

Vol. 6 No. 11

May 2002



## ARE OUR WORKPLACES SAFE?

(1<sup>ST</sup> of a Series)



*This series of the Labstat Updates is a presentation of thirteen issues on the results of the 2000 Occupational Injuries Survey (OIS). This survey has been redesigned to better serve its objective to generate statistics on occupational injuries that are useful to labor administrators in their formulation of effective policies and decision making on the enforcement of safety and health standards and to safety practitioners of the private sector in their development and implementation of programs on accident prevention.*

*In 1990-1996, the OIS that has been conducted annually nationwide then followed the classification by extent of disability (fatal, permanent total disability, permanent partial disability and temporary disability) set under the Employees Compensation Program for compensation and insurance purposes.*

*Starting with OIS 2000, changes undertaken have been in line with the Resolution Concerning Statistics of Occupational Injuries Resulting from Occupational Accidents adopted by the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians in October 1998. Data coverage has been expanded to include injuries by occupation, part of body injured and cause of injury. It has also adopted the concept of incapacity for work (permanent and temporary) of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in lieu of the previous classification by extent of disability. Establishment coverage has also been changed to include only those non-agricultural establishments employing at least 20 workers.*

*This first issue is an all-industries profile on occupational injuries resulting from occupational accidents. (An **Occupational Injury** is any personal injury, disease or death resulting from an occupational accident. It is distinct from an occupational disease, which is a disease contracted as a result of an exposure over a period of time to risk factors such as contact with asbestos, lead, inhaling cotton dust, carrying out repetitive movement arising from work activity).*

*Subsequent issues on this series will discuss occupational injuries in specific major industries.*

### CASES OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES

Non-agricultural establishments employing 20 or more workers experienced a total of 69,208 cases of occupational injuries in calendar year 2000.

Most of these cases were without lost workdays (61.8%). This means that the injury sustained

- A case of occupational injury is the case of one worker incurring an occupational injury as a result of one occupational accident. If one person is injured in more than one occupational accident during the reference period, each case of injury to that person should be counted separately. Where more than one person is injured in a single accident, each case of occupational injury shall be counted separately.

required only first aid or medical treatment on the day of the accident and the worker was able to resume his/her normal work activities from the day after the day of the accident. The remaining cases (38.2%), however, incurred lost workdays or the injured worker was not able to go back to work starting from the day after the day of the accident.

Sectorally, manufacturing turned-out with the largest count of 46,955 cases (67.8% of all industries). Other industries placed relatively lesser cases with hotels and restaurants following far behind with only 8,217 (11.9%) while mining and quarrying had the least of only 78 cases (0.1%).

## **CASES WITH LOST WORKDAYS**

Comprising about forty percent of all cases of occupational injuries, those with lost workdays numbered 26,467 cases.

### **By Employment Size**

About seventy-one percent (18,766) of cases with lost workdays occurred in establishments employing 200 or more workers. Establishments with 20 to 99 employed persons had a 16.0 percent share (4,236) and those with 100 to 199 employed persons posted a 13.1 percent share (3,465).

### **By Incapacity for Work**

Almost all cases with lost workdays were non-fatal at 26,289 (99.3%). These were 26,110 cases of temporary incapacity and 179 cases of permanent incapacity.

On the other hand, fatalities recorded a total of 178 cases only.

### **By Major Occupation Group**

Among major occupations, laborers and unskilled workers were most affected. Their 12,858 reported cases represented nearly half (48.6%) of the total caseload. Substantial caseload of 7,972 cases (30.1%) were also noted among plant and machine operators and assemblers. Other occupations recorded less than ten percent each.

### **By Type of Injury**

Most common injuries were superficial injuries and open wounds with 14,925 cases or 56.4 percent. Other injuries had lower caseloads ranging from 347 (1.3% on acute poisoning and infections to 2,789 (10.5% on dislocations, sprains and strains).

### **By Part of Body Injured**

Upper extremities (hands and fingers) were cited as the prevalently injured part of the body at 13,678 cases (51.7%). Considerable proportions were also listed on lower extremities at 23.6 percent (6,256) and on the head at 13.2 percent (3,486).

