

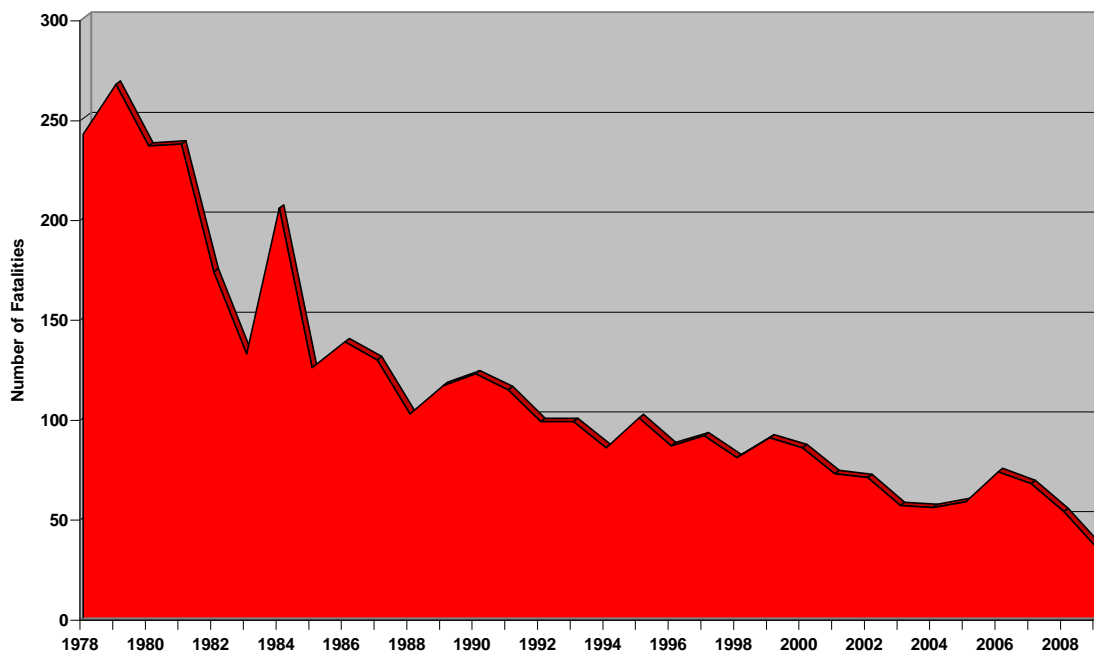
# Mine Safety and Health At a Glance

05/19/2010

U.S. Department of Labor  
Mine Safety and Health Administration

Safety and health in America's mining industry made significant strides during the 20th century and over the last 25 years in particular. In 1978, the first year the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) operated under the new Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, 242 miners died in mining accidents. Last year, in CY 2009, a record low 34 fatalities were reported. MSHA's culture of prevention embeds safety and health as core values in all initiatives and ongoing activities. Inspectors are trained to direct their efforts to those areas or activities that are most likely to place miners at risk. Strong enforcement is supplemented by helping mine operators understand the law and how to comply with the law's requirements. MSHA's technical support program applies scientific and engineering solutions to mitigate hazards. Education and training for the mining industry is crucial to the reduction of accidents and illnesses. MSHA ensures that its training specialists and technical support personnel are readily accessible to the mining industry.

**U.S. Mining Fatalities CY 1978 - 2009**



## All Mine Safety and Health

	<u>CY</u>						
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009*</u>
Number of mines	14,391	14,478	14,666	14,885	14,871	14,907	14,574
Number of miners	320,149	329,008	344,837	363,497	378,123	392,719	352,595
Fatalities	56	55	58	73	67	53	34
Fatal injury rate <sup>1</sup>	.0197	.0184	.0183	.0220	.0199	.0156	.0115
All Injury rate <sup>1</sup>	4.23	4.05	3.92	3.64	3.43	3.25	3.01
Total mining area inspection hours/mine <sup>2</sup>	50	51	45	43	44	56	59
Citations and orders issued <sup>3</sup>	109,675	120,812	127,941	140,235	144,578	174,473	175,079
S&S citations and orders (%)	32%	33%	32%	32%	30%	30%	33%
Dollar amount assessed (Millions)	19.9	27.7	24.9	35.1	74.5	194.3	141.2

