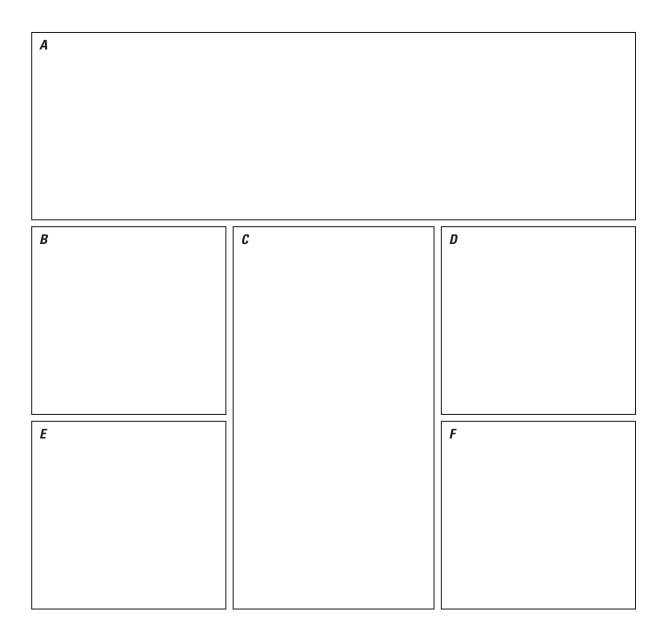


Prepared in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Quality of Surface Water in Missouri, Water Year 2017



Data Series 1108

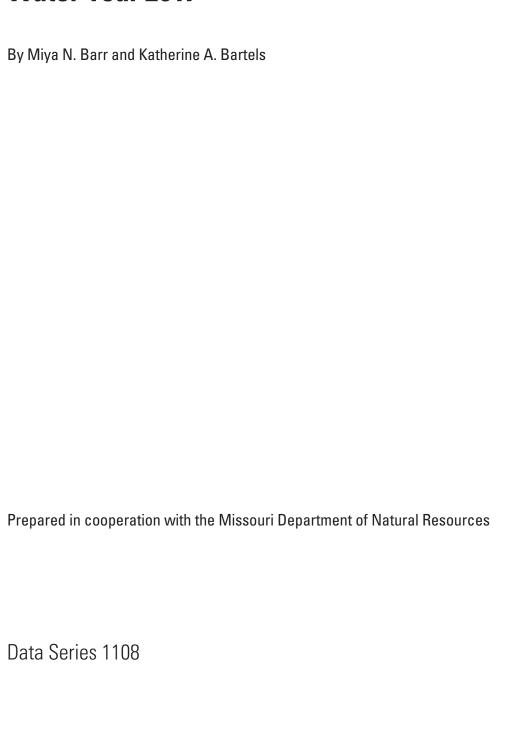


Cover. Hydrologist collecting nutrient data from the air and a nearby stream (shown within Missouri State boundary).

Back cover.

- A, Hydrologist collecting a surface-water quality sample during flooding conditions using a large sampler and mechanical reel from a bridge deck.
- B, Hydrologic technicians collecting suspended-sediment samples from a boat deck on the Mississippi River.
- ${\cal C}$, Hydrologic technician processing a surface-water quality sample for chemical analysis.
- D, Hydrologist operating an electrical reel and large sampler from a boat deck to collect a surface-water quality sample on the Mississippi River.
- *E*, Hydrologist processing fecal bacteria indicator samples from a mobile laboratory.
- F, Hydrologic technician collecting a surface-water quality sample from a small stream.

Quality of Surface Water in Missouri, Water Year 2017



U.S. Department of the Interior DAVID BERNHARDT, Acting Secretary

U.S. Geological Survey

James F. Reilly II, Director

U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia: 2019

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Conversion Factors

U.S. customary units to International System of Units

Longth			
Length			
2.54	centimeter (cm)		
1.609	kilometer (km)		
Area			
2.590	square kilometer (km²)		
Flow rate			
0.02832	cubic meter per second (m³/s)		
	1.609 Area 2.590 Flow rate		

Temperature in degrees Celsius (°C) may be converted to degrees Fahrenheit (°F) as follows:

Horizontal coordinate information is referenced to the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83).

Specific conductance is given in microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius (μ S/cm at 25 °C).

Density population of bacteria is given in colonies per 100 milliliters (col/100 mL) of water.

Concentrations of chemical constituents in water are given either in milligrams per liter (mg/L) or micrograms per liter (μ g/L).

A water year in U.S. Geological Survey reports is the 12-month period October 1 through September 30 and is designated by the calendar year in which it ends; thus, the year ending September 30, 2017, is called "water year 2017."

Abbreviations

AWQMN Ambient Water-Quality Monitoring Network

E. coli Escherichia coli

LRL laboratory reporting level

LT-MDL long-term method detection level

MDL method detection level

MDNR Missouri Department of Natural Resources

MRL minimum reporting level

NASQAN National Stream Quality Assessment Network

NWIS National Water Information System
NWQL National Water Quality Laboratory

TMDL total maximum daily load USGS U.S. Geological Survey

Quality of Surface Water in Missouri, Water Year 2017

By Miya N. Barr and Katherine A. Bartels

Abstract

The U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, designed and operates a network of monitoring stations on streams and springs throughout Missouri known as the Ambient Water-Quality Monitoring Network. During water year 2017 (October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017), data presented in this report were collected at 72 stations: 70 Ambient Water-Quality Monitoring Network stations and 2 U.S. Geological Survey National Stream Quality Assessment Network stations. Among the 72 stations in this report, 4 stations have data presented from additional sampling performed in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Summaries of the concentrations of dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, water temperature, suspended solids, suspended sediment, Escherichia coli bacteria, fecal coliform bacteria, dissolved nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, total phosphorus, dissolved and total recoverable lead and zinc, and selected pesticide compounds are presented. Most of the stations have been classified based on the physiographic province or primary land use in the watershed represented by the station. Some stations have been classified based on the unique hydrology of the waterbodies they monitor. A summary of hydrologic conditions in the State including peak streamflows, monthly mean streamflows, and 7-day low flows also are presented.

Introduction

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) is responsible for the implementation of the Federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq.) in Missouri. Section 305(b) of the Clean Water Act requires that each State develop a water-quality monitoring program and periodically report the status of its water quality (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1997). Water-quality status is described in terms of the suitability of the water for various uses, such as drinking, fishing, swimming, and supporting aquatic life; these uses formally were defined as "designated uses" in State and Federal regulations. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires States to identify impaired waters and determine the total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) of pollutants that can be present in these waters and still meet applicable water-quality

standards for their designated uses (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2018). A TMDL addresses a single pollutant for each waterbody.

Missouri has an area of about 69,000 square miles and an estimated population of 6.09 million people (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016). Within Missouri, 115,772 miles (mi) of classified streams support a variety of uses including wildlife, recreation, agriculture, industry, transportation, and public utilities, but only 24,761 mi (or about 21 percent) were monitored, evaluated, and assessed in the State's most recent waterquality report (Missouri Department of Natural Resources, 2016a). Of these assessed stream miles, an estimated 5,307 mi fully support the designated uses, and an estimated 5,549 mi are impaired by various physical changes or chemical contaminants to the point that criteria for at least one of the designated uses no longer can be met (Missouri Department of Natural Resources, 2016a).

The purpose of this report is to summarize surface-water quality data collected for the MDNR–U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) cooperative Ambient Water-Quality Monitoring Network (AWQMN) for water year 2017. The annual summary of select constituents provides MDNR with current information to assess the quality of surface water within the State and ensure the objectives of the AWQMN are being met. This report is one in a series of annual summaries (Otero-Benitez and Davis, 2009a, 2009b; Barr, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015; Barr and Schneider, 2014; Barr and Heimann, 2016; Barr and Bartels, 2018). Data on the physical characteristics and water-quality constituents in samples collected during the 2017 water year are presented in figures and tables for 72 surface-water stations located throughout the State.

The Ambient Water-Quality Monitoring Network

The USGS, in cooperation with the MDNR, collects surface-water quality data pertaining to water resources in Missouri each water year (October 1 through September 30). These data, stored and maintained in the USGS National Water Information System (NWIS) database (U.S. Geological Survey, 2017), are collected as part of the Missouri AWQMN. The data collected for the AQWMN constitute a permanent source of accessible, accurate, impartial, and timely information for

developing an enhanced understanding of the State's water resources. Historical surface-water quality data were published annually in the Water-Data Report series from water years 1964 through 2005 (U.S. Geological Survey, 1964–2005). Published data for the 2006 through 2010 water years can be accessed at https://wdr.water.usgs.gov (U.S. Geological Survey, 2006b–2010). Beginning in water year 2011, discrete water-quality data were no longer published annually but can be accessed in the NWIS database (U.S. Geological Survey, 2017).

The objectives of the AWQMN are to (1) obtain data on the quality and quantity of surface water within the State; (2) provide a database of historical water-quality information that can be used by the State planning and management agencies to make informed decisions about anthropogenic effects (such as agriculture, mining, and urban) on the State's surface waters; and (3) provide for consistent methodology in data collection, laboratory analysis, and data reporting. Constituent concentration data from the AWQMN have been used to determine statewide water-quality status and long-term trends (Barr and Davis, 2010) to meet information needs of State agencies involved in water-quality planning and management. The data collected also provide support for the design, implementation, and evaluation of preventive and remediation programs.

The MDNR and the USGS established a fixed-station AWQMN in 1964 with 18 stations, 5 of which are being sampled currently (2018). The number of stations within the AWQMN has varied since its inception because of changes in the State's needs. During water year 2017, the AWQMN program consisted of 70 stations (69 primary stations and 1 alternate station). Alternate sampling stations have been established at streamflow-gaging stations near some primary AWQMN stations, and one such station, Drywood Creek near Deerfield, Missouri (06917680), was sampled in September 2017 because of dry conditions at East Drywood Creek at Prairie State Park, Mo. (06917630). Sampling frequency at each station is determined by several factors, including drainage basin size, potential effects from anthropogenic activities (such as agriculture, mining, and urban), history of chemical change, need for annual data, and cost. Each of the streams in the AWQMN is classified for one or more designated uses. For specific information on the designated uses applicable to the streams sampled in the AWQMN, refer to Missouri Department of Natural Resources (2016a; 2016b).

The unique eight-digit number used by the USGS to identify each surface-water station is assigned when a station is first established. The complete eight-digit number for each station includes a two-digit prefix that designates the primary river system (05 is the upper Mississippi River, 06 is the Missouri River, and 07 is the lower Mississippi River) plus a

six-digit downstream-order number; for example, the station number 05587455 indicates the station is in the upper Mississippi River system (05), and the remaining six digits (587455) locate the station in downstream order. In this system, the station numbers increase downstream along the main stem. A station on a tributary that enters between two main stem stations is assigned a station number between them.

Constituents collected within the AWQMN have been established by the MDNR based on their data needs at each station. Samples were collected by USGS personnel; collection methods and techniques followed USGS protocol (U.S. Geological Survey, 2006a). Onsite measurements of dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, and water temperature were collected at each station according to procedures described in Wilde (variously dated). Water samples were collected and processed for fecal indicator bacteria [Escherichia coli (E. coli) and fecal coliform] densities using the membrane filtration procedure described in Myers and others (2014). Methods used by the USGS for collecting and processing representative samples for nutrients, primary chemical constituents, trace elements, suspended solids, suspended sediment, and pesticide analyses are presented in detail in U.S. Geological Survey (2006a), Guy (1969), Wilde and others (2004), and Sandstrom and Wilde (2014). All laboratory analyses were done by the USGS National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL) in Lakewood, Colorado, according to procedures described in Garbarino and others (2006), Fishman (1993), Patton and Kryskalla (2011), Patton and Truitt (1992), Sandstrom and others (2001 and 2015), and Zaugg and others (1995). Suspended-sediment concentrations were computed according to procedures described in Guy (1969).

In addition to the surface-water quality data collected from the 70 stations that form the AWQMN, selected data collected as part of other cooperative efforts are included in this report to help summarize water-quality conditions across the State. Water samples also are collected by the USGS at two USGS National Stream Quality Assessment Network (NASQAN; a national water-quality sampling network operated by the USGS, see https://cida.usgs.gov/quality/rivers/ home) stations. Sediment samples collected at four USGS streamflow-gaging stations are presented in this report. These samples are collected as part of a larger monitoring effort in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The suspended-sediment concentration data in this report are provided for comparison to the State's total suspended solids criteria. The suspended-sediment data used in this report consist of composited cross-sectional concentrations and average cross-sectional concentrations computed from five depth-integrated samples within the cross section (Edwards and Glysson, 1999).

Laboratory Reporting Conventions

The NWQL uses method reporting conventions (Childress and others, 1999) to establish the minimum concentration for which more than one qualitative measurement can be made. These reporting conventions are the minimum reporting level (MRL), the method detection level (MDL), and the laboratory reporting level (LRL). The MRL is defined by the NWQL as the smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be measured reliably using a given analytical method. The MDL is the minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99-percent confidence that the concentration is greater than zero. A longterm method detection level (LT-MDL) is a detection level obtained by determining the standard deviation of 24 or more MDL spiked-sample measurements for an extended period. The LRL is computed as twice the LT-MDL. Pesticide data in this report that are not reported as less than the LRL and are graphically displayed below the LRL are estimated values (Childress and others, 1999) and not considered detections.

Surface-Water Quality Data Analysis Methods

The distribution of select constituent data was displayed graphically using side-by-side boxplots (box and whiskers distributions; Helsel and Hirsch, 2002). The plots show the center of the data (median, the center line of the boxplot), the variation (interquartile range [25th to 75th percentiles] or the height of the box), the skewness (quartile skew, which is the relative size of the box halves), the spread (upper and lower adjacent values are the vertical lines or whiskers), and the presence or absence of unusual values or outliers. If the median equals the 25th and 75th percentiles, the boxplot is represented by a single horizontal line. Boxplots with censored data (suspended solids, dissolved nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, total phosphorus, and dissolved and total recoverable lead and zinc) were modified by making the lower limit of the box equal to the MRL or LT-MDL as appropriate. For pesticide concentration distributions, censored concentrations (reported as less than the LRL) were included in each distribution as a concentration value equal to the LRL. For some samples, pesticide concentrations are reported as estimated values (Childress and others, 1999), which are included in the distribution as a concentration that is plotted below the LRL and above the LT-MDL. All data used to generate the boxplots can be obtained from the NWIS database (U.S. Geological Survey, 2017). These data can be compiled by the public from NWIS using search criteria such as USGS station identifiers (table 1) and the desired date range.

Station Classification for Data Analysis

The stations used in this report are located throughout the State (fig. 1) and monitor watersheds with a variety of land uses (fig. 2) and unique hydrologic systems. Most of the stations were divided into first-order classifications according to the physiographic province (fig. 1) or the primary land use in the watershed represented by the station (fig. 2). Some stations were included in the same classification together according to the unique hydrologic characteristics of the water body they monitor (fig. 1). The physiography-based classes include the Dissected Till Plains (DTPL) in the north, the Osage Plains (OSPL) in the west-central, the Mississippi Alluvial Plain (MIALPL) in the southeast, the Salem Plateau (OZPLSA) in the middle of the State, and the Springfield Plateau (OZPLSP) in the southwest (fig. 1). Stations classified by type of land use include those where mining (MINING) and urban (URBAN) land uses were expected to have a substantial effect of water quality. Stations classified together based on the unique hydrologic characteristics of the water bodies they monitor refer to springs (SPRING) and the stations on the Mississippi River (BRMIG and BRMIT) and the Missouri River (BRMOSJ, BRMOS, and BRMOH), also referred to in this report as the "Big River stations" (fig. 1).

Some additional classifications were established to identify differences in drainage area and land use within physiographic regions. To account for these additional differences, each station that was classified by physiographic province was subdivided into second-order classifications. These secondorder classes are based on contributing drainage area (table 1) or land use within the watershed represented by the station (figs. 1, 2; table 2). The second-order classifications include watershed indicator (wi) stations and land-use indicators. Stations within the wi classes are the most downstream stations in a watershed having a drainage area greater than 1,000 square miles. Water-quality data obtained from wi stations can be interpreted as being representative of the general condition of the watershed. Land-use indicator stations include stations where forest (fo), agriculture (ag), or prairie (pr) is the predominate land use in the watershed upstream from the station. Water quality at land-use indicator stations is likely to be affected by a specific land use. When stations were in watersheds where multiple land uses were present, the convention was to mention them in predominant order. The agriculture and forest (ag/fo) land-use indicator, for example, implies that the primary land use of the watershed is agriculture, although a substantial part of the land use is forest (fig. 2).

Three stations from the AWQMN did not fit in the station classes defined for this report (table 2) and sampling results from these sites are not included. The three excluded stations were Cuivre River near Troy, Mo. (05514500), and Lamine River near Pilot Grove, Mo. (06907300), both within the Ozark Plateaus Province, and Lake Taneycomo at Branson, Mo. (07053700), a station on a semiriverine system downstream from a major impoundment.

4 Quality of Surface Water in Missouri, Water Year 2017

Table 1. U.S. Geological Survey station number, name, contributing drainage area, sampling frequency, station class, and station type for selected surface-water-quality monitoring stations in Missouri, water year 2017.