## By Cause of Injury

Around one-third or 8,726 cases of work-related injuries were mainly due to stepping on, striking against or struck by objects, excluding falling objects. Those caused by caught in or between objects were also sizeable at 16.5 percent or 4,366 cases. Other causes were as follows: struck by falling objects (9.7%), over-exertion or strenuous movement (8.0%), fall of persons (6.1%), exposure to or contact with extreme temperatures (5.3%), exposure to or contact with harmful substances or radiations (3.0%) and exposure to or contact with electric current (1.4%). Some cases at 17.2 percent did not specify the cause of injury.

## SAFETY PERFORMANCE

### Frequency Rate

Overall, frequency of injuries on cases with lost workdays was pegged at 5.70 per 500 full-time workers or one out of every 88 workers (derived by dividing 500 by 5.70) sustained an injury while at work.

Industry frequency of injuries in the workplace was rated highest in manufacturing at 10.08 or one case of injury for every 50 workers. The lowest was at 0.40 or one injury case out of every 1,250 workers in private education services.

Fatal cases scarcely occurred with one work-related death case for every 12,500 workers. With non-fatal cases, however, those of temporary incapacity were more frequent at one case per 89 workers than those of permanent incapacity at one case per 12,500 workers.

**Frequency Rate of Cases of Occupational Injuries With Lost Workdays By Major Industry Group, Philippines: 2000 (per 500 full-time workers)**

Industry	Frequency Rate
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>5.70</b>
Mining & Quarrying	1.35
Manufacturing	10.08
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	4.64
Construction	5.06
Wholesale & Retail	3.54
Hotels & Restaurants	5.71
Transport, Storage & Communication	4.39
Financial Intermediation	0.60
Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities	1.01
Private Education Services	0.40
Private Health & Social Work	0.60
Other Community, Social & Personal Service Activities	2.31

### Severity Rate

Although almost all cases with lost workdays resulted to temporary incapacity, severity rate was at 43.69 per 500 full-time workers. This was quite low, translating only to 0.09 workday lost or barely a half-day lost per worker (43.69 divided by 500).

**Severity Rate of Temporary Incapacity Cases of Occupational Injuries With Lost Workdays By Major Industry Group, Philippines: 2000 (per 500 full-time workers)**

Industry	Severity Rate
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>43.69</b>
Mining & Quarrying	45.20
Manufacturing	70.52
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	85.29
Construction	41.27
Wholesale & Retail	25.49
Hotels & Restaurants	21.49
Transport, Storage & Communication	63.89
Financial Intermediation	6.09
Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities	12.35
Private Education Services	3.59
Private Health & Social Work	5.11
Other Community, Social & Personal Service Activities	17.26

This trend was replicated in specific major industries ranging from lowest 0.01 workday lost per worker (private education services and private health and social work) to as high as 0.17 workday lost per worker in electricity, gas and water supply.

### Average Days Lost

On the average, temporary incapacity cases yielded eight workdays lost per injury case. Manufacturing had the highest average with 36 lost workdays per temporary incapacity case while hotels and restaurants had the lowest with an average of only four (4) workdays lost.

**Average Days Lost of Temporary Incapacity Cases of Occupational Injuries With Lost Workdays By Major Industry Group, Philippines: 2000**

Industry	Average Days Lost
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>8</b>
Mining & Quarrying	36
Manufacturing	7
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	19
Construction	9
Wholesale & Retail	7
Hotels & Restaurants	4
Transport, Storage & Communication	15
Financial Intermediation	10
Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities	14
Private Education Services	9
Private Health & Social Work	9
Other Community, Social & Personal Service Activities	7

<b>DEFINITION OF TERMS</b>	
<b>Incapacity for Work</b>	inability of the victim due to an occupational injury to perform the normal duties of work in the job or position occupied <i>at the time</i> of the occupational accident.
<b>Case of Permanent Incapacity for Work</b>	refers to an injured person who was unable to work from the day after the day of the accident and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ was <i>never</i> able to perform again the normal duties of work in the job or position occupied at the time of the occupational accident causing injury;</li> <li>✦ will be able to perform the same job but his/her total absence from work is expected to <i>exceed a year</i> from the day of the accident.</li> </ul>
<b>Case of Temporary Incapacity for Work</b>	refers to an injured person who was unable to work from the day after the day of the accident but: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ was able to perform again the normal duties of work in the job or position occupied at the time of the occupational accident causing the injury;</li> <li>✦ will be able to perform the same job but his/her total absence from work is expected <i>not to exceed a year</i> from the day of the accident;</li> <li>✦ did not return to the same job but the reason for changing the job is not related to his/her inability to perform the job at the time of the occupational accident.</li> </ul>
<b>1,000,000 Employee-Hours of Exposure</b>	the number of hours worked of 500 full-time workers, each exposed to 2,000 hours per year.

