

# Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Bulletin

Issue No. 8 ( May 2008 )

Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Labour Department



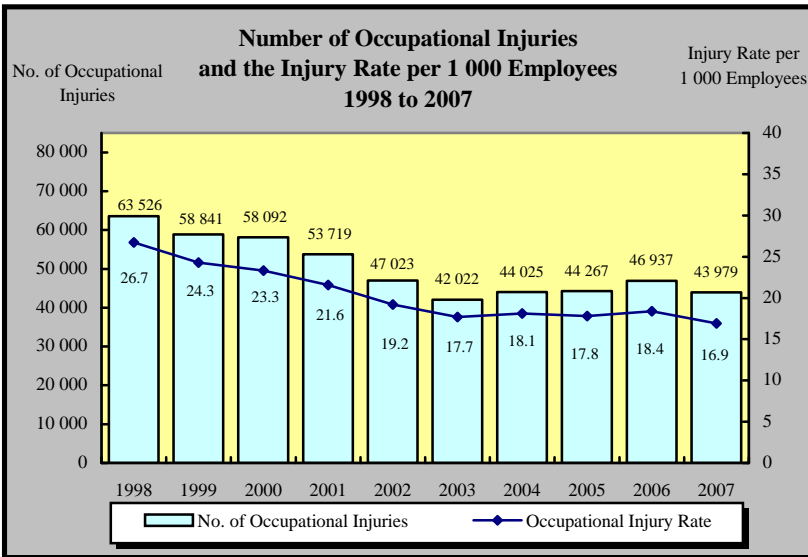
Statistics in this Bulletin provide information, analysis and recent trends on work-related accidents and confirmed cases of occupational disease in Hong Kong with breakdowns by economic sectors and selected industries. Employers, employees and occupational safety and health practitioners may use them to measure the performance in their own organizations against the overall accident rates and the industry average. We hope that such information will help individual establishments manage their occupational safety and health programmes better and improve their performance.

The Labour Department has been making enormous efforts in promoting safety and health in the workplace through legislation, enforcement, promotion and training. These coupled with efforts made by strategic partners such as the Works Branch, the Housing Department and the Occupational Safety and Health Council have enhanced safety awareness of employers and employees and resulted in continual improvements in the overall safety performance in the past decade.

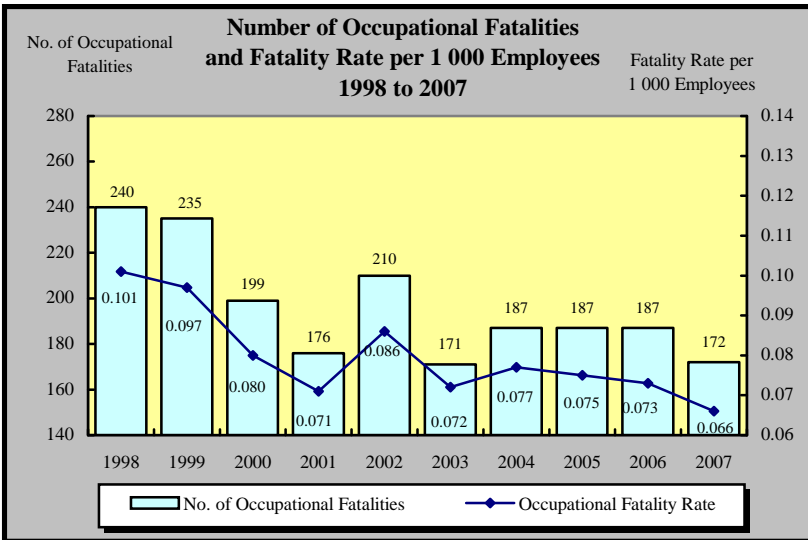
In 2007, the number of occupational injuries in all workplaces stood at 43 979, a decrease of 6.3 per cent over 2006, while the injury rate per 1 000 employees decreased from 18.4 to 16.9, a decrease of 8.3 per cent. The number of industrial accidents in all industries in 2007 stood at 16 117, a decrease of 6.8 per cent over 2006, while the accident rate per 1 000 workers also decreased to 29.3, down by 6.9 per cent.

