

Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Bulletin



Issue No. 16 (August 2016)

Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Labour Department



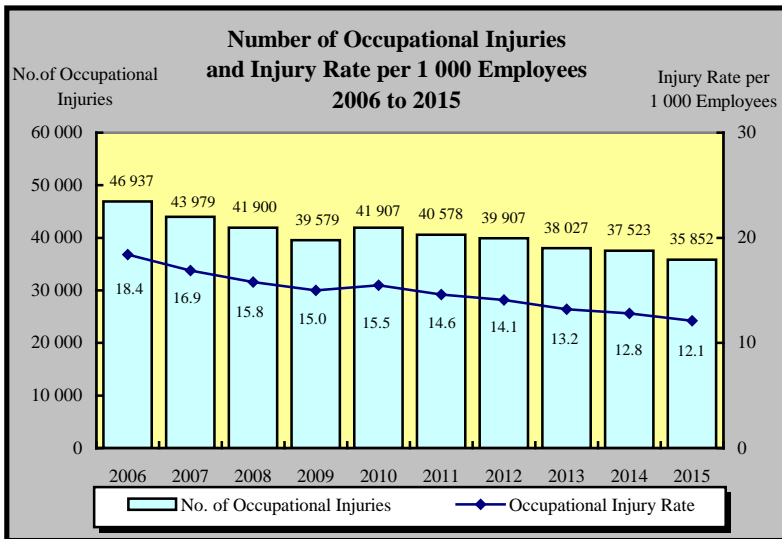
This Bulletin provides statistics of work-related accidents and confirmed cases of occupational disease in Hong Kong with information, analysis and trend on various economic sectors and selected industries. Employers, employees and occupational safety and health practitioners, by benchmarking against 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 health, 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.

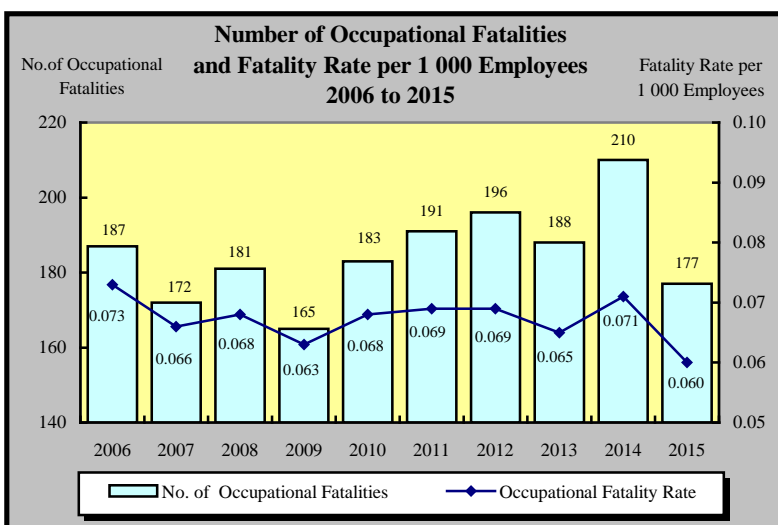
In 2015, the number of occupational injuries in all workplaces stood at 35 852, a decrease of 4.5 per cent over 2014, while the injury rate per 1 000 employees decreased from 12.8 to 12.1, a decrease of 5.6 per cent. The number of industrial accidents in all industries in 2015 stood at 11 497, a decrease of 1.5 per cent over 2014, while the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased from 19.0 to 18.4, down by 3.5 per cent.

The high-risk construction industry recorded 3 723 industrial accidents in 2015, 7.4 per cent up when compared to 3 467 in 2014. Over the same period, the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased by 6.5 per cent from 41.9 to 39.1. The number of accidents increased by 9.5 per cent and the accident rate dropped by 39.1 per cent in the past decade, the construction industry still recorded highest number of fatalities and accident rate among all industry sectors.