[Water year 2017 is defined as October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017. USGS, U.S. Geological Survey; mi², square mile; DTPL, Dissected Till Plains; ag, agriculture; --, not applicable; BRMIG, Big River—Mississippi River below Grafton, Illinois; wi, watershed indicator; BRMOSJ, Big River—Missouri River at St. Joseph, Missouri; BRMOS, Big River—Missouri River at Sibley, Missouri; MINING, mining; OSPL, Osage Plains; pr, prairie; OZPLSP, Ozark Plateaus—Springfield Plateau; fo, forest; OZPLSA, Ozark Plateaus—Salem Plateau; SPRING, spring; BRMOH, Big River—Missouri River at Hermann, Missouri; URBAN, urban; BRMIT, Big River—Mississippi River at Thebes, Illinois; MIALPL, Mississippi Alluvial Plain]

USGS station number (figs. 1 and 3)	Station name ^a	Contributing drainage area (mi²)	Water year 2017 sampling frequency	Station class and type (fig. 1; table 2)
05495000	Fox River at Wayland, Missouri	400	6	DTPL ag
05496000	Wyaconda River above Canton, Missouri	393	6	DTPL ag
05497150	North Fabius River near Ewing, Missouri	471	6	DTPL ag
05500000	South Fabius River near Taylor, Missouri	620	12	DTPL ag
05514500 ^b	Cuivre River near Troy, Missouri	903	6	
05587455°	Mississippi River below Grafton, Illinois	171,300	12	BRMIG
06817700	Nodaway River near Graham, Missouri	1,520	6	DTPL wi ag
06818000°	Missouri River at St. Joseph, Missouri	426,500	12	BRMOSJ
06821190	Platte River at Sharps Station, Missouri	2,380	6	DTPL wi ag
06894100	Missouri River at Sibley, Missouri	426,500	12	BRMOS
06896187	Middle Fork Grand River near Grant City, Missouri	82.4	6	DTPL ag
06898100	Thompson River at Mount Moriah, Missouri	891	8	DTPL ag
06898800	Weldon River near Princeton, Missouri	452	7	DTPL ag
06899580	No Creek near Dunlap, Missouri	34	10	DTPL ag
06899950	Medicine Creek near Harris, Missouri	192	12	DTPL ag
06900100	Little Medicine Creek near Harris, Missouri	66.5	12	DTPL ag
06900900	Locust Creek near Unionville, Missouri	77.5	11	DTPL ag
06902000	Grand River near Sumner, Missouri	6,880	12	DTPL wi ag
06905500	Chariton River near Prairie Hill, Missouri	1,870	6	DTPL wi ag
06905725	Mussel Fork near Mystic, Missouri	24	9	DTPL ag
06906300	East Fork Little Chariton River near Huntsville, Missouri	220	6	MINING
06907300 ^b	Lamine River near Pilot Grove, Missouri	949	9	
06917630	East Drywood Creek at Prairie State Park, Missouri	3.38	6	OSPL pr
06917680 ^d	Drywood Creek near Deerfield, Missouri	358	2	OSPL ag
06918070	Osage River above Schell City, Missouri	5,410	6	OSPL wi ag
06918600	Little Sac River near Walnut Grove, Missouri	119	12	OZPLSP ag/fo
06921070	Pomme de Terre River near Polk, Missouri	276	9	OZPLSA fo/ag
06921590	South Grand River at Archie, Missouri	356	6	OSPL ag
06923700	Niangua River at Bennett Spring, Missouri	441	6	OZPLSA fo/ag
06926510	Osage River below St. Thomas, Missouri	14,580	6	OZPLSA wi fo/a
06927850	Osage Fork of the Gasconade River near Lebanon, Missouri	43.6	6	OZPLSA fo/ag
06928440	Roubidoux Spring at Waynesville, Missouri		6	SPRING
06930450	Big Piney River at Devil's Elbow, Missouri	746	9	OZPLSA fo/ag
06930800	Gasconade River above Jerome, Missouri	2,570	12	OZPLSA wi fo/a
06934500 ^{c,e}	Missouri River at Hermann, Missouri	522,500	14	BRMOH
07014000	Huzzah Creek near Steelville, Missouri	259	6	OZPLSA fo/ag
07014200	Courtois Creek at Berryman, Missouri	173	6	OZPLSA fo/ag
07014500	Meramec River near Sullivan, Missouri	1,475	12	OZPLSA wi fo/a

Table 1. U.S. Geological Survey station number, name, contributing drainage area, sampling frequency, station class, and station type for selected surface-water-quality monitoring stations in Missouri, water year 2017.—Continued

[Water year 2017 is defined as October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017. USGS, U.S. Geological Survey; mi², square mile; DTPL, Dissected Till Plains; ag, agriculture; --, not applicable; BRMIG, Big River—Mississippi River below Grafton, Illinois; wi, watershed indicator; BRMOSJ, Big River—Missouri River at St. Joseph, Missouri; BRMOS, Big River—Missouri River at Sibley, Missouri; MINING, mining; OSPL, Osage Plains; pr, prairie; OZPLSP, Ozark Plateaus—Springfield Plateau; fo, forest; OZPLSA, Ozark Plateaus—Salem Plateau; SPRING, spring; BRMOH, Big River—Missouri River at Hermann, Missouri; URBAN, urban; BRMIT, Big River—Mississippi River at Thebes, Illinois; MIALPL, Mississippi Alluvial Plain]

