

Mining Operations

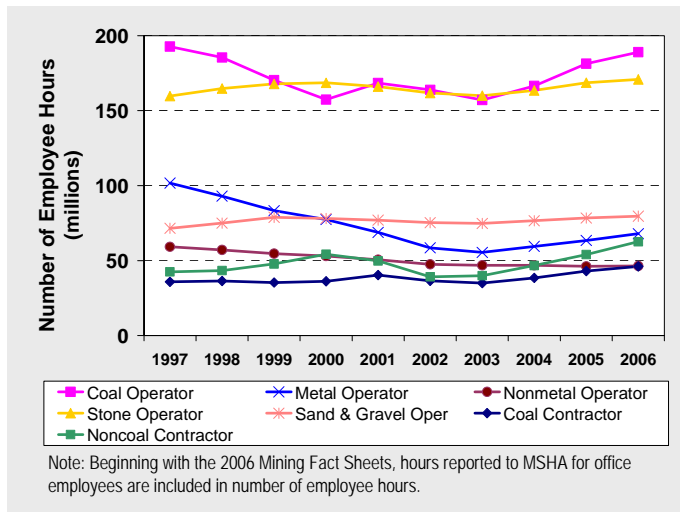
In 2006, a total of 7,178 sand and gravel mining operations reported employment to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).¹

- Sand and gravel mines were the largest mining sector, comprising 48.2% of all mining operations.
- Sand and gravel mines were found throughout all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Employees

A total of 46,069 employees,² corresponding to 39,796 full-time equivalent (FTE)³ employees, were reported by sand and gravel mine operators.

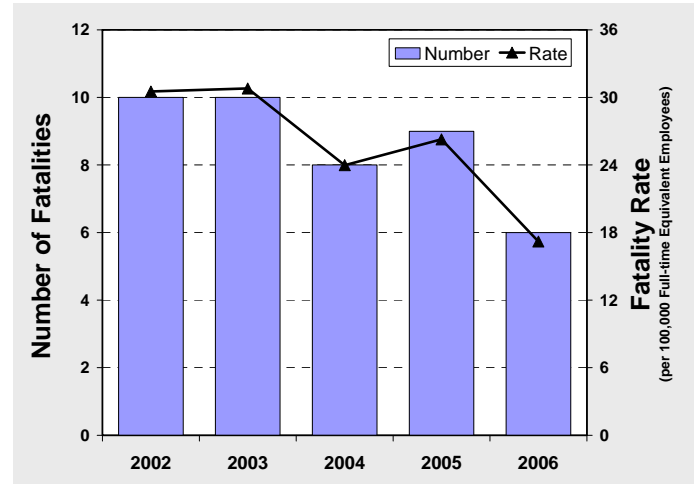
- Within the mining sectors,⁴ sand and gravel mine operator employees accounted for 12.0% of all employee hours reported to MSHA.



Fatalities

Six work-related fatalities occurred among sand and gravel operator employees in 2006. This compared to nine fatalities in 2005.

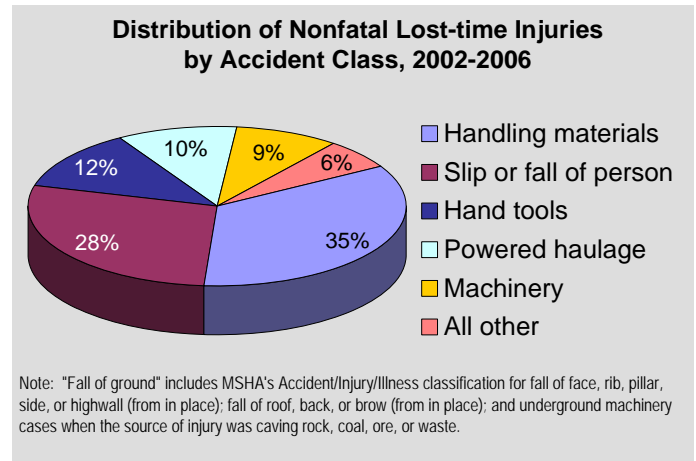
- The sand and gravel mine operator fatality rate was 17.2 fatalities per 100,000 FTE employees.



Nonfatal Lost-time Injuries

There were 795 nonfatal lost-time injuries among sand and gravel operator employees occurring at a rate of 2.3 injuries per 100 FTE employees. A total of 41,842 days lost⁵ from work resulted from these injuries.

- The most frequent classifications of nonfatal lost-time injuries for sand and gravel operator employees involved handling materials (n=263; 33.1%) and slip or fall of person (n=215; 27.0%).
- Sprains and strains were the most frequently reported nature of injury (n=300; 37.7%).
- The back was the most frequently reported body part injured (n=147; 18.5%) followed by fingers (n=106; 13.3%). Back injuries represented 6,761 days lost from work; finger injuries represented 5,339 days lost.



Mine and Employment Characteristics, 2006

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	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 Companies								
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

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	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>].

¹Mines at which only independent contractors were working did not show any employment and were not counted.

²Number of employees is the average number of employees working at individual mines during calendar quarters of active operations.

³Full-time equivalent employees computed using reported employee hours (2,000 hours = 1 FTE).

⁴Mining sectors: coal operators, metal operators, nonmetal operators, stone operators, sand and gravel operators, coal contractors, and noncoal contractors.

⁵Includes 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.

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 <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh>