



## Mining Injury Rates Continue to Drop Enforcement Remains Strong

The Mine Safety and Health Administration has jurisdiction over approximately 2,000 coal mines and 12,800 metal and nonmetal mines nationwide. The Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) mission is to protect the safety and health of the nation's miners under the provisions of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), as amended by the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 (MINER Act). MSHA's vision is to lead the way to zero accidents and fatalities and to put an end to occupational illness in the mining industry through enforcement of mandatory safety and health standards, mandated inspections which requires four annual inspections at all underground mines, two at all surface mines, and proactive compliance assistance and partnering with the mining community.

All Mining	CY 2001	CY 2002	CY 2003	CY 2004	CY 2005	CY 2006	CY 2007	Percent change, CY 2001-2007
Total Citations and Orders <sup>1</sup>	126,356	105,589	109,761	120,844	127,951	140,264	144,735	+15%
Total Mining Area Inspection Hours/Mine <sup>2</sup>	52	48	50	51	45	43	44	-15%
Mining fatalities	72	70	56	55	58	73	67	-7%
Total mining injuries	14,748	13,413	12,050	12,105	12,443	12,057	11,548	-22%
Number of miners	347,228	329,114	320,149	329,008	344,837	363,497	378,122	+9%

During the period 2001 through 2007, total mining fatalities declined by 7 percent, while total mining injuries declined by 22 percent.



## The Triangle of Success

MSHA’s culture of prevention embeds safety and health as core values in all initiatives and ongoing activities. Inspectors are trained to detect areas and activities that are most likely to place miners at risk. Strong enforcement is supplemented by helping mine operators understand the law and how to comply with the law’s requirements – and understand the consequences of non-compliance. MSHA’s technical support program applies scientific and engineering solutions to mitigate hazards. Education and training for the mining industry is crucial to the reduction

of accidents and illnesses. MSHA ensures that its training specialists and technical support personnel are readily accessible to the mining industry. MSHA’s unprecedented Alliance Agreements are creating a network of effective partnerships to foster a safe and healthful workforce in the nation’s mines. MSHA’s Small Mine Office (SMO) assists small mines which may have limited resources to develop effective safety, health and training practices. MSHA established this program to help small mines comply with MSHA's safety and health regulations, develop, and maintain safety and health programs to protect their miners.

## Rates of mining injuries substantiate safety progress

Rates of injury are recognized as the most reliable index of safety progress. The mining industry achieved substantial reductions in injury rates across the board from CY 2001 to CY 2007.

All Mining	CY 2001	CY 2002	CY 2003	CY 2004	CY 2005	CY 2006	CY 2007	Percent change, CY 2001-2007
Lost-time injury rate <sup>3</sup>	3.24	3.25	2.96	2.75	2.65	2.45	2.33	-28%
All injury rate <sup>3</sup>	4.75	4.60	4.23	4.05	3.92	3.64	3.43	-28%

1-Citations and orders are those not vacated

2-Total Mining Area Time includes: On-site Inspection Time (M/NM), MMU Pit Time (Coal), Outby Area Time (Coal), Surface Area Time (Coal), Citation/Order writing On-Site. On-site inspection hours represent hours entered by Authorized Representatives of the Secretary (AR) for certain inspection activities and task codes.

3-Reported injuries per 200,000 hours worked