

Birmingham Alabama (BIRM1) 2019 Site Report

The Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE) is a long-term air pollution measurement program designed to document and track visibility in protected areas. IMPROVE samples and analyzes the haze particles that impair visibility so their sources can be identified and addressed.

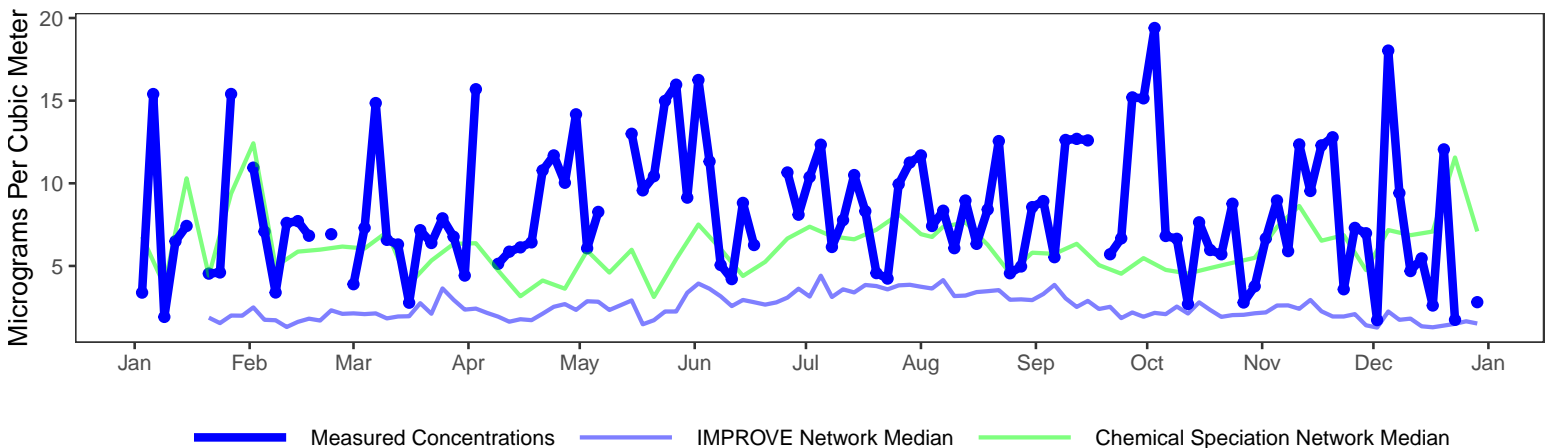
Percent of Samples from BIRM1 Successfully Collected and Analyzed Per Year

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
79	98	97	99	88	96	95	91	91	95	97	99	98	98	87	91

Samples Successfully Collected and Analyzed in 2019 by Filter Type. PTFE: 110 (90.9%), Nylon: 113 (93.4%), Quartz: 113 (93.4%)

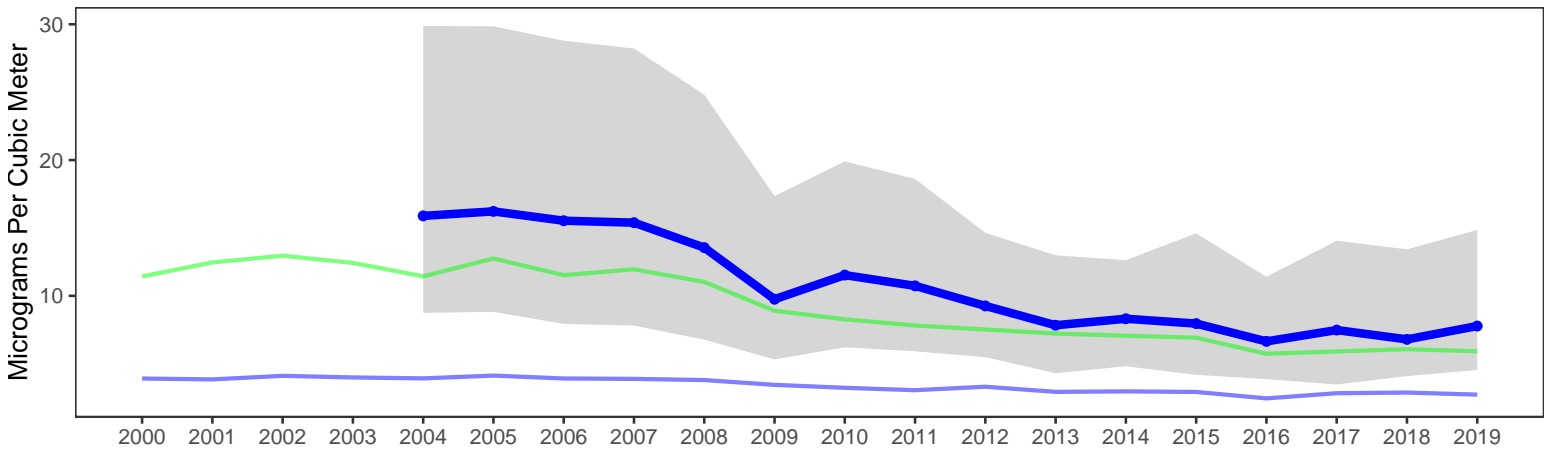
In the plots below, mass concentrations measured at Birmingham Alabama give a sense of the seasonal trends of air quality in the area as well as show significant air quality events such as wildfires and dust storms. These are plotted alongside the average measurements across the IMPROVE network as well as its related Chemical Speciation Network (CSN). The CSN sites are located in urban areas where the populations are highest. In general, lower concentrations would suggest better visibility. The lower plot shows annual median concentrations with a gray shaded region to represent the 10th and 90th percentiles.

