

# Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Bulletin



Issue No. 20 ( August 2020 )

Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Labour Department



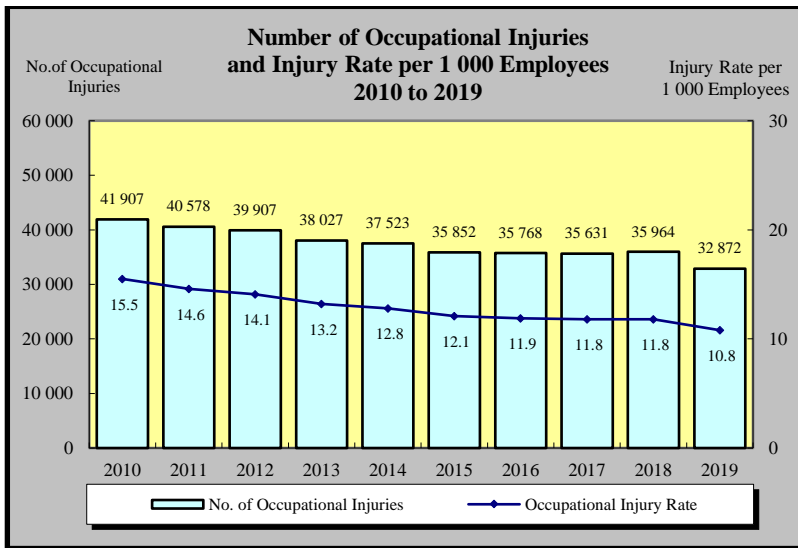
This Bulletin provides statistics of work-related accidents and confirmed cases of occupational disease in Hong Kong with information, analysis and trend on various economic sectors and selected industries. Employers, employees and occupational safety and health practitioners, by benchmarking against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

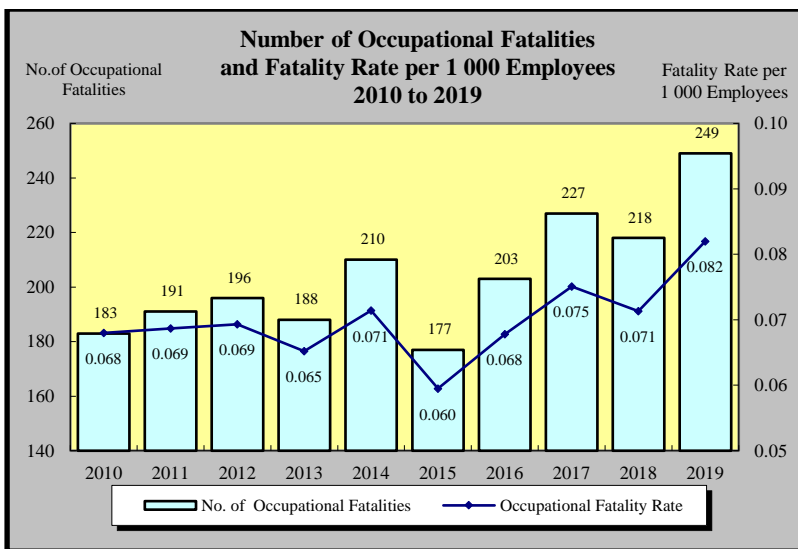
In 2019, the number of occupational injuries in all workplaces stood at 32 872, a decrease of 8.6 per cent over 2018, while the injury rate per 1 000 employees decreased from 11.8 to 10.8, a decrease of 8.0 per cent. The number of industrial accidents in all industries in 2019 stood at 9 254, a decrease of 12.7 per cent over 2018, while the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased from 16.5 to 14.8, down by 10.3 per cent.

The high-risk construction industry recorded 2 947 industrial accidents in 2019, 16.8 per cent down when compared to 3 541 in 2018. Over the same period, the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased by 8.5 per cent from 31.7 to 29.0. The number of accidents increased by 2.2 per cent and the accident rate dropped by 44.4 per cent in the past decade, the construction industry still recorded the highest number of fatalities and accident rate among all industry sectors.

