



Coal Mining

Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities Fact Sheet and Charts

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www.bls.gov

Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities in the Coal Mining Industry

Coal mining is a relatively dangerous industry. Employees in coal mining are more likely to be killed or to incur a non-fatal injury or illness, and their injuries are more likely to be severe than workers in private industry as a whole, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Coal mining is part of the Mining sector along with other mining and extractive industries such as oil and gas. Coal mining is further divided into Bituminous coal underground mining, Bituminous coal and lignite surface mining, and Anthracite mining. Bituminous coal underground mining employs slightly more than half of all coal mining industry workers, but experiences a higher share of occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.

The rate of fatal injuries in the coal mining industry in 2006 was 49.5 per 100,000 workers, nearly twelve times the rate for all private industry. This represents an 84 percent increase from the 2005 rate of 26.8 fatalities per 100,000 workers.

Rates of fatal occupational injury in 2006:

- Total private industry: 4.2 cases per 100,000 workers
- Coal mining: 49.5 per 100,000 workers

There were 47 fatal injuries in coal mining in 2006, up from an average of 25 fatalities per year from 2003 to 2005. Multiple-fatality incidents (including the Sago mine disaster) resulted in the deaths of 21 of these workers. In 2006, 33 fatalities (or 70 percent of all fatalities in coal mining) were in bituminous coal underground mining. Fires and explosions were the most frequent fatal event with 17 fatalities, followed by 11 cases involving contact with objects and equipment and 5 transportation incidents.

The rate of nonfatal injuries and illnesses in coal mining in 2005 was 5.1 cases per 100 full-time workers, 11 percent higher than for total private industry. In bituminous coal underground mining, the rate of nonfatal injuries and illnesses was 63 percent higher than that of all private industry. In contrast, anthracite mining and bituminous and lignite surface mining had lower rates than total private industry.

Total nonfatal injury and illness incidence rates in 2005:

- Total private industry: 4.6 cases per 100 full-time workers
- Coal mining: 5.1 per 100 full-time workers
- Bituminous coal underground mining: 7.5 per 100 full-time workers
- Bituminous coal and lignite surface mining: 2.5 per 100 full-time workers
- Anthracite mining: 4.3 per 100 full-time workers

More serious injuries and illnesses require days away from work to recuperate. In coal mining, the rate of injuries and illnesses with days away from work was 3.2 per 100 full-time workers in 2005, more than twice the rate for the private sector as a whole. The bituminous coal underground mining rate was 4.9 per 100 full-time workers, more than three times the total private industry rate.

Rates of injuries and illnesses with days away from work in 2005:

- Total private industry: 1.4 cases per 100 full-time workers
- Coal mining: 3.2 per 100 full-time workers
- Bituminous coal underground mining: 4.9 per 100 full-time workers
- Bituminous coal and lignite surface mining: 1.4 per 100 full-time workers
- Anthracite mining: 3.1 per 100 full-time workers

The number of median days away from work is a measure of the severity of injuries and illnesses. Workers in coal mining and bituminous coal underground mining were away from work due to occupational injuries or illnesses longer than the 7 median days experienced by all private industry workers. Fractures, which frequently require long recuperations, account for 16 percent of all injuries and illnesses in coal mining, compared to 8 percent in all private industry.

Median days away from work in 2005:

- Total private industry: 7 median days away from work
- Coal mining: 30 days
- Bituminous coal underground mining: 33 days
- Fractures: 27 days

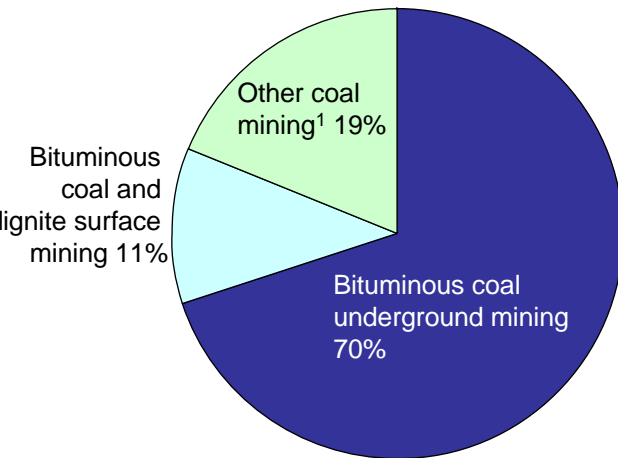
NOTE: The Bureau of Labor Statistics data may differ from those reported by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) due to differences in reporting rules and definitions.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), August 10, 2007. Fatality data are from the 2006 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. Nonfatal injury and illness data are from the 2005 Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses. Nonfatal injury and illness data for 2006 will be available in two upcoming releases scheduled for October and November 2007.

