



BUREAU OF  
LABOR AND  
EMPLOYMENT  
STATISTICS

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT  
Manila, Philippines

# LABSTAT

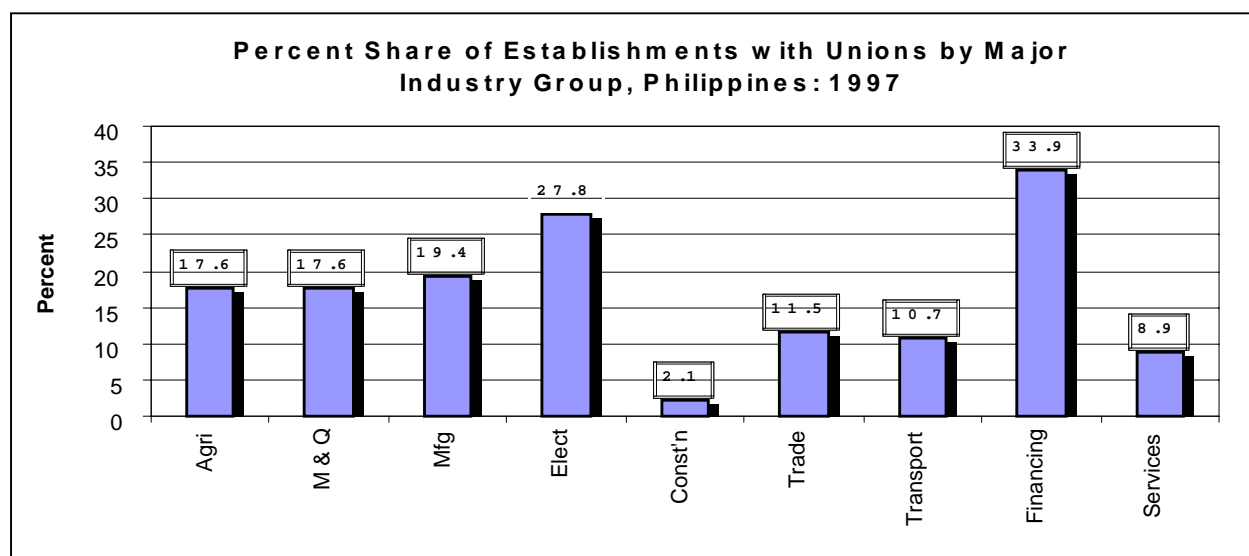
## Updates

Vol. 2 No. 19

September 1998

### EXTENT OF UNIONISM IN ESTABLISHMENTS IN 1997

This report is intended to provide estimates of the extent of trade unionism in establishments with at least 10 workers. Data presented and discussed were based on the results of the *Survey of Specific Group of Workers (SSGW)* conducted by the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES) in 1997. Extent of unionism is measured by the proportion of unionized establishments to the total number of establishments per industry or region. It is also called *unionization rate*.



#### 16.2 percent of establishments are with union

Out of the 43,358 establishments employing 10 or more workers in 1997, only 7,028 or 16.2 percent were found to be unionized. Financing, insurance, real estate and business services posted the highest percent share of unionized establishments

with 33.9 percent followed by electricity, gas and water with 27.8 percent. Unionization rate for the other sectors ranged from 2.1 percent (construction) to 19.4 percent (manufacturing). *Fig. 1*

### Most unionized establishments are found in Region VII

Regional disaggregation revealed that Region VII was the most organized among regions with 23.8 percent (571 out of 2,400) of its total establishments having unions. Next in magnitude was Region III with 18.7 percent (545 out of 2,907)

followed by Region XI with 17.7 percent (480 out of 2,712). The lowest share was registered in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) with barely 7.6 percent.

