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SAFETY AND HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE ... Cases of Occupational Injuries (First of a series)

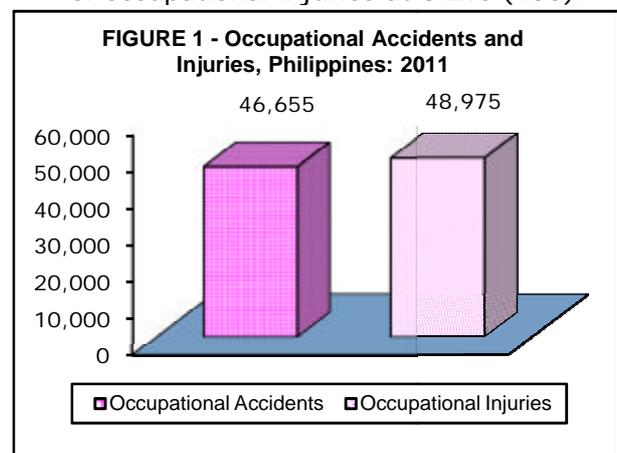
This series of LABSTAT Updates present statistical briefs on cases of occupational injuries and diseases that affected workers in establishments in 2011. The statistics came from the 2011/2012 BLES Integrated Survey (BITS) conducted in 2012 by the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES) in coordination with the DOLE Regional Offices.

The BITS is a nationwide survey covering 7,061 establishments with 20 or more workers in 69 industry groups. It also generates statistics on employment of specific groups of workers; occupational shortages and surpluses; training of workers; recruitment and hiring practices for entry level jobs; occupational safety and health practices; and employees compensation program that can be used as basis for policy and program formulation and evaluation. This is the first time that the survey included the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector, as well as its adoption of the 2009 Philippine Standard Industrial Classification (PSIC) – the latest “classification of industries prevailing in the country based on the productive activities undertaken by establishments” as revised by the National Statistical Coordination Board/Philippine Statistical System. Changes made from 1994 PSIC included the transfer of minor industries to other divisions/groups/classes or elevation to a division, group or class of its own.

Specifically, this issue presents the number of occupational accidents, and the number and type of cases of injuries due to these accidents covering the period 2011. The metadata and the statistical tables of the 2011/2012 (BITS) are posted at the BLES website. (The earlier series of LABSTAT Updates on occupational injuries and diseases were entitled “Are our workplaces safe?”)

Manufacturing industry had the highest cases of occupational injuries

- A total of 46,655 cases of occupational accidents were recorded in 2011. These accidents resulted to 48,975 cases of occupational injuries. (Figure 1)
- Noteworthy, injury-to-accident ratio is one for all industry groups, that is, there was only one case of occupational injury for every one occupational accident that occurred in the establishment. (Table 1)
- Manufacturing industry accounted for the highest share of occupational injuries at 51.0% or 24,969.
- Far second was wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles at 7.7% (3,786), followed by accommodation and food service activities at 7.3% (3,587).
- On the other hand, repair of computers and personal and household goods, and other personal service activities had the lowest share of occupational injuries at 0.2% (105).



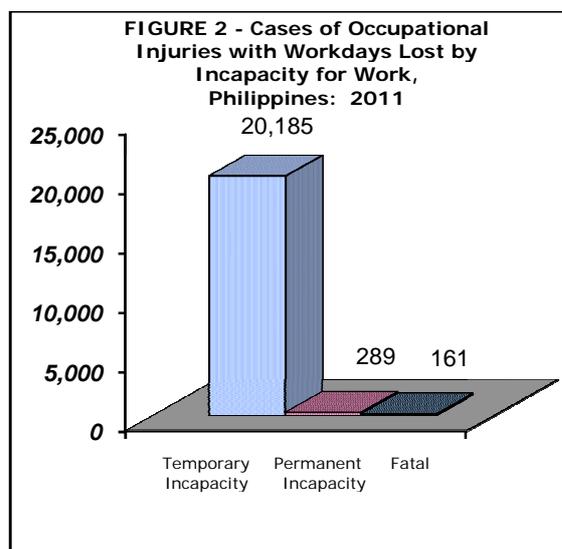
Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, 2011/2012 BLES Integrated Survey.

Higher cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost in six industry groups

- Cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost were higher than cases without workdays lost. This was noted in six industry groups, namely: agriculture, forestry and fishing (2,492 vs. 482); electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (451 vs. 247);

water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (134 vs. 112); transportation storage (1,478 vs. 881); financial and insurance activities (206 vs. 67); and real estate activities (245 vs. 17). (Table 1)

Most cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost resulted to temporary incapacity



Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, 2011/2012 BLES Integrated Survey.

- Almost all cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost in 2011 resulted to temporary incapacity of workers at 97.8% (20,185). (Figure 2)
- Meanwhile, cases of permanent incapacity were recorded at 1.4% (289).
- It is worth mentioning that fatal cases had the lowest share at 0.8% (161).
- About 57.9% (28,340) of total cases of occupational injuries needed only first aid treatment and no absence from work was incurred. (Table 1)

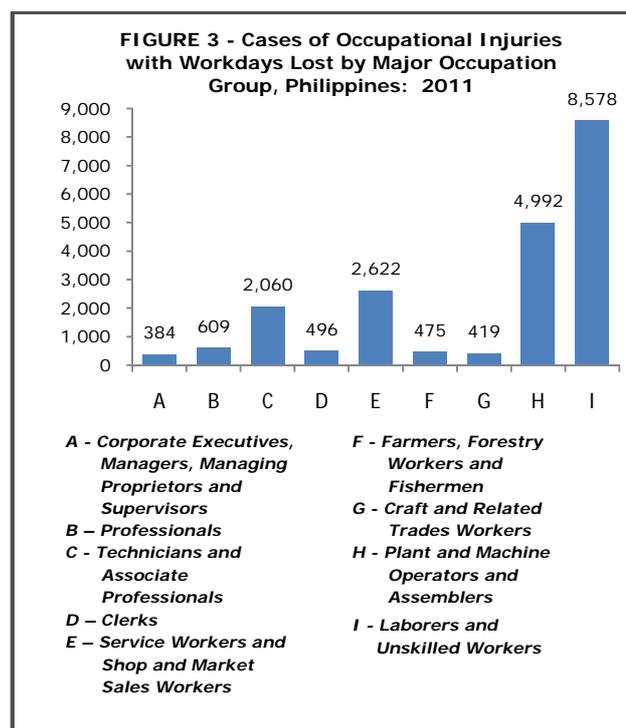
Half of temporary incapacity cases occurred in the manufacturing industry

- Out of the 20,185 temporary incapacity cases, 10,214 (50.6%) were recorded in the manufacturing industry. (Table 1)
- Cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost in five industry groups were all temporary incapacity cases, namely: accommodation and food service activities; financial and insurance activities; education except public education; arts, entertainment and recreation; and repair of computers and personal and household goods; other personal service activities.

- On the other hand, a little over one-fifth of fatal cases were noted in the manufacturing (36 or 22.4%).
- Fatal cases accounting for more than 10.0% in the industry group were observed in transportation and storage (27 or 16.8%); construction (26 or 16.1%); and administrative and support service activities (20 or 12.4%).
- Permanent incapacity cases were evident in manufacturing (32.5%); transportation and storage (19.0%); and electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (11.1%).

Laborers and unskilled workers mostly affected by occupational injuries

- About 42% of the total 20,635 cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost in 2011 affected laborers and unskilled workers; and a little less than one-fourth to plant and machine operators and assemblers. (Figure 3)
- Injuries to service workers and shop and market sales workers; and technicians and associate professionals followed at 12.7% (2,622) and 10.0% (2,060), respectively.
- Minimal proportions (1.9% - 3.0%) of cases occurred in the rest of the occupation groups.



Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, 2011/2012 BLES Integrated Survey.

Definition of Terms:

Occupational accident - an unexpected and unplanned occurrence, including acts of violence arising out of or in connection with work which results in one or more workers incurring a personal injury, disease or death. It can occur outside the usual workplace/premises of the establishment while the worker is on business on behalf of his/her employer, i.e., in another establishment or while on travel, transport or in road traffic.

Occupational injury - an injury which results from a work-related event or a single instantaneous exposure in the work environment (occupational accident). Where more than one person is injured in a single accident, each case of occupational injury should be counted separately. 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. Recurrent absences due to an injury resulting from a single occupational accident should be treated as the continuation of the same case of occupational injury not as a new case.

Fatal case - case where a person is fatally injured as a result of occupational accident whether death occurs immediately after the accident or within the same reference year as the accident.

Permanent incapacity - case where an injured person was absent from work for at least one day, excluding the day of the accident, and 1) was never able to perform again the normal duties of the job or position occupied at the time of the occupational accident, or 2) will be able to perform the same job but his/her total absence from work is expected to exceed a year starting the day after the accident.

Temporary incapacity - case where an injured person was absent from work for at least one day, excluding the day of the accident, and 1) was able to perform again the normal duties of the job or position occupied at the time of the occupational accident or 2) will be able to perform the same job but his/her total absence from work is expected not to exceed a year starting the day after the accident, or 3) 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.

FOR INQUIRIES

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TABLE 1 – Occupational Accidents, Occupational Injuries and Injury-to-Accident Ratio in Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers by Major Industry Group, Philippines: 2011

Major Industry Group	Occupational Accidents	Total	Occupational Injuries					Injury-to-Accident Ratio
			With Workdays Lost				Without Workdays Lost	
			Total	Fatal	Permanent Incapacity	Temporary Incapacity		
ALL INDUSTRIES	46,655	48,975	20,635	161	289	20,185	28,340	1.0
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	2,904	2,974	2,492	15	10	2,467	482	1.0
Mining and Quarrying	567	574	108	11	-	97	466	1.0
Manufacturing	23,611	24,969	10,344	36	94	10,214	14,625	1.1
Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply	652	698	451	13	32	406	247	1.1
Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	246	246	134	3	11	120	112	1.0
Construction	3,015	3,032	704	26	4	674	2,328	1.0
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	3,586	3,786	1,614	6	30	1,578	2,172	1.1
Transportation and Storage	2,349	2,359	1,478	27	55	1,396	881	1.0
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	3,271	3,587	911	-	-	911	2,676	1.1
Information and Communication	303	304	97	2	2	93	207	1.0
Financial and Insurance Activities	273	273	206	-	-	206	67	1.0
Real Estate Activities	260	262	245	1	-	244	17	1.0
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	336	351	109	-	13	96	242	1.0
Administrative and Support Service Activities	2,533	2,594	956	20	24	912	1,638	1.0
Education except Public Education	1,613	1,681	414	-	-	414	1,267	1.0
Human Health and Social Work Activities except Public Health Activities	651	775	274	-	14	260	501	1.2
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	381	407	70	-	-	70	337	1.1
Repair of Computers and Personal and Household Goods; Other Personal Service Activities	105	105	28	-	-	28	77	1.0

Note: Details may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, 2011/2012 BLES Integrated Survey.