

Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Bulletin

Issue No. 13 (June 2013)

Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Labour Department



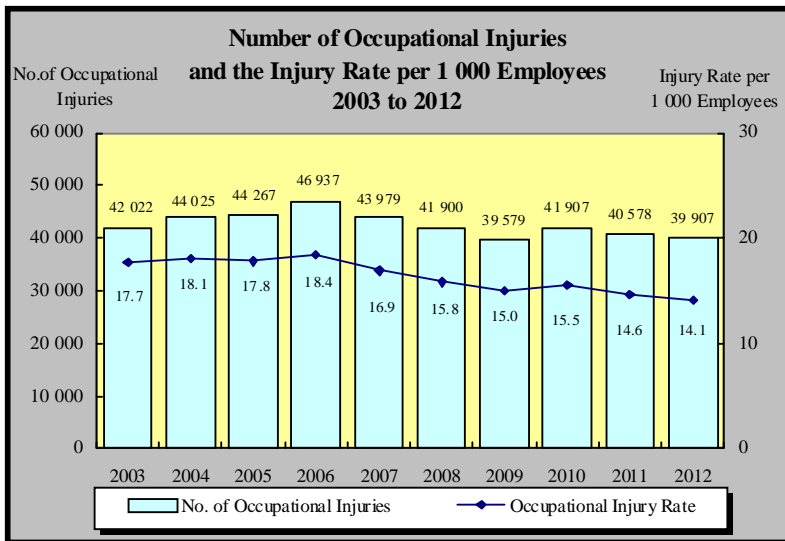
This Bulletin provides statistics of work-related accidents and confirmed cases of occupational disease in Hong Kong with information, analysis and trend on various economic sectors and selected industries. Employers, employees and occupational safety and health practitioners, by benchmarking against 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 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, there have been steady improvement in Hong Kong's occupational safety performance in the past decade.

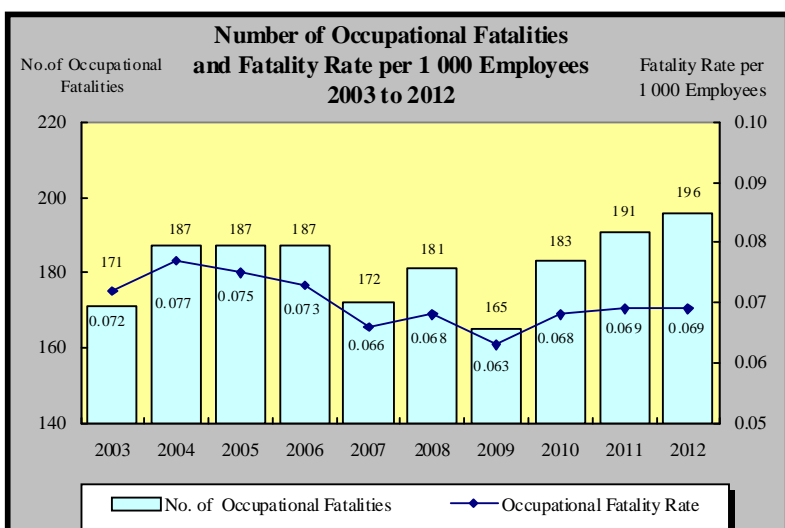
In 2012, the number of occupational injuries in all workplaces stood at 39 907, a decrease of 1.7 per cent over 2011, while the injury rate per 1 000 employees decreased from 14.6 to 14.1, a decrease of 3.4 per cent. The number of industrial accidents in all industries in 2012 stood at 12 547, a decrease of 8.1 per cent over 2011, while the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased from 23.6 to 21.3, down by 9.6 per cent.

The high-risk construction industry recorded 3 160 industrial accidents in 2012, 1.5 per cent up when compared to 3 112 in 2011. Over the same period, the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased by 10.8 per cent from 49.7 to 44.3. Although the number of accidents fell heftily by 27.6 per cent and the accident rate also dropped by 34.9 per cent in the past decade, the construction industry still recorded highest number of fatalities and accident rate among all industry sectors.

