



ARE OUR WORKPLACES SAFE ?

(Third of a ten part series)



While technological improvements may have contributed to gains in productivity, changes in work methods and machines used may have also exposed the workforce to greater risks in the workplace. In the past, the safety and health of workers was given lesser importance than the provision of monetary or economic benefits. Although this perspective has been gradually changing through the years, much has still to be done to ensure that the workers enjoy a safe working environment.

Injury statistics are useful to policy and decision-makers in labor administration particularly in the enforcement of health and safety standards. Further, establishments can use the data in their accident prevention programs.

This report is based on the 1991 to 1996 results of the Occupational Injuries Survey (OIS) conducted by the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics. The OIS covers establishments employing at least 10 workers. This third issue focuses on work-related injuries in the mining industry.

ESTABLISHMENTS WITH INJURIES

Close to one-fifth (37.7%) or 55 out of 146 mining and quarrying establishments with 10 or more workers reported work-related injuries in 1996. This was 12.3 percentage points higher than the 25.4 percent posted in 1991. However, in 1993-1995 more than two-fifths of these establishments had work-related injuries. In 1992, more than half

of the establishments recorded work-related injuries. (Table 1)

In proportion to establishment population, establishments with disabling cases ranged from 19.7 percent to 39.2 percent. The year 1994 recorded the lowest proportion at 7.7 percent.

TABLE 1. COMPARATIVE STATISTICS ON ESTABLISHMENTS WITH WORK-RELATED INJURIES IN MINING AND QUARRYING, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996

(Establishments employing 10 and over)

Year	Total Establishments	% of Establishments with Work-Related Injuries to Total	% of Establishments with Disabling Injuries to Total
1991	193	25.4	19.7
1992	121	52.1	34.7
1993	158	44.3	39.2
1994	156	43.6	7.7
1995	149	41.6	21.5
1996	146	37.7	19.9

Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, Occupational Injuries Survey.

During the first three years of the period under review, more than 65.0 percent of establishments with injuries had disabling cases (injuries with workday losses).

In 1994, the proportion of these establishments dipped to 17.6 percent. Thereafter, establishments with disabling cases relative to those with work-related cases climbed to 51.6 percent in 1995 and 52.7 percent in 1996. (Table 2)

Non-disabling cases were also observed in mining and quarrying establishments with work injuries at about 60.0 percent in 1991 to 1993. For the next three years, almost all establishments with occupational injuries also reported non-disabling cases.

WORK-RELATED INJURIES

The year 1993 posted the peak number of work-related injuries at 5,320. This was comparatively higher than the 2,990 and 2,440 cases recorded in 1991 and 1992 respectively. In 1994, the situation in the industry improved as cases drastically decreased to 1,440, then slightly rose to 1,900 in 1995 and again declined to 1,410 in 1996. (Table 3)

Almost all work-related injuries occurred in areas outside the National Capital Region (ONCR), since mining establishments are primarily located in these areas.

The proportion of disabling cases to overall injuries ranged from 9.8 percent to 26.2 percent during the period reviewed. All disabling injuries

were reported by ONCR-based establishments.

In contrast, non-disabling cases were around 73.8 percent to 90.2 percent of total injuries reported in 1991-1996. Similarly, non-disabilities occurred mostly in areas outside NCR.

DISABLING INJURIES

Mining and quarrying establishments reported disabling injuries from a low of 230 in 1994 to a high of 600 in 1992.

- ***Size of Establishment***

Most of the disabling cases each year affected establishments with at least 200 workers. Their annual shares of total disabilities ranged from 60.0 percent to 95.7 percent.

- ***Extent of Disability***

Temporary total disabilities constituted 75.0 percent to 87.0 percent of disabilities in the 6-year review period. Only 4.3 percent to 15.4 percent were permanent partial disabilities. Some 10-40 fatalities each year were reported in the industry.

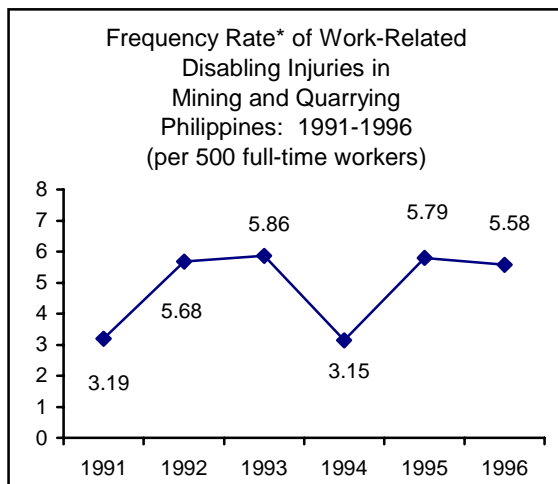
- ***Nature of Disability***

Annual disabilities were largely due to cuts, lacerations, punctures, avulsions (17.4 percent to 56.7 percent). Of sizeable proportions also were contusions, bruises, hematoma, abrasions (16.2 percent to 26.1 percent) and strains, sprains, dislocations, fractures (15.0 percent to 29.2 percent).

SAFETY PERFORMANCE

- **Frequency Rate**

In 1991 and 1994, improvements in the frequency rates of disabling injuries were recorded at 3.19 and 3.15 respectively (one out of 157-159 workers). Deteriorations were observed in the other years as the frequency rates were at less than six (6) or one injury for every 86-90 workers.

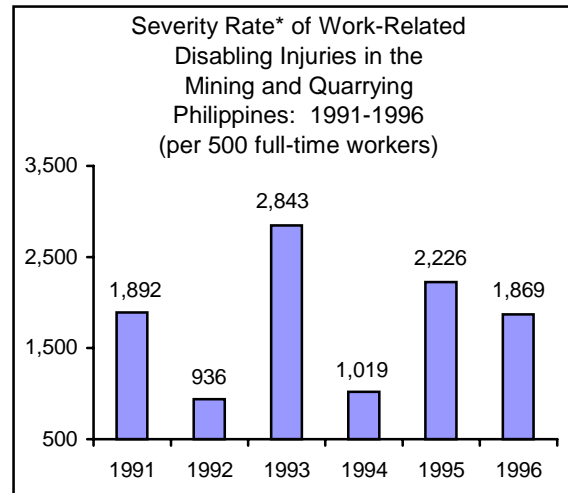


* Frequency Rate (FR) is the number of disabling injuries per 500 full-time workers each working 2,000 hours per year. It can be translated as follows:

CY 1991: 3.19 injuries per 500 workers
or
1 injury per 157 workers (i.e. 500/3.19)

- **Severity Rate**

In 1991, a severity rate of 1,892 or 3.8 lost workdays per worker was noted. Since then, severity rates fluctuated at an average of 1.9 to 5.7 lost workdays per worker in 1992-1996.



* Severity Rate (SR) is the number of lost workdays due to disabling injuries per 500 full-time workers. It can be translated as follows:

CY 1991: 1,892 lost workdays per 500 workers
or
3.8 lost workdays per workers (i.e. 1,892/500)

The incidence of disabling injuries in the mining industry seem relatively low. Nevertheless, the seriousness of these injuries remain fairly high considering that fatalities (a fatality is charged with 6,000 lost workdays) occur annually.

FOR INQUIRIES:

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TABLE 2. ESTABLISHMENTS REPORTING WORK-RELATED INJURIES IN MINING AND QUARRYING, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total Establishments	193	121	158	156	149	146
<i>Establishments with Work-Related Injuries</i> ¹	49	63	70	68	62	55
<i>Establishments with Disabling Injuries</i>	38	42	62	12	32	29
<i>Establishments with Non-Disabling Injuries</i>	36	38	51	68	59	55

¹ *Establishments with disabling (with lost workdays) and non-disabling injuries will not add up to total as an establishment may have both kinds of injuries.*

Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, Occupational Injuries Survey.

TABLE 3. WORK-RELATED INJURIES IN MINING AND QUARRYING BY AREA, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total Work-Related Injuries	2,990	2,440	5,320	1,440	1,900	1,410
National Capital Region (NCR)	*	40	0	50	40	10
Outside NCR	2,990	2,400	5,320	1,390	1,860	1,390
Disabling Injuries	390	600	520	230	480	370
National Capital Region (NCR)	*	0	0	0	0	0
Outside NCR	390	600	520	230	480	370
Non-Disabling Injuries	2,600	1,840	4,800	1,210	1,420	1,040
National Capital Region (NCR)	*	40	0	50	40	10
Outside NCR	2,600	1,800	4,800	1,160	1,380	1,020

* *No responding establishments.*

Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, Occupational Injuries Survey.

**TABLE 4. SUMMARY STATISTICS ON DISABLING INJURIES
IN MINING AND QUARRYING, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
<i>TOTAL DISABLING INJURIES</i>	390	600	520	230	480	370
<i>By Establishment Size</i>						
10-99 workers	20	150	90	10	90	30
100-199 workers	10	90	60	0	0	0
200 or more workers	360	360	370	220	390	350
<i>By Extent</i>						
Fatal	30	10	40	10	30	20
Permanent Total Disability	a	0	a	a	0	a
Permanent Partial Disability	40	60	80	10	40	40
Temporary Total Disability	320	520	390	200	410	310
<i>By Nature</i>						
Cuts, lacerations, punctures, avulsions	110	340	200	40	140	120
Contusions, bruises, hematoma, abrasions	70	100	100	60	100	60
Strains, sprains, dislocations, fractures	110	90	120	60	140	100
Burns and scalds (thermal/chemical)	20	30	20	10	10	20
Crushing, spinal, cranial injuries	40	20	10	10	10	20
Amputations, loss of body parts	10	10	20	20	a	10
Foreign body in the eye and other eye injuries	10	a	20	10	10	20
Electrocution, electric shock	10	a	10	10	0	a
Asphyxiation, poisoning	a	a	a	0	10	10
Other injuries	10	a	20	10	50	20
<i>By Area</i>						
National Capital Region (NCR)	*	40	0	50	40	10
Outside NCR	2,600	1,800	4,800	1,160	1,380	1,020

a Less than 5 cases.

** No responding establishments.*

Source of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, Occupational Injuries Survey.