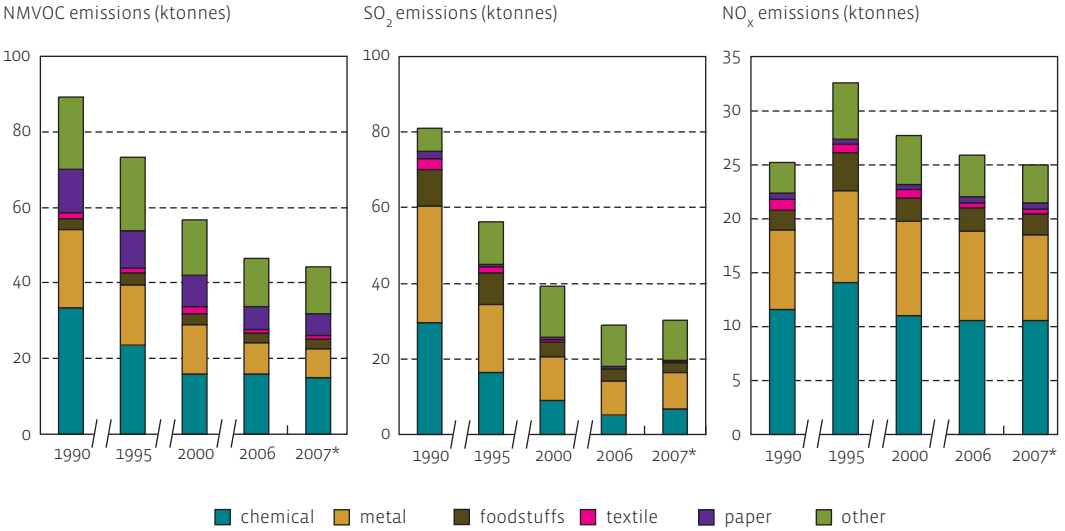
Emission of NMVOC, SO_2 and NO_x by industry

DPSIR



* provisional figures

Source: VMM

Decreasing emissions of NMVOC and SO_2, NO_x reduction still lagging

The industrial emissions of NMVOC and SO_2 have decreased markedly since 1990: the emissions of NMVOC have more than halved, while the emissions of SO_2 have decreased by 63 %. The chemical (-55 %) and metal sectors (-64 %) and the paper industry (-50 %) in particular have been able to reduce their emissions by the use of low solvent content products, vapour recovery and production optimalization. The large reduction in SO_2 can mostly be explained by the reductions in the chemical and metal sectors in the first half of the 1990s. Despite the major reductions, SO_2 remains the most important source of acidifying emissions within the industry. These SO_2 emissions, which are largely due to combustion emissions, can be reduced further by the use of low-sulphur fuels (natural gas) and a higher energy efficiency.

In contrast to SO_2 and NMVOC, the NO_x emissions remain almost stable (-1 % compared to 1990): the emissions increased between 1990 and 1995 by 29 %, thereafter a small decreasing trend can be observed. The chemical sector, that was responsible in 2007 for 42 % of the total industrial NO_x emissions, succeeded in reducing the emissions by 8 % between 1990 and 2007. The textile industry reduced the emissions as well (-64 %), but the metal sector (+7 %), food sector (+7 %) and the paper industry (+6 %) emitted more in 2007 than in 1990. A reduction can be achieved by the increased use of NO_x filters, low NO_x burners and catalytic converters.