USGS station number (figs. 1 and 3)	Station name ^a	Contributing drainage area (mi²)	Water year 2017 sampling frequency	Station class and type (fig. 1; table 2)
07016400	Bourbeuse River above Union, Missouri	808	9	OZPLSA fo/ag
07018100	Big River near Richwoods, Missouri	735	10	MINING
07019280	Meramec River at Paulina Hills, Missouri	3,920	11	URBAN wi
07020550	South Fork Saline Creek near Perryville, Missouri	55.3	6	OZPLSA fo/ag
07021020	Castor River at Greenbriar, Missouri	423	6	OZPLSA fo/ag
07022000 ^{c,e}	Mississippi River at Thebes, Illinois	713,200	14	BRMIT
07036100	St. Francis River near Saco, Missouri	664	9	OZPLSA fo/ag
07037300	Big Creek at Sam A. Baker State Park, Missouri	189	6	OZPLSA fo/ag
07042450	St. Johns Ditch at Henderson Mound, Missouri	313	7	MIALPL
07046250	Little River Ditches near Rives, Missouri	1,620	12	MIALPL
07050150	Roaring River Spring at Cassville, Missouri		6	OZPLSP ag/fo
07052152	Wilson Creek near Brookline, Missouri	51	12	URBAN
07052250	James River near Boaz, Missouri	462	6	URBAN
07052345	Finley Creek below Riverdale, Missouri	261	12	OZPLSP ag/fo
07052500	James River at Galena, Missouri	987	12	URBAN
07052820	Flat Creek below Jenkins, Missouri	274	12	OZPLSP ag/fo
07053700ь	Lake Taneycomo at Branson, Missouri		6	
07053900	Swan Creek near Swan, Missouri	148	6	OZPLSA fo/ag
07057500	North Fork River near Tecumseh, Missouri	561	6	OZPLSA fo/ag
07057750	Bryant Creek below Evans, Missouri	214	6	OZPLSA fo/ag
07061600	Black River below Annapolis, Missouri	493	8	OZPLSA fo/ag
07066110	Jacks Fork above Two River, Missouri	425	12	OZPLSA fo/ag
07067500	Big Spring near Van Buren, Missouri		4	SPRING
07068000	Current River at Doniphan, Missouri	2,040	12	OZPLSA wi fo/ag
07068510	Little Black River below Fairdealing, Missouri	194	6	OZPLSA fo/ag
07071000	Greer Spring at Greer, Missouri		3	SPRING
07071500	Eleven Point River near Bardley, Missouri	793	6	OZPLSA fo/ag
07185764	Spring River above Carthage, Missouri	425	12	OZPLSP ag/fo
07186480	Center Creek near Smithfield, Missouri	303	9	MINING
07186600	Turkey Creek near Joplin, Missouri	41.8	9	URBAN
07187000	Shoal Creek above Joplin, Missouri	427	12	OZPLSP ag/fo
07188838	Little Sugar Creek near Pineville, Missouri	195	12	OZPLSP ag/fo
07189000	Elk River near Tiff City, Missouri	872	12	OZPLSP ag/fo
07189100	Buffalo Creek at Tiff City, Missouri	60.8	12	OZPLSP ag/fo

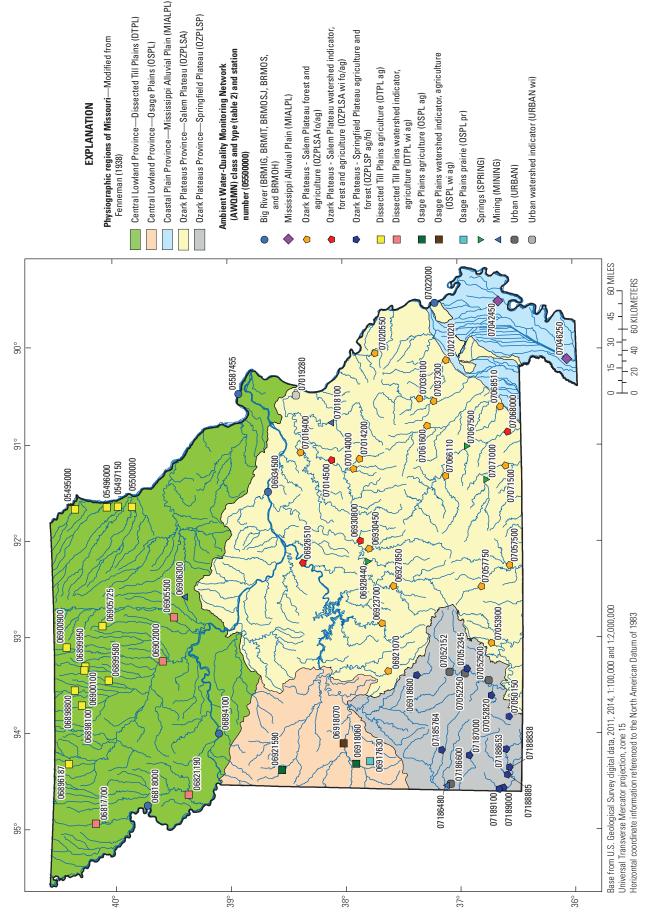
aStation names were obtained from the U.S. Geological Survey National Water Information System database (U.S. Geological Survey, 2017).

bStation data are not included in this report because this station does not fit within the classification system used for this report.

^cAdditional water temperature and suspended-sediment samples were collected at this station in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

^dThis station was sampled as an alternate station when East Drywood Creek at Prairie State Park, Missouri (06901870) was dry.

^oStations 06934500 and 07022000 are not part of the Ambient Water-Quality Monitoring Network but were used in this report. Stations 06934500 and 07022000 are funded by the U.S. Geological Survey National Stream Quality Assessment Network.



Physiographic regions of Missouri as well as location and class of selected surface-water quality monitoring stations, water year 2017. Modified from Barr and **Bartels** (2018) Figure 1.

