

# Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Bulletin

Issue No. 12 ( July 2012 )

Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Labour Department



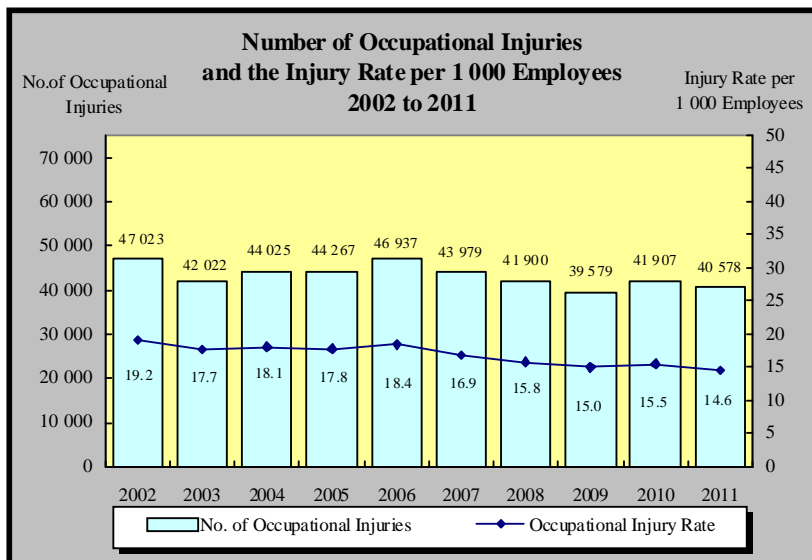
Statistics in this Bulletin provide information, analysis and recent trends on work-related accidents and confirmed cases of occupational disease in Hong Kong with breakdowns by economic sectors and selected industries. Employers, employees and occupational safety and health practitioners may use them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

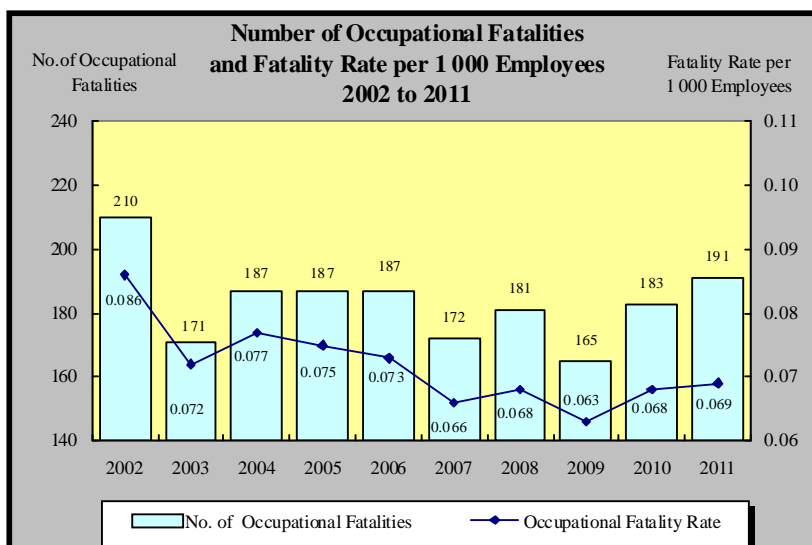
In 2011, the number of occupational injuries in all workplaces stood at 40 578, a decrease of 3.2 per cent over 2010, while the injury rate per 1 000 employees decreased from 15.5 to 14.6, a decrease of 5.9 per cent. The number of industrial accidents in all industries in 2011 stood at 13 658, a decrease of 2.5 per cent over 2010, while the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased from 24.9 to 23.6, down by 5.5 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 2 884 to 3 112, up by 7.9 per cent, while the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased from 52.1 to 49.7, down by 4.7 per cent as compared with 2010. When compared to 2002, the construction accidents in 2011 fell heftily by 50.1 per cent and the accident rate per 1 000 workers also dropped by 41.7 per cent as well.