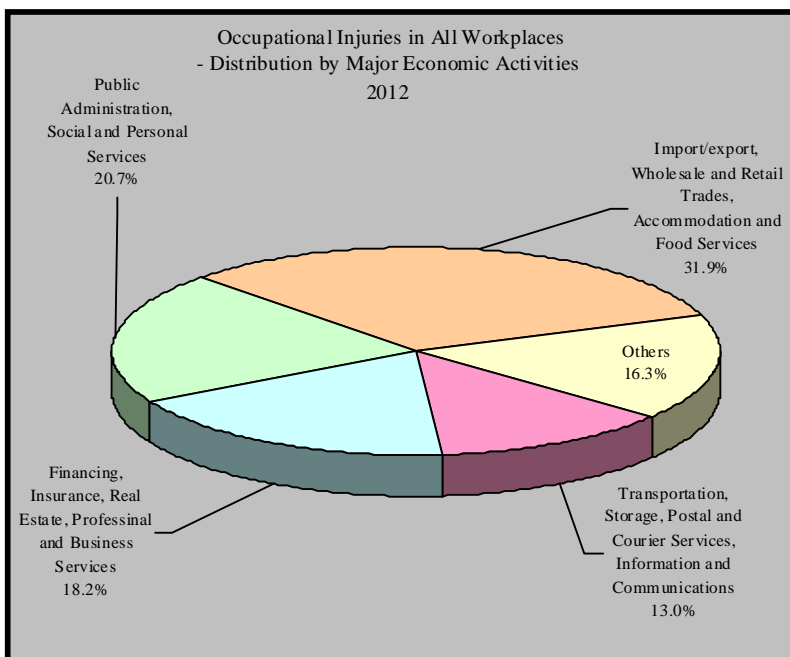
Occupational Injuries



- In 2012, there were 39 907 occupational injuries, lower than 40 578 in 2011 by 1.7%, 42 022 in 2003 by 5.0% and the average of the past five years (40 774) by 2.1%.
- The injury rate per 1 000 employees in 2012 was 14.1, lower than 14.6 in 2011 by 3.4%, 17.7 in 2003 by 20.2% and the average of the past five years (15.0) by 6.1%.

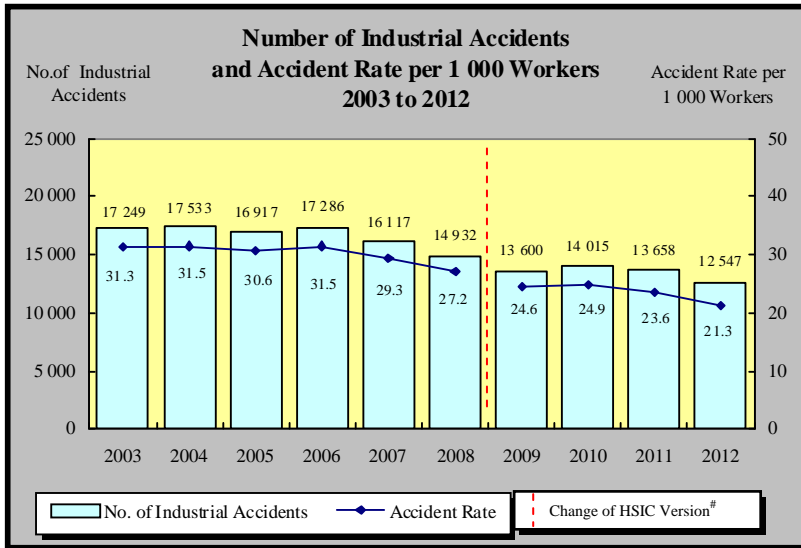


- In 2012, there were 196 occupational fatalities, higher than 191 in 2011 by 2.6%, 171 in 2003 by 14.6% and the average of the past five years (183) by 7.0%.
- The occupational fatality rate in 2012 was 0.069 per 1 000 employees, the same as that in 2011, lower than 0.072 in 2003 by 3.6% and higher than the average of the past five years (0.067) by 2.9%.

