

# Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Bulletin



Issue No. 19 ( August 2019 )  
Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Labour Department



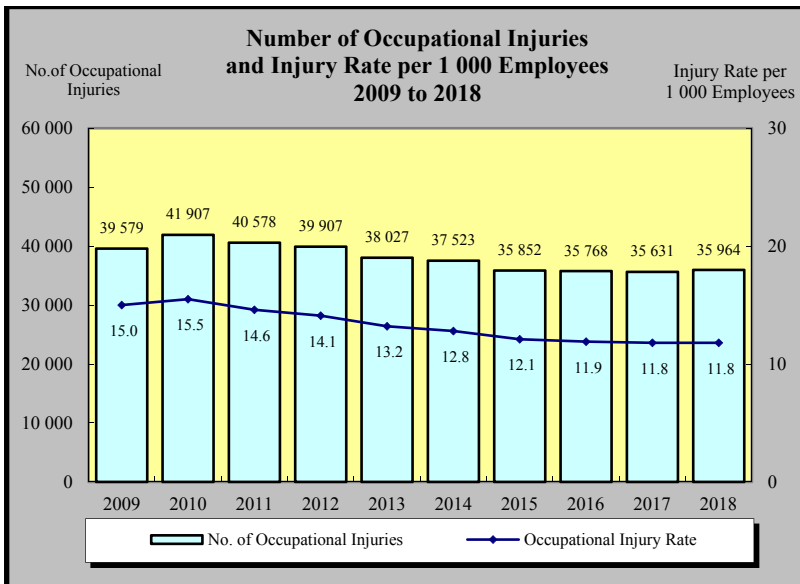
This Bulletin provides statistics of work-related accidents and confirmed cases of occupational disease in Hong Kong with information, analysis and trend on various economic sectors and selected industries. Employers, employees and occupational safety and health practitioners, by benchmarking against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

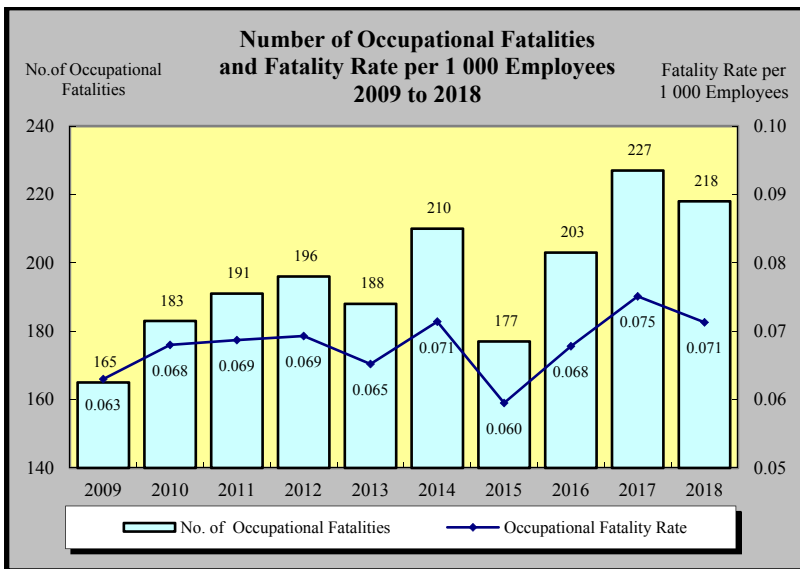
In 2018, the number of occupational injuries in all workplaces stood at 35 964, an increase of 0.9 per cent over 2017, while the injury rate per 1 000 employees was 11.8 in both 2017 and 2018. The number of industrial accidents in all industries in 2018 stood at 10 602, a decrease of 4.3 per cent over 2017, while the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased from 17.2 to 16.5, down by 4.0 per cent.

The high-risk construction industry recorded 3 541 industrial accidents in 2018, 9.3 per cent down when compared to 3 902 in 2017. Over the same period, the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased by 3.7 per cent from 32.9 to 31.7. The number of accidents increased by 28.5 per cent and the accident rate dropped by 42.0 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

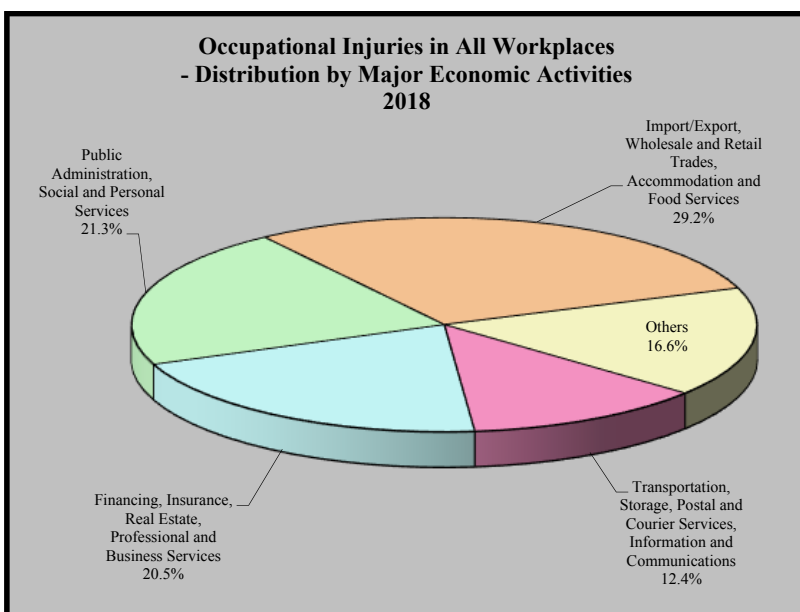


- In 2018, there were 35 964 occupational injuries, higher than 35 631 in 2017 by 0.9%, lower than 39 579 in 2009 by 9.1% and the average of the past five years (36 148) by 0.5%.
- The injury rate per 1 000 employees was 11.8 in both 2017 and 2018, lower than 15.0 in 2009 by 21.6% and the average of the past five years (12.1) by 2.5%.



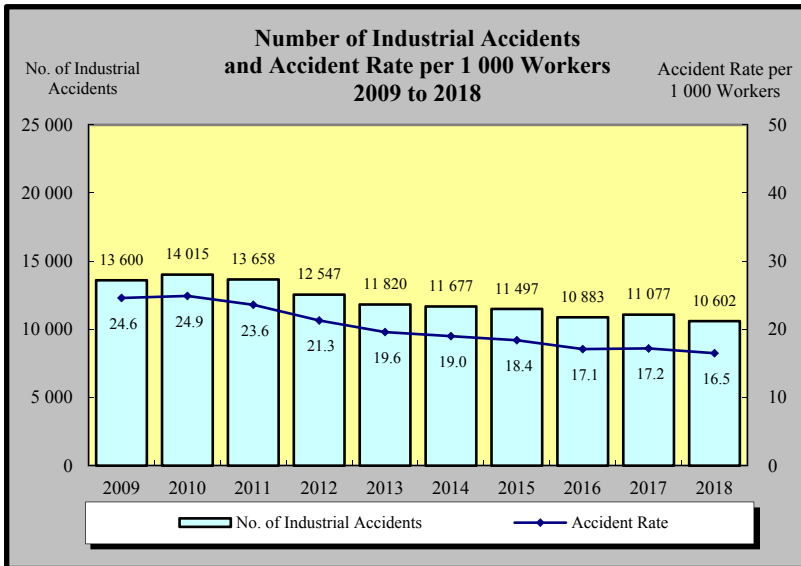
- In 2018, there were 218 occupational fatalities, lower than 227 in 2017 by 4.0%, higher than 165 in 2009 by 32.1% and the average of the past five years (207) by 5.3%.
- The occupational fatality rate in 2018 was 0.071 per 1 000 employees, lower than 0.075 in 2017 by 5.0%, higher than 0.063 in 2009 by 14.0% and the average of the past five years (0.069) by 3.3%.

