

Are our workplaces safe? ... Causes of Occupational Injuries (Fifth of a Series)

This issue of the LABSTAT Updates is the fifth in the series of statistical releases on occupational injuries that occurred in 2003. The inquiry is part of a nationwide survey called BLES Integrated Survey (BITS) conducted in coordination with the DOLE Regional Offices. The 2003/2004 BITS, undertaken last year, had a sample size of around 6,000 non-agricultural establishments employing 20 or more workers. It aimed to provide an integrated data set on employment patterns, industrial relations practices and occupational injuries.

The principal purpose of statistics on occupational injuries is for planning and setting priorities for preventive efforts. Changes in the patterns and occurrences of occupational injuries guide policymakers, program planners, employers and workers in identifying persistent and new areas of risk at the workplace and in evaluating safety performance and effectiveness of current accident preventive measures. The statistics are also useful in developing training materials and programs for accident prevention and providing basis for identifying areas for future research.

This series of LABSTAT Updates identifies the economic activities where occupational injuries occurred in 2003, their extent, severity and the way in which they occurred. This fifth issue focuses on the causes of occupational injuries with workdays lost (See definition of terms on page 3).

In 2003, there were 23,265 cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost. More than one-third of these occurred because workers stepped on, struck against or were struck by objects, excluding falling objects.

Seven out of 10 workers injured due to falls, stepping on, striking against, being struck or caught in or between objects



Occupational injuries with lost workdays totaled to 23,265 in 2003. More than one-third of these injuries were caused by stepping on, striking against or being struck by objects, excluding falling objects (8,104 or 34.8%). *Table 1*

Other major causes of injuries in the workplace were being caught in

or between objects (4,015 or 17.3%); and struck by falling objects (2,283 or 9.8%). On the other hand, falls of persons resulted to 1,579 (6.8%) injuries. These four causes accounted for 15,981 or 68.7 percent of total injuries that resulted to absences from work.

Over-exertion or strenuous movements (2,814 or 12.1%) and exposure to or contact with extreme temperatures (1,662 or 7.1%) also resulted to work injuries with

workdays lost. Other causes of injuries were exposure to or contact with electric current, harmful substances or radiation (1,306 or 5.6%).

More than 60 percent (14,403) of the injuries with workdays lost occurred in manufacturing. Expectedly, this major industry group recorded the highest proportions of injuries by cause ranging from 35.1 to 76.7 percent.

Almost two-thirds of the 8,104 cases with workdays lost due to stepping on, striking against or struck by objects, excluding falling objects occurred in manufacturing. Relative to total cases in this industry group, injuries due to this cause comprised 37.3 percent (5,372). Manufacture of food products accounted for 1,577 of these cases.

Other industries which recorded injury cases largely due to stepping on, striking against or struck by objects, excluding falling objects were private education services (45.5% of 132 in the industry group); transport, storage and communication (44.2% of 1,558 cases); real estate, renting and business activities, (40.5% of 566); financial intermediation (37.0% of 100); construction (36.9% of 1,114); health and social work except public medical, dental and other health services (31.2% of 96); and mining and quarrying (30% of 60).

In electricity, gas and water supply; wholesale and retail trade; hotels and restaurants; and other community, social and personal service activities, stepping on, striking against or struck by objects, excluding falling objects was not the main cause of injuries.

More than three-fourths of 4,015 injuries due to workers being caught in or between objects occurred

in manufacturing (3,078) with 576 cases noted in manufacture of food products, 261 in manufacture of wearing apparel and 228 in manufacture of plastic products.

Around 58 percent of the 2,283 cases attributable to being struck by falling objects were also observed in manufacturing. Manufacture of food products (261); manufacture of beverages (139); manufacture of wearing apparel (126); and manufacture of machinery and equipment, n.e.c. (105) were the sub-industries that reported at least a hundred cases attributed to this cause of injury.

Other community, social and personal service activities reported workers struck by falling objects as the major cause of injuries at 181 or 33.2 percent of its 546 injuries with workdays lost.

Manufacturing again recorded the biggest share of injuries due to falls of persons at 35.1 percent (554 of 1,579 cases). Of these, 183 cases were noted in manufacture of food products.

Electricity, gas and water supply placed third in the number of cases due to falls of persons (185), next to wholesale and retail trade (198). Nevertheless, electricity, gas and water supply reported this cause of injury as the most common at 23.0 percent of its total 805 cases.

More than half of the 2,814 injuries due to over-exertion or strenuous movements were claimed by manufacturing, of which 574 were in manufacture of food products and 216 in manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products, n.e.c. Wholesale and retail trade accounted for the second largest share at 33.9 percent. This cause of injury was the most common cause of injuries in the trade

industries at 35.4 percent (953 out of 2,690).

Almost all of the 1,662 cases due to exposure to or contact with extreme temperatures occurred in manufacturing (1,004); hotels and restaurants (351) and wholesale and retail trade (199). These cases were observed in the manufacturing sub-industries of food products (278); textiles (180); basic metals (163); and trade sub-industry of sale, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles, retail sale of automotive fuel (113).

There were 475 cases due to exposure to or contact with electric current. Around 62 percent (296) of these occurred in manufacturing (66 in

manufacture of wearing apparel and 62 in manufacture of food products).

As in other causes of injuries, manufacturing reported the highest share of injuries due to exposure to or contact with harmful substances or radiation at 58.0 percent (482 out of 831). Manufacture of radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus (60); manufacture of food products (56); manufacture of machinery and equipment, n.e.c. (50); manufacture of electrical machinery and apparatus, n.e.c. (49) were some of the manufacturing sub-industries that reported this cause of injury. Construction took second spot with 205 or 24.7 percent of cases attributed to harmful exposure.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Falls of persons - falls of persons from heights (trees, building, scaffolds, ladders, machines, vehicles) and into depths (wells, ditches, excavations, holes in the ground); falls of persons on the same level

Struck by falling objects - slides and cave-ins (earth, rocks, stones); collapses (buildings, walls, scaffolds, ladders, piles of goods); struck by falling objects during handling; struck by falling objects, not elsewhere classified

Stepping on, striking against or struck by objects, excluding falling objects - stepping on objects; striking against stationary objects (except impact due to a previous fall); striking against moving objects; struck by moving objects (including flying fragments and particles) excluding falling objects

Caught in or between objects - caught in an object; caught between a stationary object and a moving object; caught between moving objects (except flying or falling objects)

Over-exertion or strenuous movements - over-exertion in lifting objects; over-exertion in pushing or pulling objects; over-exertion in handling or throwing objects; strenuous movements

Exposure to or contact with extreme temperatures - exposure to heat (atmosphere or environment); exposure to cold (atmosphere or environment); contact with hot substances or objects; contact with very cold substances or objects

Exposure to or contact with electric current - contact with electricity resulting to electric shock or burns

Exposure to or contact with harmful substances or radiations - contact by inhalation, ingestion or absorption of harmful substances; exposure to ionizing radiations; exposure to radiations other than ionizing radiations

Others - include others not mentioned above; cause of injury unspecified

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**TABLE 1 - Cases of Occupational Injuries with Lost Workdays in Non-Agricultural Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers
by Industry and Cause of Injury, Philippines: 2003**

1994 PSIC	Industry	Total	Falls of Persons	Struck by Falling Objects	Stepping on, Striking Against or Struck By Objects, Excluding Falling Objects	Caught in or Between Objects	Over-exertion or Strenuous Movement	Exposure to or Contact with Extreme Temperatures	Exposure to or Contact with Electric Current	Exposure to or Contact with Harmful Substances or Radiation	Others
	Total	23,265	1,579	2,283	8,104	4,015	2,814	1,662	475	831	1,502
C	MINING AND QUARRYING	60	9	8	18	12	-	11	-	-	1
C10	Metallic Ore Mining	21	2	8	1	9	-	-	-	-	-
C11	Non-Metallic Mining and Quarrying	39	7	-	17	3	-	11	-	-	1
D	MANUFACTURING	14,403	554	1,313	5,372	3,078	1,469	1,004	296	482	835
D15 excl.											
D155	Manufacture of Food Products	3,723	183	261	1,577	576	574	278	62	56	156
D155	Manufacture of Beverages	664	17	139	342	31	13	6	2	21	93
D16	Manufacture of Tobacco Products	351	32	40	165	71	27	13	1	2	-
D17	Manufacture of Textiles	871	25	83	311	188	32	180	6	45	1
D18	Manufacture of Wearing Apparel	799	26	126	194	261	48	26	66	21	29
D191	Tanning and Dressing of Leather; Manufacture of Luggage and Handbags	26	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	1	-
D192	Manufacture of Footwear	52	2	2	10	23	9	1	2	4	-
D201											
D202	Manufacture of Wood, Wood Products and Cork except Furniture Manufacture of Articles of Bamboo, Cane, Rattan, Cork and the Like; Manufacture of Plaiting Materials	253	13	13	93	76	40	12	1	-	6
D21	Manufacture of Paper and Paper Products	329	19	12	101	104	39	29	1	24	1
D22	Publishing, Printing and Reproduction of Recorded Media	148	4	4	19	81	11	-	-	6	24
D23											
D24	Manufacture of Coke, Refined Petroleum and Other Fuel Products	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
D24	Manufacture of Chemicals and Chemical Products	718	18	50	377	122	27	93	3	27	1
D251	Manufacture of Rubber Products	129	6	37	4	37	22	18	1	5	-
D252	Manufacture of Plastic Products	802	12	50	310	228	51	28	26	13	84
D261	Manufacture of Glass and Glass Products	38	3	5	16	5	-	3	1	2	4
D262	Manufacture of Cement	97	9	10	53	14	-	11	-	-	2
D269	Manufacture of Other Non-Metallic Mineral Products, n.e.c.	511	27	79	92	89	216	-	1	3	4
D27	Manufacture of Basic Metals	777	20	73	193	192	67	163	29	25	16
D28	Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products, except Machinery and Equipment	1,132	24	85	445	181	34	63	6	35	258
D29	Manufacture of Machinery and Equipment, n.e.c.	412	5	105	68	42	88	8	22	50	24
D30	Manufacture of Office, Accounting and Computing Machinery	149	6	15	83	28	-	2	5	9	1
D31	Manufacture of Electrical Machinery and Apparatus, n.e.c.	361	14	18	100	112	34	20	12	49	1
D32	Manufacture of Radio, TV and Communication Equipment and Apparatus	599	41	34	206	175	11	31	16	60	25
D33	Manufacture of Medical, Precision and Optical Instruments, Watches and Clocks	117	13	2	47	33	1	2	-	16	3
D34	Manufacture of Motor Vehicles, Trailers and Semi-Trailers	462	23	16	250	149	5	5	1	2	12
D35	Manufacture of Other Transport Equipment	155	1	6	27	43	14	8	2	-	53
D36	Manufacture and Repair of Furniture	648	11	43	263	171	102	4	27	1	27
D37	Recycling	9	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
D39	Manufacturing, n.e.c.	67	3	7	24	14	2	2	1	4	9
E	ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER SUPPLY	805	185	157	134	57	70	5	73	39	84
E40	Electricity, Gas, Steam and Hot Water Supply	738	184	144	114	44	69	5	73	35	70
E41	Collection, Purification and Distribution of Water	67	1	13	20	13	1	-	-	5	14

