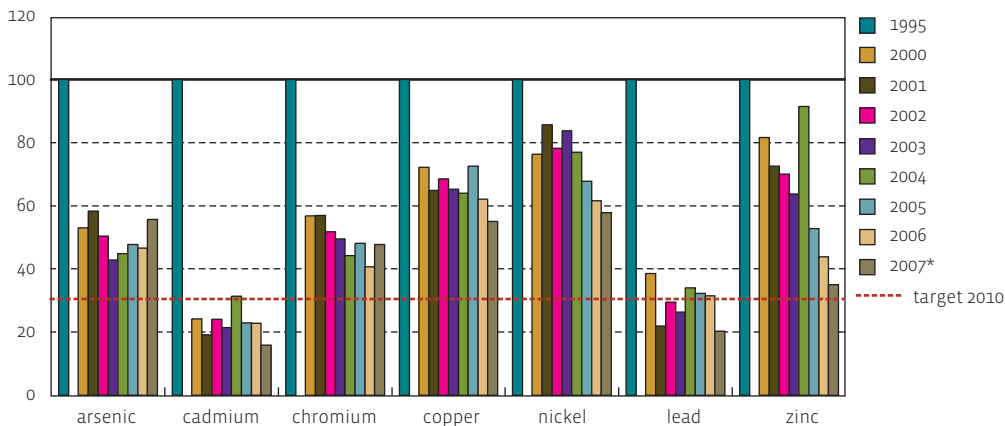




air emissions index (1995=100)



* provisional figures

Source: VMM

Mainly decreasing trends but most targets not yet reached

The emissions of most heavy metals into the air show a decreasing trend. For arsenic and chromium the emissions in 2007 are however higher than in 2006. For cadmium and lead the target for 2010 has already been reached. For zinc the target has almost been reached. For the other metals extra efforts are needed.

In 2007 the metal industry has the largest share in the emissions of arsenic (81 %), cadmium (56 %), chromium (44 %), lead (87 %) and zinc (65 %). The metal sector is therefore also mainly responsible for the recent changes – both positive and negative – in these metal emissions. Via heating of buildings households play a major role in the total emissions of cadmium (20 % in 2007), chromium (30 %) and nickel (41 %). The emissions have decreased remarkably since 2003, mainly thanks to the increasingly milder winters. Refineries play a major role in the emissions of nickel (19 % in 2007), whose emissions do not show a clear trend. Road traffic is especially important for the emissions of copper (68 % in 2007) and zinc (18 %). The slow increase in road traffic is making those emissions increase slightly. In 1995, road traffic was still responsible for almost half of the lead emissions, but through the use of unleaded petrol these emissions have decreased dramatically.

emissions into the air	arsenic	cadmium	chromium	copper	nickel	lead	zinc
reduction in 2007 vs 1995 (%)	44	84	52	45	42	80	65