The high-risk construction industry still recorded the highest number of fatalities and accident rate among various industry sectors. Nonetheless, it is encouraging to note that the number of industrial accidents decreased from 3 400 to 3 042, down by 10.5 per cent, while the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased from 64.3 to 60.6, down by 5.8 per cent as compared with 2006. When compared to 1998, the construction accidents in 2007 fell heftily by 84.5 per cent and the accident rate per 1 000 workers also dropped by 75.6 per cent as well.

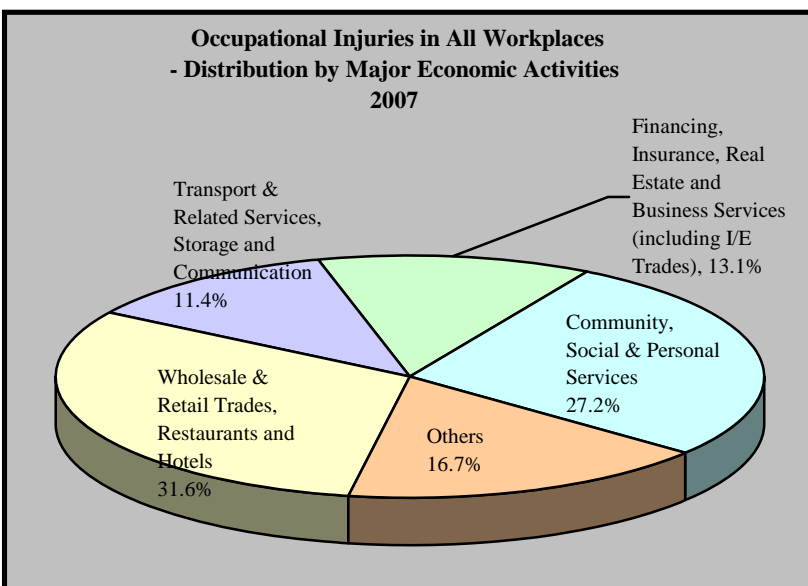
# Occupational Injuries



- In 2007, there were 43 979 occupational injuries, lower than 46 937 in 2006 by 6.3%, 63 526 in 1998 by 30.8% and the average of the past five years (44 246) by 0.6%.
- The injury rate per 1 000 employees in 2007 was 16.9, lower than 18.4 in 2006 by 8.3%, 26.7 in 1998 by 36.9% and the average of the past five years (17.8) by 5.0%.

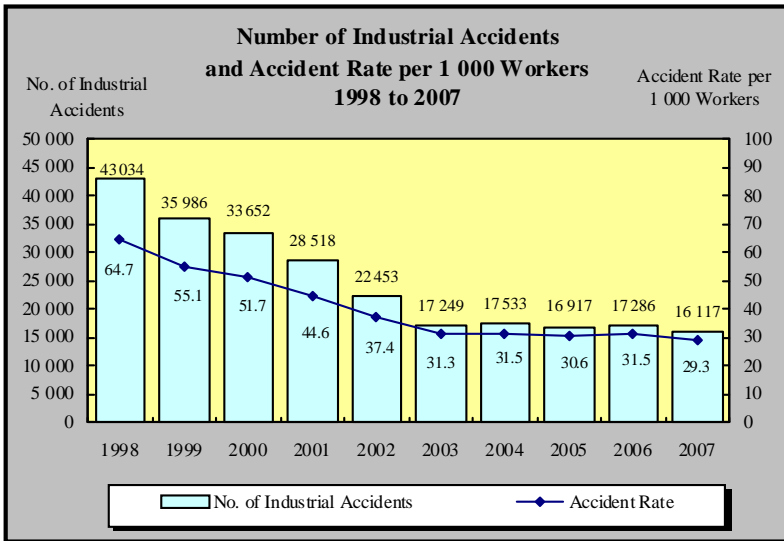


- In 2007, there were 172 occupational fatalities, lower than 187 in 2006 by 8.0%, 240 in 1998 by 28.3% and the average of the past five years (180.8) by 4.9%.
- The occupational fatality rate in 2007 was 0.066 per 1 000 employees, lower than 0.073 in 2006 by 9.9%, 0.101 in 1998 by 34.6% and the average of the past five years (0.073) by 9.2%.

