

# NONCOAL CONTRACTOR MINING FACTS – 2006

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) defines an independent contractor 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.

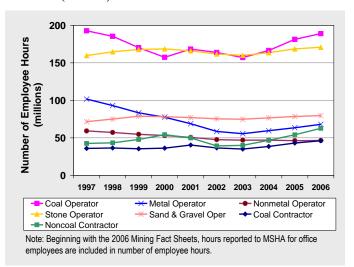
## **Companies**

In 2006, a total of 4,686 contracting companies reported employment at noncoal mines to MSHA, or 63.2% of all independent contracting companies.

### **Employees**

A total of 55,945 employees,<sup>1</sup> corresponding to 31,294 full-time equivalent (FTE)<sup>2</sup> employees, were reported by noncoal contractors to MSHA.

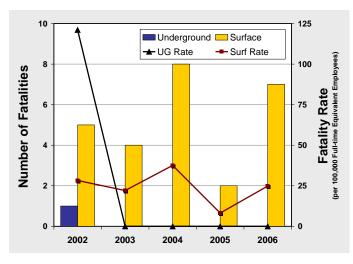
- Within the mining sectors,<sup>3</sup> noncoal contractor employees comprised 9.4% of all employee hours reported to MSHA.
- Noncoal contractor employee hours were reported for both underground (4.5%) and surface (95.5%) work locations.<sup>4</sup>



#### **Fatalities**

Seven occupational fatalities occurred among noncoal contractor employees in 2006, accounting for 58.3% of all fatalities attributed to independent contractors.

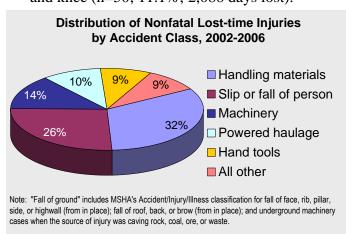
• The noncoal contractor fatality rate for all work locations was 23.6 fatalities per 100,000 FTE employees.



## **Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries**

There were 452 nonfatal lost-time injuries among noncoal contractor employees (49 at underground and 403 at surface work locations) occurring at a rate of 1.5 injuries per 100 FTE employees. These injuries resulted in 24,571 days lost<sup>5</sup> from work.

- The underground nonfatal lost-time injury rate for noncoal contractor employees was 3.5 per 100 FTE workers, while the surface rate was 1.4.
- The most frequent classification of nonfatal lost-time injuries reported for noncoal contractor employees involved handling materials (n=158; 35.0%), followed by slips or falls (n=111; 24.6%).
- Sprains and strains were the most frequently reported nature of injury (n=167; 36.9%).
- In 2006, the most frequently reported body parts injured were the fingers (n=68; 15.0%; 3,783 days lost), back (n=63; 13.9%; 3,028 days lost), and knee (n=50; 11.1%; 2,086 days lost).







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Commodity and	Number of Mining Operations			Numbe	r of Employ	/ees <sup>1</sup>	Number of FTE Employees <sup>2</sup>			
Type of Employer	Underground	Surface	Total	Underground	Surface	Total	Underground	Surface	Total	
Coal Operator	675	1,438	2,113	38,253	47,440	85,693	42,598	51,897	94,495	
Metal Operator	92	188	280	4,539	28,335	32,874	4,575	29,397	33,972	
Nonmetal Operator	46	695	741	2,374	20,677	23,051	2,415	20,806	23,221	
Stone Operator	122	4,451	4,573	1,877	80,706	82,583	2,154	83,247	85,402	
Sand and Gravel Operator	NA	7,178	7,178	NA	46,069	46,069	NA	39,796	39,796	
Operator Total	935	13,950	14,885	47,043	223,227	270,270	51,742	225,144	276,886	
	Number	of Compa	anies							
Coal Contractor	NA	NA	2,724	4,762	32,520	37,282	2,903	20,175	23,078	
Noncoal Contractor	NA	NA	4,686	1,815	54,130	55,945	1,401	29,893	31,294	
Contractor Total	NA	NA	7,410	6,577	86,650	93,227	4,304	50,068	54,372	
TOTAL				53,620	309,877	363,497	56,046	275,212	331,258	

# Mining Occupational Fatalities and Injuries, 2006

	Occupational Fatalities (per 100,000 FTE employees)						Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries (per 100 FTE employees)						
Commodity and	Underground		Surface		Total		Underground		Surface		Total		
Type of Employer	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	
Coal Operator	36	84.5	6	12.4	42	46.2	2,218	5.2	803	1.7	3,021	3.3	
Metal Operator	0	0.0	3	11.9	3	10.1	141	3.1	524	2.1	665	2.2	
Nonmetal Operator	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	73	3.0	344	2.0	417	2.1	
Stone Operator	0	0.0	10	13.8	10	13.4	43	2.0	2,038	2.8	2,081	2.8	
Sand and Gravel Operator	NA	NA	6	17.2	6	17.2	NA	NA	795	2.3	795	2.3	
Operator Total	36	69.6	25	12.6	61	24.4	2,475	4.8	4,504	2.3	6,979	2.8	
Coal Contractor	1	34.4	4	20.9	5	22.7	215	7.4	342	1.8	557	2.5	
Noncoal Contractor	0	0.0	7	24.8	7	23.6	49	3.5	403	1.4	452	1.5	
Contractor Total	1	23.2	11	23.2	12	23.2	264	6.1	745	1.6	1,009	2.0	
TOTAL	37	66.0	36	14.6	73	24.2	2,739	4.9	5,249	2.1	7,988	2.6	

**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].

<sup>1</sup>Number of employees is the average number of employees working at individual mines during calendar quarters of active operations.

To receive NIOSH documents or for more information about occupational safety and health topics, contact NIOSH at **1–800–CDC–INFO** (1–800–232–4636)

1–888–232–6348 (TTY)

e-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov

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

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Mining sectors: coal operators, metal operators, nonmetal operators, stone operators, sand and gravel operators, coal contractors, and noncoal contractors.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Surface work locations include surface operations at underground mines, surface operations (strip or open pit), auger, culm banks, dredge, other surface operations, independent shops and yards, and mills or preparation plants.

<sup>&</sup>lt;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.