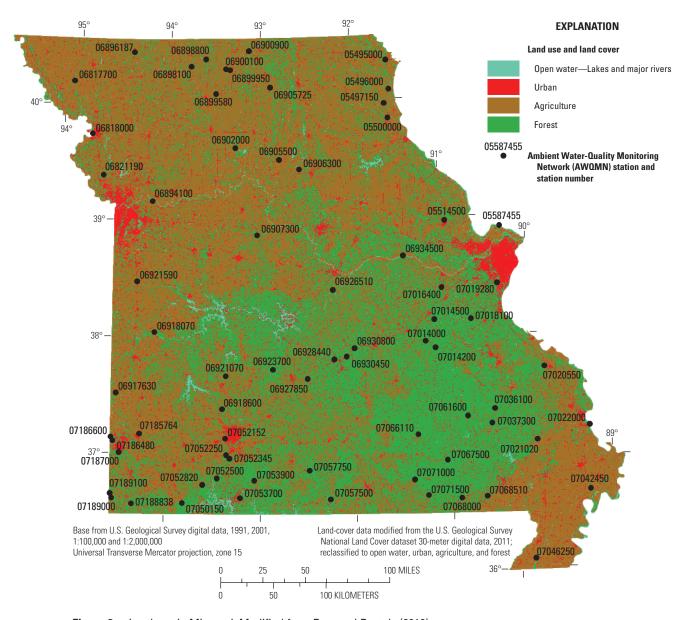


Figure 2. Land use in Missouri. Modified from Barr and Bartels (2018).

Table 2. Station classes and number of stations in each class and type for Missouri, water year 2017.

[Classification system is based on physiography of the State, primary and secondary land use and coverage, unique station type, and drainage area; as well as a station's representativeness to the general condition of the watershed. See the "Station Classification for Data Analysis" section of this report for the full explanation of station classes and types]

	Number of stations			
Abbreviation	Definition	(table 1)		
BRMIG	Big River—Mississippi River below Grafton, Illinois	1		
BRMIT	Big River—Mississippi River at Thebes, Illinois	1		
BRMOSJ	Big River—Missouri River at St. Joseph, Missouri	1		
BRMOS	Big River—Missouri River at Sibley, Missouri	1		
BRMOH	Big River—Missouri River at Hermann, Missouri	1		
MIALPL	Mississippi Alluvial Plain	2ª		
OZPLSA fo/ag	Ozark Plateaus—Salem Plateau forest and agriculture	18		
OZPLSA wi fo/ag	Ozark Plateaus—Salem Plateau watershed indicator, forest and agriculture	4		
OZPLSP ag/fo	Ozark Plateaus—Springfield Plateau agriculture and forest	9		
DTPL ag	Dissected Till Plains agriculture	12		
DTPL wi ag	Dissected Till Plains watershed indicator, agriculture	4		
OSPL ag	Osage Plains agriculture	2		
OSPL wi ag	Osage Plains watershed indicator, agriculture	1		
OSPL pr	Osage Plains prairie	1		
SPRING	Springs	3		
MINING	Mining	3		
URBAN	Urban	4		
URBAN wi	Urban watershed indicator	1		

^aOne station in this class, Little River Ditches near Rives, Missouri (07046250), has a drainage area greater than 1,000 square miles but is not considered a watershed indicator station because the man-made canals and ditches within its drainage area are not connected hydrologically.

Hydrologic Conditions

Surface-water streamflow varies seasonally in Missouri and tends to reflect precipitation patterns, as well as land uses and water management practices (Slater and Villarini, 2017). During water year 2017, the average annual precipitation of the conterminous United States was 3.36 inches (in.) greater than the 20th century average of 29.94 in. (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2018a). Total precipitation across Missouri during water year 2017 was 40.62 in., which was essentially equal to the 20th century State precipitation average of 40.50 in. (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2018b).

The streamflow-gaging stations (hereinafter referred to as "streamgages"), whose data were used to identify the variation in hydrologic conditions described in this report, were selected based on their geographical distribution across the State (fig. 3) and long period of available streamflow information. Each streamgage has a period of record of at least 47 years. This summary of statewide hydrologic condition data for the

current (2017) water year in comparison to historical conditions is a legacy of information, including the streamgages used, that was previously provided in the annual Water-Data Reports (U.S. Geological Survey, 1964–2005).

Data from six streamgages distributed throughout the state (fig. 4) were used to compare water year 2017 monthly mean streamflow to the long-term mean monthly streamflow and to demonstrate how streamflow can vary across the State. Monthly mean streamflow is the arithmetic mean of daily streamflow for a given month. For comparison to water year 2017, a long-term mean was attained from all monthly mean streamflows for the available period of record. Of these six streamgages, three (05495000, 06921590, and 07052500) are part of the AWQMN and the remaining three streamgages (06897500, 06933500, and 07067000) only record streamflow and are not part of the AWQMN (table 1; figs. 3, 4). Monthly mean streamflows in April 2017 were higher than the long-term mean for all six streamgages (fig. 4). The two western-most sites used for the legacy streamflow information (06897500 and 06921590) had monthly mean streamflows in July 2017 greater than the long-term mean monthly

streamflows. Streamflow from October 2016 through February 2017 was less than the long-term streamflow at every streamgage, except 06897500 in October and January, and 07067000 in October.

Peak streamflow and 7-day low flow values (the smallest values of mean streamflow computed during any 7 consecutive days during the analysis period) for nine streamgages are presented in tables 3 and 4 for the 2017 water year. These tables include some of the legacy information used to describe historic hydrologic conditions across Missouri. During water year

2017, three streamgages (06933500, 07057500 and 07068000) recorded peak streamflows that became the long-term period of record peak streamflows (table 3). The 7-day low flow for water year 2017 and the period of record, and the minimum daily mean streamflow for water year 2017 and for the period of record are presented for selected legacy information stations in table 4. The 7-day low flow and minimum daily mean flows recorded during water year 2017 were greater than historical records for the stations (table 4).

