

Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Bulletin



Issue No. 11 (July 2011)
Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Labour Department



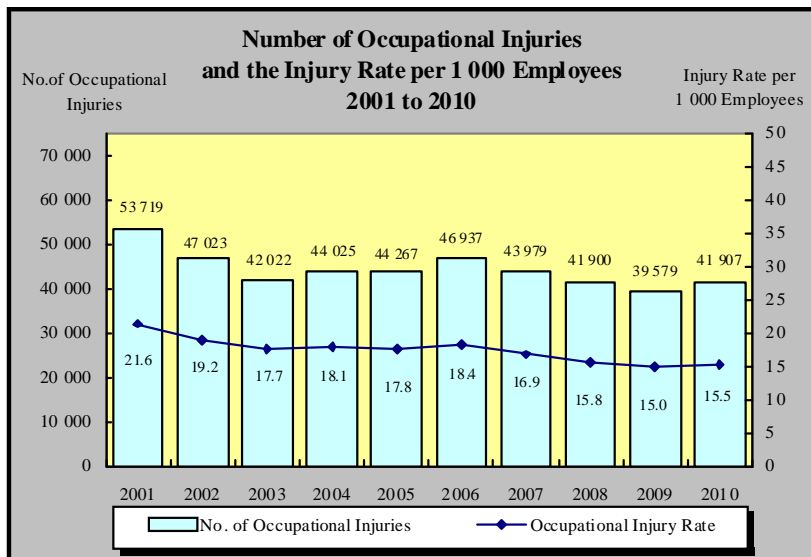
Statistics in this Bulletin provide information, analysis and recent trends on work-related accidents and confirmed cases of occupational disease in Hong Kong with breakdowns by economic sectors and selected industries. Employers, employees and occupational safety and health practitioners may use them to measure the performance in their own organisations 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 attaches great importance to enhancing occupational safety, and is committed to ensuring that risks to the safety of people at work are properly managed and addressed through legislation, law enforcement, promotion, education and training. Through the concerted efforts of all parties concerned, including employers, employees, contractors, safety professionals, trade associations, workers' unions, related organisations and government departments, there have been steady improvement in Hong Kong's occupational safety performance in the past decade.

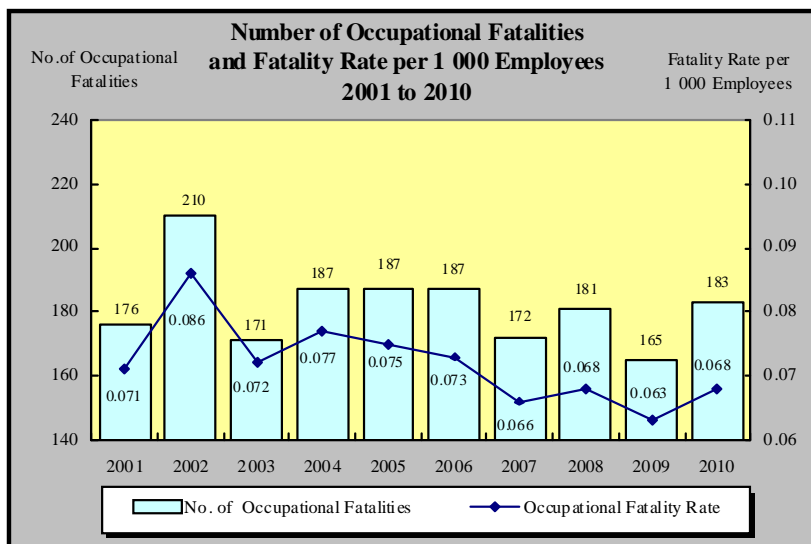
In 2010, the number of occupational injuries in all workplaces stood at 41 907, an increase of 5.9 per cent over 2009, while the injury rate per 1 000 employees increased from 15.0 to 15.5, an increase of 3.3 per cent. The number of industrial accidents in all industries in 2010 stood at 14 015, an increase of 3.1 per cent over 2009, while the accident rate per 1 000 workers increased from 24.6 to 24.9, up by 1.3 per cent.

