

Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Bulletin



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Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Labour Department



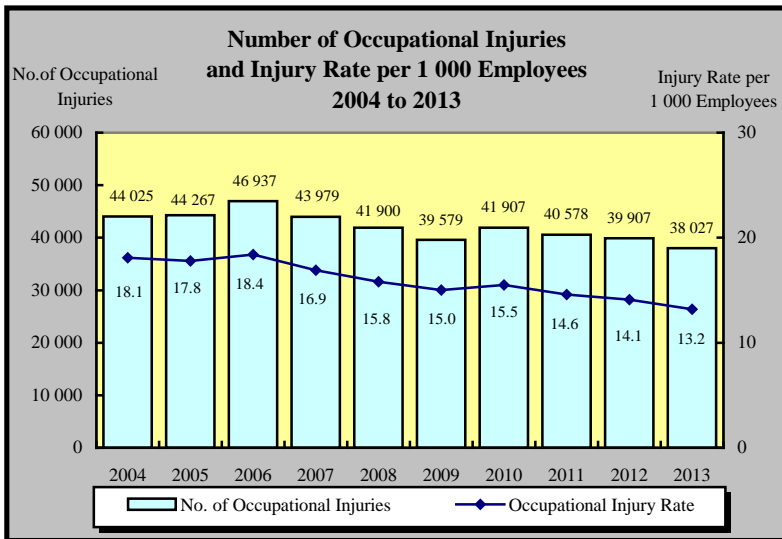
This Bulletin provides statistics of work-related accidents and confirmed cases of occupational disease in Hong Kong with information, analysis and trend on various economic sectors and selected industries. Employers, employees and occupational safety and health practitioners, by benchmarking against the overall accident rate and the industry average in this bulletin, can better manage the occupational safety and health programme of their own organisations.

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 and enforcement, publicity and promotion as well as 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, Hong Kong's occupational safety performance has been improving steadily in the past decade.

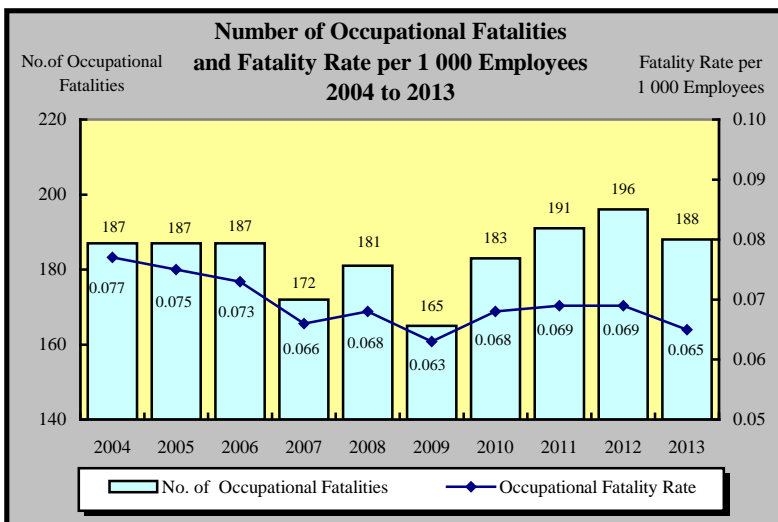
In 2013, the number of occupational injuries in all workplaces stood at 38 027, a decrease of 4.7 per cent over 2012, while the injury rate per 1 000 employees decreased from 14.1 to 13.2, a decrease of 6.4 per cent. The number of industrial accidents in all industries in 2013 stood at 11 820, a decrease of 5.8 per cent over 2012, while the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased from 21.3 to 19.6, down by 7.8 per cent.

The high-risk construction industry recorded 3 232 industrial accidents in 2013, 2.3 per cent up when compared to 3 160 in 2012. Over the same period, the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased by 8 per cent from 44.3 to 40.8. Although the number of accidents fell by 15.7 per cent and the accident rate also dropped by 32.5 per cent in the past decade, the construction industry still recorded highest number of fatalities and accident rate among all industry sectors.

