



COAL CONTRACTOR MINING FACTS – 2007

An independent contractor is defined by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) as “any person, partnership, corporation, subsidiary of a corporation, firm, association or other organization that contracts to perform services or construction at a mine.” Contractors that perform specific types of work are required to report the number of employees who work at coal mines and noncoal mines.

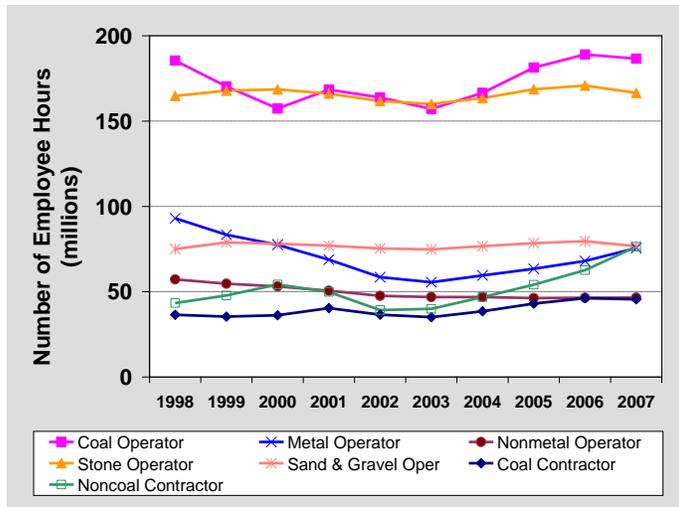
Companies

In 2007, a total of 2,999 contracting companies reported employment at coal mines to MSHA, or 35.7% of all independent contracting companies.

Employees

A total of 38,865 employees,¹ corresponding to 22,741 full-time equivalent (FTE)² employees, were reported by coal contractors to MSHA.

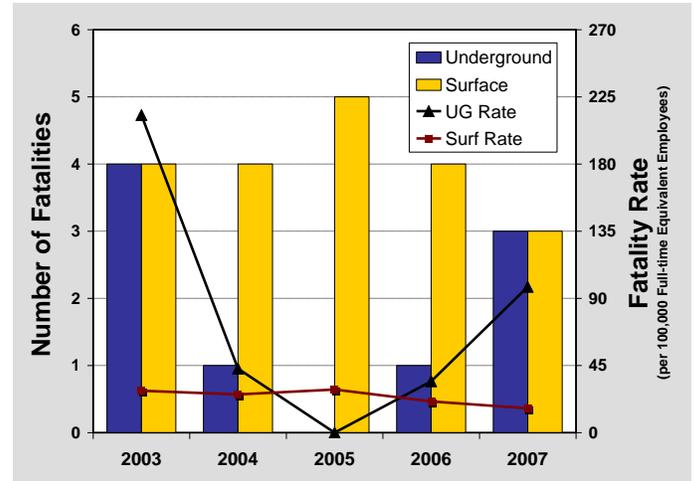
- Within the mining sectors,³ coal contractor employees comprised 6.8% of all employee hours reported to MSHA.
- Coal contractor employee hours were reported for both underground (13.5%) and surface (86.5%) work locations.⁴



Fatalities

Six occupational fatalities occurred among coal contractor employees in 2007. These coal fatalities accounted for 33.3% of all contractor fatalities.

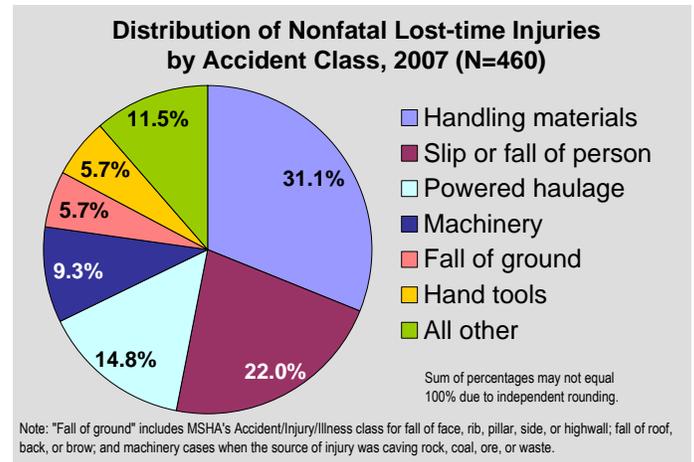
- The coal contractor fatality rate was 28.0 fatalities per 100,000 FTE employees. The underground rate was 97.7 (n=3) compared to a rate of 16.3 (n=3) for surface work locations.



Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries

There were 460 nonfatal lost-time injuries among coal contractor employees (177 at underground and 283 at surface work locations) with an overall rate of 2.1 injuries per 100 FTE employees. These injuries resulted in 28,071 days lost from work.⁵

- The underground nonfatal lost-time injury rate was greater than the surface injury rate (5.8 vs. 1.5 per 100 FTE workers).
- The most frequent classification of nonfatal lost-time injuries for coal contractor employees involved handling materials (n=143; 31.1%), followed by slip or fall of person (n=101; 22.0%).
- Sprains and strains were the most frequently reported nature of injury (n=169; 36.7%).
- The back was the most frequently reported body part injured (n=64; 13.9%) and accounted for 4,914 days lost from work.



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.

¹Average number of employees working at individual mines during calendar quarters of active operations (includes office workers).

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

³Mining sectors include coal operators, metal operators, nonmetal operators, stone operators, sand and gravel operators, coal contractors, and noncoal contractors.

⁴Surface work locations include surface operations at underground mines, surface operations (strip or open pit), auger, culm banks, dredge, 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.

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