The high-risk construction industry still recorded the highest number of fatalities and accident rate among various industry sectors. The number of construction industrial accidents increased from 2 755 to 2 884, up by 4.7 per cent, while the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased from 54.6 to 52.1, down by 4.5 per cent as compared with 2009. When compared to 2001, the construction accidents in 2010 fell heftily by 68.7 per cent and the accident rate per 1 000 workers also dropped by 54.5 per cent as well.

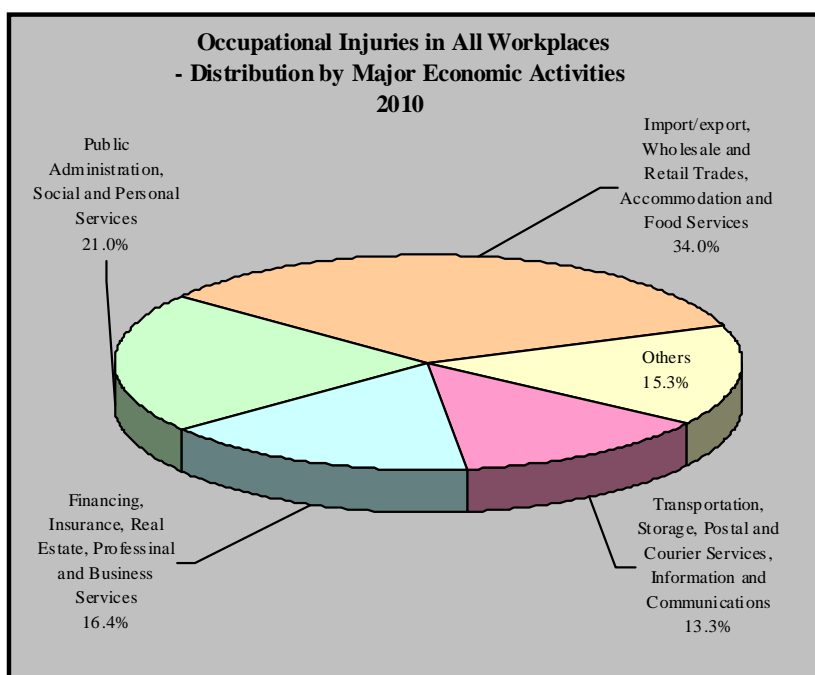
Occupational Injuries



- In 2010, there were 41 907 occupational injuries, higher than 39 579 in 2009 by 5.9%, lower than 53 719 in 2001 by 22.0% and the average of the past five years (42 860) by 2.2%.
- The injury rate per 1 000 employees in 2010 was 15.5, higher than 15.0 in 2009 by 3.3%, lower than 21.6 in 2001 by 28.1% and the average of the past five years (16.3) by 5.0%.

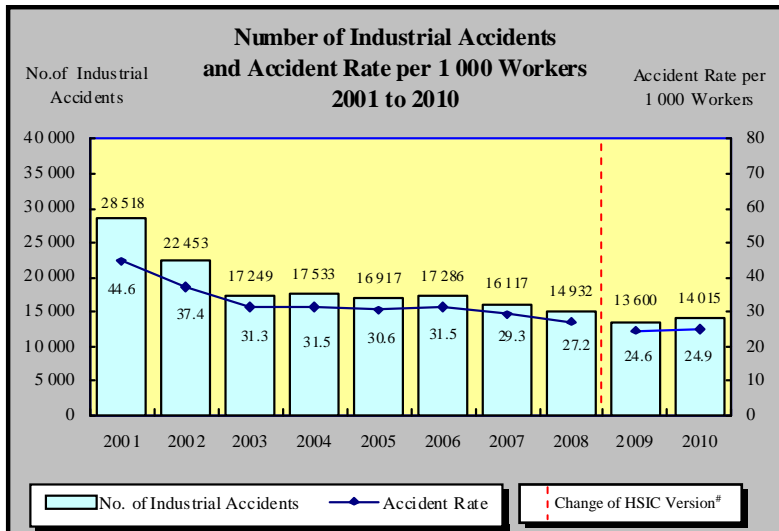


- In 2010, there were 183 occupational fatalities, higher than 165 in 2009 by 10.9%, 176 in 2001 by 4.0% and the average of the past five years (177.6) by 3.0%.
- The occupational fatality rate in 2010 was 0.068 per 1 000 employees, higher than 0.063 in 2009 by 8.2%, lower than 0.071 in 2001 by 4.2% and equivalent to the average of the past five years (0.068).



