

Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Bulletin



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Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Labour Department



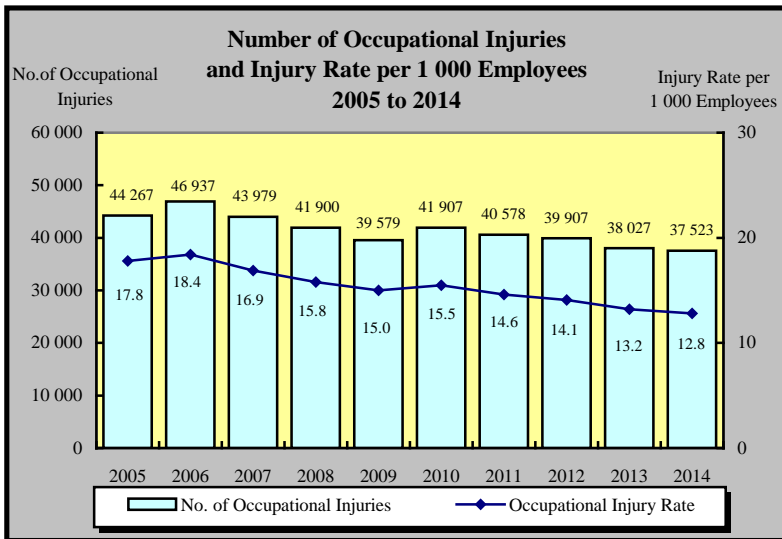
This Bulletin provides statistics of work-related accidents and confirmed cases of occupational disease in Hong Kong with information, analysis and trend on various economic sectors and selected industries. Employers, employees and occupational safety and health practitioners, by benchmarking against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

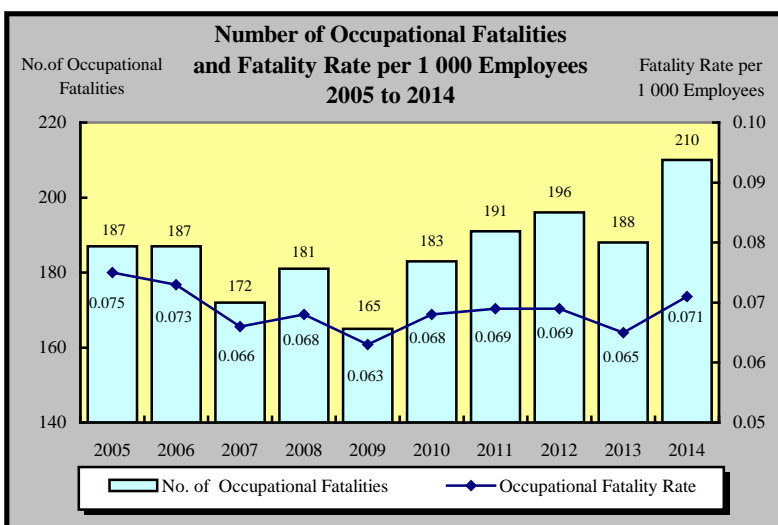
In 2014, the number of occupational injuries in all workplaces stood at 37 523, a decrease of 1.3 per cent over 2013, while the injury rate per 1 000 employees decreased from 13.2 to 12.8, a decrease of 3.2 per cent. The number of industrial accidents in all industries in 2014 stood at 11 677, a decrease of 1.2 per cent over 2013, while the accident rate per 1 000 workers decreased from 19.6 to 19.0, down by 3.1 per cent.

The high-risk construction industry recorded 3 467 industrial accidents in 2014, 7.3 per cent up when compared to 3 232 in 2013. Over the same period, the accident rate per 1 000 workers increased by 2.7 per cent from 40.8 to 41.9. Although the number of accidents fell by 2.3 per cent and the accident rate also dropped by 30.1 per cent in the past decade, the construction industry still recorded highest number of fatalities and accident rate among all industry sectors.

