

AIR QUALITY TRENDS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What are the air quality trends in Florida?

Florida's air quality has been improving for decades. Both the total emissions of pollutants to the atmosphere and the monitored levels of these pollutants in the air have been trending downward since at least 2000. At the same time, the population and economy of Florida continued to grow.

What is measured?

Air pollution can be in the form of gas or particle contaminants in the atmosphere, many of which come from human activities. The US Environmental Protection Agency has set *National Ambient Air Quality Standards* for six *Criteria Pollutants* to safeguard human health and the environment: Carbon Monoxide, Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide, Ozone, Particulate Matter, and Sulfur Dioxide. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and its local programs partners monitor the sources and ambient concentrations of each of these six pollutants throughout the State.

What are the challenges to improving air quality?

As Florida continues to rapidly grow, the increasing population and associated economic activity requires a dedicated effort to maintain our improving air quality. The graph below shows that emissions of the criteria pollutants in Florida have decreased as our population and important measures of economic prosperity including electricity sales, vehicle miles traveled, and the State's gross domestic product have continued to increase. More information is available online at www.FloridaDEP.gov/air.