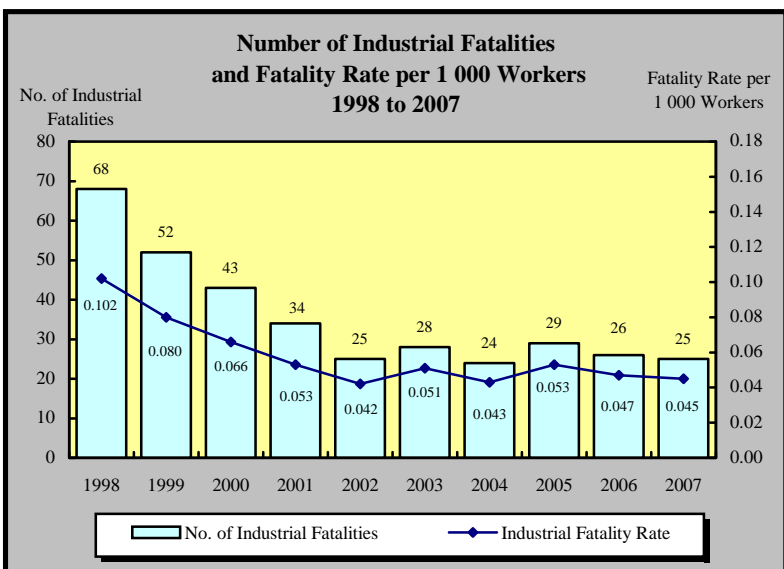


- Of the 43 979 occupational injuries in 2007, over 80% occurred in the following major economic sectors:
- 31.6% Wholesale & Retail Trades, Restaurants and Hotels
  - 27.2% Community, Social & Personal Services
  - 13.1% Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services (including Import & Export Trade)
  - 11.4% Transport & Related Services, Storage and Communication

