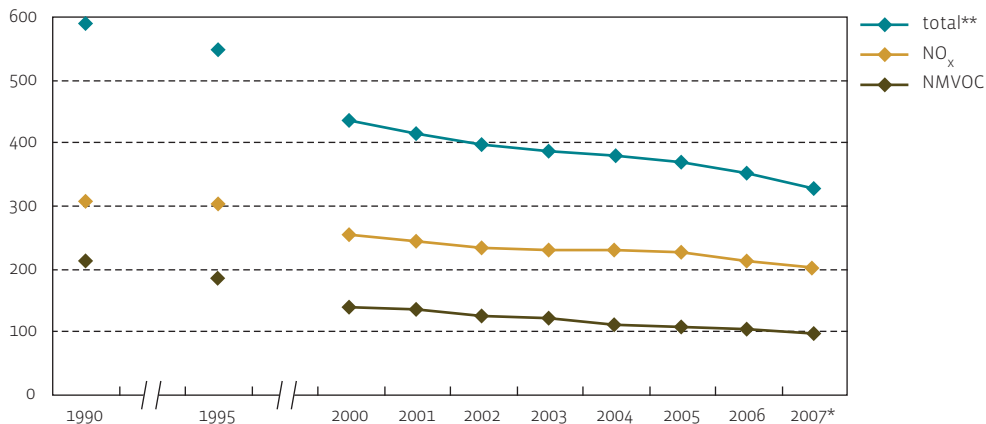




emissions (ktonnes TOFP units)



* provisional figures, ** including CO and CH₄ contribution

Because the different ozone precursors have a different share in the tropospheric ozone formation, the photochemically relevant sum of the precursors is expressed in TOFP units.

Source: VMM

NO_x emissions not decreasing enough

Ozone precursors (mainly NO_x and NMVOC and to a lesser degree CO and CH₄) play a role in photochemical air pollution. However because of the complexity of the photochemical processes there is no clear linear relation between the emission of ozone precursors and the resulting ozone formation. Nevertheless, it is true that a global emissions reduction is necessary to reduce the ozone concentration lastingly.

In the 1990s the NO_x emission in Flanders had remained fairly constant, to start falling only from 1999. The NO_x emission in Flanders decreases more slowly than in the neighbouring countries as a result of the increasing switch to diesel in the Flemish vehicle fleet. The NMVOC emission decreased continuously and more strongly. The TOFP total of the ozone precursors decreased by 45 % between 1990 and 2007. In 2007, traffic was still responsible for 50 % of the NO_x emission, followed by industry (15 %). Industry had the largest share (47 %) in the NMVOC emission, followed by households (17 %) and traffic (11 %).

The target for 2010 for the NMVOC emission (91.9 ktonnes) in the MINA plan 3+ (2008-2010) seems feasible. The Flemish NO_x emissions (163 ktonnes in 2007) must decrease significantly further for the Belgian target (176 ktonnes) from the National Emission Ceiling Directive (2001/81/EC) to be reached by 2010. In addition to a further decrease in the Euro standards for vehicles (2008-2009) measures such as the re-design of the traffic taxes on the basis of the ecoscore contribute towards that end. Moreover the political approval procedure for environment policy agreements (EPA) concerning NO_x emissions is in progress with the chemical and glass sectors and an extension of the EPA with the electricity sector is proposed.

emissions (ktonnes TOFP units)	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007*
NO _x	308	304	251	222	209	199
NMVOC	212	184	136	104	102	93
total TOFP amount**	589	548	434	366	349	326