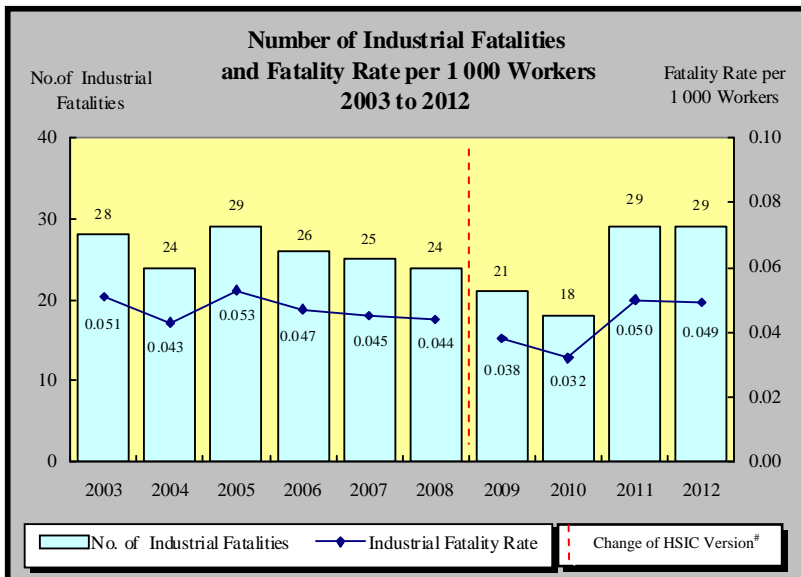


- Of the 39 907 occupational injuries in 2012, over 83% occurred in the following major economic sectors:
- 31.9% Import/export, Wholesale and Retail Trades, Accommodation and Food Services
 - 20.7% Public Administration, Social and Personal Services
 - 18.2% Financing, Insurance, Real Estate, Professional and Business Services
 - 13.0% Transportation, Storage, Postal and Courier Services, Information and Communications

Industrial Accidents



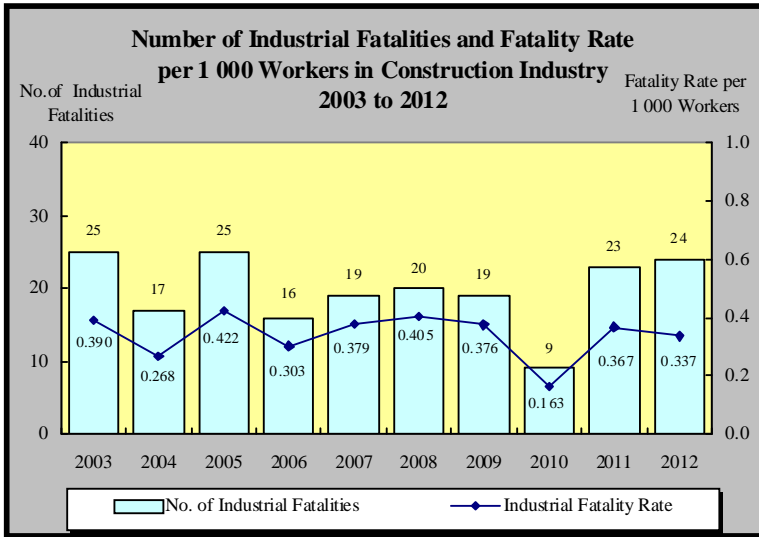
- The number of industrial accidents in 2012 was 12 547, lower than 13 658 in 2011 by 8.1%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers in 2012 was 21.3, lower than 23.6 in 2011 by 9.6%.



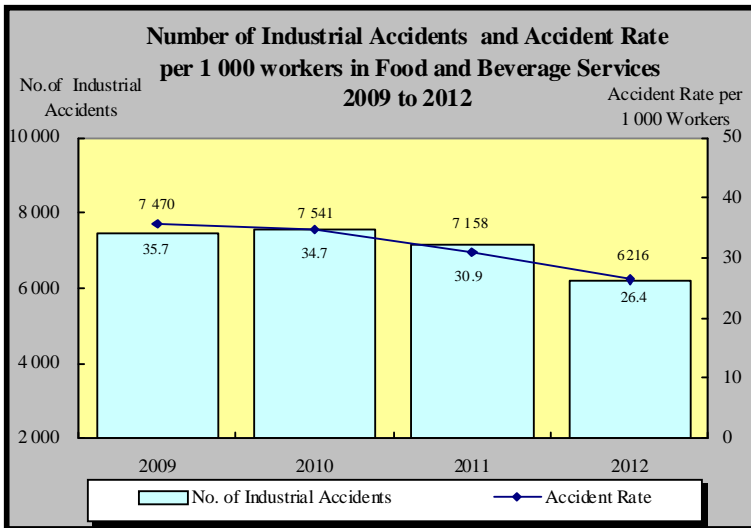
- In 2012, the number of industrial fatalities was 29, the same as that in 2011.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers in 2012 was 0.049, lower than 0.050 in 2011 by 1.6%.



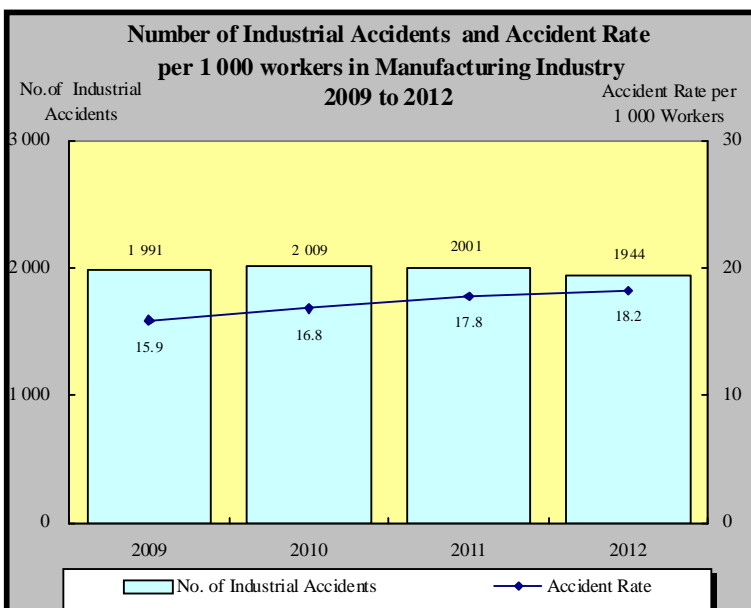
- In 2012, there were 3 160 industrial accidents in the construction industry, higher than 3 112 in 2011 by 1.5%, lower than 4 367 in 2003 by 27.6% and higher than the average of the past five years (2 989) by 5.7%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2012 was 44.3, lower than 49.7 in 2011 by 10.8%, 68.1 in 2003 by 34.9% and the average of the past five years (52.4) by 15.4%.



- In 2012, the number of industrial fatalities in the construction industry was 24, higher than 23 in 2011 by 4.3%, lower than 25 in 2003 by 4.0% and higher than the average of the past five years (19) by 26.3%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2012 was 0.337, lower than 0.367 in 2011 by 8.3%, 0.390 in 2003 by 13.7% and higher than the average of the past five years (0.329) by 2.2%.



