

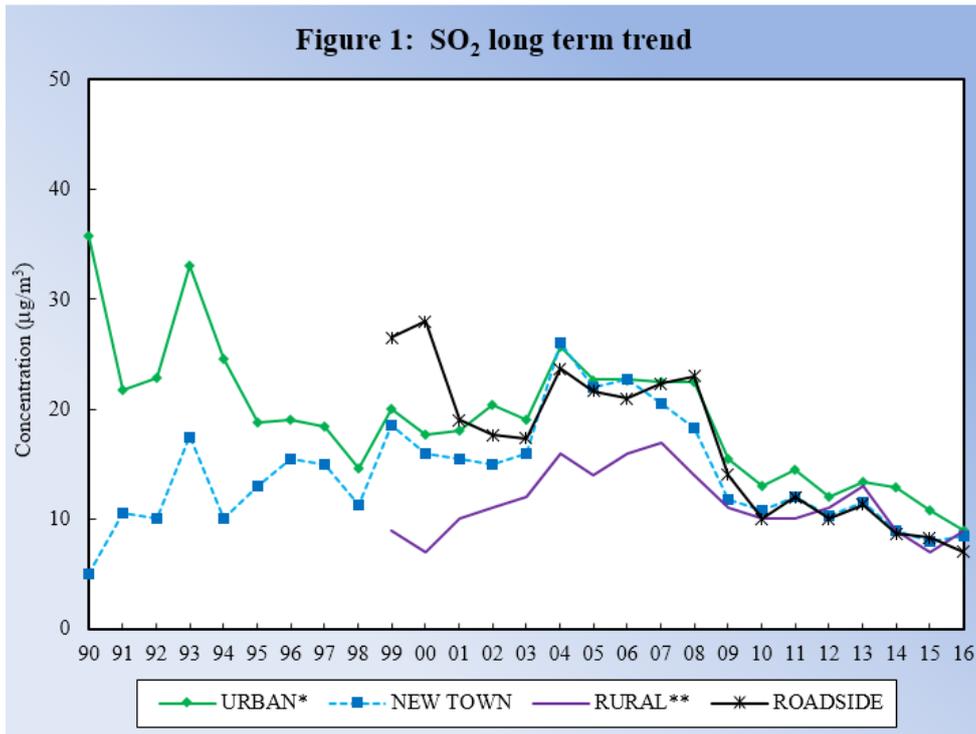
## Pollutant Long-term Trends (1990 – 2016)

Air quality is affected by both emissions and meteorology. Over a short period, for instance a few months to a year, air quality is more subject to variations in weather and meteorological changes, such as stronger solar radiation which promotes photochemical smog formation or more rainfall that cleans the pollutants from the air, even though the emission levels remain more or less the same. Air quality is primarily affected by emission sources in the long run. Therefore a scientific way to assess air quality changes and the effectiveness of emission control measures is to examine the long-term trend of annual average pollutant concentrations over several years.

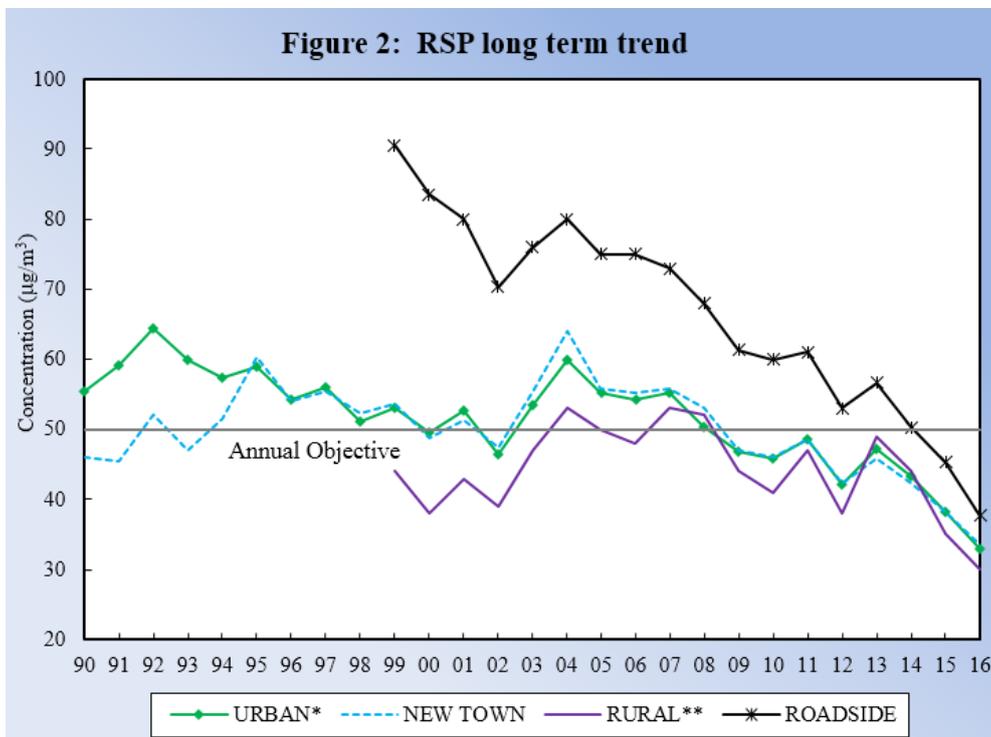
The long-term trends for the air pollutants presented are based on their annual average concentrations recorded from the relevant air quality monitoring stations categorised into four groups of land use types, namely Urban, New Town, Rural and Roadside as defined in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Classification of Air Monitoring Stations by Land Use Types**

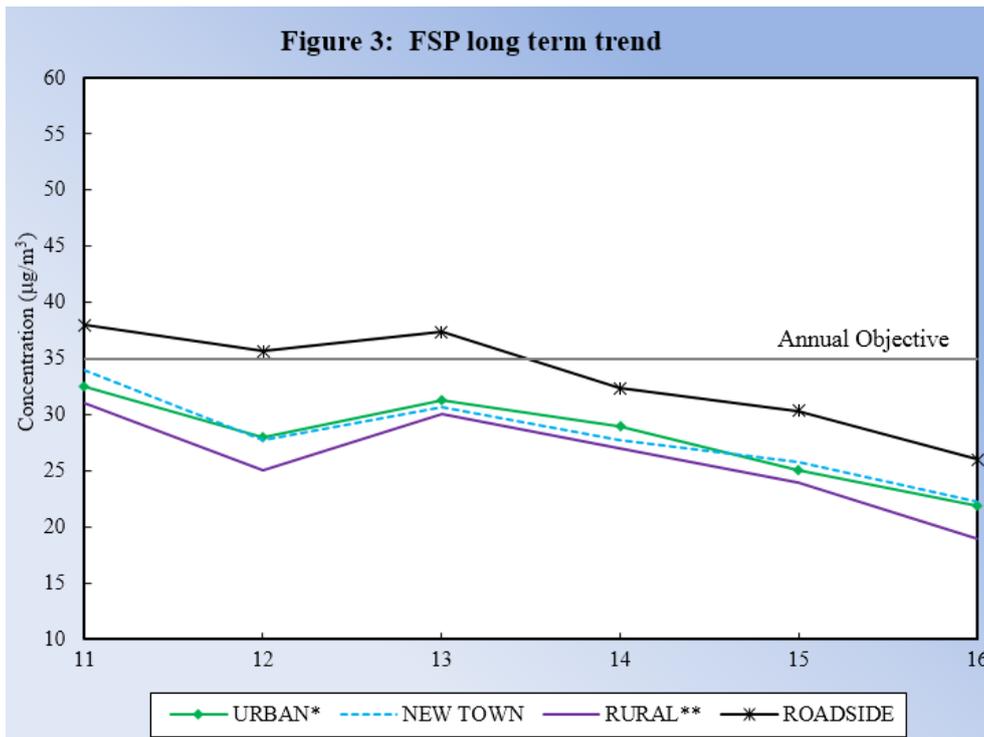
<b>Land Use Type</b>	<b>Land Use Characteristics</b>	<b>Air Monitoring Stations</b>
Urban	Densely populated residential areas mixed with some commercial and/or industrial areas	Central/Western, Eastern, Kwai Chung, Kwun Tong, Sham Shui Po, Tsuen Wan and Tseung Kwan O
New Town	Mainly residential areas	Sha Tin, Tai Po, Tung Chung, Yuen Long and Tuen Mun
Rural	Rural areas	Tap Mun (background station)
Roadside	Urban roadside in mixed residential/ commercial area with heavy traffic and surrounded by many tall buildings	Causeway Bay, Central and Mong Kok



