

Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Bulletin

Issue No. 10 (September 2010)

Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Labour Department



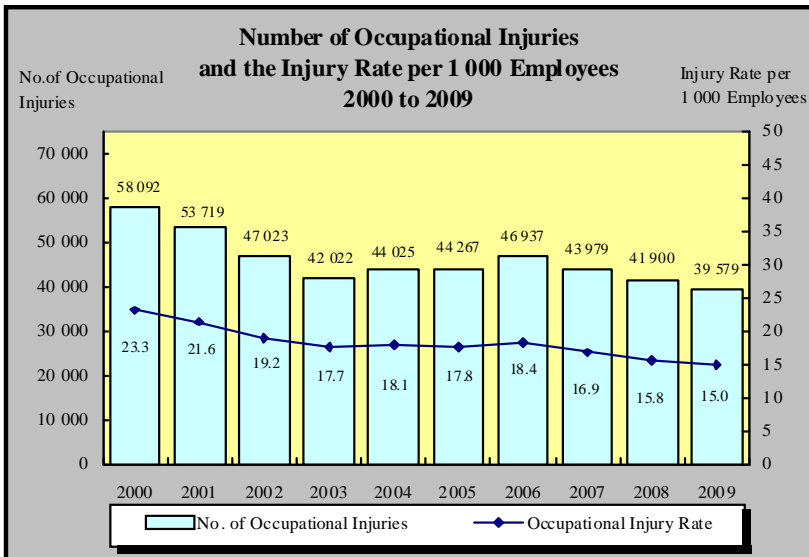
Statistics in this Bulletin provide information, analysis and recent trends on work-related accidents and confirmed cases of occupational disease in Hong Kong with breakdowns by economic sectors and selected industries. Employers, employees and occupational safety and health practitioners may use them 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 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.

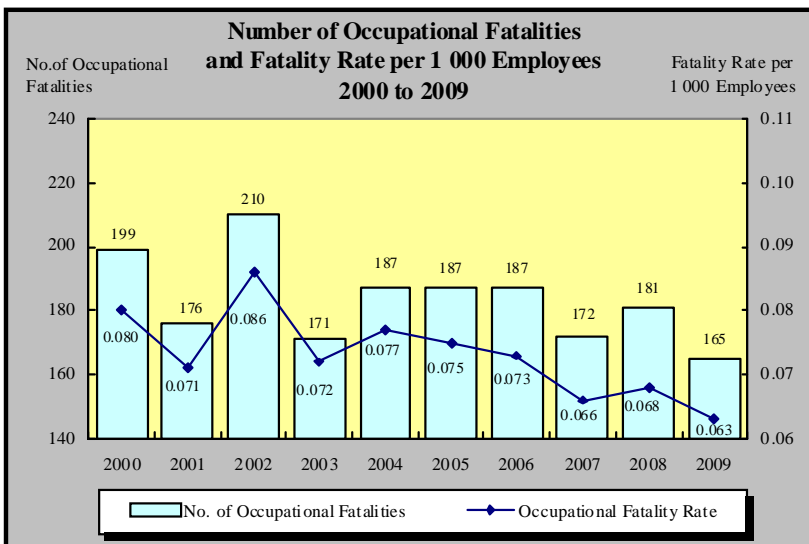
In 2009, the number of occupational injuries in all workplaces stood at 39 579, a decrease of 5.5 per cent over 2008, while the injury rate per 1 000 employees decreased from 15.8 to 15.0, a decrease of 5.1 per cent. The number of industrial accidents in all industries in 2009 stood at 13 600, a decrease of 8.9 per cent over 2008.

The high-risk construction industry still recorded the highest number of fatalities and accident rate among various industry sectors. Nonetheless, it is encouraging to note that the number of construction industrial accidents decreased from 3 033 to 2 755, down by 9.2 per cent, while the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased from 61.4 to 54.6, down by 11.1 per cent as compared with 2008. When compared to 2000, the construction accidents in 2009 fell heftily by 76.9 per cent and the accident rate per 1 000 workers also dropped by 63.6 per cent as well.

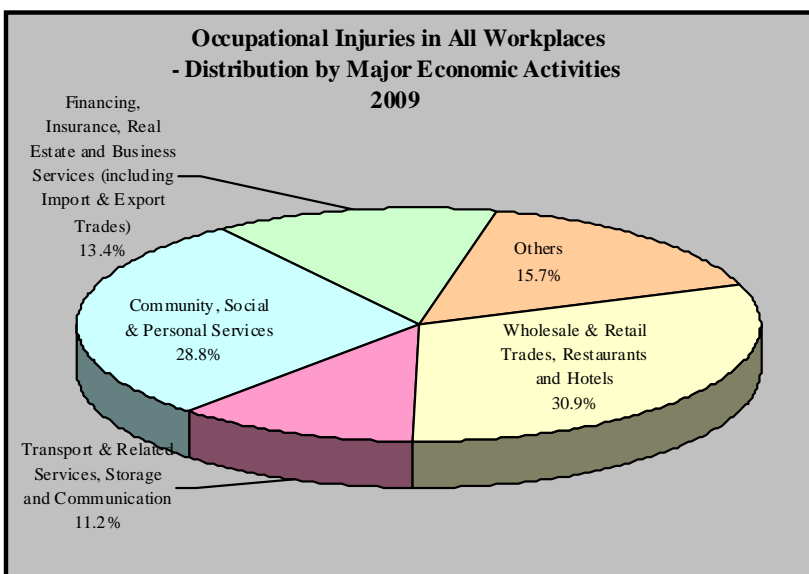
Occupational Injuries



- In 2009, there were 39 579 occupational injuries, lower than 41 900 in 2008 by 5.5%, 58 092 in 2000 by 31.9% and the average of the past five years (43 332) by 8.7%.
- The injury rate per 1 000 employees in 2009 was 15.0, lower than 15.8 in 2008 by 5.1%, 23.3 in 2000 by 35.6% and the average of the past five years (16.8) by 10.6%.

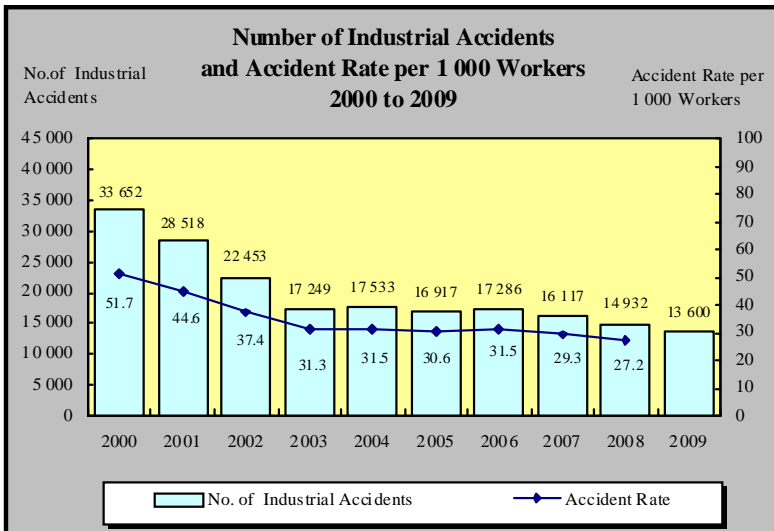


- In 2009, there were 165 occupational fatalities, lower than 181 in 2008 by 8.8%, 199 in 2000 by 17.1% and the average of the past five years (178.4) by 7.5%.
- The occupational fatality rate in 2009 was 0.063 per 1 000 employees, lower than 0.068 in 2008 by 8.4%, 0.080 in 2000 by 21.6% and the average of the past five years (0.069) by 9.4%.

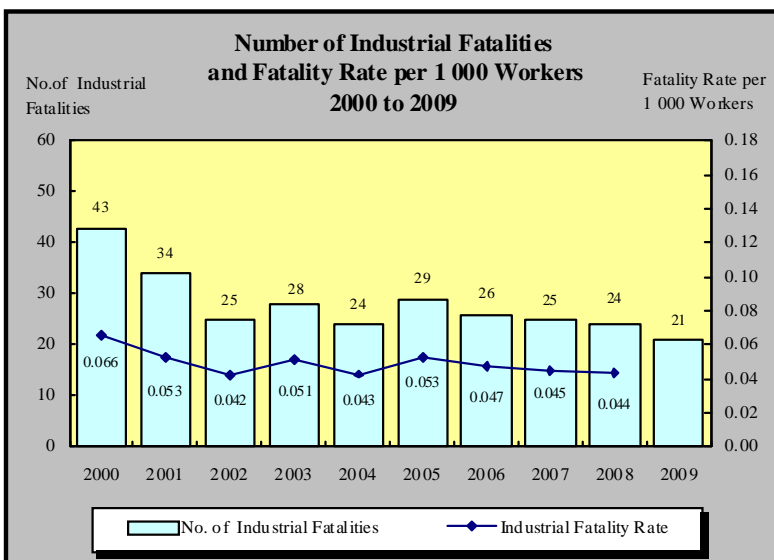


- Of the 39 579 occupational injuries in 2009, over 84% occurred in the following major economic sectors:
 - 30.9% Wholesale & Retail Trades, Restaurants and Hotels
 - 28.8% Community, Social & Personal Services
 - 13.4% Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services (including Import & Export Trade)
 - 11.2% Transport & Related Services, Storage and Communication

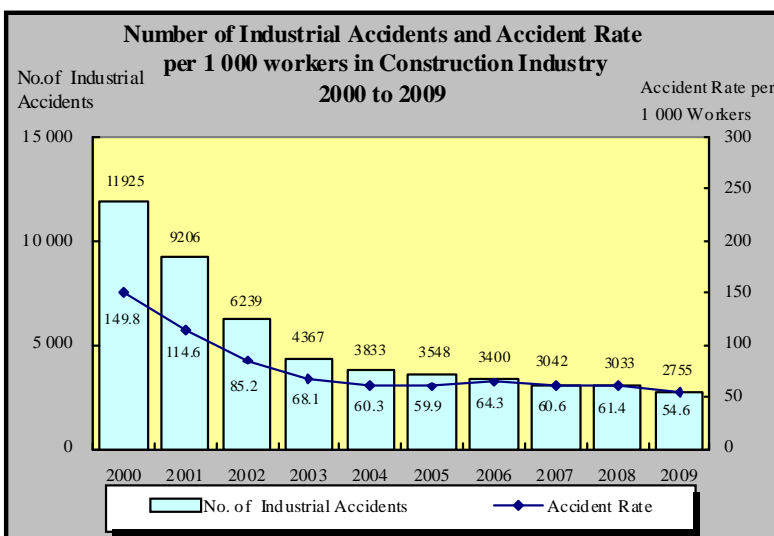
Industrial Accidents



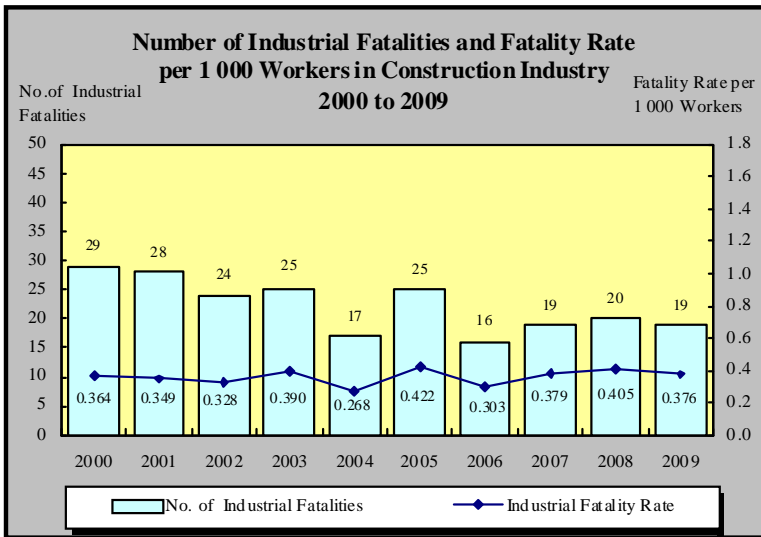
- The number of industrial accidents in 2009 was 13 600, lower than 14 932 in 2008 by 8.9%, 33 652 in 2000 by 59.6% and the average of the past five years (15 770) by 13.8%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers in 2009 was not available*.



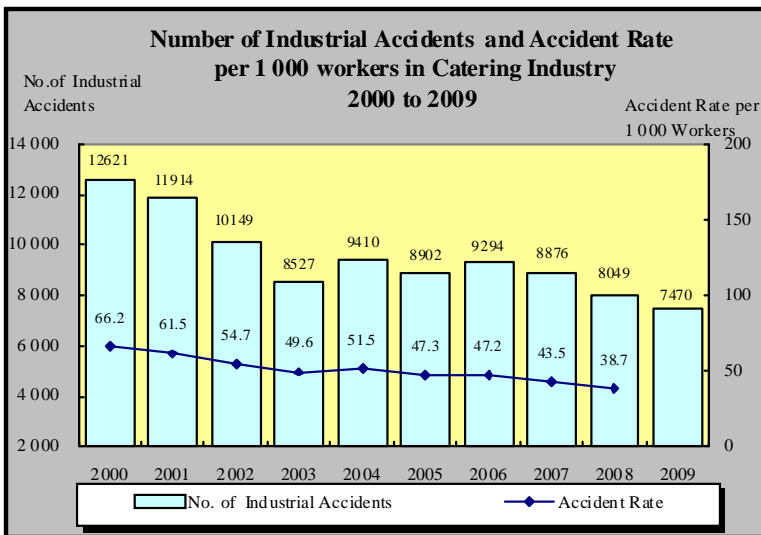
- In 2009 the number of industrial fatalities was 21, lower than 24 in 2008 by 12.5%, 43 in 2000 by 51.2% and the average of the past five years (25.0) by 16.0%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers in 2009 was not available*.
- On average, about 79% of the industrial fatalities occurred in the construction industry in the past five years.



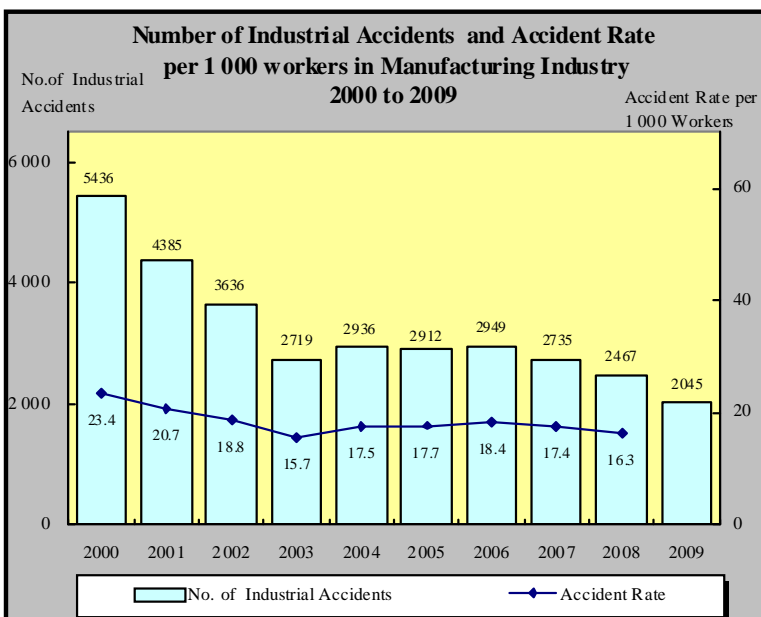
- In 2009, there were 2 755 industrial accidents in the construction industry, lower than 3 033 in 2008 by 9.2%, 11 925 in 2000 by 76.9% and the average of the past five years (3 156) by 12.7%. It was the lowest over the past 10 years.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2009 was 54.6, lower than 61.4 in 2008 by 11.1%, 149.8 in 2000 by 63.6% and the average of the past five years (60.1) by 9.3%.



- In 2009, the number of industrial fatalities in the construction industry was 19, lower than 20 in 2008 by 5.0%, 29 in 2000 by 34.5% and the average of the past five years (19.8) by 4.0%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2009 was 0.376, lower than 0.405 in 2008 by 7.0% and the average of the past five years (0.377) by 0.2%, but higher than 0.364 in 2000 by 3.3%.



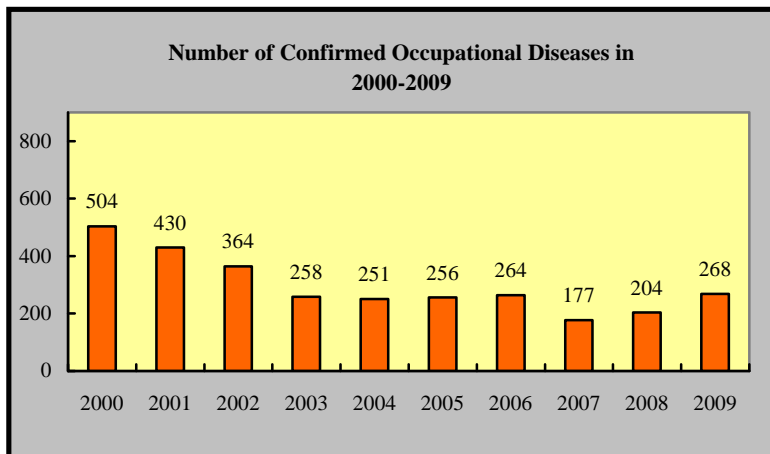
- In 2009, there were 7 470 industrial accidents in the catering industry, lower than 8 049 in 2008 by 7.2%, 12 621 in 2000 by 40.8% and the average of the past five years (8 518) by 12.3%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the catering industry in 2009 was not available*.



- In 2009, there were 2 045 industrial accidents in the manufacturing industry, lower than 2 467 in 2008 by 17.1%, 5 436 in 2000 by 62.4% and the average of the past five years (2 622) by 22.0%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the manufacturing industry in 2009 was not available*.

Occupational Diseases

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2000-2009



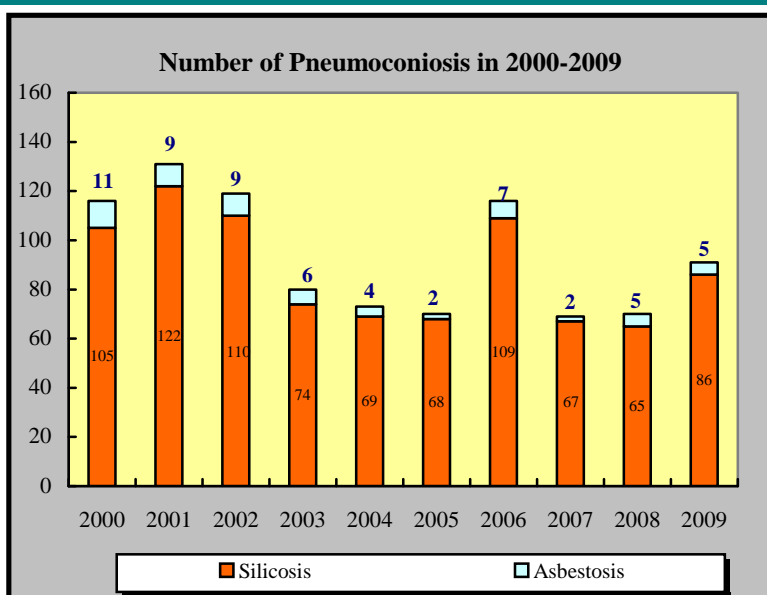
- In 2009, there were 268 cases of confirmed occupational diseases, compared with 204 in 2008.

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2009

Occupational Disease	Number
Silicosis	86
Occupational Deafness	77
Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm	39
Tuberculosis	18
Gas Poisoning	17
Mesothelioma	15
Occupational Dermatitis	10
Asbestosis	5
Compressed Air Illness	1
Total	268

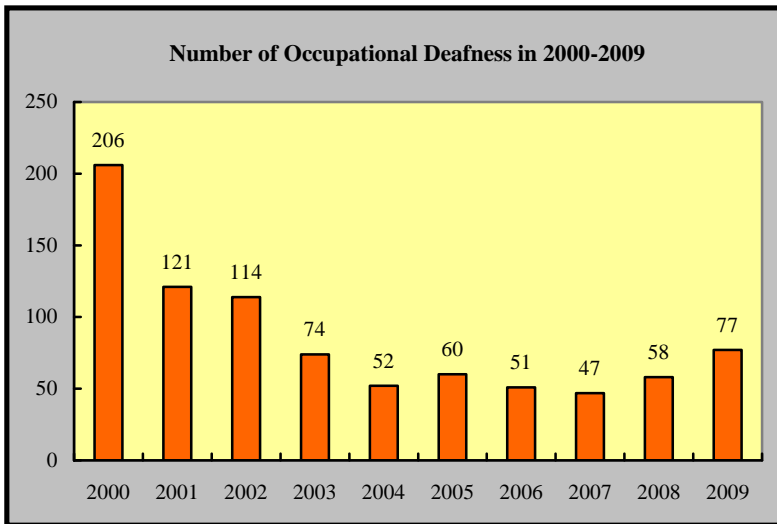
- The most common occupational diseases confirmed in 2009 were silicosis, occupational deafness, tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm and tuberculosis.

Pneumoconiosis



- In 2009, there were 86 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 5 confirmed cases of asbestosis were engaged in the shipbuilding, repairing and construction work.

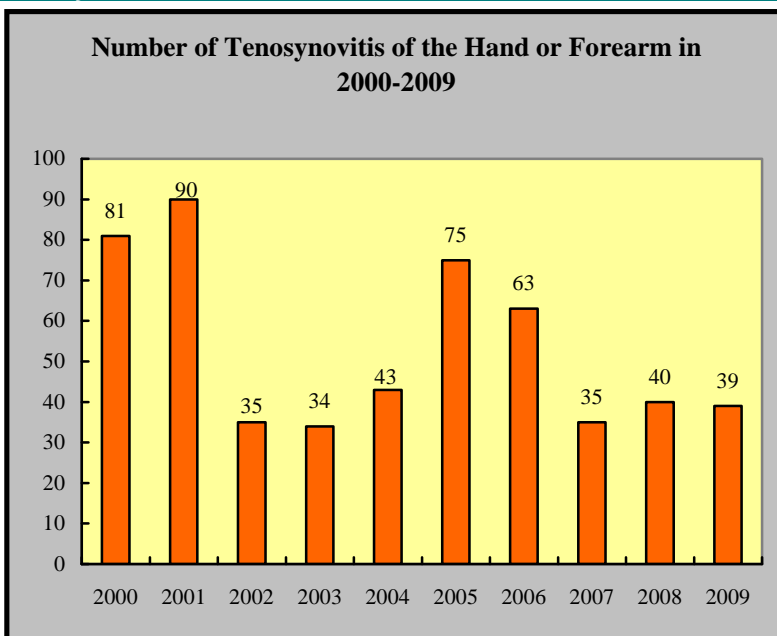
Occupational Deafness



- The 77 cases of occupational deafness in 2009 were engaged in the following work:

- 50.6% Rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion
- 24.7% Metal grinding
- 7.8% Working near internal combustion engines, turbines, pressurised fuel burners or jet engines
- 6.5% Weaving and spinning
- 3.9% High speed web-fed offset printing
- 3.9% Using routing, planning, circular sawing machines or automatic lathes
- 2.6% Others

Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm

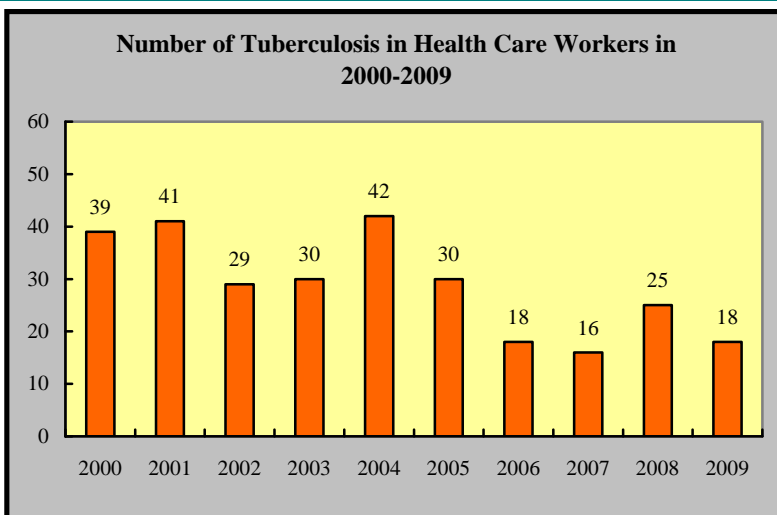


- In 2009, there were 39 confirmed cases of tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm. The disease was common among clerical and other office personnel, catering workers, allied health services personnel and general labourers.

- Distribution by industry of the 39 cases in 2009:

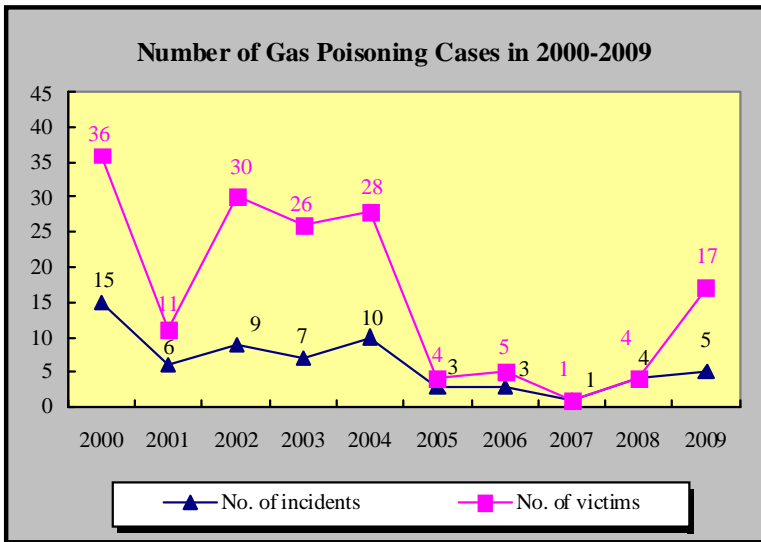
- 53.8% Community, social and personal services
- 25.6% Wholesales, retail and import/export trades restaurants and hotels
- 10.3% Transport, storage and communications
- 7.7% Manufacturing
- 2.6% Financing, insurance, real estate and business services

Tuberculosis in Health Care Workers



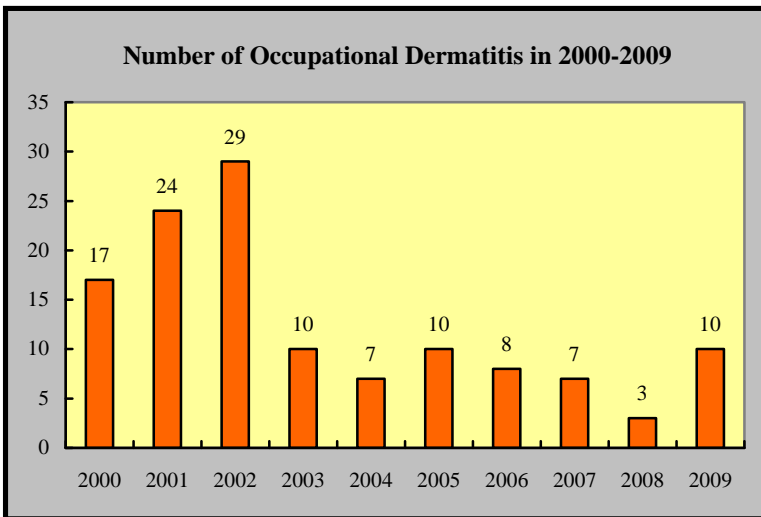
- Regarding the 18 cases of tuberculosis confirmed in 2009, the disease most commonly occurred among nurses, health care supporting staff and laboratory technicians.

Gas Poisoning



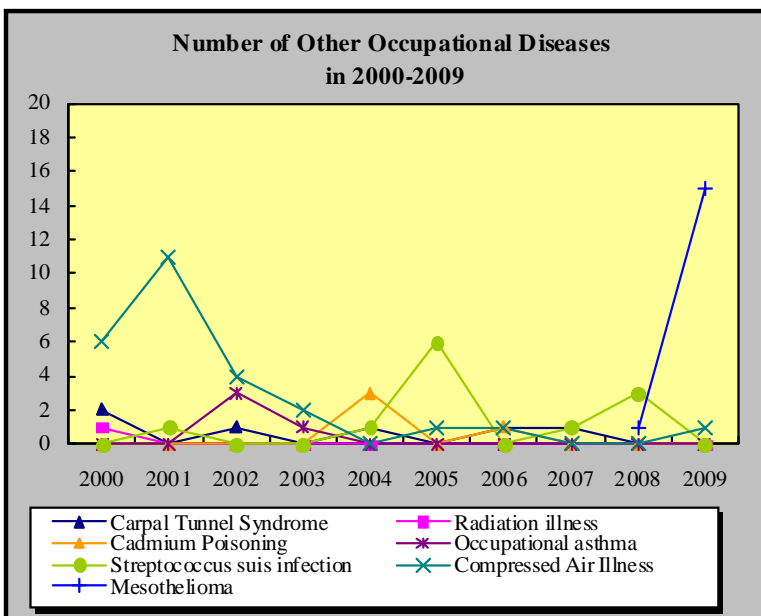
- There were 5 incidents of gas poisoning in 2009 and 17 workers were injured. The noxious chemical agents identified were carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulphide etc.

Occupational Dermatitis



- The causative agents identified among the 10 cases of occupational dermatitis in 2009 included organic compound, fragrance, massage oil and hair dye etc.

Other Occupational Diseases



- In 2009, there was 1 confirmed case of compressed air illness, the worker was engaged in tunnelling work.
- In 2009, there were 15 confirmed cases of mesothelioma and most of the cases were engaged in the shipbuilding, repairing, construction and demolition work.
- Mesothelioma was prescribed for compensation under the Pneumoconiosis and Mesothelioma (Compensation) Ordinance since April 2008. Therefore, the number of cases in 2009 should not be directly compared with that in 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.

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:

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

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.

Note :

* *Employment size for calculating the injury rate/accident rate per 1 000 employees/workers are based on the Quarterly Report of Employment and Vacancies Statistics published by the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD). Since 2009, the Quarterly Survey of Employment and Vacancies conducted by the C&SD 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. Due to the changes in coverage of individual industries (except Construction Industry) in HSIC Version 2.0, their employment size under HSIC Version 1.1 are no longer available in the Quarterly Report of Employment and Vacancies Statistics. Hence, the accident rates of manufacturing industry, catering industry and all industrial sectors under HSIC Version 1.1 in 2009 are not available.*

**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