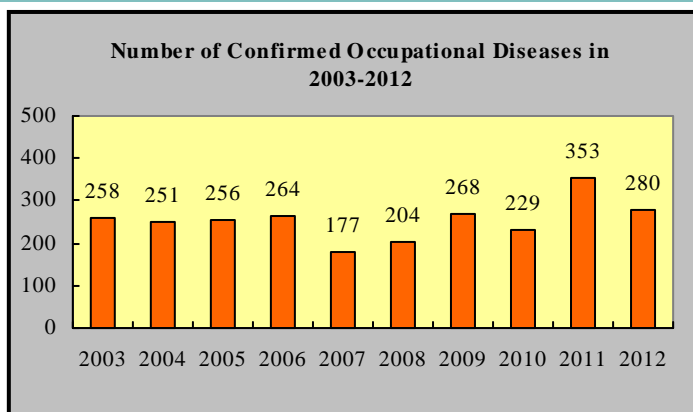
- In 2012, there were 6 216 industrial accidents in the food and beverage services, lower than 7 158 in 2011 by 13.2%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the food and beverage services in 2012 was 26.4, lower than 30.9 in 2011 by 14.5%.



- In 2012, there were 1 944 industrial accidents in the manufacturing industry, lower than 2 001 in 2011 by 2.8%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the manufacturing industry in 2012 was 18.2, higher than 17.8 in 2011 by 2.4%.

Occupational Diseases

Total Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2003-2012



- In 2012, there were 280 cases of confirmed occupational diseases, compared with 353 in 2011.

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2012

Occupational Disease	Number
Occupational Deafness	99
Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm	69
Silicosis	44
Tuberculosis	15
Gas Poisoning	14
Mesothelioma	12
Compressed Air Illness	12
Poisoning by halogen derivatives of hydrocarbons of the aliphatic series	5
Occupational Dermatitis	3
Asbestosis	3
Brucellosis	1
Carpel Tunnel Syndrome	1
Streptococcus suis Infection	1
Leptospirosis	1
Total	280

- The most common occupational diseases confirmed in 2012 were occupational deafness, tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm and silicosis.

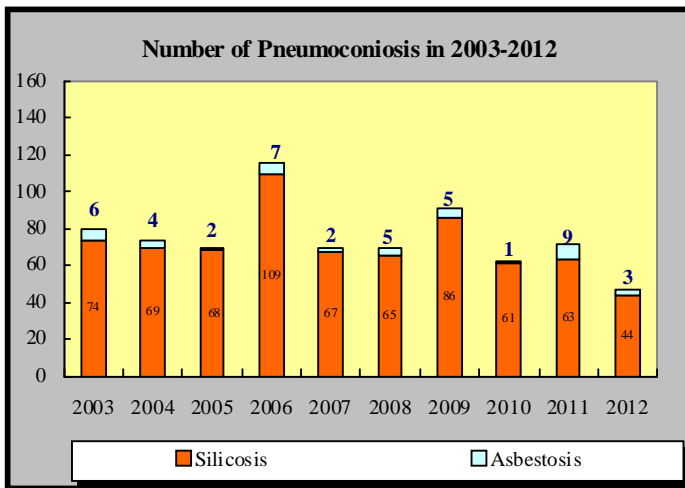
Occupational Deafness



- The 99 cases of occupational deafness in 2012 were engaged in the following work:
 - 43% Rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion
 - 27% Metal grinding
 - 22% Working near internal combustion engines, turbines, pressurised fuel burners or jet engines
 - 2% Abrasive blasting operation
 - 2% Working near car body repair or making metal articles by manual hammering
 - 2% Metal percussion
 - 2% Pile driving

