



NONCOAL 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.

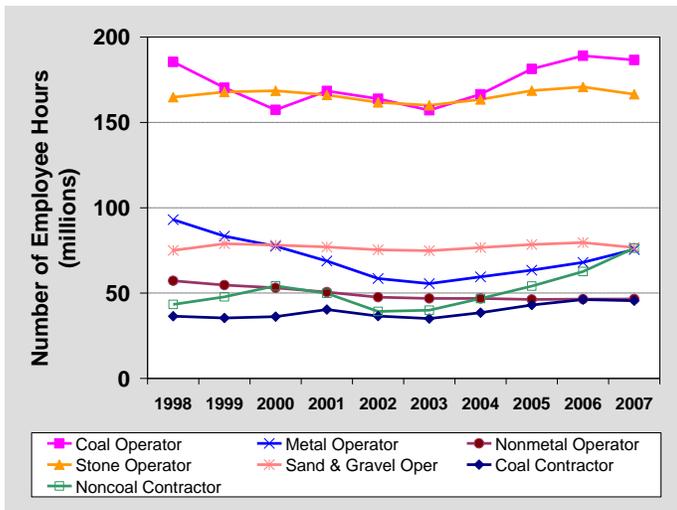
Companies

In 2007, a total of 5,400 contracting companies reported employment at noncoal mines to MSHA, or 64.3% of all independent contracting companies.

Employees

A total of 67,844 employees,¹ corresponding to 38,151 full-time equivalent (FTE)² employees, were reported by noncoal contractors to MSHA.

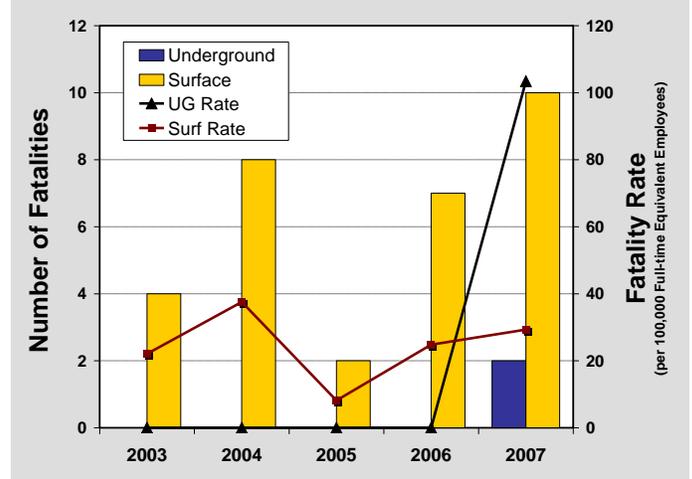
- Within the mining sectors,³ noncoal contractor employees comprised 11.3% of all employee hours reported to MSHA.
- Noncoal contractor employee hours were reported for both underground (5.1%) and surface (94.9%) work locations.⁴



Fatalities

Twelve occupational fatalities occurred among noncoal contractor employees in 2007, accounting for 66.7% of all fatalities attributed to independent contractors.

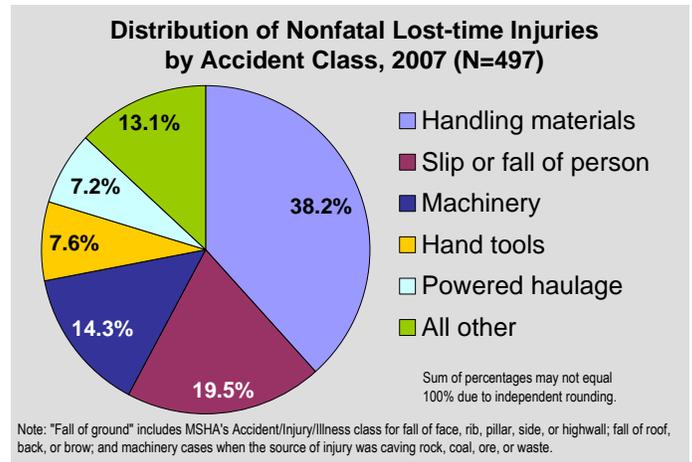
- The noncoal contractor fatality rate for all work locations was 33.3 fatalities per 100,000 FTE employees.



Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries

There were 497 nonfatal lost-time injuries among noncoal contractor employees (43 at underground and 454 at surface work locations) with an overall rate of 1.4 injuries per 100 FTE employees. These injuries resulted in 22,290 days lost from work.⁵

- The underground nonfatal lost-time injury rate for noncoal contractor employees was 2.2 per 100 FTE workers, while the surface rate was 1.3.
- The most frequent classification of nonfatal lost-time injuries reported for noncoal contractor employees involved handling materials (n=190; 38.2%), followed by slips or falls (n=97; 19.5%).
- Sprains and strains were the most frequently reported nature of injury (n=179; 36.0%).
- In 2007, the most frequently reported body parts injured were the fingers (n=85; 17.1%; 5,462 days lost from work) and the back (n=75; 15.1%; 2,255 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), dredge, other surface operations, 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.

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

1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)

TTY: 1-888-232-6348

e-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov

or visit the NIOSH Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh>

DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2009-165