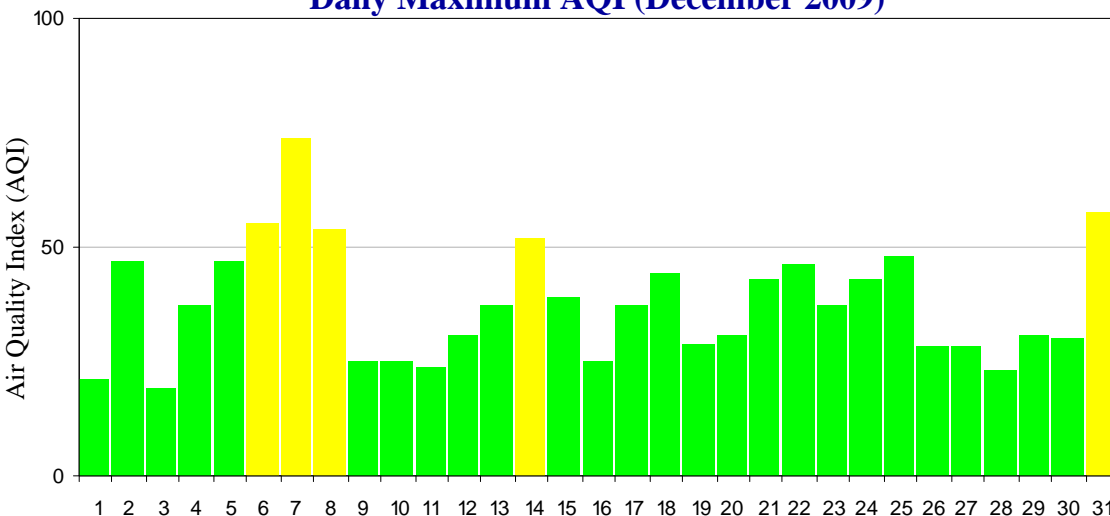


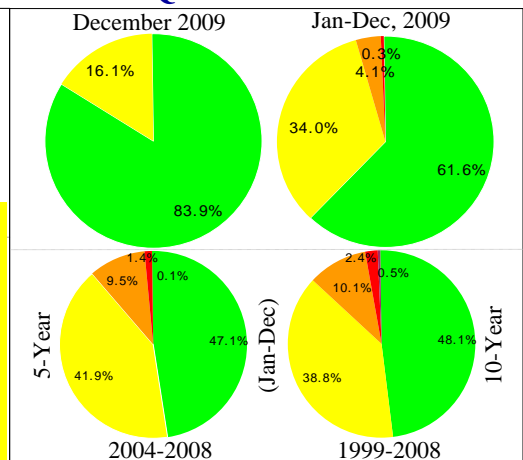
# Quality of Air

## for Baltimore Forecast Region, December 2009

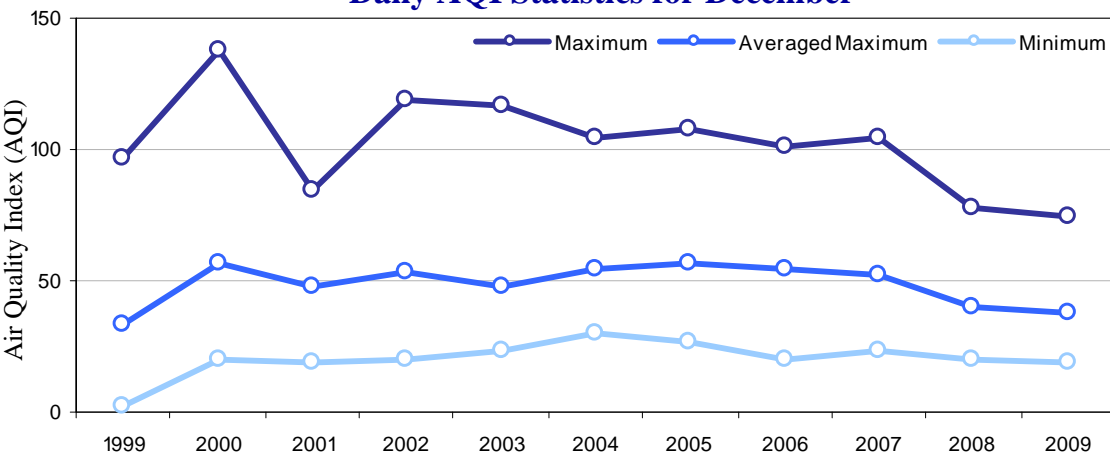
### Daily Maximum AQI (December 2009)