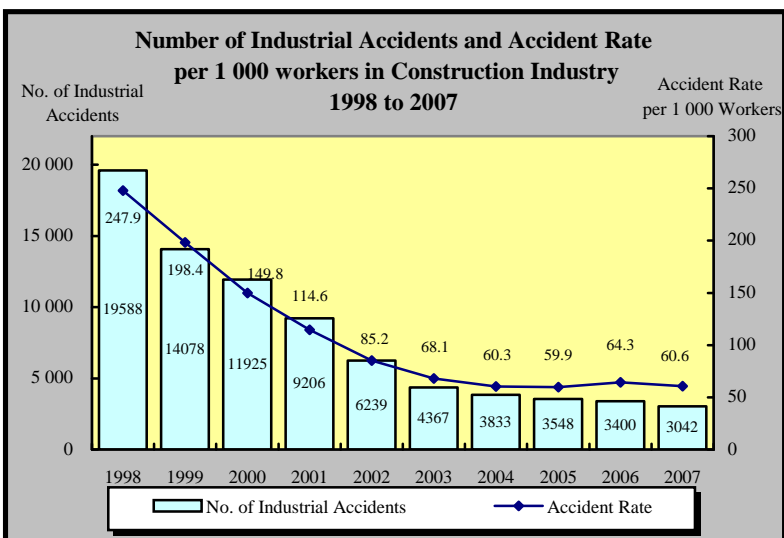
# Industrial Accidents



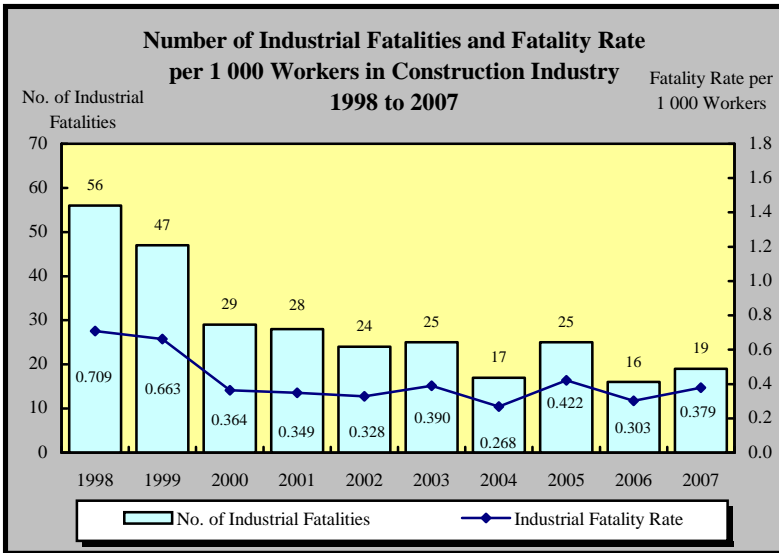
- The number of industrial accidents in 2007 was 16 117, lower than 17 286 in 2006 by 6.8%, 43 034 in 1998 by 62.5% and the average of the past five years (17 020) by 5.3%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers in 2007 was 29.3, lower than 31.5 in 2006 by 6.9%, 64.7 in 1998 by 54.7% and the average of the past five years (30.8) by 5.0%.



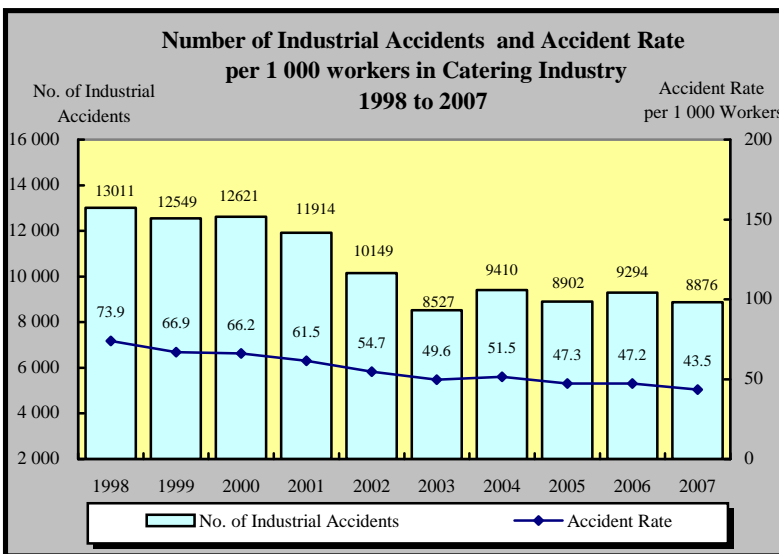
- In 2007 the number of industrial fatalities was 25, lower than 26 in 2006 by 3.8%, 68 in 1998 by 63.2% and the average of the past five years (26.4) by 5.3%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers in 2007 was 0.045, lower than 0.047 in 2006 by 4.0%, 0.102 in 1998 by 55.6% and the average of the past five years (0.048) by 5.0%.
- On average, about 77% of the industrial fatalities occurred in the construction industry in the past five years.



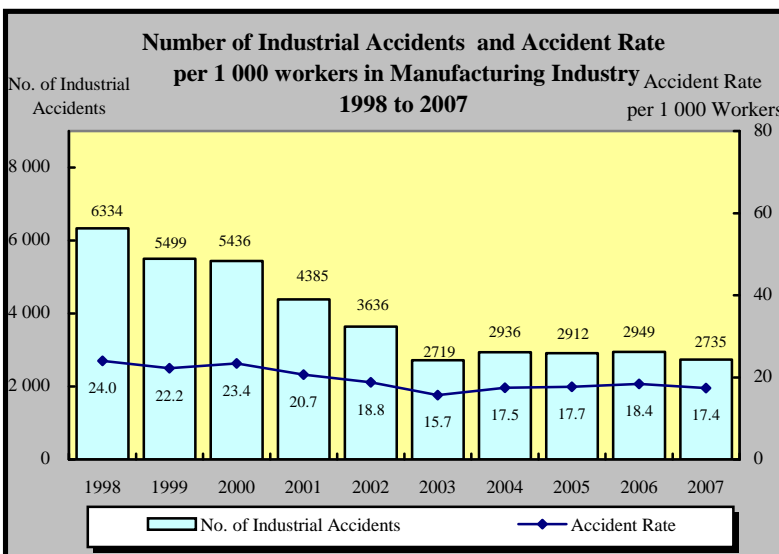
- In 2007, there were 3 042 industrial accidents in the construction industry, lower than 3 400 in 2006 by 10.5%, 19 588 in 1998 by 84.5% and the average of the past five years (3 638) by 16.4%. It was the lowest over the past ten years.
- The accident rate of the construction industry in 2007 was 60.6, lower than 64.3 in 2006 by 5.8%, 247.9 in 1998 by 75.6% and the average of the past five years (62.7) by 3.2%.



