Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)

"TRI has led the way on right-to-know issues ... and is a vital information source" –

EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson

What is TRI?

TRI is a publicly-accessible EPA database containing information on disposal and other releases of over 650 toxic chemicals from more than 20,000 U.S. industrial facilities.

The database also includes information on how facilities manage chemicals through recycling, energy recovery and treatment.

TRI was established in 1986 by Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and later expanded by the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990.

The goal of TRI is to provide communities with information about toxic chemical releases and waste management activities and to support informed decision-making by industry, government, non-governmental organizations and the public.

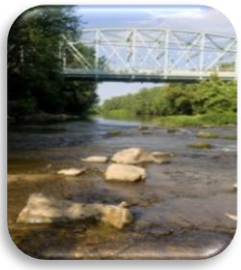
Data are submitted annually by U.S. facilities that meet TRI reporting criteria.

TRI data can be downloaded or accessed through a variety of analytical tools and applications.

What does TRI provide?

TRI includes information about:

- On-site releases and other disposal of toxic chemicals to air, surface water and land;
- On-site recycling, treatment and energy recovery associated with TRI chemicals;
- Off-site transfers of toxic chemicals from TRI facilities to other locations;
- Pollution prevention activities at facilities;
- Releases of lead, mercury, dioxin and other persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) chemicals; and
- Facilities in a variety of industry sectors (including manufacturing, metal mining, and electric power generation) and some federal facilities.



Useful Links:

EPA

- TRI homepage: www.epa.gov/tri
- Chemical Right-to-Know Collaborative Forum: www.chemicalright2know.org (EPA & the Environmental Council of the States)

Non-EPA

- TOXMAP by National Library of Medicine: www.toxmap.nlm.nih.gov

TRI Data Use

How can TRI data be used?

- To identify sources of toxic chemical releases
- To begin analyzing potential toxic chemical hazards to human health and the environment
- To encourage pollution prevention at facilities

Who uses TRI data?

- Individuals, communities and environmental groups
- Governmental agencies
- Academic and investment communities
- News media
- Industry groups

Limitations of TRI Data:

TRI data do not reflect:

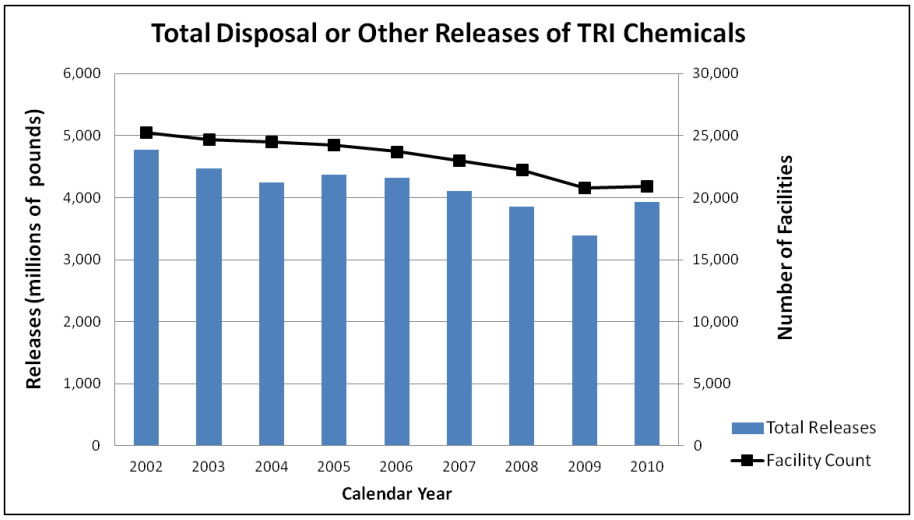
- Releases of toxic chemicals not included on the TRI chemical list
- Releases from facilities in industry sectors not covered by the TRI Program
- Risks to human health and the environment

TRI facilities report the best readily available data to EPA.

What do the TRI data show at the national level?

Quick Facts for 2010

On-site and Off-site Disposal or Other Releases:	In billions of pounds
On-site:	3.52
- Air:	0.86
- Water:	0.226
- Land:	2.20
- Underground Injection:	0.229
Off-site:	0.41
Total:	3.93



Accessing and Analyzing TRI Data

Multiple Web-based tools and applications provide easy access to TRI data and related analyses:

- **myRTK:** For use on cell phones or desktop computers. Maps TRI facilities and displays identities and quantities of chemicals being released. Includes potential adverse health effects, facility enforcement history, and other contextual information.
- **TRI Explorer:** For use on desktop computers. Provides access to TRI data on chemicals, facilities, geographic areas, and industry sectors.
- **TRI.NET:** Downloadable application for use on desktop computers. Supports in-depth analyses and includes mapping capabilities.
- **Envirofacts:** For use on desktop computers. Provides access to TRI and other EPA datasets related to air, water, and land.

Full list of TRI tools: www.epa.gov/tri/tritools

TRI National Analysis: www.epa.gov/tri/NationalAnalysis