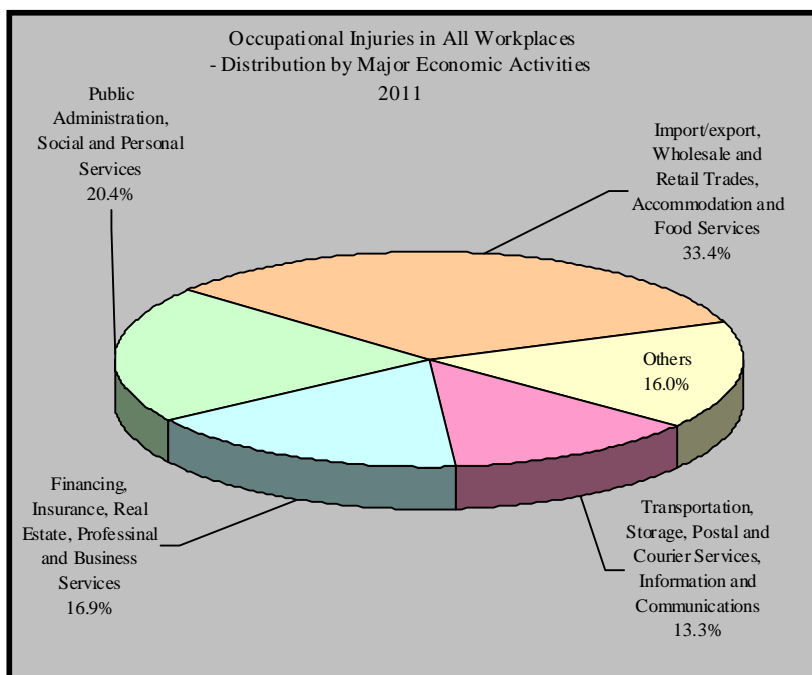
# Occupational Injuries



- In 2011, there were 40 578 occupational injuries, lower than 41 907 in 2010 by 3.2%, 47 023 in 2002 by 13.7% and the average of the past five years (41 589) by 2.4%.
- The injury rate per 1 000 employees in 2011 was 14.6, lower than 15.5 in 2010 by 5.9%, 19.2 in 2002 by 24.1% and the average of the past five years (15.6) by 6.3%.

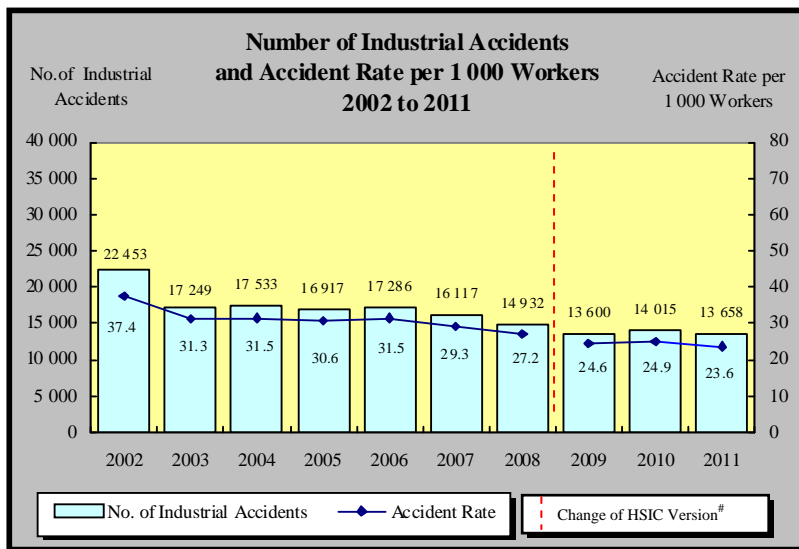


- In 2011, there were 191 occupational fatalities, higher than 183 in 2010 by 4.4%, lower than 210 in 2002 by 9.0% and higher than the average of the past five years (178.4) by 7.1%.
- The occupational fatality rate in 2011 was 0.069 per 1 000 employees, higher than 0.068 in 2010 by 1.4%, lower than 0.086 in 2002 by 20.0% and higher than the average of the past five years (0.067) by 3.0%