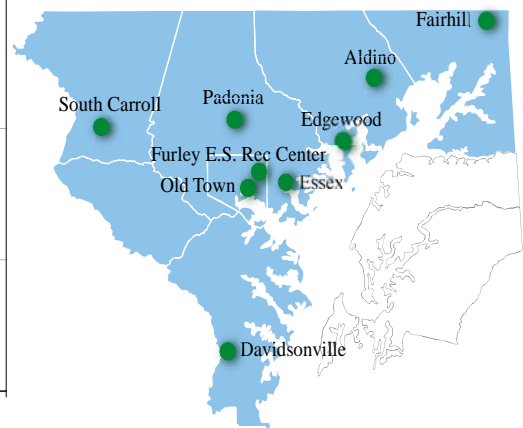
### AQI Distribution



### Daily AQI Statistics for December



### Baltimore Forecast Region and Monitors



### Number of Days Above 100 AQI vs Days ≥ 90° F at BWI (2009 Data)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
8-hour Ozone	0	0	0	2	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	11
24-hour PM Fine	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5
Both Pollutants <sup>1</sup>	3	0	1	2	0	3	3	3	0	0	1	0	16
Days ≥ 90° F	0	0	0	3	0	0	4	6	0	0	0	0	13

### AQI Climatological Report

	Observed Value	Normal <sup>2</sup>	Departure
Averaged Maximum	38	28	10
USG+ Day(s)	0	0.3	-0.3
Record AQI	138 (12/16/2000)		

In December 2009, the air quality in the Baltimore Forecast Region (BFR) was Good on 26 days (83.9%) and Moderate on 5 days (16.1%). There were no Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (USG) days. This scenario was not rare as only scattered USG+ days have occurred in the month of December. The 16 USG+ days in 2009 (e.g. 16) were the lowest since 1980. For comparison, the second lowest occurred in 2008 with 27 days and the highest occurred in 1980 with 83 days. A monthly peak AQI of 74 (Code Yellow) occurred in the middle of a three-day air quality event (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>). The event started with a high pressure system that began building into the Mid-Atlantic on the 6<sup>th</sup> and caused fine particle pollution to increase toward the lower Moderate range. This high pressure system moved overhead on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Light winds and a strong surface inversion resulted in limited vertical mixing and caused fine particle pollution to increase toward the middle of Moderate range on the 7<sup>th</sup>. A fast-moving disturbance moved across the region during the late afternoon on the 7<sup>th</sup> and once again was replaced by another high pressure system on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Fine particle pollution modulated in the lower Moderate range on the 8<sup>th</sup>. A strong low pressure moved across the region on the 9<sup>th</sup> and brought widespread precipitation with it and ended the air quality event. How is the air quality in 2009 compared to recent years? Historical data showed USG AQI levels or above occurred on approximately 11.0% and 13.0% of the days based on the 5-year (Jan-Dec, 2004-2008) and 10-year (Jan-Dec, 1999-2008) running mean, respectively. In 2009, USG AQI levels or above occurred on 4.4% of the days. This resulted in a decrease of 6.6% and 8.6% of USG AQI levels or above days as compared to 5-year and 10-year historical data, respectively. Visit [www.cleanairpartners.net](http://www.cleanairpartners.net) for current air quality conditions and forecasts or call the air quality hotline at 410-537-3247.

### Air Quality Index (AQI)



Note: <sup>1</sup>Either one or both pollutants are USG or above.

<sup>2</sup>Climatological Normal Period 1981 to 2005. <sup>3</sup>Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups. Data presented for 2009 are preliminary.

Climate stats are courtesy of the [NWS](http://www.nws.gov).