



# Our Nation's Air

## Air Quality Improves as America Grows

### Status and Trends Through 2018

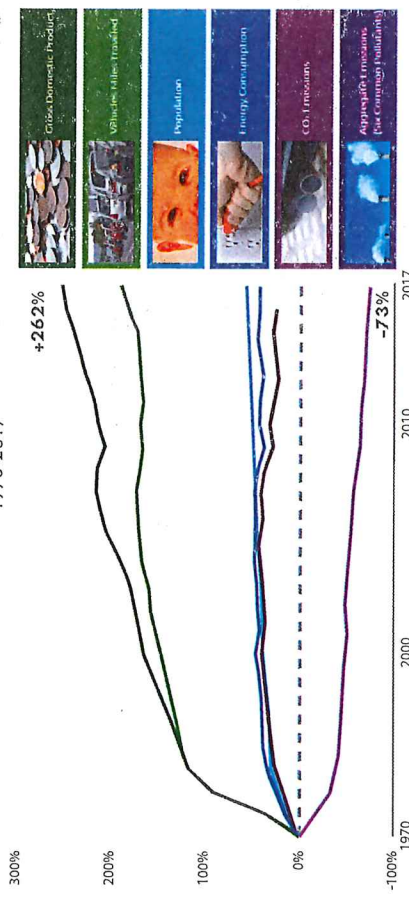


<https://gispub.epa.gov/air/trendsreport/2018>

### Economic Growth with Clean Air

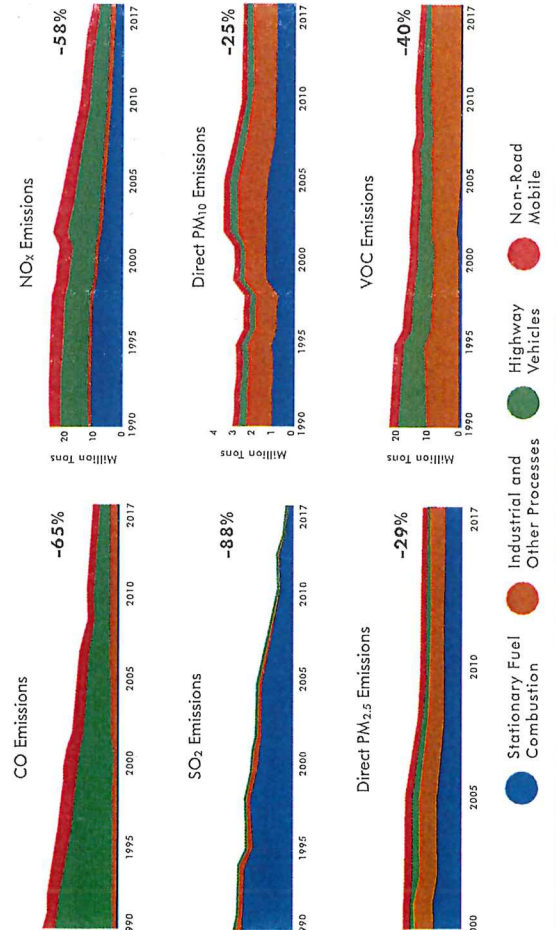
Between 1970 and 2017, the combined emissions of the six common pollutants (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, VOCs, CO and Pb) dropped by 73 percent. This progress occurred while the U.S. economy continued to grow, Americans drove more miles and energy use increased.

Comparison of Growth Areas and Declining Emissions 1970-2017



### Air Pollutant Emissions Decreasing

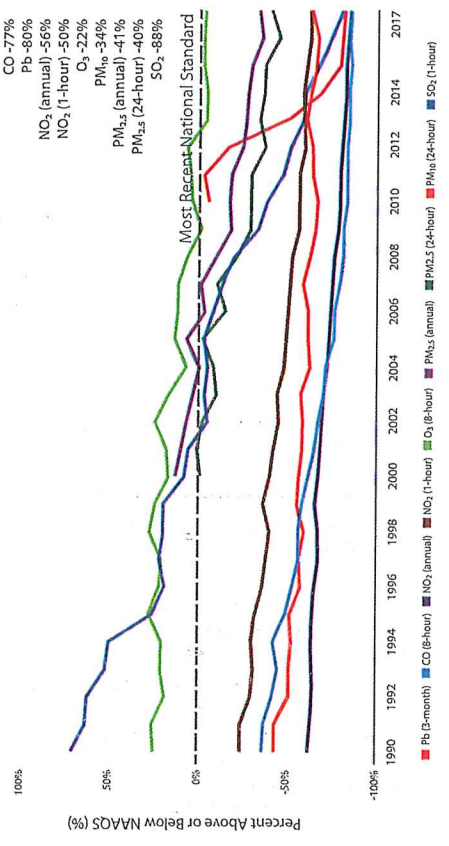
Emissions of key air pollutants continue to decline from 1990 levels. These reductions are driven by federal and state implementation of stationary and mobile source regulations.



