



ARE OUR WORKPLACES SAFE ?

(Eight 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 eighth issue focuses on work-related injuries in the transport, storage and communication sector.

ESTABLISHMENTS WITH INJURIES

Affected establishments (with injuries) out of all establishments engaged in transportation, storage and



TABLE 1. COMPARATIVE STATISTICS ON ESTABLISHMENTS WITH WORK-RELATED INJURIES IN TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION, 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	1,610	24.1	12.6
1992	1,423	35.8	23.3
1993	1,485	26.1	21.2
1994	1,589	25.1	9.6
1995	1,562	33.0	12.9
1996	1,639	35.6	12.8

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

communication proportioned at 35.6 percent in 1996 (583). This figure was higher as compared to 33.0 percent (516) noted a year earlier or to lowest 24.1 percent (388) posted in 1991. (Table 1)

Against 1,423 to 1,639 establishments in this industry in 1991-1996, only around 9.6 to 23.3 percent had disabling injuries in their workplaces yearly (203-331 establishments).

Meanwhile, establishments reporting disabling cases represented about 52.3 to 81.2 percent of

establishments with injuries in 1991-1993. Then, in contrast, their proportions were considerably lower at 38.3 percent in 1994, 39.0 percent in 1995 and 36.0 percent in 1996. (Table 2)

WORK-RELATED INJURIES

The biggest caseload of 8,980 work-related injuries was reported in 1996 compared to 5,220 to 6,810 noted in the years past. The 1996 level increased by 33.6 percent from 1995 and 62.7 percent from 1991.

In particular, the lowest 5,220 injuries in 1993 had the highest share of 59.2 percent (3,090) disabling cases while the highest 8,980 injuries in 1996 accounted for only 35.3 percent (3,170) disabilities. Moreover, the lowest number as well as proportion of disabling cases was observed at 1,450 or 25.4 percent in 1994. (Table 3)

Relative to location, the bulk of injuries occurred in the National Capital Region (NCR) except in the last two years where outside NCR (ONCR) accounted for 60.3 percent (1995) and 54.3 percent (1996). However, disabling injuries were prevalently ONCR cases at 52.6 to 68.7 percent.

DISABLING INJURIES

From 1,500 cases in 1991, disabilities were twice as much at 3,090 cases by 1993. Their level went down to 1,450 in 1994, almost doubled at 2,690 in 1995 then reached 3,170 cases in 1996. (Table 4)

➤ ***Size of Establishment***

Worst affected by disabling injuries yearly were establishments employing 200 or more workers. On the average, these establishments accounted for about 70.0 percent (1,030-2,470) of total disabilities in 1991-1994, then upped to 88.8 percent (2,390) in 1995 and then declined 80.8 percent (2,560) in 1996. Establishments with employment sizes of 10-99 and 100-199 workers had negligible proportions of disabilities.

➤ ***Extent of Disability***

Disabling injuries in 1991-1996 were mostly temporary total disabilities observed at 1,380 to 3,080. Others considerably lagged behind as their largest yearly accounts totaled to only 100 cases on fatalities (1992), 70 cases on permanent partial disabilities (1991 and 1993) and 20 cases on permanent total disabilities (1991).

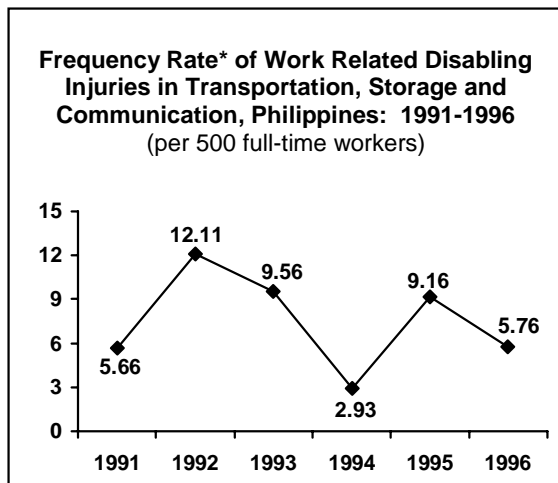
➤ ***Nature of Disability***

Cuts, lacerations, punctures, avulsions leveled to a minimum 610 cases to a maximum 1,610 cases (36.9%-49.0%). Other natures of disability were also recorded at 20.7-32.5 percent (300-1,030 cases) on contusions, bruises, hematoma, abrasions and at 11.5-23.4 percent (230-620 cases) on strains, sprains, dislocations, fractures.

SAFETY PERFORMANCE

➤ Frequency Rate

For the six-year account, the highest frequency rate at 12.11 (one injury for every 41 employed persons in this industry) was reported in 1992. By 1994, frequency rate has decreased to lowest 2.93 (one-injury out of every 171 workers). Then frequency rate increased at the close of 1996 to 5.76 (one injury for every 87 workers) which was more or less at par with 1991's record of 5.66 (one injury for every 88 workers).



