



## SAFETY AND HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE ...Cases of Occupational Diseases (Second of a series)

*This series of LABSTAT Updates present statistical briefs on cases of occupational injuries and diseases that affected workers in establishments in 2013. The statistics came from the 2013/2014 Integrated Survey on Labor and Employment (ISLE), formerly BLES Integrated Survey (BITS), conducted in 2014 by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in coordination with the PSA Regional Offices.*

*The ISLE is a nationwide survey covering 8,399 establishments with 20 or more workers in 69 industry groups. It also generates statistics on employment of specific groups of workers; occupational shortages and surpluses; training of workers; productivity improvement and gainsharing practices; occupational safety and health practices; occupational injuries and diseases; and labor cost of employees that can be used as bases for policy and program formulation and evaluation.*

*Specifically, this second issue on the module "Occupational Injuries and Diseases" focuses on the number and type of occupational diseases by industry covering the period 2013 compared with 2011. Occupational disease is defined as an abnormal condition or disorder other than one resulting from an occupational injury caused by exposure over a period of time to risk factors associated with work activity such as contact with certain chemicals, inhaling coal dust, carrying out repetitive movements, etc. The metadata and the statistical tables of the survey are posted at the PSA website. (The earlier series of LABSTAT Updates on occupational injuries and diseases were entitled "Are our workplaces safe?")*

### **Cases of occupational diseases doubled in 2013**

- Cases of occupational diseases in establishments employing 20 or more workers doubled in 2013 at 171,787 from 85,483 in 2011. (Table 1)
- It was observed that cases of occupational diseases increased in eleven industry groups. High increases were very much evident in mining and quarrying at 983.7% (from 854 to 9,255); construction at 377.1% (from 875 to 4,175); administrative and support service activities at 329.1% (from 13,078 to 56,115); and information and communications at 177.3% (from 2,257 to 6,258).
- In contrast, highest decline was observed in real estate activities at 69% (from 773 to 240), followed by water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities at 42.7% (from 464 to 266).
- Among industry groups, manufacturing recorded the largest share of occupational diseases in 2011 at 36.4% (31,096), followed by administrative and support service activities at 15.3% (13,078). While in 2013, administrative and support service activities (32.7% or 56,115) surpassed manufacturing industry (29.8% or 51,110).

- Meanwhile, less than 1% of the total cases of occupational diseases was observed in three industry groups in 2011 and five industry groups in 2013.
- On the other hand, the lowest share was posted in repair of computers and personal and household goods, and other personal service activities at 0.4% (367) in 2011 and in real estate activities at 0.1% (240) in 2013.

**TABLE 1 - Cases of Occupational Diseases in Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers by Industry, Philippines: 2011 and 2013**

INDUSTRY	2011	2013	Percent Change
<b>ALL INDUSTRIES</b>	<b>85,483</b>	<b>171,787</b>	<b>101.0</b>
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	2,757	4,803	74.2
Mining and Quarrying	854	9,255	983.7
Manufacturing	31,096	51,110	64.4
Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply	2,466	4,108	66.6
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	464	266	-42.7
Construction	875	4,175	377.1
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	6,256	10,816	72.9
Transportation and Storage	3,592	3,429	-4.5
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	4,681	3,712	-20.7
Information and Communications	2,257	6,258	177.3
Financial and Insurance Activities	5,110	5,504	7.7
Real Estate Activities	773	240	-69.0
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	894	1,517	69.7
Administrative and Support Service Activities	13,078	56,115	329.1
Education except Public Education	4,937	5,746	16.4
Human Health and Social Work Activities except Public Health Activities	3,010	2,986	-0.8
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	2,016	1,464	-27.4
Repair of Computers and Personal and Household Goods; Other Personal Service Activities	367	286	-22.1

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

Source of data: Philippine Statistics Authority, Integrated Survey on Labor and Employment.

### **Back pain, most common type of occupational disease in both years**



- The most common type of occupational disease affecting workers in 2011 and 2013 was back pain which accounted for 35.5% (30,374) and 31.6% (54,244), respectively. (Table 2)
- Other types of diseases had shares of more than 10% of the total cases. These included the following: essential hypertension (13.1%) and neck-shoulder pain (10.2%) in 2011; and essential hypertension and peptic ulcer (11.3% each), and neck-shoulder pain (10.6%) in 2013.
- The rest of the types of occupational diseases had very low shares in both years ranging from 0.1% to 8.2% in 2011 and 0.1% to 6.3% in 2013.

**TABLE 2 – Cases of Occupational Diseases in Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers by Type of Disease, Philippines: 2011 and 2013**

<b>TYPE OF DISEASE</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85,483</b>	<b>171,787</b>	<b>101.0</b>
Occupational Dermatitis	4,374	9,381	114.5
Occupational Asthma	3,652	8,914	144.1
Acute Poisonings	91	125	37.4
Heat, Stroke, Cramps, Exhaustion	1,044	1,792	71.6
Chilblain, Frostbite, Freezing	99	268	170.7
Deafness	868	296	-65.9
Tuberculosis	4,505	3,670	-18.5
Other Infections	3,773	6,395	69.5
Cataract	314	218	-30.6
Cardio-Vascular Diseases	2,030	1,679	-17.3
Essential Hypertension	11,241	19,382	72.4
Peptic Ulcer	6,967	19,434	178.9
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome	2,556	6,098	138.6
Shoulder Tendinitis	2,753	4,758	72.8
Neck-Shoulder Pain	8,733	18,255	109.0
Back Pain	30,374	54,244	78.6
Other Work-Related Musculoskeletal Diseases	1,156	6,099	427.6
Other Diseases	952	10,779	1,032.2

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

*Source of data: Philippine Statistics Authority, Integrated Survey on Labor and Employment.*

---

**FOR INQUIRIES**

Regarding this report, contact **LABOR STANDARDS AND RELATIONS STATISTICS DIVISION** at telephone no. 376-1921

Regarding other statistics, contact **KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION** at 462-6600 local 834

Or visit our website at <http://www.labstat.psa.gov.ph>

---