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# LABSTAT

## Updates

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### ARE OUR WORK PLACES SAFE ?

(First 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 first issue discusses the profile of injuries in the workplace while the nine (9) issues focuses on specific industries.

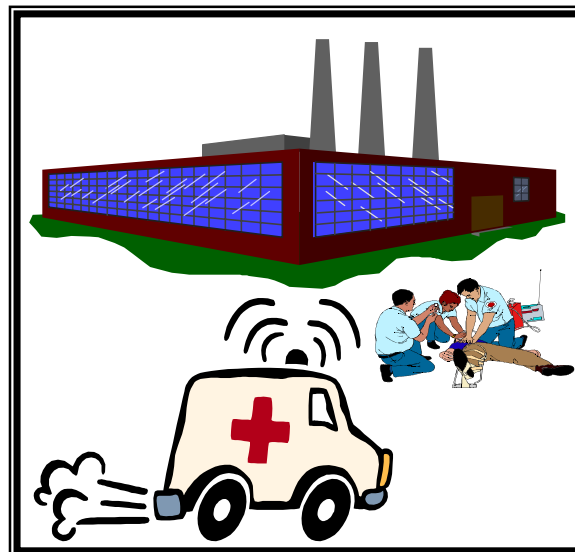
#### ESTABLISHMENTS WITH INJURIES

Close to 13,000 or about one-third of some 40,500 establishments in 1996 reported work-related injuries.

**TABLE 1. COMPARATIVE STATISTICS ON  
ESTABLISHMENTS WITH WORK-RELATED  
INJURIES, 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	39,678	28.5	17.5
1992	39,047	28.3	18.7
1993	39,247	26.7	17.6
1994	40,226	24.2	9.2
1995	39,909	34.9	13.7
1996	40,472	32.0	10.9

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



This was lower than the 34.9 percent posted the year before. However, in 1991-1994, around 9,700 to 11,300 establishments recorded injuries in their workplaces. On the average, this represented a little over one-fourth of total establishments each year. (Table 1)

During the first three years of the period under review, more than 60 percent of establishments with injuries had disabling cases (injuries with workday losses). In the second half of the review period, the trend was reversed as considerably lower proportions were observed: 38.2 percent in 1994; 39.4 percent in 1995 and 34.1 percent in 1996. Most adversely affected were 1,771 to 3,088 manufacturing establishments yearly. In contrast, mining and quarrying establishments numbered the least at

12 to 62 during the same period. (Table 2)

While the proportions of establishments with injuries relative to total establishments ranged from 24.2 to 34.9 percent in 1991-1996, the proportions of establishments with disabling injuries to total establishments accounted for only 9.2 to 18.7 percent. (Table 1)

## **WORK-RELATED INJURIES**

The lowest numbers of work-related injuries at 220,500 to 247,540 was reported in 1991-1993 as compared to 249,640 to 299,760 injuries in 1994-1996. Nevertheless, the lowest figures of disabling injuries were noted during the second half of the 6-year review period. In particular, while 1995 posted the highest number of injuries in the workplace at 299,760, that year recorded the lowest proportion of disabling cases, (16.2% or 48,700). On the other hand, 1993 which had the least number of injuries at 220,500, recorded the highest number of disabling cases at 73,020 (33.1%). This means that while there may be considerable observations of work-related injuries, a large share of these are non-disabling (no workday losses).

Most of the injuries occurred in the National Capital Region but disabling cases were mostly observed in the rest of the country. (Table 3)

## **DISABLING INJURIES**

The general decline in the number of establishments with disabling cases was complemented with an apparent slowdown in the number of disabling injuries. From 50,860 cases in 1991, disabling injuries increased to

73,020 cases in 1993, then tapered off to a caseload of 50,320 in 1996. (Table 4)

### **• Major Industry**

Manufacturing accounted for the biggest share of disabling cases in 1991-1996. From 59.0 percent (30,020) in 1991, its share reached 66.9 percent (30,690) by 1994, then slightly decreased to 63.0 percent (30,660) in 1995 and further dropped to 56.1 percent (28,220) in 1996.

Following distantly, were agriculture, fishery and forestry (3.6-17.3%), wholesale and retail trade (5.6-14.3%) and community, social and personal services (6.4-12.3%).

Mining and quarrying with annual percentage shares ranging from 0.5-1.0 percent was least affected.

### **• Size of Establishment**

Most of the disabling injuries occurred in establishments employing 200 or more workers. In 1996, these establishments accounted for 64.3 percent (32,380) of the disabilities, up from 50.5 percent in 1991.

On the other hand, establishments with 100-199 workers had the least shares of disabling cases from 8.4 to 12.8 percent (4,070-9,370).

### **• Extent of Disability**

More than 95.0 percent of disabling cases in the 6-year review period were temporary total disabilities (44,590-71,430). Only 1.3 to 4.0 percent were permanent partial (890-1,970) while 0.5 to 0.9 percent (220-620) were fatalities.

Permanent total injuries were least reported in 1991-1996: less than 80 cases annually in 1992-1994 and

1996. These disabilities numbered 270 and 160 in 1991 and 1995 respectively.

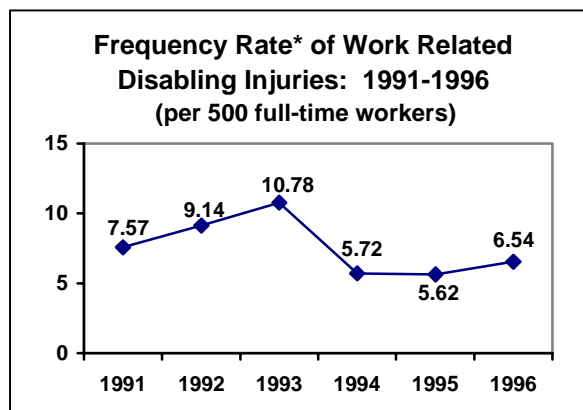
• **Nature of Disability**

Cuts, lacerations, punctures, avulsions were the most common disabling injury with annual shares ranging from 46.3 to 52.2 percent (20,130-35,820). Also prevalent but at lesser degrees were contusions, bruises, hematoma, abrasions; strains, sprains, dislocations fractures; burns and scalds (thermal and chemical); and foreign body in the eye and other eye injuries.

**SAFETY PERFORMANCE**

• **Frequency Rate**

In 1991-1993, increasing disabling cases were noted. From a frequency rate of 7.57 in 1991 (one out of every 66 employed persons sustained a disabling injury), it went up to 10.78 in 1993 (one injury for every 46 workers).

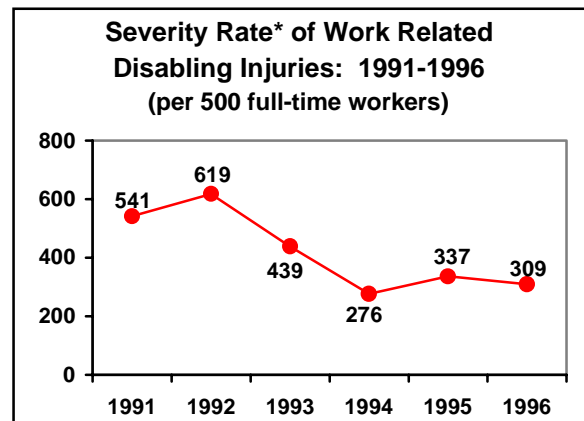


\* Frequency Rate (FR) is the number of disabling injuries per 500 full-time workers each working 2,000 hours per year. It can be translated as follows:  
*CY 1991: 7.57 injuries per 500 workers*  
*or*  
*1 injury per 66 workers (i.e.500 /7.57)*

However, with probable improvements in working conditions, the frequency rate went down to 5.72 in 1994 (one injury for every 87 workers), then dropped negligibly to 5.62 in 1995 (one case for every 89 workers) and then increased to 6.54 in 1996 (one injury for every 76 workers).

• **Severity Rate**

Disabling injuries resulted to a little over one (1) workday lost in 1991 (1.1 day per worker) and 1992 (1.2 day per worker). From 1993 to 1996, cases were less severe at barely one working day lost per worker.



\* Severity Rate (SR) is the number of lost workdays due to disabling injuries per 500 full-time workers each working 2,000 hours per year. It can be translated as follows:  
*CY 1991: 541 lost workdays per 500 workers*  
*or*  
*1.1 lost workdays per worker (i.e.541 / 500)*

Results of the 1991-1996 OIS indicate seeming improvements in accident prevention at the workplace. The turn-around was evident in 1994 when establishments with disabling injuries started to taper off. This was further supported by the apparent downtrend in the number of disabling injuries, lesser injuries per worker and shorter workdays lost.

FOR INQUIRIES:

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 FAX 527-3579 E-mail: [Issd@manila-online.net](mailto:Issd@manila-online.net) Website: <http://www.manila-online.net/bles>

**TABLE 2. ESTABLISHMENTS REPORTING WORK-RELATED INJURIES, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**  
(Establishments employing 10 and over.)

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
<b>Total Establishments</b>	<b>39,678</b>	<b>39,047</b>	<b>39,247</b>	<b>40,226</b>	<b>39,909</b>	<b>40,472</b>
<b>Establishments with Work-Related Injuries</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>11,325</b>	<b>11,068</b>	<b>10,495</b>	<b>9,739</b>	<b>13,915</b>	<b>12,957</b>
<b>Establishments with Disabling Injuries</b>	<b>6,938</b>	<b>7,298</b>	<b>6,911</b>	<b>3,717</b>	<b>5,480</b>	<b>4,412</b>
Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry	386	366	199	119	180	155
Mining and Quarrying	38	42	62	12	32	29
Manufacturing	3,032	3,088	3,062	1,771	2,538	2,013
Electricity, Gas and Water	95	121	150	39	111	107
Construction	139	372	379	247	264	185
Wholesale and Retail Trade	1,974	1,209	927	486	881	607
Transportation, Storage and Communication	203	331	315	153	201	210
Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services	254	270	353	171	264	244
Community Social and Personal Services	817	1,499	1,464	719	1,008	861
<b>Establishments with Non-Disabling Injuries</b>	<b>6,928</b>	<b>6,361</b>	<b>6,174</b>	<b>8,545</b>	<b>12,036</b>	<b>11,679</b>

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

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

**TABLE 3. WORK-RELATED INJURIES BY AREA, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**  
(Establishments employing 10 and over.)

Indicator	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
<b>Total Work-Related Injuries</b>	<b>245,360</b>	<b>247,540</b>	<b>220,500</b>	<b>249,640</b>	<b>299,760</b>	<b>274,560</b>
National Capital Region (NCR)	147,490	104,870	115,350	162,060	160,940	142,020
Outside NCR	97,870	142,670	105,140	87,580	138,820	132,540
<b>Disabling Injuries</b>	<b>50,860</b>	<b>68,240</b>	<b>73,020</b>	<b>45,840</b>	<b>48,700</b>	<b>50,320</b>
National Capital Region (NCR)	22,000	26,450	38,430	28,230	20,430	19,650
Outside NCR	28,860	41,800	34,590	17,610	28,270	30,670
<b>Non-Disabling Injuries</b>	<b>194,500</b>	<b>179,300</b>	<b>147,480</b>	<b>203,800</b>	<b>251,060</b>	<b>224,240</b>
National Capital Region (NCR)	125,490	78,420	76,920	133,830	140,510	122,370
Outside NCR	69,010	100,870	70,550	69,970	110,550	101,870

Note: Details may not add up to total as these were rounded-off to nearest tens.

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

**TABLE 4. SUMMARY STATISTICS ON DISABLING  
INJURIES, PHILIPPINES: 1991-1996**  
(Establishments employing 10 and over.)

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>
<b>TOTAL DISABLING INJURIES</b>	50,860	68,240	73,020	45,840	48,700	50,320
<b><i>By Major Industry</i></b>						
Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry	4,260	8,010	5,270	1,670	5,290	8,700
Mining and Quarrying	390	600	520	230	480	370
Manufacturing	30,020	40,490	45,310	30,690	30,660	28,220
Electricity, Gas and Water	530	480	520	360	480	540
Construction	970	2,650	4,860	2,440	1,740	1,860
Wholesale and Retail Trade	7,270	4,020	6,010	2,560	3,760	2,810
Transportation, Storage and Communication	1,500	3,460	3,090	1,450	2,690	3,170
Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services	1,010	990	1,640	790	490	880
Community Social and Personal Services	4,900	7,540	5,800	5,660	3,100	3,770
<b><i>By Establishment Size</i></b>						
10-99 workers	20,050	30,950	24,710	19,050	13,800	13,320
100-199 workers	5,140	6,280	9,370	4,210	4,070	4,630
200 or more workers	25,670	31,020	38,940	22,580	30,840	32,380
<b><i>By Extent</i></b>						
Fatal	260	620	350	220	260	240
Permanent Total Disability	270	70	50	80	160	70
Permanent Partial Disability	1,070	890	1,190	940	1,970	890
Temporary Total Disability	49,260	66,660	71,430	44,590	46,320	49,110
<b><i>By Nature</i></b>						
Cuts, lacerations, punctures, avulsions	23,550	35,600	35,820	20,130	25,110	23,850
Contusions, bruises, hematoma, abrasions	9,800	12,840	11,090	10,850	8,180	8,640
Strains, sprains, dislocations, fractures	6,420	8,430	8,400	6,180	5,690	6,680
Burns and scalds (thermal/chemical)	3,450	6,170	7,490	3,420	3,190	3,850
Crushing, spinal, cranial injuries	530	1,770	1,500	1,180	1,120	1,170
Amputations, loss of body parts	530	340	530	240	740	520
Foreign body in the eye and other eye Injuries	5,300	1,760	5,070	3,380	2,820	4,380
Electrocution, electric shock	150	130	400	120	200	180
Asphyxiation, poisoning	210	120	250	20	130	80
Other injuries	900	1,080	2,470	320	1,520	980
<b><i>By Area</i></b>						
National Capital Region (NCR)	22,000	26,450	38,430	28,230	20,430	19,650
Outside NCR	28,860	41,800	34,590	17,610	28,270	30,670

*Note: Details may not add up to total as these were rounded-off to nearest tens.*

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