

Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Bulletin



Issue No. 17 (August 2017)

Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Labour Department



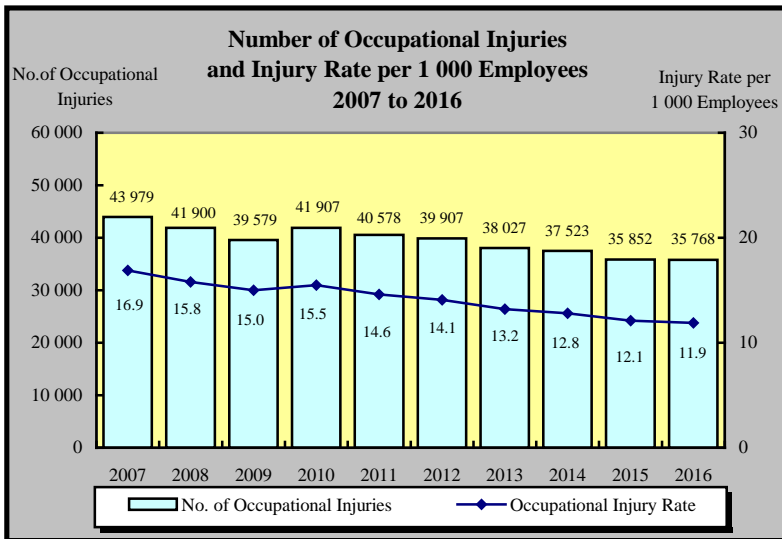
This Bulletin provides statistics of work-related accidents and confirmed cases of occupational disease in Hong Kong with information, analysis and trend on various economic sectors and selected industries. Employers, employees and occupational safety and health practitioners, by benchmarking against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

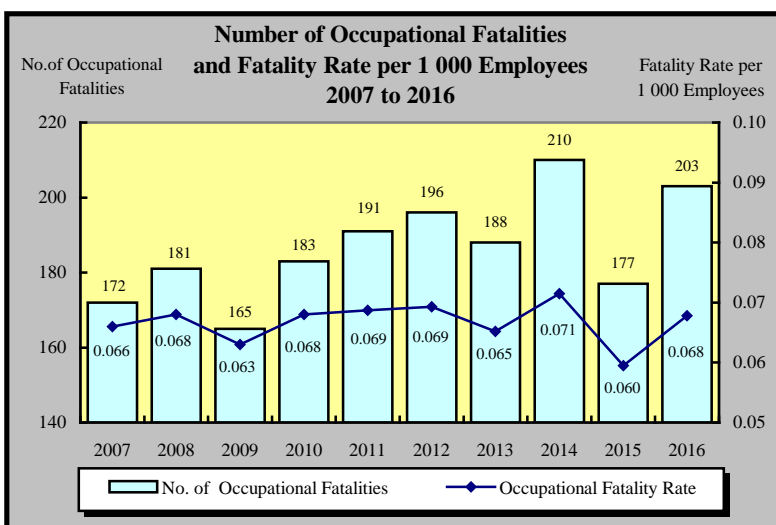
In 2016, the number of occupational injuries in all workplaces stood at 35 768, a decrease of 0.2 per cent over 2015, while the injury rate per 1 000 employees decreased from 12.1 to 11.9, a decrease of 0.9 per cent. The number of industrial accidents in all industries in 2016 stood at 10 883, a decrease of 5.3 per cent over 2015, while the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased from 18.4 to 17.1, down by 6.8 per cent.

The high-risk construction industry recorded 3 720 industrial accidents in 2016, 0.1 per cent down when compared to 3 723 in 2015. Over the same period, the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased by 11.8 per cent from 39.1 to 34.5. The number of accidents increased by 22.3 per cent and the accident rate dropped by 43.1 per cent in the past decade, the construction industry still recorded highest number of fatalities and accident rate among all industry sectors.

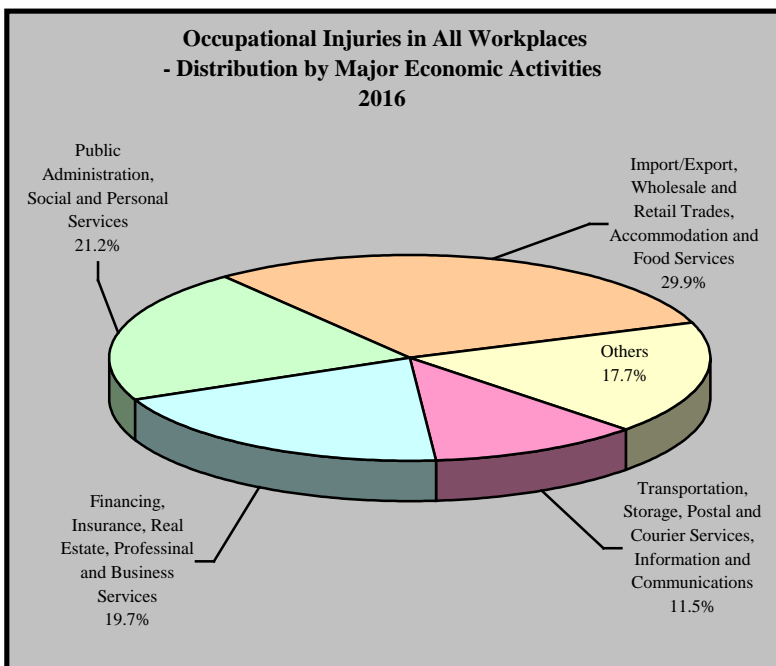
Occupational Injuries



- In 2016, there were 35 768 occupational injuries, lower than 35 852 in 2015 by 0.2%, 43 979 in 2007 by 18.7% and the average of the past five years (37 415) by 4.4%.
- The injury rate per 1 000 employees in 2016 was 11.9, lower than 12.1 in 2015 by 0.9%, 16.9 in 2007 by 29.2% and the average of the past five years (12.8) by 6.8%.

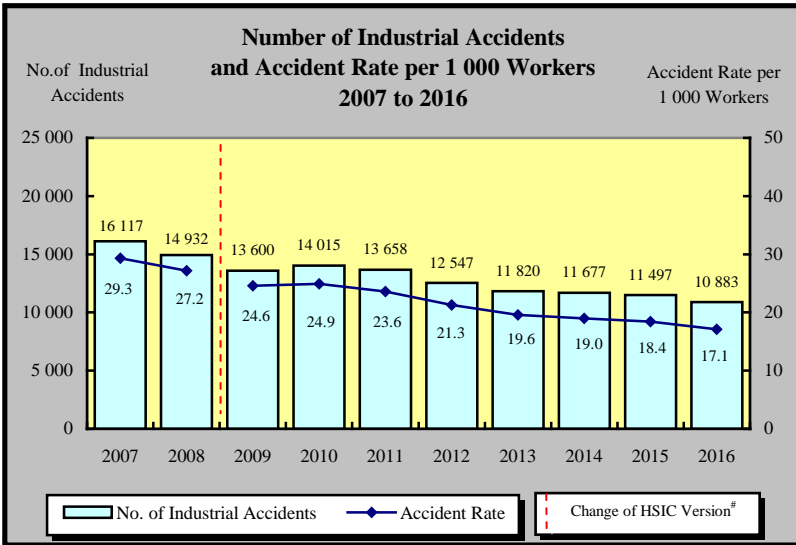


- In 2016, there were 203 occupational fatalities, higher than 177 in 2015 by 14.7%, 172 in 2007 by 18% and the average of the past five years (195) by 4.2%.
- The occupational fatality rate in 2016 was 0.068 per 1 000 employees, higher than 0.060 in 2015 by 13.9%, 0.066 in 2007 by 2.7% and the average of the past five years (0.067) by 1.7%.