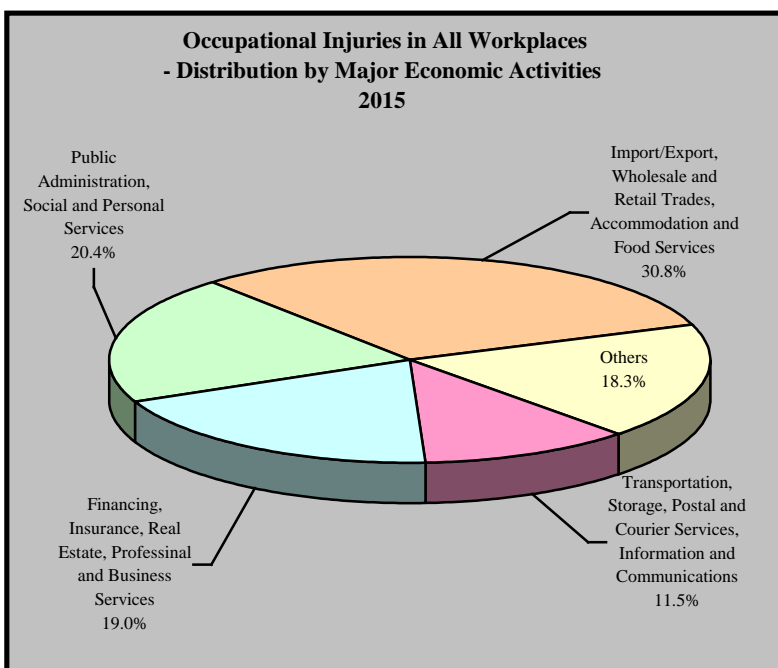
Occupational Injuries



- In 2015, there were 35 852 occupational injuries, lower than 37 523 in 2014 by 4.5%, 46 937 in 2006 by 23.6% and the average of the past five years (38 377) by 6.6%.
- The injury rate per 1 000 employees in 2015 was 12.1, lower than 12.8 in 2014 by 5.6%, 18.4 in 2006 by 34.5% and the average of the past five years (13.3) by 9.6%.

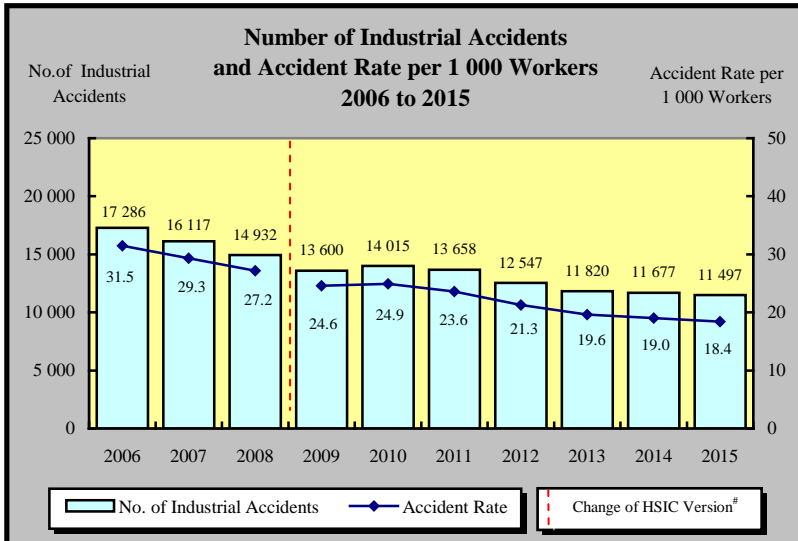


- In 2015, there were 177 occupational fatalities, lower than 210 in 2014 by 15.7%, 187 in 2006 by 5.3% and the average of the past five years (192) by 8%.
- The occupational fatality rate in 2015 was 0.060 per 1 000 employees, lower than 0.071 in 2014 by 16.7%, 0.073 in 2006 by 18.8% and the average of the past five years (0.067) by 10.9%

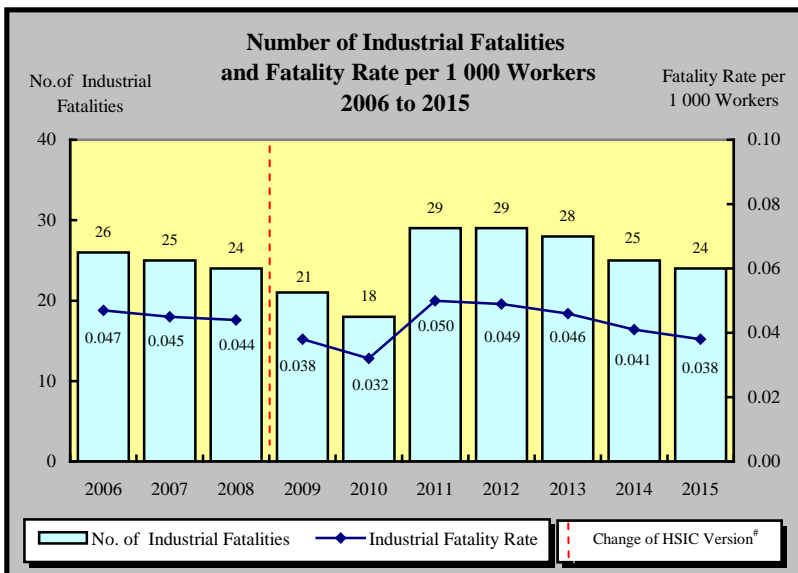


- Of the 35 852 occupational injuries in 2015, over 80% occurred in the following major economic sectors:
 - 30.8% Import/Export, Wholesale and Retail Trades, Accommodation and Food Services
 - 20.4% Public Administration, Social and Personal Services
 - 19.0% Financing, Insurance, Real Estate, Professional and Business Services
 - 11.5% Transportation, Storage, Postal and Courier Services, Information and Communications