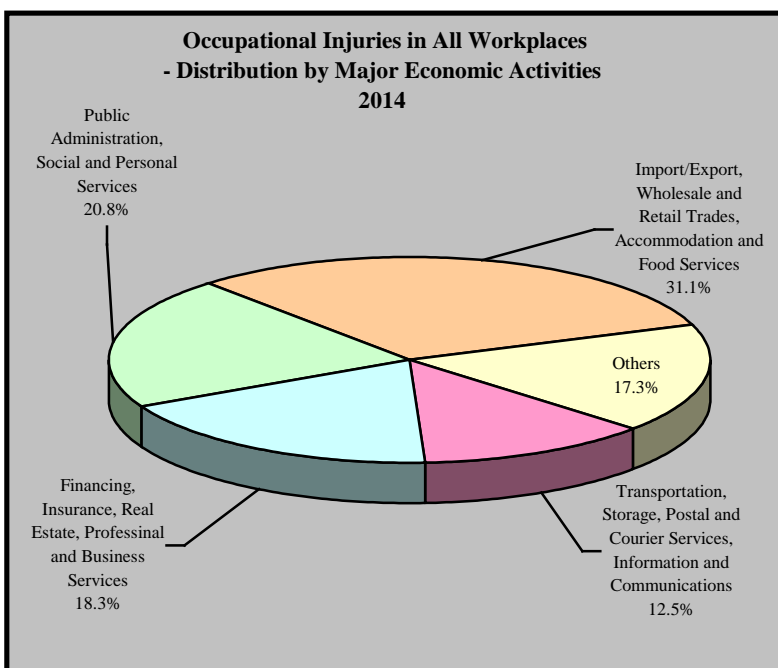
Occupational Injuries



- In 2014, there were 37 523 occupational injuries, lower than 38 027 in 2013 by 1.3%, 44 267 in 2005 by 15.2% and the average of the past five years (39 588) by 5.2%.
- The injury rate per 1 000 employees in 2014 was 12.8, lower than 13.2 in 2013 by 3.2%, 17.8 in 2005 by 28.3% and the average of the past five years (14.0) by 9.0%.

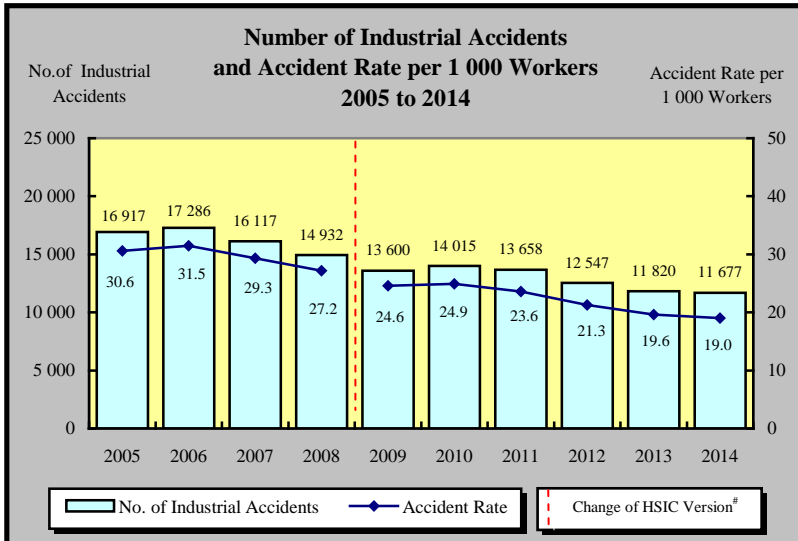


- In 2014, there were 210 occupational fatalities, higher than 188 in 2013 by 11.7%, 187 in 2005 by 12.3% and the average of the past five years (194) by 8.5%.
- The occupational fatality rate in 2014 was 0.071 per 1 000 employees, higher than 0.065 in 2013 by 9.5%, lower than 0.075 in 2005 by 5.0% and higher than the average of the past five years (0.068) by 4.4%

