

Safety: Mining's Commitment



U.S. mining has made significant advances in improving the health and safety of its workforce. In 2009, 87 percent of the nation's mines operated without a lost-time injury. This improvement has been sustained over time and is the result of several key factors:

- **Technology** Advanced technology that is more protective of mine worker health and safety and better equipment design to reduce potential for ergonomically related injuries and unsafe practices.
- **Training and awareness** More frequent training coupled with ongoing instruction that recognizes the increased complexity of today's mines, changes in the workforce and new safety imperatives that demand greater safety awareness.
- **Comprehensive laws and regulations** The legal and regulatory framework that governs mine safety has expanded.
- **Trends and risk analysis** Causes of injuries are examined more rigorously and addressed in a systematic way, and analyses of individual mining situations are underway to eliminate areas of potential risk.
- **Commitment** A commitment by mine operators, workers and regulators to achieving zero fatalities and injuries in America's mines.

Over the last three years, more than \$800 million has been invested in new safety technology and training at U.S. mines.

To achieve continued improvement in mine safety and health, the mining industry promotes health and safety as a core value. It strives to instill the values of safety leadership, accountability and personal involvement in every employee and to provide them with the required training and tools to prevent fatalities, injuries or occupational illnesses.

Technological ingenuity, better training, improved engineering methods and conscientious safety awareness by miners, mine operators and equipment manufacturers has enabled the industry to establish a record of continuous improvement that places mining below the private sector average rate for occupational injury and illness. The lower injury rate has translated into reductions in fatal injuries such that U.S. mining is safer than many other industrial occupations including truck and taxi drivers, loggers, fishermen, roofers and pilots.

U.S. mines are regulated by the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) in the U.S. Department of Labor and by state regulatory authorities.

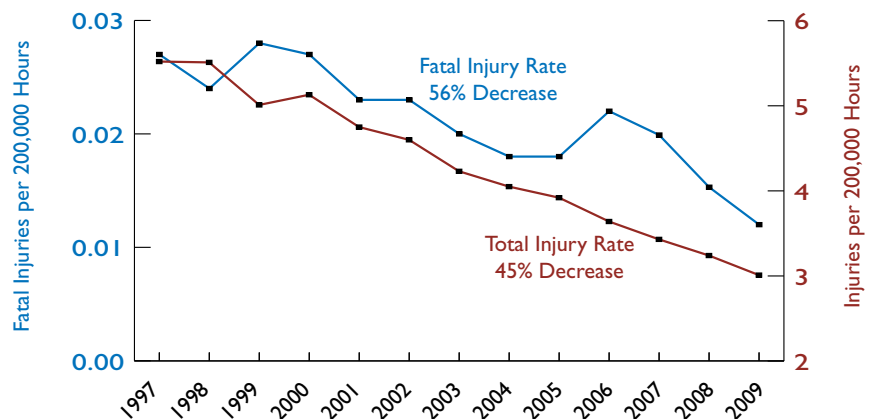
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the mining industry's occupational injury and illness rate of 3.5 cases per 100 full time workers in 2008 ranked it near the lowest total among U.S. major industries.

BLS Estimates of Nonfatal Occupational Injury and Illness Rates by Industry Division, 2007-2008

Industry Division	Total Cases	
	2007	2008
Trade, Transportation & Public Utilities	4.9	4.4
Manufacturing	5.6	5.0
Construction	5.4	4.7
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	5.4	5.3
Education & Health Services	5.2	5.0
Retail Trade	4.8	4.4
Leisure & Hospitality	4.5	4.2
Service Providing	3.8	3.6
MINING	3.7	3.5
Financial Activities	1.4	1.5
Private Sector Average	4.2	3.9

U.S. Mining Injury Rates, 1997-2009

source: Mine Safety and Health Administration



Overall U.S. Mine Safety and Health, 2004-2009

Category	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009*
Number of mines	14,478	14,666	14,885	14,871	14,907	14,574
Number of miners	329,008	344,837	363,497	378,122	392,719	352,595
Fatalities	55	58	73	67	52	35
Fatal injury rate	.018	.018	.022	.020	.016	.012
All injury rate	4.05	3.92	3.64	3.43	3.25	3.01

source: Mine Safety and Health Administration. Includes operator and contractors, stone, sand and gravel.

* Preliminary