

Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Bulletin

Issue No. 9 (August 2009)

Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Labour Department



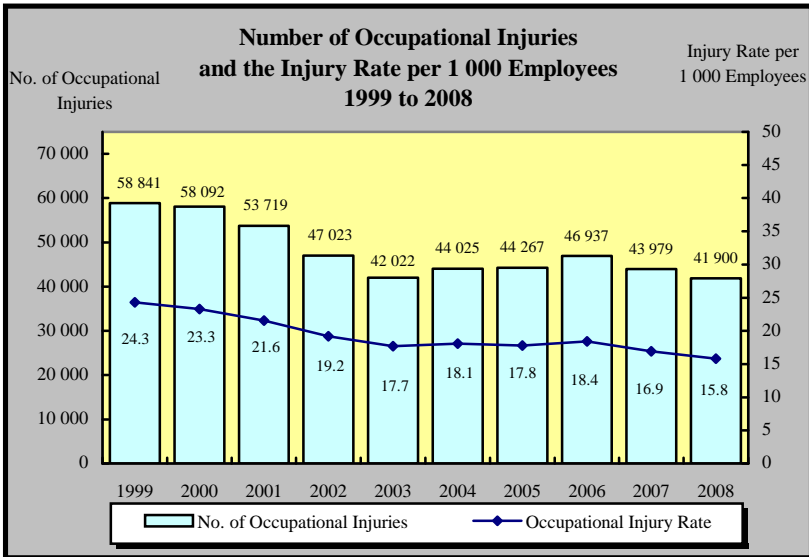
Statistics in this Bulletin provide information, analysis and recent trends on work-related accidents and confirmed cases of occupational disease in Hong Kong with breakdowns by economic sectors and selected industries. Employers, employees and occupational safety and health practitioners may use them to measure the performance in their own organizations against the overall accident rates and the industry average. We hope that such information will help individual establishments manage their occupational safety and health programmes better and improve their performance.

The Labour Department has been making enormous efforts in promoting safety and health in the workplace through legislation, enforcement, promotion and training. These coupled with efforts made by strategic partners such as the Works Branch, the Housing Department and the Occupational Safety and Health Council have enhanced safety awareness of employers and employees and resulted in continual improvements in the overall safety performance in the past decade.

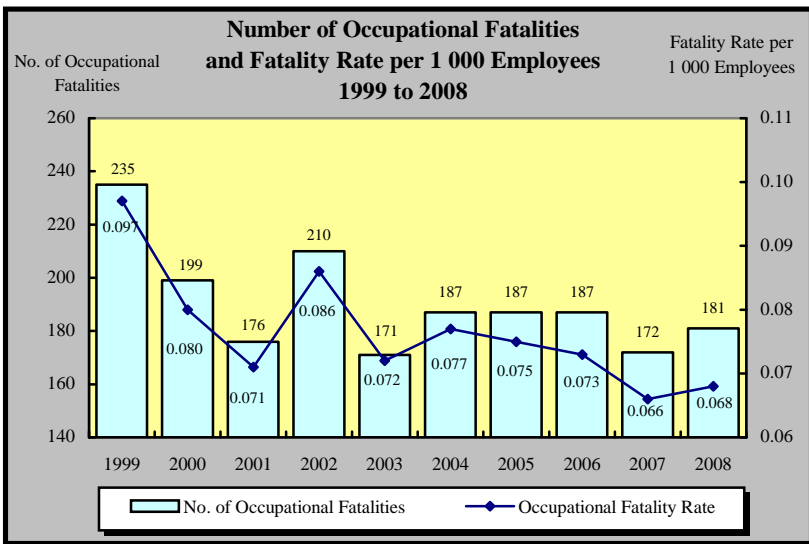
In 2008, the number of occupational injuries in all workplaces stood at 41 900, a decrease of 4.7 per cent over 2007, while the injury rate per 1 000 employees decreased from 16.9 to 15.8, a decrease of 6.3 per cent. The number of industrial accidents in all industries in 2008 stood at 14 932, a decrease of 7.4 per cent over 2007, while the accident rate per 1 000 workers also decreased to 27.2, down by 7.3 per cent.