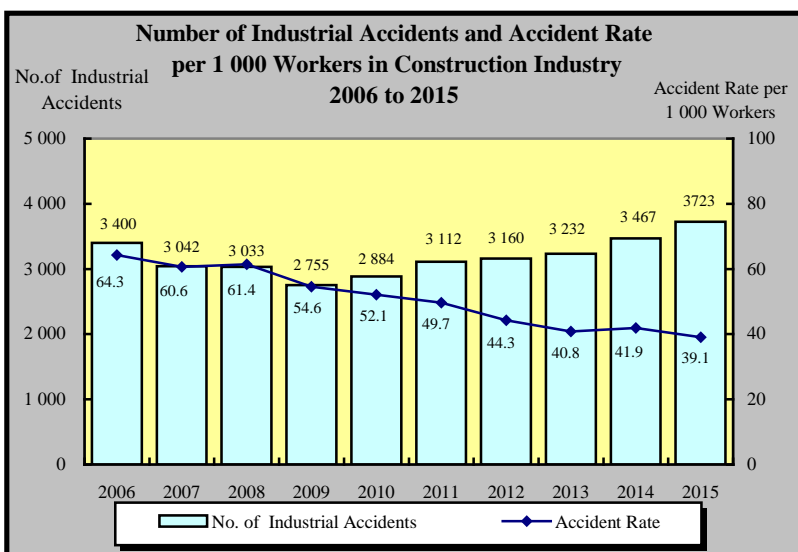
Industrial Accidents



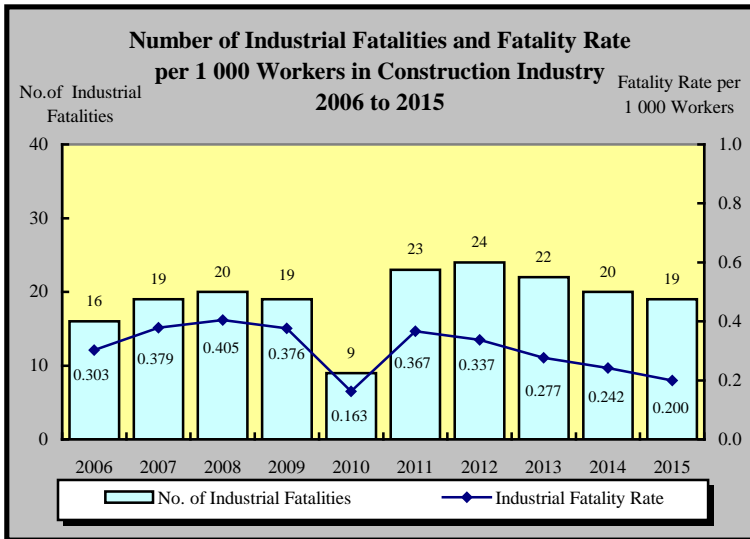
- In 2015, the number of industrial accidents was 11 497, lower than 11 677 in 2014 by 1.5% and the average of the past five years (12 240) by 6.1%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers in 2015 was 18.4, lower than 19.0 in 2014 by 3.5% and the average of the past five years (20.4) by 9.9%.



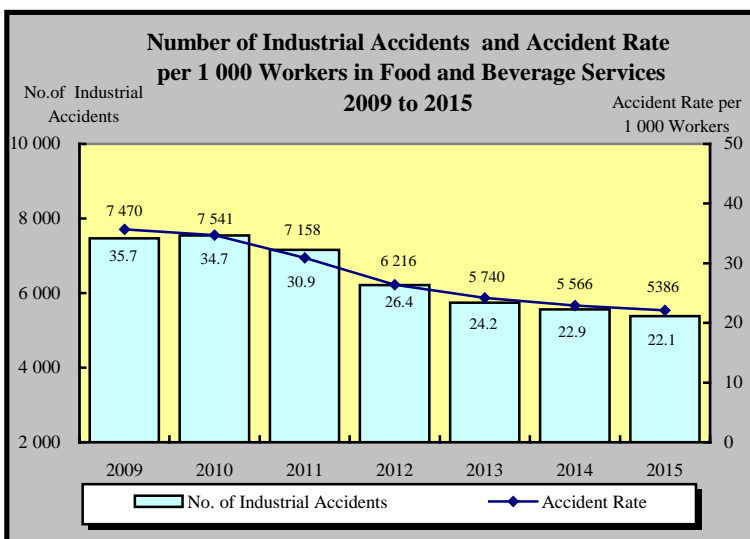
- In 2015, the number of industrial fatalities was 24, lower than 25 in 2014 by 4% and the average of the past five years (27) by 11.1%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers in 2015 was 0.038, lower than 0.041 in 2014 by 5.9% and the average of the past five years (0.045) by 14.7%.



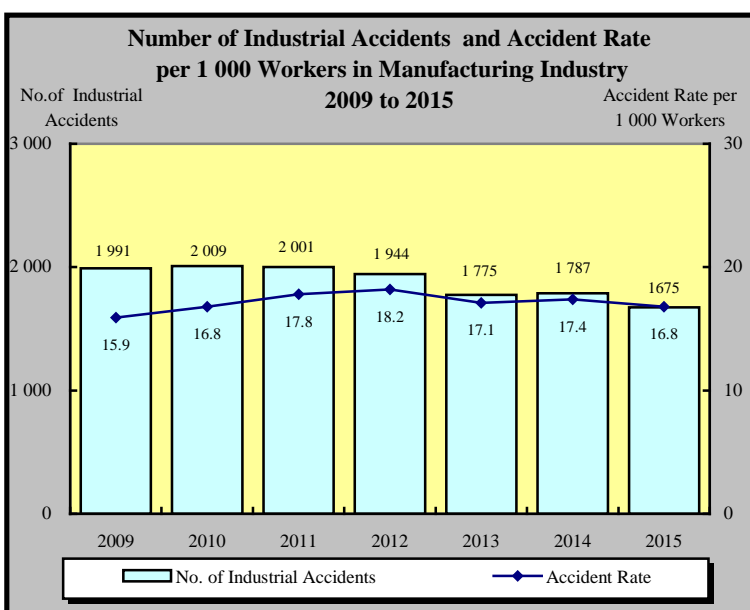
- In 2015, there were 3 723 industrial accidents in the construction industry, higher than 3 467 in 2014 by 7.4%, 3 400 in 2006 by 9.5% and the average of the past five years (3 339) by 11.5%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2015 was 39.1, lower than 41.9 in 2014 by 6.5%, 64.3 in 2006 by 39.1% and the average of the past five years (43.2) by 9.3%.



