

# 2014 COAL REPORT

Indiana Bureau of Mines | Indiana Department of Labor | February 2015

## Coal Production

On page 3, learn how much coal Indiana's underground mines produced in 2014.

## Indiana Mining Board

The Indiana State Mining Board exists to further enhance the safety and health of underground miners in Indiana. Meet Indiana's Mining Board on Page 4.

## Permits, Licenses & Certifications

Learn what it takes to earn a technical certification for specialized mining roles on page 5.

## Mine Rescue Teams

In the event of a mining disaster, Indiana's Mine Rescue Teams stand at-the-ready. Find out more on page 6.

## Mining Injuries

The Bureau of Mines and the mining industry strive for a perfect safety record, but accidents still occur. See how many Indiana mining injuries occurred in 2014 on page 7.



*Governor Pence speaks with a coal miner at Gibson South Mine.*

## Governor Michael R. Pence

Indiana's history in coal mining stretches back more than 150 years and it remains as valuable an industry today as it has ever been. The energy produced by Indiana's coal fuels our state's economy by providing jobs in coal production and affordable, reliable electricity to homes, businesses and services throughout our great state. Indiana's coal industry is under attack from new federal regulations, and I pledge to fight against these regulations with all means at my disposal.

I continue to support changes and advancements in coal mining that foster safety and health for these men and women, and I thank our coal miners for their dedication and hard work.

Michael R. Pence  
Governor of Indiana



## **Rick J. Ruble**

*Commissioner of Labor*

Rick Ruble has been with the IDOL for 18 years. Starting in the Research and Statistics division in 1988. Commissioner Ruble left the agency in 1997 to obtain a Juris Doctorate from Indiana University. He returned to the IDOL in 2007 as Deputy Commissioner. Ruble was appointed Commissioner of Labor by Governor Pence in November 2013.

## **Donald McCorkle**

*Assistant Commissioner*

Donald "Blink" McCorkle has been employed in the mining industry since 1972. He is a United States Army Vietnam Veteran and holds an Associate's Degree in Mining Technology from Rend Lake College in Ina, Illinois. Assistant Commissioner McCorkle holds mine foreman certifications in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois and is certified by the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) as an underground, surface and mine rescue instructor. He has served as Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Mines since 2006.

## **Commissioner of Labor Rick J. Ruble**

It is with great pleasure that the Indiana Department of Labor and the Indiana Bureau of Mines present the 2014 Coal Report. 2014 was a banner year for Indiana's underground coal mines. The mines employed 22 percent more Hoosiers than ever before and set a new record for coal production, all while driving injuries illnesses down to some of the lowest levels on record.

I applaud the diligence and cooperation demonstrated by our underground miners and mine operators as they foster a culture of safety while working to power our nation's homes and businesses.

## **Assistant Commissioner Donald "Blink" McCorkle**

The Bureau of Mines is deeply appreciative of our coal miners and their efforts and considers it a privilege to be associated with such a committed workforce. The obstacles miners face each day are overcome by hard work and perseverance. Hoosiers show this determination not only in our coal mines but all throughout our great state. We have the grit, the leadership and the knowledge to get through tough times.

People are the backbone of Indiana. Hoosiers always get the job done. Our goal is to ensure that the industries that employ our hard-working men and women are free from safety and health hazards. Safety is a cooperative effort. When employers and employees work together, we can eliminate accidents and fatalities. The Bureau of Mines, Hoosier miners, coal companies and the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) are dedicated to pursuing the goal of *zero* injuries and fatalities in Indiana's coal mines. We owe it to our working men and women and their families. We will not reach 100% of our target if we think 99% will do. We must lead in this endeavor. Leadership means taking responsibility, not making excuses.

Coal mining remains a proud tradition and honorable profession. Together, let's awaken a nation to the importance of what we do and how we fulfill their needs.

### A New Record!

From 3,042,060 tons of coal in 1998 to 18,168,192.58 tons in 2014, the amount of coal produced from Indiana's underground coal mines has increased by nearly 500% in 16 years.