The high-risk construction industry still recorded the highest number of fatalities and accident rate among various industry sectors. Although the number of construction industrial accidents decreased from 3 042 to 3 033, down by 0.3 per cent, the accident rate per 1 000 workers increased from 60.6 to 61.4, up by 1.2 per cent as compared with 2007. When compared to 1999, the construction accidents in 2008 fell heftily by 78.5 per cent and the accident rate per 1 000 workers also dropped by 69.1 per cent as well.

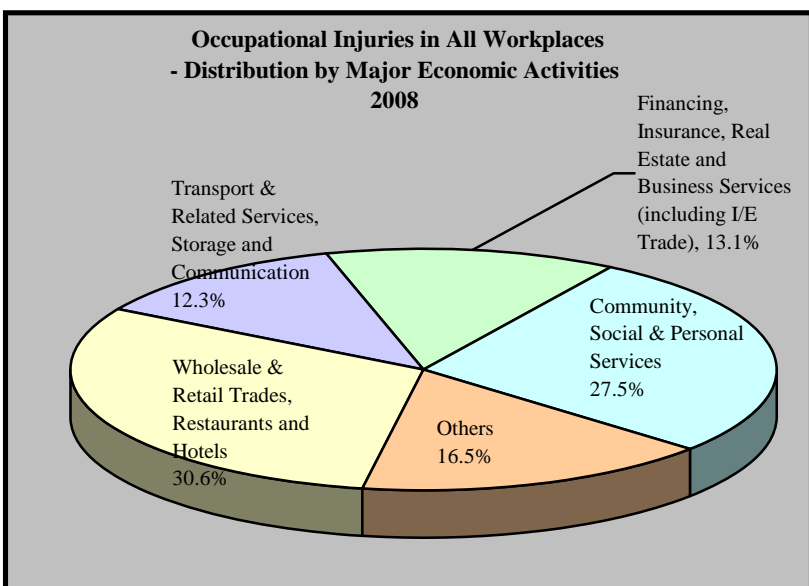
Occupational Injuries



- In 2008, there were 41 900 occupational injuries, lower than 43 979 in 2007 by 4.7%, 58 841 in 1999 by 28.8% and the average of the past five years (44 222) by 5.2%.
- The injury rate per 1 000 employees in 2008 was 15.8, lower than 16.9 in 2007 by 6.3%, 24.3 in 1999 by 34.9% and the average of the past five years (17.4) by 9.1%.

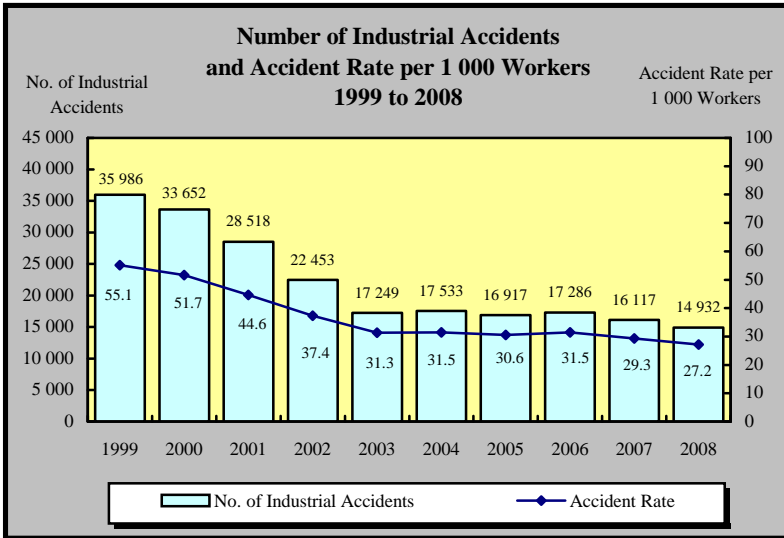


- In 2008, there were 181 occupational fatalities, higher than 172 in 2007 by 5.2%, but lower than 235 in 1999 by 23.0% and the average of the past five years (182.8) by 1.0%.
- The occupational fatality rate in 2008 was 0.068 per 1 000 employees, higher than 0.066 in 2007 by 3.5%, but lower than 0.097 in 1999 by 29.6% and the average of the past five years (0.072) by 5.0%.

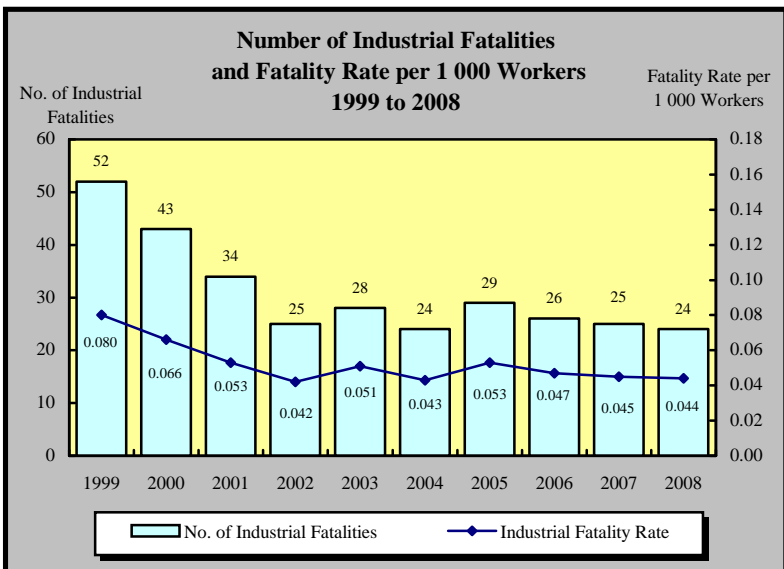


- Of the 41 900 occupational injuries in 2008, over 80% occurred in the following major economic sectors:
- 30.6% Wholesale & Retail Trades, Restaurants and Hotels
 - 27.5% Community, Social & Personal Services
 - 13.1% Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services (including Import & Export Trade)
 - 12.3% Transport & Related Services, Storage and Communication

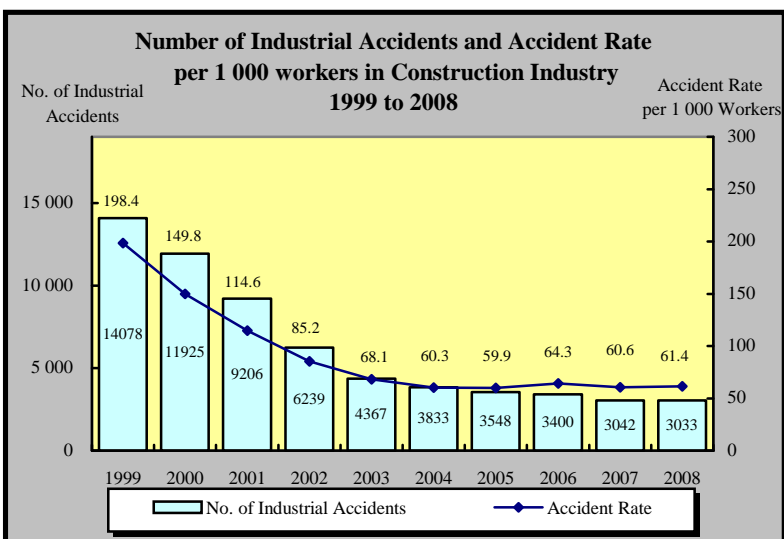
Industrial Accidents



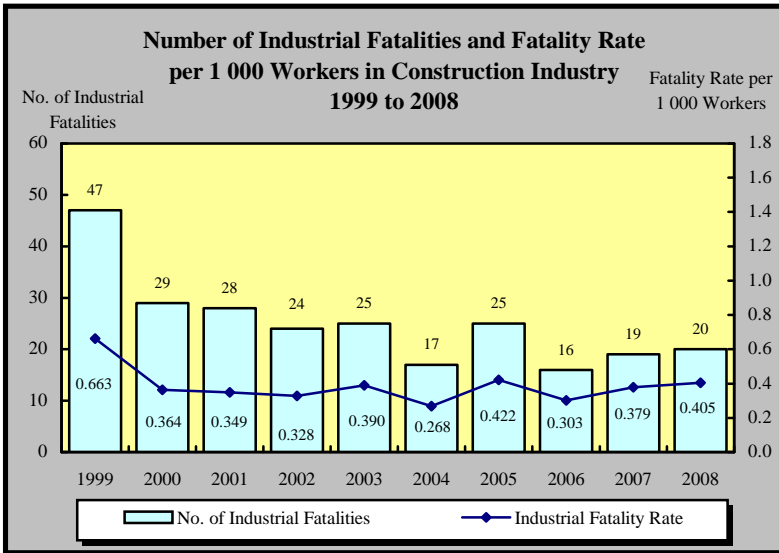
- The number of industrial accidents in 2008 was 14 932, lower than 16 117 in 2007 by 7.4%, 35 986 in 1999 by 58.5% and the average of the past five years (16 557) by 9.8%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers in 2008 was 27.2, lower than 29.3 in 2007 by 7.3%, 55.1 in 1999 by 50.7% and the average of the past five years (30.0) by 9.5%.



