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ARE OUR WORKPLACES SAFE? ... Cases of Occupational Injuries (First of a series)

This series of LABSTAT Updates present statistical briefs on cases of occupational injuries and diseases that affected private sector establishments in 2007. The statistics were based on the results of the 2007/2008 BLES Integrated Survey (BITS) conducted in 2008 by the Bureau in coordination with the DOLE Regional Offices. As a vital supplementary source of data to administrative-based statistics on occupational safety and health in DOLE, the BITS is a nationwide survey covering 6,460 sample non-agricultural establishments with 20 or more workers. It has expanded its industry coverage from 58 industries in 2003 to 65 to include building and repairing of ships and boats (manufacturing industry); bus line operation (transport, storage and communications); accounting, bookkeeping and auditing activities, tax consultancy; architectural, engineering and related technical consultancy; call center activities; medical transcription and related outsourcing activities (real estate, renting and business activities); and animated films and cartoons production (other community, social and personal service activities) industries. The last three sub-industries are technology-based industries that have played significant roles in the Philippine economy in recent years.

The BITS also generated other labor statistics on employment of specific groups of workers; occupational shortages and surpluses; safety and health practices; and labor cost of employees that can be used as basis for policy and program formulation and evaluation.

Specifically, this initial issue discusses the results of the survey regarding the magnitude of establishments affected by occupational accidents, count of accidents, number and type of cases of injuries due to these accidents covering the period 2007 compared with those of 2003. The metadata and the statistical tables of the survey are posted on the BLES website.

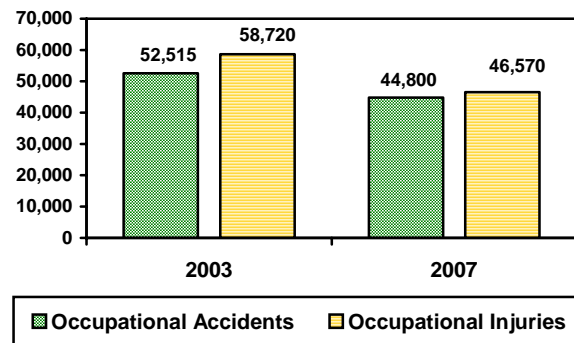
Around two-thirds of occupational injuries occurred in manufacturing industry

A total of 44,800 occupational accidents occurred in 4,600 non-agricultural establishments employing 20 or more workers in 2007. This is lower by 14.7% than the 52,515 accidents that affected 4,824 establishments in 2003. (Figure 1)

Occupational injuries that resulted from workplace accidents also declined by 20.7% from 58,720 in 2003 to 46,570 in 2007.

Manufacturing accounted for around two-thirds of the total cases of occupational injuries in 2007 (30,790 out of 46,570). The share was slightly lower than the 69.0% recorded in 2003 (40,498 out of

FIGURE 1 - Occupational Accidents and Injuries,
Philippines: 2003 and 2007



Sources of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, BLES Integrated Survey (2003/2004 and 2007/2008).

58,720). Far second was wholesale and retail trade with 3,785 or 8.1% of the total work-related injuries. This was followed by hotels and restaurants with 3,458 cases or 7.4%. Financial intermediation had the least at only 0.3% with only 131 injuries. (Table 1)

These industries, in the same order, similarly accounted for the most number of occupational injuries in 2003. Financial intermediation posted the least number of cases as well.

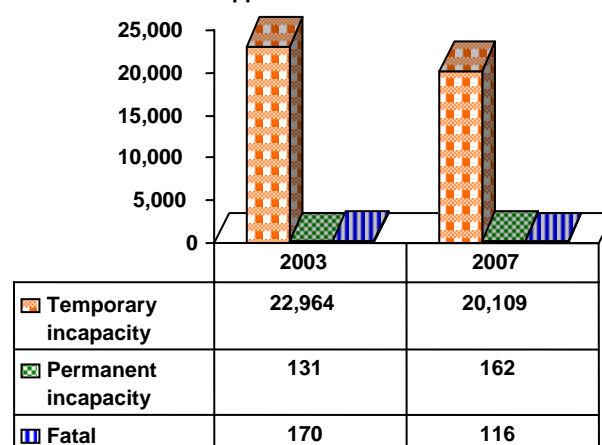
Almost all cases of occupational injuries with workdays lost resulted to temporary incapacity

As shown in Table 1, about 60.0% of occupational injuries in both periods required only first-aid treatment (35,454 in 2003 and 26,184 in 2007) and thus did not entail days away from work. Meanwhile, those cases that required absence/s from work stood at 23,265 in 2003 and 20,386 in 2007 or a reduction of 12.4%.

