790 recorded in 2007. (Table 1)



- While the lowest share in injuries was posted in financial intermediation at only 0.3% in 2007 and 0.5% in 2009.
- In relation with respective industry totals, seven industry groups exhibited declines in the magnitude of occupational injuries in 2009.
- The highest percentage decline was in other community, social and personal service activities at 76.0% (from 1,018 to 244).
- On the other hand, large increases were observed in private health and social work; and real estate, renting and business activities with as high as 315.2% and 251.1%, respectively.

**Almost all cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost resulted to temporary incapacity**

- A little less than 60% of occupational injuries in both periods required only first-aid treatment and did not require absences from work (26,184 in 2007 and 21,874 in 2009). (Table 1)
- Meanwhile, cases with workdays lost at 20,386 in 2007 went down to 17,713 in 2009, a reduction of 13.1%.
- Almost all of the cases with workdays lost in both years resulted to temporary incapacity of workers, a reduction of 13.2% over the period. (Figure 2)
- Similarly, fatal cases decreased by 2.6% and permanent incapacity by 4.9%.



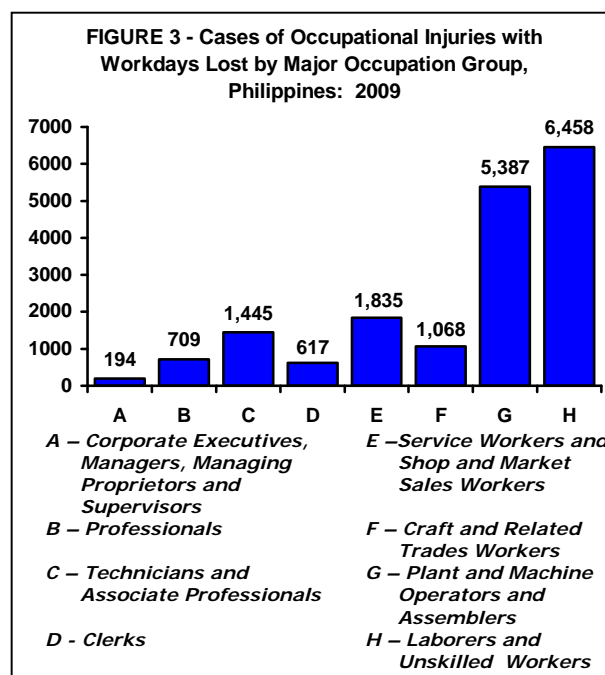
**Notable decrease in cases with workdays lost in other community, social and personal service activities**

- Recording the highest increase in its total occupational injuries, cases with workdays lost in private health and social work also multiplied by as much as nine times its 2007 level (651 from 67). (Table 1)
- On the other hand, significant decreases were noted in other community, social and personal service entities at 81.1% (from 185 in 2007 to 35 in 2009); private education services at 54.8% (from 436 in 2007 to 197 in 2009); and hotels and restaurants at 41.3% (from 1,877 in 2007 to 1,102 in 2009).

### **Laborers and unskilled workers were mostly injured**

- About two-thirds of the 17,713 occupational injuries in 2009 affected laborers and unskilled workers (6,458); and plant and machine operators (5,387). (Figure 3)
- Service workers and shop and market sales workers; and technicians and associate professionals followed with 10.4% and 8.2% of total, respectively.
- The least affected were the corporate executives, managers, managing proprietors and supervisors with only 1.1% share.

**Note:** No breakdown by major occupation group of cases of occupational injuries in 2007.



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

**Occupational accident** - an unexpected and unplanned occurrence, including acts of violence arising out of or in connection with work which results in one or more workers incurring a personal injury, disease or death. It can occur outside the usual workplace/premises of the establishment while the worker is on business on behalf of his/her employer, i.e., in another establishment or while on travel, transport or in road traffic.

**Occupational injury** - an injury which results from a work-related event or a single instantaneous exposure in the work environment (occupational accident). Where more than one person is injured in a single accident, each case of occupational injury should be counted separately. If one person is injured in more than one occupational accident during the reference period, each case of injury to that person should be counted separately. Recurrent absences due to an injury resulting from a single occupational accident should be treated as the continuation of the same case of occupational injury not as a new case.

**Temporary incapacity** - case where an injured person was absent from work for at least one day, excluding the day of the accident, and 1) was able to perform again the normal duties of the job or position occupied at the time of the occupational accident or 2) will be able to perform the same job but his/her total absence from work is expected not to exceed a year starting the day after the accident, or 3) did not return to the same job but the reason for changing the job is not related to his/her inability to perform the job at the time of the occupational accident.

**Permanent incapacity** - case where an injured person was absent from work for at least one day, excluding the day of the accident, and 1) was never able to perform again the normal duties of the job or position occupied at the time of the occupational accident, or 2) will be able to perform the same job but his/her total absence from work is expected to exceed a year starting the day after the accident.

**Fatal case** - case where a person is fatally injured as a result of occupational accident whether death occurs immediately after the accident or within the same reference year as the accident.

**TABLE 1 - Cases of Occupational Injuries With and Without Workdays Lost  
by Major Industry Group, Philippines: 2007 and 2009**

Major Industry Group	2007			2009		
	TOTAL	With Workdays Lost	Without Workdays Lost	TOTAL	With Workdays Lost	Without Workdays Lost
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,570</b>	<b>20,386</b>	<b>26,184</b>	<b>39,587</b>	<b>17,713</b>	<b>21,874</b>
Mining and Quarrying	181	95	85	331	127	203
Manufacturing	30,790	12,427	18,364	23,548	9,845	13,702
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	1,078	731	347	900	561	339
Construction	2,076	837	1,238	3,022	791	2,231
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods	3,785	1,658	2,127	3,608	1,811	1,797
Hotels and Restaurants	3,458	1,877	1,581	2,735	1,102	1,633
Transport, Storage and Communications	2,220	1,701	519	1,732	1,333	398
Financial Intermediation	131	48	84	193	147	46
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	403	325	77	1,415	1,112	303
Private Education Services	1,234	436	798	1,043	197	846
Health and Social Work except Public Medical, Dental and Other Health Activities	197	67	130	818	651	167
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	1,018	185	833	244	35	209

*Note: Details may not add up to totals due to rounding of figures.*

*Sources of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, BLES Integrated Survey (2007/2008 and 2009/2010).*

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**FOR INQUIRIES**

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

Regarding other statistics and technical services contact BLES Databank at 527-9311

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

FAX 527-5506 E-mail: bles\_issd@yahoo.com or visit our website at <http://www.bles.dole.gov.ph>

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