- In 2015, the number of industrial fatalities in the construction industry was 19, lower than 20 in 2014 by 5%, higher than 16 in 2006 by 18.8% and lower than the average of the past five years (22) by 12%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2015 was 0.200, lower than 0.242 in 2014 by 17.3%, 0.303 in 2006 by 34% and the average of the past five years (0.285) by 29.8%.



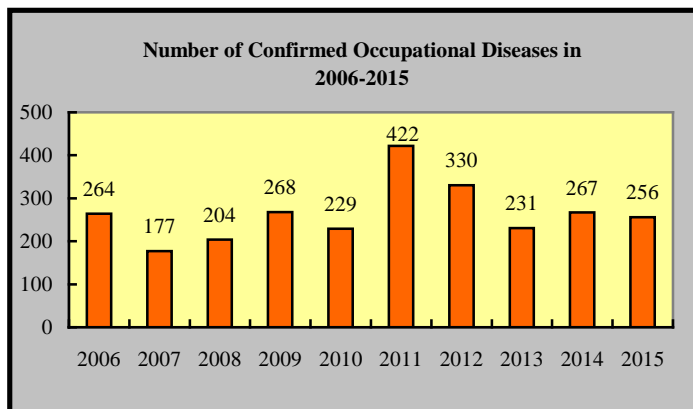
- In 2015, there were 5 386 industrial accidents in the food and beverage services, lower than 5 566 in 2014 by 3.2% and the average of the past five years (6 013) by 10.4%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the food and beverage services in 2015 was 22.1, lower than 22.9 in 2014 by 3.3% and the average of the past five years (25.3) by 12.5%.



- In 2015, there were 1 675 industrial accidents in the manufacturing industry, lower than 1 787 in 2014 by 6.3% and the average of the past five years (1 836) by 8.8%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the manufacturing industry in 2015 was 16.8, lower than 17.4 in 2014 by 3.6% and the average of the past five years (17.5) by 3.7%.

Occupational Diseases

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2006-2015



- In 2015, there were 256 cases of confirmed occupational diseases (including monaural hearing loss*), compared with 267 in 2014.

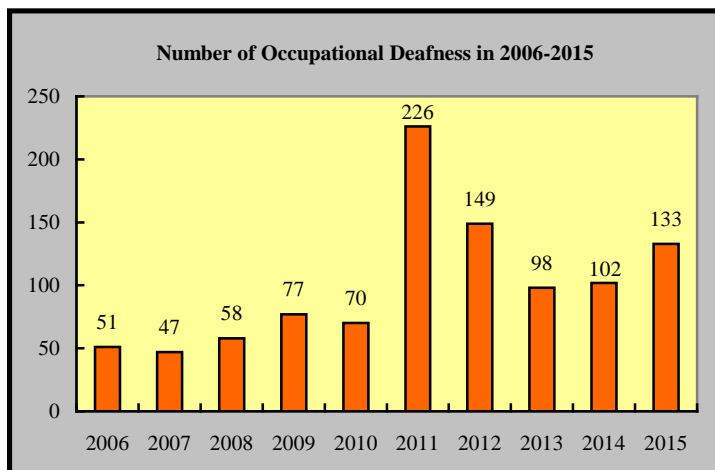
* The coverage of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance has been extended to employees with noise-induced monaural hearing loss in April 2010. In 2010, 510 old cases related to monaural hearing loss were handled. The number of confirmed occupational diseases in 2011 to 2015 has included monaural hearing loss.

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2015

Occupational Disease	Number
Occupational Deafness (including monaural hearing loss)	133
Silicosis	56
Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm	31
Mesothelioma	13
Tuberculosis	9
Gas Poisoning	7
Occupational Dermatitis	3
Compressed Air Illness	2
Occupational Asthma	1
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome	1
Asbestosis	0
Total	256

- The most common occupational diseases confirmed in 2015 were occupational deafness (including monaural hearing loss), silicosis and tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm.

Occupational Deafness

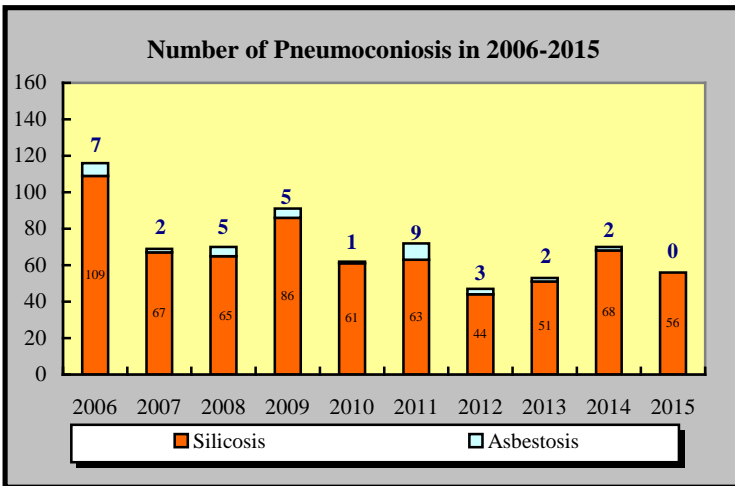


- There were 133 cases of occupational deafness (including monaural hearing loss*) in 2015. Cases were engaged in the following work:

- 44.3% Rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion
- 23.3% Working near internal combustion engines, turbines, pressurised fuel burners or jet engines
- 17.3% Metal grinding
- 6.0% Weaving or spinning
- 3.8% High speed web-fed offset printing
- 2.2% Pile driving
- 1.5% Using routing, planing, circular sawing machine or automatic lathes
- 0.8% Metal percussion
- 0.8% Abrasive blasting operations

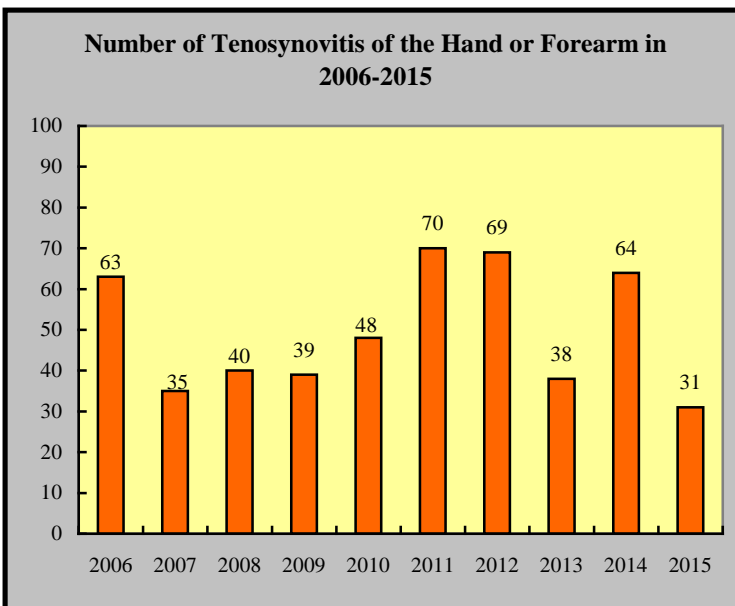
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Pneumoconiosis



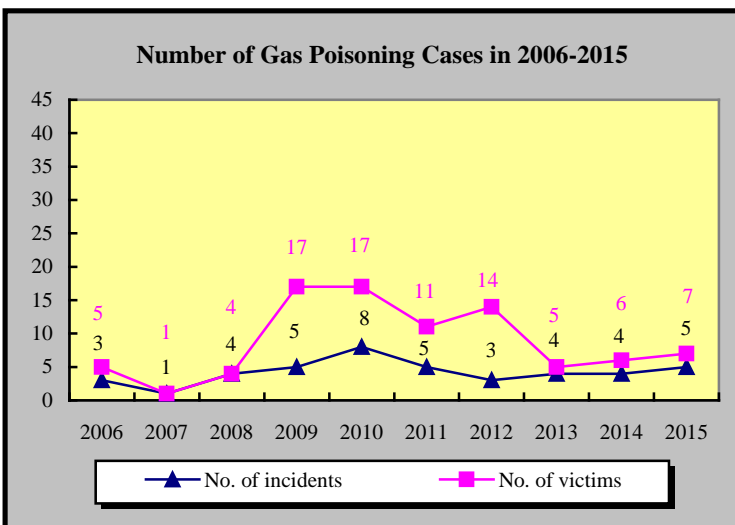
- In 2015, there were 56 confirmed cases of silicosis. Most of these cases worked in the construction industry.
- Those silicosis cases had history of exposure to the silica dust in their occupations many years ago. In the past 10 years, the number of confirmed cases was in a decreasing trend but occasionally with year on year fluctuation.
- There was no confirmed case of asbestosis in 2015.

Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm



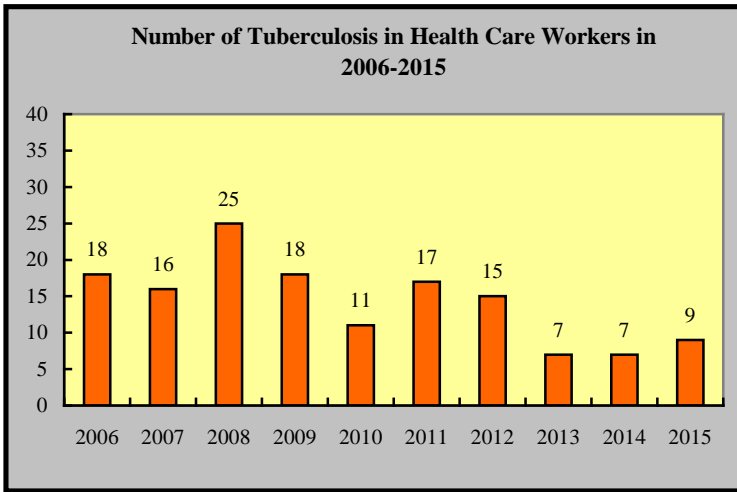
- In 2015, there were 31 confirmed cases of tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm. The disease was common among services and sales workers, clerical support workers, elementary occupations, etc.
- Distribution by industry of the 31 cases in 2015:
 - 45.2% Public administration, and social and personal services
 - 22.6% Accommodation and food services
 - 9.7% Import/Export, wholesale and retail trades
 - 9.7% Manufacturing
 - 3.2% Information and communications
 - 3.2% Transportation, storage, postal and courier services
 - 3.2% Construction
 - 3.2% Professional and business services

Gas Poisoning



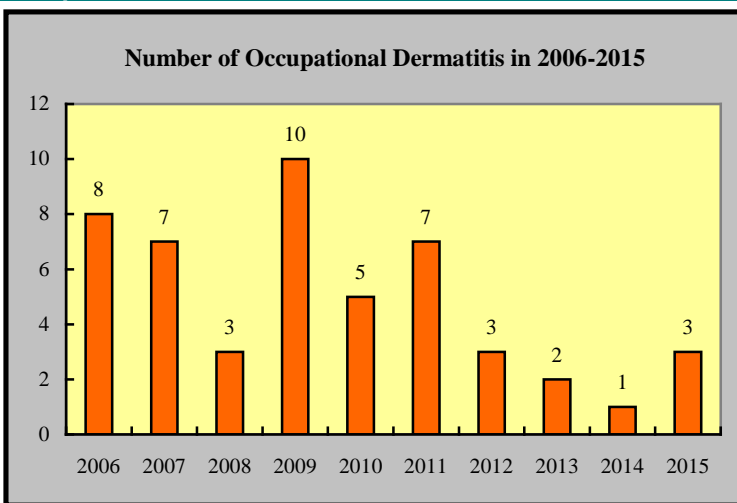
- There were 5 incidents of gas poisoning in 2015 and 7 workers were injured. The noxious chemical agents identified were chlorine, sewage gas, etc.

Tuberculosis in Health Care Workers



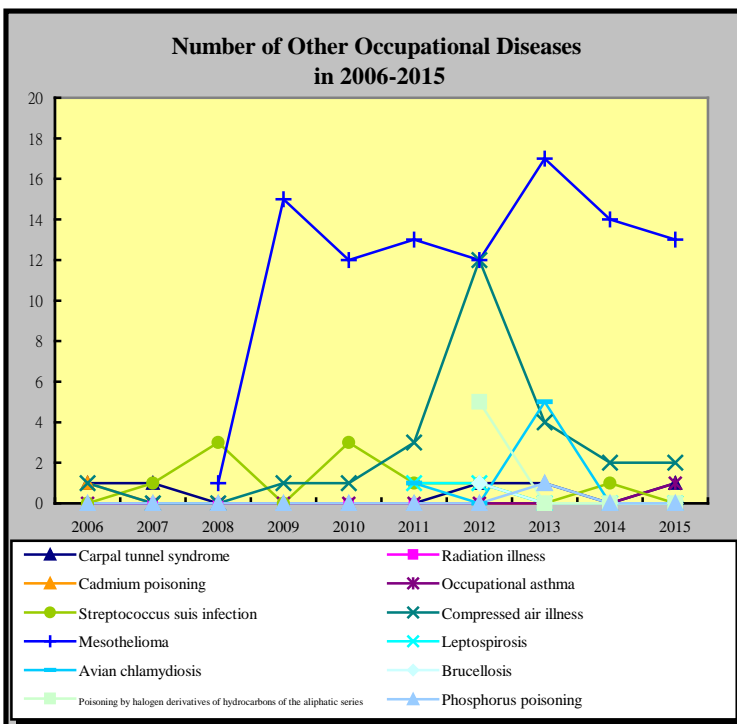
- Regarding the 9 cases of tuberculosis confirmed in 2015, the disease most commonly occurred among nurses, doctors and other health associate professionals, etc.

Occupational Dermatitis



- The causative agents for the 3 cases of occupational dermatitis in 2015 were related to beauty and medical materials.

Other Occupational Diseases



- In 2015, there were 2 confirmed cases of compressed air illness. All of them were engaged in compressed air work.
- In 2015, there were 13 confirmed cases of mesothelioma and most of the cases were engaged in the construction, quarry and shipbuilding industries.
- In 2015, there was 1 confirmed case of occupational asthma and the worker was a storage labourer.
- In 2015, there was 1 confirmed case of carpal tunnel syndrome and the worker was a bar bender.

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 Support Services Division at Tel 2542 2172**

All complaints will be treated in the strictest confidence

Email : enquiry@labour.gov.hk