

Mine Injury and Worktime, Quarterly

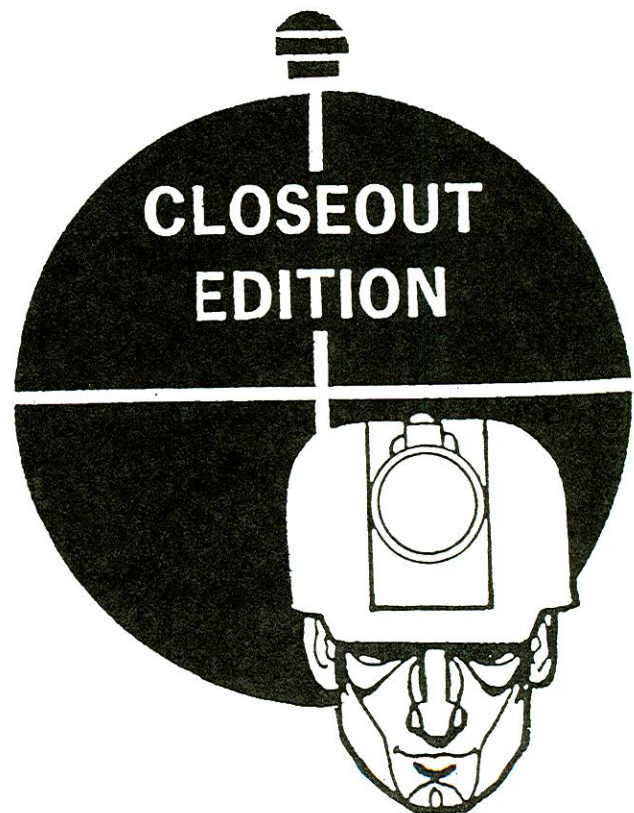


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This publication has been reviewed and approved for distribution to the mining public by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health.

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LIMITATIONS AND SCOPE OF DATA

In order to maintain consistency with prior years, fatalities occurring to independent contractor employees are included in chart 1. However, beginning in 1983, tabular data on independent contractors are depicted separately from operator data. Independent contractors have been exempted from reporting employment and injury information relating to “low hazard” activities performed at mining operations. Mandatory information now is limited to their activities which involve: mine development; construction, reconstruction or demolition of mine facilities; construction of dams; excavation or earth moving; equipment installation, service or repair; material handling; drilling or blasting. Also, data collected for employment and hours worked in those activities reflect the contractor’s total metallic/nonmetallic work locations and total coal work locations and not the individual mine sites. For more detailed information concerning these changes, see the guidelines accompanying MSHA Policy Memoranda Nos. 82-6A MM and 81-35A C.

All data presented in this publication are final. The data are compiled from independent contractor reports and reports by operators of mines for personnel directly engaged in production, cleaning, milling, shipping, development, and maintenance and repair work, including direct supervisory and technical personnel and contract mining services. Reports are submitted as required under the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, Public Law 91-173 as amended by Public Law 95-164.

DEFINITIONS AND NOTES

The term “injury,” as used in this publication, includes all reportable occupational injuries and those illnesses which result from a work accident or from exposure involving a single incident in the work environment. A reportable “injury” is an injury to an individual, occurring at a mining operation, that requires medical treatment or results in death or loss of consciousness or inability to perform all job duties on any workday after the injury or temporary assignment to other duties or transfer to another job. The injury occurrences are classified according to severity as follows:

1. FATAL: Occurrences resulting in death.
2. NFDL: Nonfatal occurrences with Days Lost (lost workdays). That is, nonfatal injury occurrences that result in days away from work or days of restricted work activity.
3. NDL: Occurrences with No Days Lost. That is, nonfatal injury occurrences resulting only in loss of consciousness or medical treatment other than first aid.

Incidence rates represent the number of injuries that occurred for each 200,000 employee-hours worked, computed as follows:

$$IR = \frac{\text{Number of injury occurrences}}{\text{Number of employee hours}} \times 200,000$$

In the event that the computation of an incidence rate results in a number less than 0.005, then an asterisk (*) will be shown instead of a number in the tabular location; if the incidence rate is 999.99 or more, then the rate will be shown as 999.99.

“Average number of workers” is a summary of the average number of persons working at individual mining establishments during periods (not necessarily continuous) of active operations.

“Production reported” is the short tons of clean coal reported to MSHA as being produced at active coal mines. The quantities reported by operators and independent contractors are not verified or questioned by MSHA except in cases of extreme deviation from expectations. The numbers are to be used only in computation of various rates and size-group classification, not as a highly accurate measure of coal produced in the United States.

Chart 1. Number of Fatal Injuries in the U.S. Mining Industries, 2011, 2012 and 2013

