

Ozone Monitoring Results Show Continual Improving Quality of Mississippi's Air

For 2020, no counties in Mississippi exceeded the current ozone standard set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during this year's Ozone Season. Ozone levels in the state have continued a downward trend in the last 10 years dropping well below EPA's current standard of 70 parts per billion (ppb).

For 2020, the ozone sampling results for each monitoring site are:

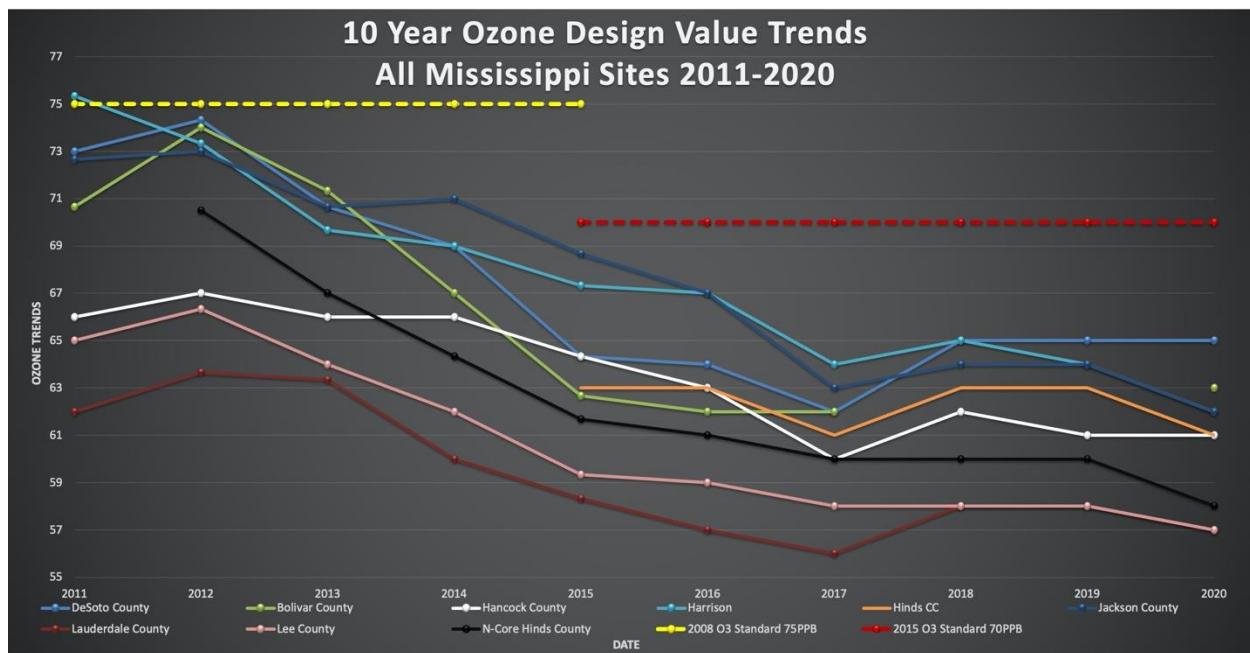
- Bolivar County: 63 ppb
- DeSoto County: 65 ppb
- Hancock County: 61 ppb
- Harrison County: 62 ppb
- Hinds County: 61 ppb
- Jackson County: 62 ppb
- Lauderdale County: 57 ppb
- Lee County: 57 ppb

In Mississippi, ozone season runs from March 1 to October 31. MDEQ issues both ozone and particle pollution (PM2.5) forecasts for the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the Jackson Metropolitan Area, and DeSoto County daily during that time. This information is provided to weather media for inclusion in daily weather reports and available to the public. For more information and to sign up for the daily forecasts, use the following link: [**Air Quality Forecast**](#).

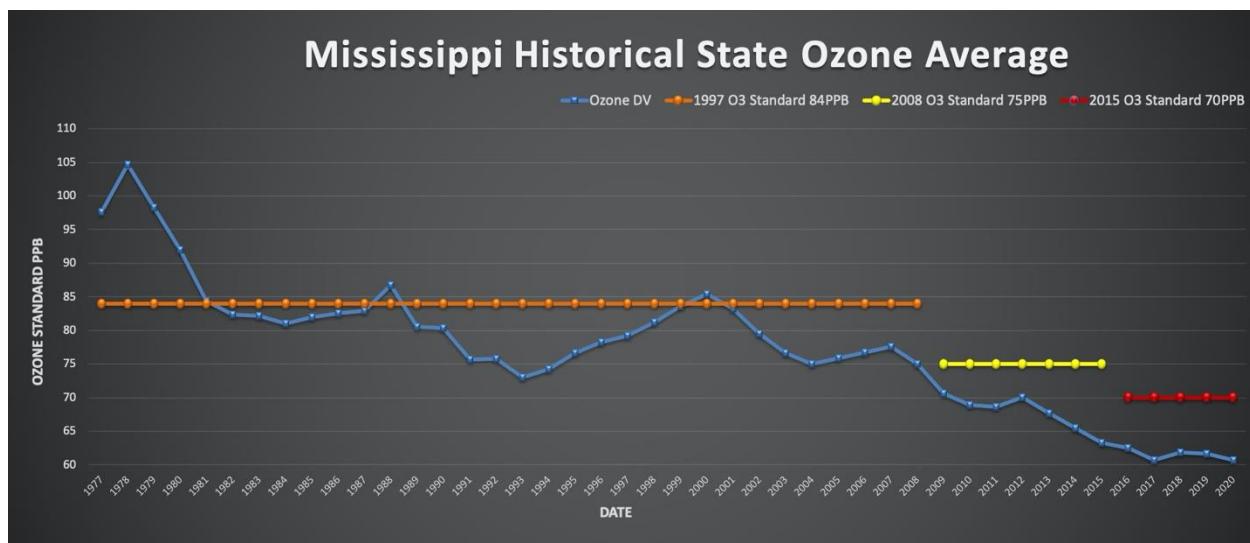
Ground level ozone is not emitted directly into the air, but it is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). This happens when pollutants emitted by cars, power plants, industrial boilers, refineries, chemical plants and other sources chemically react in the presence of sunlight. Ozone at ground level is the main ingredient in "smog." Under the Clean Air Act, EPA establishes primary air quality standards to protect public health and secondary standards to protect public welfare that includes protecting ecosystems, plants, and animals.

More information about MDEQ's Air Quality Monitoring Program can be found here: <https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/air/ambient-air-quality/>.

The following two graphs chart ozone sampling results since 2011 and 1977, respectively.



Graph above showing ozone design values for each site across the state over the past ten years continuing to trend downward, currently well below the standard.



Graph above showing ozone design values for each site across Mississippi averaged together annually since 1977 depicting continued improving values across the state, well below the current standard.

###