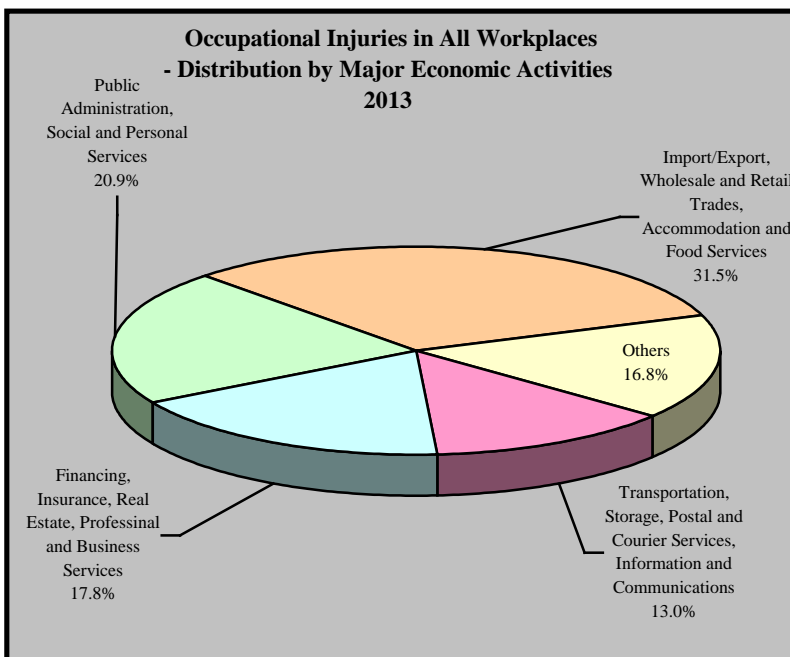
Occupational Injuries



- In 2013, there were 38 027 occupational injuries, lower than 39 907 in 2012 by 4.7%, 44 025 in 2004 by 13.6% and the average of the past five years (40 000) by 4.9%.
- The injury rate per 1 000 employees in 2013 was 13.2, lower than 14.1 in 2012 by 6.4%, 18.1 in 2004 by 27.2% and the average of the past five years (14.5) by 8.9%.

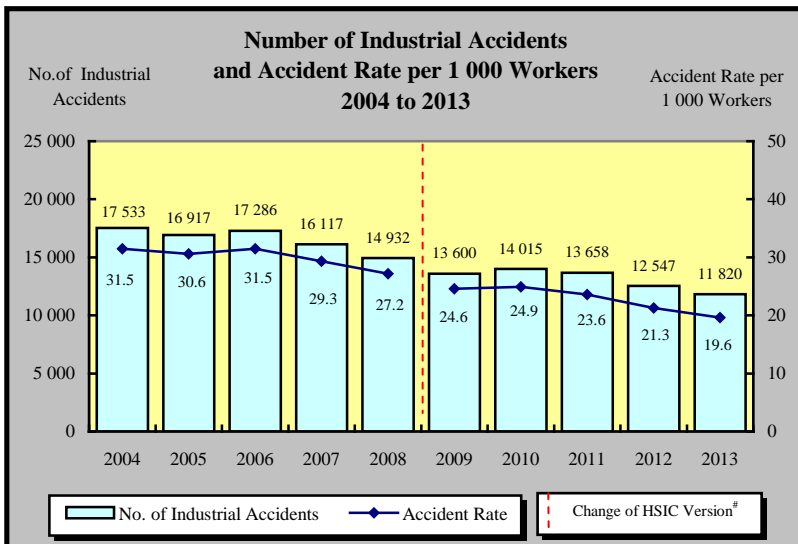


- In 2013, there were 188 occupational fatalities, lower than 196 in 2012 by 4.1%, higher than 187 in 2004 by 0.5% and the average of the past five years (185) by 1.8%.
- The occupational fatality rate in 2013 was 0.065 per 1 000 employees, lower than 0.069 in 2012 by 5.8%, 0.077 in 2004 by 15.2% and the average of the past five years (0.067) by 2.2%

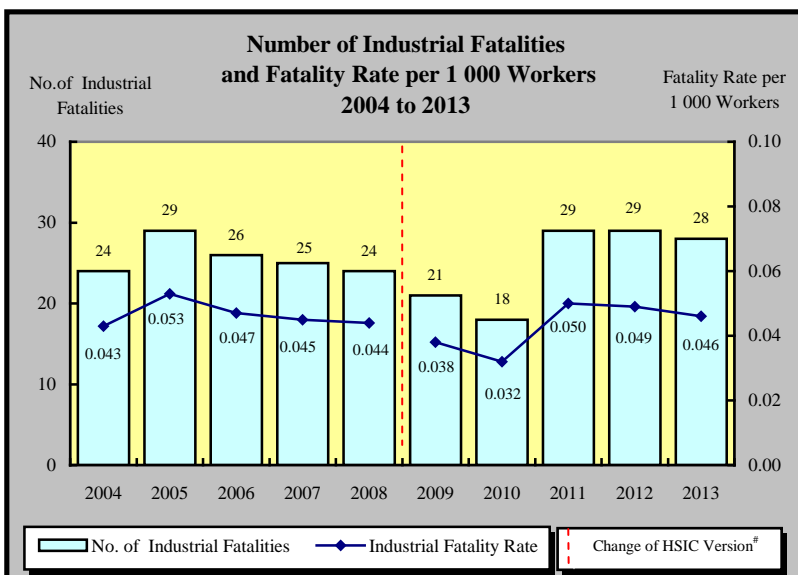


- Of the 38 027 occupational injuries in 2013, over 83% occurred in the following major economic sectors:
 - 31.5% Import/Export, Wholesale and Retail Trades, Accommodation and Food Services
 - 20.9% Public Administration, Social and Personal Services
 - 17.8% Financing, Insurance, Real Estate, Professional and Business Services
 - 13.0% Transportation, Storage, Postal and Courier Services, Information and Communications

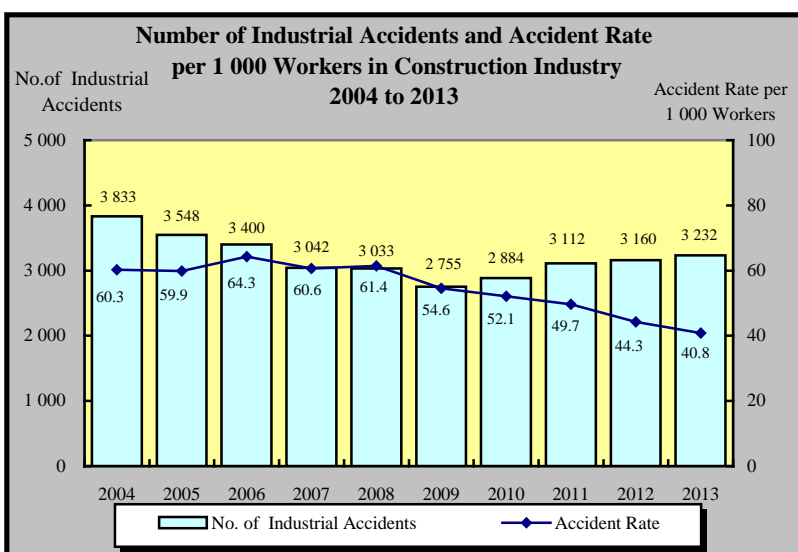
Industrial Accidents



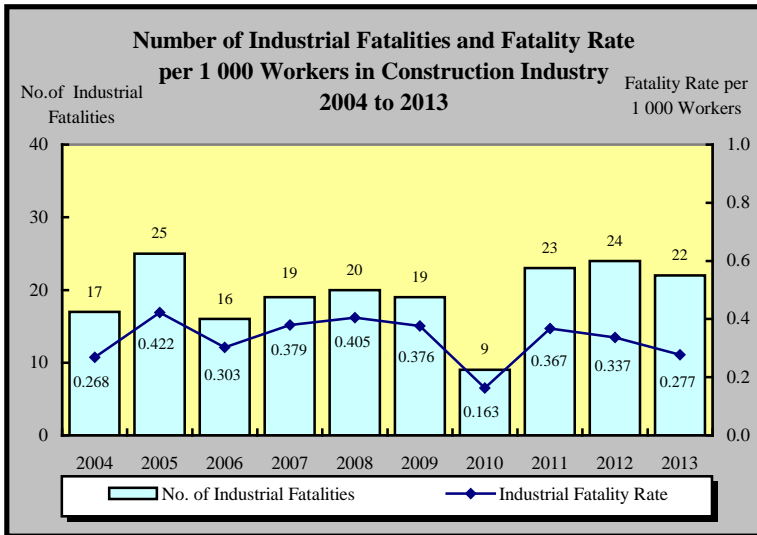
- In 2013, the number of industrial accidents was 11 820, lower than 12 547 in 2012 by 5.8% and the average of the past five years (13 128) by 10%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers in 2013 was 19.6, lower than 21.3 in 2012 by 7.8% and the average of the past five years (22.8) by 13.9%.



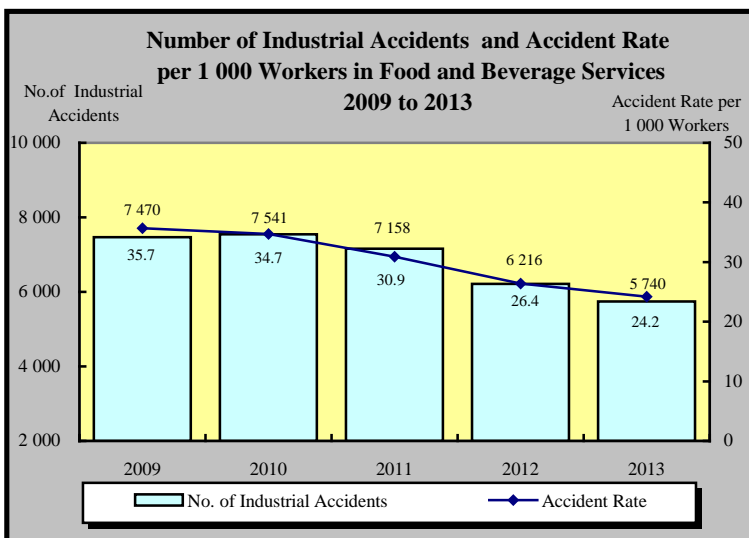
- In 2013, the number of industrial fatalities was 28, lower than 29 in 2012 by 3.4% but higher than the average of the past five years (25) by 12%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers in 2013 was 0.046, lower than 0.049 in 2012 by 5.5% but higher than the average of the past five years (0.043) by 7.8%.