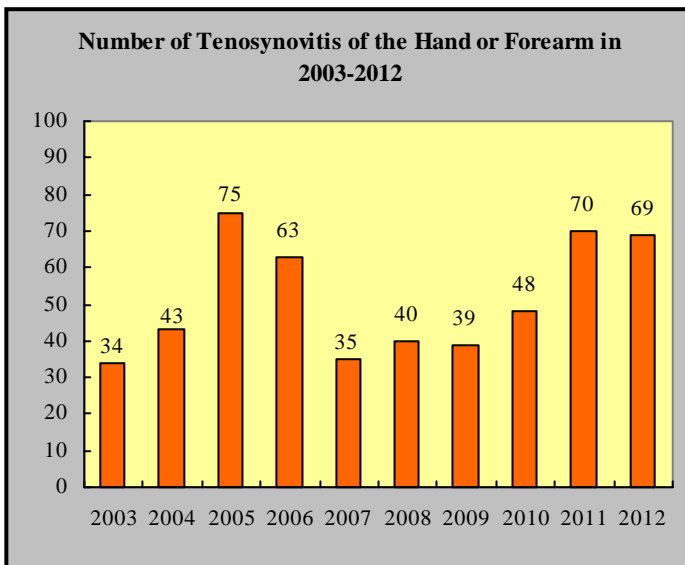
The coverage of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance has been extended to employees with noise-induced monaural hearing loss in April 2010. In 2012, there were 50 such cases.

Pneumoconiosis



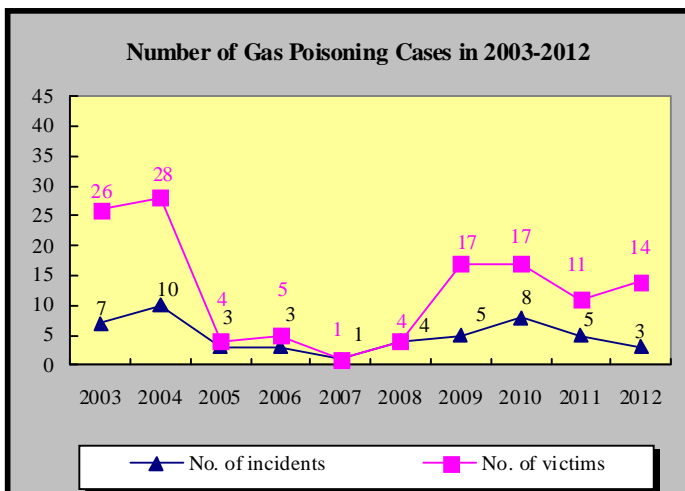
- In 2012, there were 44 confirmed cases of silicosis. Most of these cases worked in the construction industry.
- Those silicosis cases had history of exposure to the silica dust in their occupations many years ago. In the past 10 years, the number of confirmed cases was in a decreasing trend but occasionally with year on year fluctuation.
- There were 3 confirmed cases of asbestosis, they were employees in the construction, quarry and shipbuilding industries respectively.

Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm



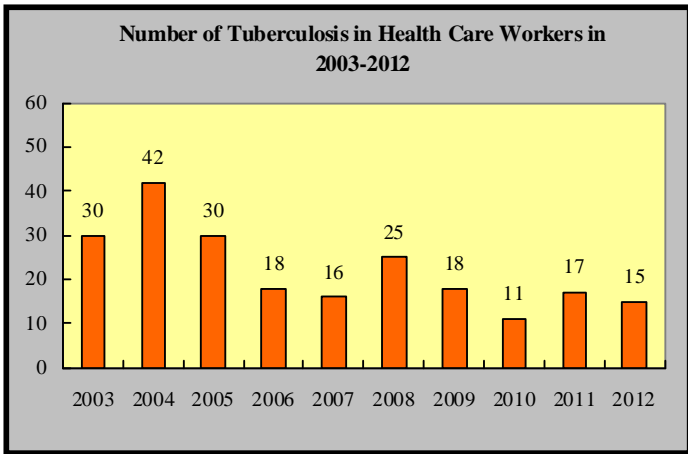
- In 2012, there were 69 confirmed cases of tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm. The disease was common among clerical support workers, services and sales workers, elementary occupations etc.
- Distribution by industry of the 69 cases in 2012:
 - 53.6% Public administration, and social and personal services
 - 8.7% Manufacturing
 - 7.2% Accommodation and food services
 - 7.2% Professional and business services
 - 5.7% Import/export, wholesale and retail trades
 - 4.4% Construction
 - 4.4% Transportation, storage, postal and courier services
 - 4.4% Real estate
 - 4.4% Others

