

Among major U.S. industrial professions, few can equal the benefits offered by a career in the mining industry, where annual wages are substantially higher than the average wage for all U.S. workers. The mining industry offers a broad range of job choices, from equipment operators to mining engineers, where current and expected vacancies covering a wide range of career opportunities in an industry that experts expect will continue to grow in the years ahead.

### *Mining's commitment to you:*

**Excellent Wages:** Mining wages are well above the average for all other U.S. industries, providing the basis for a comfortable and secure lifestyle. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the mining industry's average annual pay is 45 percent higher than the average wage for all U.S. workers:



*Source: 2012 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics current employment and wages data.*

Starting salary offers for mining and mineral engineer bachelor degree candidates were more than \$62,000 in 2012, according to a survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

*Don't delay –  
Plan your  
career  
in mining  
today!*



**Careers  
in Today's  
Mining  
Industry**

**Have you thought about a career in mining?** With a shortage of qualified workers for the foreseeable future, the mining industry offers a wide range of employment opportunities providing pay and benefit packages that are among the best in the nation. A career in the mining industry offers the chance to embrace a challenging and rewarding career in an industry that is vital to the nation's economic and national security.

A mining career offers prospective employees excellent salary and benefits packages, job security, challenging and interesting work, the opportunity to work in rural or urban environments, as well as extensive education and training opportunities.

To find out more about mining, visit [www.nma.org](http://www.nma.org).

**National Mining Association**

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According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the U.S. annual median pay for mining and geological engineers is \$84,320. (2012)



Average weekly earnings for mining workers (based on 2012 data) are higher than for other industries and better than those for all major occupation categories listed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, except for the utility category:

Industry Average Weekly Earnings*	
<b>Mining</b>	<b>\$1,320</b>
Information	\$1,576
Construction	\$1,006
Wholesale Trade	\$1,312
Manufacturing	\$1,163
Financial Activities	\$1,541
Professional and Business Services	\$1,240
Transportation and Warehousing	\$896
Education and Health Services	\$871
TOTAL PRIVATE	\$946
Other Services	\$579
Retail Trade	\$533
Leisure and Hospitality	\$389

\* Average weekly wages of workers on private, non-farm payrolls by industry, 2012 annual average, in current dollars. Source: BLS

**Job Choice:** Mining's workforce includes a broad range of professions, many of which utilize highly sophisticated and computerized technology. Equipment operators use some of the largest, most innovative and advanced machinery in the world. The industry is committed to a highly skilled, productive and safe workforce that is second to none. The following chart shows just some of the possibilities:

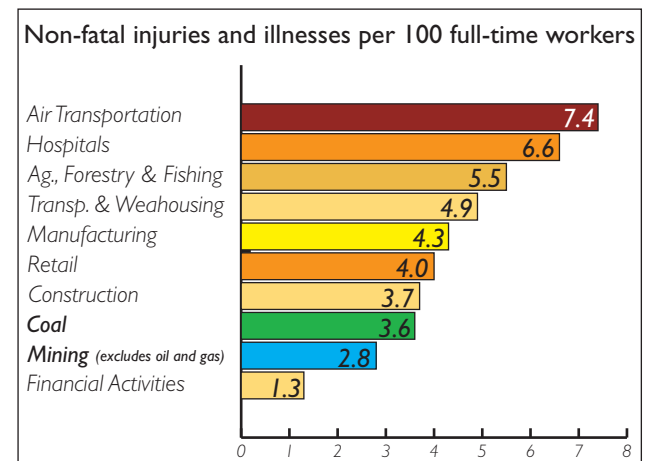
Job	Responsibilities	Minimum Educational Requirements
<b>Blaster</b>	Use explosives to break up ore or rock.	High school diploma, explosives cert.
<b>Chemist</b>	Conduct research and testing to improve extraction, mineral purification and reclamation processes.	Four-year degree (chemistry)
<b>Drill Operator</b>	Drill holes in which explosives are placed.	High school diploma
<b>Environmental Scientist/Engineer</b>	Develop mine plan that minimizes impact on air, water, soil, vegetation and animal life. Ensure compliance with all environmental regulations. Develop plans for restoring site to useful condition.	Four-year degree (environmental engineering, chemistry, hydrology, hydrogeology)
<b>Equipment Operator</b>	Operate shovels, trucks and other sophisticated machinery.	High school diploma
<b>Geologist</b>	Find new mineral deposits; assess prospective acquisitions; develop reclamation processes.	Four-year degree (geology)
<b>Health and Safety</b>	Lead effort to maintain a safe work environment. Conduct safety education and audits. Meet record keeping and reporting requirements. Plan and manage accident prevention initiatives.	Four-year degree
<b>Hydrologist</b>	Protect water from contamination. Ensure adequate supply of water resources.	Four-year degree (hydrology)
<b>Metallurgist</b>	Research, control and develop processes for extracting metals from their ores.	Four-year degree (metallurgy)
<b>Mining Engineer</b>	Participate in many aspects of a mining operation, including investment analysis, site development, planning, process improvement, safety and sustainability.	Four-year degree (engineering-mining, civil, mechanical, industrial, electrical, geological)
<b>Operations Manager</b>	Manage all aspects of a mining operation.	Four-year degree (business, engineering)

Source: Caterpillar Inc., [www.cat.com](http://www.cat.com)

**Stability:** The demand for minerals and coal is reaching record heights, as domestic coal, metals and minerals are the building blocks of America's economic well-being. The industry is already experiencing a shortage of skilled workers and will need to replace 78,000 mining employees in the next five years. In addition, according to the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, demand for mining and minerals engineering graduates has outstripped supply.

**Safety:** The improvement in health and safety performance at U.S. mines has been dramatic, and the industry is committed to continued improvement. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, mining's rate of non-fatal

injuries and illnesses is among the lowest in American business and industry.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics