

Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Bulletin



Issue No. 18 (August 2018)
Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Labour Department



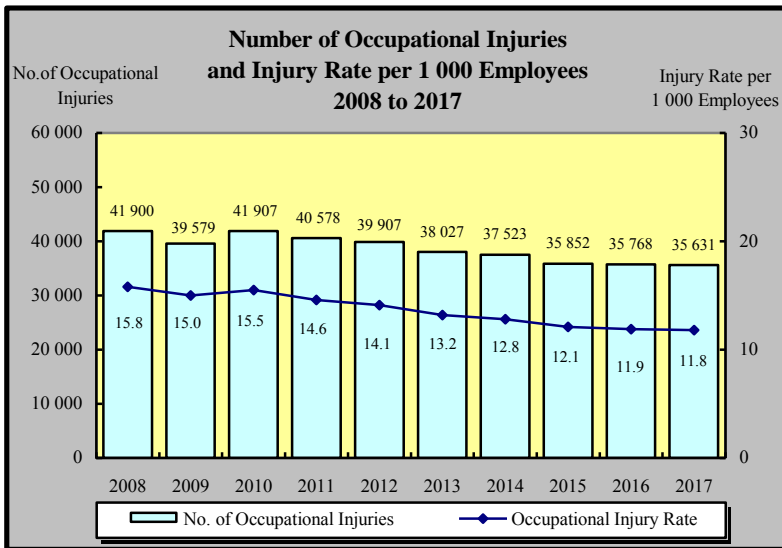
This Bulletin provides statistics of work-related accidents and confirmed cases of occupational disease in Hong Kong with information, analysis and trend on various economic sectors and selected industries. Employers, employees and occupational safety and health practitioners, by benchmarking against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

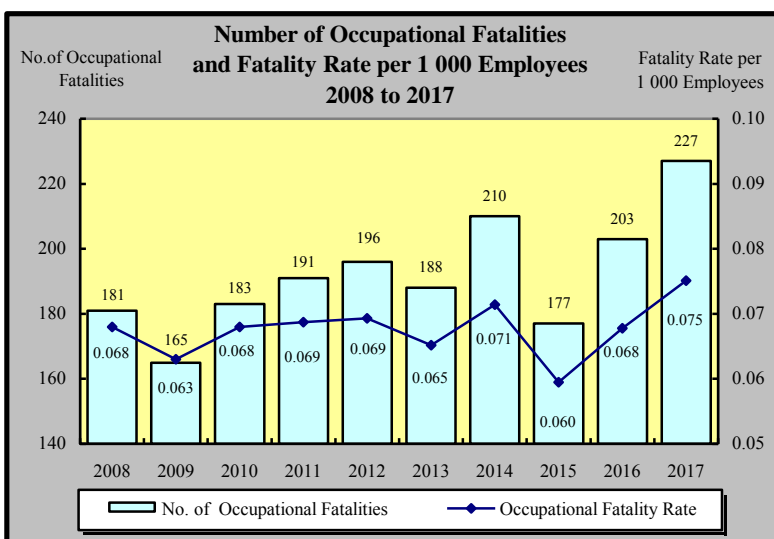
In 2017, the number of occupational injuries in all workplaces stood at 35 631, a decrease of 0.4 per cent over 2016, while the injury rate per 1 000 employees decreased from 11.9 to 11.8, a decrease of 1.3 per cent. The number of industrial accidents in all industries in 2017 stood at 11 077, an increase of 1.8 per cent over 2016, while the accident rate per 1 000 workers increased from 17.1 to 17.2, up by 0.3 per cent.

The high-risk construction industry recorded 3 902 industrial accidents in 2017, 4.9 per cent up when compared to 3 720 in 2016. Over the same period, the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased by 4.7 per cent from 34.5 to 32.9. The number of accidents increased by 28.7 per cent and the accident rate dropped by 46.4 per cent in the past decade, the construction industry still recorded the highest number of fatalities and accident rate among all industry sectors.