### County by County

Gibson and Knox counties are the most active underground mining communities with three underground coal mines in each county. Nearly 40% of the 2,370 underground coal miners in Indiana work in Gibson County and 27% work in Knox County. Pike County, Green County and Sullivan County are each home to one underground coal mine.

### Bursting at the Seams

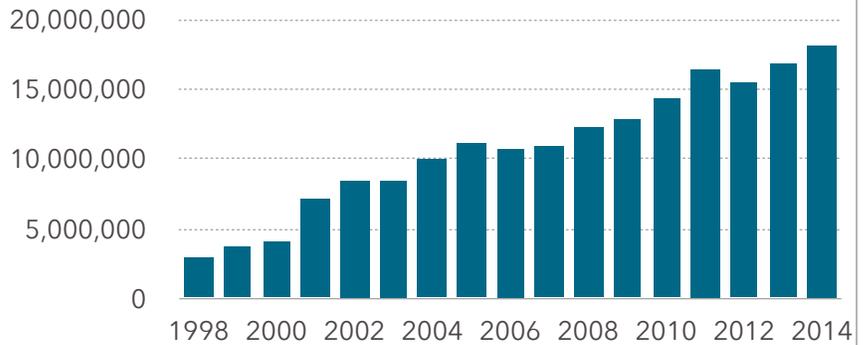
The earth's crust is separated into layers, or strata. A stratum of coal that is thick enough to be mined is called a coal seam. Coal seams are numbered to identify the seam in the earth.

### The Future of Coal

A 2011 report by the Indiana Geological Survey (IGS) estimates that Indiana's coal reserves could last more than 500 years at current production rates. There are nearly 57 billion tons of available coal in Indiana, 17 billion of which is recoverable with current mining capabilities. IGS estimates that 88% of the recoverable coal can only be mined underground.

## Coal Production

In 2014, Indiana's nine underground coal mines produced 18,168,192.58 tons of clean coal—making 2014 the highest underground coal production year on record in Indiana.



SOURCE: Indiana Department of Labor and Indiana Coal Council Records

The following table shows the amount of coal mined by each Hoosier underground coal mine in 2014:

Coal Mine	County	Total Employees	Tons of Clean Coal Produced	Coal Seam
Gibson County Coal LLC Gibson Mine North	Gibson	335	3,768,695	5
Sunrise Coal Co. Oaktown Fuels #1	Knox	337	3,331,458	5
Peabody Coal Co. Francisco Mine	Gibson	275	3,049,918	5
Sunrise Coal Co. Carlisle Mine	Sullivan	385	3,049,523	5
Sunrise Coal Co. Oaktown Fuels #2	Knox	226	2,125,272	5
Five Star Mining Co. Prosperity Mine*	Pike	382	1,321,377	5
Gibson County Coal LLC Gibson Mine South	Gibson	257	837,969	5
Triad Underground Mining Freelandville West	Knox	226	596,680	5
South Central Coal of IN Landree Mine	Greene	70	87,300	4
<b>Total:</b>		<b>2,370</b>	<b>18,168,192</b>	

\* Five Star Mining Co.'s Prosperity mine ceased operations in November 2014.

## 2014 Indiana Mining Board Members

### Tim Emmons Chairman

For the past 21 years, Tim Emmons has served as Chairman of Indiana's Mining Board. A veteran coal mining professional, Mr. Emmons is a certified MSHA trainer with more than 30 years experience in coal mining.

### John Stachura

John Stachura has served on Indiana's Mining Board since 1985 and has 43 years experience in all areas of coal mining from machine operation to senior-level management.

### Paul Lake

Serving as the Mining Board's representative of the public since 2012, Paul Lake is the Executive Director of the Pike County Economic Growth and Development Council.

### Greg Xanders

Appointed to the Board in 2014, Greg Xanders is a seasoned Mine Safety Trainer with more than 40 years experience in coal mining.

### Chris Whitehead

Chris Whitehead is a mining engineer with Five Star Mining, Inc. Mr. Whitehead was appointed to the Mining Board in 2007.

## Indiana Mining Board

Formed by Indiana statute in 1955, Indiana's Mining Board administers Indiana's laws regarding underground coal mines. The Mining Board is a five-member board with members appointed to a four-year term by the Governor of Indiana.

By statute, two (2) members must be experienced underground coal miners in non-supervisory roles, two (2) members must be experienced underground coal mine operators and the fifth member must be a member of the general public not related to the coal industry. A chairman is elected by the Board for a one-year term.

The Board collects and distributes information concerning the health and safety of the mines and miners, and proposes mining legislation to the Indiana General Assembly.

The Board is also charged with promoting the technical efficiency of all persons working in Indiana's underground mines. To ensure that miners are properly certified to complete specialized tasks, the Mining Board administers certification examinations to Indiana's coal miners. Testing is offered on the second Saturday of January, April, July and October for the certification of:

- Mine Foremen
- Mine Examiners
- Hoisting Engineers
- Shot Firers
- Belt Examiners

Part 75.100 of the Code of Federal Regulations defines "certified persons" to perform belt examinations as a mine foreman, assistant mine foreman or mine examiner but does not mention a belt examiner. In 2014, the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) interpreted the law to mean that the belt examiner is no longer accepted as a certified person to do a belt examination. Therefore, MSHA no longer recognizes the belt examiner certification in any coal mining state.

## Certification Requirements

### Mine Foreman

4+ years underground coal mining experience\* and thorough knowledge of coal mining; the properties and control of hazardous gasses and the duties of a mine foreman.

### Mine Examiner

3+ years underground coal mining experience\* and thorough knowledge of the practical aspects of coal mining, ventilation, roof control, the properties and control of hazardous gasses and the duties of a mine examiner under applicable law.

### Shot Firer

1+ year of mining experience and working knowledge of the use of explosives, ventilation, roof control, the properties and control of hazardous gasses and the duties of a shot firer under applicable law.

### Hoisting Engineer

1+ years mining experience, 20 hours practical experience, capability of operating a hoist and thorough knowledge of the duties of a hoisting engineer under applicable law.

### Belt Examiner

No longer recognized.

*\*Accredited education in coal mining may substitute for some of the required experience.*

## Certifications

In 2014, Indiana's Mining Board issued a total of 141 certifications to Hoosier coal miners working as mine foremen, mine examiners, hoisting engineers, shot firers and belt examiners.

Certification	Number Issued
Mine Foreman	96
Mine Examiner	36
Shot Firer	1
Hoisting Engineer	7
Belt Examiner	1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>141</b>

## Permits and Licenses

Applicants seeking employment in the underground coal mines must receive a miner's permit from the Director of the Bureau of Mines. Indiana law requires that anyone employed in an underground mine must demonstrate sufficient intelligence and character as to not be a danger to life and property. Miners with at least six (6) months experience in underground coal mines must apply for a certificate of competency, also known as a miner's license. A total of 506 permits and licenses were issued to Hoosier miners in 2014.

Permit/License	Number Issued
Miner's Permit	256
Miner's License	250
<b>Total:</b>	<b>506</b>

## 2014 Indiana Mine Rescue Team Members

### **Dave Daniels**

*Landree Mine*

### **Anthony Reed**

*Landree Mine*

### **Keith Messel**

*Carlisle Mine*

### **Eric Noland**

*Carlisle Mine*

### **Rusty Berry**

*Carlisle Mine*

### **Mike Hersel**

*Freelandville West Mine*

### **Joby Johnson**

*Freelandville West Mine*

### **Neal Stakeman**

*Freelandville West Mine*

### **Steve Riley**

*Chief Mine Inspector*

*Indiana Bureau of Mines*

## Indiana Mine Rescue Teams

The state of Indiana has two fully-trained mine rescue teams that exceed federally recommended training requirements. The first team is comprised of volunteers from Sunrise Coal Company's Carlisle Mine, Lily Group's Landree Mine and Triad Coal Company's Freelandville West Mine. The second team is contracted from Black Panther's Oaktown Fuels #1 and #2 mines and Five Star Coal Company's Prosperity mine. This ensures that Indiana's coal mines are within federal guidelines to have two trained mine rescue teams ready to roll in the event of a mining accident.

The Indiana Mine Rescue Team, trained by Assistant Commissioner Donald "Blink" McCorkle and Chief Mine Inspector Steve Riley, competed in four mine rescue contests in 2014: The Robert Earl Jones Contest in Ina, Illinois; Indiana's State Mine Rescue Contest in Vincennes, Indiana; the Illinois State mine rescue contest in Marion, Illinois and the WKMI contest in Madisonville, Kentucky. For the first time, the Team also competed in a skills competition in Madisonville, Kentucky. These competitions put Indiana's Mine Rescue Team through a series of physical and mental tests and provides them with training that gives them hands on experience in firefighting, smoke training, fire hose management, first aid, mine rescue, and equipment proficiency.

The state has the added protection of three additional fully-trained mine rescue teams—two with Gibson County Coal and one with Peabody Coal's Francisco Mine. These teams are ready and able to assist should the need arise, and Indiana's Mine Rescue Team would do the same for them.

The individuals who serve on the mine rescue teams, here in Indiana and across the nation, selflessly devote their time and energy to keeping their skills and procedures sharp so that they are prepared to be called into service at a moment's notice. While the mining community hopes the teams are never called to utilize their skills beyond the mine rescue competitions, knowing that these dedicated professionals are ready to put their lives on the line to rescue their fellow miners in the event of a catastrophe is a comfort.

## Occupational Injuries

An injury which occurs at a mine that requires medical attention or results in death, loss of consciousness, temporary reassignment or transfer to another job is classified as an occupational injury.

## Occupational Illnesses

An occupational illness is an illness or disease of a miner that results from work at the mine and for which compensation is made.

## Accidents

Accidents are incidents resulting in death, life-threatening injury, entrapment, inundation of gas or liquid, unplanned fires, explosions, unstable conditions or roof collapses.

## Incident Reporting

Mine operators must report each occupational injury or illness occurring at a mine to MSHA within ten working days. Accidents must be reported to MSHA within 15 minutes of the operator learning of the accident.



The Coal Miner by John J. Szaton. Dedicated 1967.

## Injuries in Underground Mines

The Indiana Department of Labor and the Bureau of Mines, along with our partners at MSHA and every Hoosier mine operator, are dedicated to reducing and eliminating workplace hazards in the coal mines. In 2014, Hoosier underground mines saw a 22 percent increase in the number of miners and a 33 percent decrease in the number of injuries from 2013.

While these numbers are encouraging, one fatality occurred at Gibson County Coal, LLC's Gibson North Mine. The mining community must continue to foster a culture of safety across the mining industry to ensure these fatal accidents never occur again.

Coal Mine	County	Total Employees	Reportable Injuries	Lost Time Injuries
Gibson County Coal LLC Gibson Mine North	Gibson	335	15	1
Sunrise Coal Co. Oaktown Fuels #1	Knox	337	8	5
Peabody Coal Co. Francisco Mine	Gibson	275	4	3
Sunrise Coal Co. Carlisle Mine	Sullivan	385	24	9
Sunrise Coal Co. Oaktown Fuels #2	Knox	226	1	3
Five Star Mining Co. Prosperity Mine*	Pike	382	11	3
Gibson County Coal LLC Gibson Mine South	Gibson	257	9	5
Triad Underground Freelandville West	Knox	226	2	1
South Central Coal of IN Landree Mine	Greene	70	4	3
<b>Total:</b>		<b>2,370</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>33</b>

\* Five Star Mining Co.'s Prosperity mine ceased operations in November 2014.