

United States Annual Air Report: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Highlights Trends Through 2022



Walter Wright, Jr.
wwright@mwlaw.com
(501) 688.8839

05/25/2023

The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") released its annual report tracking what it describes as "America's Progress in Controlling air Pollution."

The interactive document is titled:

Our Nation's Air: Trends Through 2022 ("Report")

EPA characterizes the *Report* as providing readers:

- An opportunity to learn about the health and environmental impacts of air pollution
- Ability to track trends in air quality and emissions data
- Explore efforts to improve visibility in national parks
- Explore community-level health impacts of air toxic emissions reported for 2020

The *Report* summarizes emissions data between 1970 and 2022.

It states by way of overall summary that:

... combined emissions of six key pollutants dropped by 78%, while the U.S. economy rate remained strong – growing 304% over the same time.

United States average concentrations for the following air pollutants were stated to have decreased between 1990 and 2022 as follows:

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) 8-Hour, 81%
- Lead (Pb) 3-Month Average, 88% (from 2010)
- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) Annual, 60%
- Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) 1-Hour, 54%
- Ozone (O₃) 8-Hour, 22%
- Particulate Matter 10 microns (PM₁₀) 24-Hour, 34%
- Particulate Matter 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}) Annual, 42% (from 2000)
- Particulate Matter 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}) 24-Hour, 42% (from 2000)
- Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) 1-Hour, 90%

A link to the *Report* with interactive charts can be downloaded [here](#).