

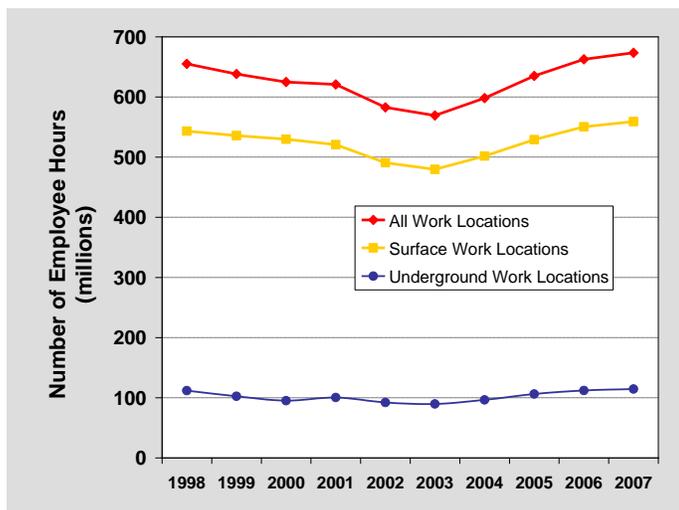
Mining Operations

Data obtained from the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) indicated a total of 889 underground (6.0%) and 13,982 surface (94.0%) mining operations.¹

Employees

A total of 55,617 employees,² or 57,222 full-time equivalent (FTE)³ employees, were reported to MSHA as working at underground mining locations in 2007. This is in contrast to 322,506 employees (or 279,541 FTE employees) that were reported as working at surface locations.⁴

- Surface work location employee hours accounted for 83.0% of all hours reported to MSHA, while 17.0% of employee hours were reported for underground work locations.

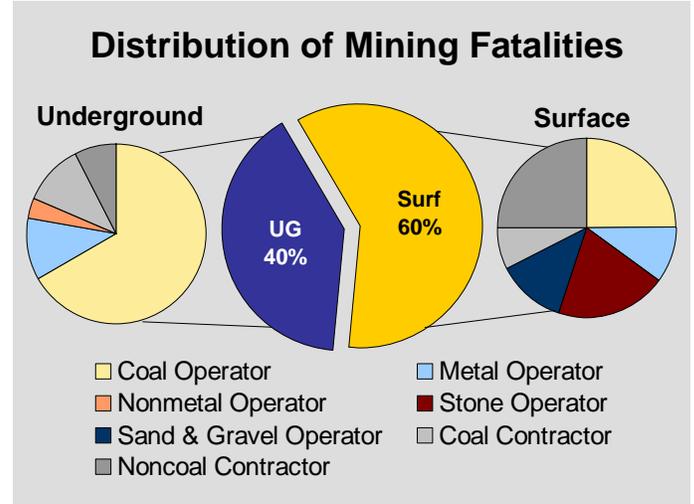


- The majority of surface employee hours were for mine operator employees (80.0%) as opposed to independent contractor employees (20.0%).
- Coal operators were the mining sector⁵ reporting the most underground worker employee hours to MSHA (n=84,475,287; 73.8%).

Fatalities

Of the 67 occupational mining fatalities reported to MSHA in 2007, 27 occurred at underground work locations, while 40 occurred at surface locations.

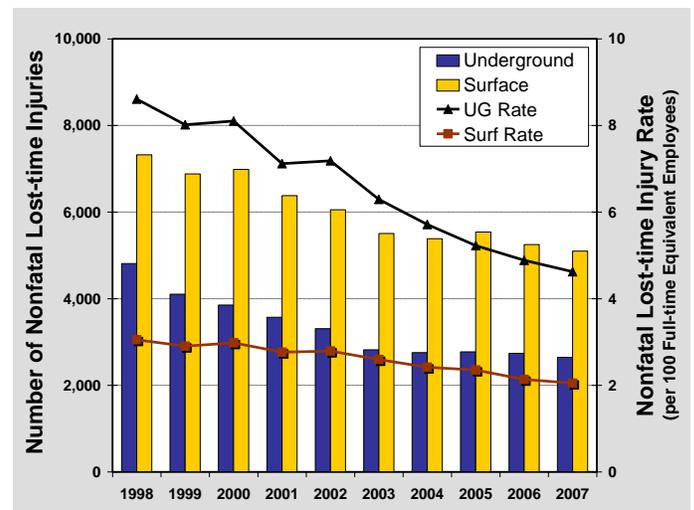
- The fatality rate of 47.2 per 100,000 FTE employees was higher at underground work locations, compared to the rate of 16.1 for surface work locations.



Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries

Within underground work locations, 2,645 nonfatal lost-time injuries were reported, resulting in 170,584 lost workdays.⁶ This compares to 5,097 nonfatal lost-time injuries attributed to surface workers (total days lost = 255,635).

- The overall underground nonfatal lost-time injury rate was greater than the surface injury rate (4.6 vs. 2.0 per 100 FTE workers).



- The most frequent classification of nonfatal lost-time injuries involved handling materials for both underground (n=719; 27.2%) and surface (n=1,773; 34.8%) work locations.
- The back was the most frequently reported body part injured at both underground (n=414; 15.7%) and surface (n=957; 18.8%) work locations.

Mine and Employment Characteristics, 2007

Commodity and Type of Employer	Number of Mining Operations ¹			Number of Employees ²			Number of FTE Employees ³		
	Underground	Surface	Total	Underground	Surface	Total	Underground	Surface	Total
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	NA	7,199	7,199	NA	45,761	45,761	NA	38,340	38,340
Operator Total	889	13,982	14,871	47,418	223,996	271,414	52,216	223,655	275,871
	Number of Companies								
Coal Contractor	NA	NA	2,999	5,160	33,705	38,865	3,071	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				55,617	322,506	378,123	57,222	279,541	336,763

Mining Occupational Fatalities and Injuries, 2007

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	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.

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.

⁵Mining sectors include coal operators, metal operators, nonmetal operators, stone operators, sand and gravel operators, coal contractors, and noncoal contractors.

⁶Includes 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.

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