

# Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Bulletin



Issue No. 24 ( August 2024 )

Occupational Safety and Health Branch, Labour Department



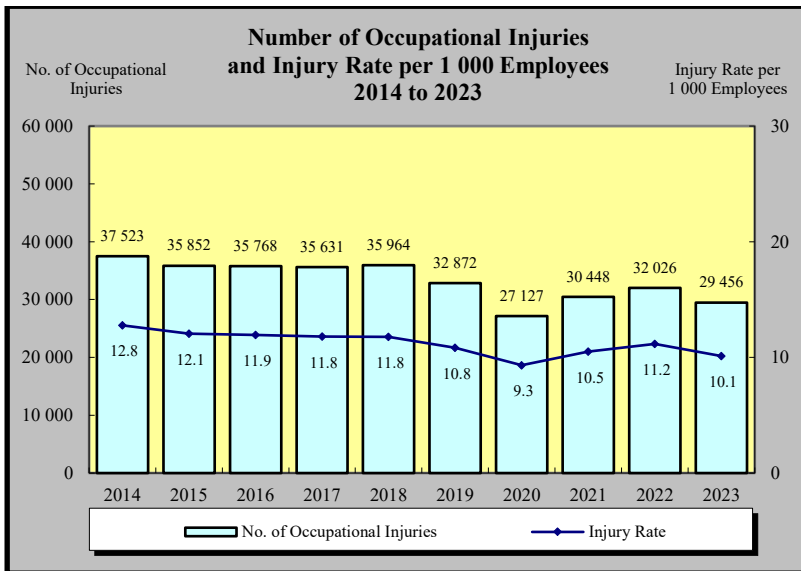
This Bulletin provides statistics of work-related accidents and confirmed cases of occupational disease in Hong Kong with information, analysis and trend on various economic sectors and selected industries. Employers, employees and occupational safety and health practitioners, by benchmarking against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

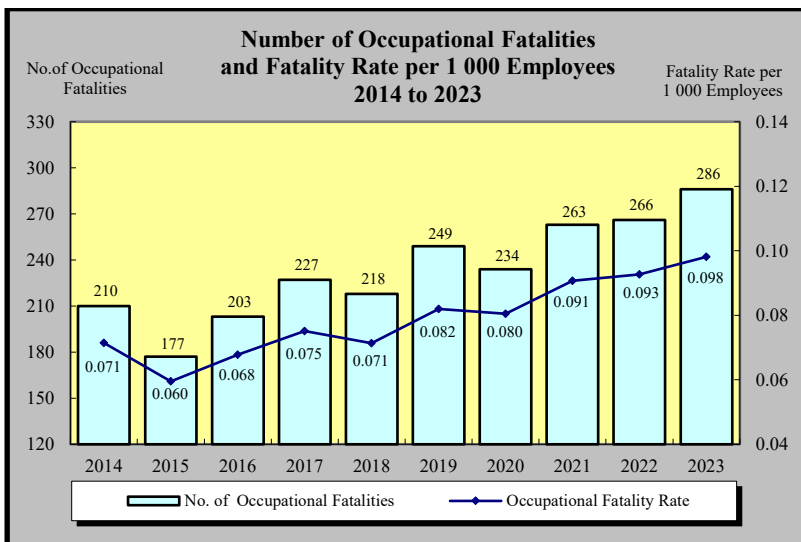
In 2023, the number of occupational injuries in all workplaces was 29 456, and it was 32 026 in 2022. The injury rate per 1 000 employees was 10.1 in 2023 and it was 11.2 in 2022. The number of industrial accidents in all industries in 2023 was 8 134, and it was 7 762 in 2022. The accident rate per 1 000 workers was 13.8 in 2023 and it was 13.5 in 2022.

The high-risk construction industry recorded 3 097 industrial accidents in 2023, and it was 3 046 in 2022. The accident rate per 1 000 workers was 27.6 in 2023 while it was 29.1 in 2022. The construction industry still recorded the highest number of fatalities and accident rate among all industry sectors.