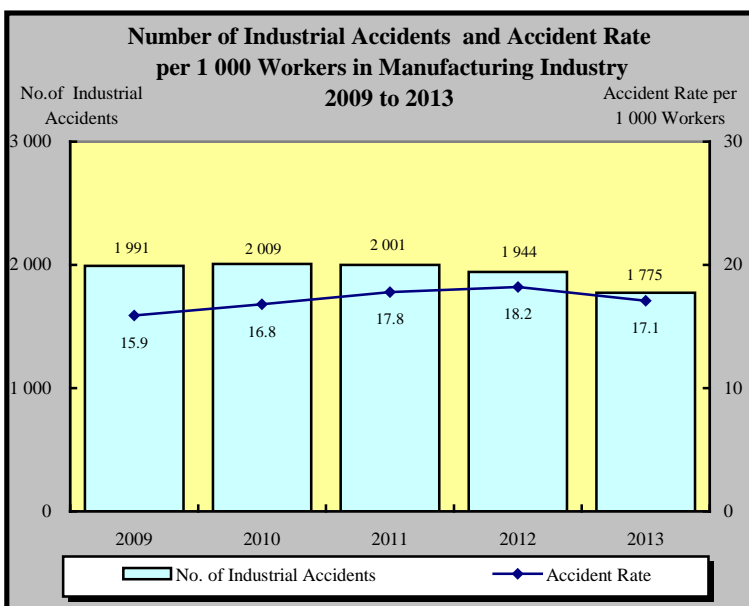
- In 2013, there were 3 232 industrial accidents in the construction industry, higher than 3 160 in 2012 by 2.3%, lower than 3 833 in 2004 by 15.7% and higher than the average of the past five years (3 029) by 6.7%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2013 was 40.8, lower than 44.3 in 2012 by 8.0%, 60.3 in 2004 by 32.5% and the average of the past five years (48.3) by 15.6%.



- In 2013, the number of industrial fatalities in the construction industry was 22, lower than 24 in 2012 by 8.3%, higher than 17 in 2004 by 29.4% and the average of the past five years (19) by 13.4%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2013 was 0.277, lower than 0.337 in 2012 by 17.6%, higher than 0.268 in 2004 by 3.7% and lower than the average of the past five years (0.304) by 8.8%.



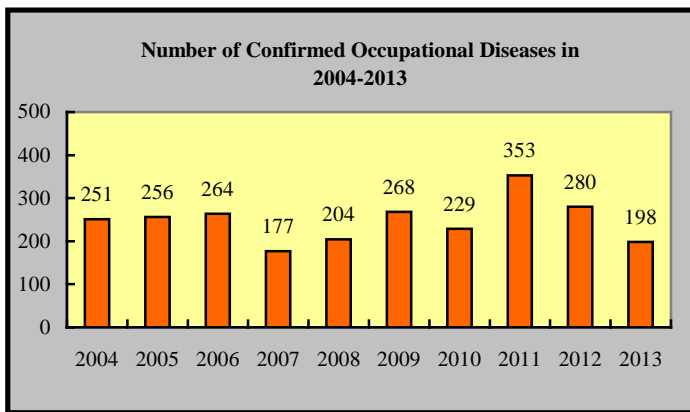
- In 2013, there were 5 740 industrial accidents in the food and beverage services, lower than 6 216 in 2012 by 7.7% and the average of the past five years (6 825) by 15.9%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the food and beverage services in 2013 was 24.2, lower than 26.4 in 2012 by 8.5% and the average of the past five years (30.4) by 20.4%.



- In 2013, there were 1 775 industrial accidents in the manufacturing industry, lower than 1 944 in 2012 by 8.7% and the average of the past five years (1 944) by 8.7%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the manufacturing industry in 2013 was 17.1, lower than 18.2 in 2012 by 5.9% and the average of the past five years (17.2) by 0.3%.

Occupational Diseases

Total Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2004-2013



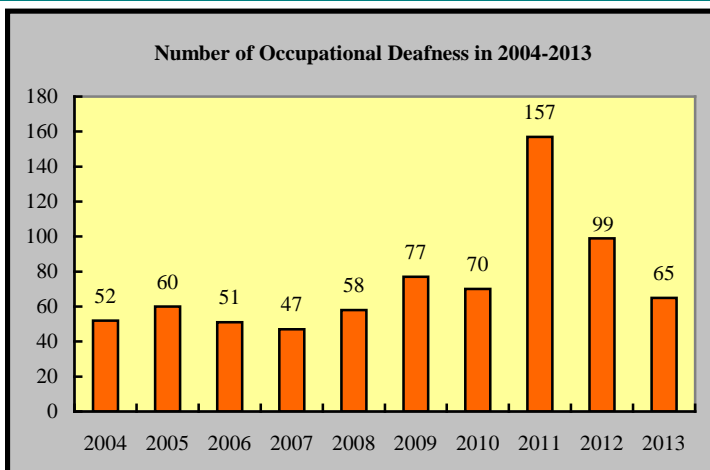
- In 2013, there were 198 cases of confirmed occupational diseases, compared with 280 in 2012.

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2013

Occupational Disease	Number
Occupational Deafness	65
Silicosis	51
Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm	38
Mesothelioma	17
Tuberculosis	7
Gas Poisoning	5
Avian Chlamydiosis	5
Compressed Air Illness	4
Occupational Dermatitis	2
Asbestosis	2
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome	1
Phosphorus Poisoning	1
Total	198

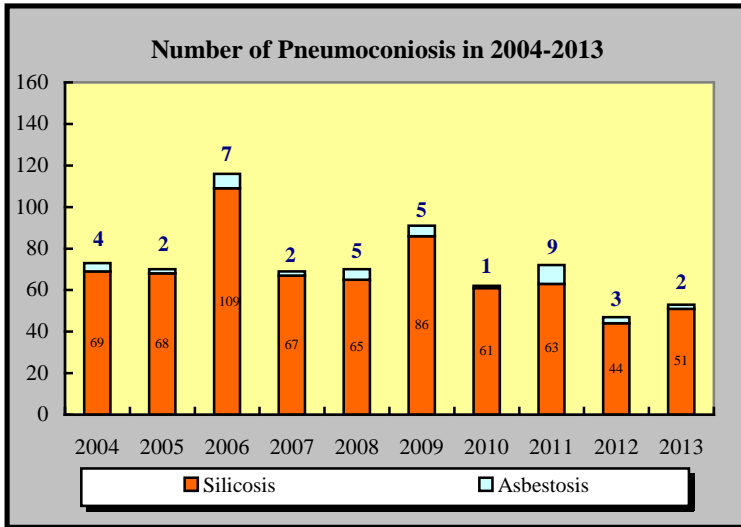
- The most common occupational diseases confirmed in 2013 were occupational deafness, silicosis and tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm.

Occupational Deafness



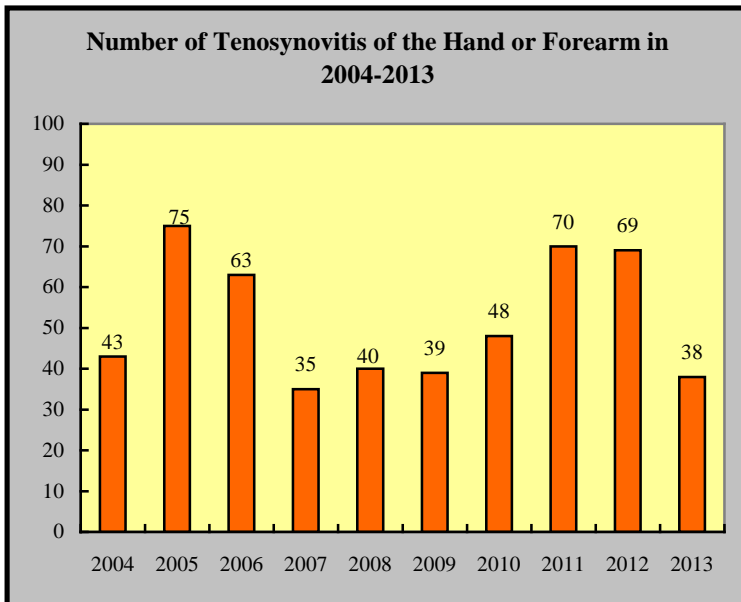
- The 65 cases of occupational deafness in 2013 were engaged in the following work:
 - 43.1% Rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion
 - 24.7% Metal grinding
 - 20% Working near internal combustion engines, turbines, pressurised fuel burners or jet engines
 - 4.6% Using routing, planing, circular sawing machine
 - 3.1% Abrasive blasting operation
 - 1.5% High speed web-fed offset printing
 - 1.5% Metal percussion
 - 1.5% Weaving or spinning
- The coverage of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance has been extended to employees with noise-induced monaural hearing loss in April 2010. In 2013, there were 33 such cases.

Pneumoconiosis



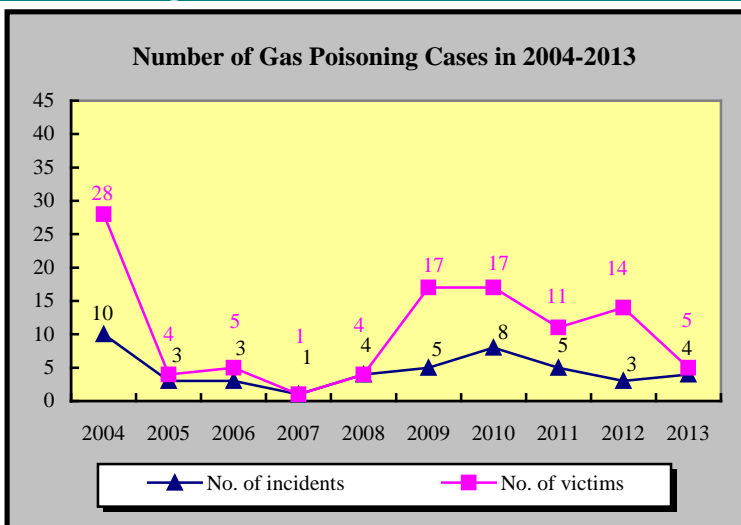
- In 2013, there were 51 confirmed cases of silicosis. Most of these cases worked in the construction industry.
- Those silicosis cases had history of exposure to the silica dust in their occupations many years ago. In the past 10 years, the number of confirmed cases was in a decreasing trend but occasionally with year on year fluctuation.
- There were 2 confirmed cases of asbestosis, they were employees in the construction and quarry industries.

Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm



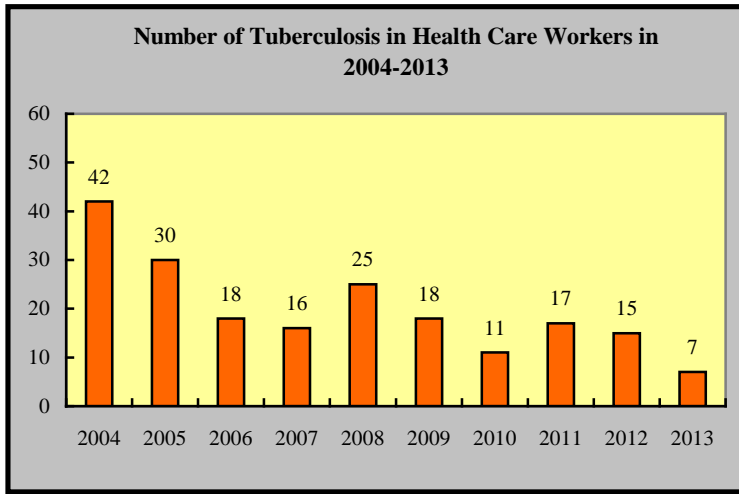
- In 2013, there were 38 confirmed cases of tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm. The disease was common among services and sales workers, clerical support workers, elementary occupations etc.
- Distribution by industry of the 38 cases in 2013:
 - 52.6% Public administration, and social and personal services
 - 18.4% Accommodation and food services
 - 10.5% Manufacturing
 - 5.3% Import/Export, wholesale and retail trades
 - 5.3% Transportation, storage, postal and courier services
 - 5.3% Professional and business services
 - 2.6% Construction