More information is available from www.bls.gov/iif or by calling 202-691-6170.

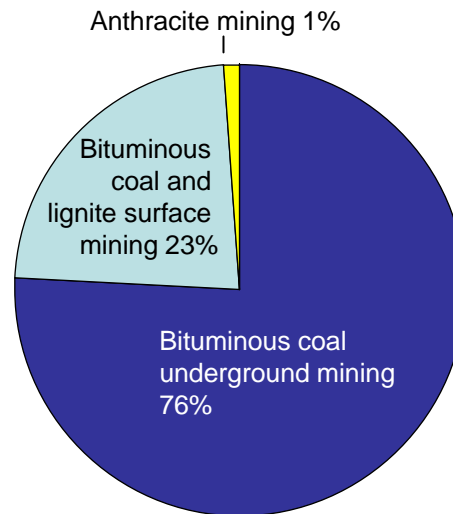
Distribution of occupational injuries and illnesses, fatalities, and employment for coal mining industries

Fatal injuries, 2006



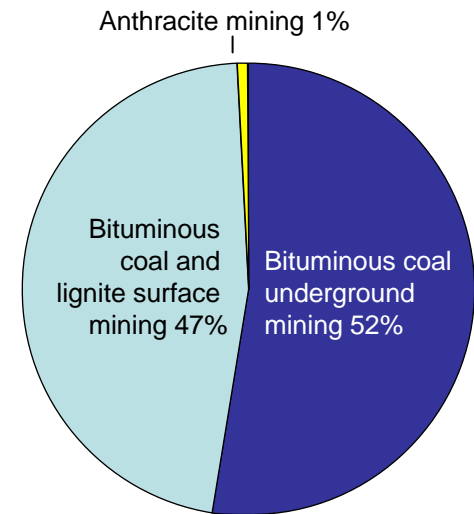
(47 total cases)

Nonfatal injuries and illnesses, 2005



(4,606 total cases)

Employment, 2005



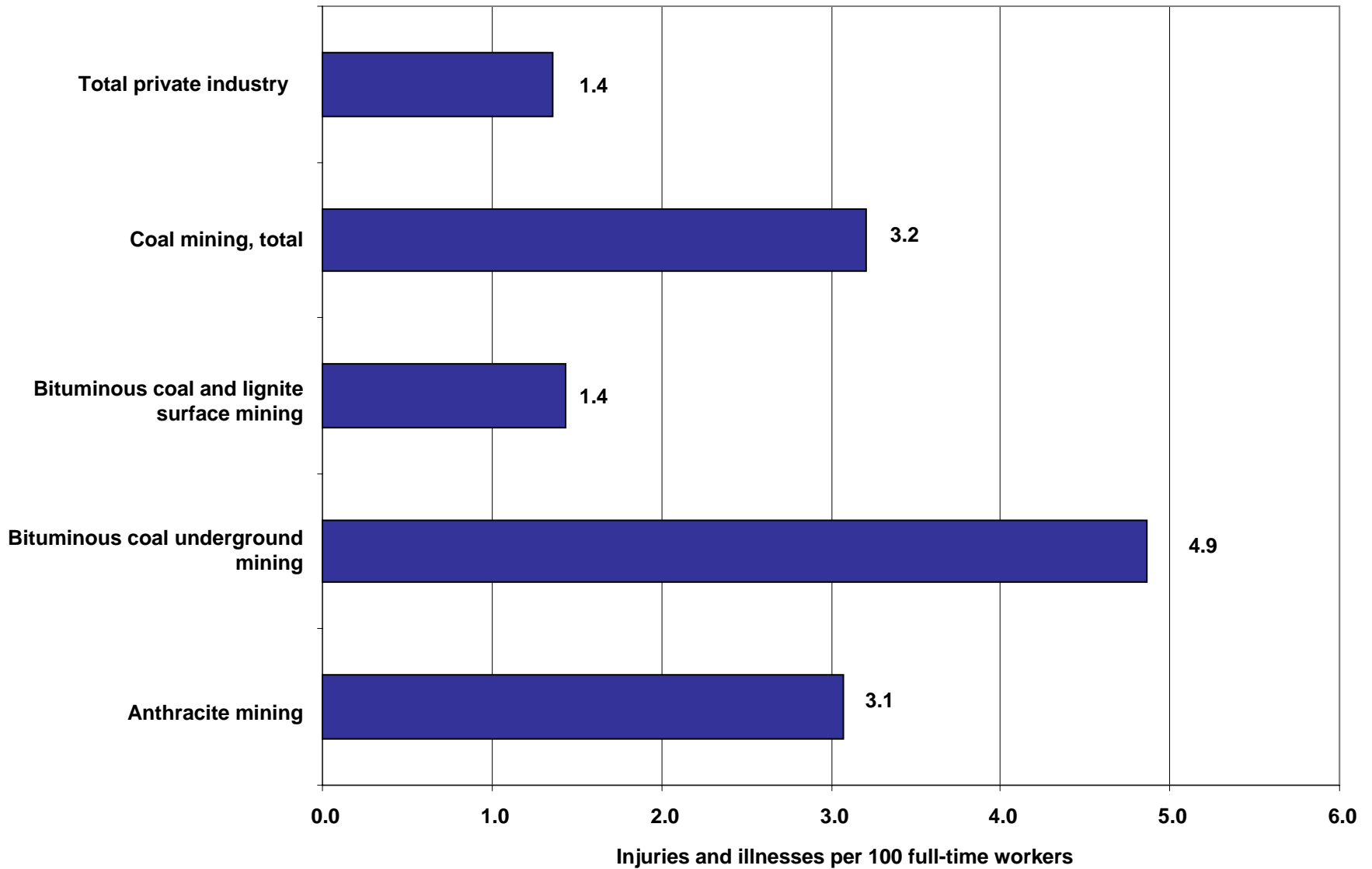
(74,450 employees)

