

Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide were not found in any significant concentrations anywhere, which indicates that the more immediate problem is on automobile emission rather than industrial sources.

However, the latest survey conducted by ONEB found that in Bangkok overall air pollution is worsening steadily and spreading to all the main business districts of the city. ONEB rated the capital's atmosphere as "dangerous" throughout 1990. The acceptable air quality index is set by ONEB at 100 anything above this figure is "bad" and below is "good". The citywide average air quality index in Bangkok reached 277 throughout 1989.

The ONEB also reported a worsening of air quality around the Patpong area off Silom road, where a recent investigation found an alarming concentration of small particles reaching 340, and carbon monoxide reaching 270 against the standard of 100.

In other areas around the city the air quality index is acceptable at about 90.5.

The ONEB named public buses a major source of air pollution. About 60 per cent of the Bangkok Mass Transit Authority (BMTA) buses' exhaust fumes exceed the standard according to the latest survey. In 1985 survey, only 25 per cent of 3,000 buses were reported to be emitting pollution fumes. With an average 10 per cent annual increase in all types of vehicles on Bangkok streets, pollution will get worse and worse.