Gas Poisoning



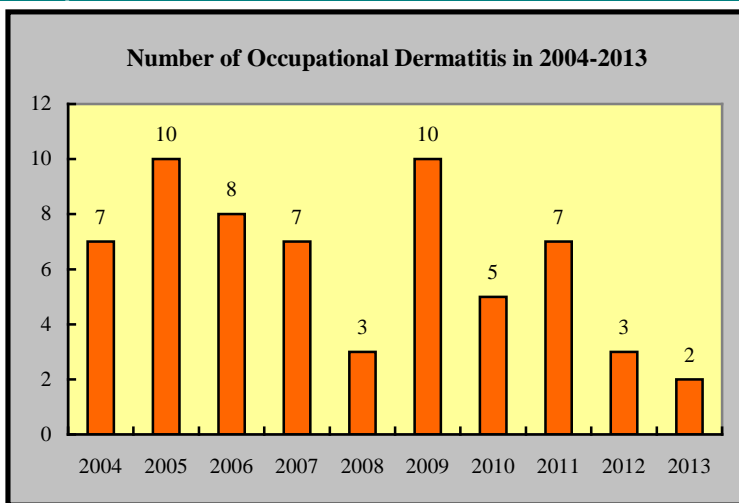
- There were 4 incidents of gas poisoning in 2013 and 5 workers were injured. The noxious chemical agents identified were carbon monoxide, sewage gas etc.

Tuberculosis in Health Care Workers



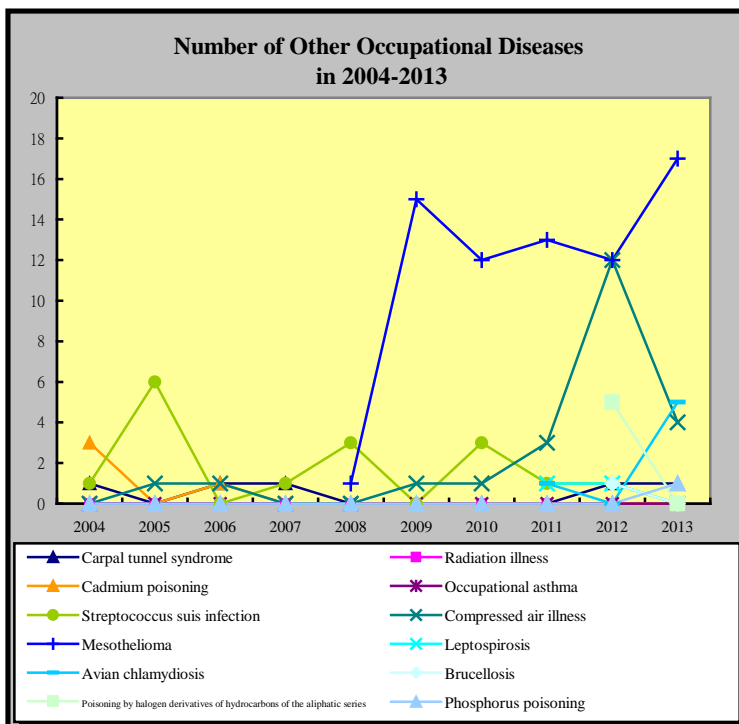
- Regarding the 7 cases of tuberculosis confirmed in 2013, the disease most commonly occurred among nurses, other health professionals, other healthcare supporting staff, etc.

Occupational Dermatitis



- The causative agents for the 2 cases of occupational dermatitis in 2013 were related to cleansing agents.

Other Occupational Diseases



- In 2013, there were 4 confirmed cases of compressed air illness. All of them were engaged in compressed air work.
- In 2013, there were 17 confirmed cases of mesothelioma and most of the cases were engaged in the construction, quarry and shipbuilding industries.
- In 2013, there were 5 cases of Avian Chlamydiosis, all the workers were engaged in bird caring work.
- In 2013, there was 1 case of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and the worker was engaged in gardening work.
- In 2013, there was 1 confirmed case of Phosphorus poisoning and the worker used pesticide in his work.

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:

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

**Figures of 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 1 000 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 Safety Management 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 Safety Management and Information Division at Tel 2542 2172**

All complaints will be treated in the strictest confidence

Email : enquiry@labour.gov.hk