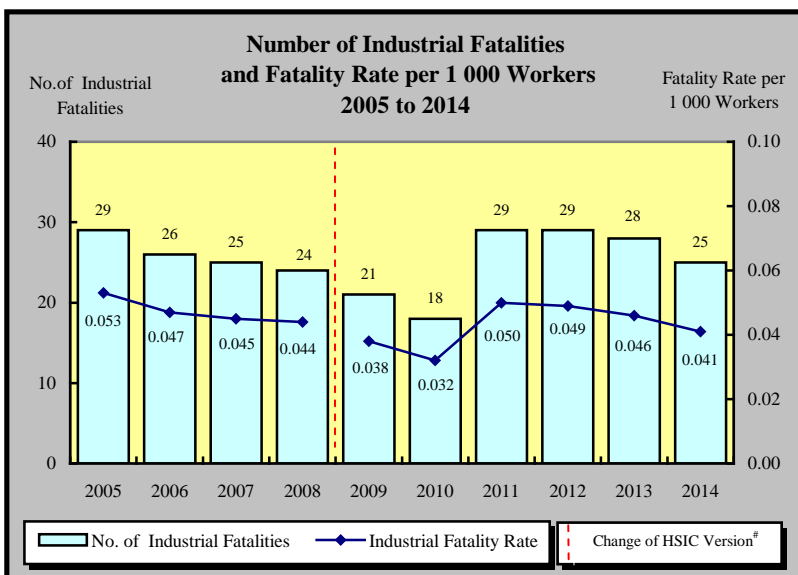


- Of the 37 523 occupational injuries in 2014, over 82% occurred in the following major economic sectors:
 - 31.1% Import/Export, Wholesale and Retail Trades, Accommodation and Food Services
 - 20.8% Public Administration, Social and Personal Services
 - 18.3% Financing, Insurance, Real Estate, Professional and Business Services
 - 12.5% Transportation, Storage, Postal and Courier Services, Information and Communications