- Of the 41 907 occupational injuries in 2010, over 84% occurred in the following major economic sectors:
- 34.0% Import/export, Wholesale and Retail Trades, Accommodation and Food Services
 - 21.0% Public Administration, Social and Personal Services
 - 16.4% Financing, Insurance, Real Estate, Professional and Business Services
 - 13.3% Transportation, Storage, Postal and Courier Services, Information and Communications

Industrial Accidents



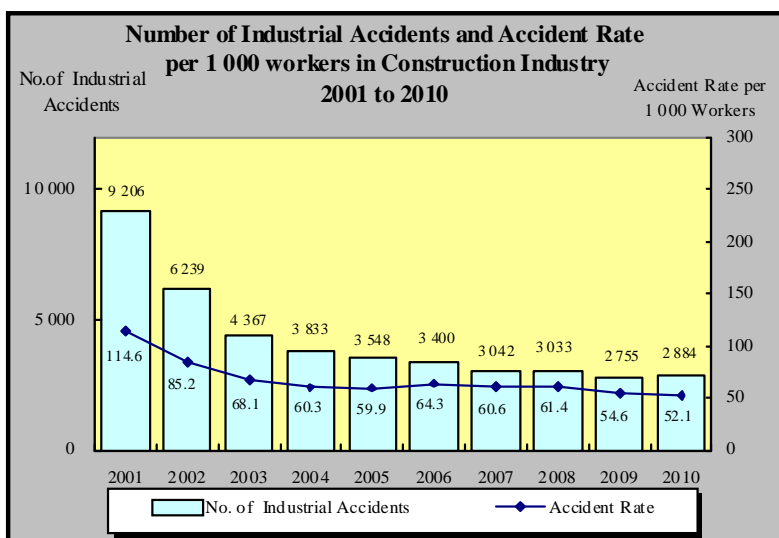
- The number of industrial accidents in 2010 was 14 015, higher than 13 600 in 2009 by 3.1%.

- The accident rate per 1 000 workers in 2010 was 24.9, higher than 24.6 in 2009 by 1.3%.



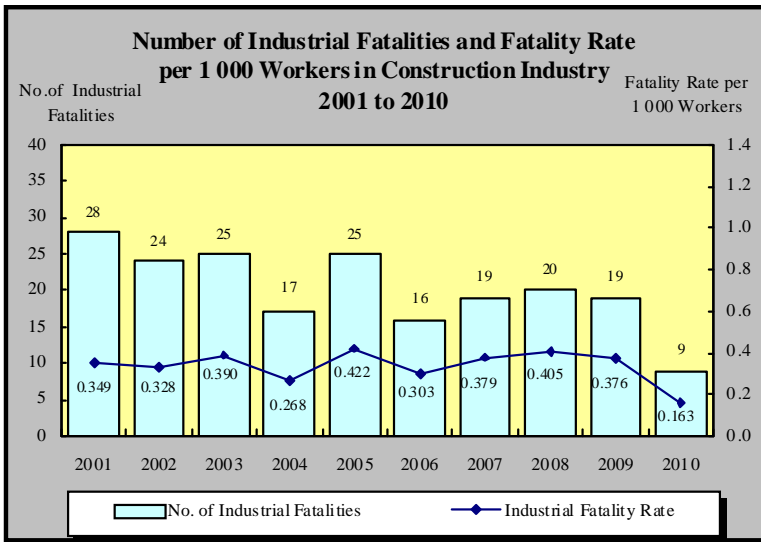
- In 2010, the number of industrial fatalities was 18, lower than 21 in 2009 by 14.3%.

- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers in 2010 was 0.032, lower than 0.038 in 2009 by 15.7%.

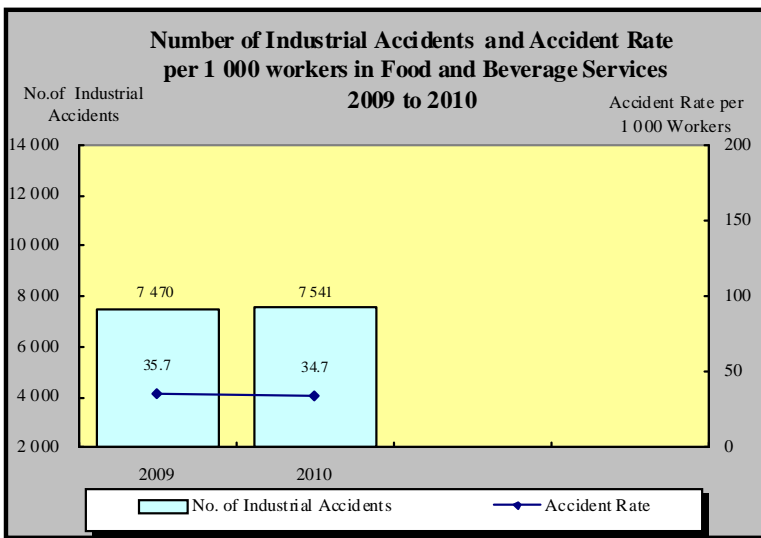


- In 2010, there were 2 884 industrial accidents in the construction industry, higher than 2 755 in 2009 by 4.7%, lower than 9 206 in 2001 by 68.7% and the average of the past five years (3 023) by 4.6%.

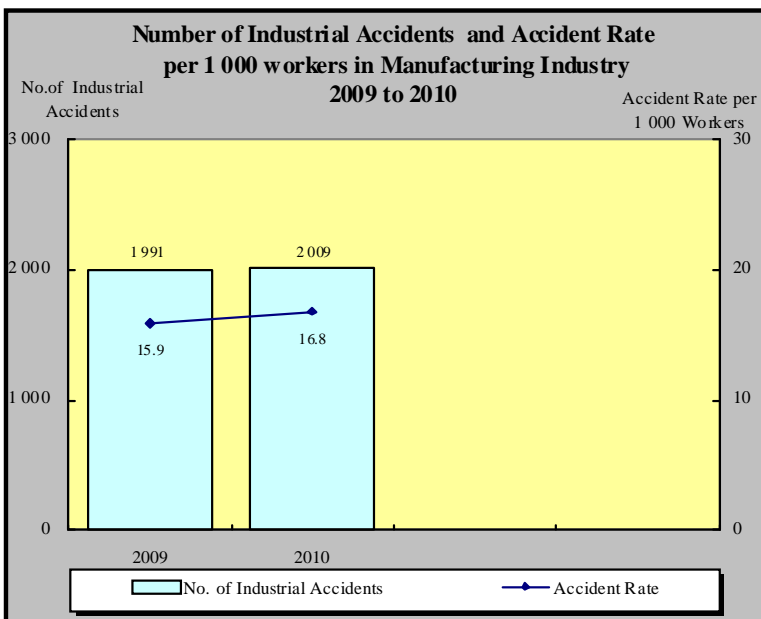
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2010 was 52.1, lower than 54.6 in 2009 by 4.5%, 114.6 in 2001 by 54.5% and the average of the past five years (58.6) by 11.1%.



- In 2010, the number of industrial fatalities in the construction industry was 9, lower than 19 in 2009 by 52.6%, 28 in 2001 by 67.9% and the average of the past five years (16.6) by 45.8%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2010 was 0.163, lower than 0.376 in 2009 by 56.8%, 0.349 in 2001 by 53.4% and the average of the past five years (0.325) by 50.0%.



