

# Coal Mine Safety Fact Sheet



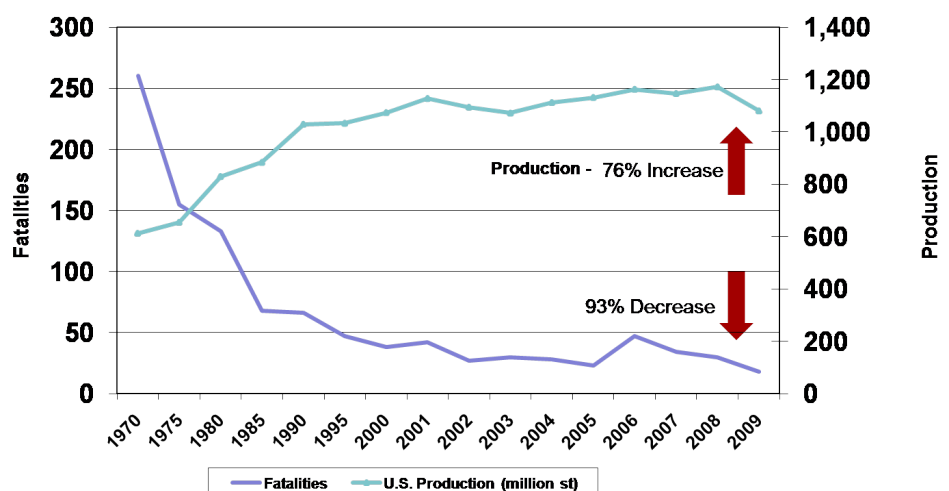
## Safety First

Continuous technological advances paired with a highly skilled workforce have allowed the coal mining industry to meet the nation's growing energy requirements, while providing safer workplaces.

- Since 1970, coal production has increased 76 percent while fatal injuries have decreased by 93 percent.
- Injuries have fallen by two-thirds in the last 18 years.
- Two-thirds of U.S. coal mines operate each year without a single lost work time injury.
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, coal mining is not even among the top 10 most dangerous occupations in America. Pilots, truck and taxi drivers, loggers, fishermen, roofers and other occupations face greater on the job risks than coal miners.



## U.S. Coal Mine Safety and Production Trends



source: Mine Safety and Health Administration, EIA

<sup>1</sup> 2009 data are preliminary

## Safety Facts

Coal mining is regulated under a comprehensive federal safety law (Federal Mine Safety and Health Act) that is administered by the Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).

- Underground coal mines are thoroughly inspected at least four times a year.
- With 758 coal mine inspectors – about one for every 2.8 coal mines – MSHA spends on average more than 200 hours annually inspecting each coal mine.
- MSHA and its inspectors:
  - issue citations and establish a time frame for correcting violations;
  - remove miners from all or part of a mine in the face of hazardous conditions or repeated failures to correct violations; and
  - levy fines that increase with the severity of the violation.
- Coal miners can report violations and can request additional inspections and cannot lose their jobs for doing so.