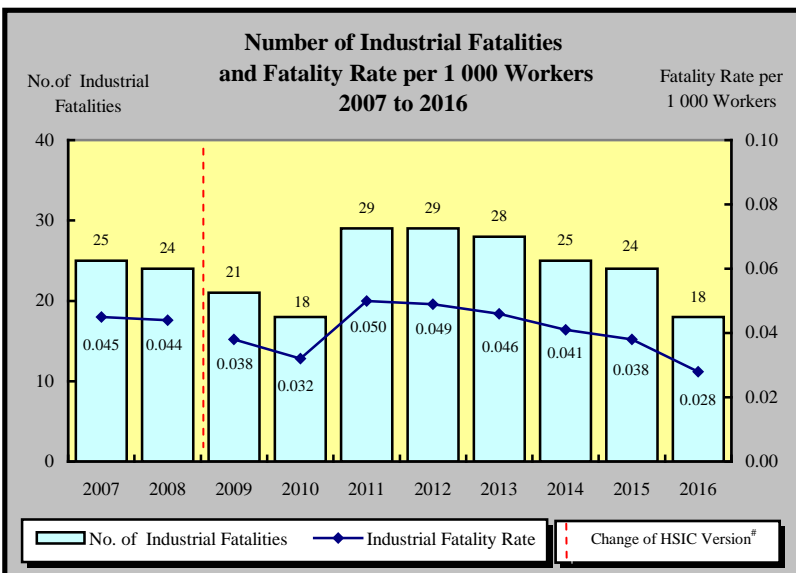


- Of the 35 768 occupational injuries in 2016, over 80% occurred in the following major economic sectors:
 - 29.9% Import/Export, Wholesale and Retail Trades, Accommodation and Food Services
 - 21.2% Public Administration, Social and Personal Services
 - 19.7% Financing, Insurance, Real Estate, Professional and Business Services
 - 11.5% Transportation, Storage, Postal and Courier Services, Information and Communications