1. The 'Other coal mining' category includes both anthracite mining and coal mining that could not be specified any further.

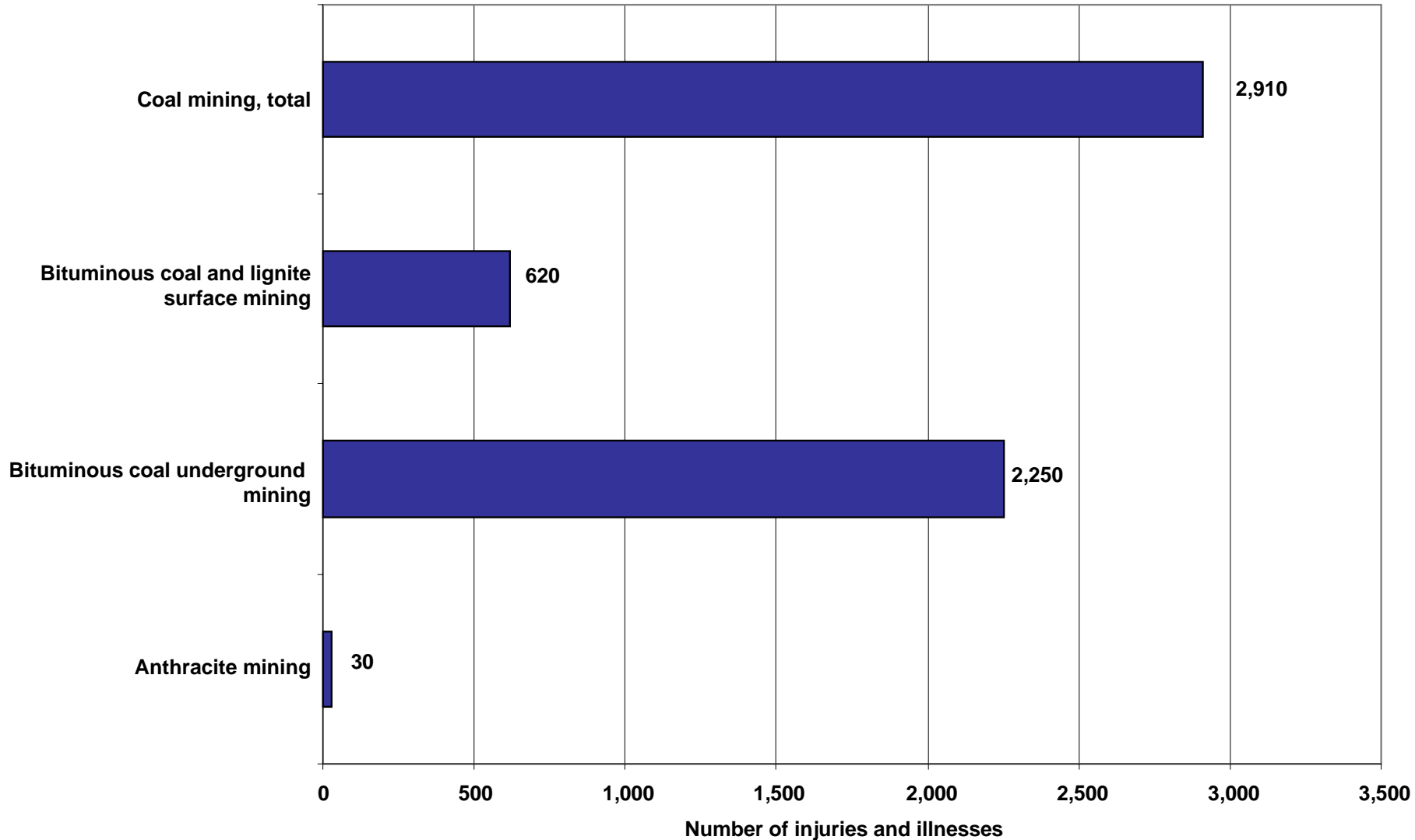
Fatal injury data for 2006 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2007

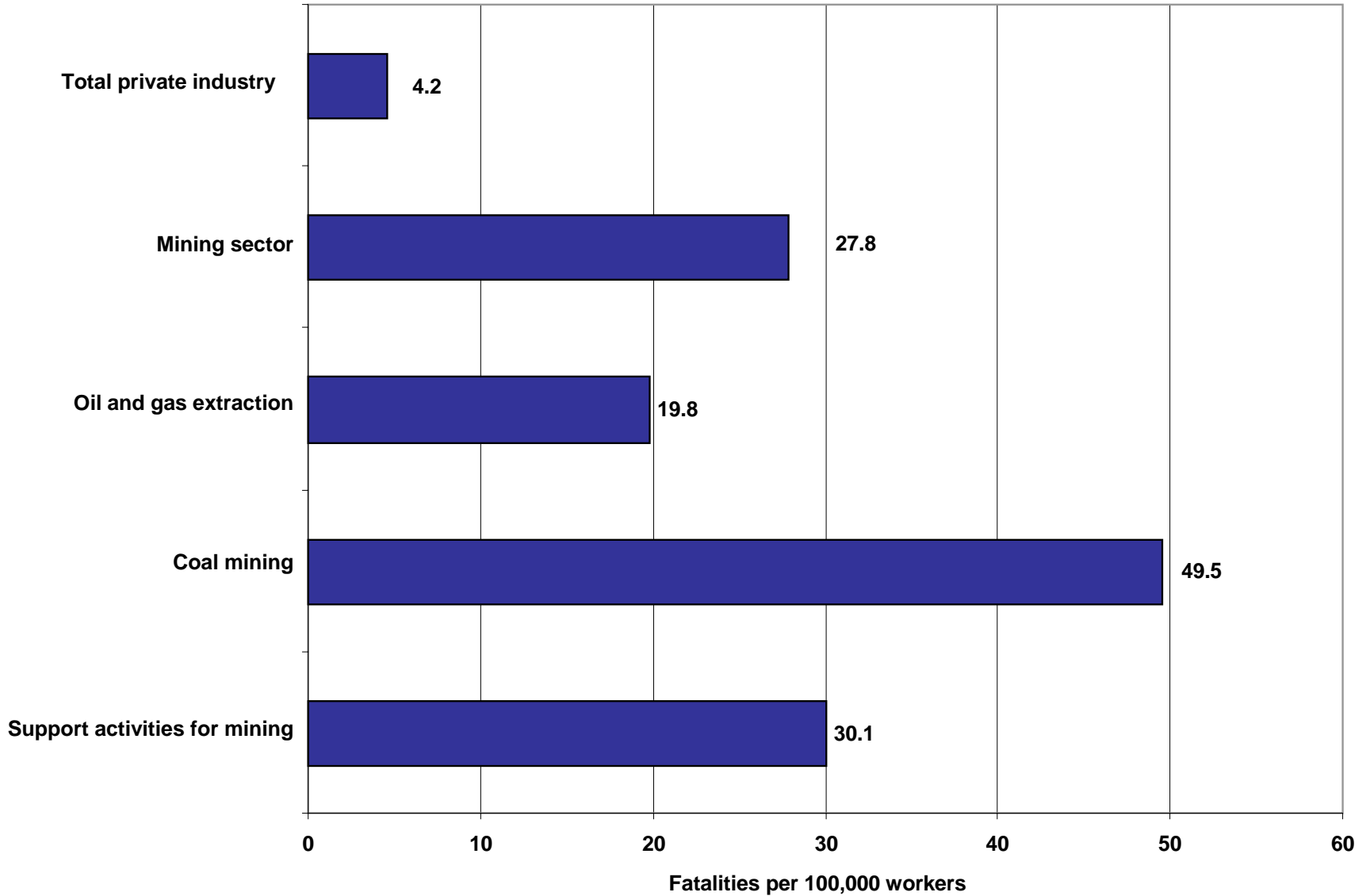
Rates of injuries and illnesses with days away from work, total and coal mining industries, 2005



Number of injuries and illnesses with days away from work, coal mining industries, 2005



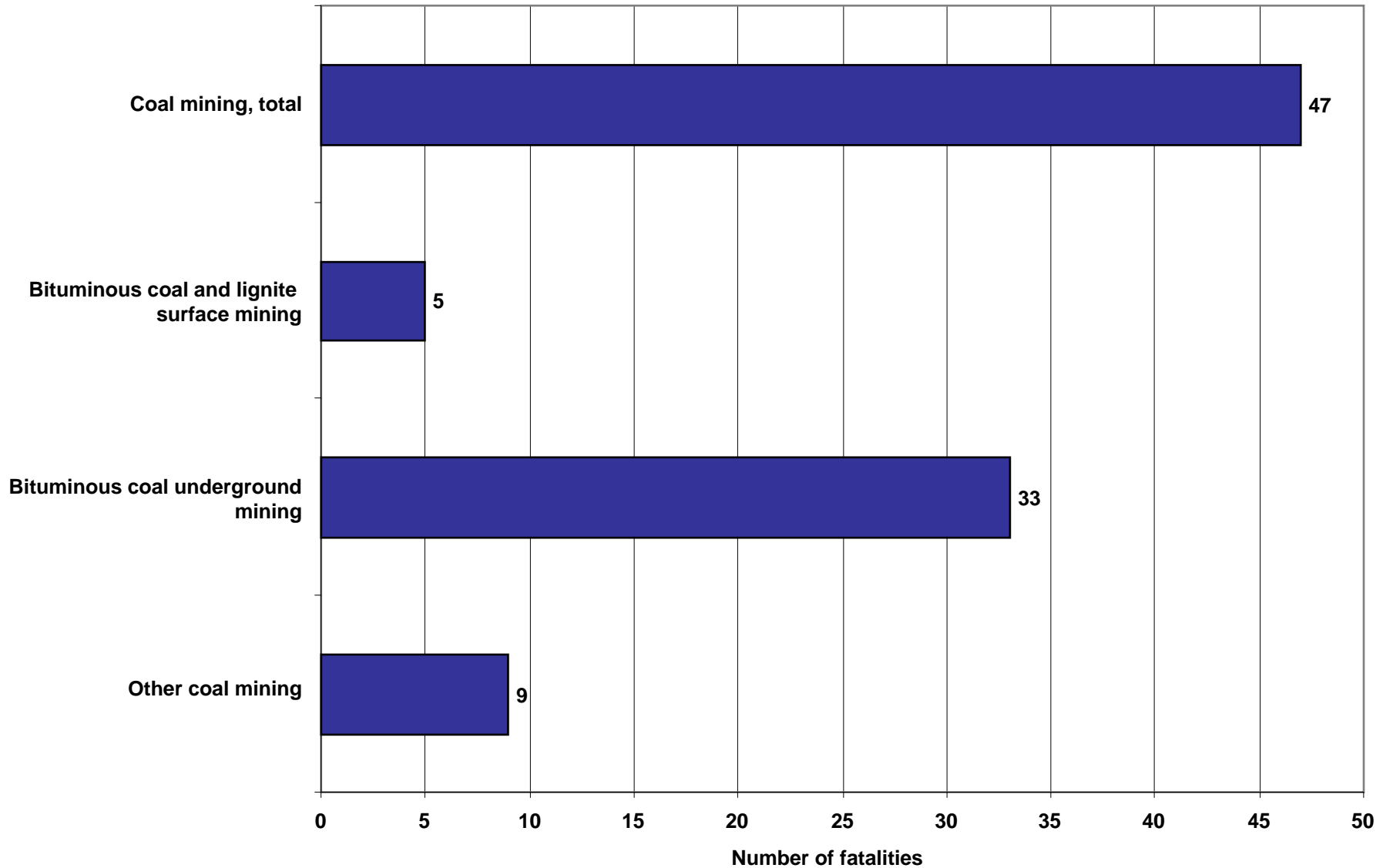
Fatality rates, mining industries, 2006



The data for 2006 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2007

Number of fatalities, coal mining industries, 2006

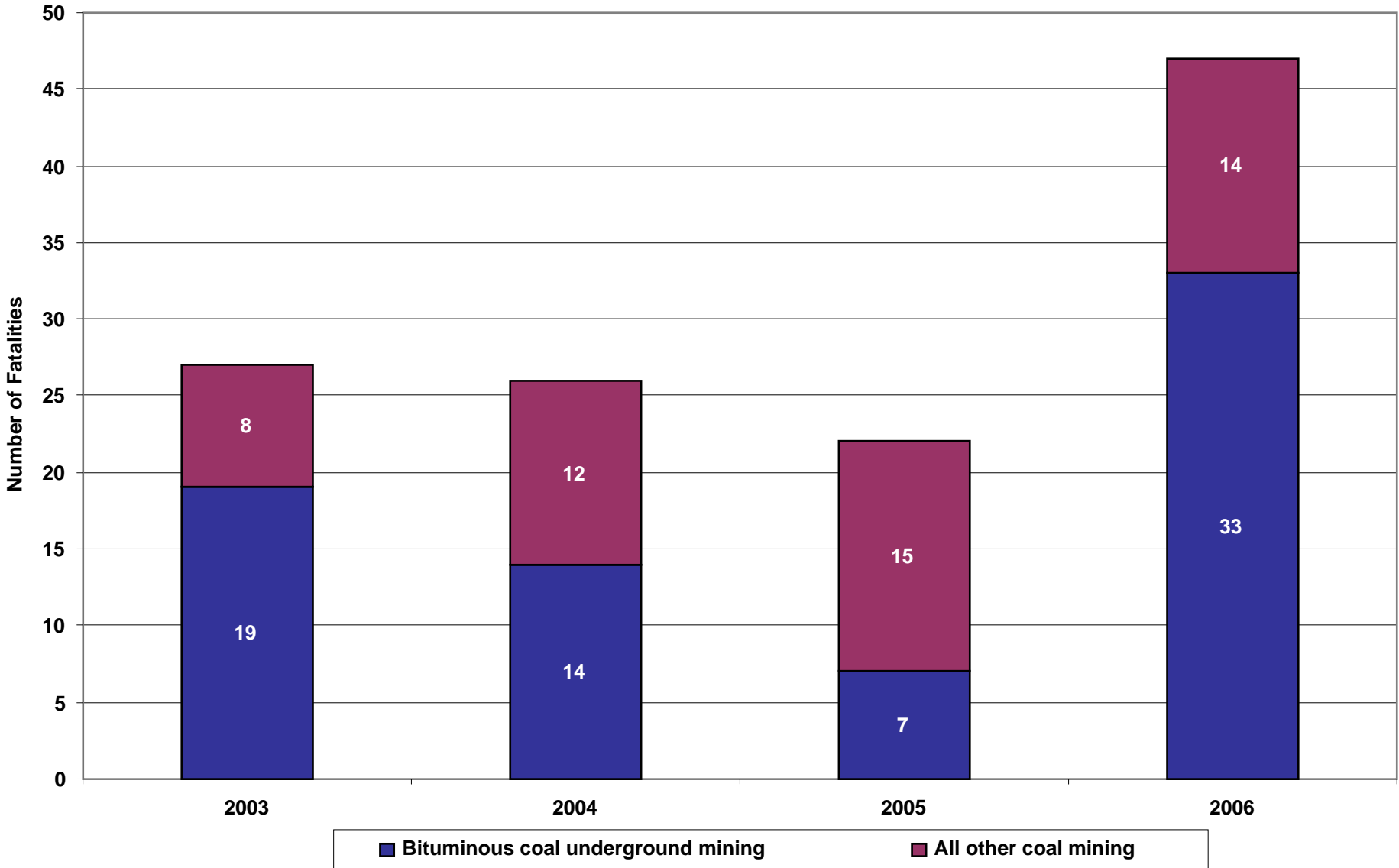


Note: The 'Other coal mining' category includes both anthracite mining and coal mining that could not be specified any further.

The data for 2006 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2007

Number of fatalities, coal mining industries, 2003-2006



The data for 2006 are preliminary.

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2007