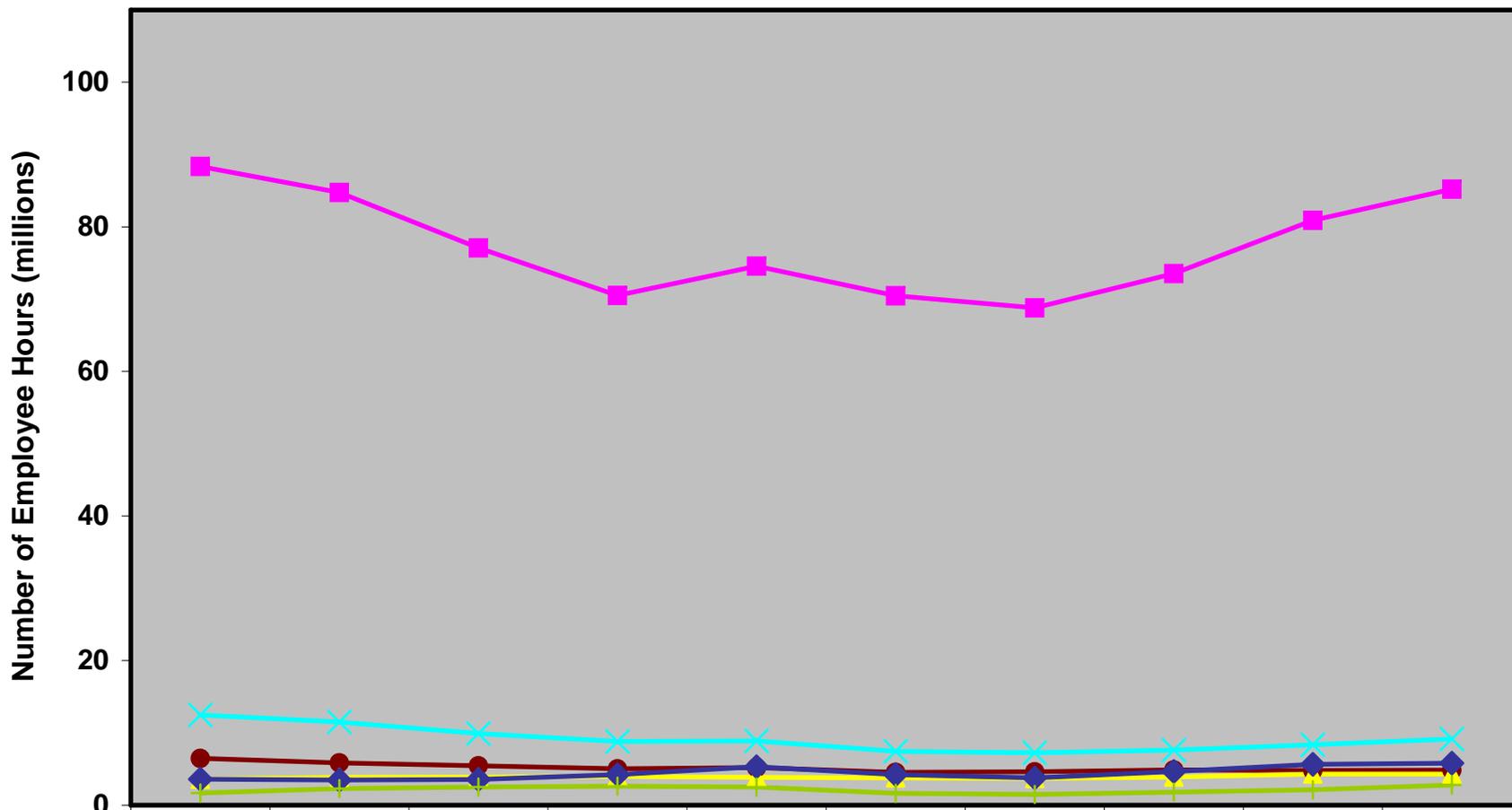


# Number of Underground Employee Hours Reported by Mine Operators and Independent Contractors by Commodity and Year, 1997-2006

(Excludes Office Employees; Data Source: MSHA)



	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Coal Operator	88.3	84.7	77.1	70.5	74.6	70.4	68.8	73.5	80.9	85.2
Metal Operator	12.5	11.5	9.9	8.8	8.9	7.4	7.2	7.6	8.4	9.1
Nonmetal Operator	6.5	5.9	5.4	5.1	5.2	4.6	4.6	4.9	4.8	4.8
Stone Operator	3.6	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.9	4.3	4.3
Coal Contractor	3.6	3.5	3.6	4.2	5.3	4.2	3.8	4.7	5.7	5.8
Noncoal Contractor	1.7	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.5	1.7	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.8