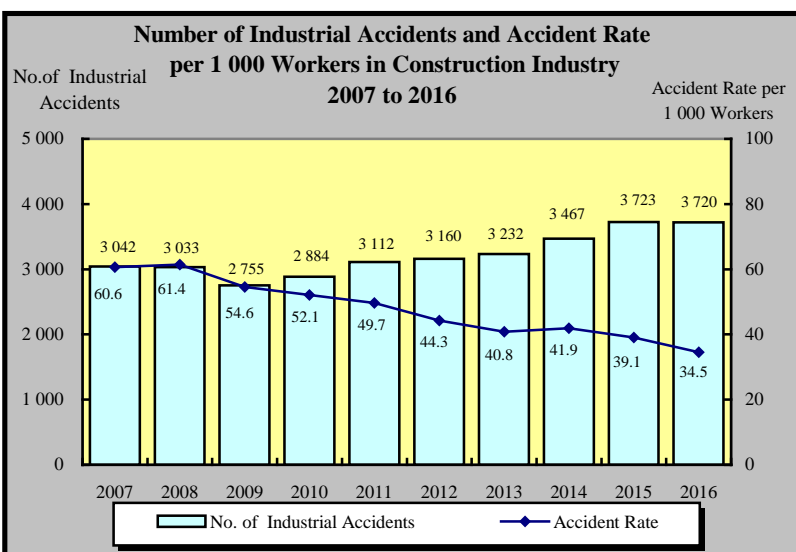
Industrial Accidents



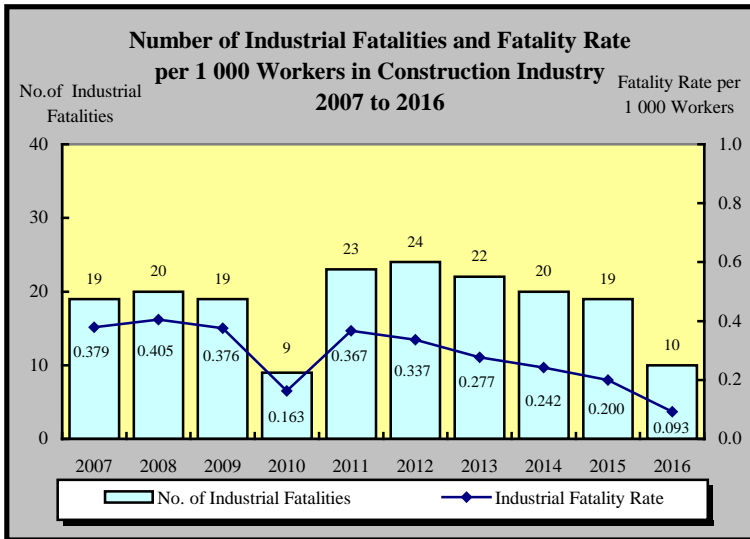
- In 2016, the number of industrial accidents was 10 883, lower than 11 497 in 2015 by 5.3% and the average of the past five years (11 685) by 6.9%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers in 2016 was 17.1, lower than 18.4 in 2015 by 6.8% and the average of the past five years (19.1) by 10.3%.



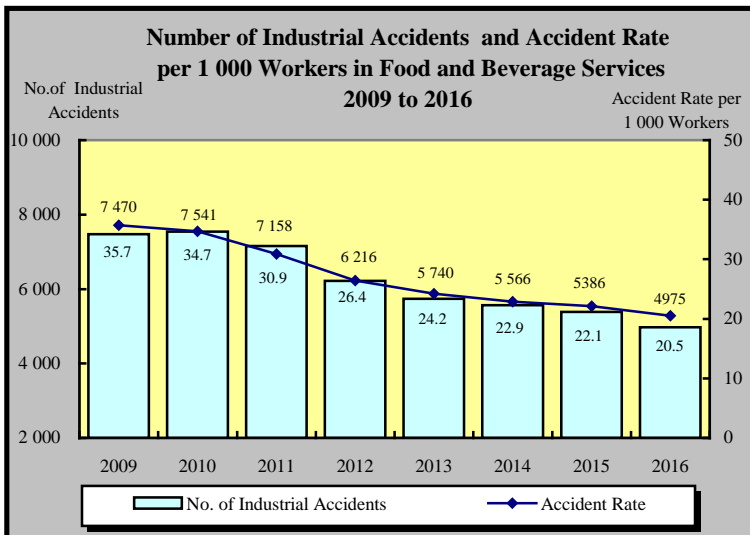
- In 2016, the number of industrial fatalities was 18, lower than 24 in 2015 by 25% and the average of the past five years (25) by 27.4%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers in 2016 was 0.028, lower than 0.038 in 2015 by 26.2% and the average of the past five years (0.041) by 30.3%.



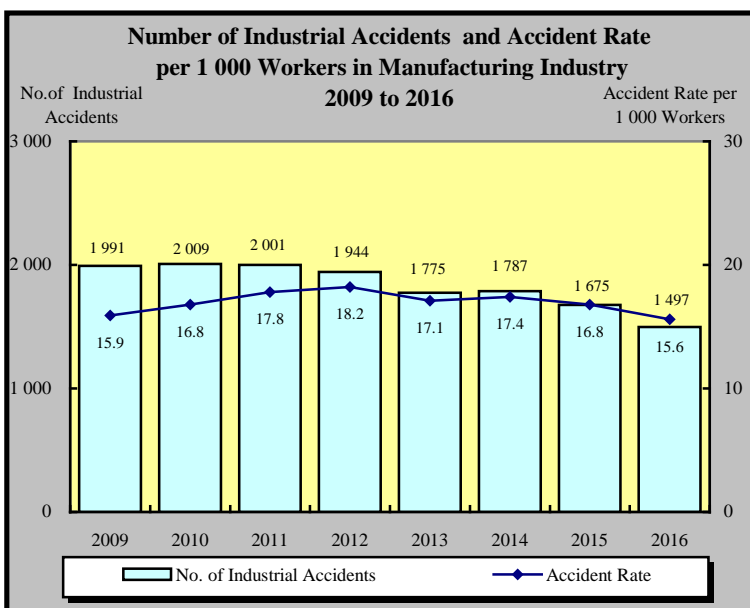
- In 2016, there were 3 720 industrial accidents in the construction industry, lower than 3 723 in 2015 by 0.1%, higher than 3 042 in 2007 by 22.3% and the average of the past five years (3 460) by 7.5%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2016 was 34.5, lower than 39.1 in 2015 by 11.8%, 60.6 in 2007 by 43.1% and the average of the past five years (40.1) by 14%.



- In 2016, the number of industrial fatalities in the construction industry was 10, lower than 19 in 2015, 19 in 2007 and the average of the past five years (19) by 47.4%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2016 was 0.093, lower than 0.200 in 2015 by 53.6%, 0.379 in 2007 by 75.5% and the average of the past five years (0.230) by 59.6%.



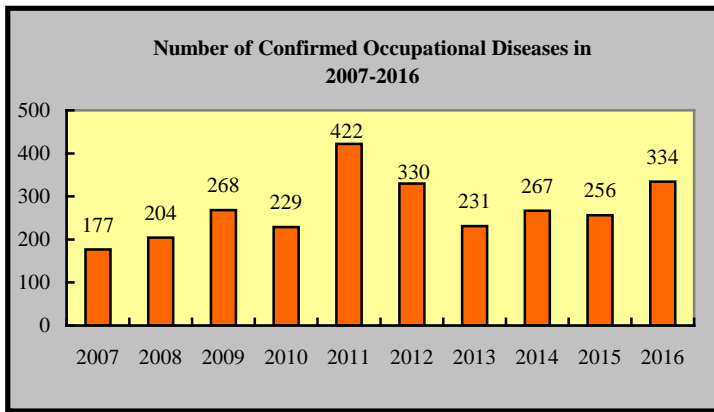
- In 2016, there were 4 975 industrial accidents in the food and beverage services, lower than 5 386 in 2015 by 7.6% and the average of the past five years (5 577) by 10.8%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the food and beverage services in 2016 was 20.5, lower than 22.1 in 2015 by 7.4% and the average of the past five years (23.2) by 11.7%.



- In 2016, there were 1 497 industrial accidents in the manufacturing industry, lower than 1 675 in 2015 by 10.6% and the average of the past five years (1 736) by 13.7%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the manufacturing industry in 2016 was 15.6, lower than 16.8 in 2015 by 7.3% and the average of the past five years (17.0) by 8.4%.

Occupational Diseases

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2007-2016



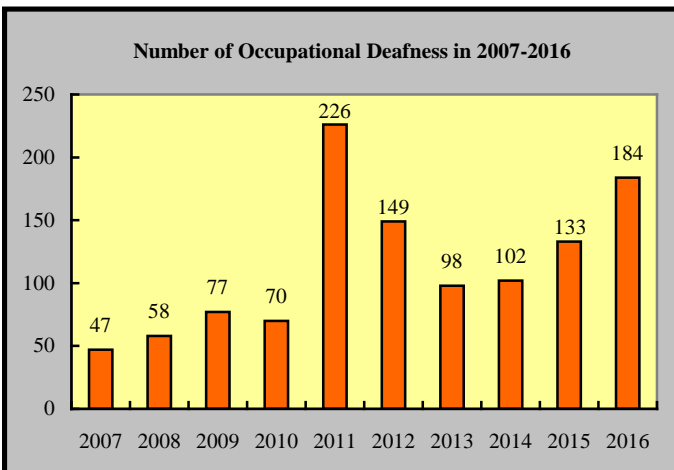
- In 2016, there were 334 cases of confirmed occupational diseases (including monaural hearing loss*), compared with 256 in 2015.
* The coverage of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance has been extended to employees with noise-induced monaural hearing loss in April 2010. In 2010, 510 old cases related to monaural hearing loss were handled. The number of confirmed occupational diseases in 2011 to 2016 has included monaural hearing loss.

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2016

Occupational Disease	Number
Occupational Deafness (including monaural hearing loss)	184
Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm	63
Silicosis	43
Gas Poisoning	14
Occupational Dermatitis	11
Mesothelioma	7
Tuberculosis	6
Asbestosis	4
Mercury Poisoning	1
Streptococcus suis Infection	1
Total	334

- The most common occupational diseases confirmed in 2016 were occupational deafness (including monaural hearing loss), tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm and silicosis.

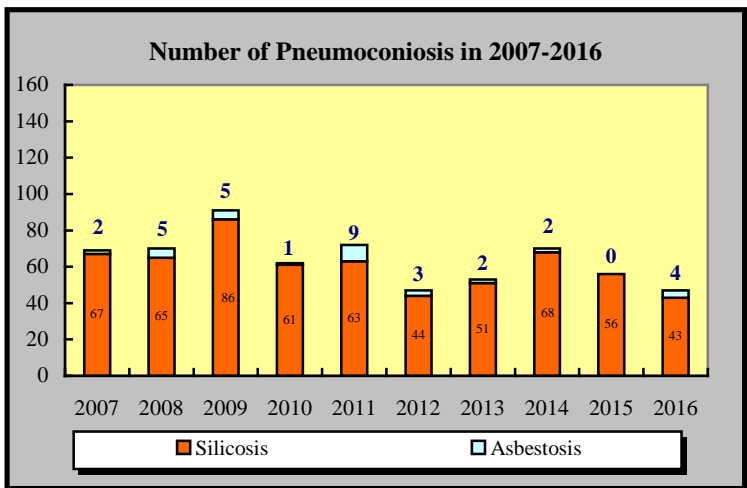
Occupational Deafness



- There were 184 cases of occupational deafness (including monaural hearing loss*) in 2016. Cases were engaged in the following work:
 - 37.5% Working near internal combustion engines, turbines, pressurised fuel burners or jet engines
 - 26.1% Rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion
 - 13.6% Metal grinding
 - 9.3% Abrasive blasting operations
 - 5.4% High speed web-fed offset printing
 - 2.7% Pile driving
 - 2.2% Using routing, planing, circular sawing machine or automatic lathes
 - 1.1% Metal percussion
 - 1.1% Descaling of ships
 - 0.5% Weaving or spinning
 - 0.5% Crushing or screening of rock

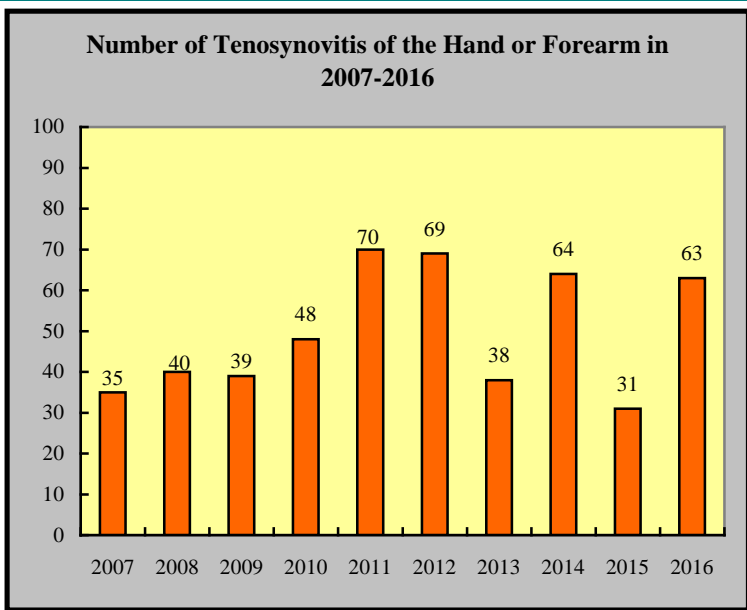
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Pneumoconiosis



