EPA 454/R-01-004

National Air Quality and Emissions Trends Report, 1999

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
Emissions Monitoring and Analysis Division
Air Quality Trends Analysis Group
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711

March 2001

Printed on recycled paper.

About the Cover

The map on the cover depicts nationwide annual mean $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations from the Federal Reference Method (FRM) monitoring network, as well as information on data completeness. Annual mean concentrations are generally above the level of the 1997 standard of 15 $\mu g/m^3$ in much of the eastern United States and throughout California. Annual mean concentrations above 20 $\mu g/m^3$ are seen in several major metropolitan areas including Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Atlanta, Chicago, and St. Louis and Los Angeles The western Great Plains and mountain regions show notably low annual mean concentrations, most below 10 $\mu g/m^3$.

Data Source: U.S. EPA AIRS Data Base 1/30/01.

Disclaimer

This report has been reviewed and approved for publication by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. Mention of trade names or commercial products are not intended to constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

Acknowledgments

The Trends Team would like to acknowledge the members of EPA's Office of Research and Development, Office of Atmospheric Programs, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air and Office of Transportation and Air Quality for peer reviewing this report prior to publication; Support for the statistical analyses of air toxics trends provided under EPA contract 68D70066; Colorado State University for providing summary data from the IMPROVE monitoring network; Support for desktop publishing and Web site development provided under EPA contract 68W99004; and the Trends Workgroup in EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards for providing comments throughout report development.

Preface

This is the 27th annual report on air pollution trends in the United States issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The report is prepared by the Air Quality Trends Analysis Group (AQTAG) in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina and is directed toward both the technical air pollution audience and other interested parties and individuals.

The report can be accessed via the Internet at **http://www.epa.gov/airtrends/**. AQTAG solicits comments on this report and welcomes suggestions regarding techniques, interpretations, conclusions, or methods of presentation. Comments can be submitted via the website or mailed to:

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Readers can access data from the Aerometric Information Retrieval System (AIRS) at **http://www.epa.gov/airsdata/** and real time air pollution data at **http://www.epa.gov/airnow/**.

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Acronyms

AIRS	Aerometric Information Retrieval System
AQRV	Air-Quality Related Values
AIRMoN	Atmospheric Integrated Assessment Monitoring Network
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendments
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CASAC	Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee
CASTNet	Clean Air Status and Trends Network
CEMs	Continuous Emissions Monitors
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CMSA	Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area
DST	Daylight Savings Time
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FRM	Federal Reference Method
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GLM	General Linear Model
HAPs	Hazardous Air Pollutants
IADN	Integrated Atmospheric Deposition Network
I/M	Inspection and Maintenance Programs
IMPROVE	Interagency Monitoring of PROtected Environments
MACT	Maximum Achievable Control Technology
MARAMA	Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association
MDN	Mercury Deposition Network
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
MDL	Minimum Detectable Level
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NADP/NTN	National Atmospheric Deposition Program/National Trends Network
NAMS	National Air Monitoring Stations
NAPAP	National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program
NARSTO	North American Research Strategy for Tropospheric Ozone
NESCAUM	Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management
NLEV	National Low Emission Vehicle
NMOC	Non-Methane Organic Compound
NO_2	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO_x	Nitrogen Oxides
NPS	National Park Service
NTI	National Toxics Inventory
O_3	Ozone
OTAG	The Ozone Transport Assessment Group
PAHs	Polyaromatic Hydrocarbons
PAMS	Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations
PAN	Peroxyacetyl Nitrate
Pb	Lead
PBTs	Persistent and Bioaccumulative Toxics
PCBs	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PM_{10}	Particulate Matter of 10 micrometers in diameter or less
$PM_{2.5}$	Particulate Matter of 2.5 micrometers in diameter or less
POM	Polycyclic Organic Matter
ppm	Parts Per Million
PSI	Pollutant Standards Index
RFG	Reformulated Gasoline
RVP	Reid Vapor Pressure
SLAMS	State and Local Air Monitoring Stations
SNMOC	Speciated Non-Methane Organic Compound
SO_2	Sulfur Dioxide
SO_x	Sulfur Oxides
TNMOC	Total Non-Methane Organic Compound
TRI	Toxic Release Inventory
TSP	Total Suspended Particulate
UATMP	Urban Air Toxics Monitoring Program
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
VOCs	Volatile Organic Compounds
$\mu g/m^3$	Micrograms Per Cubic Meter