### Air Quality Trends Show Clean Air Progress

While some pollutants continue to pose serious air quality problems in areas of the U.S., nationally, criteria air pollutant concentrations have dropped significantly since 1990 improving quality of life for many Americans. Air quality improves as America grows.

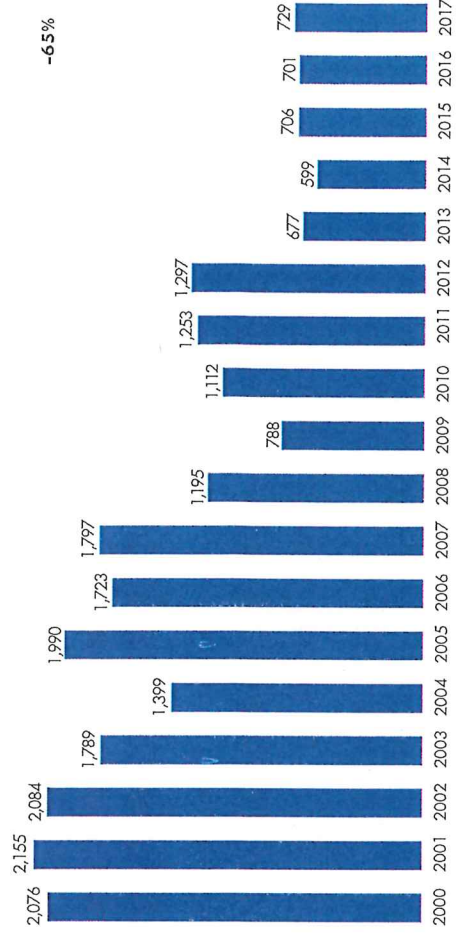
Declining National Air Pollutant Concentration Averages



### Unhealthy Air Quality Days Trending Down

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a color-coded index EPA uses to communicate daily air pollution for ozone, particle pollution, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and SO<sub>2</sub>. A value in the unhealthy range, above national air quality standard for any pollutant, is of concern first for sensitive groups, then for everyone as the AQI value increases. Fewer unhealthy air quality days means better health, longevity, and quality of life for all of us.

Number of Days Reaching "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" Level or Above on the Air Quality Index (Among 35 Major U.S. Cities for Ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> Combined)





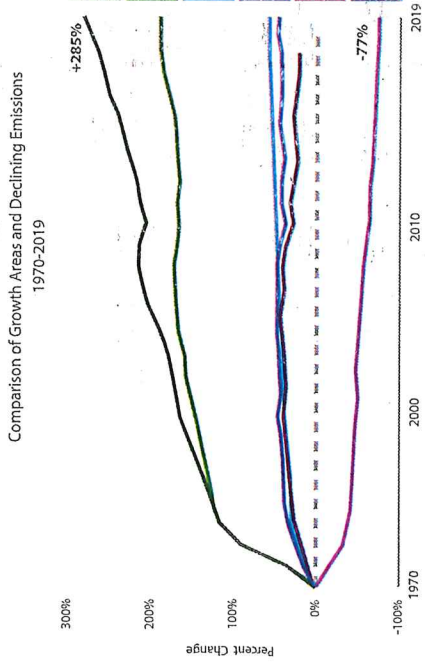


# Our Nation's Air Air Quality Improves as America Grows

<https://gispub.epa.gov/air/trendsreport/2020>

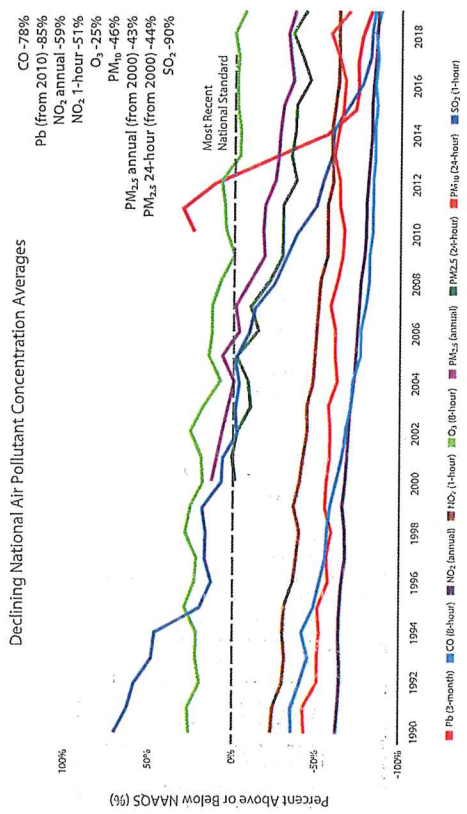
## Economic Growth with Cleaner Air

Between 1970 and 2019, the combined emissions of the six common pollutants (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO and Pb) dropped by 77 percent. This progress occurred while the U.S. economy continued to grow, Americans drove more miles and population and energy use increased.



