

## SAFETY AND HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE

### *. . . Measures of Safety Performance (Last of a four-part series)*

This series of LABSTAT Updates presents statistical briefs on cases of occupational injuries and diseases that affected workers in establishments in 2011. The statistics were culled from the results of 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. Hence, comparative statistics (with previous survey results) will not be provided in this issue.

Specifically, this last issue of the series discusses the measures of safety performance – frequency rates, incidence rates, and severity rates; and average days lost of temporary incapacity cases of occupational injuries in 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?")

### **Agriculture posted the highest frequency rate**

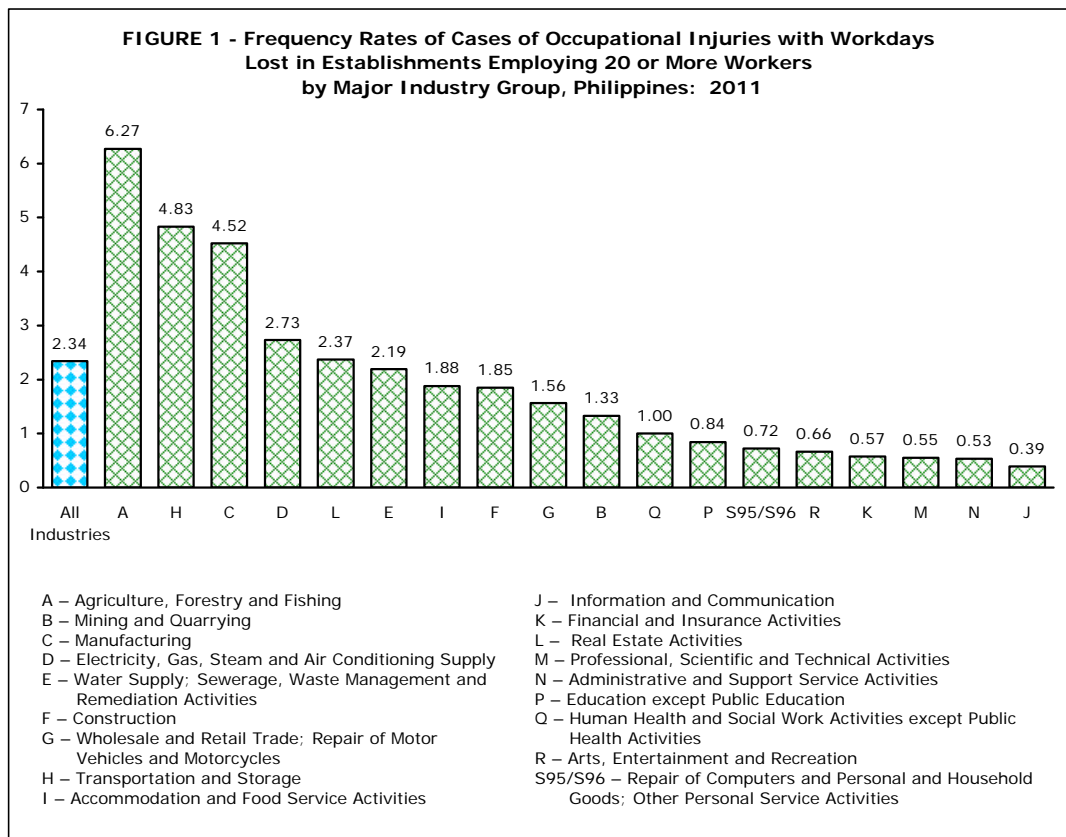
- According to the ILO Manual of Methods on Occupational Injuries Statistics, *"The frequency rate relates the number of injuries to hours worked which is a direct measure of the degree of exposure of the workers to the risk of injury"*.
- In 2011, the frequency rate (FR) of occupational injuries with workdays lost in the country was 2.34. This means that there were only 2 cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost per 1,000,000 employee-hours of exposure. For non-fatal cases, it

was recorded at 2.32, with temporary incapacity posted at 2.29.

- Categories by incapacity for work on cases with lost workdays in 2011 showed FR as follows:

Category	FR
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.34</b>
Fatal	0.02
Non-Fatal	2.32
Permanent Incapacity	0.03
Temporary Incapacity	2.29

The **BUREAU OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (BLES)**, along with three other agencies namely, the **National Statistics Office (NSO)**, the **National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB)**, and the **Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS)** shall be known as the **PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA)** starting December 29, 2013 as per Republic Act 10625 otherwise known as the Philippine Statistical Act of 2013.



- By industry, agriculture, forestry and fishing registered the highest frequency rate of 6.27, higher than the all-industry FR of 2.34. (Figure 1)
- This was followed by transportation and storage with 4.83 FR. The manufacturing industry ranked third with 4.52 FR.
- These three industries, together with the electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (2.73); and the real estate activities (2.37) posted frequency rates higher than the national FR.
- Meanwhile, most of the industry groups in the services sector recorded frequency rates of less than one (1.0).

