



AIR QUALITY

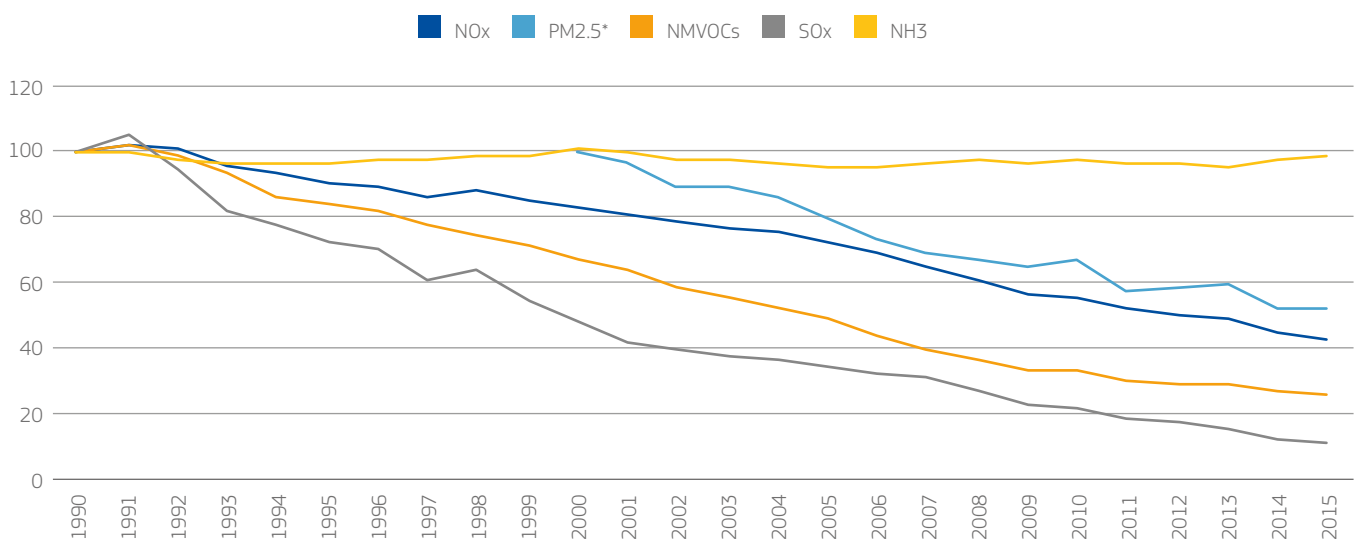
France

Did you know that 62% of French people think that air quality in France has deteriorated over the last 10 years? That's a relatively high proportion compared to the European average of 47%. Only 9% think that air quality in France has improved, while 23% think it has stayed the same. Climate change and air pollution are the joint biggest environmental concerns for French people (50% each), followed by agricultural pollution (43%). [Source: [Special Eurobarometer 468 Report, Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment](#)]

In France, as in all other European countries, air quality has improved significantly over recent years, and levels of key pollutants have fallen – especially sulphur oxides, and nitrogen oxides.

Still, many French breathe air that is bad for their health, impacting the health care system and productivity levels. In 2014, air quality standards for nitrogen dioxide were breached in 19 different air quality zones, and for PM₁₀ in 17 different air quality zones. The high level of nitrogen oxides is linked to emissions from diesel vehicles, and is a particular problem in urban areas. [Source: [Environmental Implementation Review – Country Report France](#)]

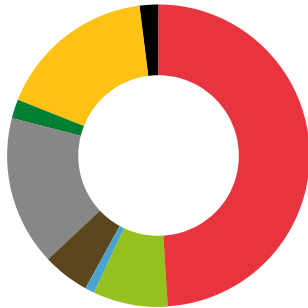
EMISSION TRENDS IN FRANCE



DATA SOURCE: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/dashboards/air-pollutant-emissions-data-viewer>

* Emission reporting requirement under NEC Directive from 2000 onwards.

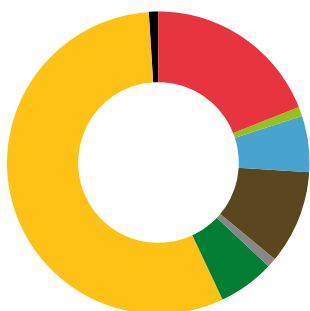
EMISSIONS FROM PM_{2.5} ACROSS FRANCE



■ Agriculture	7,88 %
■ Commercial, institutional and households	48,67 %
■ Energy production and distribution	1,61 %
■ Energy use in industry	4,85 %
■ Industrial processes and product use	15,91 %
■ Non-road transport	2,26 %
■ Other	0 %
■ Road transport	16,64 %
■ Waste	2,18 %

DATA SOURCE: 2017 NECD Submission - Emission share in 2015
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/dashboards/necd-directive-data-viewer>

EMISSIONS FROM NO_x ACROSS FRANCE



■ Agriculture	0,43 %
■ Commercial, institutional and households	19,15 %
■ Energy production and distribution	5,59 %
■ Energy use in industry	10,96 %
■ Industrial processes and product use	0,83 %
■ Non-road transport	6,39 %
■ Other	0 %
■ Road transport	56,41 %
■ Waste	0,24 %

DATA SOURCE: 2017 NECD Submission - Emission share in 2015
<https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/dashboards/necd-directive-data-viewer>

In 2014, nearly 35 000 premature deaths were attributed to PM_{2.5}, over 9 300 premature deaths were attributed to nitrogen oxides and 1 630 premature deaths were attributed to ozone. [Source: [Air quality in Europe 2017](#)]

Ways ahead

France should maintain the downward emissions trends of air pollutants in order to meet the EU air quality rules. It should reduce nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions, among other things, by reducing emissions from transport, especially in urban areas. PM₁₀ emissions should also be lowered, among other things, by tackling emissions coming from energy and heat generation using solid fuels, transport and agriculture.

Solutions that have been successfully implemented to improve air quality in urban areas are: setting up traffic restrictions such as low-emission zones and congestion charges, introducing clean public transport such as electric buses, creating extensive cycle networks, boosting the energy efficiency of buildings, boosting district heating using renewable energy – to name but a few.

53% of French people think that applying stricter pollution controls on industrial and energy-production activities is the most effective way to tackle air pollution. 31 % favour providing more information to the public on the health and environmental consequences of air pollution, and 27 % say ensuring better enforcement of existing air quality legislation is the best way forward. [Source: [Special Eurobarometer 468 Report, Attitudes of European citizens towards the environment](#)]