---

#### FOR INQUIRIES:

Regarding this report contact **LABOR STANDARDS STATISTICS DIVISION** at 527-34-89/527-93-25

Regarding other statistics and technical services contact **BLES DATABANK** at 527-35-77

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

FAX 527-93-25 E mail: [lssd@manila-online.net](mailto:lssd@manila-online.net) or [bleslssd@bles.dole.gov.ph](mailto:bleslssd@bles.dole.gov.ph) or visit our

Website at <http://www.manila-online.net/bles> or <http://www.bles.dole.gov.ph> for other statistical information

---

**TABLE 1 - Cases of Occupational Injuries in Non- Agricultural Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers By Major Industry Group, Philippines: 2000**

Industry	Cases of Occupational Injuries		
	Total	With Lost Workdays	Without Lost Workdays
<b>All Industries</b>	<b>69,208</b>	<b>26,467</b>	<b>42,742</b>
Mining and Quarrying	78	31	47
Manufacturing	46,955	18,831	28,124
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	1,246	574	672
Construction	3,383	1,229	2,154
Wholesale and Retail	4,398	2,135	2,263
Hotels and Restaurants	8,217	1,357	6,860
Transport, Storage and Communication	2,051	1,257	794
Financial Intermediation	185	118	67
Real Estate, Renting & Business Activities	598	475	123
Private Education Services	980	148	832
Private Health and Social Work	282	73	210
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	837	240	597

*Note: Details will not add up to total due to rounding of figures.*

*Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, 2000 Occupational Injuries Survey*

**TABLE 2 - Cases of Occupational Injuries With Lost Workdays in Non-Agricultural Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers, Philippines: 2000**

INDICATOR	ALL INDUSTRIES
<b>Cases With Lost Workdays</b>	<b>26,467</b>
<b>By Employment Size</b>	
20 to 99 workers	4,236
100 to 199 workers	3,465
200 or more workers	18,766
<b>By Incapacity for Work</b>	
Fatal	178
Non - Fatal	26,289
Permanent	179
Temporary	26,110
<b>By Major Occupation Group</b>	
Corporate Executives, Managers, Managing Proprietors and Supervisors	470
Professionals	389
Technicians and Associate Professionals	1,007
Clerks	472
Service Workers and Shop and Market Sales Workers	2,330
Farmers, Forestry Workers and Fishermen	0
Trades and Related Workers	969
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	7,972
Laborers and Unskilled Workers	12,858
<b>By Type of Injury</b>	
Superficial Injuries and Open Wounds	14,925
Fractures	1,151
Dislocations, Sprains and Strains	2,789
Amputations	354
Concussion, Internal Injuries	1,963
Burns, Corrosions, Scalds, Frostbite	1,944
Acute Poisoning and Infections	347
Foreign Body in the Eye	1,793
Other Injury	1,202
<b>By Part of Body Injured</b>	
Head	3,486
Neck	137
Back	651
Trunk or Internal Organs	354
Upper Extremities	13,678
Lower Extremities	6,256
Whole Body or Multiple Sites Equally Injured	969
Others	934
<b>By Cause of Injury</b>	
Falls of persons	1,606
Struck by falling objects	2,566
Stepping on, striking against or struck by objects, excluding falling objects	8,726
Caught in or between objects	4,366
Over-exertion or strenuous movements	2,112
Exposure to or contact with extreme temperatures	1,401
Exposure to or contact with electric current	370
Exposure to or contact with harmful substances or radiations	782
Others	4,538
<b>Frequency Rate per 500 Workers<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>5.70</b>
Fatal	0.04
Non-Fatal	5.66
Permanent incapacity	0.04
Temporary Incapacity	5.62
<b>Severity Rate per 500 Workers<sup>2</sup> (Temporary incapacity)</b>	<b>43.69</b>
<b>Average Days Lost (Temporary incapacity cases)</b>	<b>8.00</b>

*Note: Details will not add-up to total due to rounding of figures.*

*1 Number of cases of occupational injuries with lost workdays per 1,000,000 employee - hours of exposure .*

*2 Number of lost workdays of temporary incapacity cases of occupational injuries per 1,000,000 employee hours of exposure.*

*Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, 2000 Occupational Injuries Survey.*