Notes: 1. Details will not add up to totals due to rounding of figures.

2. A dash (-) entry implies zero (0) or no case/s reported.

**TABLE 1 - Cases of Occupational Injuries with Lost Workdays in Non-Agricultural Establishments Employing 20 or More Workers
by Industry and Cause of Injury, Philippines: 2003 (Cont'd.)**

1994 PSIC	Industry	Total	Falls of Persons	Struck by Falling Objects	Stepping on, Striking Against or Struck By Objects, Excluding Falling Objects	Caught in or Between Objects	Over- exertion or Strenuous Movement	Exposure to or Contact with Extreme Temperatures	Exposure to or Contact with Electric Current	Exposure to or Contact with Harmful Substances or Radiation	Others
F45	CONSTRUCTION	1,114	154	107	411	135	43	22	6	205	30
G	WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES, MOTORCYCLES AND PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS	2,690	198	159	726	205	953	199	2	15	232
G50	Sale, Maintenance and Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, Retail Sale of Automotive Fuel	429	23	13	84	9	21	113	-	2	163
G51	Wholesale Trade and Commission Trade, Except Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	617	111	65	188	80	51	59	-	5	59
G52	Retail Trade, Except of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, Repair of Personal and Household Goods	1,644	64	81	454	117	881	27	2	8	10
H55	HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS	1,195	166	40	333	80	124	351	28	26	49
I	TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION	1,558	166	209	689	206	76	26	22	20	144
I60	Land Transport, Transport Via Pipelines	478	68	53	198	80	21	7	-	12	37
I61	Water Transport	125	8	8	42	43	1	-	13	-	10
I62	Air Transport	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
I63	Supporting and Auxiliary Transport Activities; Activities of Travel Agencies	808	86	120	400	75	35	19	9	7	57
I64 excl. I6411	Post and Telecommunications except National Postal Activities	144	2	28	49	8	17	-	1	-	40
J	FINANCIAL INTERMEDIATION	100	13	13	37	20	3	1	-	14	-
J65 excl. J65100	Banking Institutions except Central Banking	33	-	1	13	16	1	-	-	2	-
J66	Non-Bank Financial Intermediation	41	12	12	16	2	-	-	-	-	-
J67	Insurance and Pension Funding, Except Compulsory Social Security	25	1	-	7	2	2	1	-	12	-
J68	Activities Auxiliary to Financial Intermediation	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
K	REAL ESTATE, RENTING AND BUSINESS ACTIVITIES	566	70	76	229	85	42	2	22	5	36
K70	Real Estate Activities	128	19	39	33	18	16	-	3	-	-
K71	Renting of Machinery and Equipment Without Operator, Personal and Households Goods	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K72	Computer and Related Activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K73	Research and Development	4	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
K74	Miscellaneous Business Activities	434	50	35	194	67	26	2	19	5	36
M81	PRIVATE EDUCATION SERVICES	132	23	10	60	12	14	2	3	4	3
N85 excl. N8511	HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK EXCEPT PUBLIC MEDICAL, DENTAL AND OTHER HEALTH SERVICES	96	16	11	30	7	14	1	-	11	8
O	OTHER COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES	546	25	181	64	118	6	37	22	10	82
O90	Sewage and Refuse Disposal, Sanitation and Similar Activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
O92	Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Activities	523	19	181	59	118	6	37	21	-	82
O93	Other Service Activities	22	6	-	5	-	-	-	1	10	-

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