

Vol. 9 No. 50

October 2005

Are our workplaces safe? ...Types of Occupational Injuries (Third of a Series)

This issue of the LABSTAT Updates is the third 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 third issue focuses on the types of occupational injuries with workdays lost.

In 2003, there were 23,265 cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost. Almost 50 percent of these were superficial injuries and open wounds.

Type of injury defined...



are as follows:

- The 2003 inquiry on occupational injuries inquired on the types of injuries that occurred in the workplaces. These
- **superficial injuries:** including abrasions, blisters (non-thermal), contusions, puncture wounds (without major open wounds), insect bites (non-venomous);
 - **open wounds:** including cuts, lacerations, puncture wounds (with penetrating foreign body), animal bites;
 - **fractures:** closed fractures, open fractures, other fractures (dislocated, displaced);
 - **dislocations, sprains and strains:** including avulsions, lacerations, sprains, strains, traumatic haemarthroses, ruptures, subluxations and tears of joints and ligaments;
 - **traumatic amputations:** including traumatic enucleation of the eye;

- **concussions and internal injuries:** including blast injuries, bruises, concussions, crushing, lacerations, traumatic haematoma, punctures, ruptures and tears of internal organs;
- **burns, corrosions, scalds and frostbites:** thermal burns (including from electrical heating appliances, electricity, flames, friction, hot air and hot gases, hot objects, lightning, radiation), chemical burns (corrosions), scalds, frostbites;
- **acute poisoning and infections:** acute effects of the injection, ingestion, absorption or inhalation of toxic, corrosive or causatic substances including toxic effects of contact with venomous animals;
- **infections:** including intestinal infectious diseases, specified zoonoses, protozoal diseases, viral diseases, mycoses;
- **foreign body in the eye;** and
- **other types of injury:** effects of radiation heat and light, hypothermia, effects of air pressure and water pressure, asphyxiation, effects of maltreatment (including physical abuse, psychological abuse), effects of lightning (shock from lightning, struck by lightning not otherwise specified), drowning and non-fatal submersion, effects of noise and vibration (including acute hearing loss), effects of electric current (electrocution, shock from electric current), injuries not specified.

One out of two injuries is superficial or an open wound

Half of the total cases of injuries with workdays lost (11,609 out of 23,265 cases) were superficial injuries and open wounds. Two thirds of this type of injury occurred in manufacturing (7,739) particularly in manufacture of food products (2,229). *Table 1*

Among types of injuries, superficial injuries and open wounds were consistently the highest in major industries like wholesale and retail trade (1,192); transport, storage and communication (864); construction (495); electricity, gas and water supply (359); real estate, renting and business activities (241); other community, social and personal service activities (227); private education services (61); health and social work except public medical, dental and other health services (45); and mining and quarrying (21). This type of injury accounted for 35.0 to 55.5 percent of their respective industry totals on injury cases with workdays lost.

This type of injury, however, was not the most prevalent in hotels and

restaurants and in financial intermediation industries. In hotels and restaurants, burns, corrosions, scalds and frostbites (408) occurred more frequently than superficial injuries and open wounds (339). On the other hand, financial intermediation reported 32 fractures, 26 superficial injuries and open wounds and 25 dislocations, sprains and strain. Cases with workdays lost in these major industry groups totaled 1,195 and 100, respectively.

Dislocations, sprains and strains at 3,336 (14.3%) were the second most common type of injury in the establishments surveyed. Around 40 percent (1,373) of this injury type was again recorded in manufacturing and likewise mostly in manufacture of food products (438).

This type of injury was also common in wholesale and retail trade as it accounted for almost 30 percent (986) of the total cases of dislocations, sprains and strains. The rest of the major industries reported this type of injury ranging from nine in mining and

quarrying to 213 in hotels and restaurants.

The third most frequent type of injury was burns, corrosions, scalds and frostbites at 2,300 (9.9% of cases with lost workdays). Approximately 70 percent (1,608) were observed in manufacturing particularly in manufacture of food products (383); manufacture of fabricated metal products except machinery and equipment (291); manufacture of textiles (215); manufacture of chemicals and chemical products (188); and manufacture of basic metals (164).

