

# MINING FACTS—2008

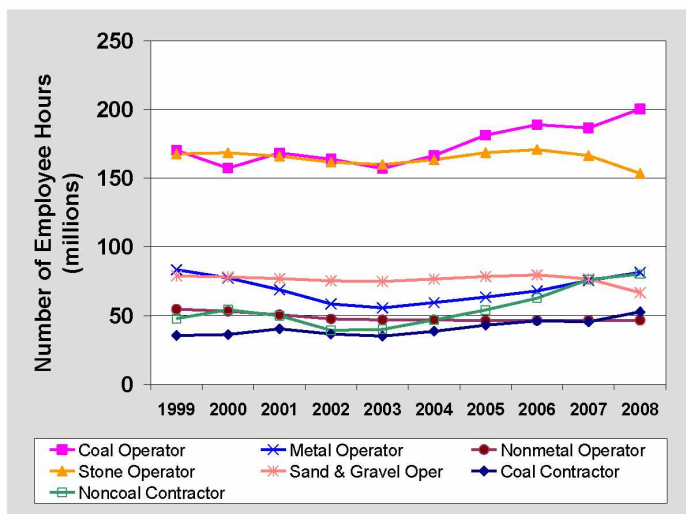
## Mining Operations

In 2008, a total of 14,907 mining operations reported employment data to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).<sup>1</sup> Almost half (47.8%) were sand and gravel mines, followed by stone mines (31.1%), coal mines (14.3%), nonmetal mines (4.8%), and metal mines (2.0%).

## Employees

There were 273,496 mine operator employees,<sup>2</sup> or 274,212 full-time equivalent (FTE)<sup>3</sup> workers. For mine operators, 20.6% of the employee hours were for underground work locations, while 79.4% of the employee hours were for surface work locations.<sup>4</sup>

Of the 119,223 independent contractor employees (or 66,407 FTE workers), 36.7% were coal contractor employees and 63.3% were noncoal contractor employees.

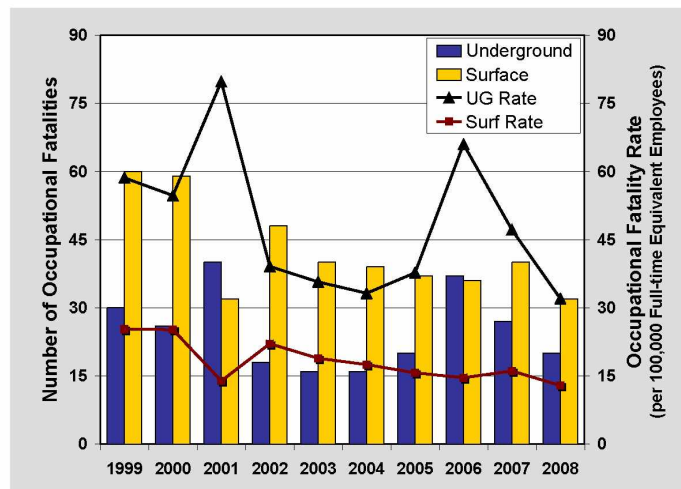


## Fatalities

In 2008, there were 52 occupational mining fatalities with a rate of 16.8 [95% confidence interval (CI): 12.5, 22.0] per 100,000 FTE workers.

- The fatality rate for mine operator employees was 14.2 [CI: 9.9, 19.7] (n=35; 67.3%), while the rate for contractor employees was 27.1 [CI: 15.8, 43.4] (n=17; 32.7%).
- Coal contractors had the highest fatality rate 48.3 [CI: 25.0, 84.4] (n=12; 23.1%), followed by coal operators 18.7 [CI: 11.1, 29.5] (n=18; 34.6%), metal operators 13.8 [CI: 4.5, 32.2] (n=5; 9.6%), and noncoal contractors 13.2 [CI: 4.5, 32.5] (n=5; 9.6%).

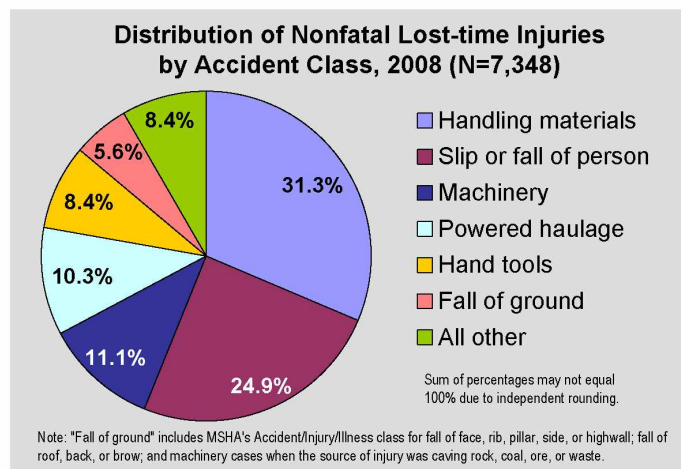
- The fatality rate at underground work locations was 32.0 [CI: 19.5, 49.4] per 100,000 FTE workers (n=20; 38.5%) compared to 12.9 [CI: 8.8, 18.3] (n=32; 61.5%) at surface work locations.



## Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries

There were 7,348 nonfatal lost-time injuries in 2008 (2,600 at underground and 4,748 at surface work locations). These injuries occurred at an overall rate of 2.4 [CI: 2.3, 2.4] per 100 FTE workers and resulted in a total of 382,210 days lost from work.<sup>5</sup>

- The underground nonfatal lost-time injury rate was greater than the surface injury rate (4.2 [CI: 4.0, 4.3] vs. 1.9 [CI: 1.9, 2.0] per 100 FTE workers).
- The back was the most frequently reported body part injured, accounting for 1,240 nonfatal lost-time injuries, 58,561 days lost from work, and 15.3% of all days lost.
- Sprains and strains were the most frequently reported nature of injury (n=3,167; 43.1%).



# Mine and Employment Characteristics, 2008

Commodity and Type of Employer	Number of Mining Operations <sup>1</sup>			Number of Employees <sup>2</sup>			Number of FTE Employees <sup>3</sup>		
	Underground	Surface	Total	Underground	Surface	Total	Underground	Surface	Total
Coal Operator	665	1,464	2,129	40,370	49,685	90,055	45,866	54,312	100,178
Metal Operator	105	188	293	5,844	33,282	39,126	5,842	34,840	40,682
Nonmetal Operator	44	676	720	2,579	20,454	23,033	2,725	20,534	23,260
Stone Operator	111	4,522	4,633	1,875	77,100	78,975	2,029	74,720	76,749
Sand and Gravel Operator	NA	7,132	7,132	NA	42,307	42,307	NA	33,343	33,343
<b>Operator Total</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>13,982</b>	<b>14,907</b>	<b>50,668</b>	<b>222,828</b>	<b>273,496</b>	<b>56,462</b>	<b>217,750</b>	<b>274,212</b>
	<b>Number of Companies</b>								
Coal Contractor	NA	NA	3,467	6,262	37,510	43,772	4,105	22,216	26,321
Noncoal Contractor	NA	NA	6,128	2,992	72,459	75,451	1,998	38,088	40,086
<b>Contractor Total</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>9,595</b>	<b>9,254</b>	<b>109,969</b>	<b>119,223</b>	<b>6,103</b>	<b>60,304</b>	<b>66,407</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>59,922</b>	<b>332,797</b>	<b>392,719</b>	<b>62,565</b>	<b>278,054</b>	<b>340,620</b>

# Mining Occupational Fatalities and Injuries, 2008

Commodity and Type of Employer	Occupational Fatalities (per 100,000 FTE employees)						Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries (per 100 FTE employees)					
	Underground		Surface		Total		Underground		Surface		Total	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Coal Operator	12	26.2	6	11.9	18	18.7	2,103	4.6	768	1.5	2,871	3.0
Metal Operator	3	NC	2	NC	5	13.8	163	2.8	649	2.1	812	2.2
Nonmetal Operator	1	NC	1	NC	2	NC	95	3.5	412	2.4	507	2.5
Stone Operator	1	NC	6	9.4	7	10.6	33	1.6	1,593	2.5	1,626	2.5
Sand and Gravel Operator	NA	NA	3	NC	3	NC	NA	NA	550	1.9	550	1.9
<b>Operator Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>2,394</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3,972</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>6,366</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Coal Contractor	3	NC	9	43.4	12	48.3	168	4.1	313	1.5	481	1.9
Noncoal Contractor	0	NC	5	13.9	5	13.2	38	1.9	463	1.3	501	1.3
<b>Contractor Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4,748</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>7,348</b>	<b>2.4</b>

NA Not applicable. NC Not calculated when N is less than 5. 95% CI for rates reported on reverse side. Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

**Data source:** Publicly released employment and accident/injury/illness data 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>]. Caution should be used when interpreting rates based on a small number of events.

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup>Surface 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.

<sup>5</sup>Includes 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.

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

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or visit the NIOSH Web site at [www.cdc.gov/niosh](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh).

DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2011-161

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