# Occupational Injuries

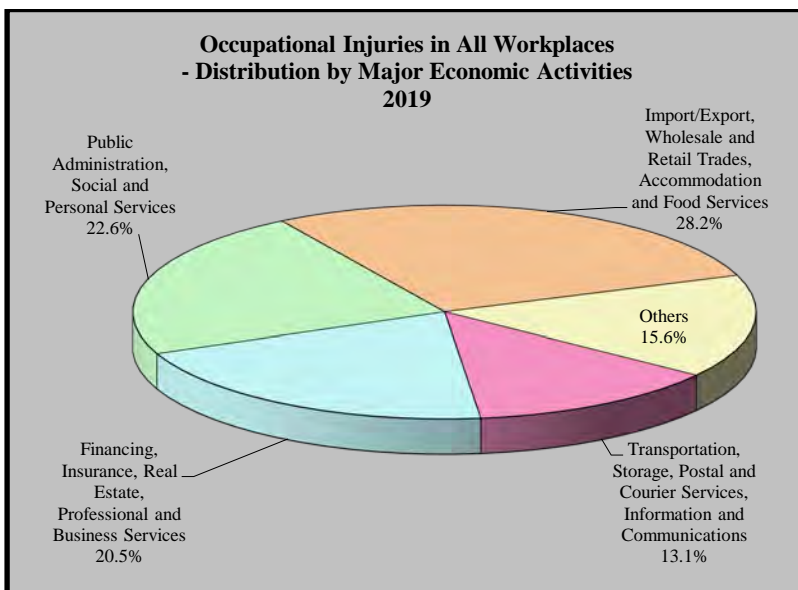


- In 2019, there were 32 872 occupational injuries, lower than 35 964 in 2018 by 8.6%, lower than 41 907 in 2010 by 21.6% and the average of the past five years (35 217) by 6.7%.
- The injury rate per 1 000 employees in 2019 was 10.8, lower than 11.8 in 2018 by 8.0%, 15.5 in 2010 by 30.2% and the average of the past five years (11.7) by 7.3%.



- In 2019, there were 249 occupational fatalities, higher than 218 in 2018 by 14.2%, 183 in 2010 by 36.1% and the average of the past five years (215) by 15.9%.
- The occupational fatality rate in 2019 was 0.082 per 1 000 employees, higher than 0.071 in 2018 by 15.0%, 0.068 in 2010 by 21.1% and the average of the past five years (0.071) by 15.3%.

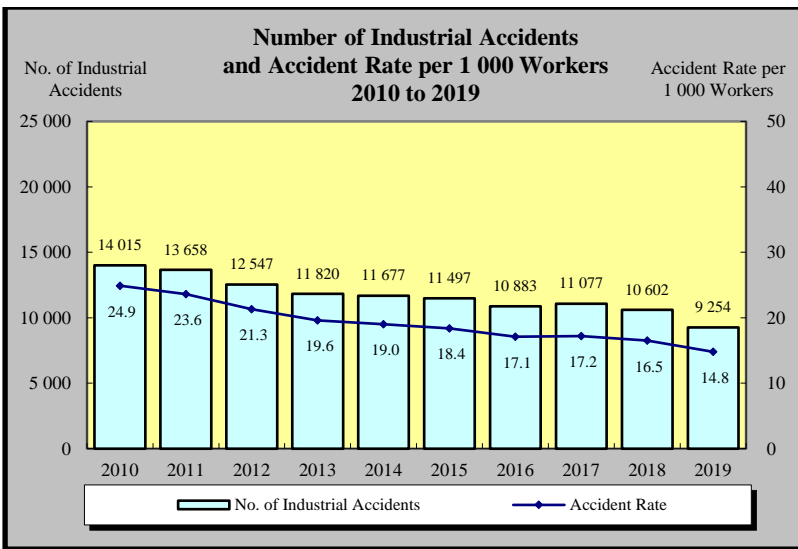
\* The occupational fatality rates per 1000 employees are rounded to three decimal places, whereas percentage change is calculated from unrounded figure.



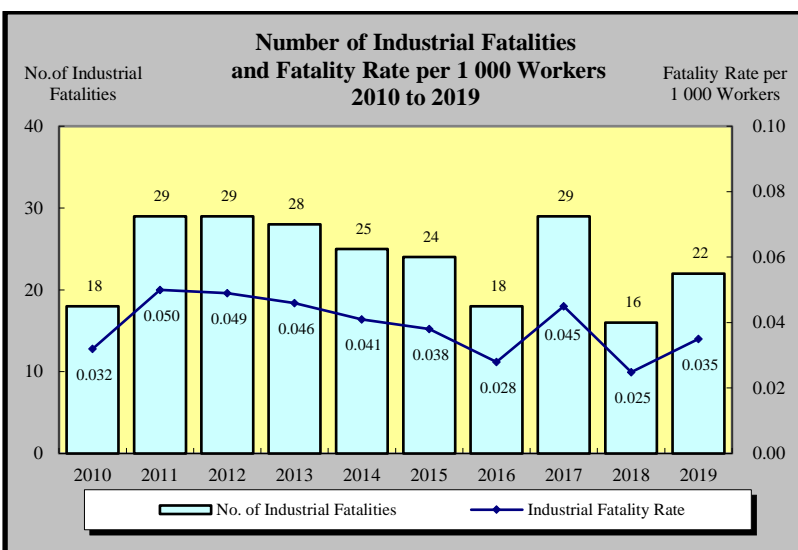
- Of the 32 872 occupational injuries in 2019, over 80% occurred in the following major economic sectors:

- 28.2% Import/Export, Wholesale and Retail Trades, Accommodation and Food Services
- 22.6% Public Administration, Social and Personal Services
- 20.5% Financing, Insurance, Real Estate, Professional and Business Services
- 13.1% Transportation, Storage, Postal and Courier Services, Information and Communications

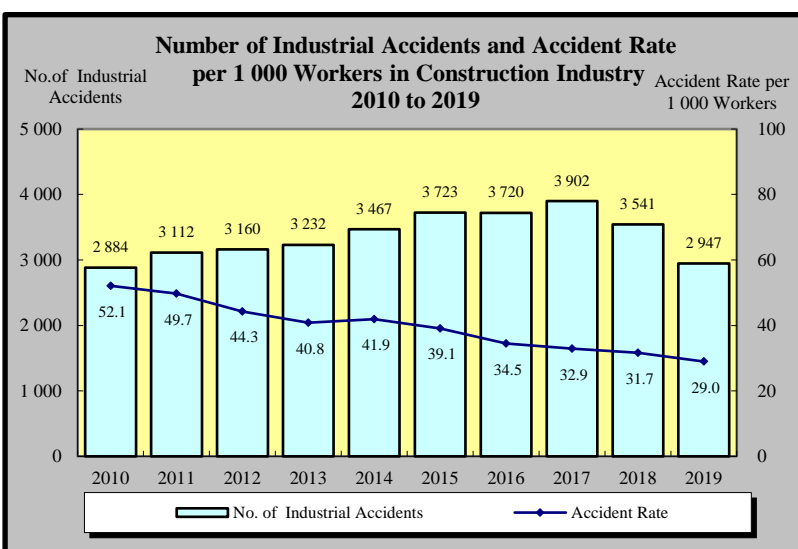
# Industrial Accidents



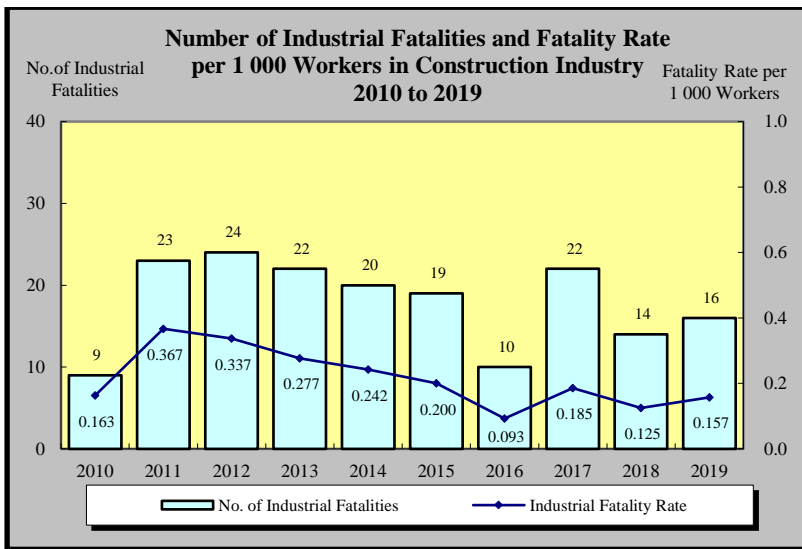
- In 2019, the number of industrial accidents was 9 254, lower than 10 602 in 2018 by 12.7%, 14 015 in 2010 by 34.0% and the average of the past five years (10 663) by 13.2%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers in 2019 was 14.8, lower than 16.5 in 2018 by 10.3%, 24.9 in 2010 by 40.8% and the average of the past five years (16.8) by 11.9%.



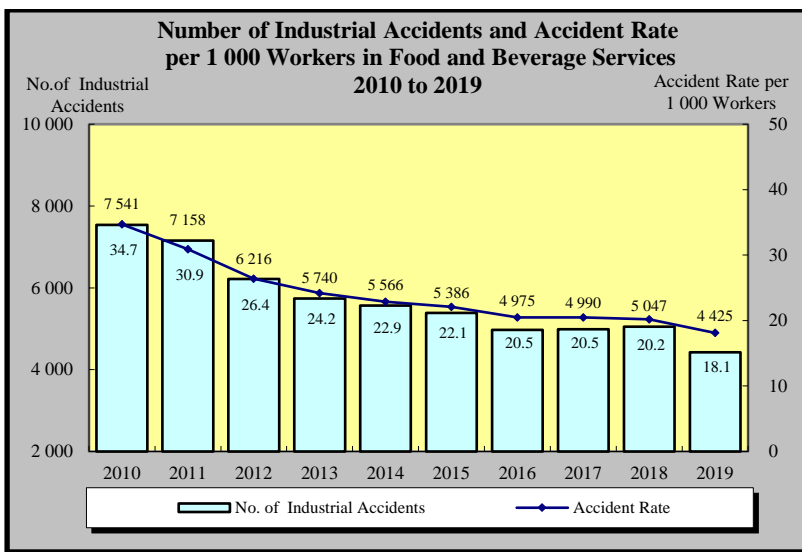
- In 2019, the number of industrial fatalities was 22, higher than 16 in 2018 by 37.5% and 18 in 2010 by 22.2% and the same as the average of the past five years (22).
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers in 2019 was 0.035, higher than 0.025 in 2018 by 41.3%, 0.032 in 2010 by 9.7% and the average of the past five years (0.034) by 2.4%.



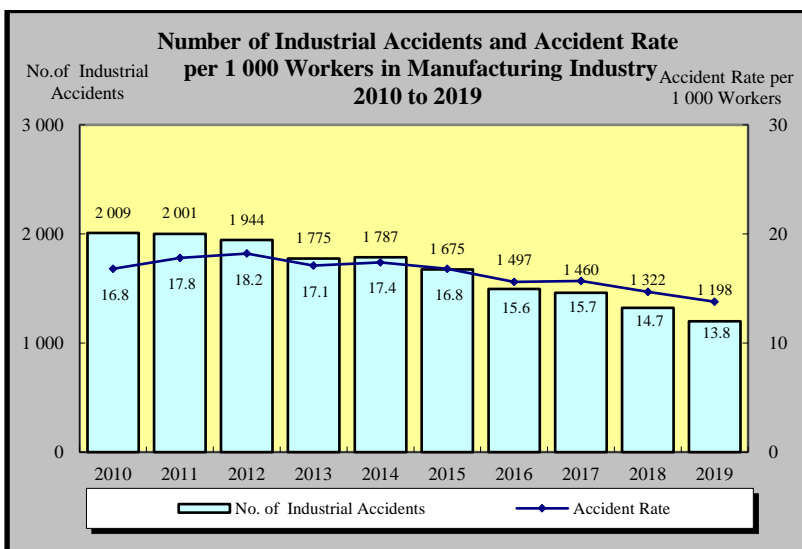
- In 2019, there were 2 947 industrial accidents in the construction industry, lower than 3 541 in 2018 by 16.8%, higher than 2 884 in 2010 by 2.2% and lower than the average of the past five years (3 567) by 17.4%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2019 was 29.0, lower than 31.7 in 2018 by 8.5%, 52.1 in 2010 by 44.4% and the average of the past five years (33.4) by 13.4%.



- In 2019, the number of industrial fatalities in the construction industry was 16, higher than 14 in 2018 by 14.3% and 9 in 2010 by 77.8% and the same as the average of the past five years (16).
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2019 was 0.157, higher than 0.125 in 2018 by 25.6%, lower than 0.163 in 2010 by 3.3% and higher than the average of the past five years (0.152) by 3.4%.



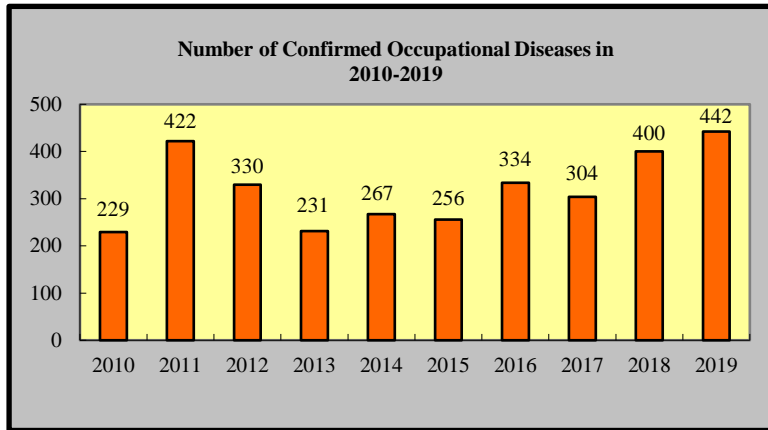
- In 2019, there were 4 425 industrial accidents in the food and beverage services, lower than 5 047 in 2018 by 12.3%, 7 541 in 2010 by 41.3% and the average of the past five years (4 965) by 10.9%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the food and beverage services in 2019 was 18.1, lower than 20.2 in 2018 by 10.3%, 34.7 in 2010 by 47.8% and the average of the past five years (20.3) by 10.7%.



- In 2019, there were 1 198 industrial accidents in the manufacturing industry, lower than 1 322 in 2018 by 9.4%, 2 009 in 2010 by 40.4% and the average of the past five years (1 430) by 16.2%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the manufacturing industry in 2019 was 13.8, lower than 14.7 in 2018 by 6.1%, 16.8 in 2010 by 18.1% and the average of the past five years (15.3) by 10.0%.

# Occupational Diseases

## Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2010-2019



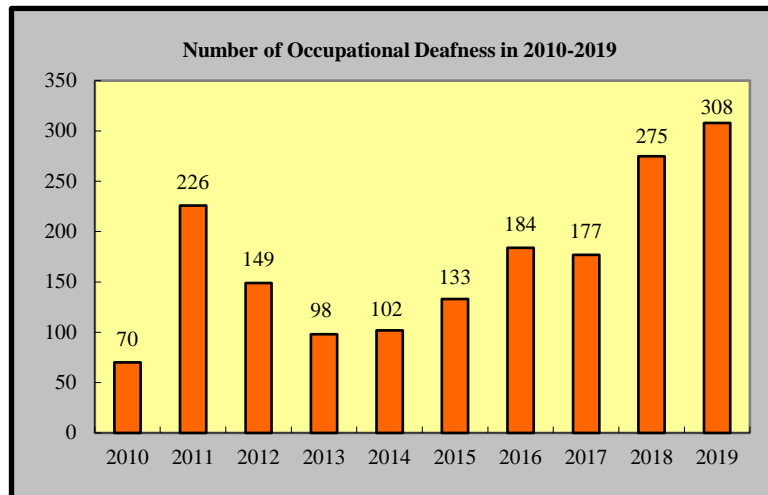
- In 2019, there were 442 cases of confirmed occupational diseases (including monaural hearing loss\*), compared with 400 in 2018.  
\* The coverage of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance has been extended to employees with noise-induced monaural hearing loss in April 2010. The number of confirmed occupational diseases in 2011 to 2019 has included monaural hearing loss.

## Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2019

Occupational Disease	Number
Occupational Deafness (including monaural hearing loss)	308
Silicosis	52
Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm	35
Gas Poisoning	17
Mesothelioma	10
Asbestosis	7
Tuberculosis	5
Occupational Dermatitis	5
Compressed Air Illness	1
Beat Knee	1
Legionnaires' Disease	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>442</b>

- The most common occupational diseases confirmed in 2019 were occupational deafness (including monaural hearing loss), silicosis and tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm.

## Occupational Deafness

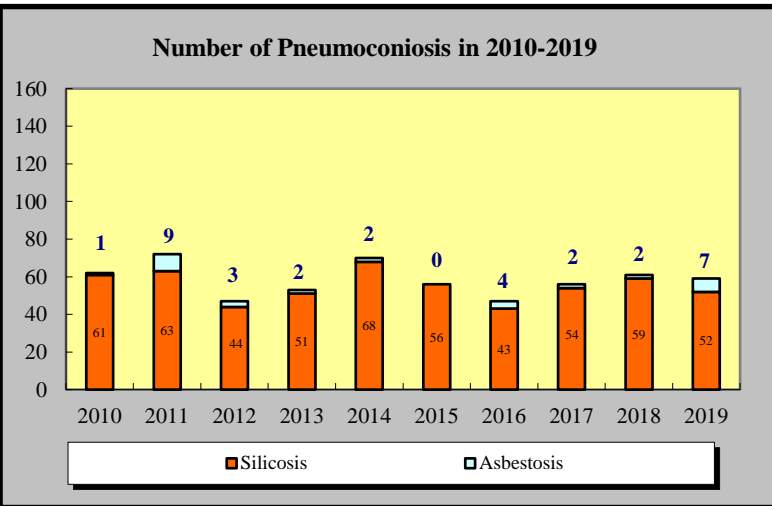


\* The coverage of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance has been extended to employees with noise-induced monaural hearing loss in April 2010. The number of occupational deafness in 2011 to 2019 has included monaural hearing loss.

# Please refer to the Occupational Deafness Compensation Board for detailed statistical information on occupational deafness.

- There were 308 cases of occupational deafness (including monaural hearing loss\*) in 2019. Cases were engaged in the following work#:
  - 52.3% Rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion
  - 20.5% Working near internal combustion engines, turbines, pressurised fuel burners or jet engines
  - 11.0% Metal grinding
  - 8.4% Pile driving
  - 4.6% High speed web-fed offset printing
  - 1.6% Using routing, planing, circular sawing machine or automatic lathes
  - 1.0% Weaving or spinning
  - 0.3% Metal percussion
  - 0.3% Abrasive blasting operations

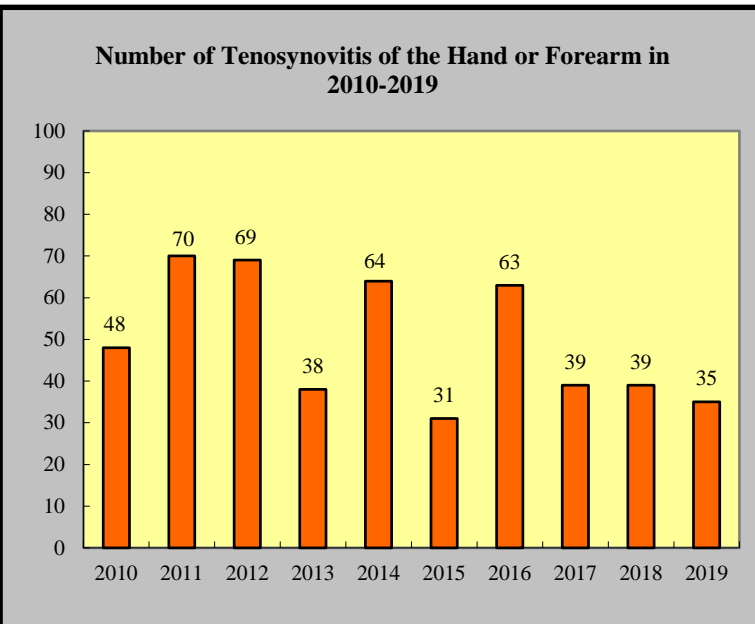
## Pneumoconiosis



\* Please refer to the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board for detailed statistical information on silicosis and asbestosis.

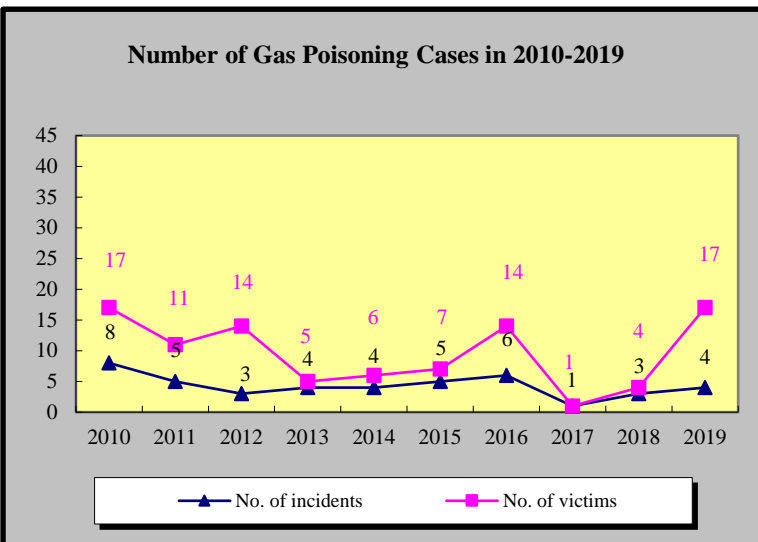
- In 2019, there were 52 confirmed cases of silicosis\*.
- Those silicosis cases had history of exposure to the silica dust in their occupations many years ago. Its latent period could be as long as 10 to 20 years.
- There were 7 confirmed cases of asbestosis in 2019\*.

## Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm



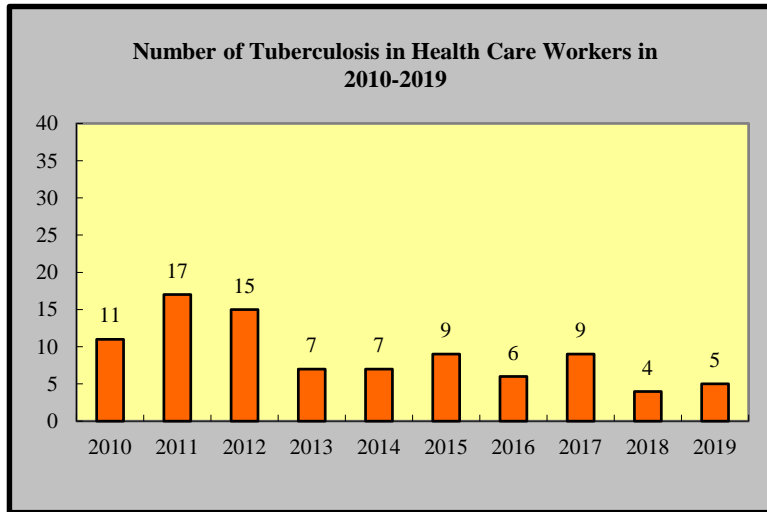
- In 2019, there were 35 confirmed cases of tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm. The disease was common among clerical support workers, personal service workers and elementary occupations, etc.
- Distribution by industry of the 35 cases in 2019:
  - 25.7% Public administration, and social and personal services
  - 20.0% Accommodation and food services
  - 17.1% Import/Export, wholesale and retail trades
  - 14.3% Manufacturing
  - 11.4% Professional and business services
  - 5.7% Transportation, storage, postal and courier services
  - 2.9% Information and communications
  - 2.9% Construction

## Gas Poisoning



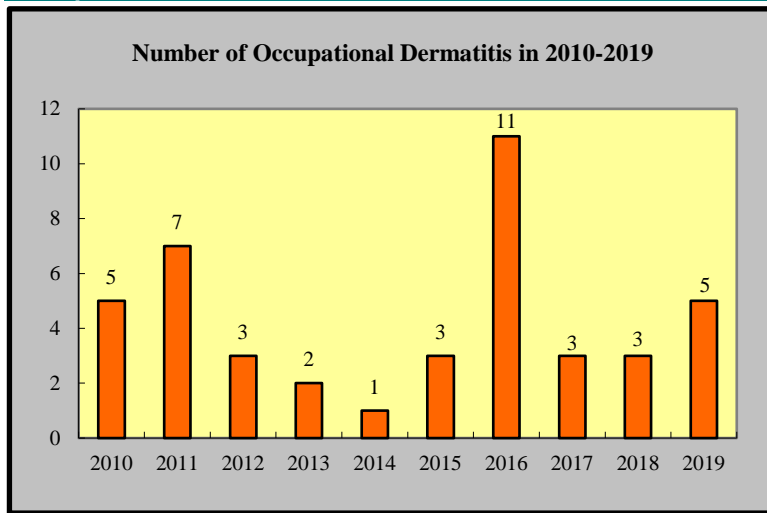
- There were 4 incidents of gas poisoning in 2019 and 17 workers were injured. The noxious chemical agents were chlorobenzene, chlorine gas and carbon monoxide.

### Tuberculosis in Health Care Workers



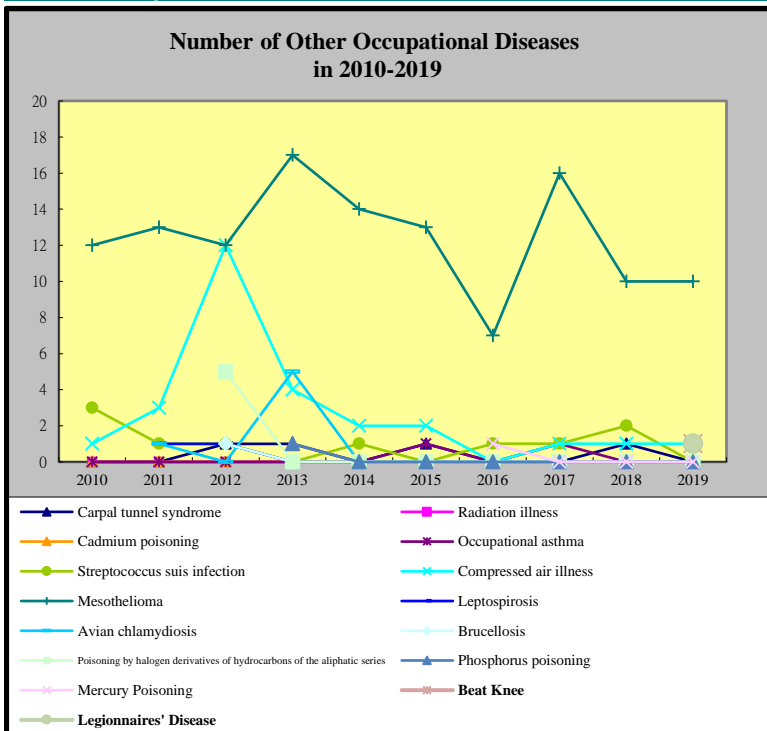
- Regarding the 5 cases of tuberculosis confirmed in 2019, the workers were doctor, nurses and other personal care workers.

### Occupational Dermatitis



- The causative agents for the 5 cases of occupational dermatitis in 2019 were related to work process in kitchen, construction site and food company.

### Other Occupational Diseases



- In 2019, there were 10 confirmed cases of mesothelioma\*.
- In 2019, there was 1 confirmed case of compressed air illness and the worker was a healthcare professional.
- In 2019, there was 1 confirmed case of beat knee and the worker was engaged in photography work.
- In 2019, there was 1 confirmed case of Legionnaires' Disease and the worker was engaged in work related to cooling towers.

\* Please refer to the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board for detailed statistical information on mesothelioma.

## Definitions and further information

**Occupational injuries** refer to injury cases in workplaces reported under the Employees' Compensation Ordinance, resulting in death or incapacity for work of over three days.

**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 statistics are compiled based on Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification Version 2.0.

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.**

**If you have any complaint about unsafe operations and environments at workplaces,  
please call the Labour Department's occupational safety and health complaint hotline at Tel 2542 2172  
or fill out and submit an online occupational safety and health complaint form on our website.**

**All complaints will be treated in the strictest confidence.**



**Online OSH Complaint Form**

**Email : [enquiry@labour.gov.hk](mailto:enquiry@labour.gov.hk)**