

Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Bulletin



Issue No. 21 (August 2021)
Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Labour Department



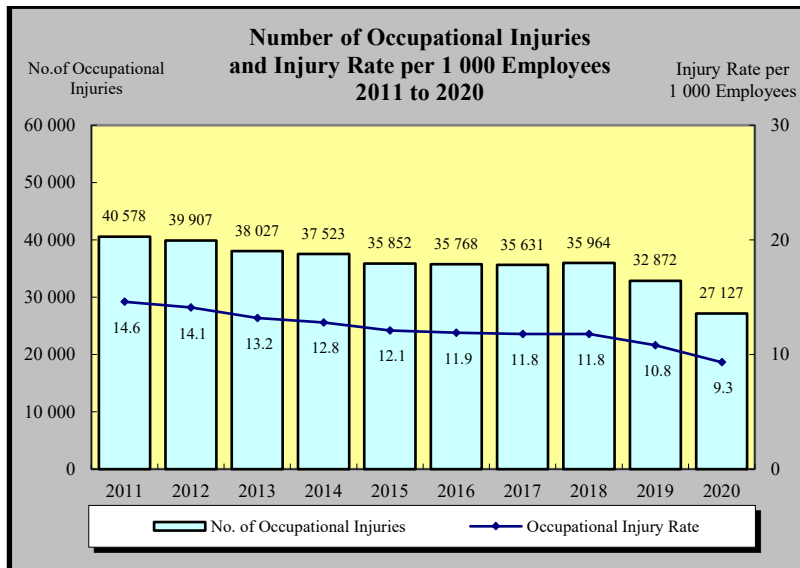
This Bulletin provides statistics of work-related accidents and confirmed cases of occupational disease in Hong Kong with information, analysis and trend on various economic sectors and selected industries. Employers, employees and occupational safety and health practitioners, by benchmarking against 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 2020, the number of occupational injuries in all workplaces was 27 127, and it was 32 872 in 2019. The injury rate per 1 000 employees was 9.3 in 2020 and it was 10.8 in 2019. The number of industrial accidents in all industries in 2020 was 7 202, and it was 9 254 in 2019. The accident rate per 1 000 workers was 12.4 in 2020 and it was 14.8 in 2019.

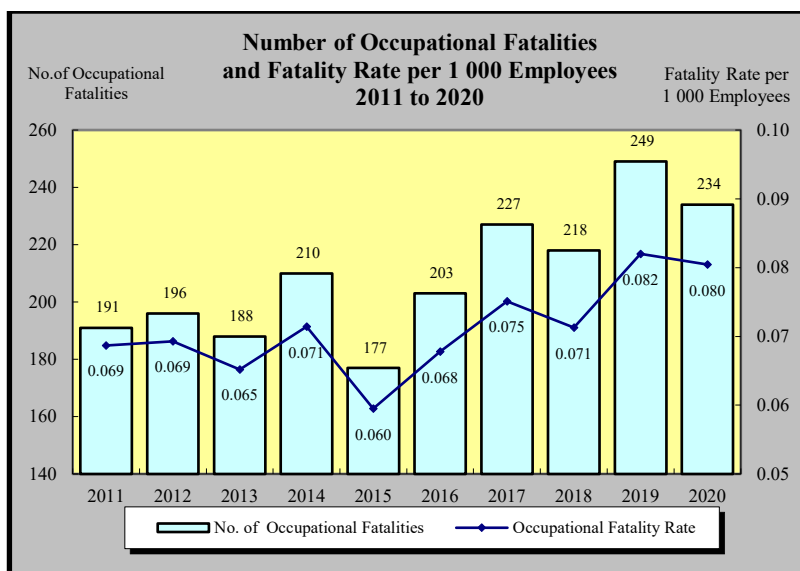
The high-risk construction industry recorded 2 532 industrial accidents in 2020, and it was 2 947 in 2019. The accident rate per 1 000 workers was 26.1 in 2020 while it was 29.0 in 2019. Although the number of accidents and the accident rate steadily decline in the past decade, the construction industry still recorded the highest number of fatalities and accident rate among all industry sectors.

Occupational Injuries



- In 2020, there were 27 127 occupational injuries, it was 32 872 in 2019 and 40 578 in 2011. The average of the past five years was 33 472.

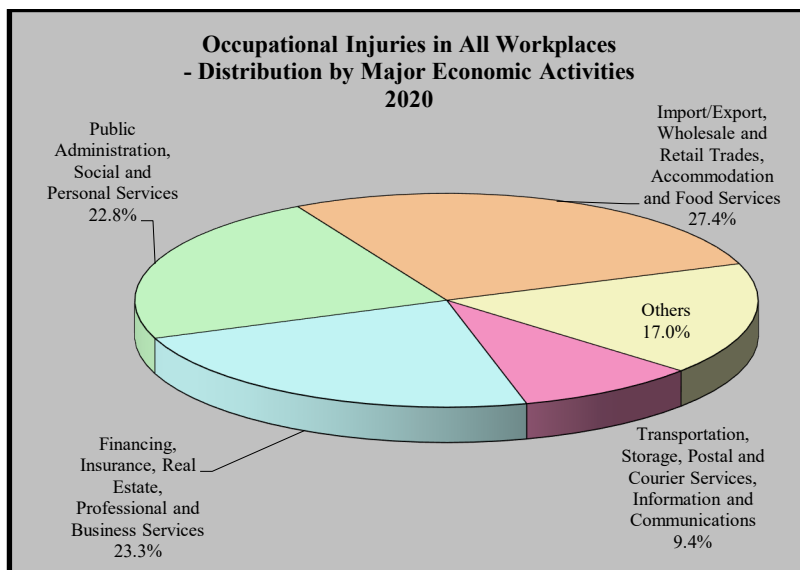
- The injury rate per 1 000 employees in 2020 was 9.3, it was 10.8 in 2019 and 14.6 in 2011. The average of the past five years was 11.1.



- In 2020, there were 234 occupational fatalities, it was 249 in 2019 and 191 in 2011. The average of the past five years was 226.

- The occupational fatality rate in 2020 was 0.080 per 1 000 employees, it was 0.082 in 2019 and 0.069 in 2011. The average of the past five years was 0.075.

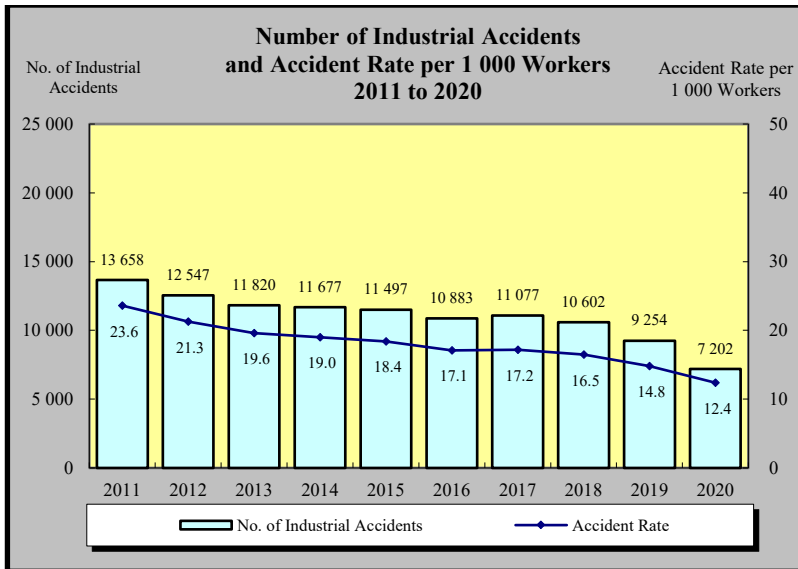
*The occupational fatality rates per 1000 employees are rounded to three decimal places, whereas percentage change is calculated from unrounded figure.



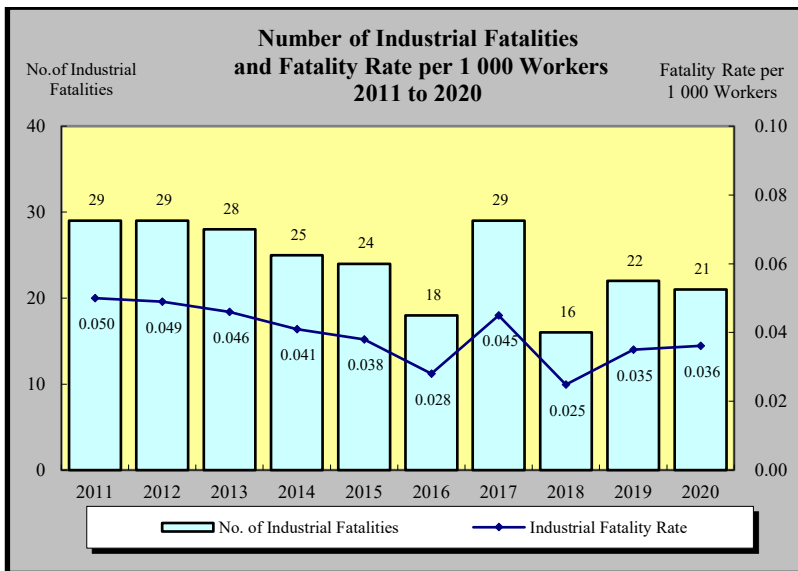
- Of the 27 127 occupational injuries in 2020, over 80% occurred in the following major economic sectors:

- 27.4% Import/Export, Wholesale and Retail Trades, Accommodation and Food Services
- 22.8% Public Administration, Social and Personal Services
- 23.3% Financing, Insurance, Real Estate, Professional and Business Services
- 9.4% Transportation, Storage, Postal and Courier Services, Information and Communications