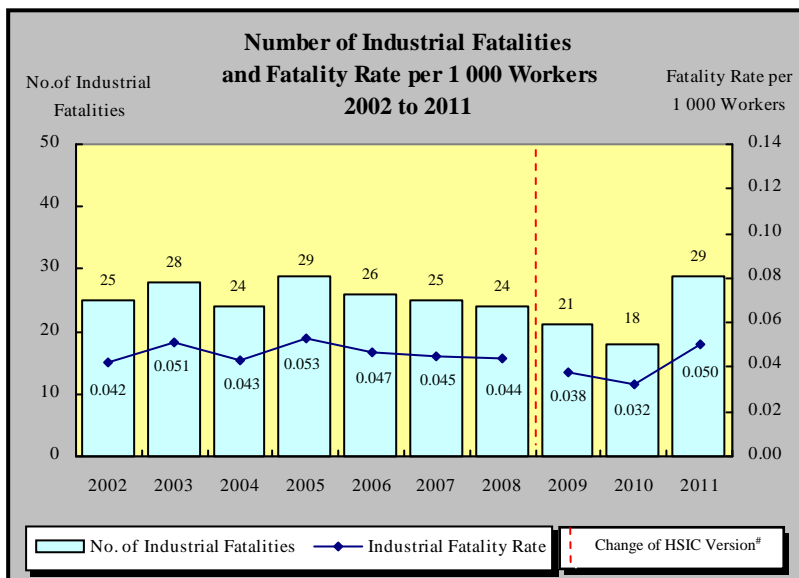


- Of the 40 578 occupational injuries in 2011, 84.0% occurred in the following major economic sectors:
  - 33.4% Import/export, Wholesale and Retail Trades, Accommodation and Food Services
  - 20.4% Public Administration, Social and Personal Services
  - 16.9% Financing, Insurance, Real Estate, Professional and Business Services
  - 13.3% Transportation, Storage, Postal and Courier Services, Information and Communications