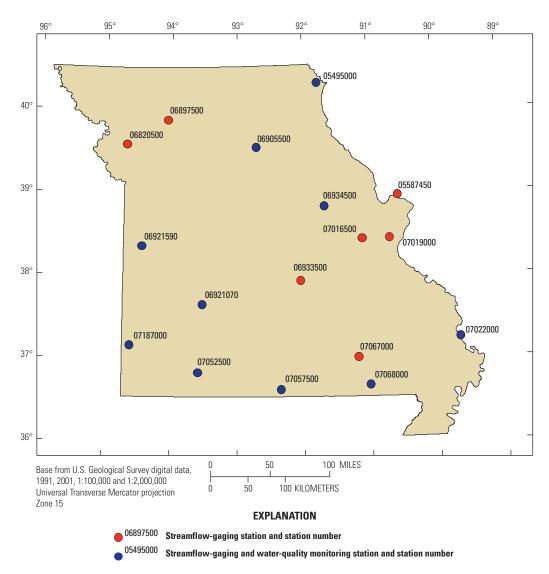


Figure 3. Location of selected streamflow-gaging stations used to provide a summary of hydrologic conditions within Missouri, water year 2017. Modified from Barr and Bartels (2018).

Table 3. Peak streamflow for water year 2017 and periods of record for selected streamflow-gaging stations in Missouri.

[Water year 2017 is defined as October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017. USGS, U.S. Geological Survey; ft³/s, cubic foot per second]

11000 -4-4		Water	year 2017	Long-term po	eriod of record
USGS station number ^a (figs. 1 and 3)	Station name ^b Peak (period of record in water years) streamflow (ft³/s)		Date	Peak streamflow (ft³/s)	Date
05495000	Fox River at Wayland, Missouri (1922–2017)	4,420	Apr. 06, 2017	26,400	Apr. 22, 1973
05587450	Mississippi River at Grafton, Illinois (1987–2016)	370,000	May 08, 2017	598,000	Aug. 1, 1993
06905500	Chariton River near Prairie Hill, Missouri (1929–2017)	14,600	Jun. 30, 2017	38,400	July 27, 2008
06933500	Gasconade River at Jerome, Missouri (1903–2017)	183,000	May 01, 2017	183,000	May 01, 2017
06934500	Missouri River at Hermann, Missouri (1958–2017)	492,000	May 04, 2017	750,000	July 31, 1993
07019000	Meramec River near Eureka, Missouri (1904–2017)	159,000	May 02, 2017	175,000	Aug. 22,1915
07022000	Mississippi River at Thebes, Illinois (1933–2017)	917,000	May 06, 2017	1,050,000	Jan. 2, 2016
07057500	North Fork River near Tecumseh, Missouri (1945–2017)	141,000	Apr 30, 2017	141,000	Apr. 30, 2017
07068000	Current River at Doniphan, Missouri (1921–2017)	171,000	May 01, 2017	171,000	May 01, 2017

aStations 05587450, 06933500, and 07019000 are streamflow-gaging stations only and are not part of the Ambient Water-Quality Monitoring Network.

Table 4. Seven-day low flow for water year 2017, period of record 7-day low flow, minimum daily mean streamflow for water year 2017, and period of record minimum daily mean streamflow for selected streamflow-gaging stations in Missouri.

[Water year 2017 defined as October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017; USGS, U.S. Geological Survey; ft³/s, cubic foot per second]

USGS station	Station name ^b	7-day low flow (ft³/s)		Minimum daily mean streamflow (ft³/s)		
number ^a (figs. 1 and 3)	(period of record in water years)	Water year 2017	Period of record	Water year 2017	Period of record	Date
05495000	Fox River at Wayland, Missouri (1922–2017)	0.121	0	0.090	0	Sept. 10, 1930
06820500	Platte River near Agency, Missouri (1933–2017)	43.3	0	40.1	0	July 19, 1934
06921070	Pomme de Terre River near Polk, Missouri (1969–2017)	11.0	0.21	10.1	0.17	Aug. 13, 2012
07016500	Bourbeuse River near Union, Missouri (1921–2017)	40.3	13	39.5	12	Oct. 10, 1956
07067000	Current River at Van Buren, Missouri (1912–2017)	951.4	479	932.0	476	Oct. 8, 1956
07187000	Shoal Creek above Joplin, Missouri (1942–2017)	78.2	16	76.9	15	Sept. 7, 1954

aStations 06820500, 07016500, and 07067000 are streamflow-gaging stations only and are not part of the Ambient Water-Quality Monitoring Network (AWQMN).

bStation names were obtained from the USGS National Water Information System database (U.S. Geological Survey, 2017).

bStation names were obtained from the USGS National Water Information System database (U.S. Geological Survey, 2017).

Distribution, Concentration, and Detection Frequency of Selected Constituents

This report presents results for dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, water temperature, suspended solids, suspended sediment, *E. coli* bacteria, fecal coliform bacteria, dissolved nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen (hereinafter referred to as "nitrate plus nitrite"), total phosphorus, dissolved and total recoverable lead and zinc, and select pesticide compounds. Boxplots of these constituents are presented for 72 surfacewater stations by the different classifications (figs. 5–8). Pesticide data are presented from seven stations from six classes (fig. 9). For specific information on Missouri water-quality standards, refer to Missouri Department of Natural Resources (2016b).

Physical Properties, Suspended-Solids Concentration, Suspended-Sediment Concentration, and Fecal Indicator Bacteria Density

The physical properties analyzed for this report were dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, and water temperature. The median dissolved oxygen, in percent saturation, ranged from 78 to 107 percent (fig. 5). Samples from OSPL wi ag stations had the smallest median dissolved oxygen percent saturation values, whereas samples from URBAN stations had the largest median dissolved oxygen. Median specific conductance values varied substantially among the station classes, ranging from 110 microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius (μS/cm at 25 °C) at the OSPL pr station to 808 μS/cm at 25 °C at the BRMOS station. Median water temperature ranged from 14.20 to 21.35 °C. The smallest median temperature was measured at the SPRING stations, and the largest was measured at DTPL wi ag stations. The interquartile range in water temperature at the SPRING stations was much smaller than for other station classes and types.