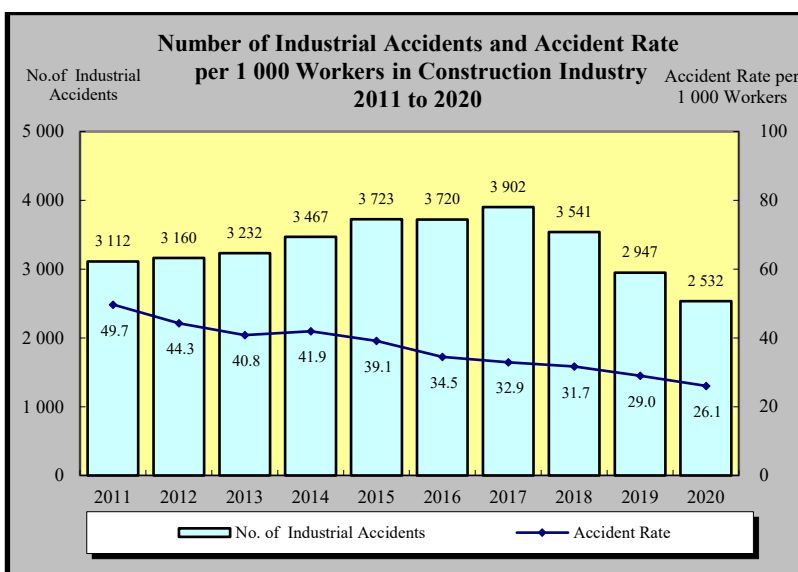
Industrial Accidents



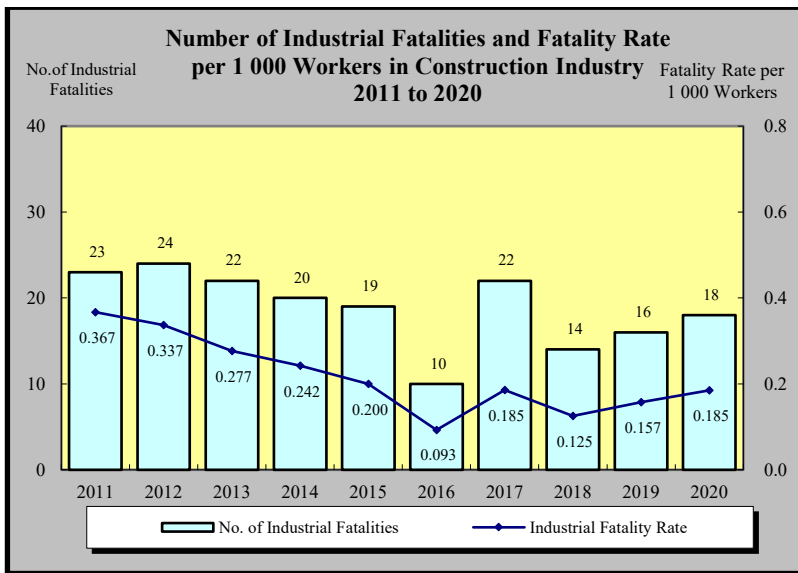
- In 2020, the number of industrial accidents was 7 202, it was 9 254 in 2019, 13 658 in 2011. The average of the past five years was 9 804.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers in 2020 was 12.4, it was 14.8 in 2019 and 23.6 in 2011. The average of the past five years was 15.6.



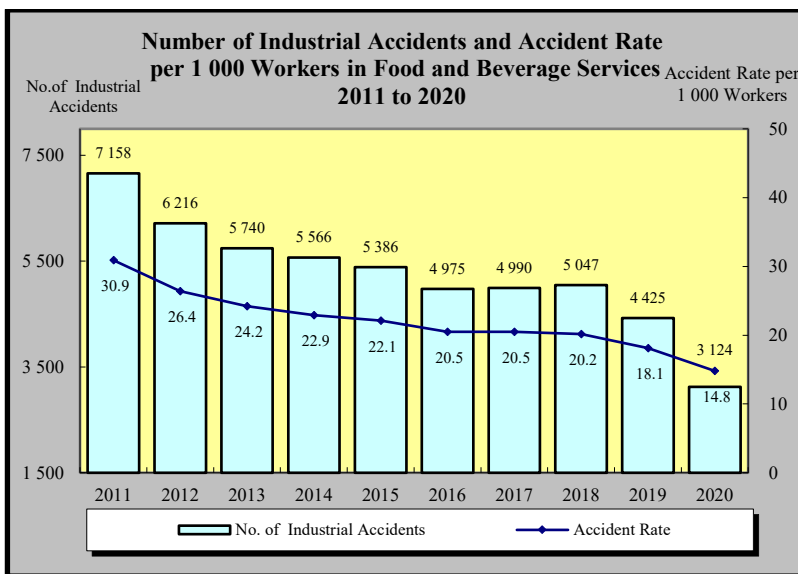
- In 2020, the number of industrial fatalities was 21, it was 22 in 2019 and 29 in 2011. The average of the past five years was 21.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers in 2020 was 0.036, it was 0.035 in 2019 and 0.050 in 2011. The average of the past five years was 0.034.



