

MINING FACTS - 2007

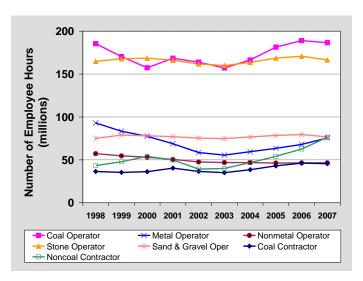
Mining Operations

In 2007, a total of 14,871 mining operations reported employment data to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).¹ Almost half (48.4%) were sand and gravel mines, followed by stone mines (31.2%), coal mines (13.7%), nonmetal mines (4.9%), and metal mines (1.9%).

Employees

There were 271,414 mine operator employees,² or 275,871 full-time equivalent (FTE)³ workers. For mine operators, 18.9% of the employee hours were for underground work locations, while 81.1% of the employee hours were for surface work locations.⁴

Of the 106,709 independent contractor employees (or 60,892 FTE workers), 36.4% were coal contractor employees and 63.6% were noncoal contractor employees.

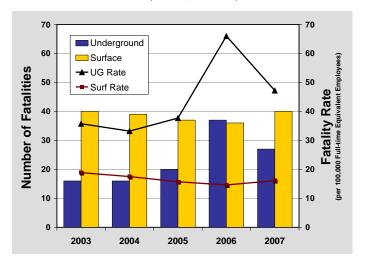


Fatalities

In 2007, there were 67 occupational mining fatalities, compared to 73 in 2006. The overall fatality rate was 21.9 per 100,000 FTE workers.

- The fatality rate for mine operator employees was 19.7 per 100,000 FTE workers (n=49; 73.1%), while the rate for contractor employees was 31.3 (n=18; 26.9%).
- Noncoal contractors had the highest fatality rate (33.3), followed by coal operators (31.2), coal contractors (28.0), and metal operators (21.1) per 100,000 FTE workers.

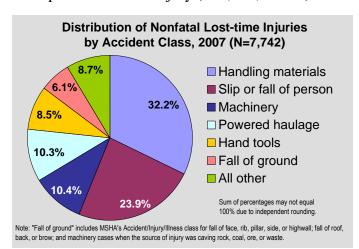
• The fatality rate at underground work locations was 47.2 per 100,000 FTE workers (n=27; 40.3%) compared to the lower rate at surface locations of 16.1 (n=40; 59.7%).



Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries

There were 7,742 nonfatal lost-time injuries reported to MSHA in 2007 (2,645 at underground and 5,097 at surface work locations). These injuries occurred at an overall rate of 2.5 per 100 FTE workers and resulted in a total of 426,219 days lost from work.⁵

- The underground nonfatal lost-time injury rate was greater than the surface injury rate (4.6 vs. 2.0 per 100 FTE workers).
- The back continued to be the most frequently reported body part injured, accounting for 1,371 nonfatal lost-time injuries, 77,027 days lost from work, and 18.1% of all days lost.
- Sprains and strains were the most frequently reported nature of injury (n=3,310; 42.8%).







Mine and Employment Characteristics, 2007 Number of Mining Operations¹ Number of FTE Employees³ **Commodity and** Number of Employees² Type of Employer Underground Surface Underground Surface **Total** Underground Surface Coal Operator 631 1,399 2,030 37,829 46,242 84,071 42,238 51,027 93,265 Metal Operator 97 181 278 5,333 30,667 36,000 5,437 32,309 37,746 Nonmetal Operator 48 677 725 2,411 20,453 22,864 2,478 20,788 23,265 Stone Operator 113 4,526 4,639 1,845 80,873 82,718 2,063 81,191 83,254 Sand and Gravel Operator 7,199 45,761 45,761 NA 38,340 38,340 NA 7,199 NA 47,418 223,996 271,414 52,216 223,655 275,871 **Operator Total** 889 13,982 14,871 **Number of Companies** 33,705 38,865 3,071 **Coal Contractor** NA NA 2,999 5,160 19,670 22,741 Noncoal Contractor NA NA 5.400 3.039 64.805 67.844 1,935 36,216 38.151 **Contractor Total** NA NA 8,399 8,199 98,510 106,709 5,006 55,886 60.892 **TOTAL** 322,506 378.123 57,222 279.541 55,617 336,763

Mining Occupational Fatalities and Injuries, 2007 Occupational Fatalities (per 100,000 FTE employees) Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries (per 100 FTE employees) Underground Surface Total Underground Surface Total

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Commodity and	Underground		Surface		Total		Underground		Surface		Total	
Type of Employer	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Coal Operator	18	42.6	10	21.1	28	31.2	2,120	5.0	822	1.7	2,942	3.3
Metal Operator	3	55.2	4	14.4	7	21.1	178	3.3	620	2.2	798	2.4
Nonmetal Operator	1	40.4	0	0.0	1	5.0	91	3.7	417	2.4	508	2.5
Stone Operator	0	0.0	8	11.4	8	11.1	36	1.7	1,844	2.6	1,880	2.6
Sand and Gravel Operator	NA	NA	5	15.0	5	15.0	NA	NA	657	2.0	657	2.0
Operator Total	22	42.1	27	13.8	49	19.7	2,425	4.6	4,360	2.2	6,785	2.7
Coal Contractor	3	97.7	3	16.3	6	28.0	177	5.8	283	1.5	460	2.1
Noncoal Contractor	2	103.4	10	29.3	12	33.3	43	2.2	454	1.3	497	1.4
Contractor Total	5	99.9	13	24.8	18	31.3	220	4.4	737	1.4	957	1.7
TOTAL	27	47.2	40	16.1	67	21.9	2,645	4.6	5,097	2.0	7,742	2.5

NA Not applicable.

Data source: Publicly released data files of employment and accident/injury/illness collected by MSHA under 30 CFR 50.

Notes: All analyses of accident data exclude office employees. Occupational fatalities exclude all cases under 17 years of age. Further statistical methodology is available on the NIOSH Internet [http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/statistics/method.htm]. Data in the above tables may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding. Caution should be used when interpreting rates based on a small number of events.

To receive NIOSH documents or more information about occupational safety and health topics, contact NIOSH at

1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)

TTY: 1–888–232–6348 e-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov

or visit the NIOSH Web site at http://www.cdc.gov/niosh

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¹Mines at which only independent contractors were working did not show any employment and were not counted.

²Average number of employees working at individual mines during calendar quarters of active operations (includes office workers).

³Full-time equivalent employees computed using reported employee hours (2,000 hours = 1 FTE).

⁴Surface work locations include surface operations at underground mines, surface operations (strip or open pit), auger, culm banks, dredge, other surface operations, independent shops and yards, and mills or preparation plants.

⁵Includes actual days away from work and/or days of restricted work activity. For permanently disabling injuries only, statutory days charged by MSHA were used if they exceeded the total lost workdays.