

SAFETY AND HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE

... Cases of Occupational Diseases (Last of a Four-part Series)

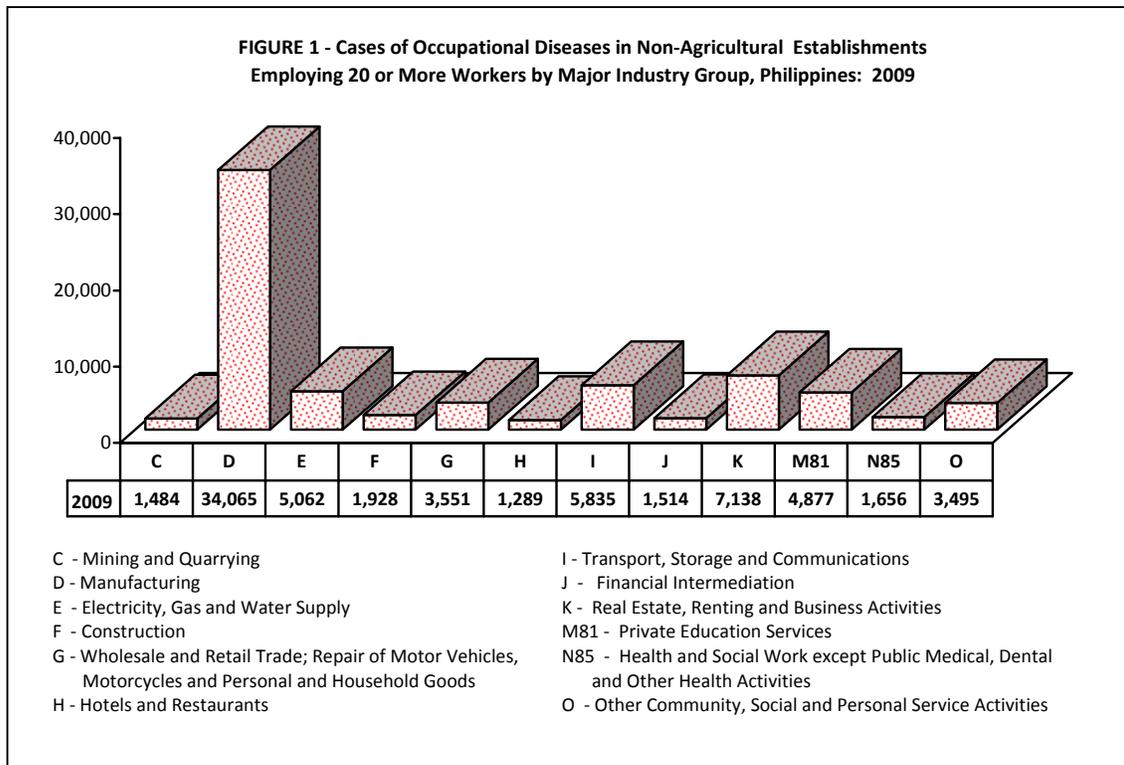
This series of LABSTAT Updates present statistical briefs on cases of occupational injuries and diseases that affected workers in private sector establishments in 2009. The statistics were based on the results of the 2009/2010 BLES Integrated Survey (BITS) conducted in 2010 by the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES) in coordination with the DOLE Regional Offices.

The BITS is a nationwide survey covering 6,780 non-agricultural establishments with 20 or more workers in 65 industry groups. It also generates statistics on employment of specific groups of workers; occupational shortages and surpluses; practices on balancing work and family responsibilities; working time arrangements; and occupational safety and health practices that can be used as basis for policy and program formulation and evaluation.

Specifically, this fourth issue discusses the results of the survey regarding the number and types of occupational diseases by industry in 2009. The metadata and the statistical tables of the survey are posted on the BLES website. (The earlier series of LABSTAT Updates on occupational injuries and diseases were entitled "Are our workplaces safe?")

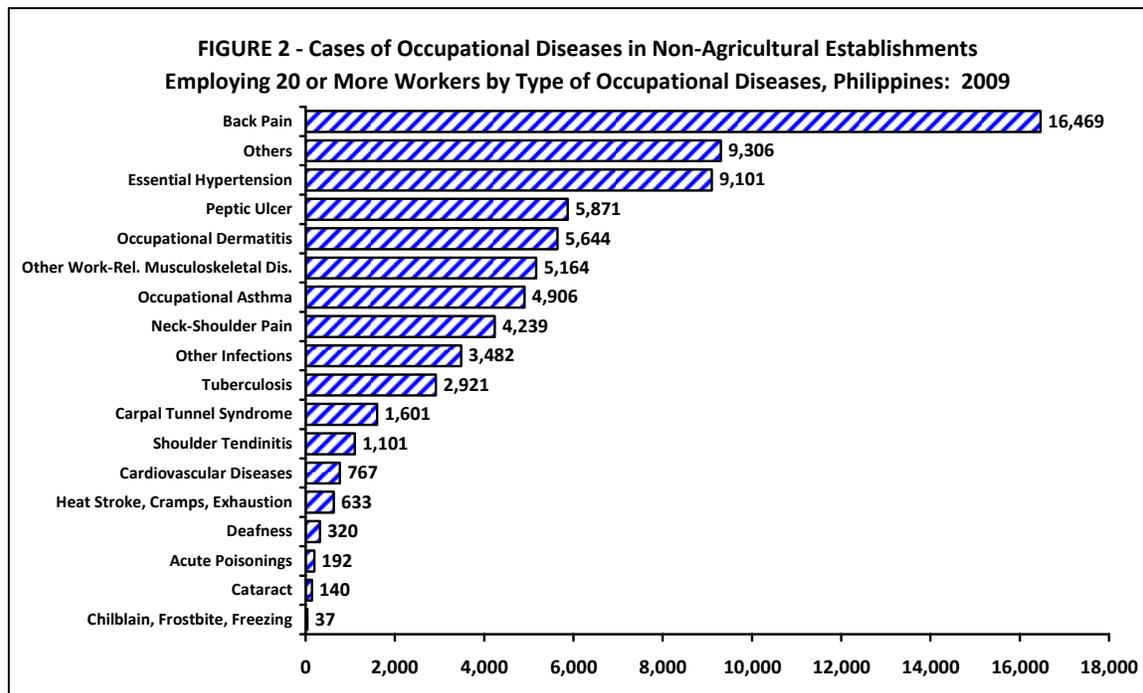
Manufacturing industry had the highest cases of occupational diseases

- In the inquiry on Occupational Injuries and Diseases of the 2009/2010 BITS, *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.
- In 2009, a total of 71,894 cases of occupational diseases were reported in non-agricultural establishments employing 20 or more workers. (Table 1)
- Manufacturing industry accounted for the biggest share of occupational diseases at 47.4%. (Figure 1)
- Far second was real estate, renting and business activities which posted 9.9% of the total cases of occupational diseases.
- Transport, storage and communications; and electricity, gas and water supply made up 8.1% and 7.0% of total, respectively.
- On the other hand, hotels and restaurants reported the lowest share of occupational diseases at 1.8%.



Back pain, most common type of occupational disease

- Back pain was the most common type of occupational disease among workers in covered establishments. It accounted for 22.9% of the total cases of occupational diseases. *(Figure 2)*
- This type of disease was prevalent in manufacturing industry which posted 46.5% (7,659 cases) of the total cases of back pains. *(Table 1)*
- Transport, storage and communications followed with a share of 16.5%.
- Other industry group had shares ranging from 0.4% (construction) to 8.4% (private education services).
- Other types of diseases which were included in the category “Others” (e.g., urinary tract infection, upper respiratory tract infection, etc.) registered the second highest type of diseases at 12.9%.
- Other common types of occupational diseases were: essential hypertension (12.7%); peptic ulcer (8.2%); occupational dermatitis (7.9%); other work-related musculoskeletal diseases (7.2%); occupational asthma (6.8%); and neck-shoulder pain (5.9%).
- The rest of the types of occupational diseases had shares of less than 5.0% with the lowest in chilblain, frostbite, freezing at 0.1%.



Definition of Terms:

For purposes of the survey, the following diseases were classified as:

Occupational dermatitis - including skin conditions due to chemical agents which are skin irritants and sensitizers.

Occupational asthma - due to exposure to allergenic particles in the working environment.

Acute poisonings - due to exposure to toxic chemical substances.

Heat stroke, cramps, exhaustion - due to exposure to excessive heat.

Chilblain, frostbite, freezing - due to exposure to excessive cold.

Deafness - loss of or decreased hearing due to excessive exposure to noise.

Tuberculosis - infections due to mycobacterium tuberculosis.

Other Infections - due to exposure to biologic hazards/agents, ex. anthrax, brucellosis, leptospirosis, tetanus, ornithosis, rabies, viral encephalitis, viral hemorrhagic fevers, hepatitis A, B, C, D, HIV, mycoses, protozoal and parasitic diseases.

Cataract - due to exposure to glare of or rays from molten glass or red hot metal.

Cardio-vascular diseases - cardiac injury or acute attack precipitated by unusual strains of work.

Essential hypertension - primary hypertension that causes impairment of function of kidneys, ears, eyes and brain resulting in permanent disability.

Peptic ulcer - due to prolonged emotional or physical stress at work.

Work-related musculoskeletal disorders - caused or made worst by work such as exposure to forceful exertions, highly repetitive motions, awkward body postures, vibrations, etc.

Carpal tunnel syndrome - tingling, numbness or pain in wrist and hand from compression of the median nerve at the wrist area due to repetitive or forceful hand movement.

Shoulder tendinitis - inflammation of the tendon affecting the shoulder joint due to use, overuse and pressure.

Neck-shoulder pain - affecting the bones, joints, connective tissue, muscles and nerves of the cervical area.

Back pain - affecting the bones, joints, connective tissues, muscles and nerves at the lumbar or sacral regions but not due to trauma.

FOR INQUIRIES

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TABLE 1 - Cases of Occupational Diseases in Non-Agricultural Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers by Major Industry Group and Type of Occupational Diseases, Philippines: 2009

Major Industry Group	TOTAL	Occupational Dermatitis	Occupational Asthma	Acute Poisonings	Heat Stroke, Cramps, Exhaustion	Chilblain, Frostbite, Freezing	Deafness	Tuberculosis	Other Infections	Cataract
TOTAL	71,894	5,644	4,906	192	633	37	320	2,921	3,482	140
Mining and Quarrying	1,484	104	45	-	8	-	2	58	31	1
Manufacturing	34,065	4,022	2,789	102	306	32	94	1,440	965	34
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	5,062	709	341	28	8	-	56	83	223	12
Construction	1,928	32	40	1	10	1	1	44	34	-
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods	3,551	37	409	-	39	-	-	251	42	8
Hotels and Restaurants	1,289	79	169	-	39	3	-	57	91	-
Transport, Storage and Communications	5,835	287	278	45	64	-	27	195	31	17
Financial Intermediation	1,514	7	91	7	5	1	3	26	28	12
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	7,138	43	495	1	78	-	130	394	61	56
Private Education Services	4,877	100	138	8	73	-	6	79	160	1
Health and Social Work Except Public Medical, Dental and Other Health Activities	1,656	21	32	-	1	-	-	131	291	-
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	3,495	204	79	-	1	-	2	162	1,526	-

TABLE 1 - Cases of Occupational Diseases in Non-Agricultural Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers by Major Industry Group and Type of Occupational Diseases, Philippines: 2009 (Cont'd)

Major Industry Group	Cardiovascular Diseases	Essential Hypertension	Peptic Ulcer	Carpal Tunnel Syndrome	Shoulder Tendinitis	Neck-Shoulder Pain	Back Pain	Other Work-Related Musculoskeletal Diseases	Others
TOTAL	767	9,101	5,871	1,601	1,101	4,239	16,469	5,164	9,306
Mining and Quarrying	7	266	196	2	3	12	292	458	-
Manufacturing	214	4,580	1,910	633	522	2,056	7,659	1,842	4,865
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	36	281	675	543	50	102	898	1,009	8
Construction	12	16	18	7	6	45	68	5	1,588
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods	53	515	216	55	94	381	715	55	681
Hotels and Restaurants	-	52	197	3	4	145	424	25	4
Transport, Storage and Communications	113	606	339	41	53	282	2,714	455	289
Financial Intermediation	30	103	118	56	95	190	558	28	157
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	141	1,043	1,357	98	55	237	1,157	838	953
Private Education Services	125	1,027	356	103	66	517	1,378	14	726
Health and Social Work Except Public Medical, Dental and Other Health Activities	5	208	106	52	141	216	388	43	21
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	32	404	384	8	13	58	218	392	14

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

Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, 2009/2010 BLES Integrated Survey.