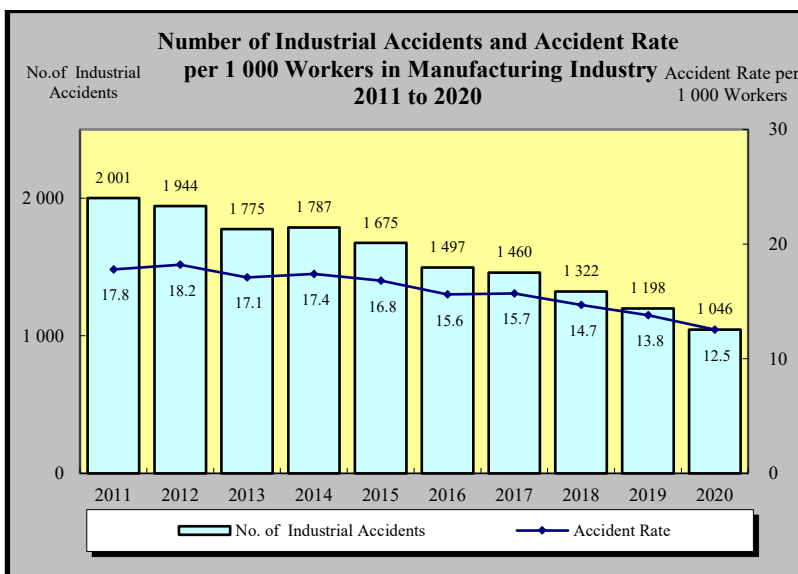
- In 2020, there were 2 532 industrial accidents in the construction industry, it was 2 947 in 2019 and 3 112 in 2011. The average of the past five years was 3 328.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2020 was 26.1, it was 29.0 in 2019 and 49.7 in 2011. The average of the past five years was 30.8.



- In 2020, the number of industrial fatalities in the construction industry was 18, it was 16 in 2019 and 23 in 2011. The average of the past five years was 16.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2020 was 0.185, it was 0.157 in 2019 and 0.367 in 2011. The average of the past five years was 0.149.



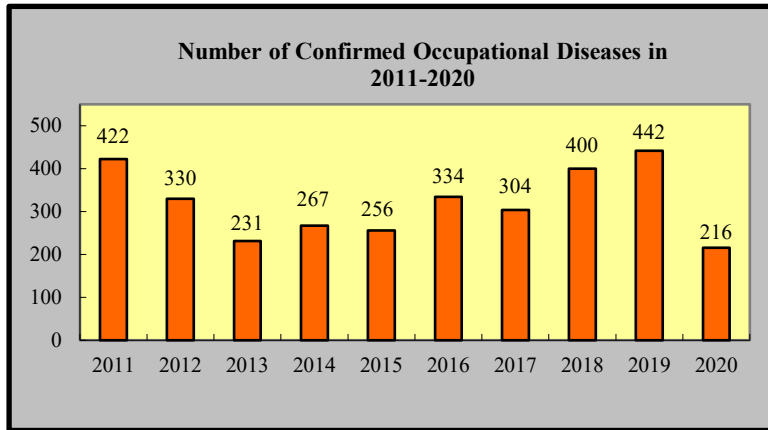
- In 2020, there were 3 124 industrial accidents in the food and beverage services, it was 4 425 in 2019 and 7 158 in 2011. The average of the past five years was 4 512.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the food and beverage services in 2020 was 14.8, it was 18.1 in 2019 and 30.9 in 2011. The average of the past five years was 18.8.



- In 2020, there were 1 046 industrial accidents in the manufacturing industry, it was 1 198 in 2019 and 2 001 in 2011. The average of the past five years was 1 305.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the manufacturing industry in 2020 was 12.5, it was 13.8 in 2019 and 17.8 in 2011. The average of the past five years was 14.5.

Occupational Diseases

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2011-2020



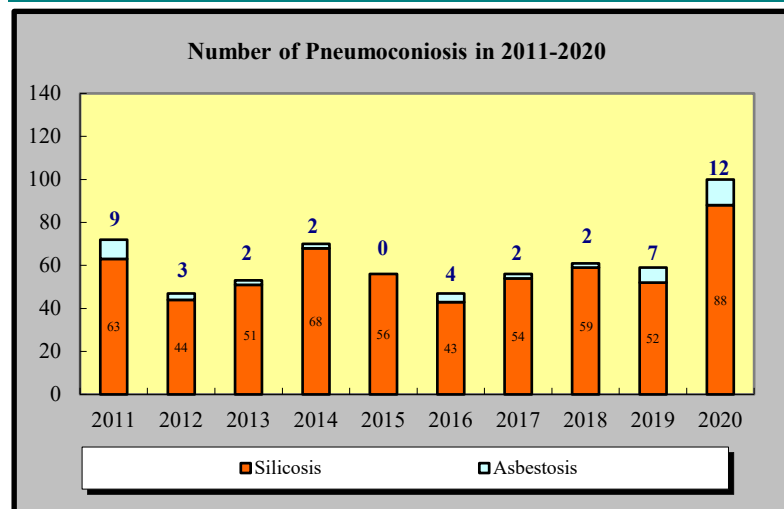
- In 2020, there were 216 confirmed occupational disease cases, compared with 442 in 2019.

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2020

Occupational Disease	Number
Silicosis	88
Occupational Deafness	78
Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm	17
Mesothelioma	12
Asbestosis	12
Gas Poisoning	3
Tuberculosis	3
Occupational Dermatitis	2
Occupational Asthma	1
Total	216

- The most common occupational diseases confirmed in 2020 were silicosis, occupational deafness and tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm.

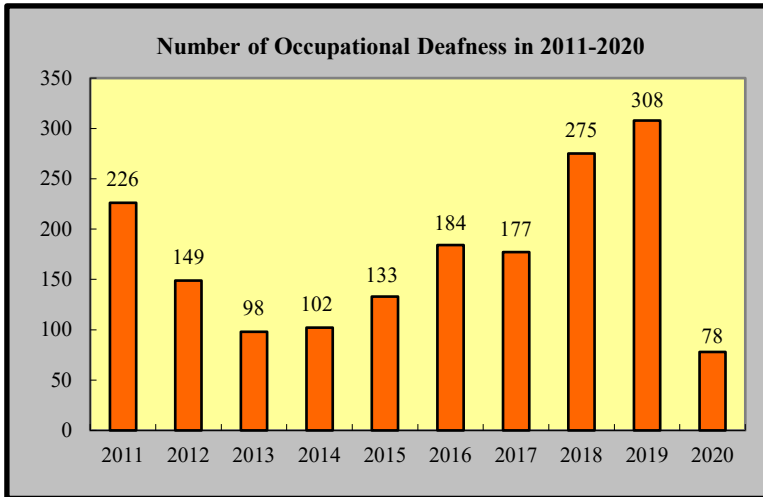
Pneumoconiosis



- In 2020, there were 88 confirmed cases of silicosis*.
- Those silicosis cases had history of exposure to silica dust in their occupations many years ago. The latent period of silicosis could be as long as 10 to 20 years.
- There were 12 confirmed cases of asbestosis in 2020*.

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

Occupational Deafness

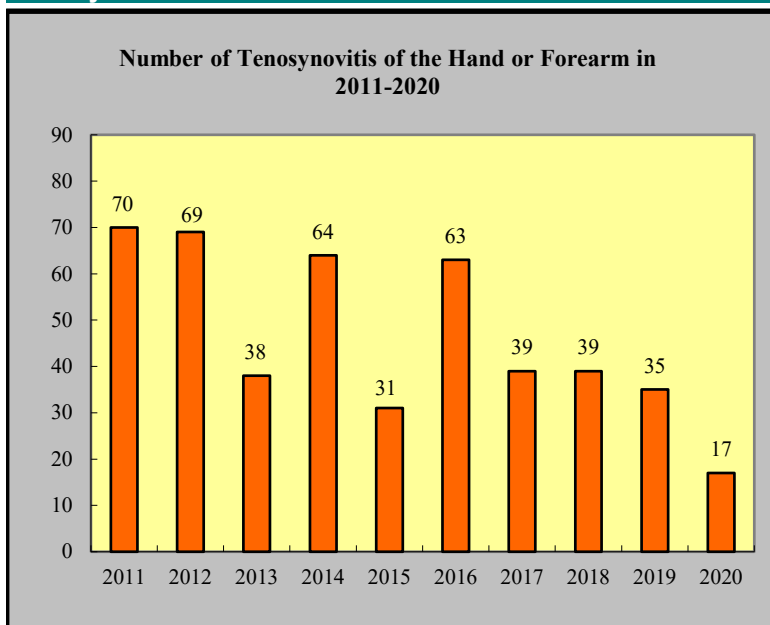


Please refer to the Occupational Deafness Compensation Board for detailed statistical information on occupational deafness.

- There were 78 cases of occupational deafness in 2020. Cases were engaged in the following work#:

- 59.0% Rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion
- 24.3% Working near internal combustion engines, turbines, pressurised fuel burners or jet engines
- 7.7% Pile driving
- 5.1% Metal grinding
- 1.3% High speed web-fed offset printing
- 1.3% Using routing, planing, circular sawing machine or automatic lathes
- 1.3% Abrasive blasting operations

Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm

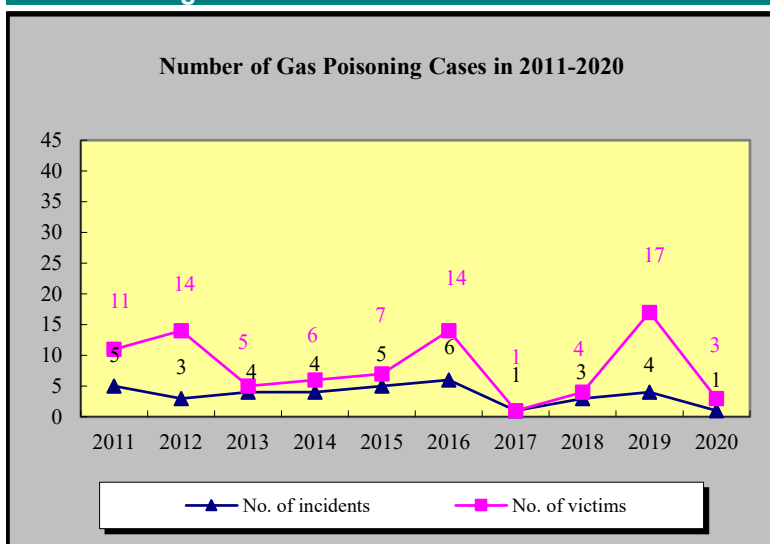


- In 2020, there were 17 confirmed cases of tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm. The disease was common among clerical support workers, services and sales workers and elementary occupations, etc.

- Distribution by industry of the 17 cases in 2020:

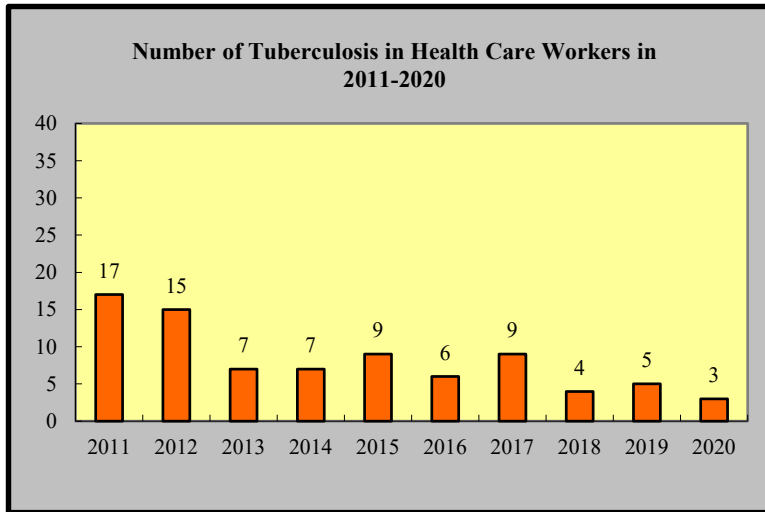
- 58.8% Public administration, and social and personal services
- 17.6% Accommodation and food services
- 11.8% Manufacturing
- 5.9% Professional and business services
- 5.9% Information and communications

Gas Poisoning



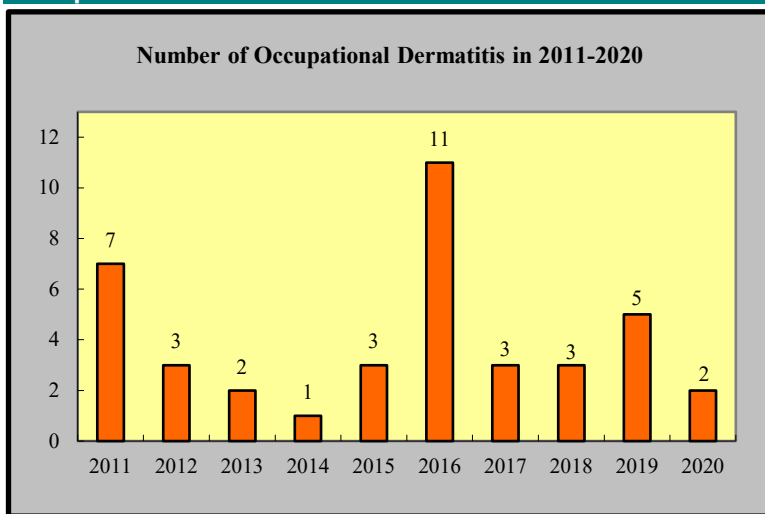
- There was 1 incident of gas poisoning in 2020 and 3 workers were injured. The noxious chemical agent was nitrogen dioxide.

Tuberculosis in Health Care Workers



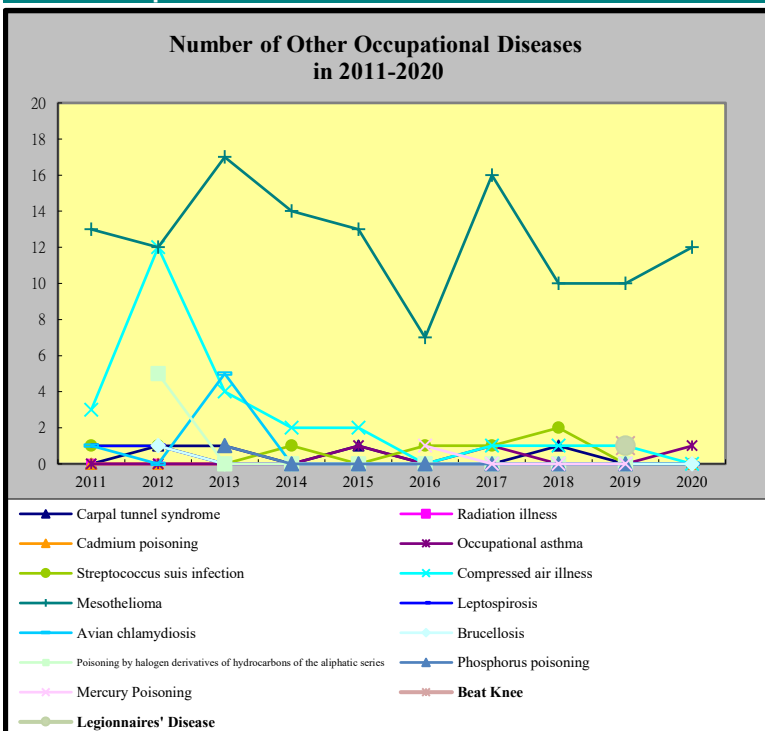
- In 2020, there were 3 confirmed cases of tuberculosis in health care workers, including two nurses and an ambulanceman.

Occupational Dermatitis



- There were 2 cases of occupational dermatitis in 2020 that were related to work process in school and arts company.

Other Occupational Diseases



- In 2020, there were 12 confirmed cases of mesothelioma*.
- In 2020, there was 1 confirmed case of occupational asthma and the worker was engaged in work related to aviation.

* 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