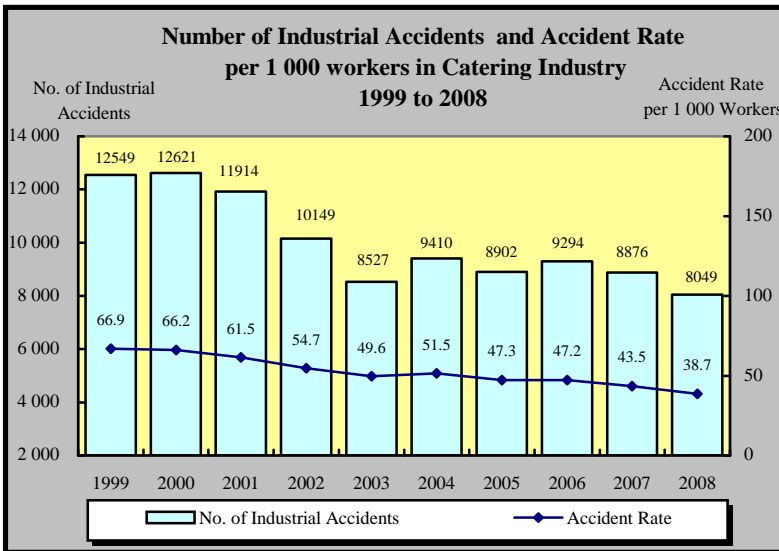
- In 2008 the number of industrial fatalities was 24, lower than 25 in 2007 by 4.0%, 52 in 1999 by 53.8% and the average of the past five years (25.6) by 6.3%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers in 2008 was 0.044, lower than 0.045 in 2007 by 4.0%, 0.080 in 1999 by 45.2% and the average of the past five years (0.046) by 6.0%.
- On average, about 76% of the industrial fatalities occurred in the construction industry in the past five years.



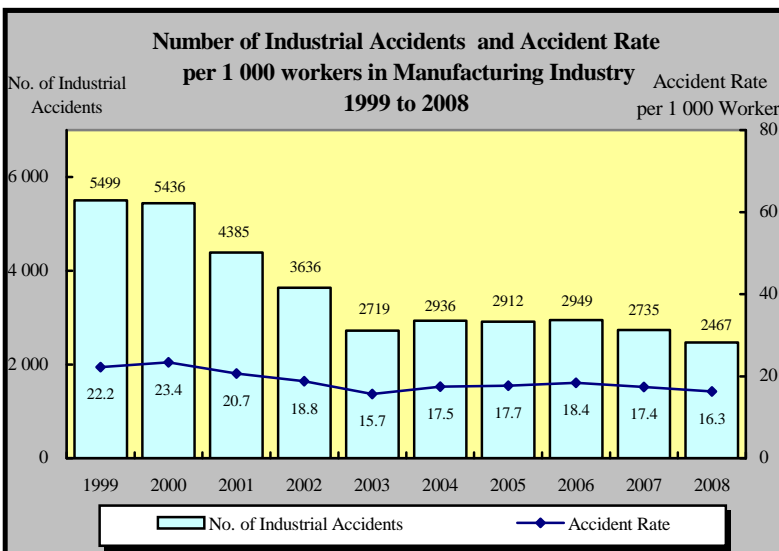
- In 2008, there were 3 033 industrial accidents in the construction industry, lower than 3 042 in 2007 by 0.3%, 14 078 in 1999 by 78.5% and the average of the past five years (3 371) by 10.0%. It was the lowest over the past ten years.
- The accident rate of the construction industry in 2008 was 61.4, slightly higher than 60.6 in 2007 by 1.2% and the average of the past five years (61.3) by 0.1%, but lower than 198.4 in 1999 by 69.1%.



- In 2008, the number of industrial fatalities in the construction industry was 20, higher than 19 in 2007 by 5.3% and the average of the past five years (19.4) by 3.1%, but lower than 47 in 1999 by 57.4%.
- The industrial fatality rate of the construction industry in 2008 was 0.405, higher than 0.379 in 2007 by 6.9% and the average of the past five years (0.355) by 14.0%, but lower than 0.663 in 1999 by 38.9%.



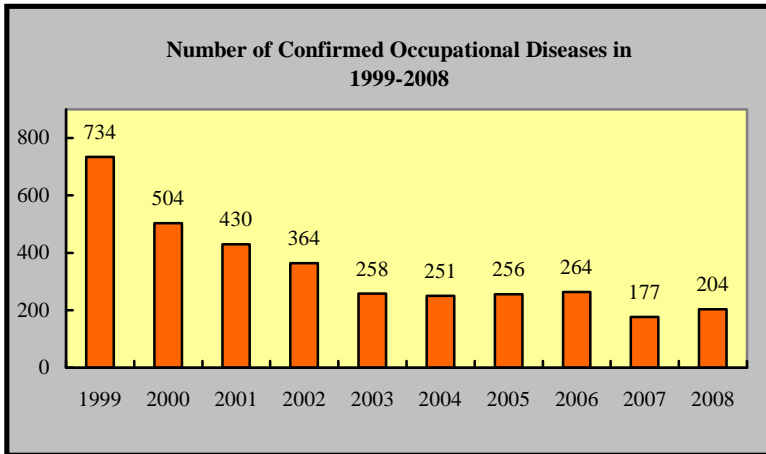
- In 2008, there were 8 049 industrial accidents in the catering industry, lower than 8 876 in 2007 by 9.3%, 12 549 in 1999 by 35.9% and the average of the past five years (8 906) by 9.6%.
- The accident rate of the catering industry in 2008 was 38.7, lower than 43.5 in 2007 by 10.9%, 66.9 in 1999 by 42.1% and the average of the past five years (45.6) by 15.1%.



- In 2008, there were 2 467 industrial accidents in the manufacturing industry, lower than 2 735 in 2007 by 9.8%, 5 499 in 1999 by 55.1% and the average of the past five years (2 800) by 11.9%.
- The accident rate of the manufacturing industry in 2008 was 16.3, lower than 17.4 in 2007 by 6.6% and 22.2 in 1999 by 26.7%, and the average of the past five years (17.4) by 6.7%.

Occupational Diseases

Total Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 1999-2008



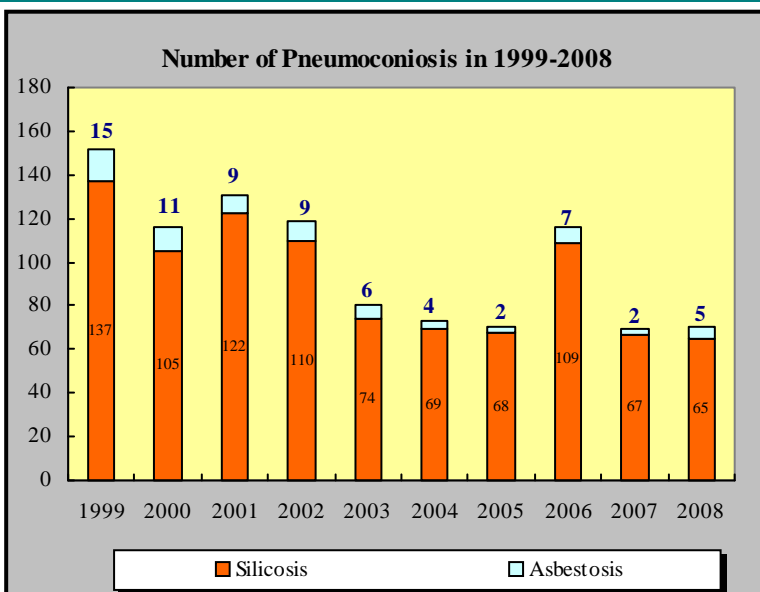
- In 2008, there were 204 cases of confirmed occupational diseases, compared with 177 in 2007.