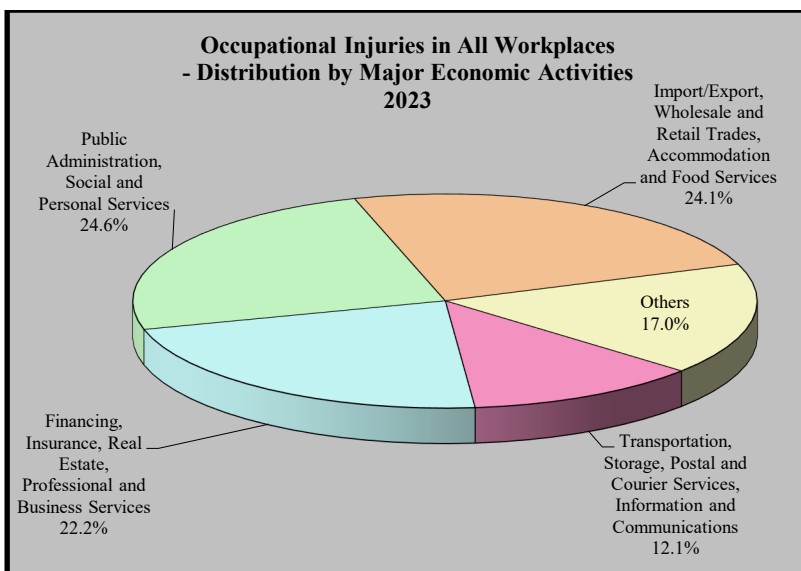
# Occupational Injuries



- In 2023, there were 29 456 occupational injuries. It was 32 026 in 2022 and 37 523 in 2014. The average of the past five years was 30 386.
- The injury rate per 1 000 employees in 2023 was 10.1. It was 11.2 in 2022 and 12.8 in 2014. The average of the past five years was 10.4.

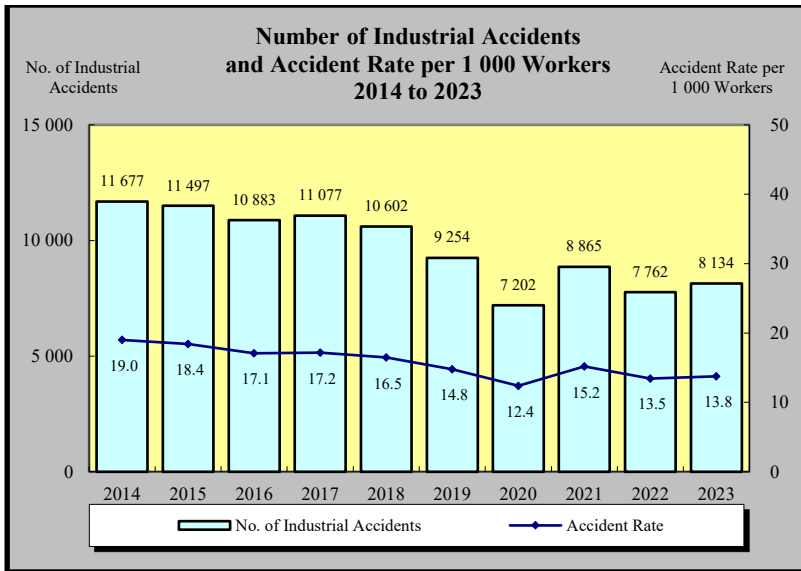


- In 2023, there were 286 occupational fatalities. It was 266 in 2022 and 210 in 2014. The average of the past five years was 260.
- The occupational fatality rate per 1 000 employees in 2023 was 0.098. It was 0.093 in 2022 and 0.071 in 2014. The average of the past five years was 0.089.

