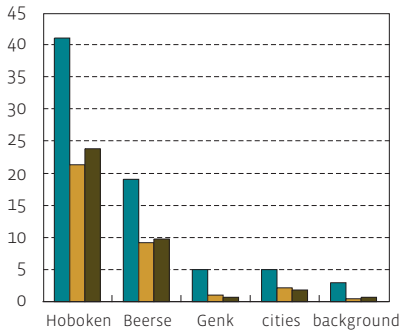
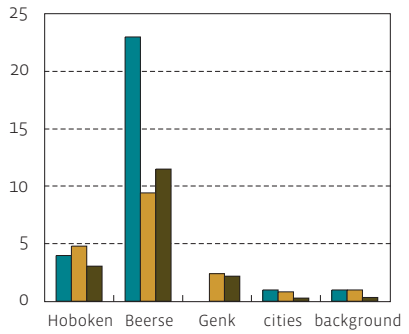




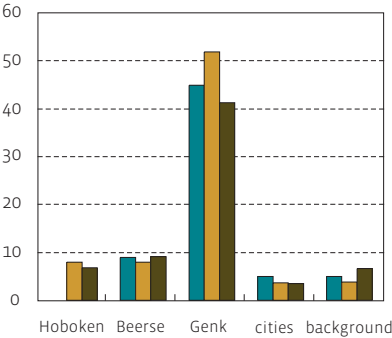
As (ng/m³)



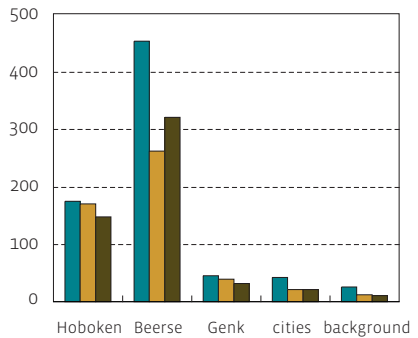
Cd (ng/m³)



Ni (ng/m³)



Pb (ng/m³)



2003 2005 2007

Source: VMM

Problems restricted to a few specific locations

In urban surroundings and in background areas (Knokke, Koksijde) the concentrations of heavy metals in the air are generally low and there are no exceedances of the standards or future EU target values (effective from 31.12.2012) specified for arsenic (As), cadmium (Cd), nickel (Ni) and lead (Pb) in fine particles. In most places the metals show a decreasing trend. Yet a few specific problem areas remain.

In the vicinity of the non-ferrous industry of Hoboken and Beerse increased concentrations of arsenic, cadmium and lead are measured. Reducing the emissions in these industrial sectors and applying the best available technologies have led to the concentrations decreasing in those areas of special attention. Nevertheless, the future EU target value for arsenic was exceeded in 2007 in the vicinity of Hoboken and Beerse. The future EU target value for cadmium was exceeded in 2007 in the vicinity of Beerse and slightly exceeded at one station in Hoboken. In 2007, the EU limit value for lead was exceeded at one station in Beerse. Particle reduction measures are currently being developed and implemented to make the concentrations in these microzones fall further.

In the vicinity of the inox steel company in Genk clearly increased concentrations of nickel are observed. The trend is in general slightly falling, which is attributed to the application of BAT and the development of particle-reducing measures. The future EU target value for nickel was exceeded in 2007. The future target value for cadmium was just exceeded at one station in 2007.