Reconstructed Fine Particle Mass Concentrations in 2019



Long-Term Trends in Reconstructed Fine Mass

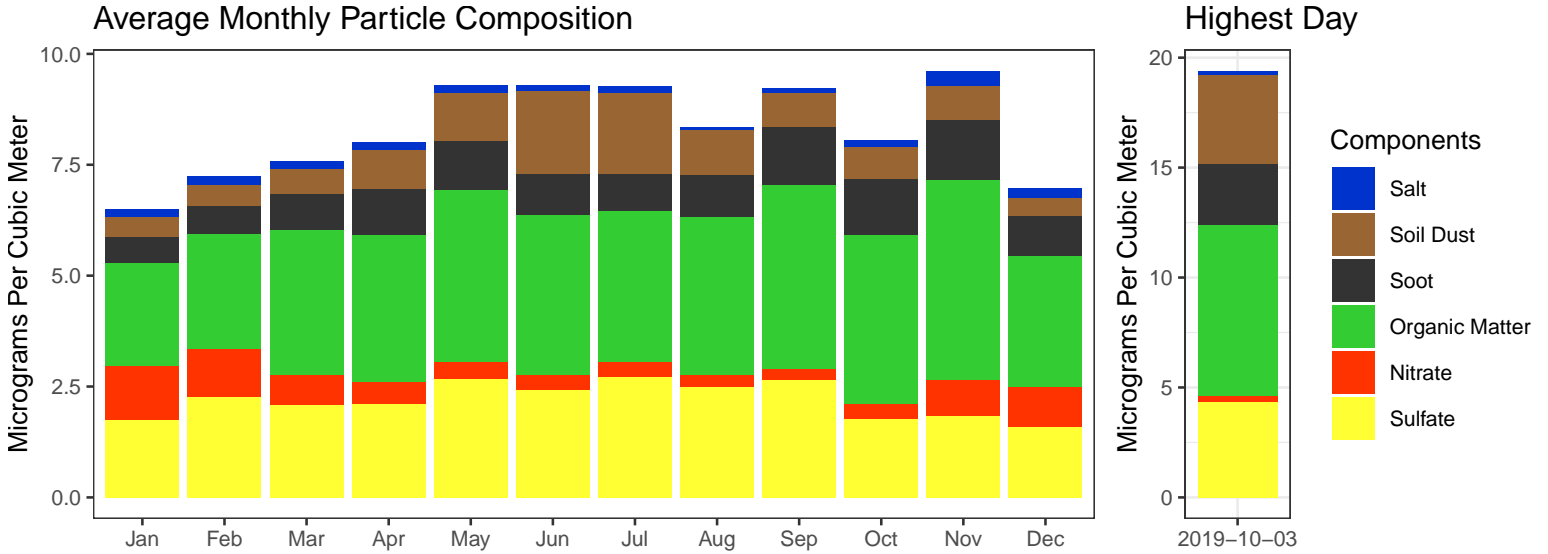
Missing years are due to low number of RFM values.



More Information

To view and download IMPROVE data, you can visit: <https://www.epa.gov/outdoor-air-quality-data>
 The Univ. of California, Davis website with information about current research and publications: <https://aqrc.ucdavis.edu/>
 The Colorado State Univ. website with data resources, literature, and visibility overviews: <http://vista.cira.colostate.edu/Improve/>
 The EPA website with guidance documents and background information: <https://www.epa.gov/amtic/chemical-speciation-network-csn>
 Real-time air monitoring data for the United States: <https://www.airnow.gov/>

The following plots summarize the chemical composition of particles collected at this site. The monthly averaged compositions calculated from 2015-2019 data are shown on the left while compositions for the day with the highest measured concentrations during 2019 are shown on the right.



Components	Calculation	Natural Sources	Anthropogenic Sources
Salt	$1.8 \cdot \text{Chloride}$	Ocean spray, dry lakebeds	Chemical manufacturing, lake consumption
Soil Dust	$2.2 \cdot \text{Al} + 2.49 \cdot \text{Si} + 1.63 \cdot \text{Ca} + 2.42 \cdot \text{Fe} + 1.94 \cdot \text{Ti}$	Soil resuspension, dust storms long-range transport	Construction, agriculture, deforestation, unpaved roads
Soot	<i>Elemental Carbon</i>	Wildfires	Motor vehicles, wood burning, smoking
Organic Matter	$1.4 \cdot \text{Organic Carbon}$	Plants, animals, wildfires	Motor vehicles, cooking oils, household cleaners
Nitrate	$1.29 \cdot \text{Nitrate}$	Plants, animals	Fertilizer, stock yards, chemical manufacturing
Sulfate	$4.125 \cdot \text{Sulfur}$	Volcanism	Coal-fired power plants, chemical manufacturing

The following map shows the average RFM concentrations for nearby sites in both CSN and the rural IMPROVE Network. The point shapes indicate which network the sites are associated with. The color bar indicates the average annual RFM concentration (micrograms per cubic meter) measured at each site in 2019.