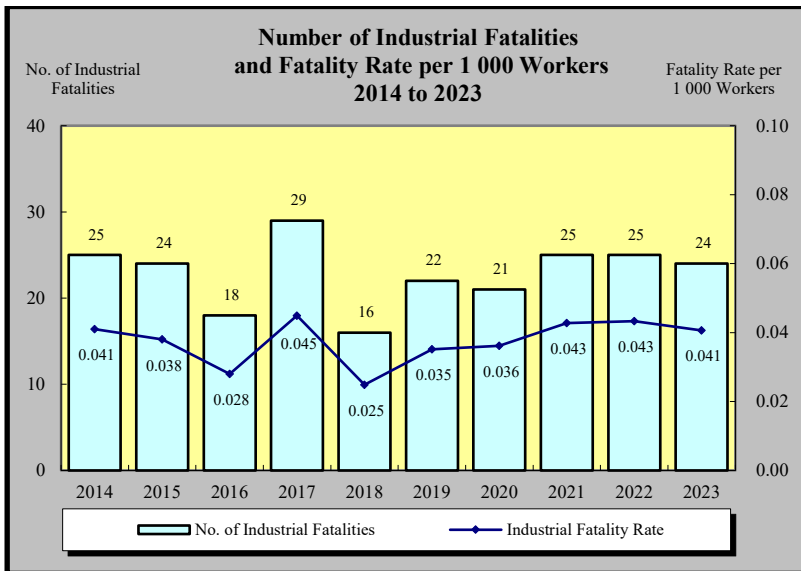


- Of the 29 456 occupational injuries in 2023, over 80% occurred in the following major economic sectors:
  - 24.6% Public Administration, Social and Personal Services
  - 24.1% Import/Export, Wholesale and Retail Trades, Accommodation and Food Services
  - 22.2% Financing, Insurance, Real Estate, Professional and Business Services
  - 12.1% Transportation, Storage, Postal and Courier Services, Information and Communications

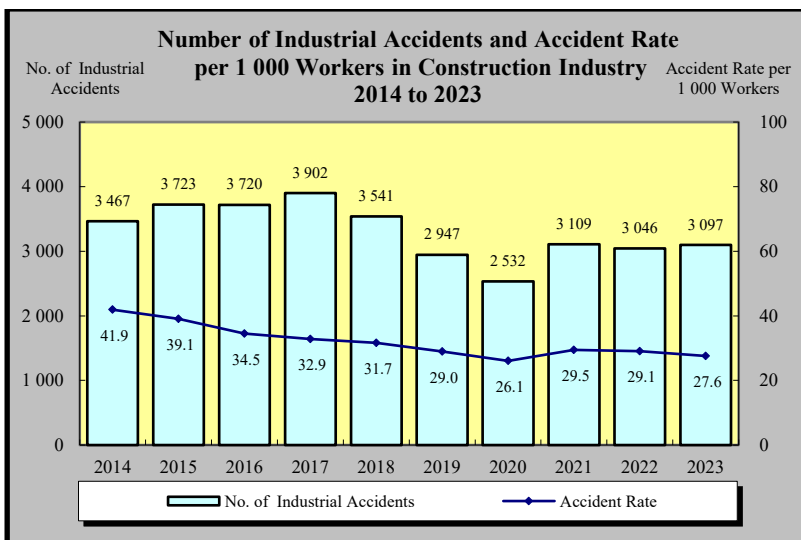
# Industrial Accidents



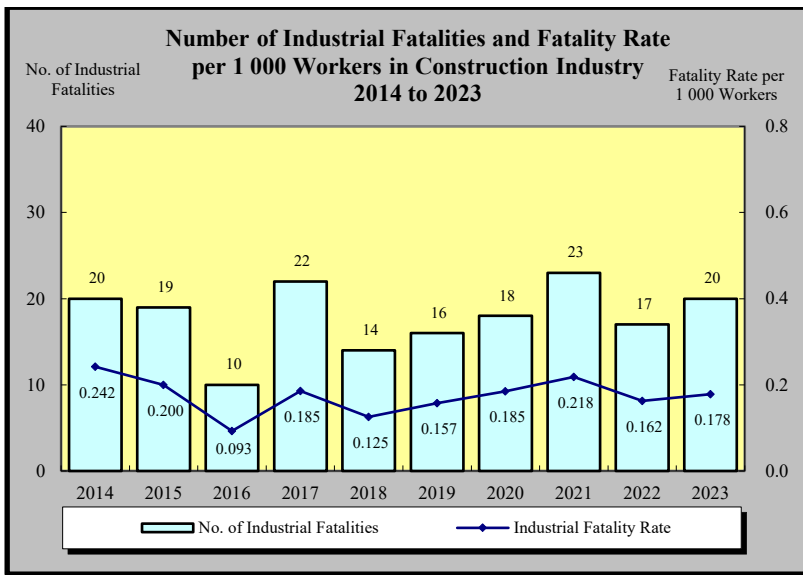
- In 2023, the number of industrial accidents was 8 134. It was 7 762 in 2022 and 11 677 in 2014. The average of the past five years was 8 243.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers in 2023 was 13.8. It was 13.5 in 2022 and 19.0 in 2014. The average of the past five years was 13.9.



