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ARE OUR WORKPLACES SAFE?

(9th of a Series)

Focus on Construction Industry



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 has been in line with the Resolution Concerning Statistics of Occupational Injuries Resulting from Occupational Accidents adopted by the 16th 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 ninth issue is a profile on occupational injuries resulting from occupational accidents in **construction industries**. (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).*

CASES OF OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES

There were 3,383 cases of occupational injuries in the construction industry in 2000. This is less than 5.0 percent of cases in all non-agricultural establishments employing at least 20 persons.

- 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.

Of the total cases reported in construction, 2,154 cases or 63.7 percent had no reported lost workdays, which means that the injuries suffered by workers required only medical treatment or first aid and the workers were able to return to their work on the same day or the day after the accident.

CASES WITH LOST WORKDAYS

About 36.3 percent (1,229 cases) of reported injuries had lost workdays.

By Employment Size

Nearly one third (74.4% or 915 cases) of injuries with lost workdays occurred in establishments employing 200 or more workers. The rest of the cases were almost equally distributed in establishments employing 100-199 workers (159 cases) and those with 20-99 workers (155 cases).

Incapacity for Work

The construction industry had 40 fatalities equivalent to 22.5 percent of the all-industry total. Compared to other industry groups, construction had the second highest in number of death cases next to real estate, renting and business activities.

Majority or 94.7 percent (1,164 cases) of work-related injuries resulted to temporary incapacity and only 2.0 percent (25 cases) resulted to permanent incapacity.

By Major Occupation Group

Cases affecting laborers and unskilled workers represented more than half (704 cases or 57.3%) of the total caseload. This was followed by cases involving trades and related workers and plant machine operators and assemblers with 259 cases and 166 cases, respectively. Least affected were professionals with only 2 cases.

By Type of Injury

The most common type of injuries were superficial injuries and open wounds with 398 cases or 32.4 percent. Injuries such as foreign body in the eye were noted in 261 cases. Concussion, internal injuries ranked third with 256 cases. Amputations and acute poisoning and infections were the least common type of injuries at only 15 cases each.

By Part of Body Injured

Lower extremities were the commonly injured body part with 316 cases (25.7%). Head injuries followed with 305 cases (24.8%). Injuries to upper extremities were recorded at 20.8 percent (257 cases). Neck injuries were the least with only 14 cases.

By Cause of Injury

Stepping on, striking against or struck by objects, excluding falling objects appeared to be the major cause of injury in construction industry with 493 cases. Injuries from being struck by falling objects totaled 186 cases while exposure to or contact with harmful substances or radiations reached 132 cases. Injuries due to exposure to or contact with electric current was the least frequent with only 33 cases.

SAFETY PERFORMANCE

Frequency Rate

Based on reported occupational injuries, the frequency rate in construction industry was 5.06 per 500 full time workers or one injured person at the worksite for every 99 workers.

Occurrence of death cases in the industry was estimated at 0.16 or one fatality for every 3,125 workers.

Among non-fatal cases, however, the occurrence of temporary incapacity was more frequent at one case per 102 workers than those of permanent incapacity at one case per 5000 workers.

Frequency Rate of Cases of Occupational Injuries With Lost Workdays In Construction Industry, Philippines: 2000

Industry	Frequency Rate (per 500 full-time workers)
All Industries	5.70
Construction	5.06

Severity Rate

Severity rate in construction stood at 41.27 per 500 full-time workers. This is equivalent to 0.08 lost workday or less than half-day lost per worker (41.27 divided by 500).

Severity Rate of Temporary Incapacity Cases of Occupational Injuries With Lost Workdays In Construction Industry, Philippines: 2000

Industry	Severity Rate (per 500 full-time workers)
All Industries	43.69
Construction	41.27

Average Days Lost

Average days lost for temporary incapacity cases were nine (9) workdays lost per injury case.

Average Days Lost of Temporary Incapacity Cases of Occupational Injuries With Lost Workdays In Construction Industry, Philippines: 2000

Industry	Average Days Lost
All Industries	8
Construction	9

DEFINITION OF TERMS	
Incapacity for Work	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.
Case of Permanent Incapacity for Work	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"> ✦ 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; ✦ 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.
Case of Temporary Incapacity for Work	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"> ✦ 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; ✦ 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; ✦ 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.
1,000,000 Employee-Hours of Exposure	the number of hours worked of 500 full-time workers, each exposed to 2,000 hours per year.

FOR INQUIRIES:

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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 Construction Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers, Philippines: 2000

Industry	Cases of Occupational Injuries		
	Total	With Lost Workdays	Without Lost Workdays
<i>All Industries</i>	69,208	26,467	42,742
Construction	3,383	1,229	2,154

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

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

INDICATOR	ALL INDUSTRIES	Construction
Cases With Lost Workdays	26,467	1,229
By Employment Size		
20 to 99 workers	4,236	155
100 to 199 workers	3,465	159
200 or more workers	18,766	915
By Incapacity for Work		
Fatal	178	40
Non – Fatal	26,289	1,189
Permanent	179	25
Temporary	26,110	1,164
By Major Occupation Group		
Corporate Executives, Managers, Managing Proprietors and Supervisors	470	6
Professionals	389	2
Technicians and Associate Professionals	1,007	18
Clerks	472	28
Service Workers and Shop and Market Sales Workers	2,330	16
Farmers, Forestry Workers and Fishermen	0	0
Trades and Related Workers	969	289
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	7972	166
Laborers and Unskilled Workers	12,858	704
By Type of Injury		
Superficial Injuries and Open Wounds	14,925	398
Fractures	1,151	72
Dislocations, Sprains and Strains	2,789	128
Amputations	354	15
Concussion, Internal Injuries	1,963	256
Burns, Corrosions, Scalds, Frostbite	1,944	46
Acute Poisoning and Infections	347	15
Foreign Body in the Eye	1,793	261
Other Injury	,202	39
By Part of Body Injured		
Head	3,486	305
Neck	137	14
Back	651	77
Trunk or Internal Organs	354	46
Upper Extremities	13,678	257
Lower Extremities	6256	316
Whole Body or Multiple Sites Equally Injured	969	184
Others	934	30
By Cause of Injury		
Falls of persons	1,606	94
Struck by falling objects	2,566	186
Stepping on, striking against or struck by objects, excluding falling objects	8,726	493
Caught in or between objects	4,366	128
Over-exertion or strenuous movements	2,112	79
Exposure to or contact with extreme temperatures	1,401	43
Exposure to or contact with electric current	370	33
Exposure to or contact with harmful substances or radiations	782	132
Others	4,538	40
Frequency Rate per 500 Workers¹	5.70	5.06
Fatal	0.04	0.16
Non-Fatal	5.66	4.89
Permanent incapacity	0.04	0.10
Temporary Incapacity	5.62	4.79
Severity Rate per 500 Workers² (Temporary incapacity)	43.69	41.27
Average Days Lost (Temporary incapacity cases)	8.00	9.00

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.