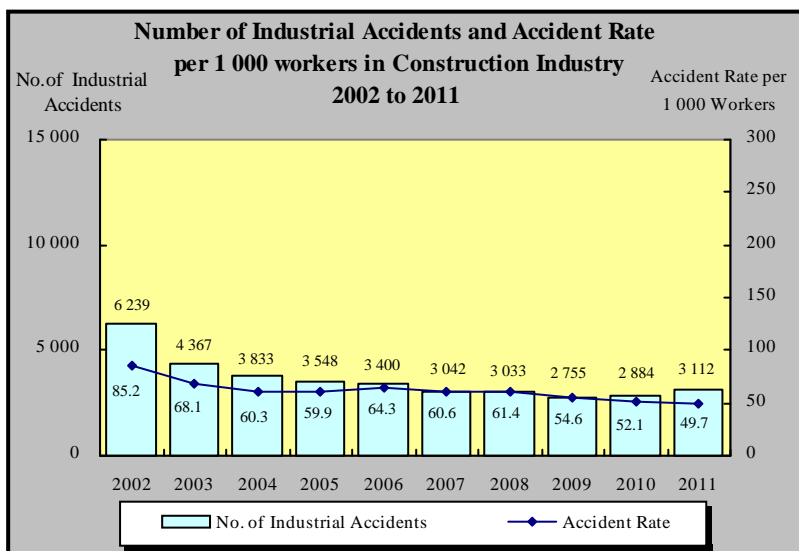
# Industrial Accidents



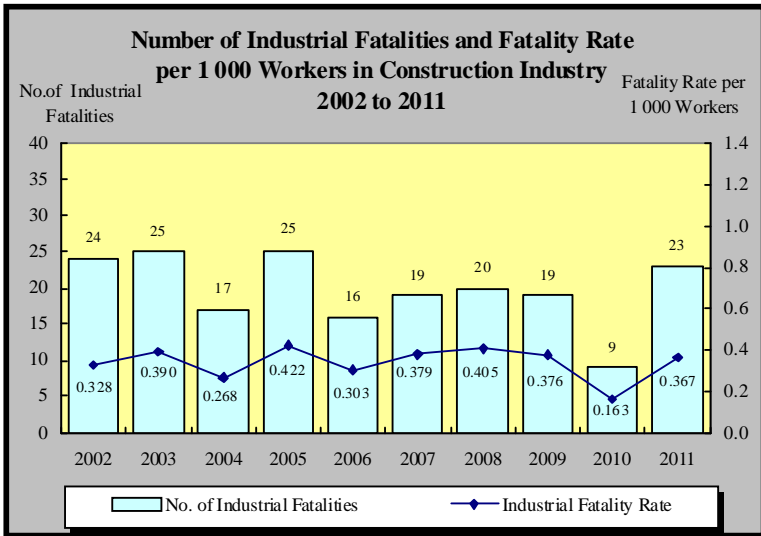
- The number of industrial accidents in 2011 was 13 658, lower than 14 015 in 2010 by 2.5%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers in 2011 was 23.6, lower than 24.9 in 2010 by 5.5%.



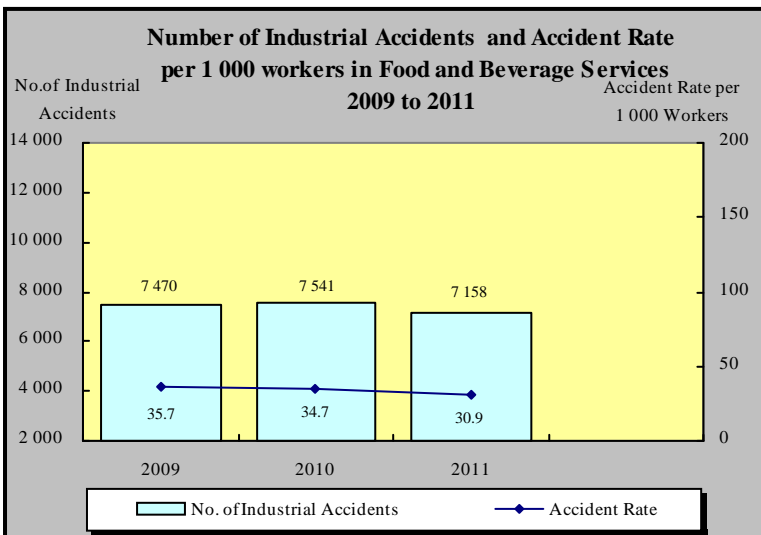
- In 2011, the number of industrial fatalities was 29, higher than 18 in 2010 by 61.1%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers in 2011 was 0.050, higher than 0.032 in 2010 by 56.2%.



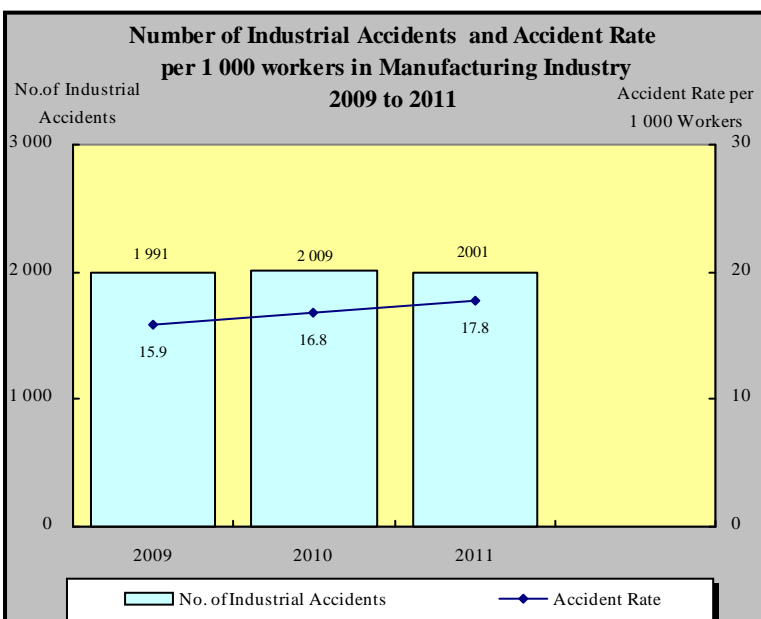
- In 2011, there were 3 112 industrial accidents in the construction industry, higher than 2 884 in 2010 by 7.9%, lower than 6 239 in 2002 by 50.1% and higher than the average of the past five years (2 965) by 5.0%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2011 was 49.7, lower than 52.1 in 2010 by 4.7%, 85.2 in 2002 by 41.7% and the average of the past five years (55.7) by 10.7%.