Occupational Injuries

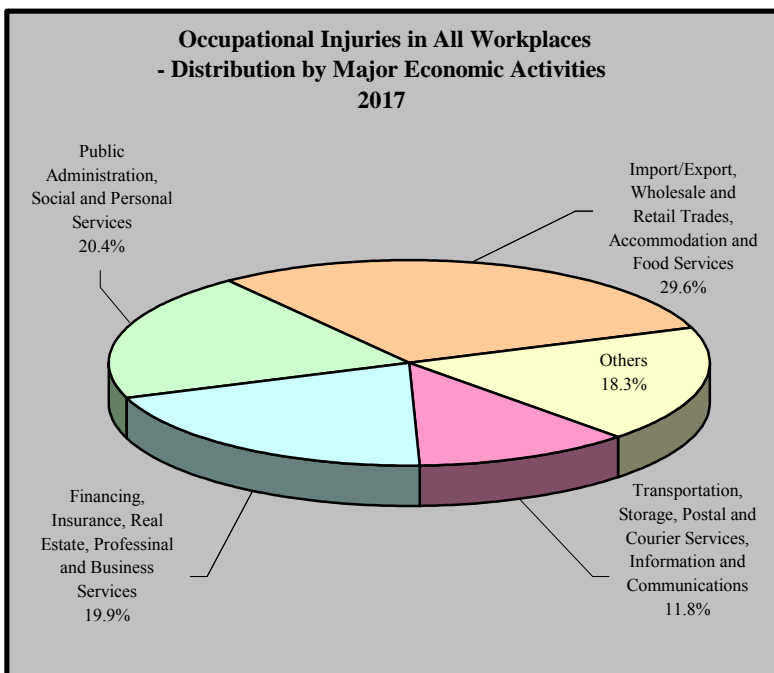


- In 2017, there were 35 631 occupational injuries, lower than 35 768 in 2016 by 0.4%, 41 900 in 2008 by 15.0% and the average of the past five years (36 560) by 2.5%.
- The injury rate per 1 000 employees in 2017 was 11.8, lower than 11.9 in 2016 by 1.3%, 15.8 in 2008 by 25.5% and the average of the past five years (12.4) by 4.6%.



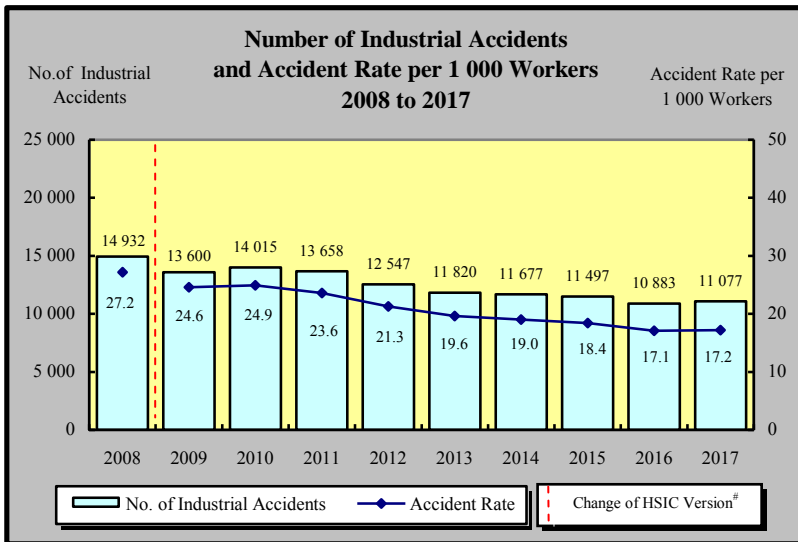
- In 2017, there were 227 occupational fatalities, higher than 203 in 2016 by 11.8%, 181 in 2008 by 25.4% and the average of the past five years (201) by 12.9%.
- The occupational fatality rate in 2017 was 0.075 per 1 000 employees, higher than 0.068 in 2016 by 10.7%, 0.068 in 2008 by 9.9% and the average of the past five years (0.068) by 10.7%.