\*Preliminary

## **Coal Mine Safety and Health**

U.S. coal mine production reached the highest levels in history in recent years. In 2009 coal mining fatalities totaled a record low 18. The Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act of 2006 has given MSHA more tools to improve safety and health in American mines. MSHA continues to work to implement the legislation.

	<u>CY</u>						
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009*</u>
Number of coal mines	1,972	2,011	2,063	2,113	2,030	2,129	2,064
Number of miners	104,824	108,734	116,436	122,975	122,936	133,827	133,433
Fatalities	30	28	23	47	34	30	18
Fatal injury rate <sup>1</sup>	.0312	.0273	.0205	.0400	.0293	.0237	.0149
All Injury rate <sup>1</sup>	5.38	5.00	4.62	4.46	4.21	3.89	3.67
States with coal mining	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
Coal production (millions of tons)	1,071	1,111	1,133	1,163	1,147	1,172	1,072
Total mining area inspection hours/mine <sup>2</sup>	170	174	162	161	169	227	238
FY Inspection completion rate (%)	98.8	98.9	98.1	94.1	83.8	100	100
Citations and orders issued <sup>3</sup>	56,700	64,449	69,072	77,727	84,431	107,404	102,660
S&S citations and orders (%)	39%	41%	39%	39%	36%	35%	34%
Dollar amount assessed (Millions)	11.7	17.6	15.4	22.5	53.5	152.7	103.3

\*Preliminary

## **Metal and Nonmetal Mine Safety and Health**

Fatalities in the metal and nonmetal mining industry totaled a record low 16 in 2009. Metal and nonmetal mining includes production of metals such as gold and copper, nonmetals such as salt and phosphate, and production of stone, sand and gravel. Mining techniques and conditions are diverse and differ substantially from the coal sector. Most metal and nonmetal operations are small. MSHA has focused on small mines and formed partnerships to aid in accident reduction.

	<u>CY</u>						
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009*</u>
Number of metal/nonmetal mines	12,419	12,467	12,603	12,772	12,841	12,778	12,510
Number of miners	215,325	220,274	228,401	240,522	255,187	258,892	219,162
Fatalities	26	27	35	26	33	23	16
Fatal injury rate <sup>1</sup>	.0138	.0137	.0170	.0122	.0149	.0107	.0092
All Injury rate <sup>1</sup>	3.65	3.55	3.54	3.19	3.02	2.87	2.55
States with M/NM mining	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Total mining area inspection hours/mine <sup>2</sup>	26	26	20	19	19	21	22
FY Inspection completion rate (%)	87.4	90.2	87.7	93.5	87.5	100	100
Citations and orders issued <sup>3</sup>	52,975	56,363	58,869	62,508	60,147	67,069	72,419
S&S citations and orders (%)	24%	24%	23%	23%	22%	21%	32%
Dollar amount assessed (Millions)	8.2	10.1	9.5	12.7	21.0	41.6	37.9

\*Preliminary

1-Reported injuries per 200,000 hours worked

2-Total Mining Area Time includes: On-site Inspection Time (M/NM), MMU Pit Time (Coal), Outby Area Time (Coal), Surface Area Time (Coal), Citation/Order writing On-Site. On-site inspection hours represent hours entered by Authorized Representatives of the Secretary (AR) for certain inspection activities and task codes.

3-Citations and orders are those not vacated

## **For more information:**

[www.msha.gov](http://www.msha.gov)

MSHA Office of Program Education and Outreach Services, (202) 693-9400