

SAFETY AND HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE

. . . Measures of Safety Performance (Third 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 issue discusses the measures of safety performance – frequency rates, incidence rates, and severity rates; and average days lost of temporary cases of occupational injuries in 2009 compared with those in 2007. 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?”)

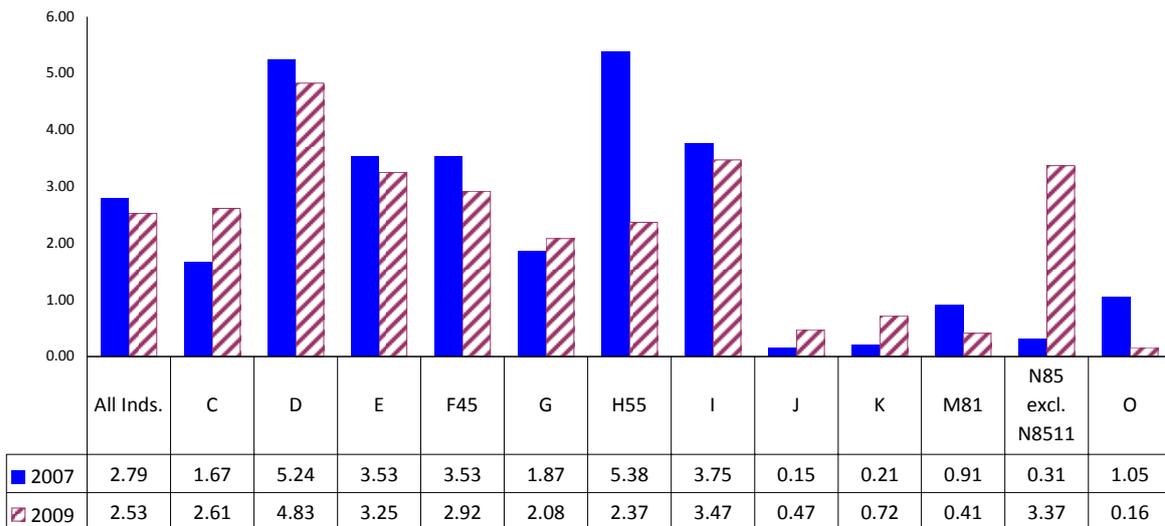
Manufacturing with the highest frequency rate in 2009

- In 2009, the frequency rate (FR) of cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost was posted at 2.53. This was slightly lower by 0.26 percentage point than the FR of 2.79 in 2007.
- Categories by incapacity for work on cases with lost workdays recorded FR as follows:

Category	2007	2009	Difference
Total	2.79	2.53	-0.26
Fatal	0.02	0.02	0.00
Non-Fatal	2.77	2.51	-0.26
Permanent Incapacity	0.02	0.02	0.00
Temporary Incapacity	2.75	2.49	-0.26
- Temporary incapacity cases which accounted for the majority of injuries with lost workdays recorded an FR of 2.49 in 2009, also lower by 0.26 percentage point than the 2.75 in 2007.
- On the other hand, the FR of permanent incapacity cases and fatal cases remained unchanged at 0.02 for both years.
- In 2009, six industry groups posted frequency rates higher than the all-industry FR. (Figure 1)
- Manufacturing registered the highest FR at 4.83, slightly lower by 0.41 percentage point than its 5.24 FR in 2007, resulting from a reduced caseload of 9,845 in 2009 from 12,427 in 2007.

- Transport, storage and communications posted the second highest FR at 3.47, a decrease of 0.28 percentage point from the 3.75 in 2007 as its caseload also decreased in 2009 (from 1,701 to 1,333).
- Private health and social work placed third with an FR of 3.37 which is higher than the 0.31 rate in 2007. This is largely due to the nine-fold increase in its caseload of injuries (from 67 in 2007 to 651 in 2009).
- Electricity, gas and water supply followed with a slightly lower FR of 3.25 in 2009 than in 2007 at 3.53. This rate corresponds to a lower number of cases of 561 in 2009 from 731 in 2007.
- The two other industry groups with an FR higher than the all-industry FR in 2009 were construction; and mining and quarrying at 2.92 and 2.61, respectively.
- Meanwhile, FRs lower than the all-industry FR of 2.53 in 2009 for the rest of the industry groups ranged from 0.16 (other community, social and personal service activities) to 2.37 (hotels and restaurants).
- In 2007, FRs below the all-industry FR of 2.79 ranged from 0.15 (financial intermediation) to 1.87 (wholesale and retail trade).

FIGURE 1 - Frequency Rates of Cases of Occupational Injuries with Workdays Lost by Major Industry Group, Philippines: 2007 and 2009



C - Mining and Quarrying

D - Manufacturing

E - Electricity, Gas and Water Supply

F45 - Construction

G - Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods

H55 - Hotels and Restaurants

I - Transport, Storage and Communications

J - Financial Intermediation

K - Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities

M81 - Private Education Services

N85 excl. N8511 - Health and Social Work except Public Medical, Dental and Other Health Activities

O - Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities

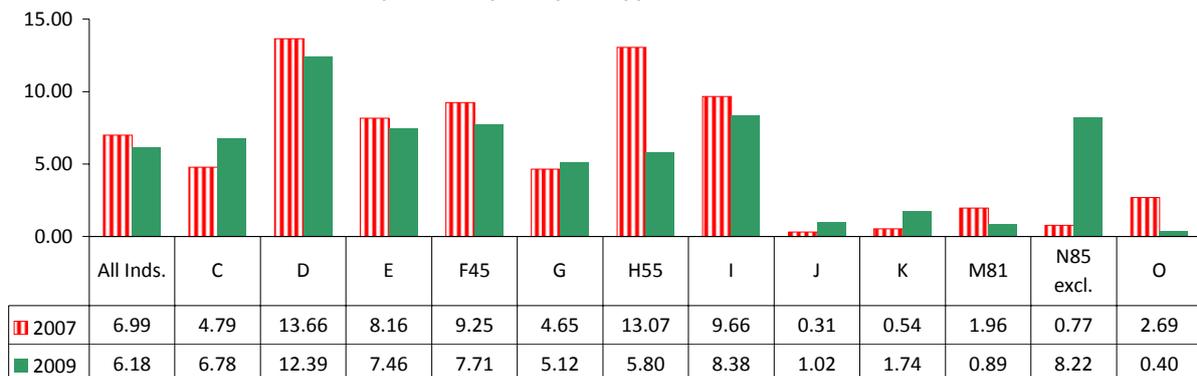
Incidence rate also highest in manufacturing

- The incidence rate (IR) for all-industry groups was recorded at 6.18 in 2009. It means that there were six cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost for every 1,000 workers. This indicated a decline of 0.81 percentage point from the 6.99 IR reported in 2007 or 7 cases per 1,000 workers.
- In terms of incapacity for work, incidence rates were noted as follows:
- Meanwhile, fatal incidences remained unchanged at 0.04 during the period.
- Manufacturing industry recorded the highest IR at a double-digit rate of 12.39 in 2009. This was lower by 1.27 percentage points from the IR of 13.66 in 2007. (Figure 2)
- Transport, storage and communications followed at 8.38, a decrease of 1.28 percentage points from 9.66 IR in 2007.
- Private health and social work came in third at 8.22. This rate notably increased from 0.77 in 2007.
- Remaining industry groups that posted higher IR than that of the national IR were the following: construction (7.71); electricity, gas and water supply (7.46); and mining and quarrying (6.78).
- Other industry groups fell below the national incidence rate of 6.18 in 2009 ranging from 0.40 (other community, social and personal service activities) to 5.80 (hotels and restaurants).

Category	2007	2009	Difference
Total	6.99	6.18	-0.81
Fatal	0.04	0.04	0.00
Non-Fatal	6.95	6.14	-0.81
Permanent Incapacity	0.06	0.05	-0.01
Temporary Incapacity	6.89	6.09	-0.80

- Expectedly, most incidences were temporary incapacity cases with a lower rate of 6.09 in 2009 from 6.89 in 2007.
- Permanent incapacity cases negligibly decreased to 0.05 in 2009 from 0.06 in 2007.

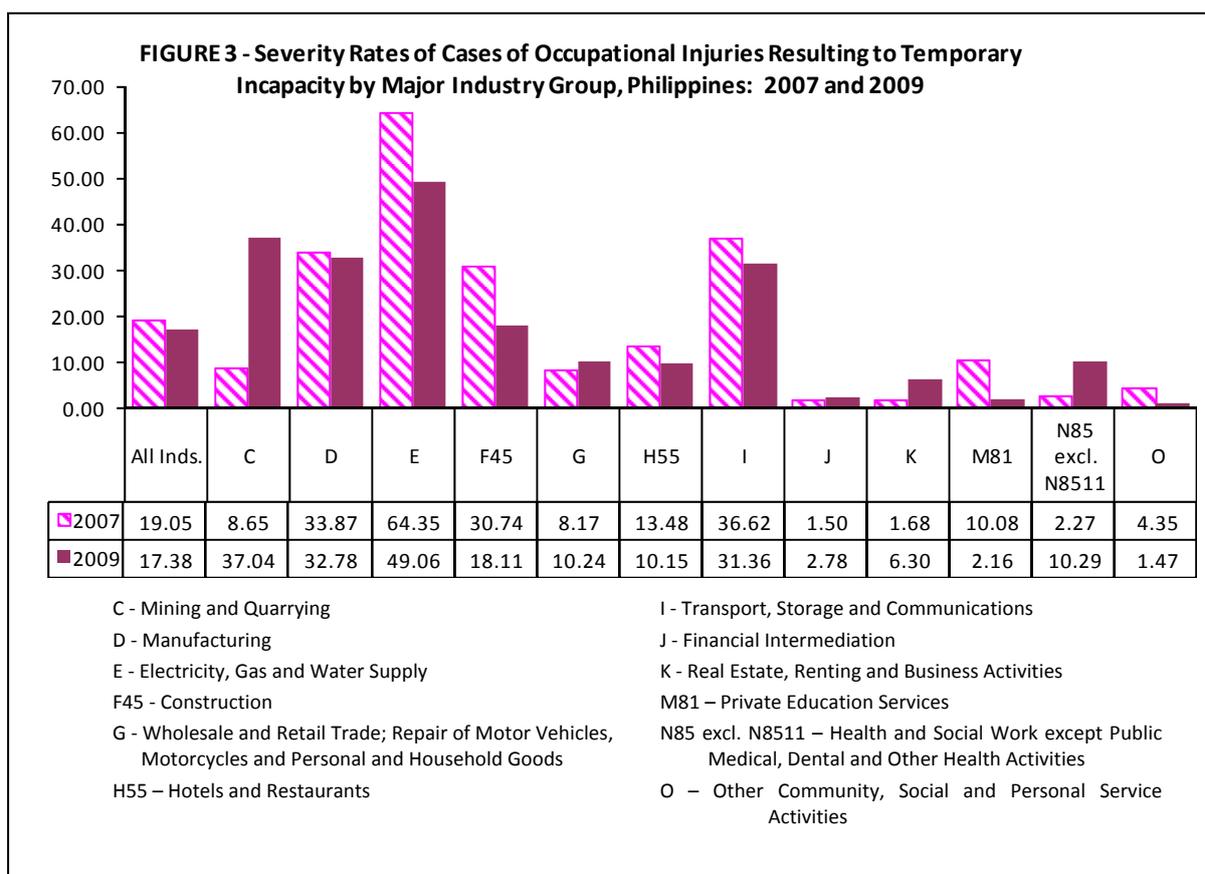
FIGURE 2 - Incidence Rates of Cases of Occupational Injuries with Workdays Lost by Major Industry Group, Philippines: 2007 and 2009