- In 2007, the number of industrial fatalities in the construction industry was 19, higher than 16 in 2006 by 18.8%, but lower than 56 in 1998 by 66.1% and the average of the past five years (20.4) by 6.9%.
- The industrial fatality rate of the construction industry in 2007 was 0.379, higher than 0.303 in 2006 by 25.1% and the average of the past five years (0.352) by 7.5%, but lower than 0.709 in 1998 by 46.6%.



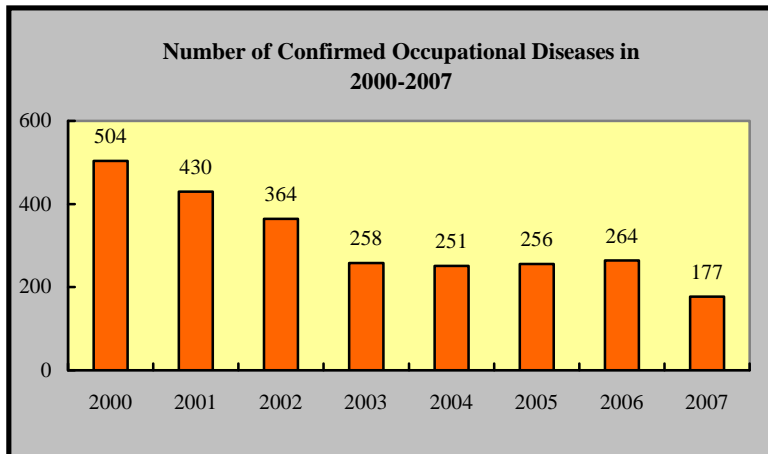
- In 2007, there were 8 876 industrial accidents in the catering industry, lower than 9 294 in 2006 by 4.5%, 13 011 in 1998 by 31.8% and the average of the past five years (9 002) by 1.4%.
- The accident rate of the catering industry in 2007 was 43.5, lower than 47.2 in 2006 by 7.8%, 73.9 in 1998 by 41.1% and the average of the past five years (47.8) by 9.0%.



- In 2007, there were 2 735 industrial accidents in the manufacturing industry, lower than 2 949 in 2006 by 7.3%, 6 334 in 1998 by 56.8% and the average of the past five years (2 850) by 4.0%.
- The accident rate of the manufacturing industry in 2007 was 17.4, lower than 18.4 in 2006 by 5.2% and 24.0 in 1998 by 27.5%, but slightly higher than the average of the past five years (17.3) by 0.5%.

## Occupational Diseases

### Total Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2000-2007



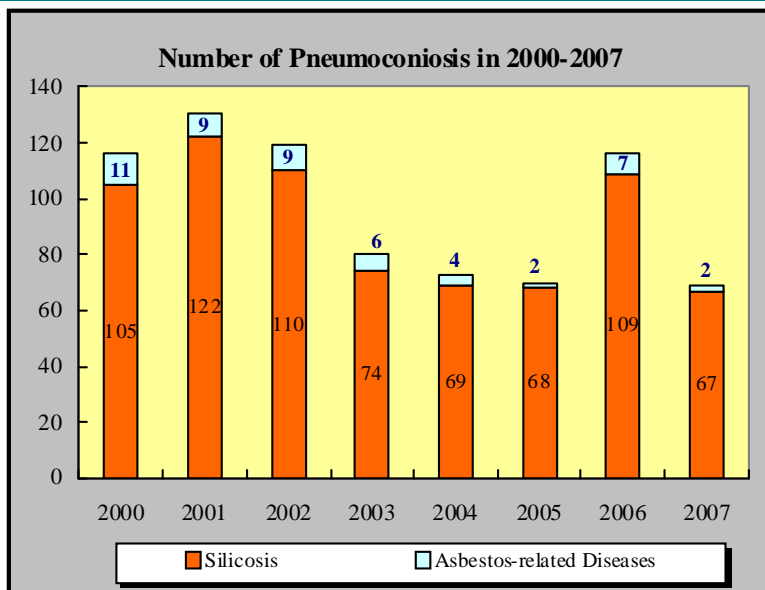
- The number of confirmed occupational disease cases decreased from 264 cases in 2006 to 177 cases in 2007.

### Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2007

Occupational Disease	Number
Silicosis	67
Occupational Deafness	47
Tenosynovitis of Hand or Forearm	35
Tuberculosis	16
Occupational Dermatitis	7
Asbestos-related Diseases	2
Gas Poisoning	1
<i>Streptococcus suis</i> Infection	1
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>177</b>

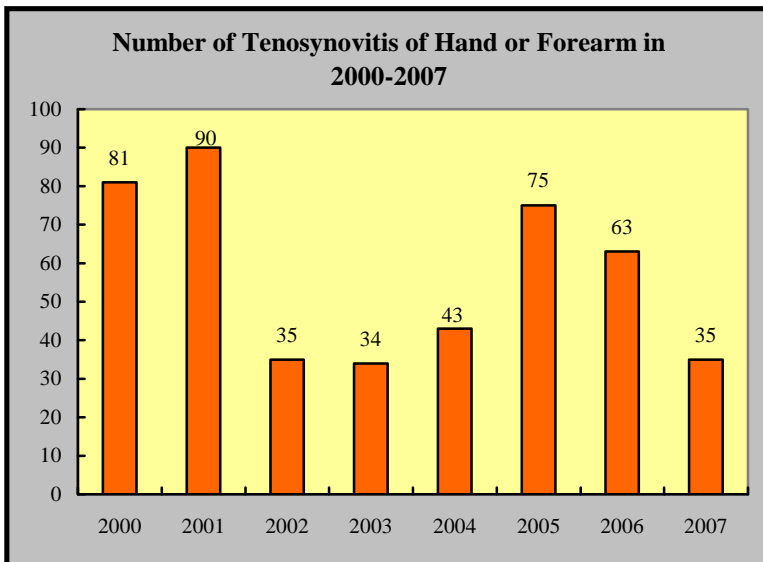
- The most common occupational diseases confirmed in 2007 were silicosis, occupational deafness, tenosynovitis of hand or forearm and tuberculosis.

### Pneumoconiosis



- In 2007, there were 67 cases of silicosis, compared with 109 cases in 2006. Most of these cases involved in construction workers and many of them had previously been exposed to high levels of silica dust in hand-dug caisson work.
- In fact, the number of confirmed silicosis cases had generally been on a declining trend in the past decade, in spite of a rise in 2006.
- The 2 cases of asbestos-related diseases were engaged in the shipbuilding, repairing & demolition industry.

## Tenosynovitis of Hand or Forearm

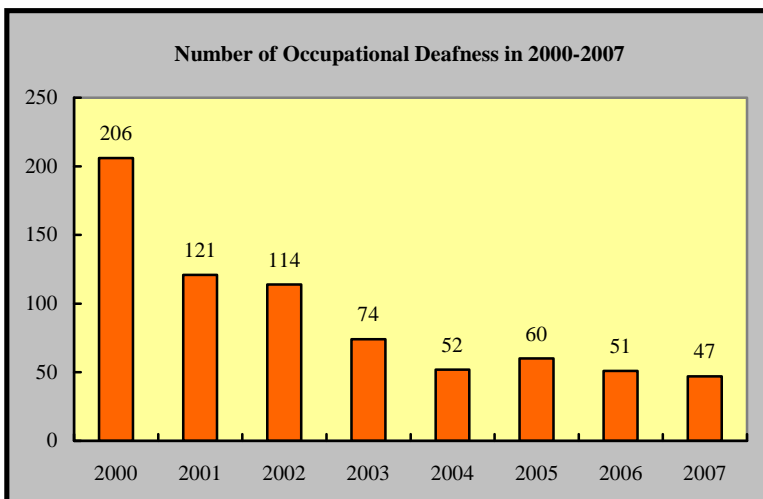


- In 2007, there were 35 confirmed cases. The disease was common among cleaners, general labourers, catering workers as well as clerical and other office personnel.