In terms of incapacity for work, almost all of the cases with workdays lost in 2007 were temporary disabilities (20,109). This was 12.4% lower than the caseload of 22,964 in 2003. Fatalities likewise decreased by 31.8% (from 170 in 2003 to 116 in 2007). However, those permanently incapacitated increased by 23.7% (from 131 in 2003 to 162 in 2007). (Figure 2)

In comparison with respective industry totals in 2003, the highest percentage increase in number of occupational injury was observed in private education services at 76.5% (from 699 in 2003 to 1,234 in 2007). Conversely, the biggest percentage decrease was noted in establishments engaged in real estate, renting and business activities at 60.6% (from 1,022 in 2003 to 403 in 2007).

FIGURE 2 - Cases of Occupational Injuries with Workdays Lost by Incapacity for Work, Philippines: 2003 and 2007



Sources of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, BLES Integrated Survey (2003/2004 and 2007/2008).

Highest growth of cases with workdays lost observed in private education services

The largest caseload of injuries with workdays lost in 2007 was recorded in manufacturing establishments at 61.0% (12,427). This industry also posted the biggest share at 61.9% four years earlier. The rest of the industries had lower shares ranging from 0.2% (financial intermediation) to 9.2% (hotels and restaurants) in 2007 and from 0.3% (mining and quarrying) to 11.6% (wholesale and retail trade) in 2003. (Table 1)

Relative to their specific industry totals, private education injury cases with workdays lost

had multiplied by as much as three times its 2003 level (from 132 in 2003 to 436 in 2007). Other noticeable percentage increases were recorded in mining and quarrying at 58.3% (from 60 in 2003 to 95 in 2007) and in hotels and restaurants at 57.1% (from 1,195 in 2003 to 1,877 in 2007). On the other hand, remarkable decreases were noted in other community, social and personal service entities at 66.1% (from 546 in 2003 to 185 in 2007) and in financial intermediation activities at 52.0% (from 100 in 2003 to 48 in 2007).

Half of cases with workdays lost due to superficial injuries and open wounds

Listed below were the types of injuries with workdays lost in non-agricultural establishments employing 20 or more workers in 2003 and 2007.

Type of Injury	2003	2007
TOTAL	23,265	20,386
<i>Superficial Injuries and Open Wounds</i>	11,609	10,517
<i>Fractures</i>	1,927	1,839
<i>Dislocations, Sprains and Strains</i>	3,336	2,366
<i>Traumatic Amputations</i>	547	234
<i>Concussion and Internal Injuries</i>	1,048	694
<i>Burns, Corrosions, Scalds and Frostbites</i>	2,300	2,065
<i>Acute Poisoning and Infections</i>	221	750
<i>Foreign Body in the Eye</i>	1,848	1,565
<i>Others</i>	430	356

It was noted that injuries sustained at workplaces which consequently resulted to absences from work were largely due to superficial injuries and open wounds which accounted for 51.6% (10,517) in 2007. Dislocation, sprain and strain injuries came next at 11.6% (2,366 cases) followed by burns, corrosions, scalds and frostbites at 10.1% (2,065 cases). These injury types also topped the 2003 list with shares of 49.9% (11,609), 14.3% (3,336) and 9.9% (2,300), respectively.

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.

FOR INQUIRIES:

Regarding this report contact **LABOR STANDARDS STATISTICS DIVISION** at 527-3000 loc 311/527-9325

Regarding other statistics and technical services contact **BLES Databank** at 527-3000 loc 317

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

FAX 527-9325 E-mail: bles_lssd@yahoo.com or visit our website at <http://www.bles.dole.gov.ph>

TABLE 1 - Cases of Occupational Injuries With and Without Workdays Lost by Major Industry Group, Philippines: 2003 and 2007

Major Industry Group	2003			2007		
	TOTAL	With Workdays Lost	Without Workdays Lost	TOTAL	With Workdays Lost	Without Workdays Lost
Total	58,720	23,265	35,454	46,570	20,386	26,184
Mining and Quarrying	156	60	96	181	95	85
Manufacturing	40,498	14,403	26,094	30,790	12,427	18,364
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	1,329	805	524	1,078	731	347
Construction	1,768	1,114	654	2,076	837	1,238
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods	6,637	2,690	3,948	3,785	1,658	2,127
Hotels and Restaurants	2,757	1,195	1,562	3,458	1,877	1,581
Transport, Storage and Communications	2,335	1,558	776	2,220	1,701	519
Financial Intermediation	109	100	9	131	48	84
Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	1,022	566	456	403	325	77
Private Education Services	699	132	567	1,234	436	798
Health and Social Work except Public Medical, Dental and Other Health Activities	169	96	72	197	67	130
Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	1,243	546	697	1,018	185	833

Note: Details may not add up to totals due to rounding of figures.

Sources of data: Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, BLES Integrated Survey (2003/2004 and 2007/2008).