



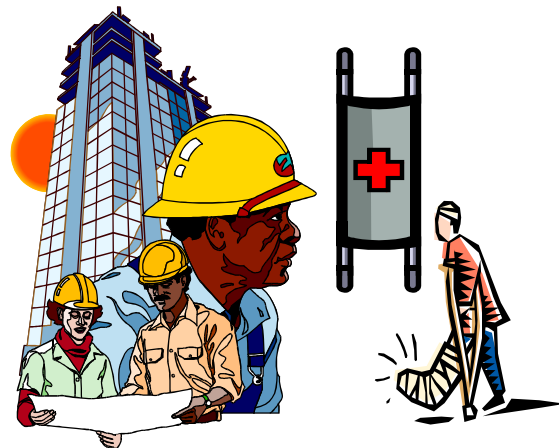
ARE OUR WORKPLACES SAFE ?

(Sixth of a ten part series)

While technological improvements may have contributed to gains in productivity, changes in work methods and machines used may have also exposed the workforce to greater risks in the workplace. In the past, the safety and health of workers was given lesser importance than the provision of monetary or economic benefits. Although this perspective has been gradually changing through the years, much has still to be done to ensure that the workers enjoy a safe working environment.

Injury statistics are useful to policy and decision-makers in labor administration particularly in the enforcement of health and safety standards. Further, establishments can use the data in their accident prevention programs.

This report is based on the 1991 to 1996 results of the Occupational Injuries Survey (OIS) conducted by the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics. The OIS covers establishments employing at least 10 workers. This sixth issue focuses on work-related injuries in construction.



ESTABLISHMENTS WITH INJURIES

Work-related injuries occurred in some 256 or about one-fourth of 1,018 construction establishments in 1991. Thereafter, about 40.0 percent to 55.0 percent of establishments in construction reported injuries in their workplaces. However, establishments with disabling injuries to establishments population posted relatively lower proportions ranging from 13.7 percent to 41.3 percent during the six-year review period. (Table 1)

Less than half of construction establishments with injuries reported

disabling cases in 1995 to 1996. In contrast, higher proportions were posted in 1991 to 1994 at 54.3 percent to 90.7 percent. (Table 2)

TABLE 1. COMPARATIVE STATISTICS ON ESTABLISHMENTS WITH WORK-RELATED INJURIES IN CONSTRUCTION, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996

(Establishments employing 10 and over.)

Year	Total Establishments	% of Establishments with Work Related Injuries to Total	% of Establishments with Disabling Injuries to Total
1991	1,018	25.1	13.7
1992	900	45.6	41.3
1993	1,038	44.2	36.5
1994	1,049	40.4	23.5
1995	1,090	55.1	24.2
1996	1,094	42.2	16.9

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

Meanwhile, more than half of construction establishments with injuries also posted non-disabling cases except in 1992 which reported lower share of 36.3 percent. It should be noted that an establishment may have both disabling and non-disabling injuries.

WORK-RELATED INJURIES

Lower incidences of work-related injuries in construction at 4,230 and 5,220 were reported in 1991 and 1992 respectively as against 8,870 to 19,300 injuries in 1993-1996. However, 1994 with the highest number of work-related injuries at 19,300 accounted for the lowest proportion of disabling cases (12.6 % or 2,440). On the other hand, 1992 with only 5,220 injuries reported the highest percent share of disabling cases at 50.8% or 2,650. (Table 3)

Throughout the 6-year review period, majority of both disabling cases (with workday losses) and non-disabling injuries (without loss workdays) occurred in the National Capital Region (NCR).

DISABLING INJURIES

The increasing number of construction establishments with disabling injuries generated an increasing volume of disabling cases in 1991-1993 (970-4,860). However, disabilities decreased to 2,440 cases in 1994 and further went down to 1,860 in 1996. (Table 4)

➤ ***Size of Establishment***

Disabling injuries yearly were noted mostly in construction establishments with 200 or more workers and in establishments with 10 to 99 workers. Their combined shares accounted for 79.4 percent to 97.3 percent of total disabilities in the six-year review period.

Construction establishments employing 100-199 workers had the least share of disabling injuries (2.7%-20.6%).

➤ ***Extent of Disability***

The largest portions of annual disabling injuries were temporary total disabilities, ranging from 950-4,740 cases. Both fatalities and permanent partial disabilities numbered to only 10-70 cases each. Permanent total disabilities were the least at 10-30 cases only.

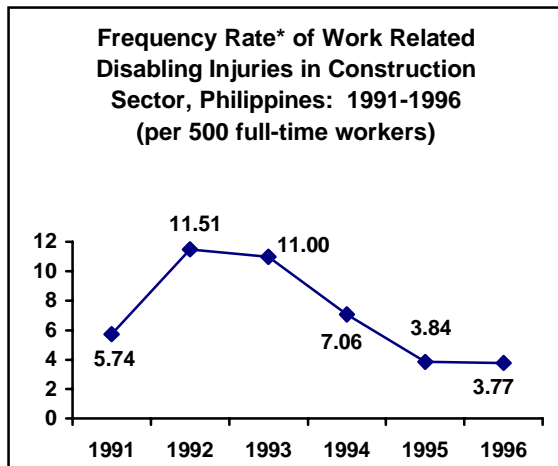
➤ ***Nature of Disability***

The 970 disabling cases in 1991 were mostly due to strains, sprains, dislocations, fractures (52.6 % or 510) and cuts, lacerations, punctures, avulsions (45.4 % or 440). From 1992, however, the substantial incidences of disabilities each year at 840 to 2,970 (39.8% to 61.1%) were cuts, lacerations, punctures and avulsions.