- Distribution by industry of the 35 cases in 2007:

- 37% Community, social and personal services
- 29% Wholesales, retail and import/export trades restaurants and hotels
- 20% Financing, insurance and real estate and business services
- 6% Manufacturing
- 8% Others

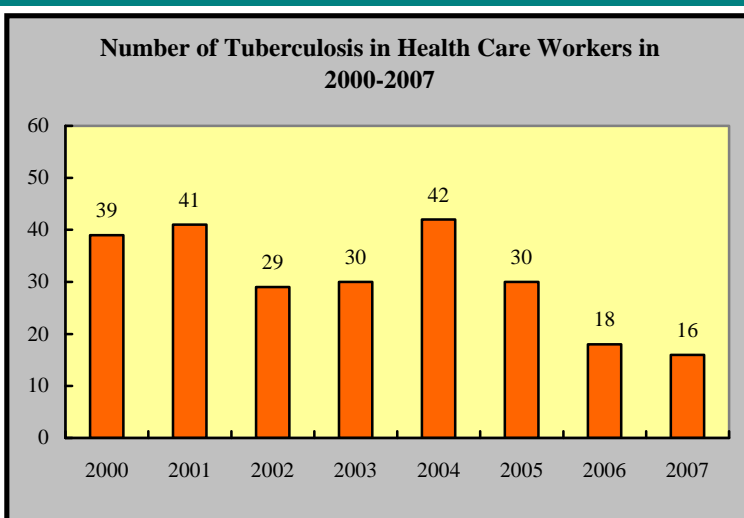
## Occupational Deafness



- The 47 cases in 2007 were engaged in the following work:

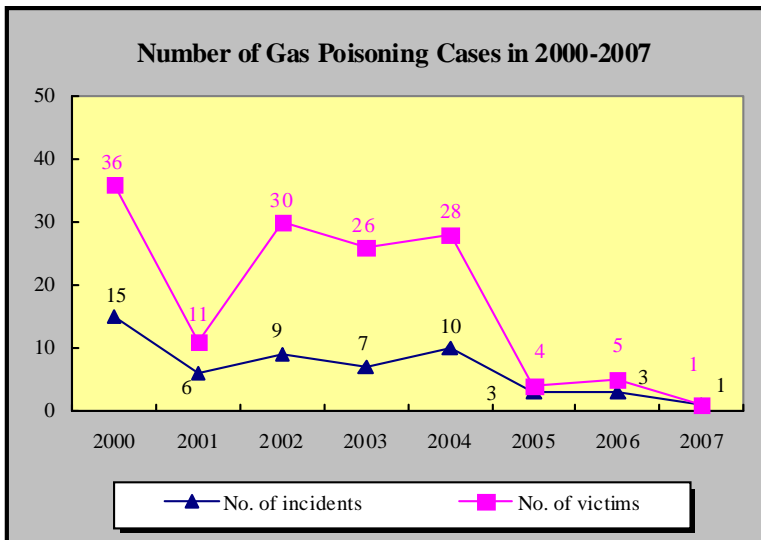
- 51% Rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion
- 19% Metal grinding
- 11% Working near jet engine/pressurized fuel burners/internal combustion engine
- 6% Machine operation (such as planning machine, automatic lathes, circular sawing machine, etc).
- 4% Weaving and Spinning
- 2% Metal Percussion
- 7% Others

