

Automobile Manufacturing



TRI Facilities, 2011: Automobile Manufacturing

This sector includes facilities that assemble automobiles, light trucks, and utility vehicles to produce finished vehicles, and facilities that manufacture automotive vehicle bodies. Compared to the other industry sectors profiled, this sector is small in terms of both number of facilities reporting and in total quantities released or managed as waste. However, given this sector's high percentage of air releases and the attention on the automobile sector's production levels in recent years, the sector is included as one of the Industry Sector Profiles.

Quick Facts for 2011

Number of TRI Facilities: 49
 Facilities Reporting Newly Implemented Source Reduction Activities: 4

On-site and Off-site Disposal or Other Releases: 11.2 million lbs

On-site: 10.5 million lbs

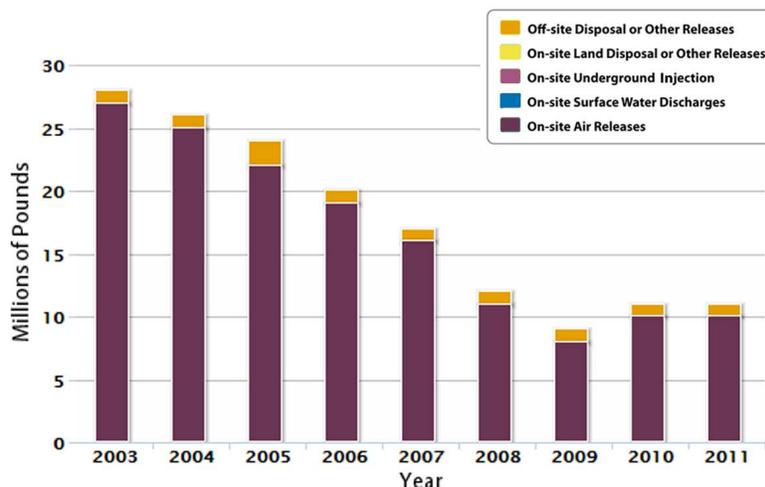
- Air: 10.4 million lbs
- Water: 4,953 lbs
- Land: 29 thousand lbs
- Underground Injection: None

Off-site: 730 thousand lbs

Production-Related Waste Managed: 44.3 million lbs

- Recycled: 21.9 million lbs
- Energy Recovery: 876 thousand lbs
- Treated: 10.4 million lbs
- Disposed of or Otherwise Released: 11.2 million lbs

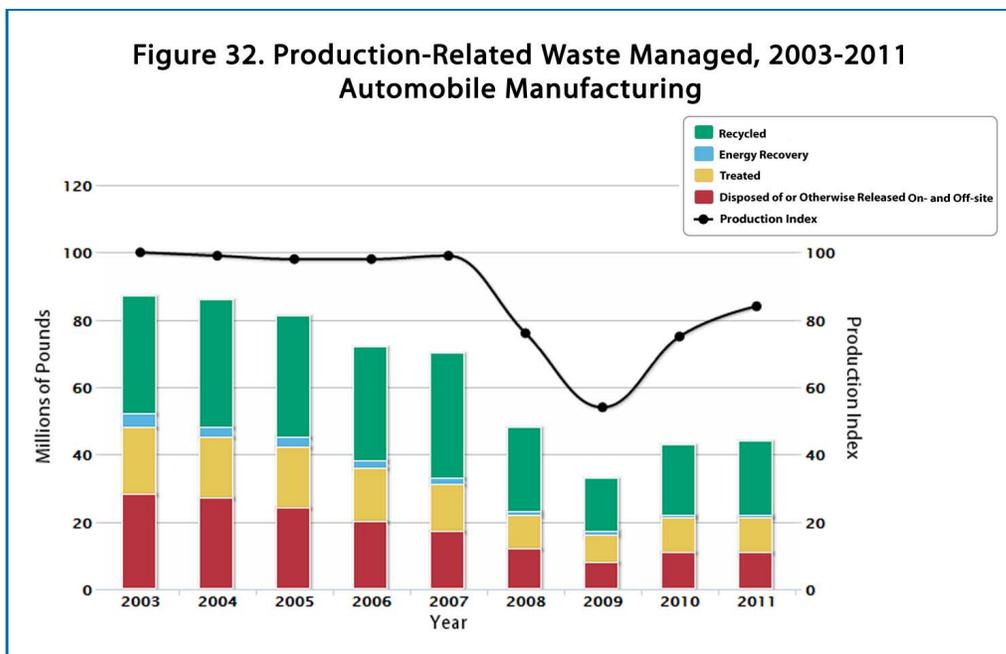
Figure 31. Disposal or Other Releases, 2003-2011 Automobile Manufacturing



The sector’s disposal or other release quantities are dominated by air emissions (93% in 2011), with the remaining 7% largely reported as transferred off site, as shown in Figure 31. Since 2003, the sector’s total disposal or other released decreased by 60%, driven by a 16-million-pound reduction in air releases.

As shown in Figure 32 by the solid black line, the sector’s production has fluctuated considerably in recent years. Most notably, it dropped by 46% from 2007 to 2009, and then increased in 2010 and 2011 to a level exceeding 2008 production, but not as high as the 2007 level. The sector’s production-related waste managed followed a trend similar to production. Overall, production-related waste decreased by almost 50% from 2003 to 2011 while production declined by 16%. Because the production-related waste managed decreased more than the sector’s production, this indicates that waste per unit of product has decreased over this time period.

When considering total production-related waste, the sector has also shifted how their waste is managed. The proportion recycled has increased from 2003, when 40% of total production-related waste was recycled, to 2011 when 49% was recycled. During the same time period, quantities disposed or otherwise released declined from 33% of total production-related waste in 2003 to 25% in 2011.



In the automobile manufacturing sector, 9% of facilities reported having initiated practices to reduce their toxic chemical use and waste generation through source reduction activities in 2011. The most commonly reported source reduction activity for the sector was good operating practices, which includes activities such as improved maintenance procedures or production schedules. For example, one facility “implemented a reliability centered maintenance (RCM) program which identified the need for redundant pollution controls associated with the nitride coating process” for ammonia.

To learn more about this sector, visit EPA’s Automotive Compliance Assistance website at www.epa.gov/compliance/assistance/sectors/automotive.html.