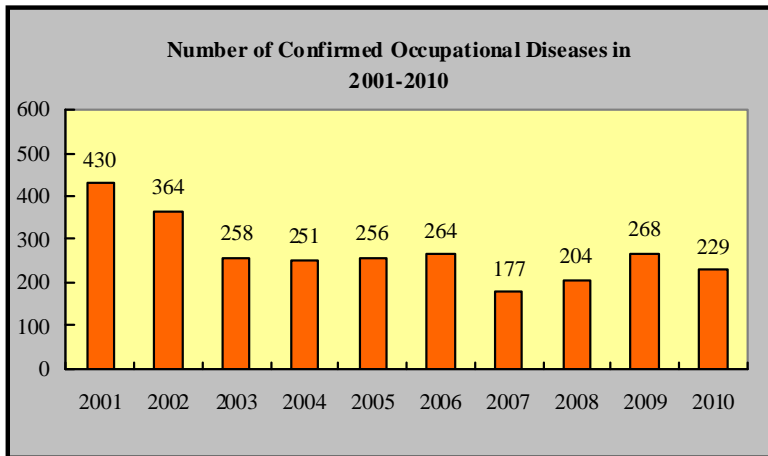
- In 2010, there were 7 541 industrial accidents in the food and beverage services, higher than 7 470 in 2009 by 1.0%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the food and beverage services in 2010 was 34.7, lower than 35.7 in 2009 by 2.6%.



- In 2010, there were 2 009 industrial accidents in the manufacturing industry, higher than 1 991 in 2009 by 0.9%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the manufacturing industry in 2010 was 16.8, higher than 15.9 by 5.6%.

Occupational Diseases

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2001-2010



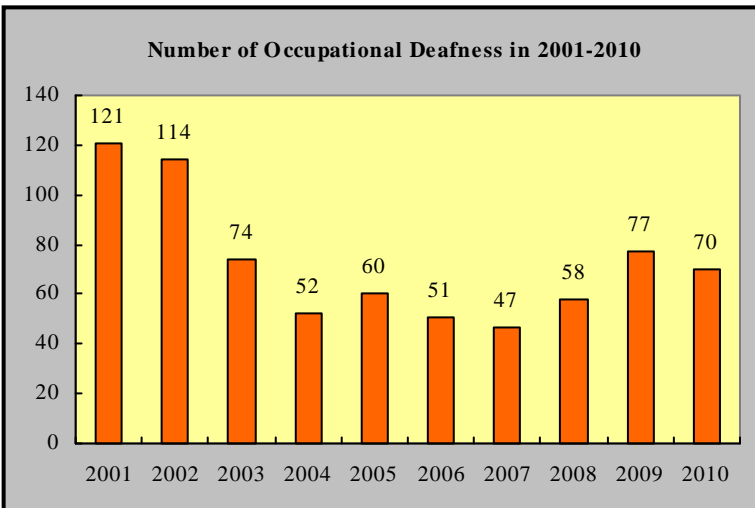
- In 2010, there were 229 cases of confirmed occupational diseases, compared with 268 in 2009.

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2010

Occupational Disease	Number
Occupational Deafness	70
Silicosis	61
Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm	48
Gas Poisoning	17
Mesothelioma	12
Tuberculosis	11
Occupational Dermatitis	5
Streptococcus suis Infection	3
Asbestosis	1
Compressed Air Illness	1
Total	229

- The most common occupational diseases confirmed in 2010 were occupational deafness, silicosis and tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm.