## Tuberculosis in Health Care Workers



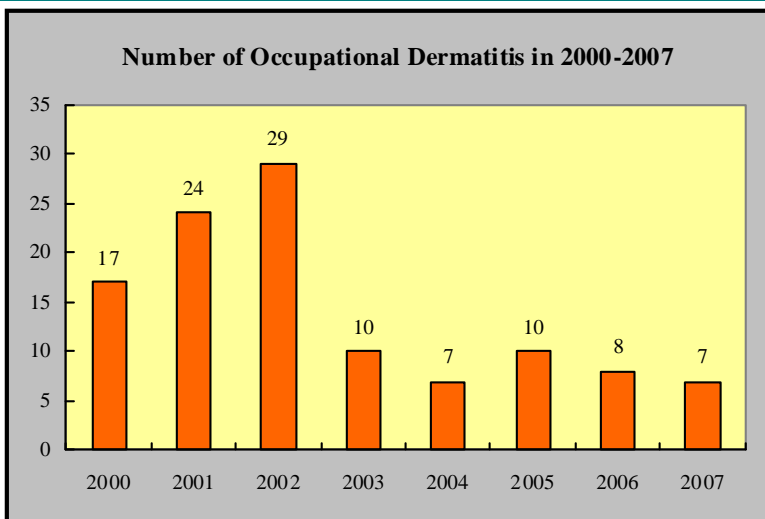
- Among the 16 cases confirmed in 2007, 15 of them worked in public hospitals and clinics while the other one worked in an old aged home.

## Gas Poisoning



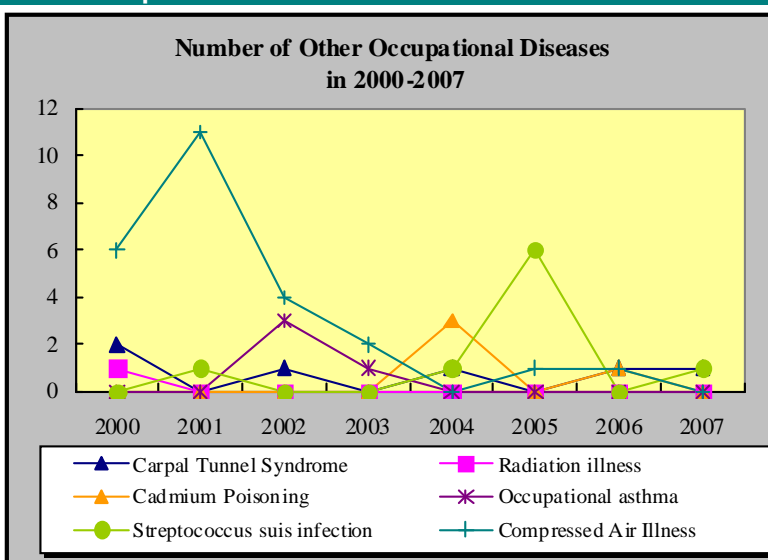
- There was 1 incident of gas poisoning confirmed in 2007 and 1 worker was injured. The noxious chemical agents identified were nitric acid and hydrochloric acid.

## Occupational Dermatitis



- The causative agents identified among the 7 cases in 2007 included organic solvents, food additives, paint and cleansing agents, etc.

## Other Occupational Diseases



- In 2007, there was 1 confirmed case of *streptococcus suis* infection and the worker worked in the meat industry. Besides, there was 1 case of carpal tunnel syndrome and the worker was a technician in repairing service.

## 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 consecutive 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 Undertaking Ordinance.

Since 1.1.1998, Labour Department has used the date of occurrence of an injury as the basis for computing work injury statistics instead of the date of reporting in order to reflect more accurately the number of work injuries occurring in the year.

**Occupational diseases** are the notifiable occupational diseases covered by the Schedule 2 to the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Chapter 509) and diseases caused by accidental inhalation of noxious gas at the workplace.

**Injury rate per 1 000 employees** is calculated by:

$$\frac{\text{Number of occupational injuries}}{\text{Persons engaged in all economic activities}} \times 1\,000$$

**Accident rate per 1 000 workers** is calculated by:

$$\frac{\text{Number of industrial accidents}}{\text{Persons engaged in relevant industries}} \times 1\,000$$

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**

**For complaints regarding unsafe workplaces and practices,  
please call the Accident Analysis and Information Division at Tel 2542 2172**

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