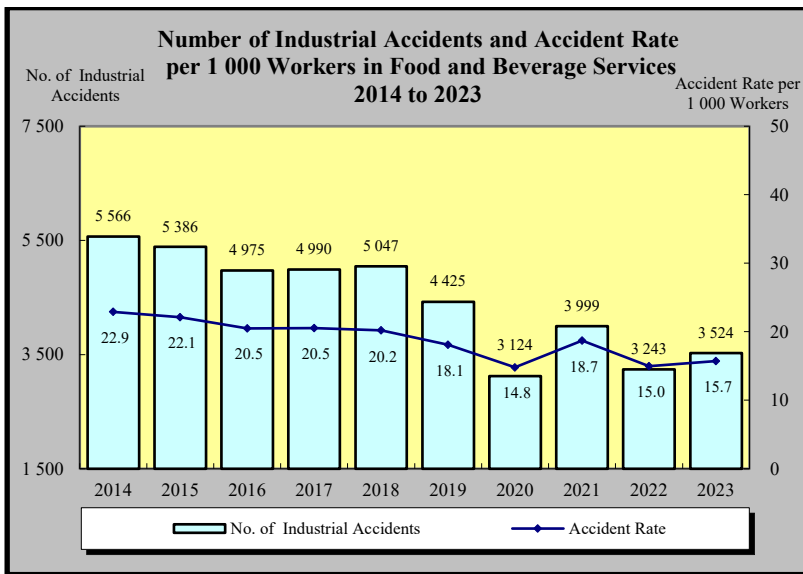
- In 2023, the number of industrial fatalities was 24. It was 25 in both 2022 and 2014. The average of the past five years was 23.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers in 2023 was 0.041. It was 0.043 in 2022 and 0.041 in 2014. The average of the past five years was 0.040.



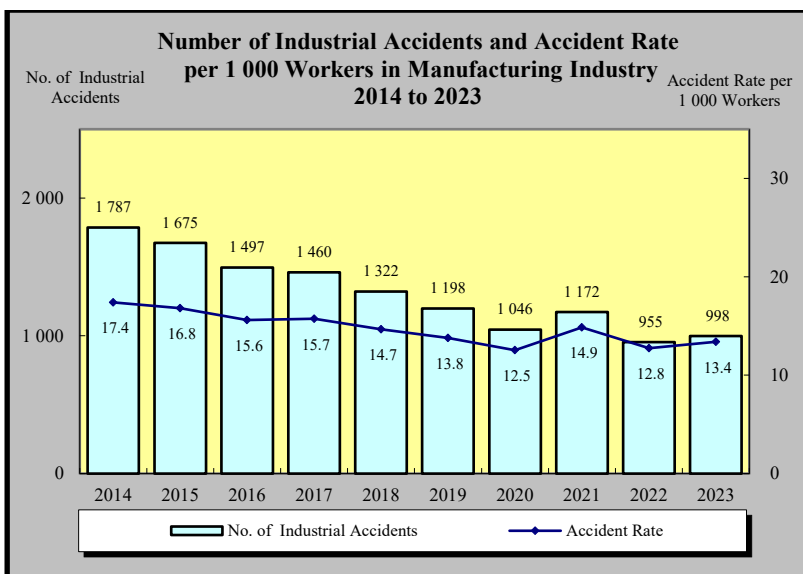
- In 2023, there were 3 097 industrial accidents in the construction industry. It was 3 046 in 2022 and 3 467 in 2014. The average of the past five years was 2 946.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2023 was 27.6. It was 29.1 in 2022 and 41.9 in 2014. The average of the past five years was 28.2.