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

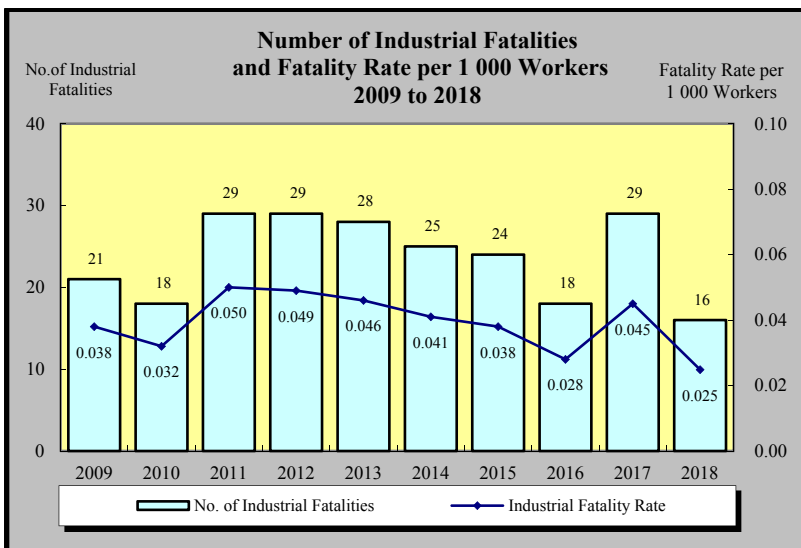


- Of the 35 964 occupational injuries in 2018, over 80% occurred in the following major economic sectors:
  - 29.2% Import/Export, Wholesale and Retail Trades, Accommodation and Food Services
  - 21.3% Public Administration, Social and Personal Services
  - 20.5% Financing, Insurance, Real Estate, Professional and Business Services
  - 12.4% Transportation, Storage, Postal and Courier Services, Information and Communications

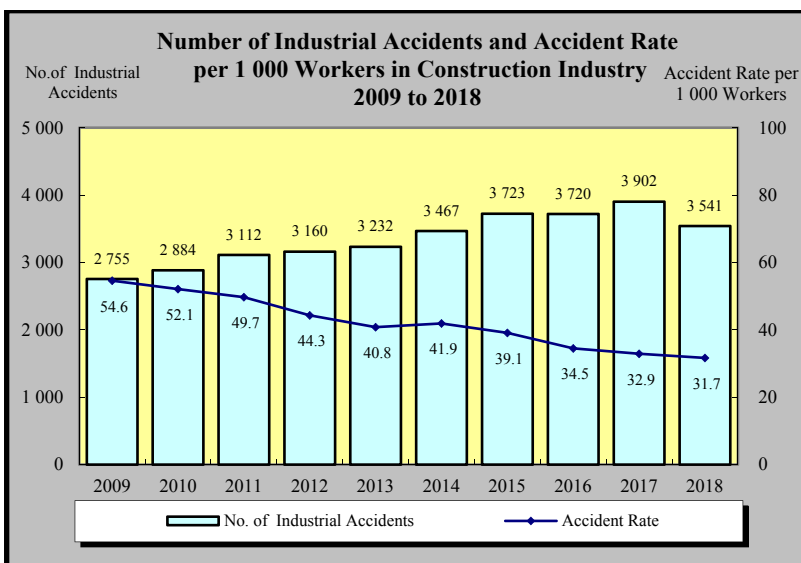
# Industrial Accidents



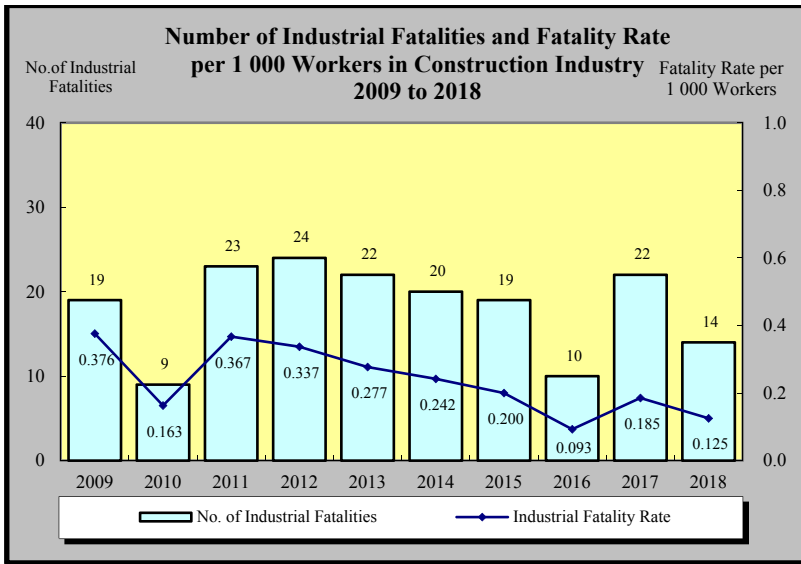
- In 2018, the number of industrial accidents was 10 602, lower than 11 077 in 2017 by 4.3%, 13 600 in 2009 by 22.0% and the average of the past five years (11 147) by 4.9%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers in 2018 was 16.5, lower than 17.2 in 2017 by 4.0%, 24.6 in 2009 by 33.0% and the average of the past five years (17.6) by 6.5%.



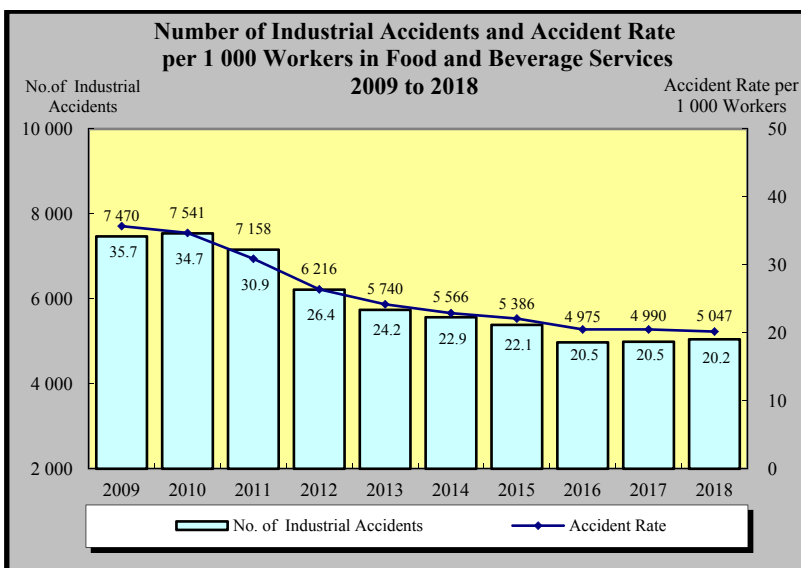
- In 2018, the number of industrial fatalities was 16, lower than 29 in 2017 by 44.8%, 21 in 2009 by 23.8% and the average of the past five years (22) by 28.6%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers in 2018 was 0.025, lower than 0.045 in 2017 by 44.7%, 0.038 in 2009 by 34.6% and the average of the past five years (0.035) by 29.8%.



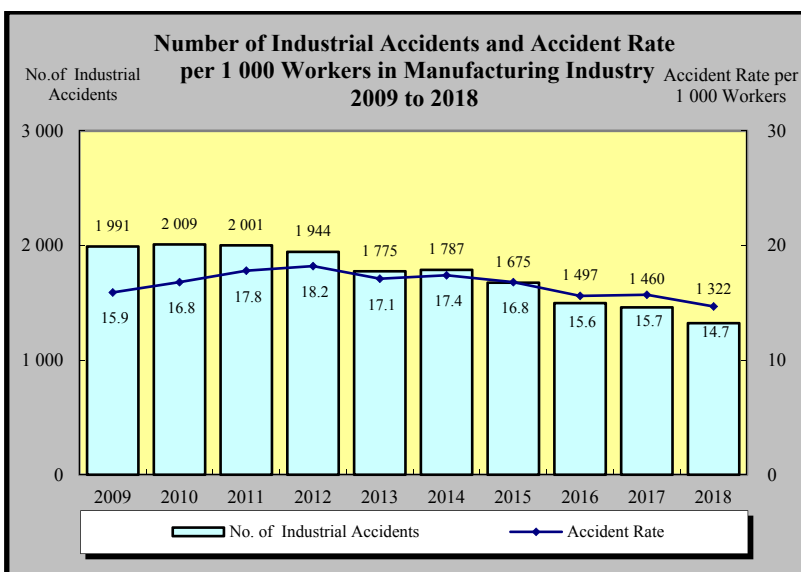
- In 2018, there were 3 541 industrial accidents in the construction industry, lower than 3 902 in 2017 by 9.3%, higher than 2 755 in 2009 by 28.5% and lower than the average of the past five years (3 671) by 3.5%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2018 was 31.7, lower than 32.9 in 2017 by 3.7%, 54.6 in 2009 by 42.0% and the average of the past five years (36.0) by 12.1%.



- In 2018, the number of industrial fatalities in the construction industry was 14, lower than 22 in 2017 by 36.4%, 19 in 2009 by 26.3% and the average of the past five years (17) by 17.6%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2018 was 0.125, lower than 0.185 in 2017 by 32.5%, 0.376 in 2009 by 66.7% and the average of the past five years (0.169) by 25.9%.



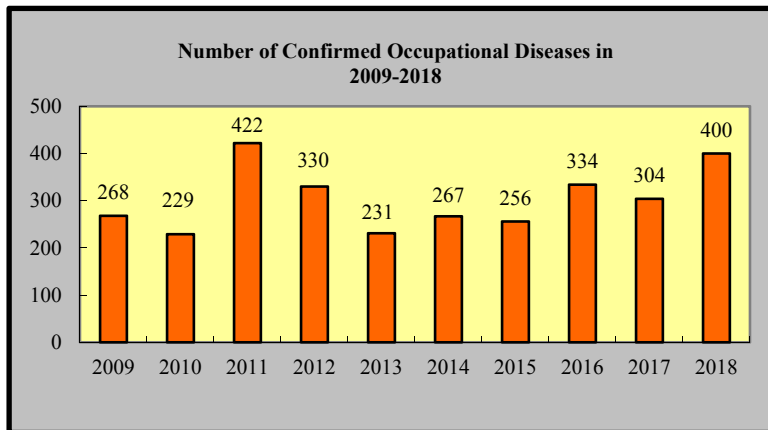
- In 2018, there were 5 047 industrial accidents in the food and beverage services, higher than 4 990 in 2017 by 1.1%, lower than 7 470 in 2009 by 32.4% and the average of the past five years (5 193) by 2.8%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the food and beverage services in 2018 was 20.2, lower than 20.5 in 2017 by 1.6%, 35.7 in 2009 by 43.4% and the average of the past five years (21.3) by 5.0%.



- In 2018, there were 1 322 industrial accidents in the manufacturing industry, lower than 1 460 in 2017 by 9.5%, 1 991 in 2009 by 33.6% and the average of the past five years (1 548) by 14.6%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the manufacturing industry in 2018 was 14.7, lower than 15.7 in 2017 by 6.6%, 15.9 in 2009 by 7.8% and the average of the past five years (16.1) by 8.5%.

# Occupational Diseases

## Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2009-2018



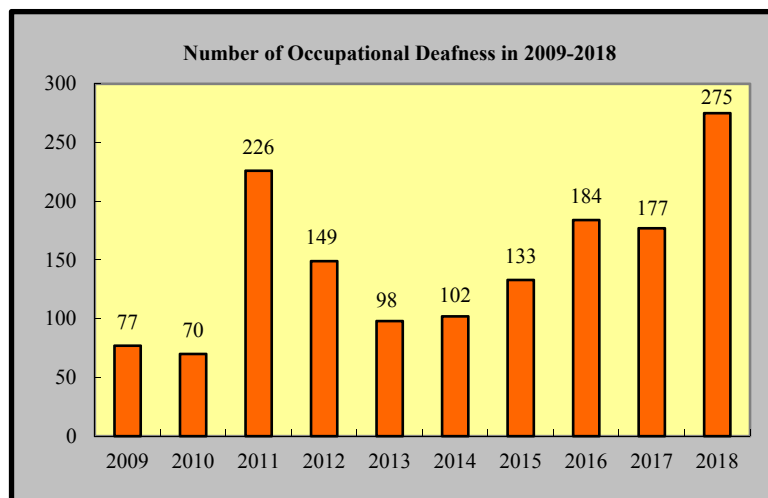
- In 2018, there were 400 cases of confirmed occupational diseases (including monaural hearing loss\*), compared with 304 in 2017.  
\* The coverage of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance has been extended to employees with noise-induced monaural hearing loss in April 2010. In 2010, 510 old cases related to monaural hearing loss were handled. The number of confirmed occupational diseases in 2011 to 2018 has included monaural hearing loss.

## Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2018

Occupational Disease	Number
Occupational Deafness (including monaural hearing loss)	275
Silicosis	59
Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm	39
Mesothelioma	10
Tuberculosis	4
Gas Poisoning	4
Occupational Dermatitis	3
Asbestosis	2
Streptococcus suis Infection	2
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome	1
Compressed Air Illness	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>

- The most common occupational diseases confirmed in 2018 were occupational deafness (including monaural hearing loss), silicosis and tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm.

## Occupational Deafness

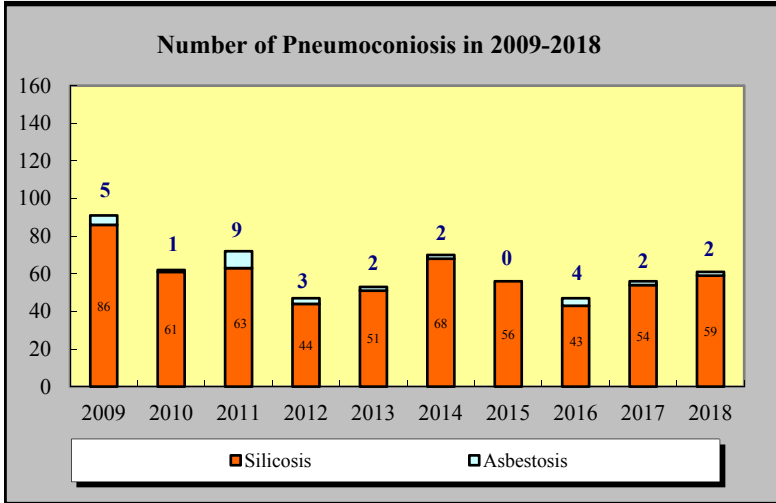


\* The coverage of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance has been extended to employees with noise-induced monaural hearing loss in April 2010. In 2010, 510 old cases related to monaural hearing loss were handled. The number of occupational deafness in 2011 to 2018 has included monaural hearing loss.

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

- There were 275 cases of occupational deafness (including monaural hearing loss\*) in 2018. Cases were engaged in the following work#:
  - 41% Rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion
  - 23% Metal grinding
  - 17% Working near internal combustion engines, turbines, pressurised fuel burners or jet engines
  - 11% Pile driving
  - 1.8% High speed web-fed offset printing
  - 1.8% Using routing, planing, circular sawing machine or automatic lathes
  - 1.1% Weaving or spinning
  - 0.7% Metal percussion
  - 0.7% Working near or use of paper folding machines
  - 0.7% Car Body repairing, or of making metal articles by manual hammering
  - 0.4% Using machines or hand tools engaged in descaling of ships
  - 0.4% Working near glass-bottling lines
  - 0.4% Abrasive blasting operations