*The occupational fatality rate per 1 000 employees are rounded to three decimal places, whereas percentage change is calculated from unrounded figure.

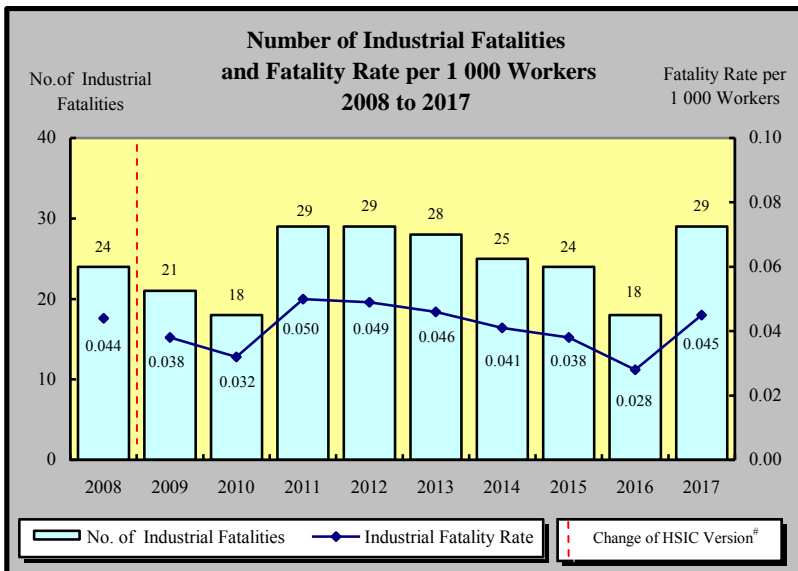


- Of the 35 631 occupational injuries in 2017, over 80% occurred in the following major economic sectors:
 - 29.6% Import/Export, Wholesale and Retail Trades, Accommodation and Food Services
 - 20.4% Public Administration, Social and Personal Services
 - 19.9% Financing, Insurance, Real Estate, Professional and Business Services
 - 11.8% Transportation, Storage, Postal and Courier Services, Information and Communications