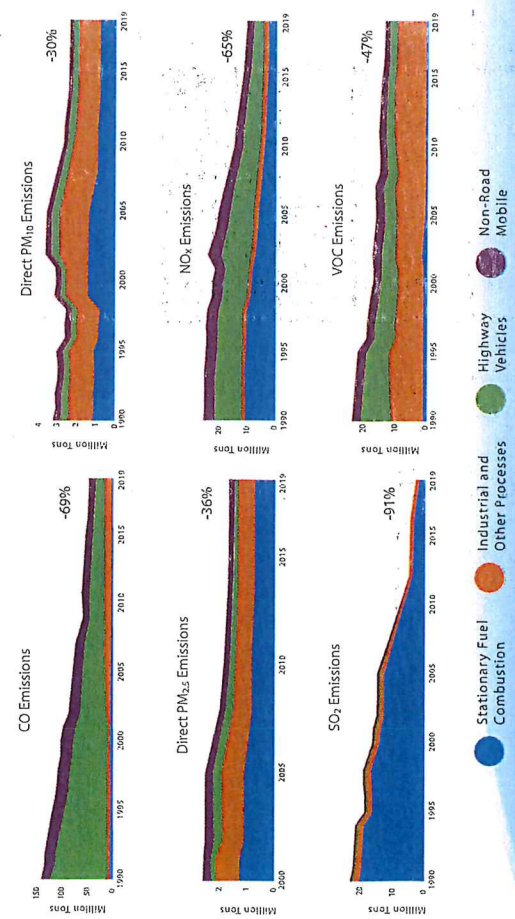
## Air Quality Trends Show Clean Air Progress

While some pollutants continue to pose serious air quality problems in areas of the U.S., nationally, criteria air pollutant concentrations have dropped significantly since 1990 improving quality of life for many Americans. Air quality improves as America grows.



## Air Pollutant Emissions Decreasing

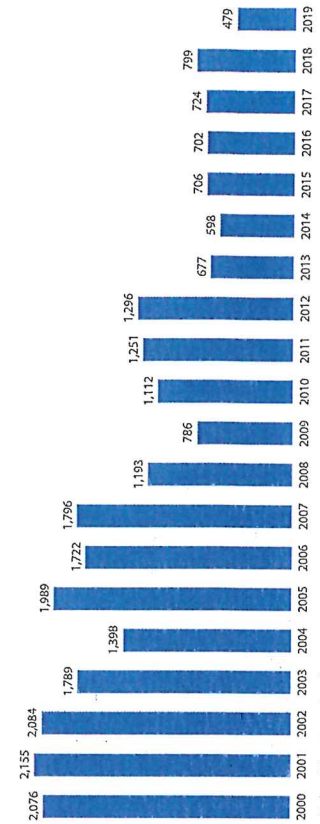
Emissions of key air pollutants continue to decline from 1990 levels. These reductions are driven by federal and state implementation of stationary and mobile source regulations.



## Unhealthy Air Days Show Long-Term Improvement

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a color-coded index EPA uses to communicate daily air pollution for ozone, particle pollution, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and SO<sub>2</sub>. A value in the unhealthy range, above national air quality standard for any pollutant, is of concern first for sensitive groups, then for everyone as the AQI value increases. Fewer unhealthy air quality days means better health, longevity, and quality of life for all of us.

Number of Days Reaching "Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups" Level or Above on the Air Quality Index (Among 35 Major U.S. Cities for Ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> Combined)



Unhealthy air quality days vary year to year, influenced not only by pollution emissions but also by natural events, such as dust storms and wildfires, and variations in weather.

# Status and Trends Through 2019

# Air Quality Improves as America Grows

Nationally, concentrations of air pollutants have dropped significantly since 1990:

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) 8-Hour, **↑ 77%**
- Lead (Pb) 3-Month Average, **↑ 80%**
- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) Annual, **↑ 56%**
- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) 1-Hour, **↑ 50%**
- Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) 8-Hour, **↑ 22%**
- Particulate Matter 10 microns (PM<sub>10</sub>) 24-Hour, **↑ 34%**
- Particulate Matter 2.5 microns (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) Annual, **↑ 41%**
- Particulate Matter 2.5 microns (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) 24-Hour, **↑ 40%**
- Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) 1-Hour, **↑ 88%**
- Numerous air toxics have declined with percentages varying by pollutant

During this same period, the U.S. economy continued to grow, Americans drove more miles and population and energy use increased.

Declining National Air Pollutant Concentration Average