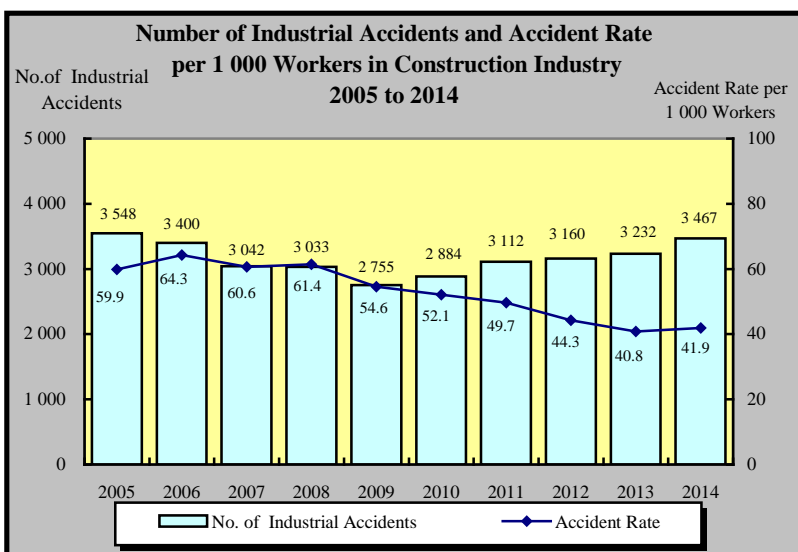
Industrial Accidents



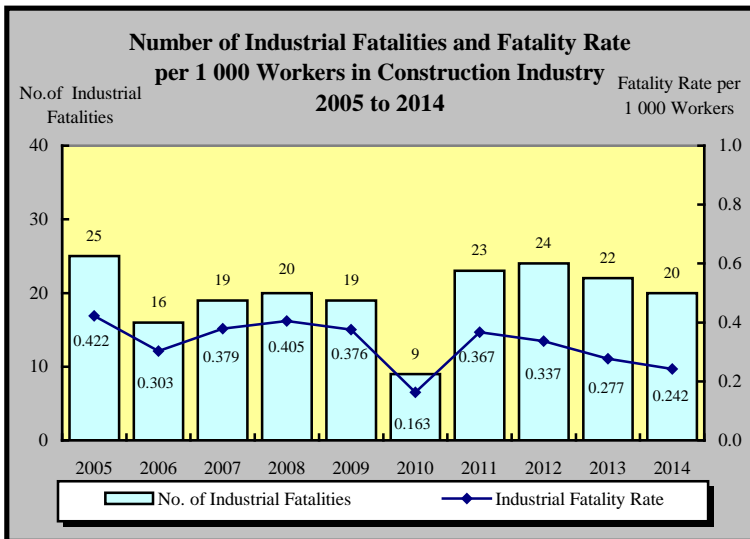
- In 2014, the number of industrial accidents was 11 677, lower than 11 820 in 2013 by 1.2% and the average of the past five years (12 743) by 8.4%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers in 2014 was 19.0, lower than 19.6 in 2013 by 3.1% and the average of the past five years (21.7) by 12.3%.



- In 2014, the number of industrial fatalities was 25, lower than 28 in 2013 by 10.7% and the average of the past five years (26) by 3.1%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers in 2014 was 0.041, lower than 0.046 in 2013 by 12.4% and the average of the past five years (0.044) by 6.8%.

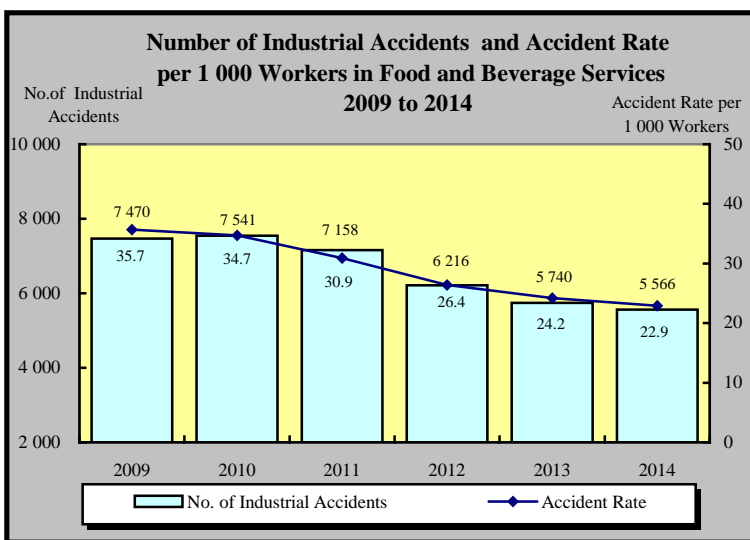


- In 2014, there were 3 467 industrial accidents in the construction industry, higher than 3 232 in 2013 by 7.3%, lower than 3 548 in 2005 by 2.3% and higher than the average of the past five years (3 171) by 9.3%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2014 was 41.9, higher than 40.8 in 2013 by 2.7%, lower than 59.9 in 2005 by 30.1% and the average of the past five years (45.8) by 8.5%.

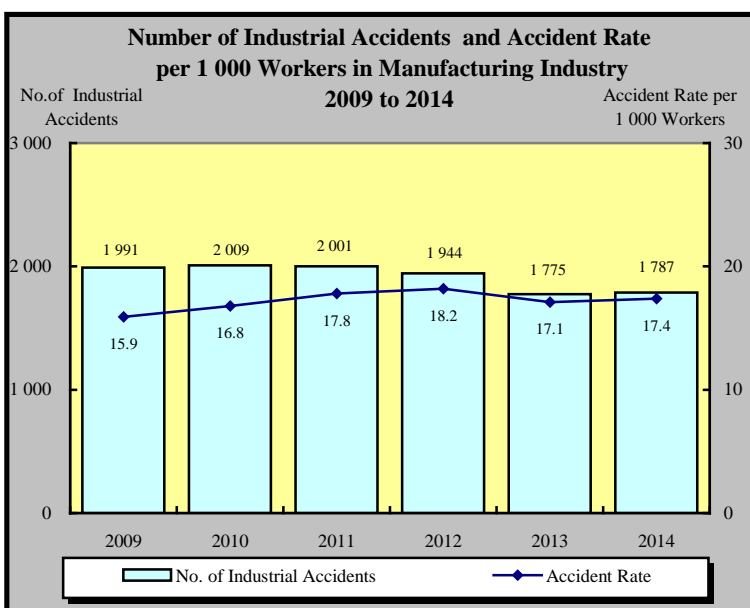


- In 2014, the number of industrial fatalities in the construction industry was 20, lower than 22 in 2013 by 9.1% and 25 in 2005 by 20% and higher than the average of the past five years (about 20)* by 2.0%.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2014 was 0.242, lower than 0.277 in 2013 by 12.9%, 0.422 in 2005 by 42.7% and the average of the past five years (0.277) by 12.8%.

*The average figure of the past five years had been rounded up from 19.6 to 20.



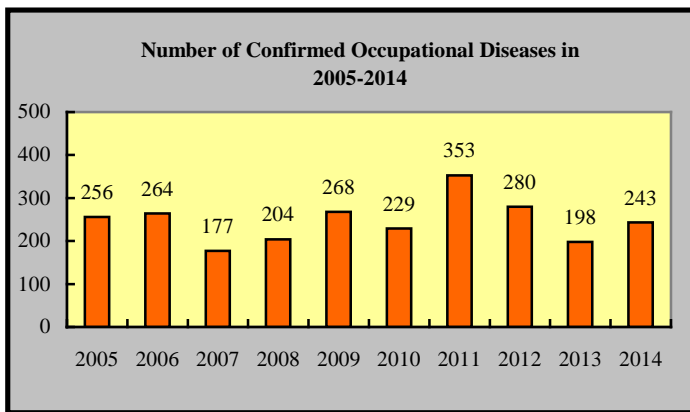
- In 2014, there were 5 566 industrial accidents in the food and beverage services, lower than 5 740 in 2013 by 3.0% and the average of the past five years (6 444) by 13.6%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the food and beverage services in 2014 was 22.9, lower than 24.2 in 2013 by 5.3% and the average of the past five years (27.8) by 17.7%.



- In 2014, there were 1 787 industrial accidents in the manufacturing industry, higher than 1 775 in 2013 by 0.7% and lower than the average of the past five years (1 903) by 6.1%.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the manufacturing industry in 2014 was 17.4, higher than 17.1 in 2013 by 1.9% and lower than the average of the past five years (17.5) by 0.1%.

Occupational Diseases

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2005-2014



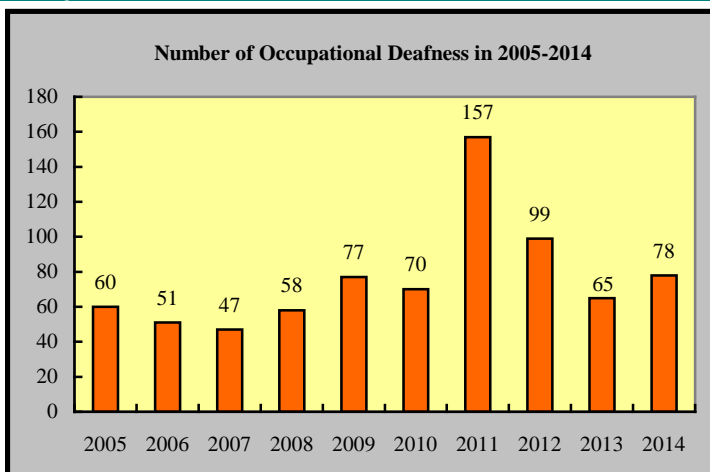
- In 2014, there were 243 cases of confirmed occupational diseases, compared with 198 in 2013.