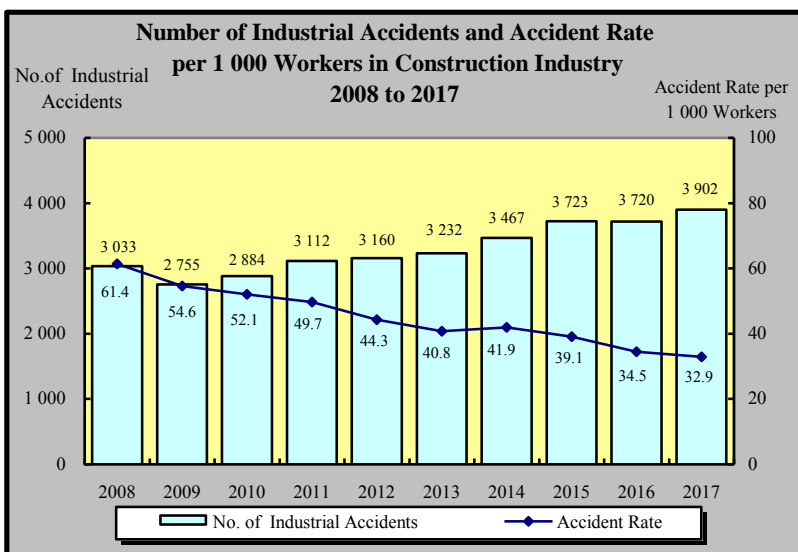
Industrial Accidents



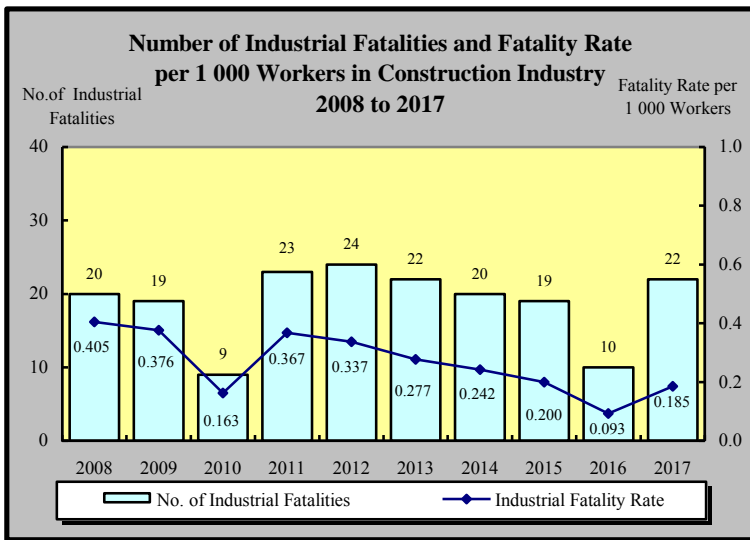
- In 2017, the number of industrial accidents was 11 077, higher than 10 883 in 2016 by 1.8% and lower than the average of the past five years (11 391) by 2.8%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers in 2017 was 17.2, higher than 17.1 in 2016 by 0.3% and lower than the average of the past five years (18.3) by 6.0%.



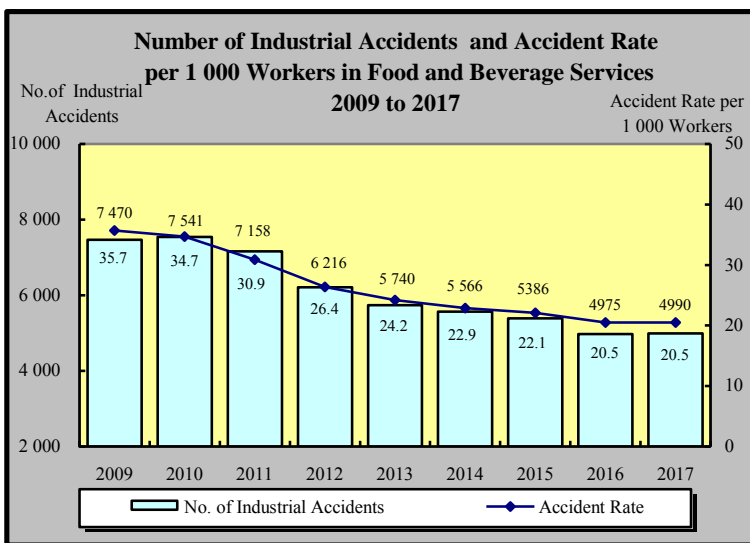
- In 2017, the number of industrial fatalities was 29, higher than 18 in 2016 by 61.1% and the average of the past five years (25) by 16.9%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers in 2017 was 0.045, higher than 0.028 in 2016 by 58.7% and the average of the past five years (0.040) by 13.0%.



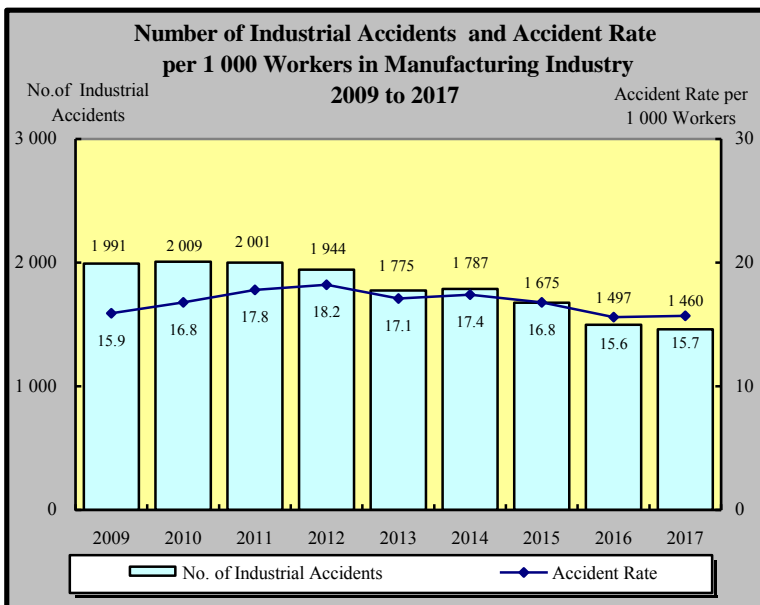
- In 2017, there were 3 902 industrial accidents in the construction industry, higher than 3 720 in 2016 by 4.9%, higher than 3 033 in 2008 by 28.7% and the average of the past five years (3 609) by 8.1%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2017 was 32.9, lower than 34.5 in 2016 by 4.7%, 61.4 in 2008 by 46.4% and the average of the past five years (37.8) by 13.1%.



- In 2017, the number of industrial fatalities in the construction industry was 22, higher than 10 in 2016 by 120.0%, 20 in 2008 by 10.0% and the average of the past five years (19) by 18.3%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2017 was 0.185, higher than 0.093 in 2016 by 99.8%, lower than 0.405 in 2008 by 54.2% and the average of the past five years (0.199) by 7.0%.



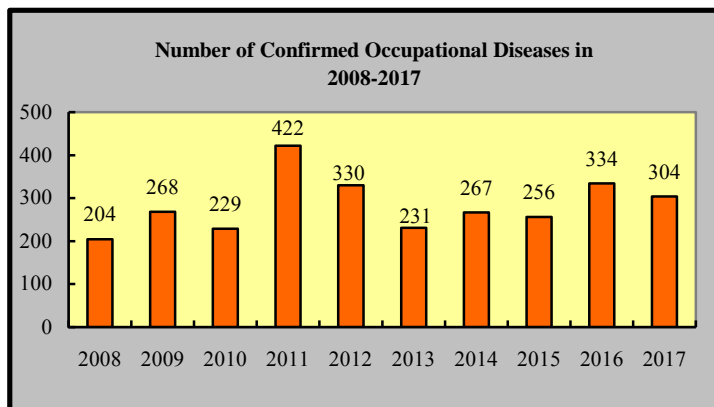
- In 2017, there were 4 990 industrial accidents in the food and beverage services, higher than 4 975 in 2016 by 0.3% and lower than the average of the past five years (5 331) by 6.4%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the food and beverage services in 2017 was 20.5, the same as that in 2016 and lower than the average of the past five years (22.1) by 7.0%.



- In 2017, there were 1 460 industrial accidents in the manufacturing industry, lower than 1 497 in 2016 by 2.5% and the average of the past five years (1 639) by 10.9%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the manufacturing industry in 2017 was 15.7, higher than 15.6 in 2016 by 0.8% and lower than the average of the past five years (16.5) by 4.9%.

Occupational Diseases

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2008-2017



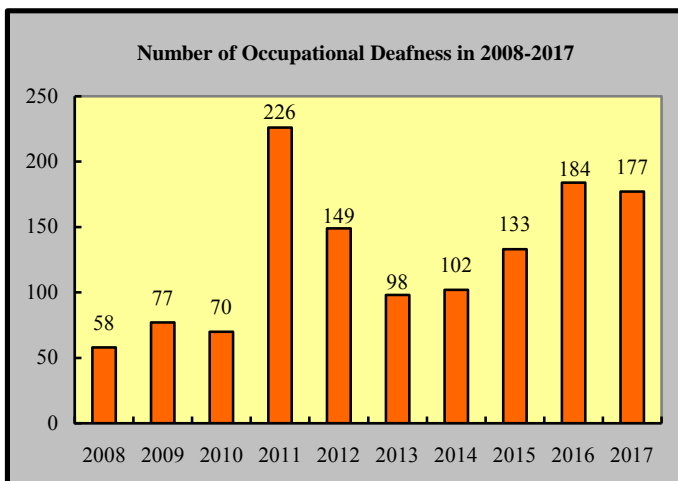
- In 2017, there were 304 cases of confirmed occupational diseases (including monaural hearing loss*), compared with 334 in 2016.
* The coverage of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance has been extended to employees with noise-induced monaural hearing loss in April 2010. In 2010, 510 old cases related to monaural hearing loss were handled. The number of confirmed occupational diseases in 2011 to 2017 has included monaural hearing loss.

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2017

Occupational Disease	Number
Occupational Deafness (including monaural hearing loss)	177
Silicosis	54
Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm	39
Mesothelioma	16
Tuberculosis	9
Occupational Dermatitis	3
Asbestosis	2
Gas Poisoning	1
Occupational Asthma	1
Streptococcus suis Infection	1
Compressed Air Illness	1
Total	304

- The most common occupational diseases confirmed in 2017 were occupational deafness (including monaural hearing loss), silicosis and tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm.

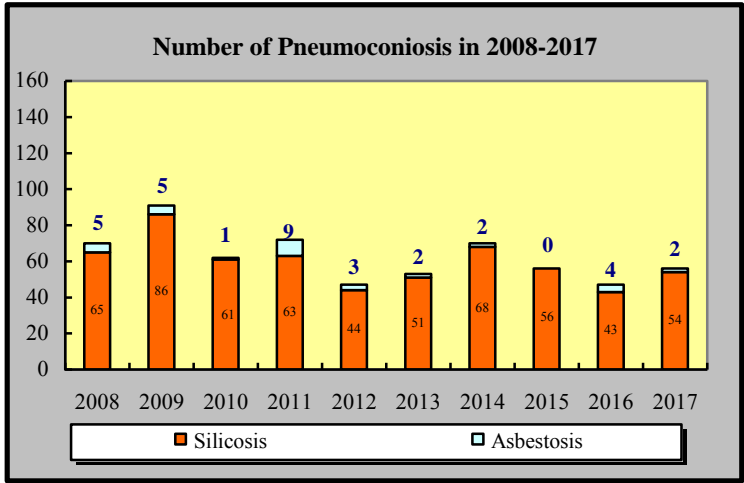
Occupational Deafness



- There were 177 cases of occupational deafness (including monaural hearing loss*) in 2017. Cases were engaged in the following work:
 - 46.3% Rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion
 - 26% Working near internal combustion engines, turbines, pressurised fuel burners or jet engines
 - 12.4% Metal grinding
 - 4.5% Abrasive blasting operations
 - 4% Pile driving
 - 1.7% High speed web-fed offset printing
 - 1.1% Using routing, planing, circular sawing machine or automatic lathes
 - 1.1% Metal percussion
 - 1.1% Weaving or spinning
 - 0.6% Plastic materials extrusion
 - 0.6% Working near a place where the electric stunning of pigs for the purpose of slaughter takes place
 - 0.6% Playing mahjong inside a mahjong parlour

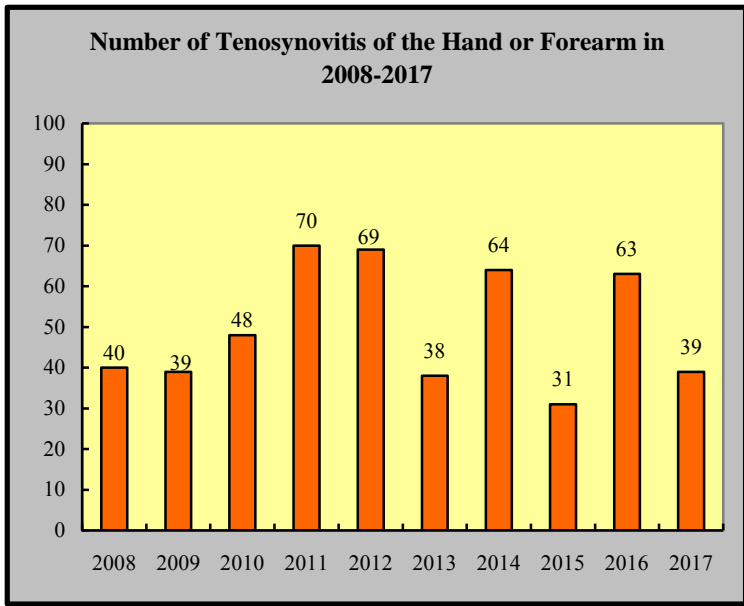
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Pneumoconiosis



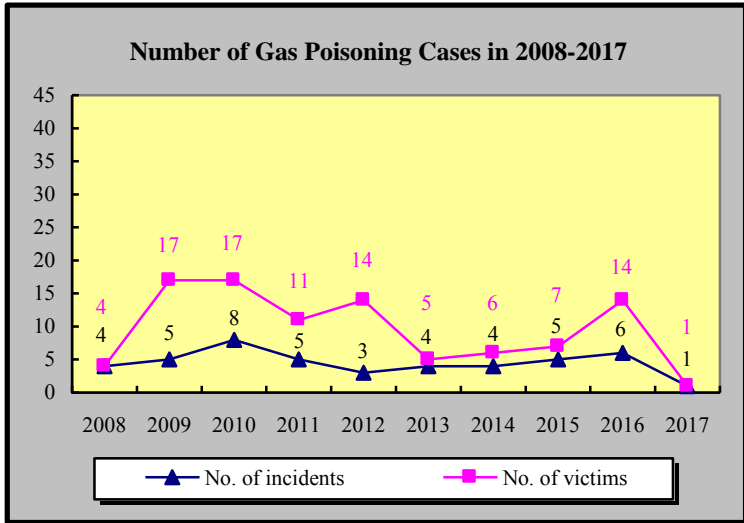
- In 2017, there were 54 confirmed cases of silicosis. Most of these cases worked in the construction industry.
- Those silicosis cases had history of exposure to the silica dust in their occupations many years ago. In the past 10 years, the number of confirmed cases was in a decreasing trend but occasionally with year on year fluctuation.
- There were 2 confirmed cases of asbestosis in 2017, they were employees in the construction industries.

Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm



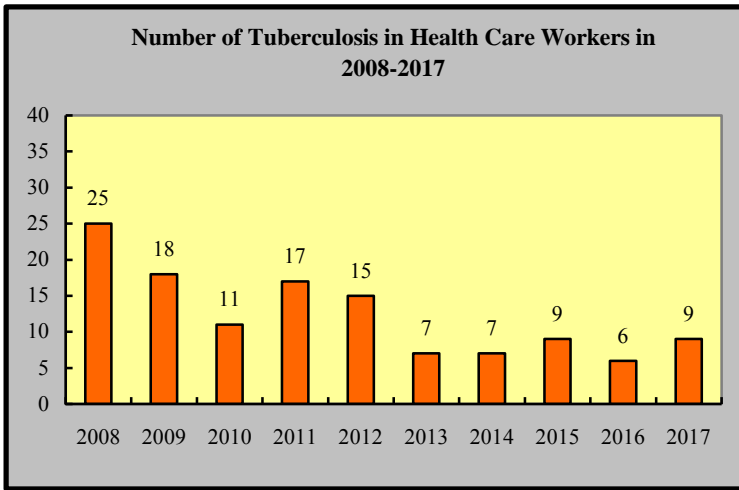
- In 2017, there were 39 confirmed cases of tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm. The disease was common among clerical support workers, personal service workers and elementary occupations, etc.
- Distribution by industry of the 39 cases in 2017:
 - 35.9% Public administration, and social and personal services
 - 20.5% Accommodation and food services
 - 12.8% Professional and business services
 - 10.2% Import/Export, wholesale and retail trades
 - 7.7% Manufacturing
 - 5.1% Construction
 - 2.6% Transportation, storage, postal and courier services
 - 2.6% Electricity, gas and waste management
 - 2.6% Other industries

Gas Poisoning



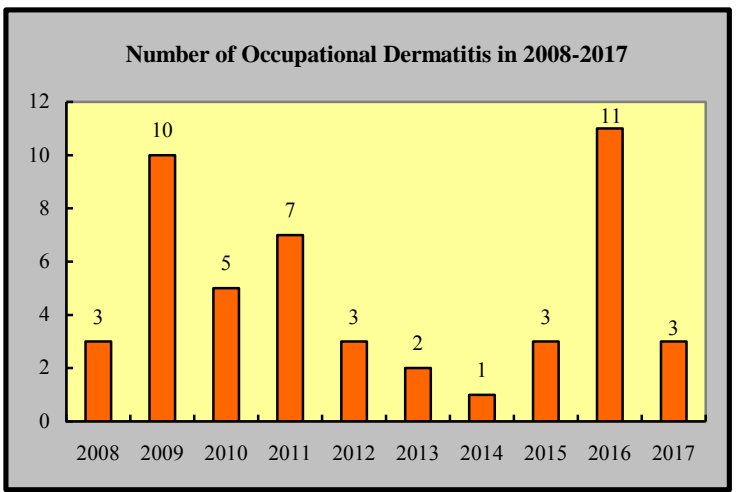
- There was 1 incident of gas poisoning in 2017 and 1 worker was injured. The noxious chemical agent was acidic gas.

Tuberculosis in Health Care Workers



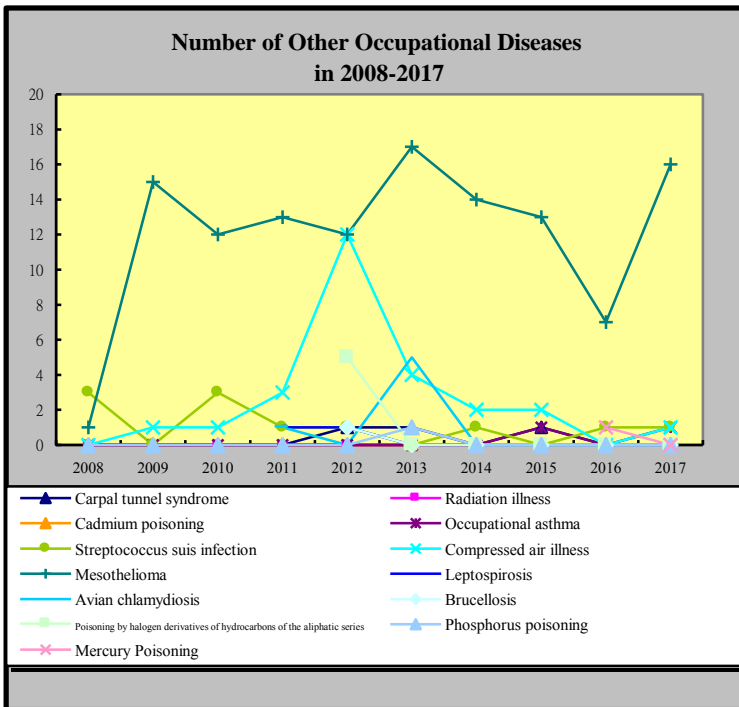
- Regarding the 9 cases of tuberculosis confirmed in 2017, the disease occurred among doctors, nurses and other personal care workers, etc.

Occupational Dermatitis



- The causative agents for the 3 cases of occupational dermatitis in 2017 were related to kitchen, cosmetics and medical materials, etc.

Other Occupational Diseases



- In 2017 there were 16 confirmed cases of mesothelioma and most of the cases were engaged in the construction and shipbuilding industries, etc.
- In 2017, there was 1 confirmed case of infection by *Streptococcus suis* and the worker was engaged in the meat handling industry.
- In 2017, there was 1 confirmed case of occupational asthma and the worker was engaged in the healthcare industry.
- In 2017, there was 1 confirmed case of compressed air illness and the worker was engaged in work related to diving.

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 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 complaints about unsafe workplaces and work practice, please call the
Labour Department's occupational safety and health complaint hotline at Tel 2542 2172**

All complaints will be treated in the strictest confidence

Email : enquiry@labour.gov.hk