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2008

Occupational Disease	Number
Silicosis	65
Occupational Deafness	58
Tenosynovitis of Hand or Forearm	40
Tuberculosis	25
Asbestosis	5
Gas Poisoning	4
Occupational Dermatitis	3
Streptococcus suis Infection	3
Mesothelioma	1
Total	204

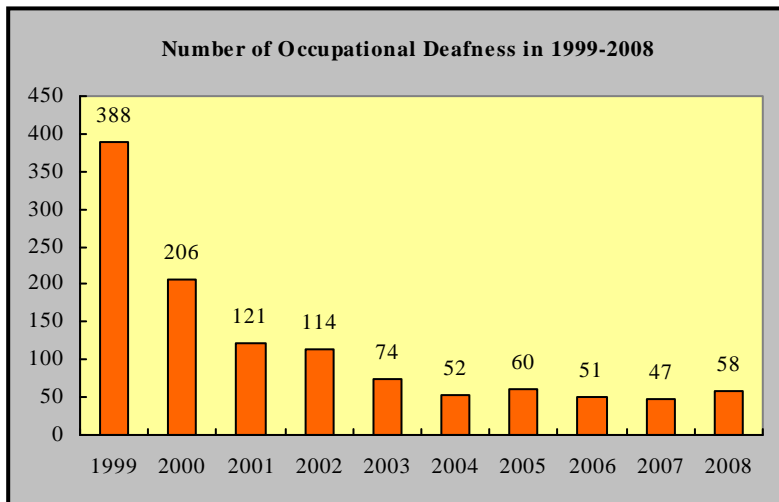
- The most common occupational diseases confirmed in 2008 were silicosis, occupational deafness, tenosynovitis of hand or forearm and tuberculosis.

Pneumoconiosis



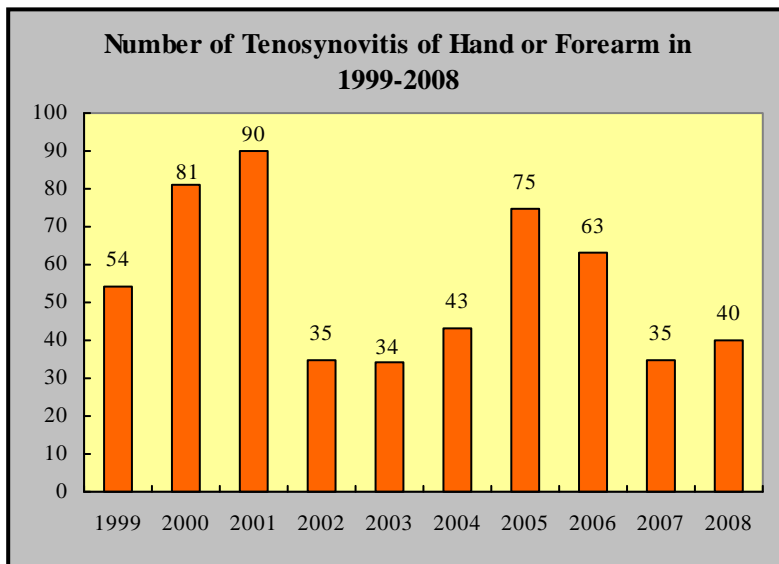
- In 2008, there were 65 cases of silicosis, compared with 67 cases in 2007. Most of these cases worked in the construction and the quarry industries.
- The 5 cases of asbestosis were engaged in the shipbuilding, repairing, construction and demolition industry.

Occupational Deafness



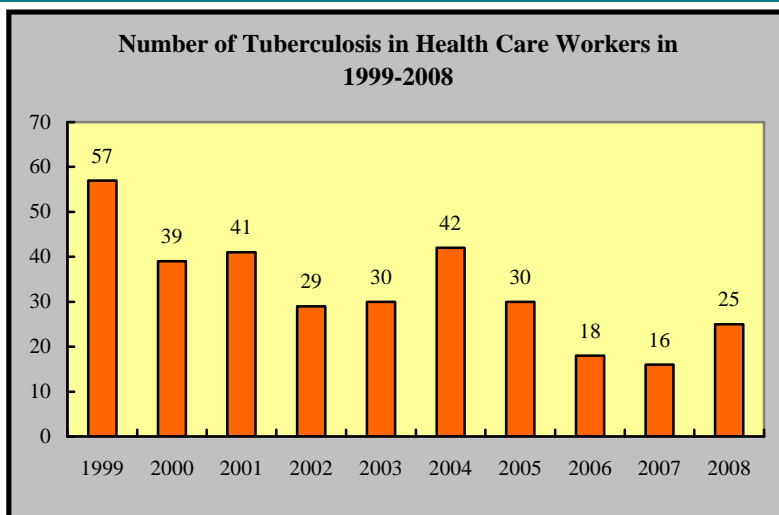
- The 58 cases in 2008 were engaged in the following work:
 - 47% Rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion
 - 29% Metal grinding
 - 10% Weaving or spinning
 - 5% Working near machines engaged in crushing or screening of rocks or stone aggregate
 - 3% Metal Percussion
 - 3% Using routing, planing, circular sawing machines or automatic lathes
 - 3% Others

Tenosynovitis of Hand or Forearm



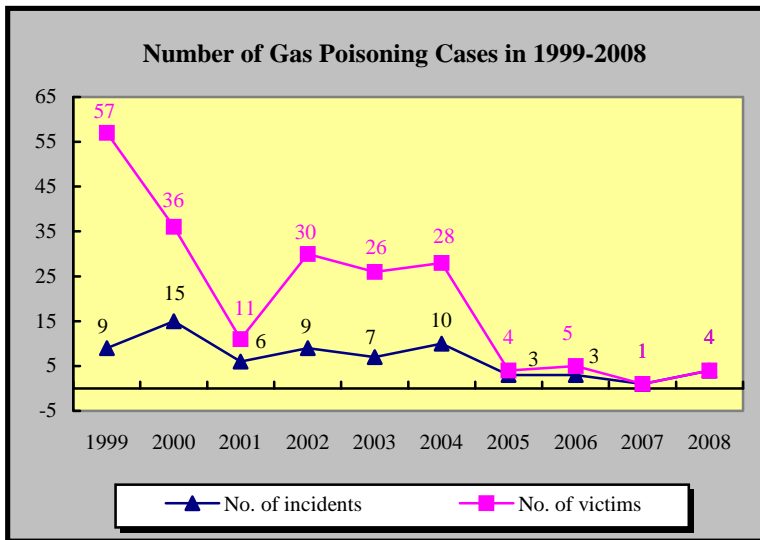
- In 2008, there were 40 confirmed cases of tenosynovitis of hand or forearm. The disease was common among catering workers, general labourers, clerical and other office personnel, and allied health services personnel such as laboratory technicians.
- Distribution by industry of the 40 cases in 2008:
 - 50% Community, social and personal services
 - 30% Wholesales, retail and import/export trades restaurants and hotels
 - 8% Manufacturing
 - 5% Construction
 - 5% Financing, insurance and real estate and business services
 - 2% Transport, storage and communications

Tuberculosis in Health Care Workers



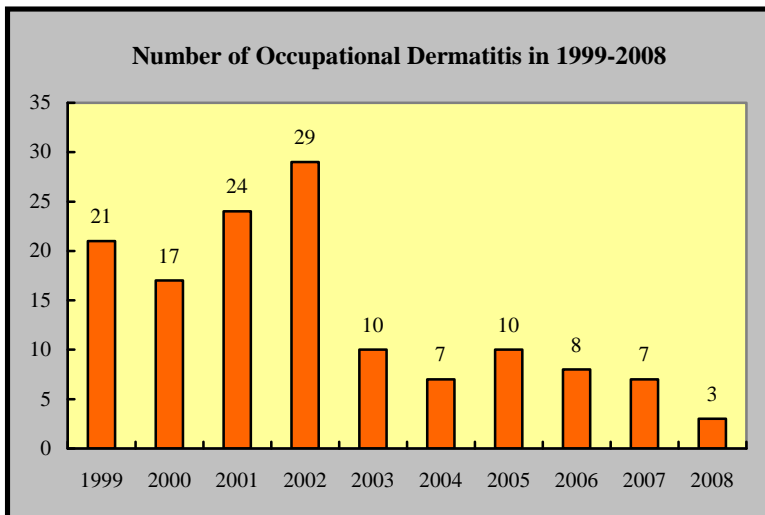
- Regarding the 25 cases confirmed in 2008, the disease most commonly occurred among doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians and health care supporting staff.

