



# METAL OPERATOR MINING FACTS – 2007

## Mining Operations

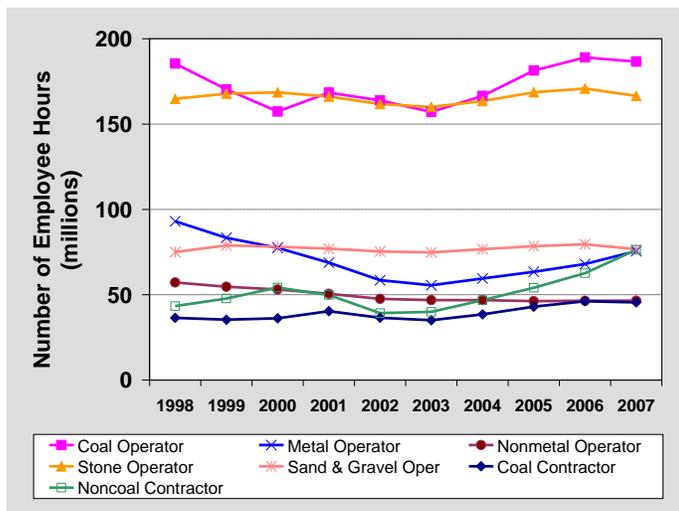
In 2007, a total of 278 metal mining operations reported employment to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).<sup>1</sup> Metal mines were the smallest mining commodity sector, comprising 1.9% of all mining operations.

- Gold mines comprised 44.6% (n=124) of all metal mining operations. Other common types of metal mines were iron ore (n=36; 12.9%) and copper ore (n=35; 12.6%).
- Nevada had the largest number of metal mines (n=45; 16.2%), followed by Alaska (n=28; 10.1%).

## Employees

A total of 36,000 employees,<sup>2</sup> corresponding to 37,746 full-time equivalent (FTE)<sup>3</sup> employees, were reported by metal mine operators.

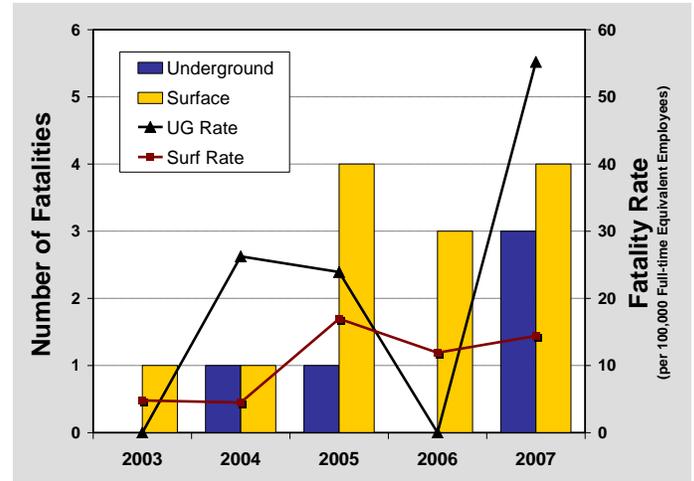
- Within the mining sectors,<sup>4</sup> metal mine operator employees accounted for 11.2% of all employee hours reported to MSHA.
- Metal operator employee hours were reported for both underground (14.4%) and surface (85.6%) work locations.<sup>5</sup>



## Fatalities

Seven occupational fatalities occurred among metal mine operator employees in 2007, compared to three fatalities in 2006.

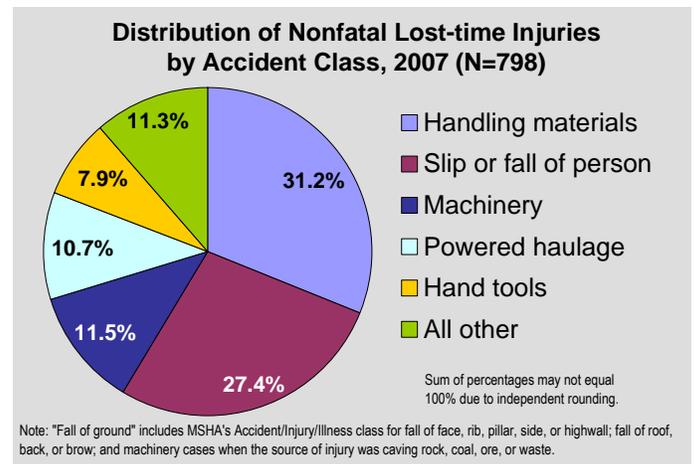
- The metal mine operator fatality rate was 21.1 fatalities per 100,000 FTE employees.



## Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries

There were 798 nonfatal lost-time injuries (178 at underground and 620 at surface work locations) among metal operator employees occurring at an overall rate of 2.4 injuries per 100 FTE employees. A total of 40,696 days lost from work<sup>6</sup> resulted from these injuries.

- The underground nonfatal lost-time injury rate was greater than the surface injury rate (3.3 vs. 2.2 per 100 FTE workers).
- The most frequent classification of nonfatal lost-time injuries for metal operator employees involved handling materials (n=249; 31.2%).
- Sprains and strains were the most frequently reported nature of injury (n=410; 51.4%).
- The back was the most frequently reported body part injured (n=122; 15.3%) and accounted for 5,070 days lost from work.



# Mine and Employment Characteristics, 2007

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	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
<b>Operator Total</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>13,982</b>	<b>14,871</b>	<b>47,418</b>	<b>223,996</b>	<b>271,414</b>	<b>52,216</b>	<b>223,655</b>	<b>275,871</b>
	<b>Number of Companies</b>								
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
<b>Contractor Total</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>8,399</b>	<b>8,199</b>	<b>98,510</b>	<b>106,709</b>	<b>5,006</b>	<b>55,886</b>	<b>60,892</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>55,617</b>	<b>322,506</b>	<b>378,123</b>	<b>57,222</b>	<b>279,541</b>	<b>336,763</b>

# 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
<b>Operator Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>2,425</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4,360</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>6,785</b>	<b>2.7</b>
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
<b>Contractor Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>1.7</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>2,645</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>5,097</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>7,742</b>	<b>2.5</b>

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.

<sup>1</sup>Mines at which only independent contractors were working did not show any employment and 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>Mining sectors include coal operators, metal operators, nonmetal operators, stone operators, sand and gravel operators, coal contractors, and noncoal contractors.

<sup>5</sup>Surface work locations include surface operations at underground mines, surface operations (strip or open pit), dredge, other surface operations, independent shops and yards, and mills or preparation plants.

<sup>6</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.

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