

# NONCOAL CONTRACTOR MINING FACTS—2008

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.

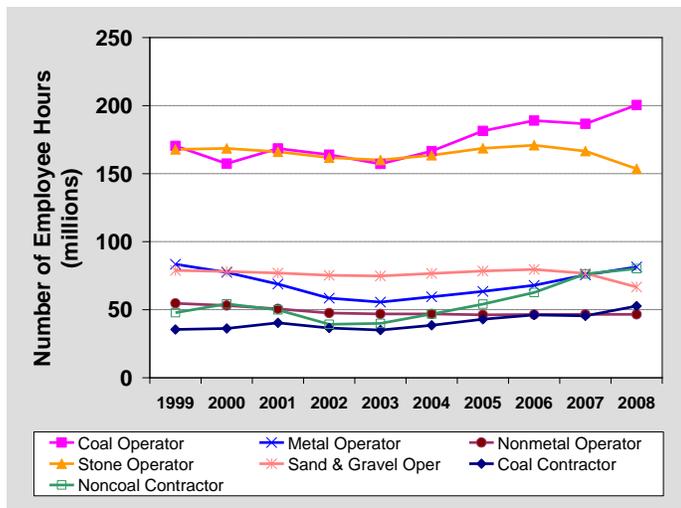
## Companies

In 2008, a total of 6,128 independent contracting companies reported employment at noncoal mines, or 63.9% of all independent contracting companies.

## Employees

A total of 75,451 employees,<sup>1</sup> corresponding to 40,086 full-time equivalent (FTE)<sup>2</sup> employees, were reported by noncoal contractors.

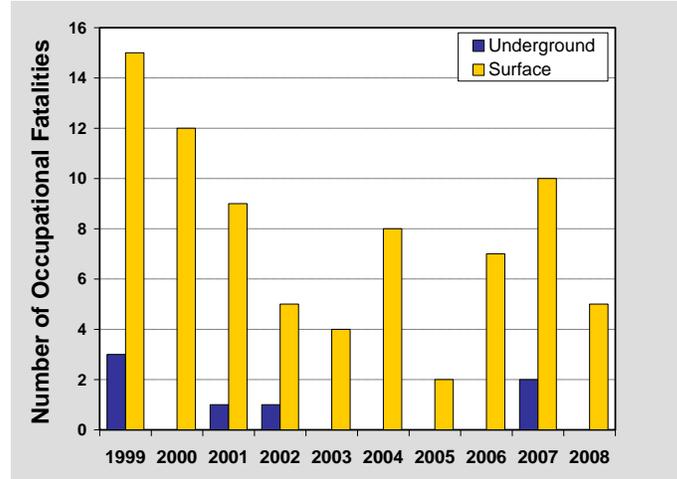
- Within the mining sectors,<sup>3</sup> noncoal contractor employees comprised 11.8% of all employee hours reported to MSHA.
- Noncoal contractor employee hours were reported for both underground (5.0%) and surface (95.0%) work locations.<sup>4</sup>



## Fatalities

Five occupational fatalities occurred among noncoal contractor employees in 2008, accounting for 29.4% of all fatalities attributed to independent contractors.

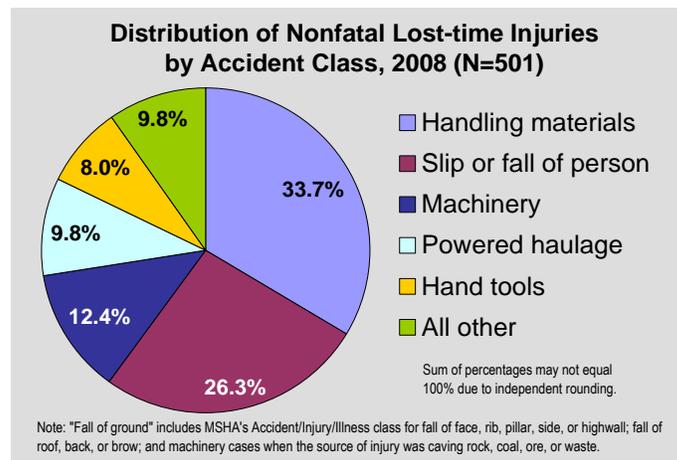
- The noncoal contractor fatality rate for all work locations was 13.2 [95% confidence interval (CI): 4.3, 30.8] fatalities per 100,000 FTE employees.



## Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries

There were 501 nonfatal lost-time injuries among noncoal contractor employees (38 at underground and 463 at surface work locations) with an overall rate of 1.3 [CI: 1.2, 1.4] injuries per 100 FTE employees. These injuries resulted in 20,902 days lost from work.<sup>5</sup>

- The underground nonfatal lost-time injury rate for noncoal contractor employees was 1.9 [CI: 1.3, 2.6], while the surface rate was 1.3 [CI: 1.2, 1.4] per 100 FTE workers.
- The most frequent classification of nonfatal lost-time injuries reported for noncoal contractor employees involved handling materials (n=169; 33.7%), followed by slip or fall of person (n=132; 26.3%).
- Sprains and strains were the most frequently reported nature of injury (n=161; 32.1%).
- In 2008, the most frequently reported body parts injured were the fingers (n=93; 18.6%; 3,683 days lost from work) and the back (n=71; 14.2%; 2,868 days lost from work).



# Mine and Employment Characteristics, 2008

Commodity and Type of Employer	Number of Mining Operations			Number of Employees <sup>1</sup>			Number of FTE Employees <sup>2</sup>		
	Underground	Surface	Total	Underground	Surface	Total	Underground	Surface	Total
Coal Operator	665	1,464	2,129	40,370	49,685	90,055	45,866	54,312	100,178
Metal Operator	105	188	293	5,844	33,282	39,126	5,842	34,840	40,682
Nonmetal Operator	44	676	720	2,579	20,454	23,033	2,725	20,534	23,260
Stone Operator	111	4,522	4,633	1,875	77,100	78,975	2,029	74,720	76,749
Sand and Gravel Operator	NA	7,132	7,132	NA	42,307	42,307	NA	33,343	33,343
<b>Operator Total</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>13,982</b>	<b>14,907</b>	<b>50,668</b>	<b>222,828</b>	<b>273,496</b>	<b>56,462</b>	<b>217,750</b>	<b>274,212</b>
	<b>Number of Companies</b>								
Coal Contractor	NA	NA	3,467	6,262	37,510	43,772	4,105	22,216	26,321
Noncoal Contractor	NA	NA	6,128	2,992	72,459	75,451	1,998	38,088	40,086
<b>Contractor Total</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>9,595</b>	<b>9,254</b>	<b>109,969</b>	<b>119,223</b>	<b>6,103</b>	<b>60,304</b>	<b>66,407</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>59,922</b>	<b>332,797</b>	<b>392,719</b>	<b>62,565</b>	<b>278,054</b>	<b>340,620</b>

# Mining Occupational Fatalities and Injuries, 2008

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	12	26.2	6	11.9	18	18.7	2,103	4.6	768	1.5	2,871	3.0
Metal Operator	3	NC	2	NC	5	13.8	163	2.8	649	2.1	812	2.2
Nonmetal Operator	1	NC	1	NC	2	NC	95	3.5	412	2.4	507	2.5
Stone Operator	1	NC	6	9.4	7	10.6	33	1.6	1,593	2.5	1,626	2.5
Sand and Gravel Operator	NA	NA	3	NC	3	NC	NA	NA	550	1.9	550	1.9
<b>Operator Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>2,394</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3,972</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>6,366</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Coal Contractor	3	NC	9	43.4	12	48.3	168	4.1	313	1.5	481	1.9
Noncoal Contractor	0	NC	5	13.9	5	13.2	38	1.9	463	1.3	501	1.3
<b>Contractor Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>27.1</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4,748</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>7,348</b>	<b>2.4</b>

NA Not applicable. NC Not calculated when N is less than 5. 95% CI for rates reported on reverse side. Totals may not sum due to independent rounding.

**Data source:** Publicly released employment and accident/injury/illness data 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>]. Caution should be used when interpreting rates based on a small number of events.

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

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

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

<sup>4</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>5</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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