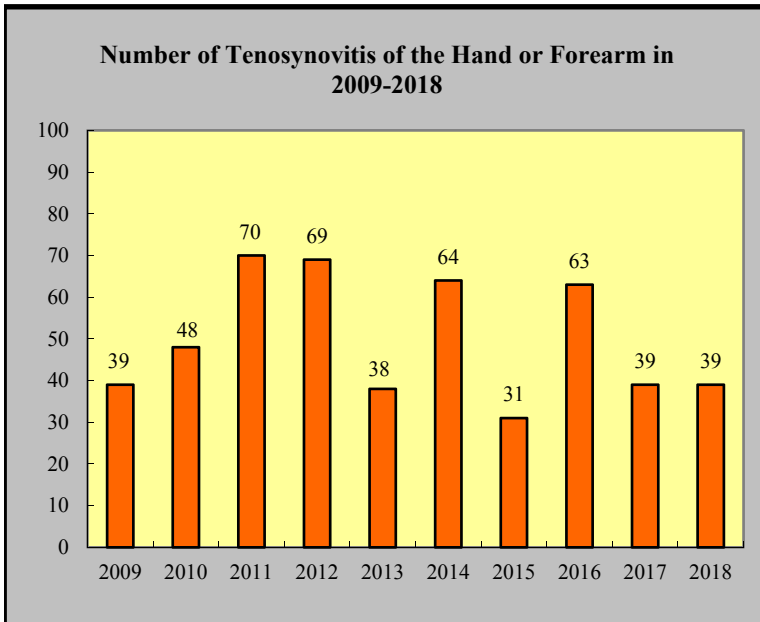
## Pneumoconiosis



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

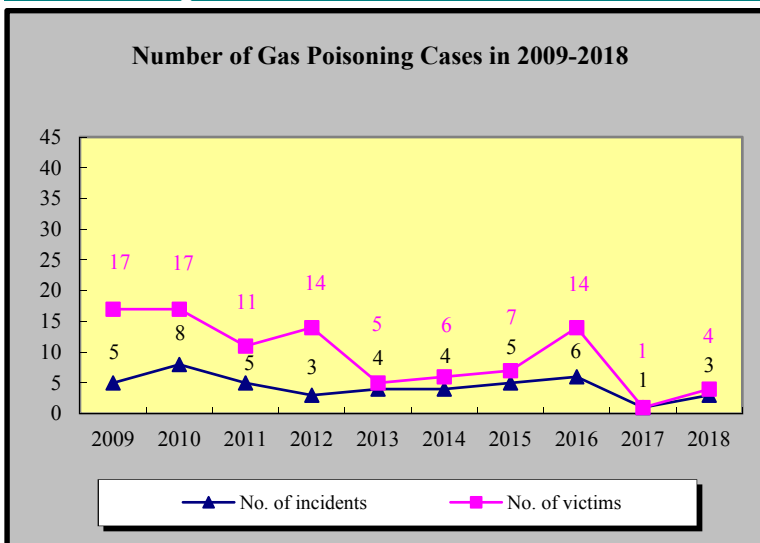
- In 2018, there were 59 confirmed cases of silicosis\*.
- Those silicosis cases had history of exposure to the silica dust in their occupations many years ago. In the past 10 years, the number of confirmed cases was in a decreasing trend but occasionally with year on year fluctuation.
- There were 2 confirmed cases of asbestosis in 2018\*.

## Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm



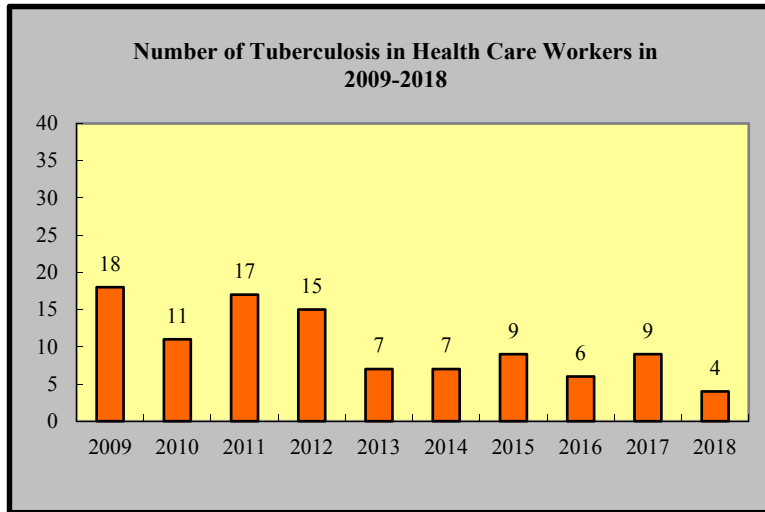
- In 2018, there were 39 confirmed cases of tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm. The disease was common among clerical support workers, personal service workers and elementary occupations, etc.
- Distribution by industry of the 39 cases in 2018:
  - 41.1% Public administration, and social and personal services
  - 25.6% Accommodation and food services
  - 7.7% Professional and business services
  - 7.7% Import/Export, wholesale and retail trades
  - 5.1% Manufacturing
  - 5.1% Transportation, storage, postal and courier services
  - 5.1% Financial and insurance activities
  - 2.6% Information and communications

