

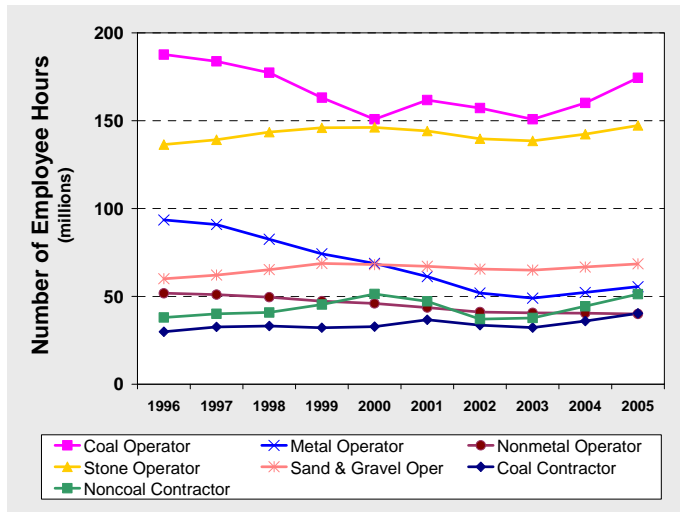
Mining Operations

In 2005, 14,666 mining operations reported employment statistics to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).¹ Almost half (48.5%) were sand and gravel mines, followed by stone mines (30.6%), coal mines (14.1%), nonmetal mines (5.0%), and metal mines (1.8%).

Employees

There were 231,865 mine operator employees,² or 242,879 full-time equivalent (FTE)³ workers reported. Employee hours for mine operators working at underground locations accounted for 20.2%, while 79.8% of the employee hours were for surface work locations.⁴

Of the 79,262 independent contractor employees (or 45,726 FTE workers) reported to MSHA in 2005, 41.2% were coal contractor employees and 58.8% were noncoal contractor employees.

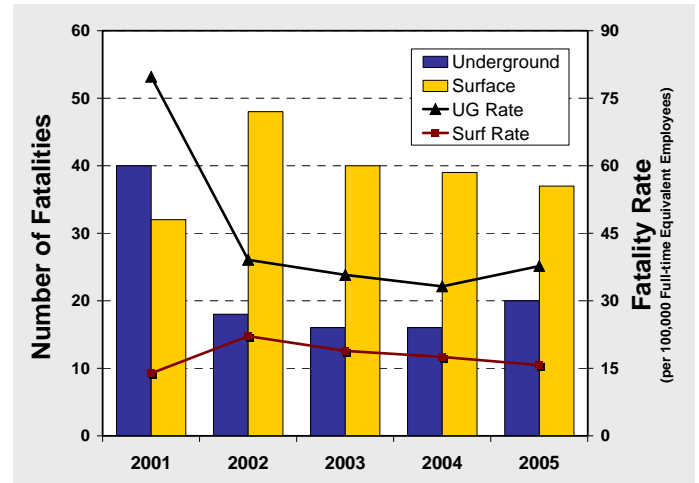


Fatalities

In 2005, there were 57 occupational mining fatalities, compared to 55 in 2004. The overall mining fatality rate was 19.8 per 100,000 FTE workers.

- The fatality rate for mine operator employees was 20.6 per 100,000 FTE workers (n=50; 87.7%), while the rate for contractor employees was 15.3 (n=7; 12.3%).
- Sand and gravel operators had the highest fatality rate (26.3 per 100,000 FTE workers; n=9), followed by coal contractors (24.8; n=5).

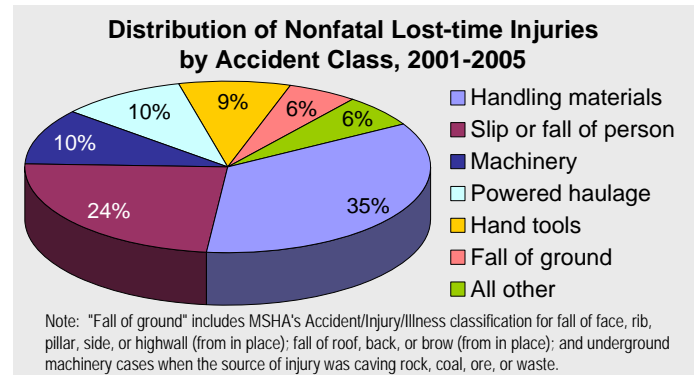
- The fatality rate at underground work locations was 37.7 per 100,000 FTE workers (n=20; 35.1%) compared to 15.7 at surface locations (n=37; 64.9%).



Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries

There were 8,310 nonfatal lost-time injuries reported to MSHA in 2005 (2,772 at underground and 5,538 at surface work locations). These injuries occurred at a rate of 2.9 per 100 FTE workers and resulted in a total of 459,771 days lost from work.⁵

- The underground nonfatal lost-time injury rate was greater than the surface injury rate (5.2 vs. 2.4 per 100 FTE workers).
- The back continued to be the most frequently reported body part injured, accounting for 1,591 nonfatal lost-time injuries, 87,176 days lost from work, and 19.0% of all days lost.
- Sprains and strains were the most frequently reported nature of injury (n=3,657; 44.0%).



Mining Characteristics, 2005

Commodity and Type of Employer	No. of Mines ¹	No. of Companies	No. of Employees ²	No. of FTE Employees ³	Fatality Rate	Nonfatal Lost-time Injury Rate
Coal Operator	2,063	--	78,281	87,184	19.5	3.5
Metal Operator	263	--	26,442	27,773	18.0	2.4
Nonmetal Operator	739	--	19,678	20,014	20.0	2.5
Stone Operator	4,490	--	69,759	73,650	20.4	3.1
Sand and Gravel Operator	7,111	--	37,705	34,258	26.3	2.5
Operator Total	14,666	--	231,865	242,879	20.6	3.0
Coal Contractor	--	2,503	32,639	20,136	24.8	2.7
Noncoal Contractor	--	4,297	46,623	25,590	7.8	1.6
Contractor Total	--	6,800	79,262	45,726	15.3	2.1
TOTAL			311,127	288,605	19.8	2.9

Fatality rates were computed per 100,000 FTE employees. Nonfatal lost-time injury rates were computed per 100 FTE employees.

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

Notes: All analyses exclude office employees, except for the total number of mining operations. Analyses of fatalities exclude all individuals under 17 years of age and all individuals who were not classified as employees of a mining operator or mining contractor. Further statistical methodology is available on the NIOSH Internet [<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/statistics/method.htm>].

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

²Number of employees is the average number of persons working at individual establishments during calendar quarters of active operations.

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

⁴Surface work locations include surface operations at underground mines (surface shops and yards, tippie physically located at the mine site), surface operations (strip or open pit mines including associated shops and yards), auger mining operations, culm banks (reworking of mine dumps or refuse pile), dredge (mining operations conducted from a platform floating on water), other surface operations (brine pumping, etc.), independent shops and yards not associated with a specific mine, and mill or preparation plant.

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.

To receive NIOSH documents or for more information about occupational safety and health topics, contact NIOSH at
1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)
 1-888-232-6348 (TTY)
 e-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov
 or visit the NIOSH Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh>

DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2008-149

SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE™