

## Exceedance of air quality limit values in urban areas

[REMOVE](#) [1]

The indicator shows the fraction of the EU-28 urban population that is potentially exposed to ambient air concentrations of certain pollutants (PM2.5, PM10, O3, NO2, SO2 and B(a)P) in excess of the EU limit or target values (EU, 2004, 2008) set for the protection of human health; and to concentrations of these pollutants in excess of the WHO Guidelines (WHO, 2000, 2006).

It also shows the evolution of urban background levels of PM2.5, PM10, O3 and NO2 at the European level.

The indicator is based upon measurements of air pollutants as reported under the Air Quality Directives (EU, 2004, 2008) and the Decisions on the exchange of information (EU, 1997, 2011)

### Units

- Concentration (Ci): micrograms (for PM2.5, PM10, O3, NO2 and SO2) or nanograms (for B(a)P) of pollutant per cubic meter
- Urban population (POP): number of inhabitants in the 'core city' of the Urban Audit cities who are represented by the urban stations taken into account in the calculations.
- Percentage of the urban population.

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/exceedance-of-air-qual...> [2]

### Data host:

Eurostat

### Unit of Measurement:

Percentage (%)

### Link to Data:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/exceedance-of-air-quality-limi...> [2]

### Description to get data:

Additional source to consult: [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-datasets/-/t2020\\_rn200](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-datasets/-/t2020_rn200) <http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/percentage-of-urban-population-resident-in-areas-where-pollutant-concentrations-are-higher-than-selected-limit-target-values-eea-member-countries-3>

### Type of Indicator source:

- [Statistical office](#) [3]

### Geographical Coverage:

Austria  
Belgium  
Bulgaria

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Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Hungary  
Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Netherlands  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
United Kingdom

## Geographical Level:

- [National](#) [4]

## Same/similar indicators appears in the following sets:

- [EEA's environmental indicators/Environmental Pressure indicators](#) [5]

## Methodological transparency:

- [Complete methodology available](#) [6]

## Temporal Coverage:

2000 to 2012

## Frequency of Updates:

- [annually](#) [7]

## Indicator developer:

European Environment Agency

## Link to Methodology:

[Exceedance of air quality limit values in urban areas \(CSI 004\) - Assessment](#) [2]

## Aggregation level of indicator:

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- [Index or Composite](#) [8]

## Data quality assesment:

- [assessed by international institution including WTO, OECD](#) [9]

## Publishing delay:

- [1-3 years](#) [10]

## Link to data quality assessment:

[Exceedance of air quality limit values in urban areas \(CSI 004\) - Assessment](#) [2]

## Contribution to the green economy:

Bad health as a consequence of bad air is a cost for the Green Economy

## Cost of accessing data:

- [free of charge](#) [11]

**Potential misinterpretation:** Is the overall air pollution decreasing, but especially harmful pollution by particulate matter is increasing?

**Related Indicator:** [Urban population exposure to air pollution by particulate matter](#) [12]

**Potential misinterpretation:** This indicator has a limit value of particulate matters which leaves out fine particulate matter. Is the indicator improving, while fine particulate matter is increasing in amount?

**Related Indicator:** [Emissions of primary particulates — outlook from LRTAP](#) [13]



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**Source URL:** <https://measuring-progress.eu/exceedance-air-quality-limit-values-urban-areas>

## Links

[1] <https://measuring-progress.eu/coll-del/nojs/655>

[2] <http://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/exceedance-of-air-quality-limit-3/assessment>

[3] <https://measuring-progress.eu/taxonomy/term/45>

[4] <https://measuring-progress.eu/taxonomy/term/33>

[5] <https://measuring-progress.eu/taxonomy/term/65>

[6] <https://measuring-progress.eu/taxonomy/term/34>

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- [7] <https://measuring-progress.eu/taxonomy/term/17>
  - [8] <https://measuring-progress.eu/taxonomy/term/30>
  - [9] <https://measuring-progress.eu/taxonomy/term/39>
  - [10] <https://measuring-progress.eu/taxonomy/term/25>
  - [11] <https://measuring-progress.eu/taxonomy/term/9>
  - [12] <https://measuring-progress.eu/urban-population-exposure-air-pollution-particulate-matter%C2%A0>
  - [13] <https://measuring-progress.eu/emissions-primary-particulates-%E2%80%94-outlook-lrtap>