SAFETY PERFORMANCE

➤ Frequency Rate

Frequency rate of disabling injuries resulted to one injury for every 87 employed persons in 1991. However, for the next two years, disabilities occurred more frequently at one case for every 43 workers in 1992 and at one incidence for every 45 workers in 1993. Then in the last three years of the review period, safety in the workplace seemed to have improved as frequency rate of disabilities tapered off to one case for every 71 workers in 1994, slowed down to one case for every 130 workers in 1995 and further decreased to one case for every 133 workers in 1996.

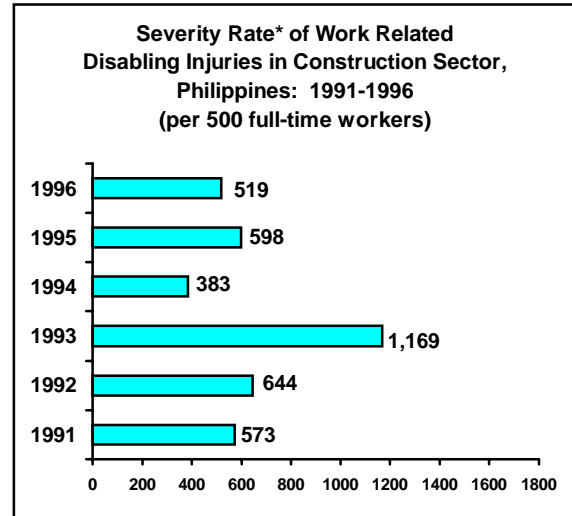


* Frequency Rate (FR) is the number of disabling injuries per 500 full-time workers each working 2,000 hours per year. It can be translated as follows:

CY 1991: 5.74 injuries per 500 workers
or
1 injury per 87 workers (i.e. 500/5.74)

➤ Severity Rate

Severity rate in 1991-1992 involved a little over one workday lost per worker (1.1 to 1.3 day). In 1993, however, safety condition at workplaces apparently deteriorated as 2 workdays lost per worker (2.3 days) due to disabilities were observed. Then indicative safety improvements in the work environment were noted as less serious disabilities in 1994-1996 entailed only about one workday lost per worker (0.8 day in 1994; 1.2 day in 1995 and 1.0 day in 1996).



* Severity Rate (SR) is the number of lost workdays due to disabling injuries per 500 full-time workers. It can be translated as follows:

CY 1991: 573 lost workdays per 500 workers
or
1.1 lost workdays per worker (i.e. 573/500)

The incidence of work-related injuries in the construction industry seemed relatively high particularly in the National Capital Region. Nevertheless, these injuries were less serious as duration was only a little over one day.

FOR INQUIRIES:

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**TABLE 2. ESTABLISHMENTS REPORTING WORK-RELATED INJURIES
IN CONSTRUCTION, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total Establishments	1,018	900	1,038	1,049	1,090	1,094
Establishments with Work-Related Injuries ¹	256	410	459	424	601	462
Establishments with Disabling Injuries	139	372	379	247	264	185
Establishments with Non-Disabling Injuries	182	149	237	329	472	383

¹ Establishments with disabling (with lost workdays) and non-disabling injuries will not add up to total as an establishment may have both kinds of injuries.

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

**TABLE 3. WORK-RELATED INJURIES BY AREA IN CONSTRUCTION,
PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total Work-Related Injuries	4,230	5,220	14,360	19,300	8,870	9,690
National Capital Region (NCR)	2,960	3,130	12,980	16,790	6,170	8,030
Outside NCR	1,260	2,100	1,380	2,510	2,710	1,660
Disabling Injuries	970	2,650	4,860	2,440	1,740	1,860
National Capital Region (NCR)	710	1,540	4,180	2,040	1,220	1,580
Outside NCR	260	1,120	680	400	530	280
Non-Disabling Injuries	3,260	2,570	9,500	16,860	7,130	7,830
National Capital Region (NCR)	2,250	1,590	8,800	14,750	4,950	6,450
Outside NCR	1,000	980	700	2,110	2,180	1,380

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

**TABLE 4. SUMMARY STATISTICS ON DISABLING INJURIES
IN CONSTRUCTION, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
TOTAL DISABLING INJURIES	970	2,650	4,860	2,440	1,740	1,860
By Establishment Size						
10-99 workers	110	1,180	3,830	1,350	920	280
100-199 workers	200	210	130	140	170	190
200 or more workers	660	1,260	900	950	650	1,380
By Extent						
Fatal	10	20	70	20	20	20
Permanent Total Disability	0	0	10	0	30	20
Permanent Partial Disability	10	20	40	70	60	40
Temporary Total Disability	950	2,610	4,740	2,350	1,640	1,790
By Nature						
Cuts, lacerations, punctures, avulsions	440	1,500	2,970	970	980	840
Contusions, bruises, hematoma, abrasions	150	460	420	390	120	280
Strains, sprains, dislocations, fractures	510	350	390	350	160	290
Burns and scalds (thermal/chemical)	30	30	110	80	60	30
Crushing, spinal, cranial injuries	30	30	60	50	60	60
Amputations, loss of body parts	10	10	10	30	110	30
Foreign body in the eye and other eye injuries	130	80	760	520	220	300
Electrocution, electric shock	10	a	120	40	30	20
Asphyxiation, poisoning	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other injuries	10	190	20	10	10	10
By Area						
National Capital Region (NCR)	710	1,540	4,180	2,040	1,220	1,580
Outside NCR	260	1,120	680	400	530	280

a Less than five (5) cases.

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