Number of Confirmed Occupational Diseases in 2014

Occupational Disease	Number
Occupational Deafness	78
Silicosis	68
Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm	64
Mesothelioma	14
Tuberculosis	7
Gas Poisoning	6
Compressed Air Illness	2
Asbestosis	2
Occupational Dermatitis	1
Infection by <i>Streptococcus suis</i>	1
Total	243

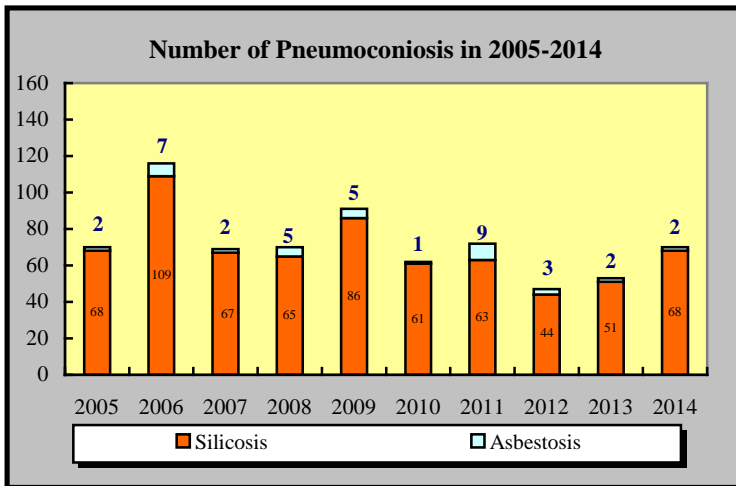
- The most common occupational diseases confirmed in 2014 were occupational deafness, silicosis and tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm.

Occupational Deafness



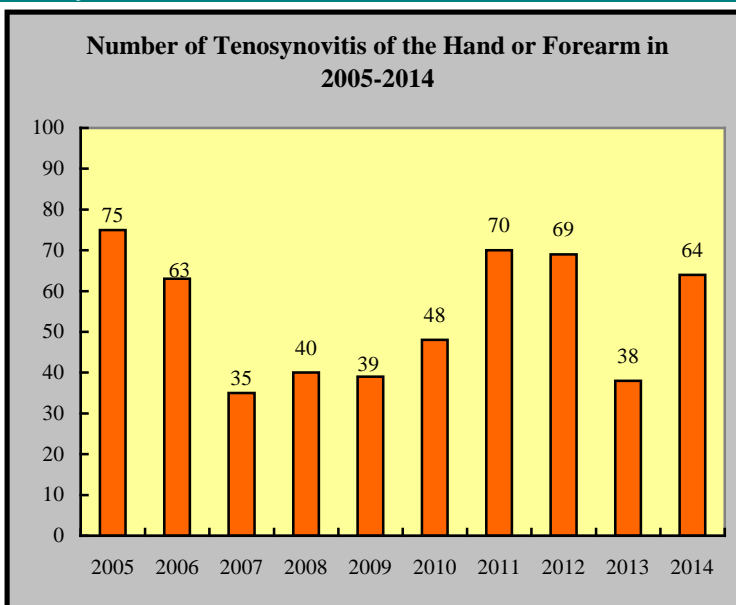
- The 78 cases of occupational deafness in 2014 were engaged in the following work:
 - 48.7% Rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion
 - 17.9% Metal grinding
 - 16.7% Working near internal combustion engines, turbines, pressurised fuel burners or jet engines
 - 6.4% Weaving or spinning
 - 3.8% Pile driving
 - 1.3% Using routing, planing, circular sawing machine
 - 1.3% Abrasive blasting operation
 - 1.3% High speed web-fed offset printing
 - 1.3% Plastic materials granulation
 - 1.3% Car body repair or making metal articles by manual hammering
- The coverage of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance has been extended to employees with noise-induced monaural hearing loss in April 2010. In 2014, there were 24 such cases.

