

## SAFETY AND HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE

*... Cases of Occupational Diseases  
(Third of a 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.*

*Specifically, this third issue of the series discusses the types of occupational diseases that affected workers in establishments 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?")*

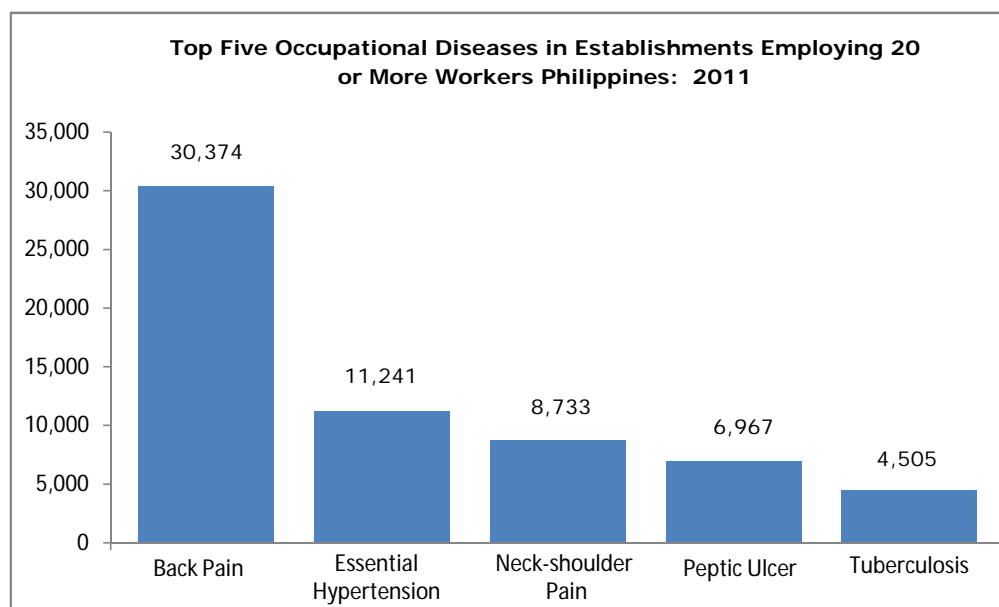
### **Manufacturing accounted for the highest cases of occupational diseases**

- In the 2011/2012 BLES Integrated Survey, an occupational disease is defined as an abnormal condition or disorder other than one resulting from an occupational injury caused by exposure over a period of time to risk factors associated with work activity such as contact with certain chemicals, inhaling coal dust, carrying out repetitive movements, etc.
- The survey recorded a total of 85,483 occupational diseases in establishments employing 20 or more workers in 2011. (See Table)
- Among industry groups, manufacturing recorded the largest share of occupational diseases at 36.4% (31,096).
- This was followed by administrative and support service activities; and wholesale and retail trade at 15.3% (13,078) and 7.3% (6,256), respectively.
- Three industry groups had shares of less than 1.0%, namely: real estate activities (0.9%); water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities (0.5%); and repair of computers and personal and household goods, and other personal service activities (0.4%).

*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.*

### ***Back pain, the most common occupational disease***

- Among the occupational diseases, back pain was the most common type affecting workers in establishments employing 20 or more workers with a share of 35.5% of total cases. (See *Figure*)
- Relative to the number of cases by industry, this type of disease was prevalent in almost all industry groups, except in mining and quarrying; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; professional, scientific and technical activities; and repair of computers and personal and household goods, other personal service activities.
- Essential hypertension was the second most common occupational disease at 13.1%. Industry-wise, this was highest in electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (36.3%); and mining and quarrying (17.8%).
- Meanwhile, neck-shoulder pain ranked third at 10.2%. This was more evident in professional, scientific and technical activities (35.8%); and repair of computer and personal and household goods, other personal service activities (30.5%).
- Peptic ulcer and tuberculosis followed at 8.2% and 5.3%, respectively.
- Other types of occupational diseases had very low shares. These included cataract (0.4%); chilblain, frostbite, freezing; and acute poisonings (both at 0.1%). (See *Table*)