- In 2023, the number of industrial fatalities in the construction industry was 20. It was 17 in 2022 and 20 in 2014. The average of the past five years was 19.
- The industrial fatality rate per 1 000 workers of the construction industry in 2023 was 0.178. It was 0.162 in 2022 and 0.242 in 2014. The average of the past five years was 0.180.



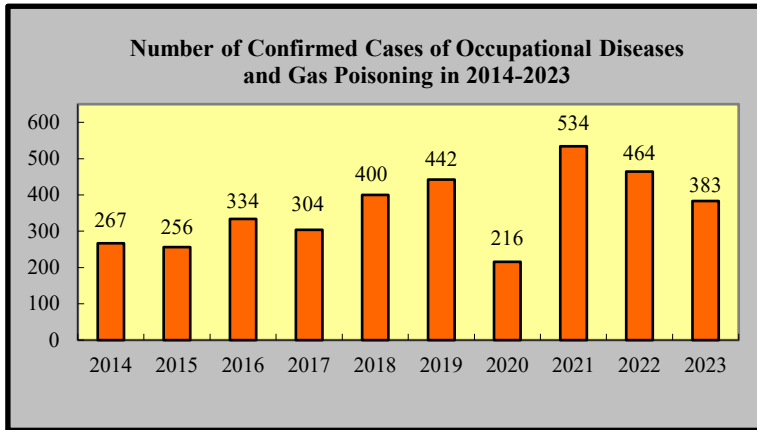
- In 2023, there were 3 524 industrial accidents in the food and beverage services. It was 3 243 in 2022 and 5 566 in 2014. The average of the past five years was 3 663.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the food and beverage services in 2023 was 15.7. It was 15.0 in 2022 and 22.9 in 2014. The average of the past five years was 16.5.



- In 2023, there were 998 industrial accidents in the manufacturing industry. It was 955 in 2022 and 1 787 in 2014. The average of the past five years was 1 074.
- The accident rate per 1 000 workers of the manufacturing industry in 2023 was 13.4. It was 12.8 in 2022 and 17.4 in 2014. The average of the past five years was 13.5.

# Occupational Diseases

## Number of Confirmed Cases of Occupational Diseases and Gas Poisoning in 2014-2023



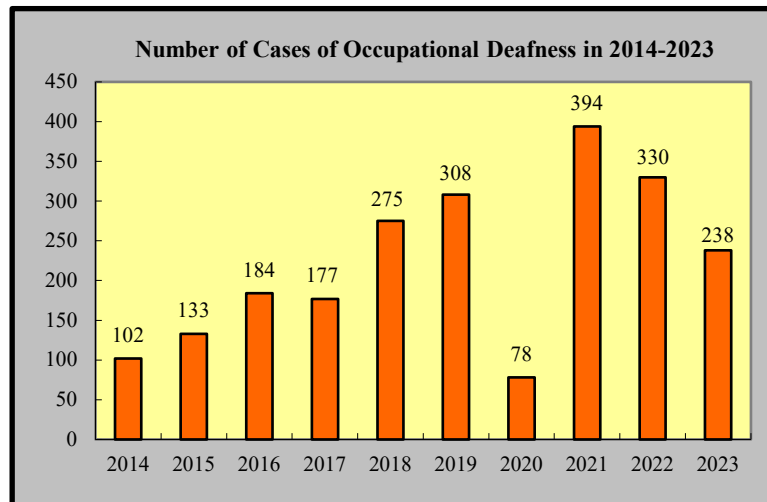
- In 2023, there were 383 confirmed cases of occupational diseases and gas poisoning, compared to 464 in 2022.

## Number of Confirmed Cases of Occupational Diseases and Gas Poisoning in 2023

| Occupational Disease                 | Number     |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Occupational Deafness                | 238        |
| Silicosis                            | 78         |
| Mesothelioma                         | 17         |
| Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm | 14         |
| Tuberculosis                         | 6          |
| Asbestosis                           | 3          |
| <i>Streptococcus suis</i> Infection  | 2          |
| Compressed Air Illness               | 2          |
| Gas Poisoning                        | 23         |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>383</b> |

- The most common occupational diseases confirmed in 2023 were occupational deafness, silicosis, mesothelioma and tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm.

## Occupational Deafness

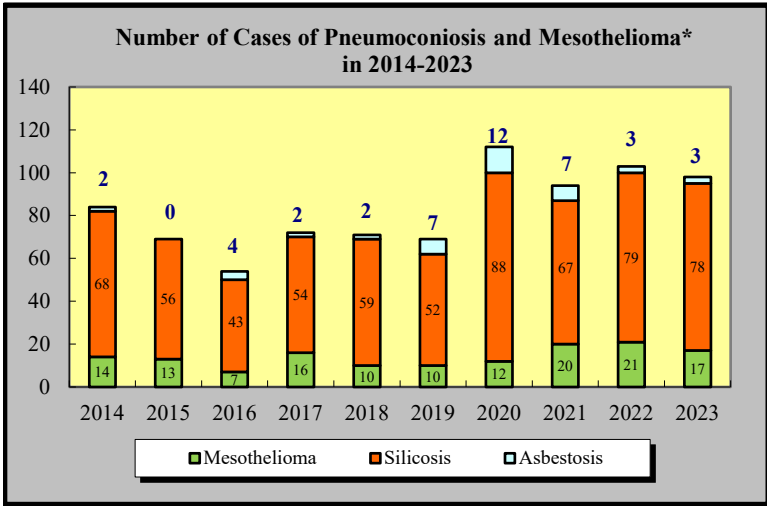


- There were 238 cases of occupational deafness in 2023. Cases were engaged in the following work#:

- 66.0% Rock grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussion
- 14.7% Working near internal combustion engines, turbines, pressurised fuel burners or jet engines
- 9.7% Pile driving
- 8.8% Metal grinding
- 0.4% High speed web-fed offset printing
- 0.4% Using routing, planing, circular sawing machine or automatic lathes

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

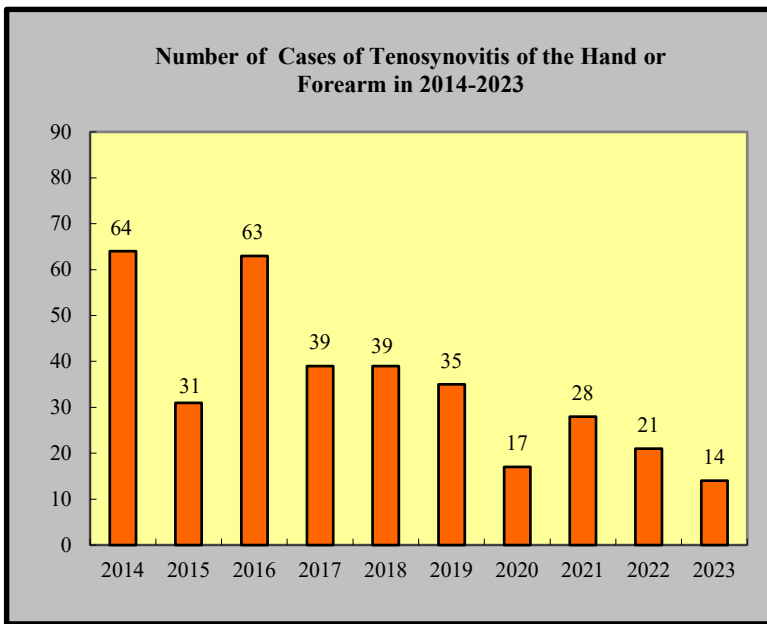
### Pneumoconiosis and Mesothelioma



\* Please refer to the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board for detailed statistical information on pneumoconiosis (including silicosis and asbestosis) and mesothelioma.

