

Mobile Source Indicators

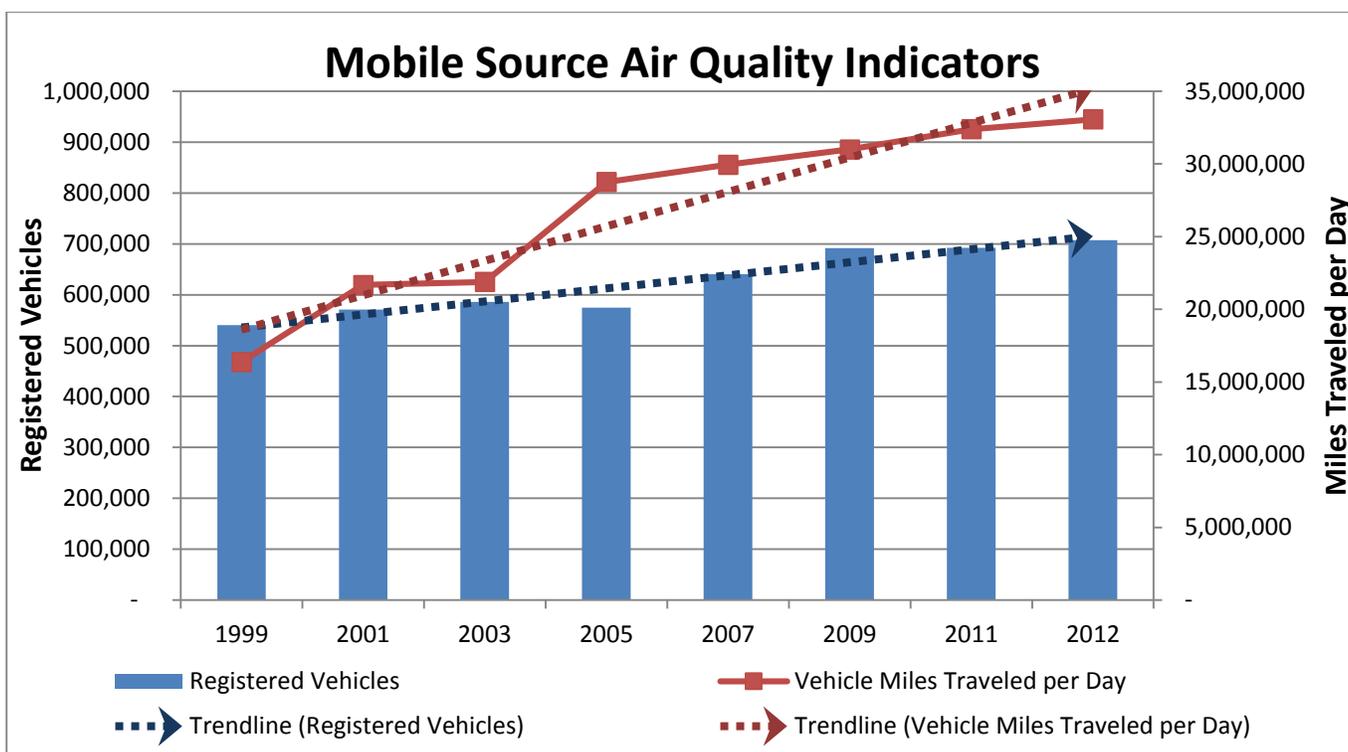
Mecklenburg County, North Carolina



Recent emission inventories show that most [ozone-forming air pollution](#) in Mecklenburg County comes from cars, trucks and other on-road vehicles. The graph below shows two indicators associated with on-road mobile source air pollution:

1. **Registered Vehicles** – The total number of on-road vehicles registered in Mecklenburg County. This data is plotted on the graph with blue bars, along with a dotted blue trend line.
2. **Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)** – The average number of miles traveled each day by on-road vehicles in Mecklenburg County. This data is plotted on the graph with red squares connected by a line, along with a dotted red trend line.

The graph below shows that average daily VMT and the number of registered vehicles in Mecklenburg County have both increased over the past decade. However, the trend lines on the graph show that VMT is growing more quickly than vehicle registration. This indicates that the average Mecklenburg County resident is driving more each year than the year before.



The amount of air pollution generated by a single car depends on how clean the car's engine runs and how many miles the car is driven. Newer models of on-road vehicles continue to be built with smaller and typically cleaner engines, reducing the amount of air pollution emitted for each mile driven. Unfortunately, the trend of driving more miles each year could reduce or even eliminate the air quality benefit from having cleaner cars and trucks on the road.

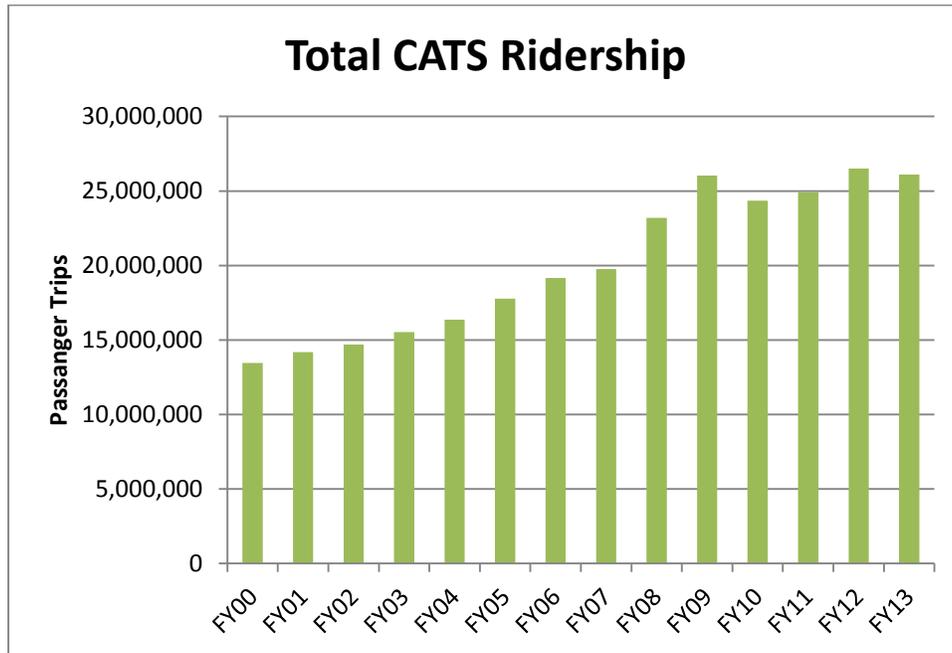
Citizens can reduce the number of miles they drive each year by "trip-chaining," combining errands into a single multi-stop trip rather than multiple single-stop trips. Drivers can also replace car trips they would normally make alone with a ["cleaner" alternative](#), such as carpooling, biking, walking, or using mass transit.

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The graph below shows that that an increasing number of residents are turning to Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) services as an alternative to driving alone.



According to transit officials, CATS “is committed to providing outstanding community-wide public transportation. Over the past decade, CATS has significantly increased routes and expanded service hours and frequency. This, along with improved safety and accessibility, has resulted in overall ridership gains. In fiscal years 2008 and 2009, CATS experienced large increases in ridership due to the introduction of the LYNX Blue Line, North Carolina’s first light rail service, and the national effects of Hurricane Katrina on gas prices, respectively. In FY10 CATS experienced a drop in ridership due to the nation’s recession.”

More information

- [Mecklenburg County Air Quality - Mobile Sources](#)
- [Smokestacks On Wheels](#)
- [EPA - On-Road Vehicles and Engines](#)
- [EPA - Non-Road Engines, Equipment and Vehicles](#)
- [Mobile Source Air Toxics](#)

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