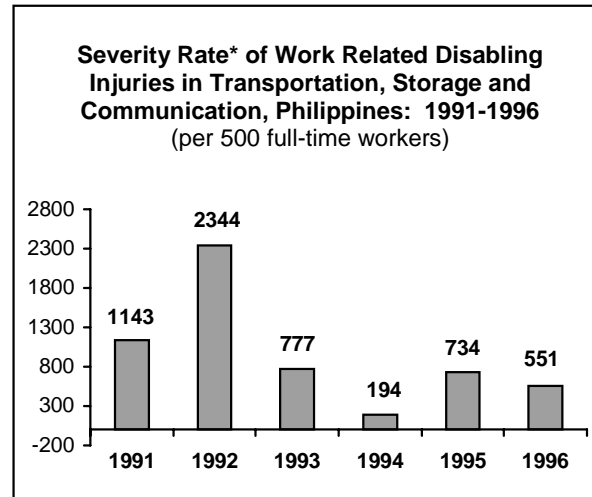
* Frequency Rate (FR) is the number of disabling injuries per 500 full-time workers each working 2,000 hours per year. It can be translated as follows:

CY 1991: 5.66 injuries per 500 workers
or
1 injury per 88 workers (i.e. 500/5.66)

➤ Severity Rate

Due to previously noted highest frequency rate of disabilities in 1992, most serious disabling injuries at 2,344

workdays lost (4.7 workdays lost per worker) was posted on the same year. Likewise, 1994 which had the lowest frequency rate placed the least severity rate of disabilities with 194 workplace lost (0.4 workdays lost per worker). By 1996, severity rate upped again to 551 workdays lost (1.1 lost workdays per worker).



* 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: 1,143 lost workdays per 500 workers
or
2.3 lost workdays per worker (i.e. 1,143/500)

Considering the nature of their activity and thus perennially susceptible to high incidence and seriousness of disabling injuries, transport and related establishments require constant vigilance and adherence to safe practices in their workareas.

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**TABLE 2. ESTABLISHMENTS REPORTING
WORK-RELATED INJURIES IN TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE
AND COMMUNICATION, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total Establishments	1,610	1,423	1,485	1,589	1,562	1,639
Establishments with Work-Related Injuries ¹	388	509	388	399	516	583
Establishments with Disabling Injuries	203	331	315	153	201	210
Establishments with Non-Disabling Injuries	233	310	118	318	417	534

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 TRANSPORTATION,
STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total Work-Related Injuries	5,520	6,810	5,220	5,700	6,720	8,980
National Capital Region (NCR)	2,820	3,510	2,820	3,900	2,670	4,100
Outside NCR	2,700	3,300	2,390	1,800	4,050	4,880
Disabling Injuries	1,500	3,460	3,090	1,450	2,690	3,170
National Capital Region (NCR)	470	1,640	1,420	990	910	1,370
Outside NCR	1,030	1,820	1,670	460	1,780	1,810
Non-Disabling Injuries	4,020	3,350	2,130	4,250	4,020	5,800
National Capital Region (NCR)	2,350	1,870	1,400	2,910	1,760	2,730
Outside NCR	1,670	1,480	720	1,340	2,260	3,080

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

**TABLE 4. SUMMARY STATISTICS ON DISABLING INJURIES
IN TRANSPORTATION, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION,
PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
TOTAL DISABLING INJURIES	1,500	3,460	3,090	1,450	2,690	3,170
By Establishment Size						
10-99 workers	140	740	580	410	280	310
100-199 workers	280	250	220	20	20	300
200 or more workers	1,070	2,470	2,290	1,030	2,390	2,560
By Extent						
Fatal	30	100	30	10	20	40
Permanent Total Disability	20	a	a	a	10	a
Permanent Partial Disability	70	30	70	40	30	50
Temporary Total Disability	1,380	3,320	2,990	1,400	2,630	3,080
By Nature						
Cuts, lacerations, punctures, avulsions	610	1,610	1,240	710	1,280	1,170
Contusions, bruises, hematoma, abrasions	380	790	720	300	800	1,030
Strains, sprains, dislocations, fractures	230	620	480	340	310	470
Burns and scalds (thermal/chemical)	110	320	180	20	80	90
Crushing, spinal, cranial injuries	40	50	60	20	60	150
Amputations, loss of body parts	40	a	40	a	30	30
Foreign body in the eye and other eye injuries	70	30	260	50	110	200
Electrocution, electric shock	a	a	10	a	a	0
Asphyxiation, poisoning	a	30	a	0	10	10
Other injuries	10	a	100	a	10	20
By Area						
National Capital Region (NCR)	470	1,640	1,420	990	910	1,370
Outside NCR	1,030	1,820	1,670	460	1,780	1,810

a Less than five (5) cases.

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