Pneumoconiosis



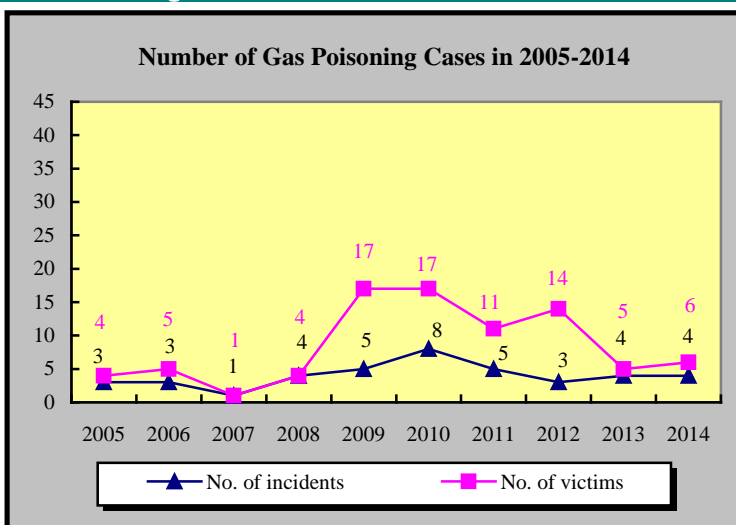
- In 2014, there were 68 confirmed cases of silicosis. Most of these cases worked in the construction industry.
- Those silicosis cases had history of exposure to the silica dust in their occupations many years ago. In the past 10 years, the number of confirmed cases was in a decreasing trend but occasionally with year on year fluctuation.
- There were 2 confirmed cases of asbestosis, they were employees in the construction and quarry industries.

Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm



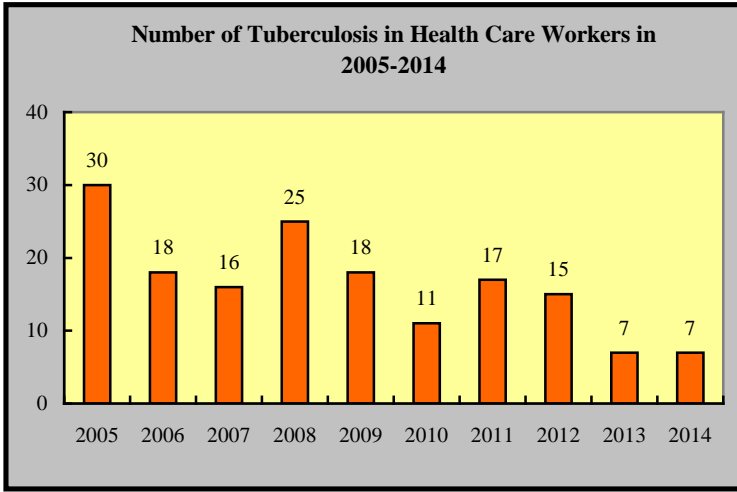
- In 2014, there were 64 confirmed cases of tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm. The disease was common among services and sales workers, clerical support workers, elementary occupations etc.
- Distribution by industry of the 64 cases in 2014:
 - 45.3% Public administration, and social and personal services
 - 20.3% Accommodation and food services
 - 9.3% Import/Export, wholesale and retail trades
 - 7.8% Manufacturing
 - 6.3% Financial and insurance activities
 - 4.7% Information and communications
 - 4.7% Transportation, storage, postal and courier services
 - 1.6% Construction

Gas Poisoning



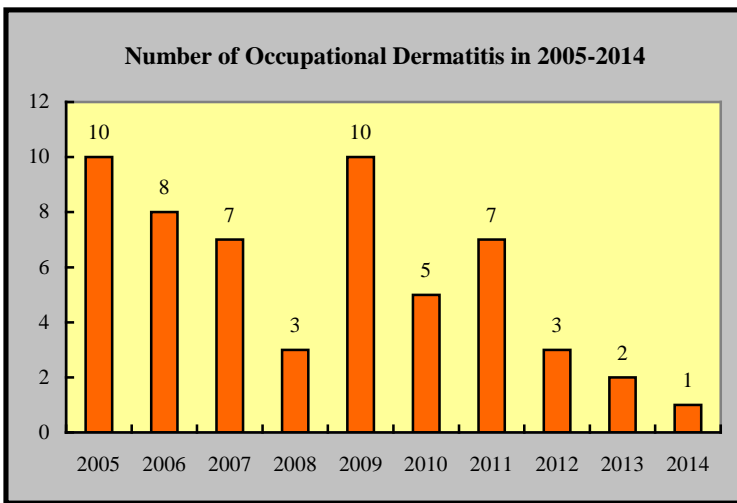
- There were 4 incidents of gas poisoning in 2014 and 6 workers were injured. The noxious chemical agents identified were ozone, sewage gas etc.

Tuberculosis in Health Care Workers



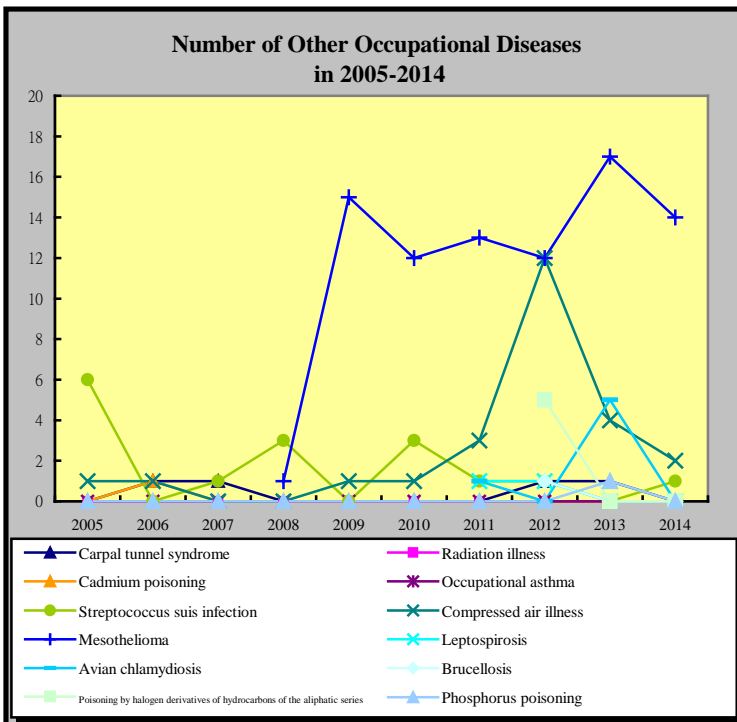
- Regarding the 7 cases of tuberculosis confirmed in 2014, the disease most commonly occurred among nurses, doctors, personal care workers in health services, etc.

Occupational Dermatitis



- The causative agents for the case of occupational dermatitis in 2014 was related to construction materials.

Other Occupational Diseases



- In 2014, there were 2 confirmed cases of compressed air illness. All of them were engaged in compressed air work.
- In 2014, there were 14 confirmed cases of mesothelioma and most of the cases were engaged in the construction, quarry and shipbuilding industries.
- In 2014, there was 1 confirmed case of infection by *Streptococcus suis* 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 Support Services Division at Tel 2542 2172**

All complaints will be treated in the strictest confidence

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