

COAL AND METAL/NONMETAL MINING FACTS—2008

Mining Operations

Data obtained from the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) indicated 2,129 active coal (14.3%) and 12,778 metal/nonmetal (85.7%) mining operations.¹

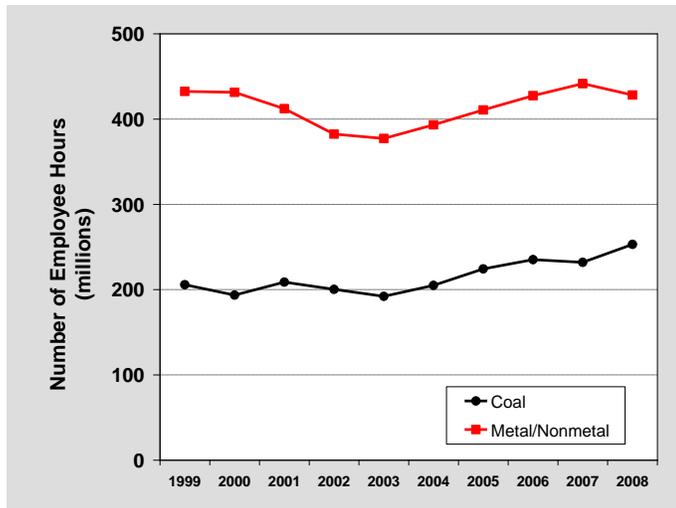
- There were 26 states reporting coal mining operations. Approximately 73% of these mines were located in three states: Kentucky (n=656; 30.8%), West Virginia (n=479; 22.5%), and Pennsylvania (n=425; 20.0%).
- Metal/nonmetal mines were distributed across all states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Texas reported the most metal/nonmetal mines (n=725, 5.7%).

Companies

In 2008, independent contracting companies reported employment at 3,467 coal mines and 6,128 metal/nonmetal mines.

Employees

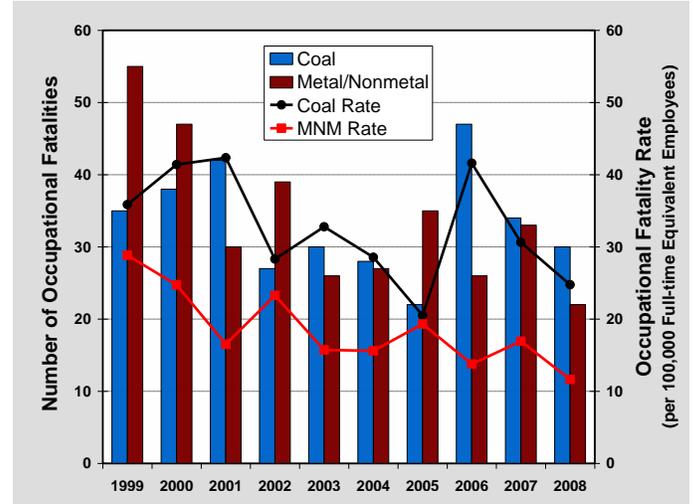
A total of 133,827 mine operator and independent contractor employees,² or 126,500 full-time equivalent (FTE)³ employees, were reported to MSHA as working at coal mines. This is in contrast to 258,892 employees (or 214,120 FTE employees) who were reported as working at metal/nonmetal mines.



Fatalities

Of the 52 occupational mining fatalities reported to MSHA in 2008, 30 occurred at coal mining operations, while 22 occurred at metal/nonmetal mines.

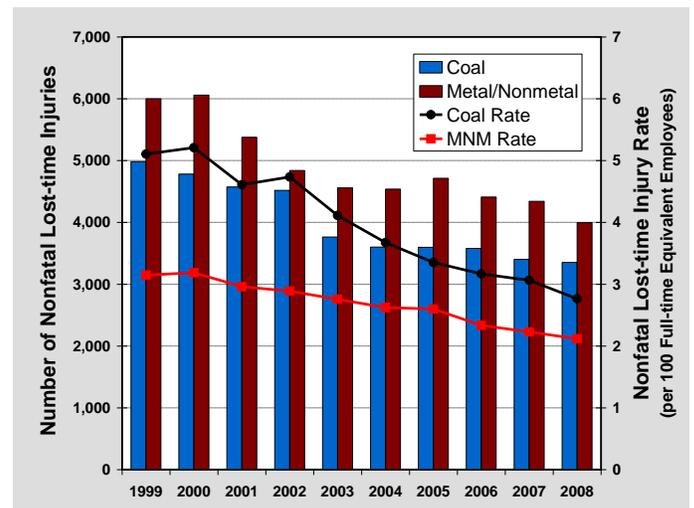
- The fatality rate of 24.8 [95% confidence interval (CI): 16.7, 35.3] per 100,000 FTE employees was higher at coal mining operations, compared to the rate of 11.6 [CI: 7.3, 17.6] for metal/nonmetal mines.



Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries

There were 3,352 nonfatal lost-time injuries reported at coal mining operations, resulting in 195,120 days lost from work.⁴ This compares to 3,996 nonfatal lost-time injuries attributed to metal/nonmetal mine workers with 187,090 days lost from work.

- The coal mine nonfatal lost-time injury rate was greater than the metal/nonmetal mine rate (2.8 [CI: 2.7, 2.9] vs. 2.1 [CI: 2.1, 2.2] per 100 FTE workers).
- The most frequent accident classification of nonfatal lost-time injuries involved handling materials for both coal (n=947; 28.3%) and metal/nonmetal mines (n=1,353; 33.9%).
- Sprains and strains were the most frequently reported nature of injury for both coal (n=1,390; 41.5%) and metal/nonmetal (n=1,777; 44.5%) mining operations.



Mine and Employment Characteristics, 2008

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	665	1,464	2,129	40,370	49,685	90,055	45,866	54,312	100,178
Coal Contractor	NA	NA	NA	6,262	37,510	43,772	4,105	22,216	26,321
Coal Total	665	1,464	2,129	46,632	87,195	133,827	49,971	76,528	126,500
Metal/Nonmetal Operator	260	12,518	12,778	10,298	173,143	183,441	10,596	163,438	174,034
Metal/Nonmetal Contractor	NA	NA	NA	2,992	72,459	75,451	1,998	38,088	40,086
Metal/Nonmetal Total	260	12,518	12,778	13,290	245,602	258,892	12,594	201,526	214,120
TOTAL	925	13,982	14,907	59,922	332,797	392,719	62,565	278,054	340,620

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
Coal Contractor	3	NC	9	43.4	12	48.3	168	4.1	313	1.5	481	1.9
Coal Total	15	30.0	15	21.1	30	24.8	2,271	4.5	1,081	1.5	3,352	2.8
Metal/Nonmetal Operator	5	47.2	12	8.6	17	11.3	291	2.7	3,204	2.3	3,495	2.3
Metal/Nonmetal Contractor	0	NC	5	13.9	5	13.2	38	1.9	463	1.3	501	1.3
Metal/Nonmetal Total	5	39.7	17	9.6	22	11.6	329	2.6	3,667	2.1	3,996	2.1
TOTAL	20	32.0	32	12.9	52	16.8	2,600	4.2	4,748	1.9	7,348	2.4

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.

¹Mines at which only independent contractors were working and did not show any employment were not counted. The metal/nonmetal mining classification includes metal, nonmetal, stone, and sand and gravel mining sectors.

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).

⁴Includes 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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