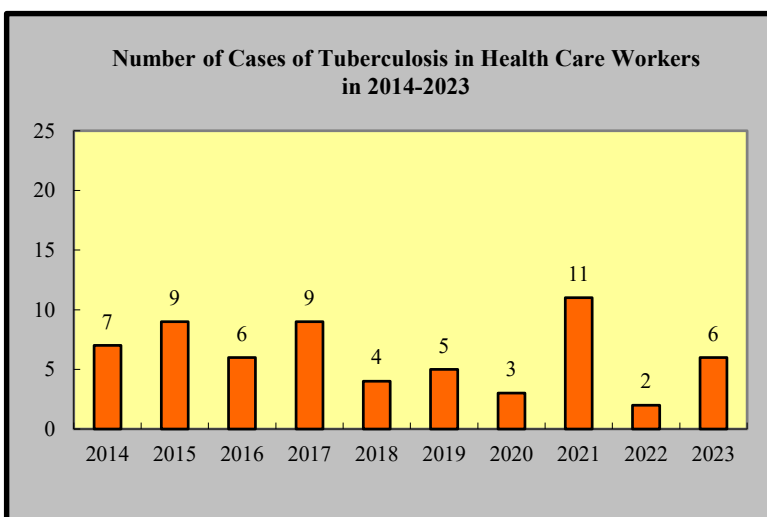
- In 2023, there were 78 confirmed cases of silicosis\*.
- Those silicosis cases had history of exposure to silica dust in their occupations many years ago. The latent period of silicosis could be as long as 10 to 20 years.
- There were 3 confirmed cases of asbestosis\* in 2023.
- In 2023, there were 17 confirmed cases of mesothelioma\*.
- Occupational exposure to asbestos dust could cause mesothelioma and the average latent period of the disease could be as long as 30 to 40 years.

### Tenosynovitis of the Hand or Forearm



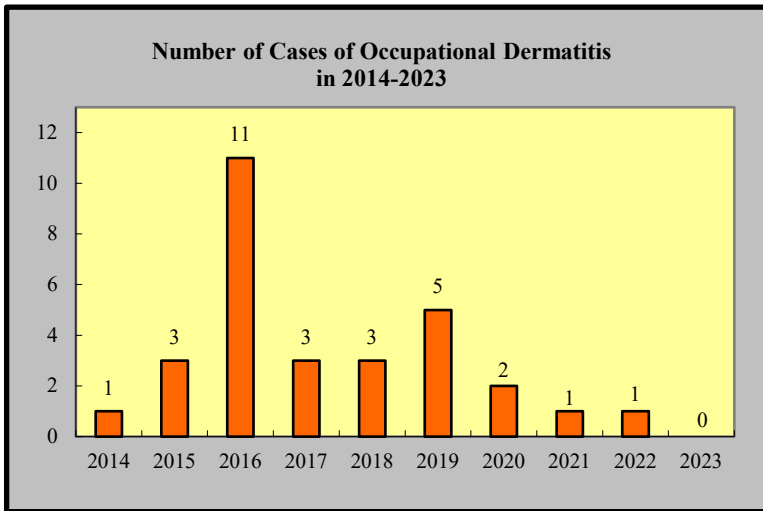
- In 2023, there were 14 confirmed cases of tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm. The disease was common among clerical support workers, services and sales workers and craft and related trade workers, etc.
- Distribution by industry of the 14 cases in 2023:
  - 28.6% Public administration, and social and personal services
  - 28.6% Accommodation and food services
  - 21.4% Import/export, wholesale and retail trades
  - 14.3% Manufacturing
  - 7.1% Construction

### Tuberculosis in Health Care Workers



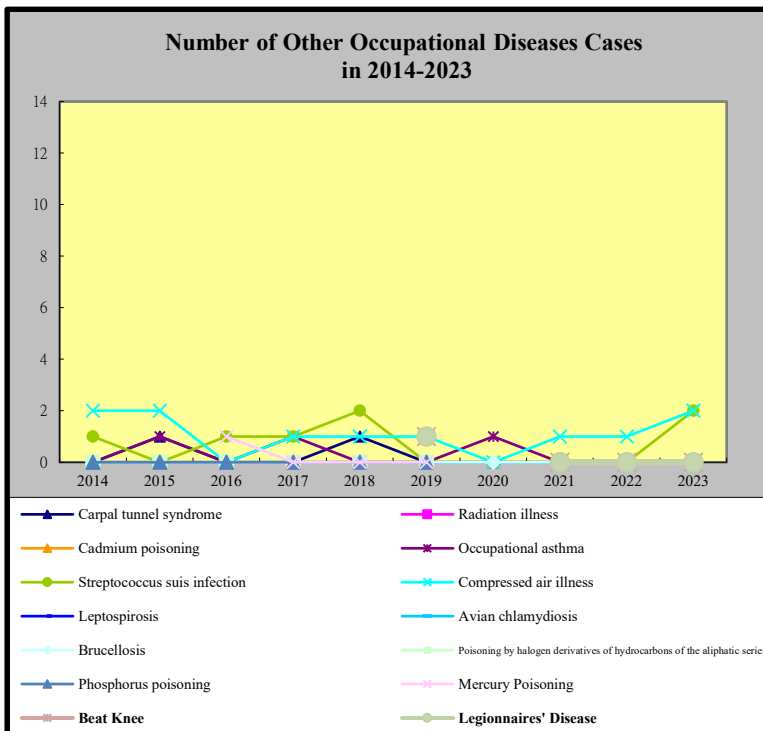
- In 2023, there were 6 confirmed cases of tuberculosis in health care workers, including 3 nurses, 2 personal care workers and 1 operation assistant in hospital.

## Occupational Dermatitis



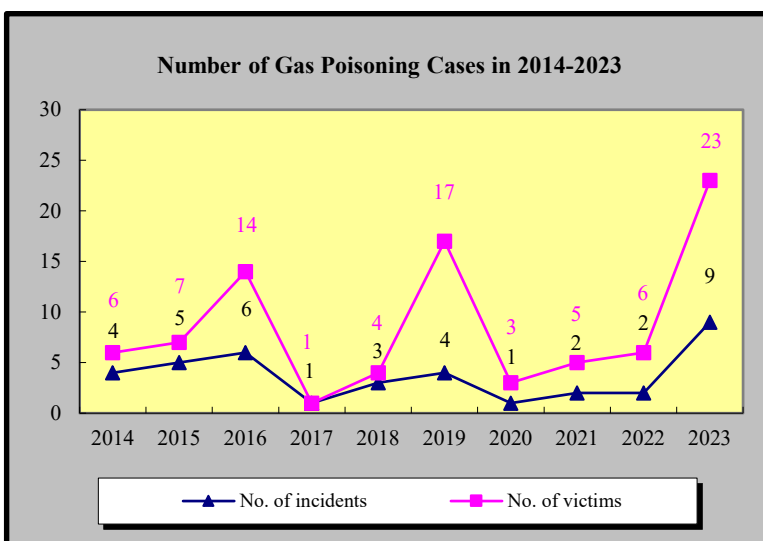
- There was no case of occupational dermatitis in 2023.

## Other Occupational Diseases



- In 2023, there were 2 confirmed cases of compressed air illness and the workers were a doctor and a nurse respectively.
- In 2023, there were 2 confirmed cases of *Streptococcus suis* infection and both cases were butchers.

## Gas Poisoning



- In 2023, there were 23 confirmed gas poisoning cases involving 9 incidents. The noxious chemical agents were carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulphide, sulphuric acid, xylene and ethylbenzene respectively.

## 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** refer to confirmed cases of occupational diseases and gas poisoning reported under the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance, 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.

The latest occupational safety and health information can be obtained through downloading the "OSH 2.0" mobile application of the Labour Department.



Online OSH Complaint Form



"OSH 2.0" Mobile Application

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