- In 2011, the number of industrial fatalities in the construction industry was 23, higher than 9 in 2010 by 155.6%, lower than 24 in 2002 by 4.2% and higher than the average of the past five years (18) by 27.8%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2011 was 0.367, higher than 0.163 in 2010 by 125.8%, 0.328 in 2002 by 12.0% and the average of the past five years (0.338) by 8.7%.



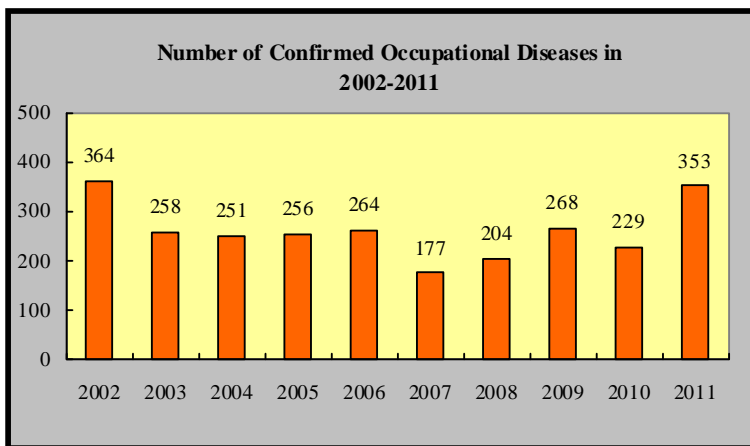
- In 2011, there were 7 158 industrial accidents in the food and beverage services, lower than 7 541 in 2010 by 5.1%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the food and beverage services in 2011 was 30.9, lower than 34.7 in 2010 by 10.9%.



- In 2011, there were 2 001 industrial accidents in the manufacturing industry, lower than 2 009 in 2010 by 0.4%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the manufacturing industry in 2011 was 17.8, higher than 16.8 in 2010 by 5.5%.

# Occupational Diseases

## Total Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2002-2011



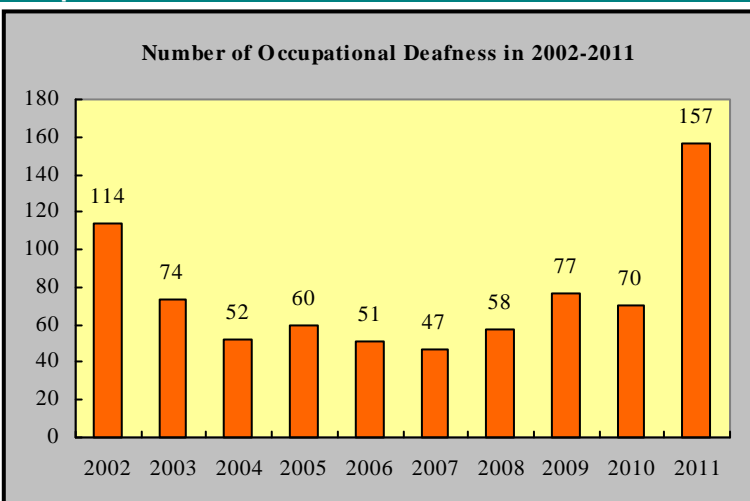
- In 2011, there were 353 cases of confirmed occupational diseases, compared with 229 in 2010.

## Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2011

Occupational Disease	Number
Occupational Deafness	157
Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm	70
Silicosis	63
Tuberculosis	17
Mesothelioma	13
Gas Poisoning	11
Asbestosis	9
Occupational Dermatitis	7
Compressed Air Illness	3
Leptospirosis	1
Streptococcus suis Infection	1
Avian Chlamydiosis	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>353</b>

- The most common occupational diseases confirmed in 2011 were occupational deafness, tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm and silicosis.

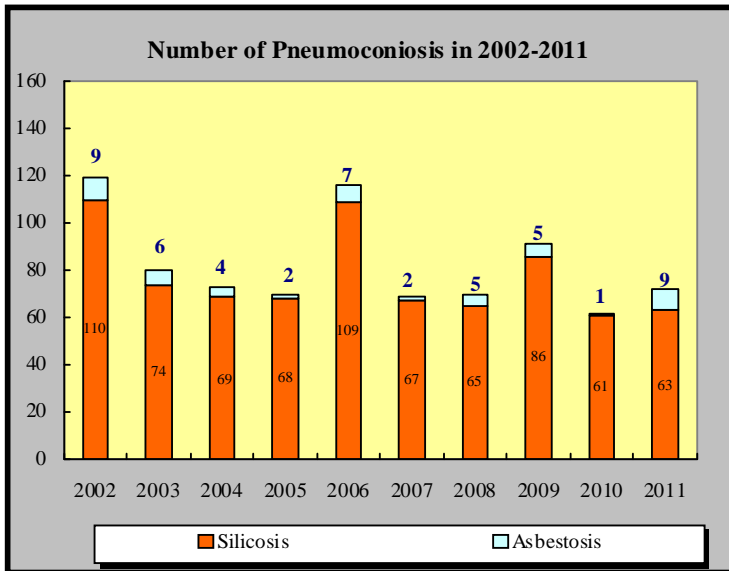
## Occupational Deafness



- The 157 cases of occupational deafness in 2011 were engaged in the following work:
  - 43.3% Rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion
  - 24.2% Metal grinding
  - 17.2% Working near internal combustion engines, turbines, pressurised fuel burners or jet engines
  - 5.0% Pile driving
  - 3.8% Using routing, planning, circular sawing machines or automatic lathes
  - 2.6% Metal percussion
  - 1.3% Using paper folding machine
  - 1.3% Weaving or spinning
  - 1.3% Others

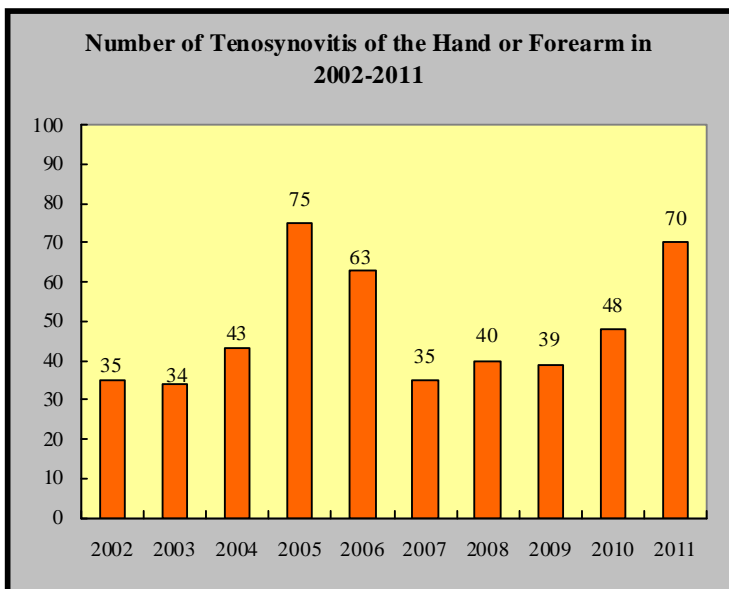
- The coverage of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance has been extended to employees with noise-induced monaural hearing loss in April 2010. In 2011, there were 69 such cases.