Fractures (1,927 or 8.3%) and foreign body in the eye (1,848 or 7.9%) were the other prevalent types of injury. Around 57 percent of cases of fractures and 62.5 percent of cases of foreign body in the eye were reported again in manufacturing. Manufacture of food products claimed 275 and 176, respectively of such cases.

Acute poisoning and infections had the least occurrence with only 221 or around one percent of total cases with lost workdays. Fifty six of the cases were observed in manufacture and repair of furniture and 44 in hotels and restaurants.

For Inquiries:

Regarding this report contact LABOR STANDARDS STATISTICS DIVISION at 527-3489/527-9325

Regarding other statistics and technical services contact BLES Databank at 527-3577

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

FAX 527-9325

E-mail: lssd@manila-online.net

bleslssd@bles.dole.gov.ph

Website: <http://www.manila-online.net/bles>

<http://www.bles.dole.gov.ph>

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

1994 PSIC	Industry	Total	Superficial Injuries and Open Wounds	Fractures	Dislocations, Sprains and Strains	Traumatic Amputations	Concussion and Internal Injuries	Burns, Corrosions, Scalds and Frostbites	Acute Poisoning and Infections	Foreign Body in the Eye	Other Injury
	Total	23,265	11,609	1,927	3,336	547	1,048	2,300	221	1,848	430
C	MINING AND QUARRYING	60	21	13	9	1	2	-	10	2	2
C10	Metallic Ore Mining	21	8	10	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
C11	Non-Metallic Mining and Quarrying	39	13	3	7	-	2	-	10	2	2
D	MANUFACTURING	14,403	7,739	1,101	1,373	434	627	1,608	134	1,155	233
D15 excl.											
D155	Manufacture of Food Products	3,723	2,229	275	438	39	100	383	14	176	69
D155	Manufacture of Beverages	664	546	14	39	0	25	6	-	21	13
D16	Manufacture of Tobacco Products	351	150	23	79	2	55	7	-	35	-
D17	Manufacture of Textiles	871	497	19	56	3	24	215	-	56	1
D18	Manufacture of Wearing Apparel	799	517	16	106	3	48	53	3	33	21
D191	Tanning and Dressing of Leather; Manufacture of Luggage and Handbags	26	25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D192	Manufacture of Footwear	52	19	4	7	4	4	5	-	8	-
D201	Manufacture of Wood, Wood Products and Cork except Furniture	253	137	37	45	-	13	15	-	6	1
D202	Manufacture of Articles of Bamboo, Cane, Rattan, Cork and the Like; Manufacture of Plaiting Materials	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D21	Manufacture of Paper and Paper Products	329	209	16	37	4	17	17	3	25	1
D22	Publishing, Printing and Reproduction of Recorded Media	148	103	22	12	11	-	1	-	-	-
D23	Manufacture of Coke, Refined Petroleum and Other Fuel Products	4	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
D24	Manufacture of Chemicals and Chemical Products	718	305	20	27	17	89	188	-	45	26
D251	Manufacture of Rubber Products	129	51	27	13	14	1	7	2	15	-
D252	Manufacture of Plastic Products	802	422	141	63	4	9	54	1	100	8
D261	Manufacture of Glass and Glass Products	38	22	2	4	-	2	3	3	3	1
D262	Manufacture of Cement	97	71	-	6	2	0	8	-	11	-
D269	Manufacture of Other Non-Metallic Mineral Products, n.e.c.	511	141	38	67	177	28	2	3	35	20
D27	Manufacture of Basic Metals	777	287	33	87	6	48	164	11	139	2
D28	Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products, except Machinery and Equipment	1,132	488	78	76	36	52	291	3	107	-
D29	Manufacture of Machinery and Equipment, n.e.c.	412	227	28	11	7	19	6	6	86	20
D30	Manufacture of Office, Accounting and Computing Machinery	149	95	10	7	1	3	18	11	3	-
D31	Manufacture of Electrical Machinery and Apparatus, n.e.c.	361	135	17	79	13	11	44	4	57	1
D32	Manufacture of Radio, TV and Communication Equipment and Apparatus	599	339	41	45	14	24	35	15	67	19
D33	Manufacture of Medical, Precision and Optical Instruments, Watches and Clocks	117	79	2	6	1	9	7	-	13	-
D34	Manufacture of Motor Vehicles, Trailers and Semi-Trailers	462	94	214	20	35	26	14	-	47	12
D35	Manufacture of Other Transport Equipment	155	73	11	3	6	4	26	-	30	1
D36	Manufacture and Repair of Furniture	648	449	6	26	35	15	30	56	31	1
D37	Recycling	9	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	0	-
D39	Manufacturing, n.e.c.	67	31	3	4	-	-	7	-	7	15
E	ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER SUPPLY	805	359	94	174	1	32	52	2	44	46
E40	Electricity, Gas, Steam and Hot Water Supply	738	324	91	161	1	21	49	1	43	45
E41	Collection, Purification and Distribution of Water	67	35	2	13	-	11	2	1	1	1
F45	CONSTRUCTION	1,114	495	81	189	2	6	42	5	258	35