Gas Poisoning



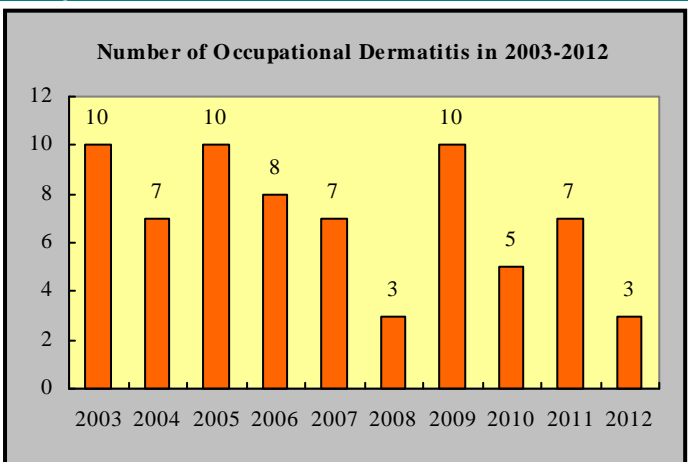
- There were 3 incidents of gas poisoning in 2012 and 14 workers were injured. The noxious chemical agents identified were carbon monoxide, sewage gas etc.

Tuberculosis in Health Care Workers



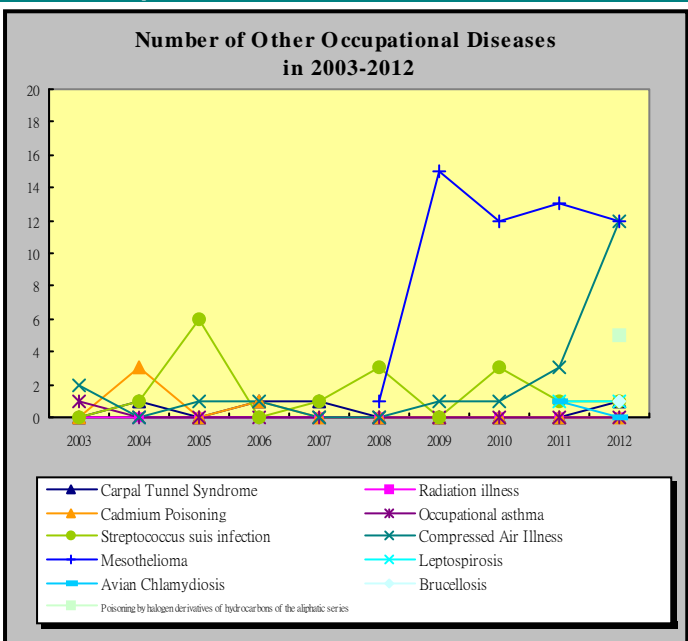
- Regarding the 15 cases of tuberculosis confirmed in 2012, the disease most commonly occurred among nurses, doctor, other health professionals, other healthcare supporting staff, etc.

Occupational Dermatitis



- The causative agents identified among the 3 cases of occupational dermatitis in 2012 were related to cleaning agents.

Other Occupational Diseases



- In 2012, there were 12 confirmed cases of compressed air illness. All of them were engaged in compressed air work.
- In 2012, there were 12 confirmed cases of mesothelioma and most of the cases were engaged in the construction industry.
- In 2012, there were 5 cases of poisoning by halogen derivatives of hydrocarbons of the aliphatic series, all the workers were engaged in air-conditioning maintenance work.
- In 2012, there was 1 case of Brucellosis and the worker was a meat handler.
- In 2012, there was 1 case of Carpal tunnel syndrome and the worker was a plumber.
- In 2012, there was 1 case of Leptospirosis and the worker was a cleaning worker.
- In 2012, there was 1 confirmed case of *Streptococcus suis* infection and the worker was a meat handler.

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 Safety Management and Information Division at Tel 2542 2172**

All complaints will be treated in the strictest confidence

Email : enquiry@labour.gov.hk