- C - Mining and Quarrying
- D - Manufacturing
- E - Electricity, Gas and Water Supply
- F45 - Construction
- G - Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods
- H55 - Hotels and Restaurants
- I - Transport, Storage and Communications
- J - Financial Intermediation
- K - Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities
- M81 - Private Education Services
- N85 excl. N8511 - Health and Social Work except Public Medical, Dental and Other Health Activities
- O - Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities

Severity rate highest in electricity, gas and water supply

- In 2009, overall severity rate (SR) of cases resulting to temporary incapacity was posted at 17.38, a decline of 1.67 percentage points from the 19.05 in 2007. (Figure 3)
- Across industry groups, electricity, gas and water supply registered the highest SR at 49.06 in 2009, a considerable improvement from the 64.35 reported in 2007.
- Mining and quarrying recorded the second highest SR at 37.04 or more than four times the 8.65 recorded in 2007.
- Manufacturing followed at 32.78 in 2009, a slight improvement from 33.87 in 2007.
- The SR of transport, storage and communications at 31.36 was lower than the 36.62 in 2007.
- The last industry group with a higher SR than the all-industry rate in 2009 was construction at 18.11, which significantly dropped from 30.74 in 2007.
- The remaining industry groups recorded lower SR than the all-industry SR ranging from 1.47 (other community, social and personal service activities) to 10.29 (health and social work except public medical, dental and other health activities).



Average workdays lost of temporary incapacity cases slightly increased

- The average number of workdays lost of temporary incapacity cases increased slightly to 6.97 in 2009 from 6.92 in 2007.
- Longer duration in average workdays lost were observed in mining and quarrying (15.92 from 5.31) and in other community, social and personal service activities (9.77 from 4.20).
- The top three industry groups that posted shorter duration of about half than before their average workdays lost were private health and social work (3.05 from 7.48); private education services (5.25 from 11.08); and financial intermediation (5.91 from 10.65).

Average Workdays Lost of Temporary Incapacity Cases of Occupational Injuries with Workdays Lost by Major Industry Group, Philippines: 2007 and 2009

Major Industry Group	2007	2009	Difference
All Industries	6.92	6.97	0.05
Mining and Quarrying	5.31	15.92	10.61
Manufacturing	6.56	6.85	0.29
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	19.13	15.99	-3.14
Construction	8.88	6.41	-2.47
Wholesale and Retail Trade	4.41	4.98	0.57
Hotels and Restaurants	2.50	4.30	1.80
Transport, Storage and Communications	9.87	9.28	-0.59
Financial Intermediation	10.65	5.91	-4.74
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	8.39	9.14	0.75
Private Education Services	11.08	5.25	-5.83
Private Health and Social Work Services	7.48	3.05	-4.43
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	4.20	9.77	5.57

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 - 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 - 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 - 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 (FR) – refers to cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost per 1,000,000 employee-hours of exposure.

Incidence Rate (IR) – refers to cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost per 1,000 workers.

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

Average Workdays Lost – refer to workdays lost for every case of occupational injury resulting to temporary incapacity.

FOR INQUIRIES

Regarding this report contact **LABOR STANDARDS STATISTICS DIVISION** at 527-3000 loc 311

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

Or write to BLES c/o **Databank**, 3/F DOLE Bldg. Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila 1002

FAX 527-5506 E-mail: bles_issd@dole.gov.ph or visit our website at <http://www.bles.dole.gov.ph>