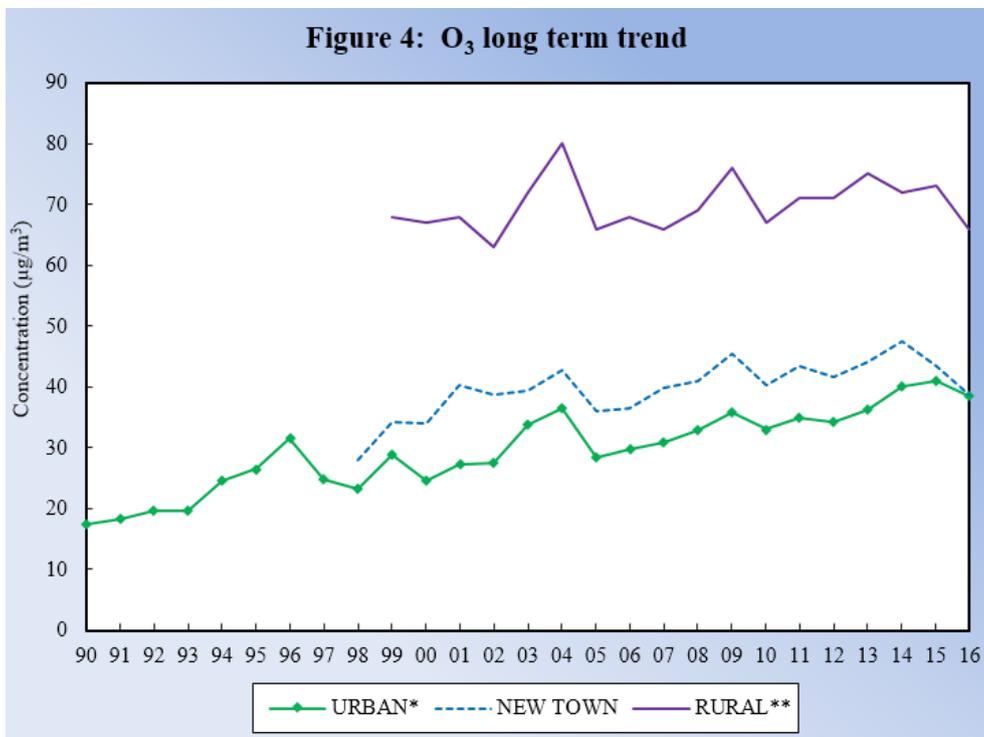
Notes: \* Tseung Kwan O general station is excluded with insufficient data in 2016.  
 \*\* Tap Mun general station had insufficient data in 2016. Since it is the only station for rural areas, its data are shown for reference.



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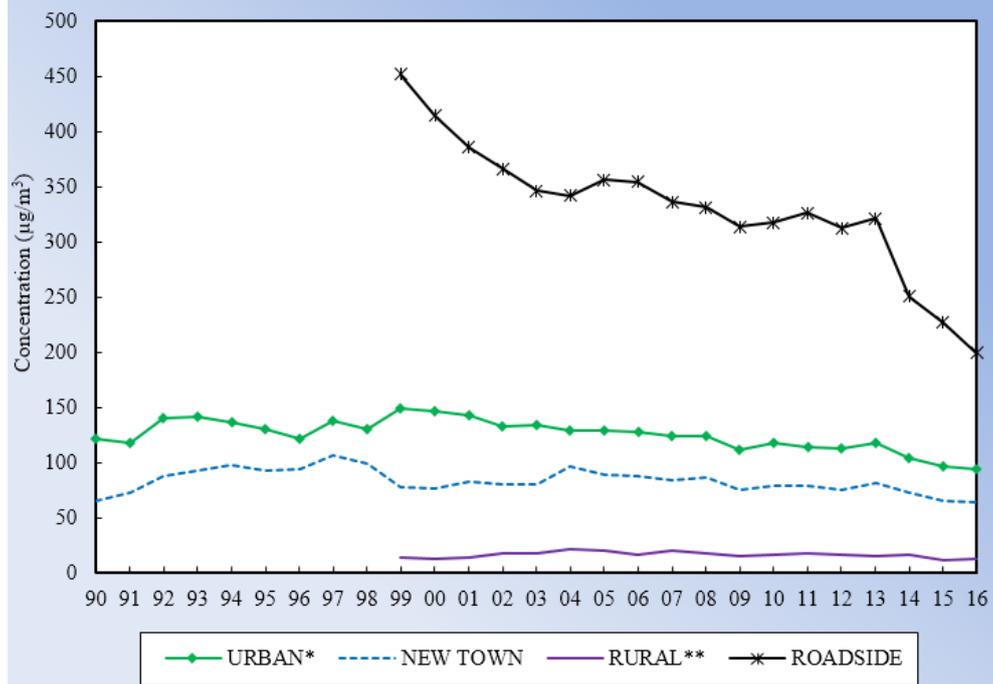


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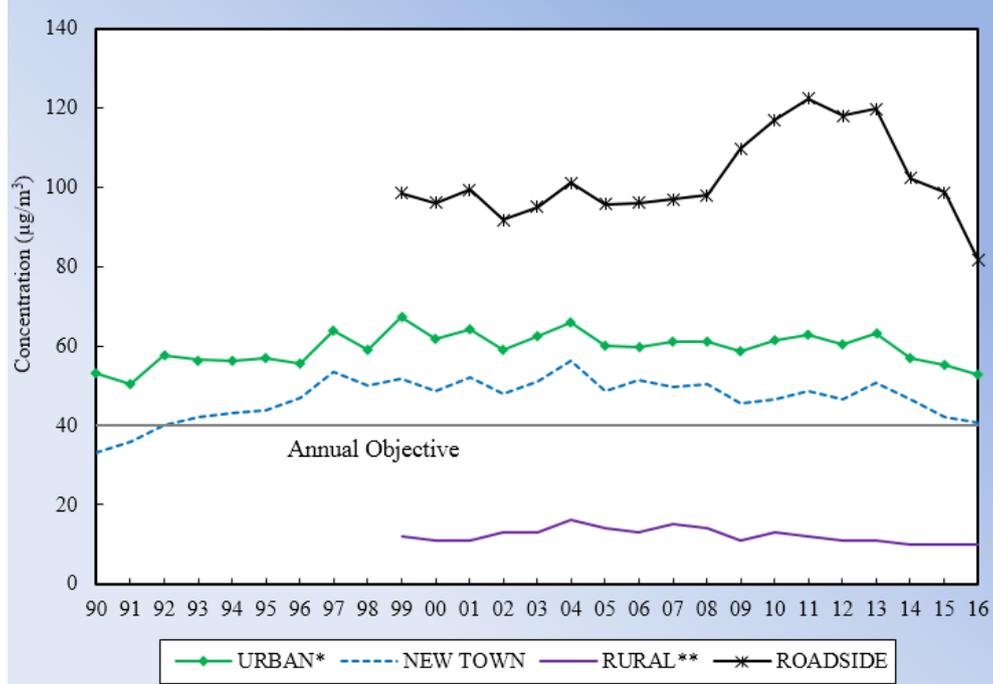
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**Figure 5: NO<sub>x</sub> long term trend**

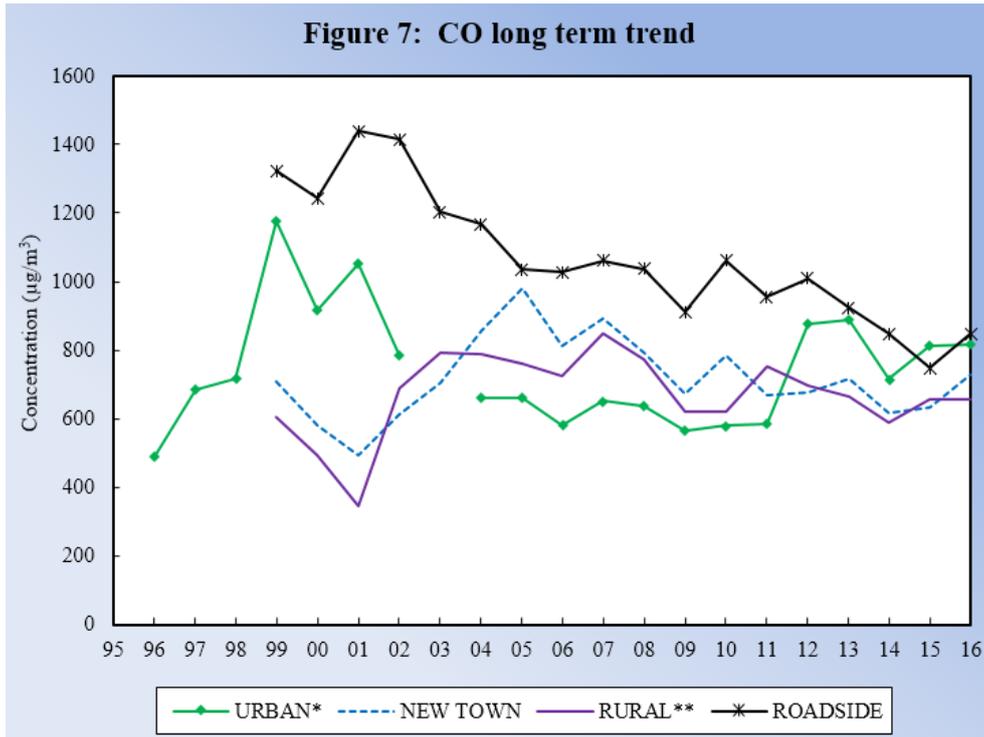


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**Figure 6: NO<sub>2</sub> long term trend**



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