



BUREAU OF  
LABOR AND  
EMPLOYMENT  
STATISTICS

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT  
Manila, Philippines

# LABSTAT

## Updates

Vol. 3 No. 24

November 1999

## ARE OUR WORKPLACES SAFE ?

(Ninth 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 ninth issue focuses on work-related injuries in financing, insurance, real estate and business services sector.*

### ESTABLISHMENTS WITH INJURIES

Out of total 5,223 financing, insurance, real estate and business services establishments employing 10

or more workers in 1996, only around 10.5 percent or 550 had work-related injuries. This was lower than 12.0 percent (608 out of 5,057) reported a year earlier. In 1991-1994, less than the 500 workplaces affected yearly proportioned from 6.6 percent to 8.7 percent of total establishments. (Table 1)

Meanwhile, workplaces with injuries involving workday losses (disabilities) as proportions of total establishments were from lowest 3.2 percent (171 in 1994) to highest 6.7 percent (353 in 1993) of the six-year period.

**TABLE 1. COMPARATIVE STATISTICS ON ESTABLISHMENTS WITH WORK-RELATED INJURIES IN FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES, 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	5,225	6.6	4.9
1992	5,193	7.5	5.2
1993	5,234	8.3	6.7
1994	5,272	8.7	3.2
1995	5,057	12.0	5.2
1996	5,223	10.5	4.7

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

Relative to all establishments with workplace injuries, those reporting disabilities registered relatively higher percent shares from 69.4 percent to 81.0 percent in 1991-1993 as compared to 37.3 percent to 44.4 percent in 1994-1996. (Table 2)

## **WORK-RELATED INJURIES**

There were only 2,410 to 4,400 work-related injuries every year in 1991-1993 as against 5,350 to 8,730 cases in 1993-1996. Nevertheless, the second half of the review period posted quite lower shares of disabling injuries from 490 to 880 (8.1% to 16.4%) compared to 1991-1993 record of 990 to 1,640 cases or 25.3%-41.9%. (Table 3)

The six-year account of work-related injuries were prevalently non-disabling cases ranging from 58.1 percent to 91.9 percent.

Geographically, workplace injuries in the National Capital Region prevailed with yearly shares ranging from 64.8 percent to 94.7 percent against outside NCR's 5.3 percent to 35.2 percent.

## **DISABLING INJURIES**

The largest caseload of 1,640 disabilities was reported in the sector in 1993 while the lowest count was 490 cases in 1995. (Table 4)

### ➤ ***Size of Establishment***

From 1991-1993, disabling cases (48.5%-75.8%) mostly occurred in establishments with 10-99 workers. Then, proportions in this employment size dropped drastically to 16.5 percent in 1994 but upped again to 38.8 percent in 1995. By 1996, its continued increasing trend placed again a majority share of 70.5 percent of disabling injuries.

In 1994-1995, however, largest shares of disabilities affected establishments with 200 or more workers. In contrast, establishments with 100-199 workers consistently recorded the least portions of disabilities except in 1994 when their shares reached to 38.0 percent.

### ➤ ***Extent of Disability***

In the 6-year review period, temporary total disabilities accounted for 73.3 percent up to 93.9 percent of injuries with workday losses. Minimal shares were recorded for permanent total and partial disabilities. Fatalities were also substantially noted lesser at 10-60 cases each year.

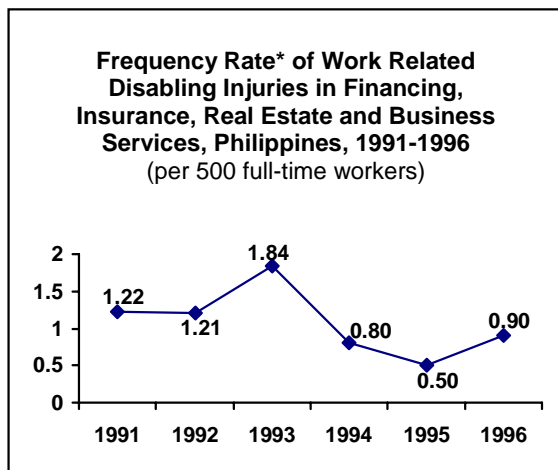
### ➤ ***Nature of Disability***

Disabilities every year were mostly due to cuts, lacerations, punctures, avulsions-29.5 percent to 59.1 percent. Substantial shares were also noted for contussions, bruises, hematoma, abrasions (13.1%-25.0%) and strains, sprains, dislocations, fractures (7.9%-29.1%).

## SAFETY PERFORMANCE

### ➤ Frequency Rate

In 1991, frequency rate of disabling injuries at 1.22 meant one out of every 410 workers sustained a disability while at work. Five years later, frequency rate at 0.90 or one injury for every 556 workers indicated even much more better working environment in this industry.