Gas Poisoning



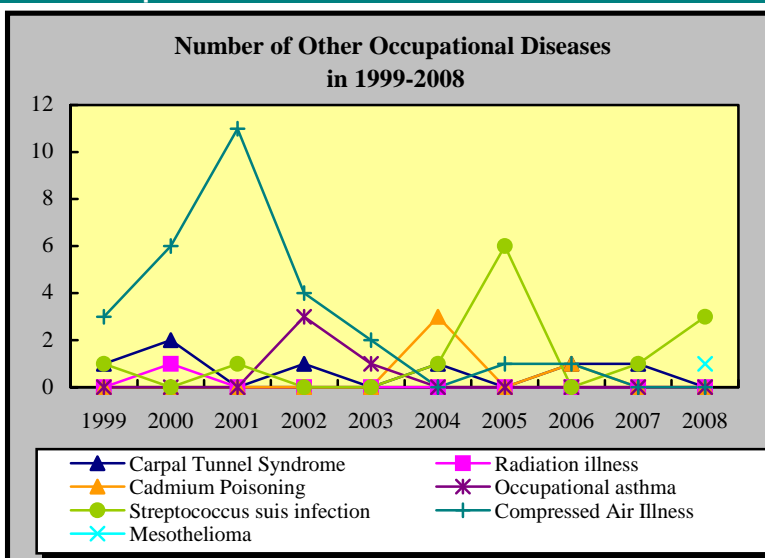
There were 4 incidents of gas poisoning confirmed in 2008 and 4 workers were injured. The noxious chemical agents identified were carbon monoxide, chlorine, cleaning agent, and formaldehyde.

Occupational Dermatitis



The causative agents identified among the 3 cases in 2008 included diesel, detergent, and nickel.

Other Occupational Diseases



In 2008, there were 3 confirmed cases of Streptococcus suis infection and two of them were meat handlers while the other was a pork delivery worker.

Besides, there was one case of mesothelioma and the victim was a mechanic. Mesothelioma was prescribed for compensation under the Pneumoconiosis and Mesothelioma (Compensation) Ordinance since April 2008.

Definitions and further information

Occupational injuries (including industrial accidents) are injury cases arising from work accidents, resulting in death or incapacity for work of over three days, and reported under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance.

Industrial accidents refer to injuries and deaths arising from industrial activities in industrial undertakings as defined under the Factories and Industrial Undertakings Ordinance.

Since 1.1.1998, Labour Department has used the date of occurrence of an injury as the basis for computing work injury statistics instead of the date of reporting in order to reflect more accurately the number of work injuries occurring in the year.

Occupational diseases are the confirmed occupational diseases reported under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance and the Pneumoconiosis and Mesothelioma (Compensation) Ordinance.

Injury rate per 1 000 employees is calculated by:

$$\frac{\text{Number of occupational injuries}}{\text{Persons engaged in all economic activities}} \times 1\,000$$

Accident rate per 1 000 workers is calculated by:

$$\frac{\text{Number of industrial accidents}}{\text{Persons engaged in relevant industries}} \times 1\,000$$

The components that form the statistics may vary from country to country in respect of the legal requirements in the reporting of accidents and occupational diseases, the economic sectors covered and the definition of workforce. Accident and occupational disease statistics of different countries may not be directly comparable and should therefore be interpreted with care.

**For enquiry or further information relating to the accident statistics of this Bulletin,
please contact the Accident Analysis and Information Division at Tel 2815 0678 or Fax 2541 8537**

**For enquiry or further information relating to the occupational disease statistics of this Bulletin,
please contact the Occupational Medicine Division (Health Promotion) at
Tel 2852 4041 or Fax 2581 2049**

**For complaints regarding unsafe workplaces and practices,
please call the Accident Analysis and Information Division at Tel 2542 2172**

All complaints will be treated in the strictest confidence

Email : enquiry@labour.gov.hk