## Pneumoconiosis



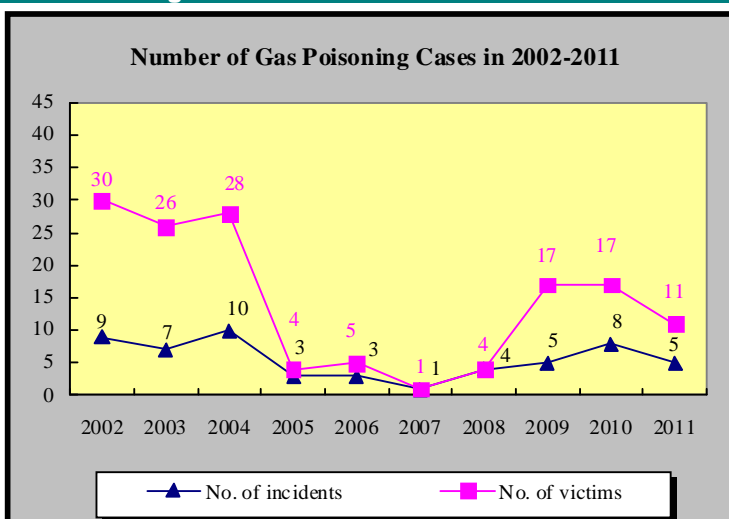
- In 2011, there were 63 confirmed cases of silicosis. Most of these cases worked in the construction industry.
- Those silicosis cases had history of exposure to the silica dust in their occupations many years ago. In the past 10 years, the number of confirmed cases was in a decreasing trend but occasionally with year on year fluctuation.
- The 9 confirmed cases of asbestosis, most of them were engaged in the construction and shipbuilding and repairing industries.

## Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm



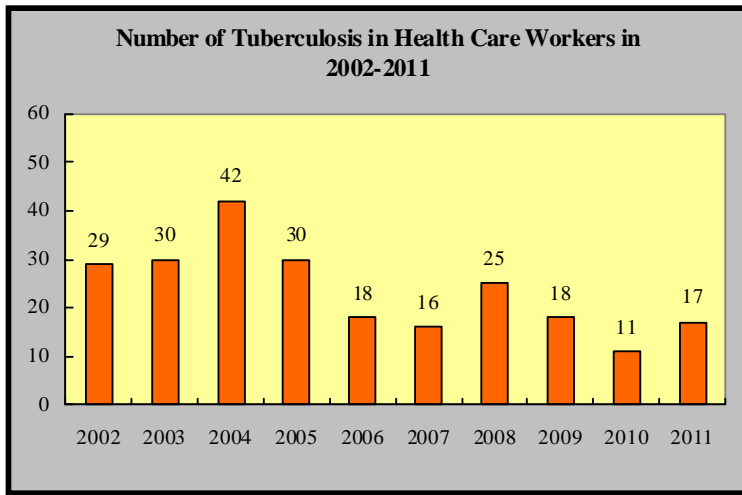
- In 2011, there were 70 confirmed cases of tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm. The disease was common among Services and sales workers, Elementary occupations, Clerical support workers etc.
- Distribution by industry of the 70 cases in 2011:
  - 47.1% Public administration, and social and personal services
  - 20.0% Accommodation and food services
  - 8.6% Import/export, wholesale and retail trades
  - 8.6% Financing and insurance
  - 7.1% Manufacturing
  - 5.7% Professional and business services
  - 2.9% Transportation, storage, postal and courier services

## Gas Poisoning



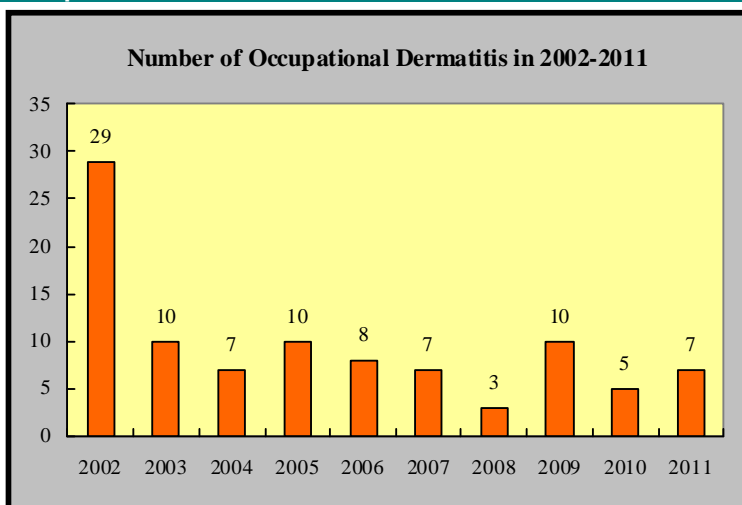
- There were 5 incidents of gas poisoning in 2011 and 11 workers were injured. The noxious chemical agents identified were chlorine, gaseous fire suppression agent, carbon dioxide, etc.

## Tuberculosis in Health Care Workers



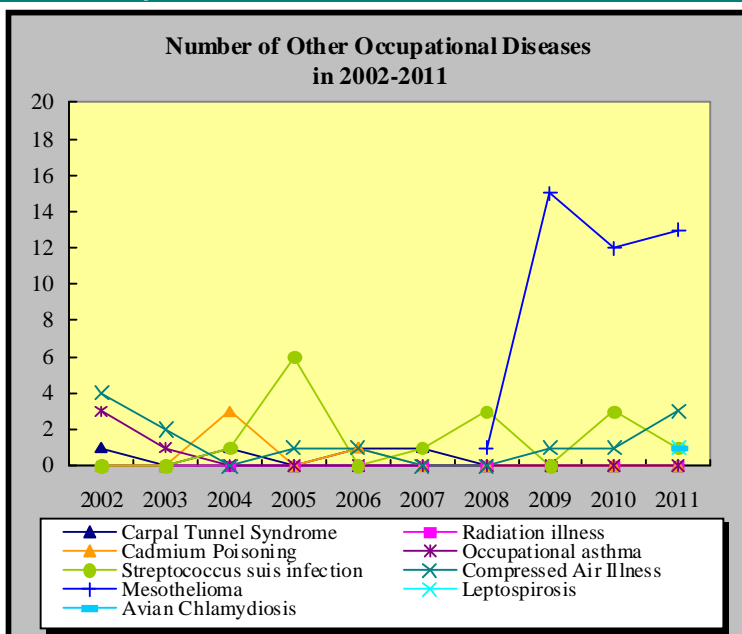
- Regarding the 17 cases of tuberculosis confirmed in 2011, the disease most commonly occurred among nurses, doctors and other health care supporting staff.

## Occupational Dermatitis



- The causative agents identified among the 7 cases of occupational dermatitis in 2011 included massage oil, detergent and rubber products.

## Other Occupational Diseases



- In 2011, there were 3 confirmed case of compressed air illness. Two of the workers were engaged in diving work and the other one was engaged in compressed air work.
- In 2011, there was 1 confirmed case of *Streptococcus suis* infection and the worker was a meat handler.
- In 2011, there were 13 confirmed cases of mesothelioma and most of the cases were engaged in the construction or shipbuilding and repairing industries.
- In 2011, there was 1 case of Leptospirosis and the worker was a gardener.
- In 2011, there was 1 case of Avian Chlamydiaosis and the worker was engaged in bird training 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:

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

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