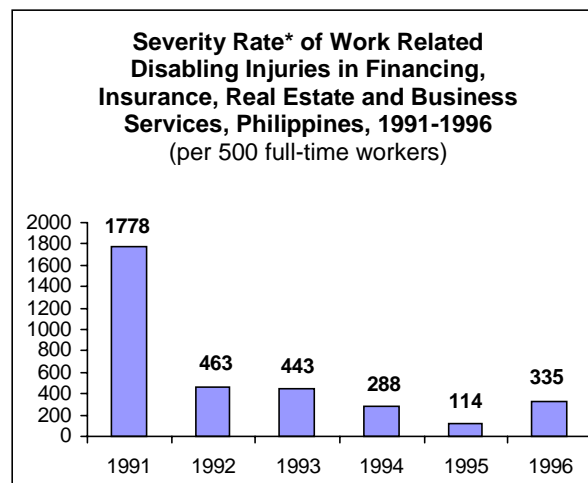
\* Frequency Rate (FR) is the number of disabling injuries per 500 full-time workers each working 2,000 hours per year. It can be translated as follows:

**CY 1991: 1.22 injuries per 500 workers**  
or  
**1 injury per 410 workers (i.e. 500/1.22)**

### ➤ Severity Rate

Severity rate of disabilities in 1991 was reported at 1,778 of 3.6 lost workdays per worker. Since then, severity rates ranged from 114 to 463 lost workdays or averaged to barely one lost workday per worker (0.2-0.9 per worker) in 1992-1996.

The high severity rate of injuries in 1991 was largely attributed to security agencies and banking institutions that have reported increased casualties on their manpower due to the unusual spate of bank robberies then.



\* 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: 1,778 lost workdays per 500 workers**  
or  
**3.6 lost workdays per worker (i.e. 1,778/500)**

Across industries, financing and related industries was observed to be the safest.

---

#### FOR INQUIRIES:

Regarding this report contact **Labor Standards Statistics Division** at 527-3489

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: [Issd@manila-online.net](mailto:Issd@manila-online.net) Website: <http://www.manila-online.net/bles>

---

**TABLE 2. ESTABLISHMENTS REPORTING  
WORK-RELATED INJURIES IN FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE  
AND BUSINESS SERVICES, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
<i>Total Establishments</i>	5,225	5,193	5,234	5,272	5,057	5,223
<i>Establishments with Work-Related Injuries</i> <sup>1</sup>	344	389	436	458	608	550
<i>Establishments with Disabling Injuries</i>	254	270	353	171	264	244
<i>Establishments with Non-Disabling Injuries</i>	135	166	202	375	441	398

<sup>1</sup> 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 FINANCING, INSURANCE,  
REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
<i>Total Work-Related Injuries</i>	2,410	3,920	4,400	8,730	6,070	5,350
National Capital Region (NCR)	1,630	3,340	2,850	8,270	5,620	4,740
Outside NCR	780	580	1,550	460	440	610
<i>Disabling Injuries</i>	1,010	990	1,640	790	490	880
National Capital Region (NCR)	500	650	590	720	360	810
Outside NCR	510	340	1,050	70	130	70
<i>Non-Disabling Injuries</i>	1,400	2,930	2,760	7,940	5,580	4,480
National Capital Region (NCR)	1,130	2,690	2,260	7,550	5,260	3,930
Outside NCR	270	240	500	390	310	550

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

**TABLE 4. SUMMARY STATISTICS ON DISABLING INJURIES  
IN FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS  
SERVICES, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
<b>TOTAL DISABLING INJURIES</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>880</b>
<b>By Establishment Size</b>						
10-99 workers	490	750	1,130	130	190	620
100-199 workers	80	90	130	300	70	70
200 or more workers	440	150	380	360	230	190
<b>By Extent</b>						
Fatal	60	60	60	40	10	40
Permanent Total Disability	180	a	a	10	10	10
Permanent Partial Disability	20	10	40	10	90	20
Temporary Total Disability	740	920	1,540	730	390	810
<b>By Nature</b>						
Cuts, lacerations, punctures, avulsions	320	450	970	370	170	260
Contusions, bruises, hematoma, abrasions	140	130	320	160	80	220
Strains, sprains, dislocations, fractures	140	280	130	230	80	140
Burns and scalds (thermal/chemical)	50	a	70	20	10	20
Crushing, spinal, cranial injuries	a	120	20	10	10	40
Amputations, loss of body parts	20	0	40	a	10	20
Foreign body in the eye and other eye injuries	20	a	40	0	70	140
Electrocution, electric shock	a	0	10	0	a	a
Asphyxiation, poisoning	a	0	a	a	a	10
Other injuries	310	10	50	a	60	30
<b>By Area</b>						
National Capital Region (NCR)	500	650	590	720	360	810
Outside NCR	510	340	1,050	70	130	70

*a Less than five (5) cases.*

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