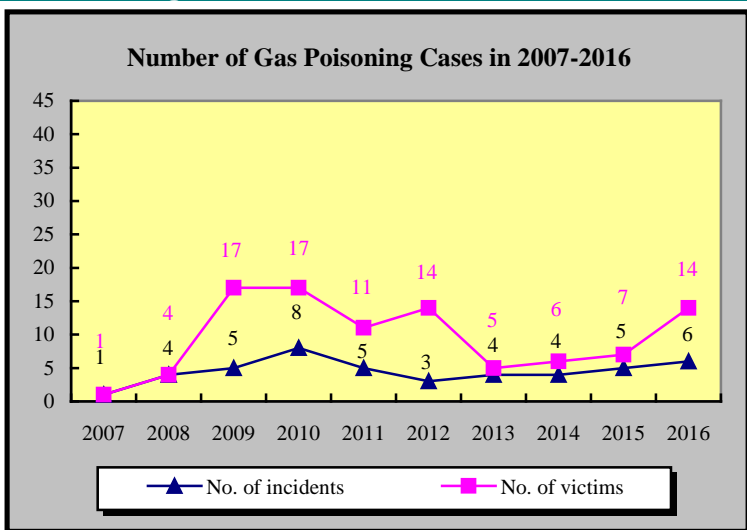
- In 2016, there were 43 confirmed cases of silicosis. Most of these cases worked in the construction industry.
- Those silicosis cases had history of exposure to the silica dust in their occupations many years ago. In the past 10 years, the number of confirmed cases was in a decreasing trend but occasionally with year on year fluctuation.
- There were 4 confirmed cases of asbestosis in 2016, they were employees in the construction and shipbuilding industries, etc.

Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm



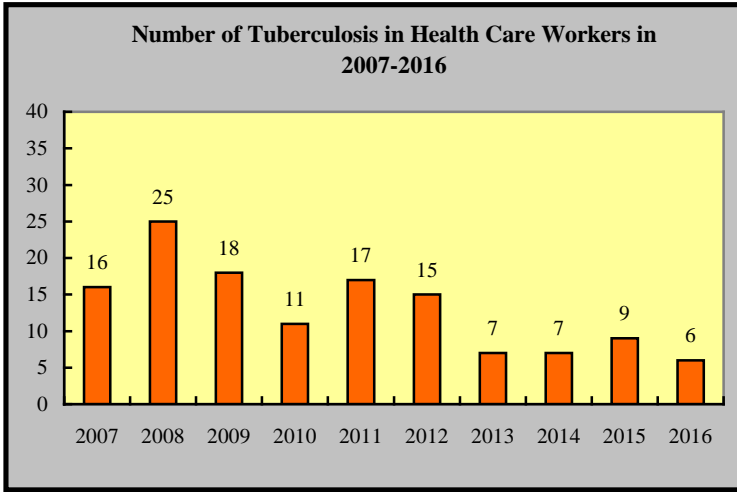
- In 2016, there were 63 confirmed cases of tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm. The disease was common among clerical support workers, personal service workers and elementary occupations, etc.
- Distribution by industry of the 63 cases in 2016:
 - 39.7% Public administration, and social and personal services
 - 22.2% Accommodation and food services
 - 14.3% Import/Export, wholesale and retail trades
 - 9.5% Manufacturing
 - 9.5% Professional and business services
 - 1.6% Information and communications
 - 1.6% Transportation, storage, postal and courier services
 - 1.6% Construction

