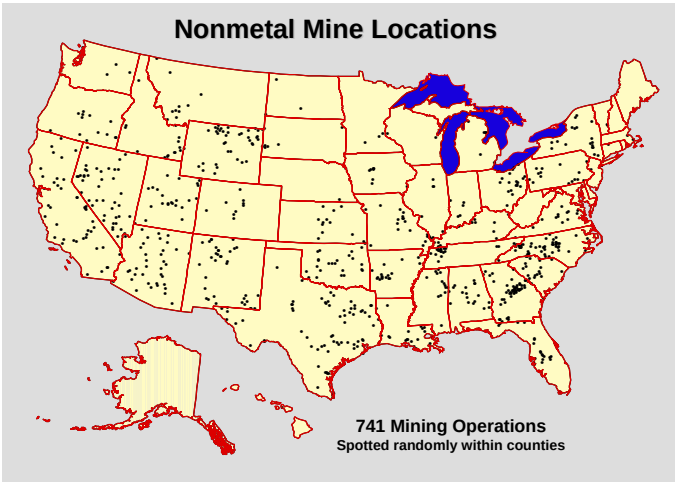
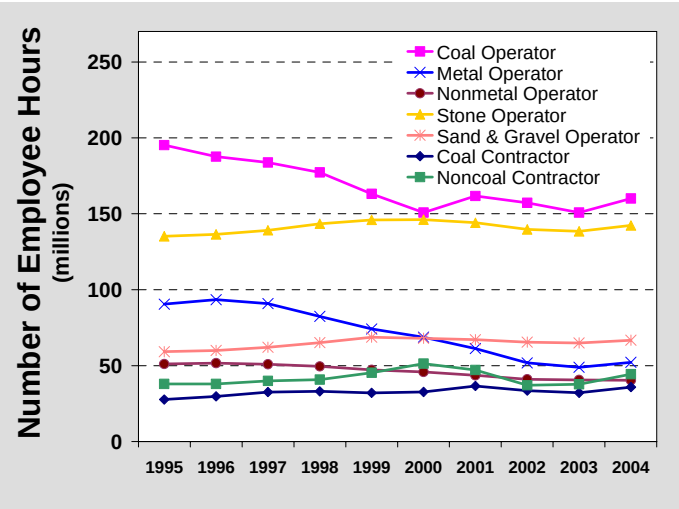
NONMETAL OPERATOR MINING FACTS – 2004

In 2004, a total of 741 **nonmetal mining operations** reported employment to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). These mines (e.g., potash, gypsum, salt) comprised 5.1% of all operations.

- Mines producing common clay comprised 27.4% (n=203) of all nonmetal mining operations.
- Nonmetal mining operations were located in all states and territories except Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.



A total of 19,432 **employees**,[1] corresponding to 20,183 full-time equivalent (FTE)[2] employees, were reported to MSHA by nonmetal mine operators in 2004. This was a 0.6% decrease in the number of FTE nonmetal operator employees from 2003.



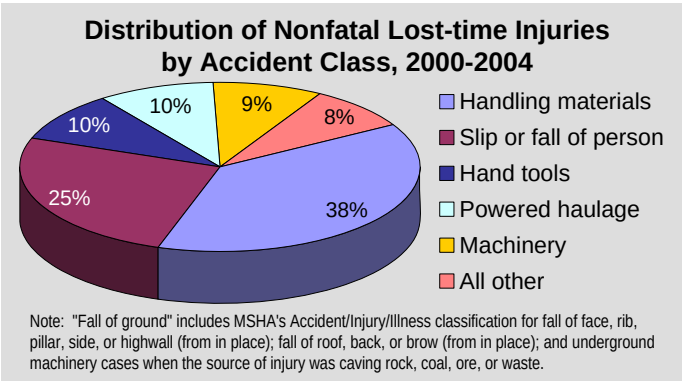
- Within the mining sectors,[3] nonmetal mine operator employees accounted for 7.4% of all employee hours reported.
- Employee hours were reported at underground (12.1%) and surface (87.9%) work locations.[4]

There was one occupational **fatality** among nonmetal operator employees in 2004. This mining fatality occurred at an underground work location.

- The nonmetal mine fatality rate for all work locations was 5.0 fatalities per 100,000 FTE employees, while the rate at underground work locations was 41.0.

There were 550 **nonfatal lost-time injuries** (83 at underground and 467 at surface work locations) among nonmetal operator employees occurring at a rate of 2.7 injuries per 100 FTE employees. A total of 24,517 days lost[5] from work resulted from these injuries.

- The underground nonfatal lost-time injury rate was greater than the surface injury rate (3.4 vs. 2.6 per 100 FTE workers).
- In 2004, the most frequent classification of nonfatal lost-time injuries involved handling materials (n=199; 36.2%).
- Sprains and strains were the most frequently reported nature of injury (n=273; 49.6%).
- The back was the most frequently reported part of the body injured (n=116; 21.1%) and accounted for 4,645 days lost from work.



Note: "Fall of ground" includes MSHA's Accident/Injury/Illness classification for fall of face, rib, pillar, side, or highwall (from in place); fall of roof, back, or brow (from in place); and underground machinery cases when the source of injury was caving rock, coal, ore, or waste.

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In 2004, 28 cases of **occupational illnesses** were reported to MSHA by nonmetal operators.[6] This compares to 36 cases in 2003.

- Joint, tendon, or muscle inflammation or irritation accounted for the most frequently reported occupational illnesses (n=13; 46.4%).
- In 2004, there were three cases of hearing loss or impairment reported to MSHA, or 10.7% of all illnesses. This compares to 12 cases (33.3%) in 2003.
- Other unclassified pneumoconiosis was reported for three nonmetal mine operator employees in 2004.

Mining Characteristics, 2004

Commodity and Type of Employer	No. of Mines	No. of Companies	No. of Employees	No. of FTE Employees	Fatality Rate	Nonfatal Lost-time Injury Rate
Coal Operator	2,011	--	73,024	80,069	28.7	3.9
Metal Operator	251	--	25,205	26,091	7.7	2.1
Nonmetal Operator	**741**	**--**	**19,432**	**20,183**	**5.0**	**2.7**
Stone Operator	4,401	--	68,417	71,153	11.2	3.2
Sand and Gravel Operator	7,074	--	37,000	33,364	24.0	2.3
Operator Total	**14,478**	**--**	**223,078**	**230,860**	**18.2**	**3.2**
Coal Contractor	--	2,550	30,228	17,964	27.8	2.6
Noncoal Contractor	--	4,143	42,511	22,198	36.0	1.7
Contractor Total	**--**	**6,693**	**72,739**	**40,162**	**32.4**	**2.1**
TOTAL			**295,817**	**271,022**	**20.3**	**3.0**

Data may not add to totals due to independent rounding. Number of employees was rounded at the subunit level of each mine to be consistent with MSHA reporting. Fatality rates were computed per 100,000 FTE employees. Nonfatal lost-time injury rates were computed per 100 FTE employees.

Data source: Publicly released files of employment and accident/injury/illness data collected by MSHA under 30 CFR 50.

Notes: All analyses exclude office employees, except for the total number of mining operations. Further statistical methodology is available on the NIOSH Internet [http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/mining/statistics/method.htm].

[1]Number of employees is the average number of persons working at individual establishments during calendar quarters of active operations. Employment numbers were rounded at the subunit level of each mine to be consistent with MSHA reporting.

[2]Full-time equivalent employees were computed using reported employee hours (2,000 hours = 1 FTE).

[3]Mining sectors: coal operators, metal operators, nonmetal operators, stone operators, sand and gravel operators, coal contractors, and noncoal contractors.

[4]Surface work locations include surface operations at underground mines (surface shops and yards, tipple physically located at the mine site), surface operations (strip or open pit mines including associated shops and yards), dredge (mining operations conducted from a platform floating on water), other surface operations (brine pumping, etc.), independent shops and yards not associated with a specific mine, and mill or preparation plant.

[5]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.

[6]Because of the complexity of attributing disease causation to the workplace, occupational illnesses may be underreported.

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