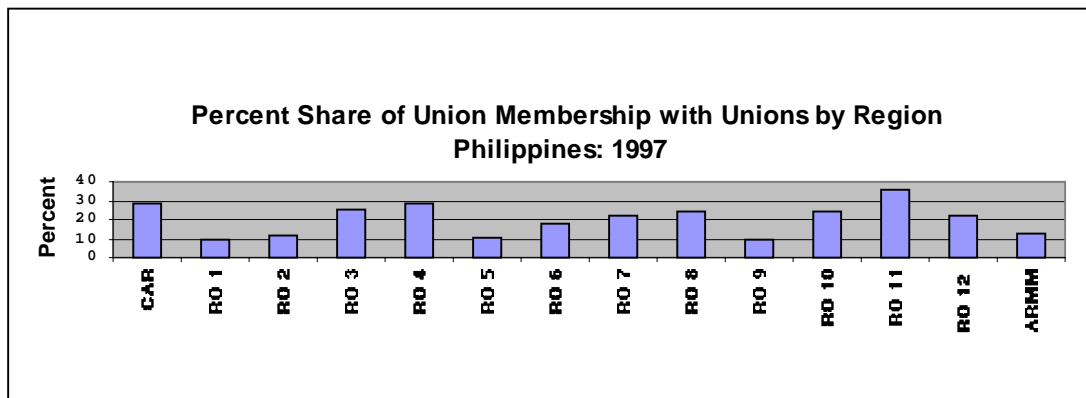
Table 1

### Workers in transportation, storage and communication, the most organized

Union membership totalled to 681,800 in 1997. This represents 23.8 percent of the estimated 2.865 million total workforce of the covered establishments. By sector, more than one-third (39.3%) of the total employed in the transportation, storage and communication were members of labor unions.

Manufacturing placed second at 35.6 percent followed by mining and quarrying at 35.2 percent. Expectedly, the least unionized were workers in the construction sector (2.2%) where nature of employment is highly seasonal and of shorter duration.

Table 1



### More than one-third of the total employed in Region XI are union members

More than one-third (35.8%) of the total employed in Region XI were reported members of unions. CAR, Regions IV and III followed with respective shares of 28.8 percent, 28.0 percent and 25.3 percent.

Meanwhile, lower shares were observed in Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (12.9%), Region V (11.0%), Region I (9.8%) and Region IX (9.0%).

Fig. 2

## **Sizeable proportion of union members are male**

Disaggregation by sex revealed that males accounted for almost two-thirds (65.6%) of union membership. Male union members totalled to 447,400, almost twice the number of female union members at 234,400.

Participation of women in labor unions was very minimal in construction (6.5%) and mining and quarrying (4.8%) as these are basically male dominated industries.

Similar pattern was observed in all sectors except in financing, insurance, real estate and business services where females dominated their male counterparts by 18.8 percentage points (59.4% vs. 40.6%).

Regional breakdown indicated that male predominated female union members particularly in Regions IX (82.4% vs. 20.6%) and XI (81.7% vs. 18.3%). *Table 1*

## **Unionism is more acceptable in establishments with foreign equity**

Some 40.4 percent of the estimated 3,741 establishments with foreign capital have existing unions. The proportion was relatively lower among Filipino-owned establishments at only 13.9 percent.

Correspondingly, a total of 241,100 workers or 36.8 percent of 654,400 workers in foreign-owned establishments were members of labor unions. In contrast, workers participation in trade unions in locally funded establishments recorded a mere 19.9 percent. *Table 1*

## **Unionization rate is higher in export oriented establishments**

Of the estimated 3,540 export oriented establishments, 1,136 or 32.1 percent have unions. This indicates a much higher percentage share compared to non-export oriented establishments with a unionization rate of only 14.8 percent.

Likewise, export-producing establishments reported a total membership of 296,600 (41.0 percent out of 723,700) while only 18.0 percent of 2,141 million workforce in non-export oriented establishments have joined labor organizations. *Table 1*

---

### FOR INQUIRIES:

Regarding this report contact **Labor Relations Statistics Division** at 527-3578

Regarding other statistics and technical services contact **BLES Databank** at 527-3577

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

FAX 527-3579 E-mail: [Irsd@manila-online.net](mailto:Irsd@manila-online.net) Website: <http://www.manila-online.net/bles>

---

Table 1 • EXTENT OF UNIONISM IN ESTABLISHMENTS EMPLOYING 10 OR MORE WORKERS, PHILIPPINES: 1997

Indicator	Total Establishments	With Unions		Total Employment	Union Membership					
		Number	Percent Share		Total	Percent Share To Total Employment	Male	Percent Share To Total Union Membership	Female	Percent Share To Total Union Membership
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43,358</b>	<b>7,028</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>2,864,700</b>	<b>681,800</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>447,400</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>234,400</b>	<b>34.4</b>
<b>Major Industry Group</b>										
Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry	1,019	179	17.6	130,000	41,700	32.1	35,500	85.1	6,100	14.6
Mining and Quarrying	148	26	17.6	23,600	8,300	35.2	7,900	95.2	400	4.8
Manufacturing	11,305	2,194	19.4	960,900	342,100	35.6	226,400	66.2	115,700	33.8
Electricity, Gas and Water	457	127	27.8	58,700	10,900	18.6	9,200	84.4	1,800	16.5
Construction	947	20	2.1	140,700	3,100	2.2	2,900	93.5	200	6.5
Wholesale and Retail Trade	10,171	1,165	11.5	359,500	45,600	12.7	24,500	53.7	21,100	46.3
Transportation, Storage and Communication	1,835	197	10.7	203,000	79,700	39.3	60,900	76.4	18,800	23.6
Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services	6,257	2,118	33.9	357,400	49,700	13.9	20,200	40.6	29,500	59.4
Community, Social and Personal Services	11,219	1,002	8.9	630,800	100,700	16.0	59,900	59.5	40,800	40.5
<b>Region</b>										
National Capital Region	21,194	3,581	16.9	1,546,200	362,300	23.4	215,900	59.6	146,400	40.4
Cordillera Administrative Region	510	39	7.6	29,900	8,600	28.8	6,800	79.1	1,800	20.9
Region I - Ilocos Region	1,361	168	12.3	54,200	5,300	9.8	3,600	67.9	1,700	32.1
Region II - Cagayan Valley	616	52	8.4	22,700	2,700	11.9	1,800	66.7	900	33.3
Region III - Central Luzon	2,907	545	18.7	127,900	32,400	25.3	21,900	67.6	10,500	32.4
Region IV - Southern Tagalog	4,401	700	15.9	283,800	79,500	28.0	50,000	62.9	29,500	37.1
Region V - Bicol Region	987	77	7.8	41,900	4,600	11.0	3,500	76.1	1,200	26.1
Region VI - Western Visayas	2,452	401	16.4	182,600	32,700	17.9	25,800	78.9	6,900	21.1
Region VII - Central Visayas	2,400	571	23.8	170,800	38,300	22.4	27,000	70.5	11,200	29.2
Region VIII - Eastern Visayas	566	78	13.8	32,800	8,000	24.4	5,900	73.8	2,100	26.3
Region IX - Western Mindanao	897	96	10.7	37,800	3,400	9.0	2,800	82.4	700	20.6
Region X - Northern Mindanao	1,596	143	9.0	84,000	20,800	24.8	15,300	73.6	5,500	26.4
Region XI - Southern Mindanao	2,712	480	17.7	210,200	75,300	35.8	61,500	81.7	13,800	18.3
Region XII - Central Mindanao	699	91	13.0	31,200	6,900	22.1	5,000	72.5	1,900	27.5
ARMM - Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao	60	8	13.3	8,500	1,100	12.9	800	72.7	300	27.3
<b>Type of Ownership</b>										
With Foreign Capital	3,741	1,512	40.4	654,400	241,100	36.8	151,000	62.6	90,100	37.4
Without Foreign Capital	39,617	5,516	13.9	2,210,200	440,800	19.9	296,500	67.3	144,300	32.7
Export Oriented	3,540	1,136	32.1	723,700	296,600	41.0	188,100	63.4	108,500	36.6
Non-Export Oriented	39,818	5,892	14.8	2,141,000	385,200	18.0	259,400	67.3	125,900	32.7

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

Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, Survey of Specific Group of Workers.