Gas Poisoning



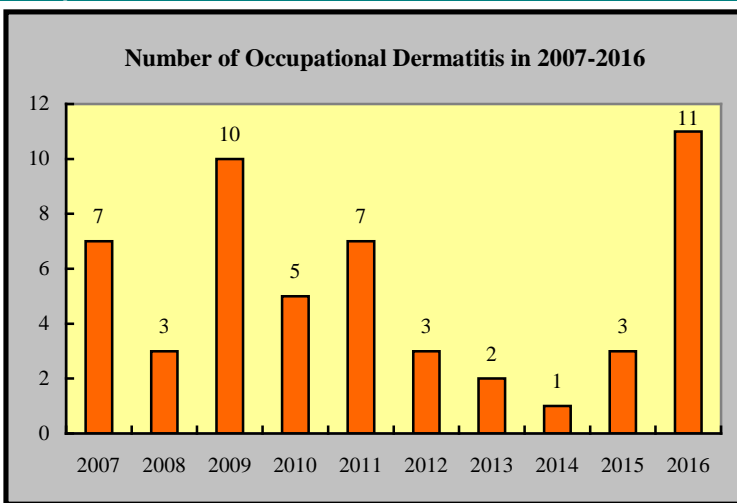
- There were 6 incidents of gas poisoning in 2016 and 14 workers were injured. The noxious chemical agents identified were chlorine, hydrogen sulphide, etc.

Tuberculosis in Health Care Workers



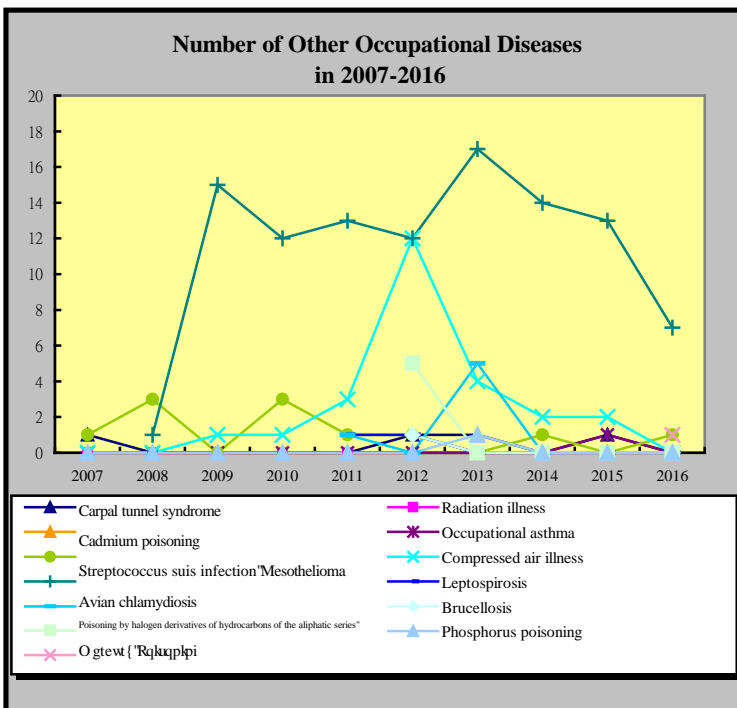
- Regarding the 6 cases of tuberculosis confirmed in 2016, the disease most commonly occurred among nurses and other personal care workers.

Occupational Dermatitis



- The causative agents for the 11 cases of occupational dermatitis in 2016 were related to beauty, construction and medical materials.

Other Occupational Diseases



- In 2016, there was no confirmed cases of compressed air illness.
- In 2016 there were 7 confirmed cases of mesothelioma and most of the cases were engaged in the construction and shipbuilding industries, etc.
- In 2016, there was 1 confirmed case of infection by *Streptococcus suis* and the worker was engaged in the meat handling industry.
- In 2016, there was 1 confirmed case of mercury poisoning and the worker was engaged in the dental care industry.

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,
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**For enquiry or further information relating to the occupational disease statistics of this Bulletin, please
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**For complaints regarding unsafe workplaces and practices,
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