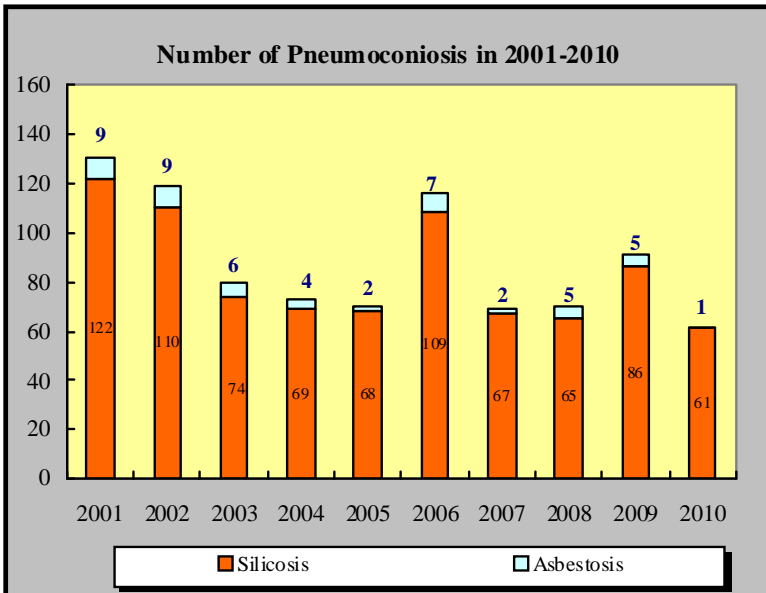
Occupational Deafness



- The 70 cases of occupational deafness in 2010 were engaged in the following work:
 - 50.0% Rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion
 - 14.3% Metal grinding
 - 14.3% Working near internal combustion engines, turbines, pressurised fuel burners or jet engines
 - 5.7% Using routing, planning, circular sawing machines or automatic lathes
 - 5.7% Metal percussion
 - 4.3% Weaving or spinning
 - 4.3% Pile driving
 - 1.4% Others

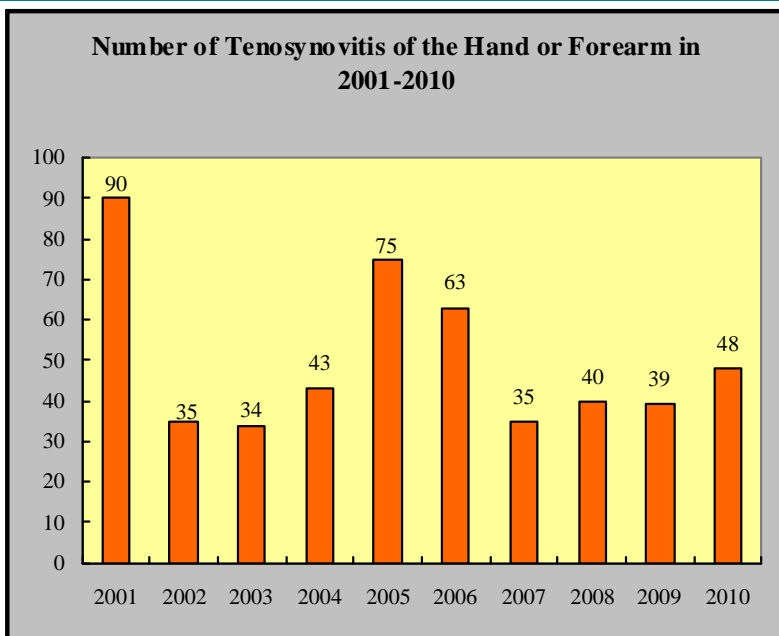
- The coverage of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance has been extended to employees with noise-induced monaural hearing loss in April 2010. In 2010, there were 510 such cases.

Pneumoconiosis



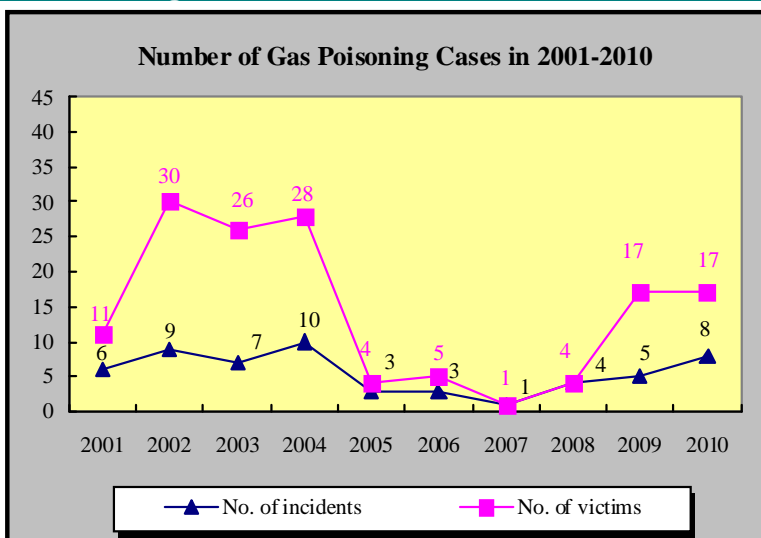
- In 2010, there were 61 confirmed cases of silicosis. Most of these cases worked in the construction and the quarry industries.
- Those silicosis cases had history of exposure to the silica dust in their occupations many years ago. In the past 10 years, the number of confirmed cases was in a decreasing trend but occasionally with year on year fluctuation.
- The 1 confirmed cases of asbestosis were engaged in the shipbuilding and repairing.

Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm



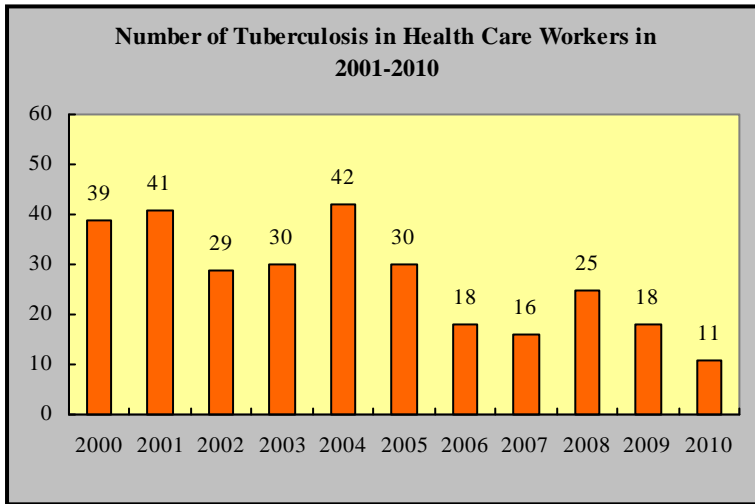
- In 2010, there were 48 confirmed cases of tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm. The disease was common among Elementary occupations, Services and sales workers, Clerical support workers, Technicians and associate professionals and other workers.
- Distribution by industry of the 48 cases in 2010:
 - 47.9% Public administration, and social and personal services
 - 16.7% Import/export, wholesale and retail trades
 - 10.4% Manufacturing
 - 8.3% Accommodation and food services
 - 8.3% Professional and business services
 - 6.3% Transportation, storage, postal and courier services
 - 2.1% Financing and insurance

Gas Poisoning



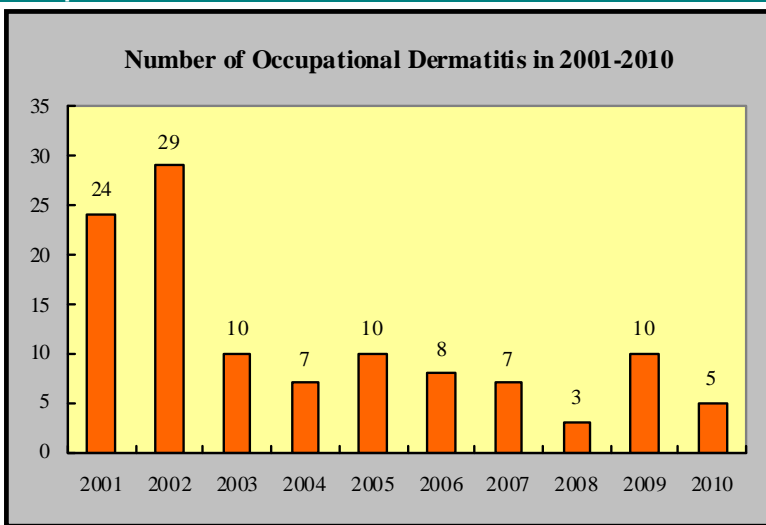
- There were 8 incidents of gas poisoning in 2010 and 17 workers were injured. The noxious chemical agents identified were hydrogen sulphide, carbon dioxide, chlorine, etc.