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 Type of Injury, Philippines: 2003 (Cont'd.)**

1994 PSIC	Industry	Total	Superficial Injuries and Open Wounds	Fractures	Dislocations, Sprains and Strains	Traumatic Amputations	Concussion and Internal Injuries	Burns, Corrosions, Scalds and Frostbites	Acute Poisoning and Infections	Foreign Body in the Eye	Other Injury
G	WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES, MOTORCYCLES AND PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS	2,690	1,192	214	986	14	40	84	3	135	22
G50	Sale, Maintenance and Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, Retail Sale of Automotive Fuel	429	221	59	45	-	2	3	-	77	22
G51	Wholesale Trade and Commission Trade, Except Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	617	324	72	66	9	37	66	3	41	-
G52	Retail Trade, Except of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles. Repair of Personal and Household Goods	1,644	647	83	875	5	1	15	-	17	-
H55	HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS	1,195	339	122	213	5	27	408	44	20	18
I	TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION	1,558	864	145	207	47	115	50	10	72	47
I60	Land Transport, Transport Via Pipelines	478	260	63	52	19	39	10	9	24	1
I61	Water Transport	125	35	12	8	10	31	10	1	8	9
I62	Air Transport	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
I63	Supporting and Auxiliary Transport Activities; Activities of Travel Agencies	808	512	64	91	18	43	30	-	39	10
I64 excl. I6411	Post and Telecommunications except National Postal Activities	144	57	6	54	-	1	-	-	-	27
J	FINANCIAL INTERMEDIATION	100	26	32	25	-	7	-	3	7	1
J65 excl. J65100	Banking Institutions except Central Banking	33	5	18	8	-	-	-	-	2	-
J66	Non-Bank Financial Intermediation	41	17	13	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
J67	Insurance and Pension Funding, Except Compulsory Social Security	25	4	1	5	-	7	-	3	4	1
J68	Activities Auxiliary to Financial Intermediation	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
K	REAL ESTATE, RENTING AND BUSINESS ACTIVITIES	566	241	80	42	35	6	34	-	113	14
K70	Real Estate Activities	128	23	32	2	17	2	3	-	49	-
K71	Renting of Machinery and Equipment Without Operator, Personal and Household Goods	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K72	Computer and Related Activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K73	Research and Development	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
K74	Miscellaneous Business Activities	434	216	48	40	18	5	31	-	62	14
M81	PRIVATE EDUCATION SERVICES	132	61	13	38	4	3	4	3	4	-
N85 excl. N8511	HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK EXCEPT PUBLIC MEDICAL, DENTAL AND OTHER HEALTH SERVICES	96	45	11	27	-	-	2	6	1	3
O	OTHER COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES	546	227	21	53	2	182	17	-	36	7
O90	Activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
O92	Recreational, Cultural and Sporting Activities	523	224	19	51	-	181	6	-	35	7
O93	Other Service Activities	22	3	2	2	2	1	11	-	1	-

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.

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