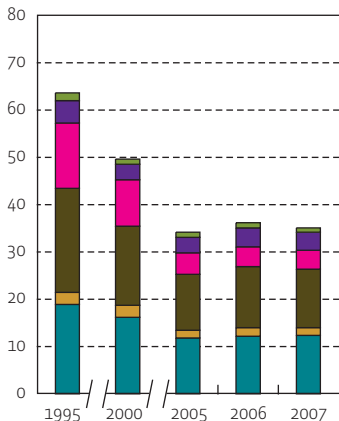
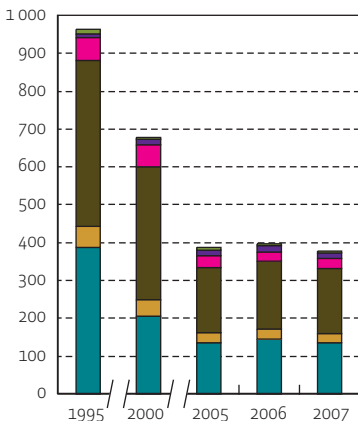


# Discharges of COD, P and heavy metals in industrial waste water **DPSIR**

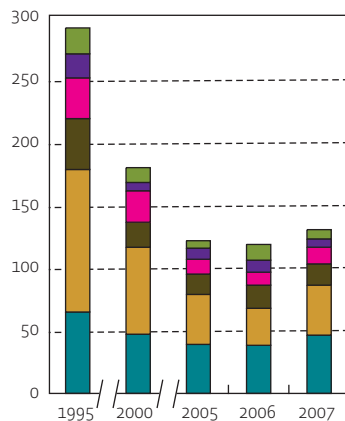
COD discharge (ktonnes O<sub>2</sub>)



P discharge (tonnes)



discharge of heavy metals (tonnes metal-eq)



■ chemical 
 ■ metal 
 ■ foodstuffs 
 ■ textile 
 ■ paper 
 ■ other

Source: VMM

## Discharges seem to be stagnating

Between 1995 and 2005 the industrial discharges of oxygen-binding substances (BOD and COD), nutrients (N and P) and heavy metals decreased considerably. In this period the discharges of COD decreased by 46 %, P by 60 % and the total of metal equivalents by 58 %. As a result of more stringent discharge standards, better enforcement, the introduction of cleaner production methods, the environmental tax on industrial waste water and increasing environmental awareness, many companies have made a major effort to reduce their pollutant loads. This positive development does not seem to have continued after 2005.

Although the chemical industry and the food sector have considerably reduced their discharges of oxygen-binding substances and nutrients, they are still the largest dischargers of these substances. In 2006 they were responsible for 72 % of the COD discharges and 80 % of the P discharges.

In 2000 the metal sector still had the largest share in the discharges of heavy metals, expressed in metal equivalents. Thanks to a very large reduction, by 2006 the share dropped to 25 %. Despite a reduction in absolute pollutant loads, the share of the chemical sector has risen to 33 %.