### ***Incidence rate for agriculture industry almost tripled the overall IR***

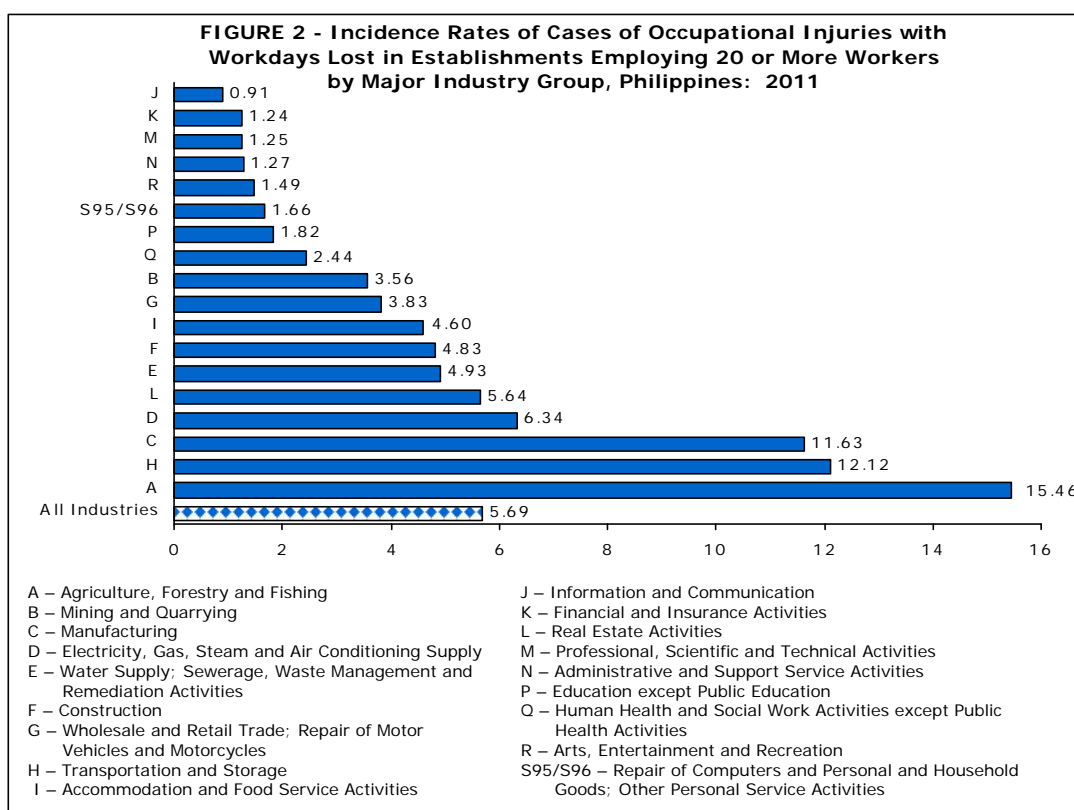
- The incidence rate (IR) of cases of occupational injuries for all industries in 2011 was registered at 5.69. This means that there were around six cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost per 1,000 workers. (Figure 2)
- In terms of incapacity for work, incidence rates in 2011 were noted as follows:

<b>Category</b>	<b>IR</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.69</b>
Fatal	0.04
Non-Fatal	5.65
Permanent Incapacity	0.08
Temporary Incapacity	5.57

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry also posted the highest incidence rate of 15.46, almost three times that of the all-industry IR. This translates to around 15 cases

of occupational injuries per 1,000 workers.

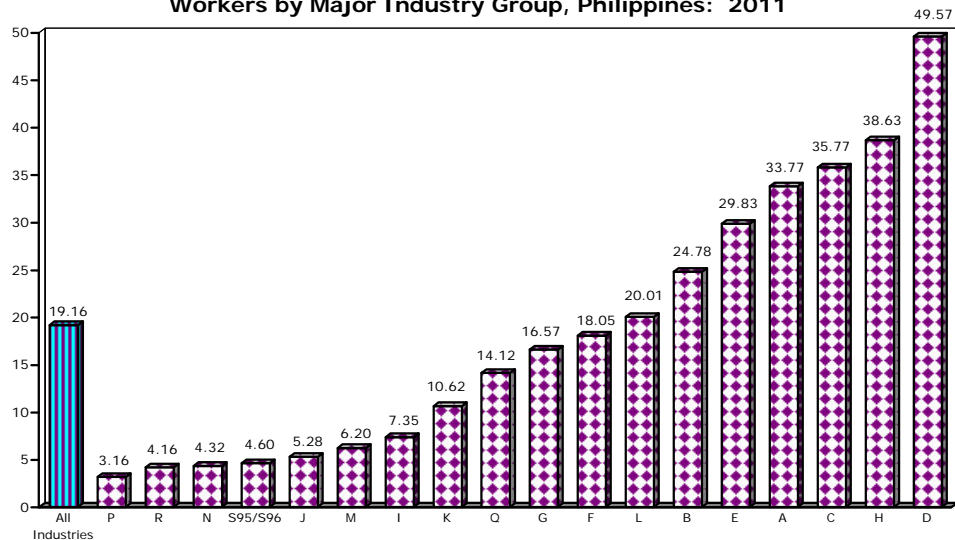
- This was followed by the transportation and storage (12.12); manufacturing (11.63); and electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (6.34), which all surpassed the all-industry incidence rate. These industry groups are deemed to be high risk industries on account of the nature of the jobs involved.
- On the other hand, industries with the lowest incidence rates of cases of occupational injuries were noted in information and communication (0.91); financial and insurance activities (1.24); professional, scientific and technical activities (1.25); administrative and support activities (1.27); and arts, entertainment and recreation (1.49).



**Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply topped other industry groups in terms of severity rate**

- In 2011, overall severity rate (SR) or workdays lost of cases of occupational injuries resulting to temporary incapacity per 1,000,000 employee-hours of exposure, was posted at 19.16. (Figure 3)
- By industry, highest SR was registered in the electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply at 49.57, more than double the all-industry rate.
- Transportation and storage industry ranked second at 38.63 followed by manufacturing with 35.77 SR.
- Lowest SRs were posted in private education (3.16); arts, entertainment and recreation (4.16); and administrative and support service activities (4.32).

**FIGURE 3 - Severity Rates of Cases of Occupational Injuries Resulting to Temporary Incapacity in Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers by Major Industry Group, Philippines: 2011**

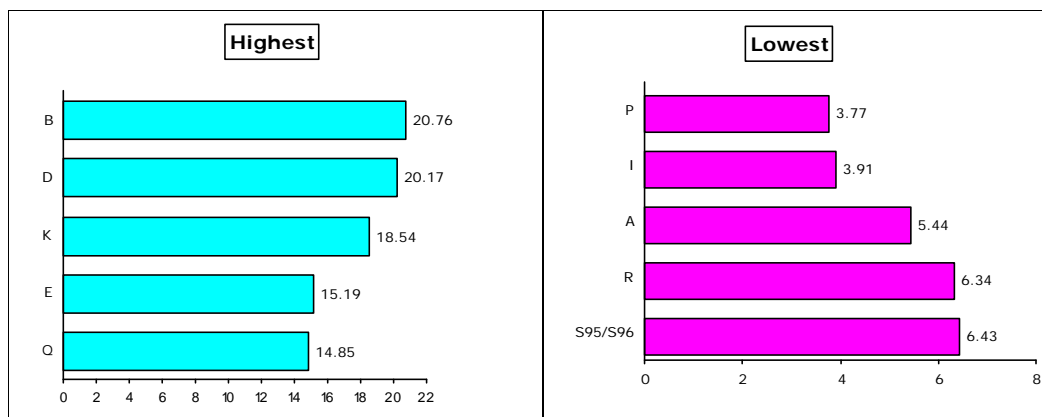


A – Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	J – Information and Communication
B – Mining and Quarrying	K – Financial and Insurance Activities
C – Manufacturing	L – Real Estate Activities
D – Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply	M – Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities
E – Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	N – Administrative and Support Service Activities
F – Construction	P – Education except Public Education
G – Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	Q – Human Health and Social Work Activities except Public Health Activities
H – Transportation and Storage	R – Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
I – Accommodation and Food Service Activities	S95/S96 – Repair of Computers and Personal and Household Goods; Other Personal Service Activities

### **Mining and quarrying industry recorded the highest average workdays lost**

- The average workdays lost or the number of workdays lost for every case of occupational injury resulting to temporary incapacity was registered at 8.36 in 2011. (Figure 4)
- Though mining and quarrying only had a low incidence rate of 3.56, it posted the longest duration of workdays lost at 20.76 days, which is more than double the national average.
- Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; and financial and insurance activities followed at 20.17 and 18.54 average workdays lost, respectively.
- The agriculture industry, which posted the highest frequency rate and incidence rate, and a high severity rate, registered a relatively low average workdays lost of 5.44. Together with private education (3.77); and accommodation and food service activities (3.91), these three industry groups posted the shortest duration of workdays lost among industry groups.

**FIGURE 4 – Top Five Highest and Lowest Average Workdays Lost of Cases of Occupational Injuries Resulting to Temporary Incapacity in Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers, Philippines: 2011**



A – Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing  
 B – Mining and Quarrying  
 D – Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply  
 E – Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities  
 I – Accommodation and Food Service Activities

K – Financial and Insurance Activities  
 P – Education except Public Education  
 Q – Human Health and Social Work Activities except Public Health Activities  
 R – Arts, Entertainment and Recreation  
 S95/S96 – Repair of Computers and Personal and Household Goods; Other Personal Service Activities

**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.

**Temporary incapacity** - a 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.

**Permanent incapacity** - a 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.

**Fatal case** - a 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.

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

**Incidence rate** - cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost per 1,000 workers.

**Severity rate** - workdays lost of cases of occupational injuries resulting to temporary incapacity per 1,000,000 employee-hours of exposure.

**Average workdays lost** - workdays lost for every case of occupational injury resulting to temporary incapacity.

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**FOR INQUIRIES**

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Regarding other statistics and technical services contact **BLES Databank** at 527-9311  
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