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OCCUPATIONAL INJURY STATISTICS

(Fourth of a series)

This LABSTAT is the last issue on a series of reports that focus on occupational injuries based on the results of the 2002/2003 BLES Integrated Survey (BITS) conducted in 2003 in coordination with the DOLE Regional Offices. The BITS is a nationwide survey covering 6,818 sample non-agricultural establishments with 20 or more workers. It aims to generate an integrated data set on employment, labor relations, labor cost and occupational safety in the workplace as basis for policy and program formulation.

Severity rate and average days lost are the two other measures of safety performance used for comparative purposes of occupational injury statistics at the national and international levels. These two measures relate only to cases of occupational injuries resulting to temporary incapacity. In particular, this report discusses these rates as derived from the results of the BITS 2002/2003 and the 2000 Occupational Injuries Survey (OIS).

SEVERITY RATES

Industry Group	2000	2002	Difference
<i>All Industries</i>	43.69	51.16	7.47
Mining & Quarrying	45.20	2,018.17	1,972.97
Manufacturing	70.52	50.00	(20.52)
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	85.29	83.77	(1.52)
Construction	41.27	26.01	(15.26)
Wholesale & Retail Trade, etc.	25.49	16.45	(9.04)
Hotels & Restaurants	21.49	16.31	(5.18)
Transport, Storage & Communications	63.89	34.72	(29.17)
Financial Intermediation	6.09	2.40	(3.69)
Real Estate, etc.	12.35	7.79	(4.56)
Private Education Services	3.59	2.76	(0.83)
Private Health & Social Work Services	5.11	9.41	4.30
Other Community, Social & Personal Service Activities	17.26	18.59	1.33

Source: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, 2002/2003 BLES Integrated Survey and 2000 Occupational Injuries Survey.

Almost all of occupational injuries with lost workdays are cases resulting to temporary incapacity cases. In 2000, these cases (26,110) placed a severity rate (SR) of 43.69. (Tables 1 and 2)

Two years later, these cases though lesser (21,156) were more serious with an SR of 51.16.

In terms of proportion to all industry cases resulting to temporary incapacity, mining and quarrying recorded shares that were considered low among industries ---0.11 % (29 of 26,110 cases) in 2000 and slightly higher at 3.14% (665 of 21,156 cases) in 2002.

However, the mining cases in 2002 which was almost 23 times more than the cases in 2000 recorded the highest severity rate of 2,018.17

in 2002 --- 1,972.97 points or 44 times higher than the 45.20 SR in 2000.

Despite its increased caseload to 616 (from 544 in 2000), the SR of electricity, gas and water industry which was second highest at 83.77 went down from 85.29 SR in 2000.

In contrast, the decline in the number of cases in other community, social and personal services (240 to 128) did not translate to lower severity rate as the industry's SR went up by 1.33 points to 18.59 from 17.26 in 2000.

Three industries fared well in 2002 as their severity rates posted substantial decreases compared to those in 2000. First is transport and related industries which recorded the biggest 29.17 points decrease in SR (from 63.89 to 34.72), followed by manufacturing with 20.52 points lesser (from 70.52 to 50.00) and construction with 15.26 points lower (from 41.27 to 26.01).

Least severity rate was in financial intermediation industries which also placed the lowest industry count of cases in 2002. Its 2.40 SR on 16 cases were lower than its 6.09 SR for 116 cases in 2000.

Industry Group	2000	2002
<i>All Industries</i>	26,110	21,156
Mining & Quarrying	29	665
Manufacturing	18,741	14,149
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	544	616
Construction	1,164	469
Wholesale & Retail Trade, etc.	2,064	1,556
Hotels & Restaurants	1,331	1,257
Transport, Storage & Communications	1,234	1,541
Financial Intermediation	116	16
Real Estate, etc.	422	574
Private Education Services	147	117
Private Health & Social Work Services	72	67
Other Community, Social & Personal Service Activities	240	128

Source: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, 2002/2003 BLES Integrated Survey and 2000 Occupational Injuries Survey.

AVERAGE DAYS LOST

Industry Group	2000	2002	Difference
<i>All Industries</i>	7.77	15.06	7.29
Mining & Quarrying	35.84	194.40	158.56
Manufacturing	7.03	8.73	1.70
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	19.42	20.72	1.30
Construction	8.62	10.85	2.23
Wholesale & Retail Trade, etc.	7.43	9.60	2.17
Hotels & Restaurants	3.83	4.32	0.49
Transport, Storage & Comms.	14.83	10.88	(3.95)
Financial Intermediation	10.25	43.46	33.21
Real Estate, etc.	13.79	8.89	(4.90)
Private Education Services	9.01	9.39	0.38
Private Health & Social Work Svcs.	8.60	18.10	9.50
Other Community, Social & Personal Service Activities	7.46	20.77	13.31

Source: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, 2002/2003 BLES Integrated Survey and 2000 Occupational Injuries Survey.

Complementing the increase in overall industry SR of temporary incapacity cases in 2002, the days lost due to these occupational injuries averaged higher at 15.06 compared to 7.77 in 2000.

Almost all industries recorded longer duration of days lost due to these cases in 2002 than in 2000.

Mining and quarrying workers who sustained temporary incapacitating injuries while at work incurred longer duration of absences from work as its average days lost (ADL) reached 194.40 in 2002. This is higher by 158.56 days from its 35.84 ADL in 2000.

A far second with shorter duration, financial intermediation rose by 33.21 days to reach an ADL of 43.46 in 2002 against 10.25 in 2000.

Other industries with considerable higher ADL in 2002 over their ADL in 2000 were other community, social and personal services at 20.77 (from 7.46), electricity, gas and water at 20.72 (from 19.42), and private health and social work services at 18.10 (from 8.60).

In contrast, hotels and restaurants posted the lowest ADL at

4.32 in 2002 but this was a little higher than its 3.83 ADL two years earlier.

In 2002, real estate-related industries and transport, storage and communications were the only two industries that posted declines in days lost due to injuries. Their respective days losts averaged to 8.89 (4.90 days lower than 13.79 in 2000) and to 10.88 (3.95 days lower than 14.83 in 2000).

Definition of Terms:

SEVERITY RATE (SR) - refers to lost workdays of cases of occupational injuries resulting to temporary incapacity per 1,000,000 employee-hours of exposure.

AVERAGE DAYS LOST (ADL) – refers to lost workdays for every case of occupational injury resulting to temporary incapacity.

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