## Gas Poisoning



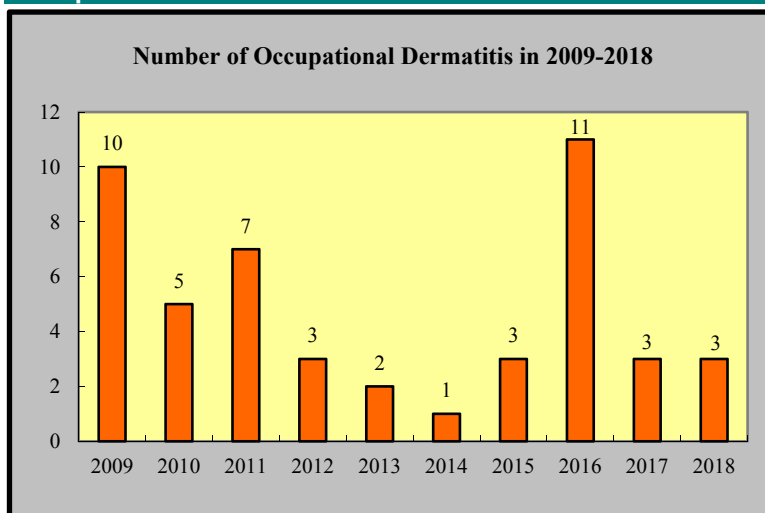
- There were 3 incidents of gas poisoning in 2018 and 4 workers were injured. The noxious chemical agents were chlorine gas, hydrogen sulfide and carbon monoxide.

## Tuberculosis in Health Care Workers



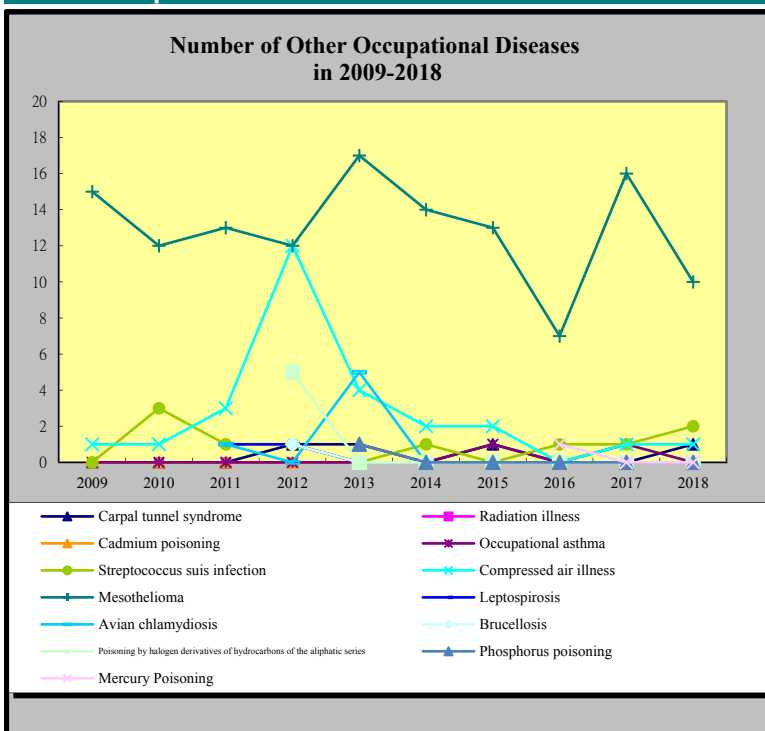
- Regarding the 4 cases of tuberculosis confirmed in 2018, the workers were nurses and other personal care workers.

## Occupational Dermatitis



- The causative agents for the 3 cases of occupational dermatitis in 2018 were related to work process in kitchen, beauty centre and hair salon.

## Other Occupational Diseases



- In 2018, there were 10 confirmed cases of mesothelioma\*.
- In 2018, there were 2 confirmed cases of infection by *Streptococcus suis* and the workers were engaged in the work related to meat handling.
- In 2018, there was 1 confirmed case of compressed air illness and the worker was engaged in work of health professionals.
- In 2018, there was 1 confirmed case of carpal tunnel syndrome and the worker was engaged in the work related to metal handling.

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