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

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**Cases of Occupational Diseases in Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers by Industry and Type of Disease, Philippines: 2011**

2009 PSIC	INDUSTRY	Total	Occupational Dermatitis	Occupational Asthma	Acute Poisoning	Heat Cramp, Exhaustion	Chilblain, Frostbite, Freezing	Deafness	Tuberculosis	Other Infections	Cataract
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85,483</b>	<b>4,374</b>	<b>3,652</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>4,505</b>	<b>3,773</b>	<b>314</b>
A	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	2,757	81	56	9	17	-	11	560	38	17
B	Mining and Quarrying	854	38	34	-	87	-	2	23	29	8
C	Manufacturing	31,096	2,823	1,362	28	123	21	730	1,467	1,347	42
D35	Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply	2,466	90	61	18	61	5	18	128	95	51
E	Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	464	28	27	12	23	-	8	22	11	3
F41/F42/F43	Construction	875	78	33	-	19	-	-	141	73	8
G	Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	6,256	129	418	-	120	51	1	387	46	9
H	Transportation and Storage	3,592	248	378	7	131	6	1	257	39	37
I55/I56	Accommodation and Food Service Activities	4,681	209	136	-	49	1	1	73	103	1
J	Information and Communication	2,257	198	59	-	13	4	18	251	139	89
K	Financial and Insurance Activities	5,110	73	64	1	229	-	3	164	974	6
L68	Real Estate Activities	773	28	18	-	4	10	-	27	7	6
M	Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	894	31	47	-	1	-	4	23	-	8
N	Administrative and Support Service Activities	13,078	79	424	-	95	-	40	582	274	6
P85	Education except Public Education	4,937	136	310	15	51	-	25	195	53	14
Q	Human Health and Social Work Activities except Public Health Activities	3,010	49	181	-	-	-	7	170	265	1
R	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	2,016	12	12	1	22	-	-	15	278	-
S95/S96	Repair of Computers and Personal and Household Goods; Other Personal Service Activities	367	44	30	-	-	-	-	20	2	7

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

**Cases of Occupational Diseases in Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers by Industry and Type of Disease,  
Philippines: 2011 (Cont'd)**

2009 PSIC	INDUSTRY	Cardio-vascular Diseases	Essential Hypertension	Peptic Ulcer	Carpal Tunnel Syndrome	Shoulder Tendinitis	Neck-Shoulder Pain	Back Pain	Other Work-Related Musculoskeletal Diseases	Other Diseases
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>11,241</b>	<b>6,967</b>	<b>2,556</b>	<b>2,753</b>	<b>8,733</b>	<b>30,374</b>	<b>1,156</b>	<b>952</b>
A	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	29	431	92	26	43	55	1,187	23	81
B	Mining and Quarrying	131	152	58	18	28	122	116	9	-
C	Manufacturing	763	3,398	1,818	484	708	2,462	12,373	822	323
D35	Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply	105	894	28	56	128	132	596	-	-
E	Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	17	34	14	1	-	15	249	-	-
F41/F42/F43	Construction	9	162	74	6	4	60	210	-	-
G	Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	81	594	594	383	190	826	2,426	-	-
H	Transportation and Storage	185	348	255	50	148	396	957	142	7
I55/I56	Accommodation and Food Service Activities	45	301	262	214	579	1,073	1,634	-	-
J	Information and Communication	127	128	136	255	117	349	373	-	-
K	Financial and Insurance Activities	35	372	240	90	112	494	1,739	12	500
L68	Real Estate Activities	33	97	77	132	5	131	199	-	-
M	Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	-	47	24	18	52	320	319	-	-
N	Administrative and Support Service Activities	246	2,550	2,228	482	315	1,122	4,535	94	8
P85	Education except Public Education	45	937	279	261	188	647	1,773	9	-
Q	Human Health and Social Work Activities except Public Health Activities	171	270	739	54	49	104	870	46	32
R	Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	-	498	47	26	45	313	748	-	-
S95/S96	Repair of Computers and Personal and Household Goods; Other Personal Service Activities	8	29	2	-	41	112	73	-	-

**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.