Tuberculosis in Health Care Workers



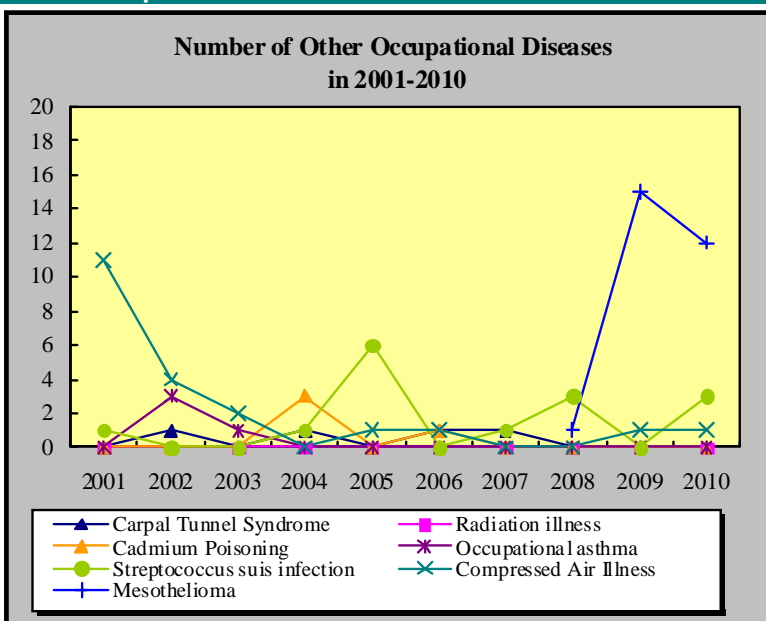
- Regarding the 11 cases of tuberculosis confirmed in 2010, the disease most commonly occurred among doctors, nurses and other health care supporting staff.

Occupational Dermatitis



- The causative agents identified among the 5 cases of occupational dermatitis in 2010 included fragrance, massage oil and detergent.

Other Occupational Diseases



- In 2010, there was 1 confirmed case of compressed air illness and the worker was engaged in diving work.
- In 2010, there were 3 confirmed cases of *Streptococcus suis* infection and all of them were meat handlers.
- In 2010, there were 12 confirmed cases of mesothelioma and most of the cases were engaged in the shipbuilding, repairing and construction industries.

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.

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:

$$\frac{\text{Number of occupational injuries}}{\text{*Employment size}} \times 1\,000$$

Accident rate per 1 000 workers is calculated by:

$$\frac{\text{Number of industrial accidents}}{\text{*Employment size}} \times 1\,000$$

** Employment size are based on the Quarterly Report of Employment and Vacancies Statistics published by the Census and Statistics Department.*

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.

#Notes :

(a) Since 2009, the Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies conducted by the Census and Statistics Department has been enhanced to adopt the Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification (HSIC) Version 2.0 to replace the HSIC Version 1.1 in compiling the statistics on the number of establishments, persons engaged and vacancies. Thenceforth all the statistics contained in the Quarterly Report of Employment and Vacancies Statistics are in HSIC version 2.0. Only the coverage of the Construction Industry is the same in both HSIC Version 1.1 and Version 2.0. Other industries, even with the same labels in HSIC Version 2.0, have different coverage. For information of HSIC Version 1.1 and Version 2.0, please refer to the webpage of the Census and Statistics Department.

(b) The number of occupational injuries/industrial accidents and injury/accident rates per 1000 employees/workers in 2009 and after are compiled based on HSIC Version 2.0, and may not be strictly comparable to those published previously under HSIC Version 1.1.

**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