Suspended solids and suspended sediment are measures of the solid material suspended in the water column. These two measures are not considered directly comparable because of differences in collection and analytical techniques. Suspended-solids concentrations were determined for all station classes and types except BRMIT and BRMOH. Median suspended-solids concentrations ranged from the MRL (15) to 175 milligrams per liter (mg/L; fig. 5). Samples collected at the OZPL (SA fo/ag, SA wi fo/ag, and SP ag/fo), OSPL pr, DTPL ag, SPRING, MINING, and URBAN stations had median concentrations at the MRL (15 mg/L). The BRMOSJ station had the largest median suspended-solids concentration (175 mg/L). Suspended-sediment concentrations were determined at four Big River stations (fig. 5). Median

suspended-sediment concentrations ranged from 106 mg/L at BRMIG to 318 mg/L at BRMOH (fig. 5).

Median *E. coli* and fecal coliform bacteria densities varied considerably among all station classes and types (fig. 6). Median *E. coli* bacteria densities ranged from 16 to 1,150 colonies per 100 milliliters of water. Fecal coliform bacteria density ranged from 32 to 1,450 colonies per 100 milliliters of water. The smallest median *E. coli* densities were in samples collected at SPRING stations and smallest median fecal coliform densities were in samples collected from OZPLSA wi fo/ag stations. The largest median *E. coli* and fecal coliform densities were in samples collected at the BRMOS station (fig. 6).

Dissolved Nitrate plus Nitrite and Total Phosphorus Concentrations

Samples were collected at all stations for the analysis of nutrients, including dissolved nitrate plus nitrite and total phosphorus. Median dissolved nitrate plus nitrite and total phosphorus concentrations varied considerably among all station classes and types (fig. 7), ranging from the LT–MDL (0.04) to 4.00 mg/L for dissolved nitrate plus nitrite and from the LT–MDL (0.02) to 0.35 mg/L for total phosphorus. The smallest median dissolved nitrate plus nitrite concentrations were computed at the OSPL pr and DTPL ag stations. The largest concentrations were computed in samples collected at the URBAN station (fig. 7). The smallest median total phosphorus concentrations were computed at the OZPLSA (fo/ag and wi fo/ag) and SPRING stations, all of which had median values equal to the LT–MDL (0.02 mg/L). The largest median concentration was at the BRMIT station (fig. 7).

Dissolved and Total Recoverable Lead and Zinc Concentrations

No dissolved or total recoverable lead and zinc samples were collected at the BRMIT and BRMOH stations. Median concentration ranges were from the LT–MDL of 0.020 to 0.511 micrograms per liter (μ g/L) for dissolved lead, 0.1150 to 8.8 μ g/L for total recoverable lead, the LT–MDL of 2.0 to 20.2 μ g/L for dissolved zinc, and the LT–MDL of 2.0 to 35.0 μ g/L for total recoverable zinc (fig. 8).

The smallest median concentrations of dissolved lead were at the LT–MDL (0.02 $\mu g/L$) in samples collected at the BRMIG, OZPLSA (fo/ag, wi fo/ag), OZPLSP ag/fo, and SPRING stations. Samples from the MINING stations had the largest median concentration (fig. 8). The smallest median concentrations of total recoverable lead were at the OZPLSP ag/fo stations. The largest median total recoverable lead concentration was at the URBAN wi station. Median dissolved zinc concentrations were at the LT–MDL (2.0 $\mu g/L$) for all stations, except the BRMOSJ, BRMOS, OZPLSP ag/fo, OSPL pr, SPRING, MINING, and URBAN stations. URBAN



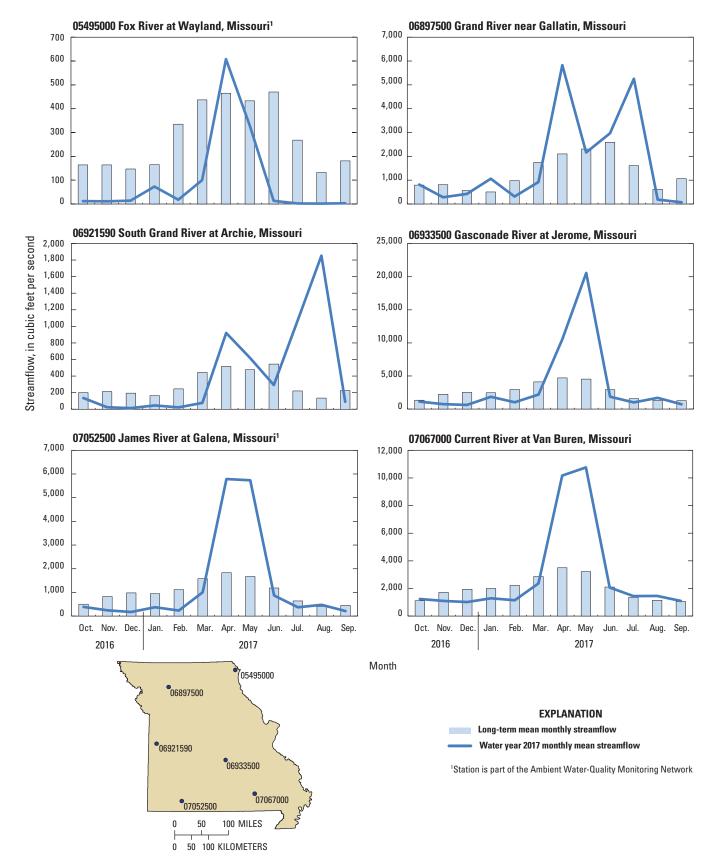


Figure 4. Monthly mean streamflow for water year 2017 and long-term mean monthly streamflow at six representative streamflow-gaging stations in Missouri.

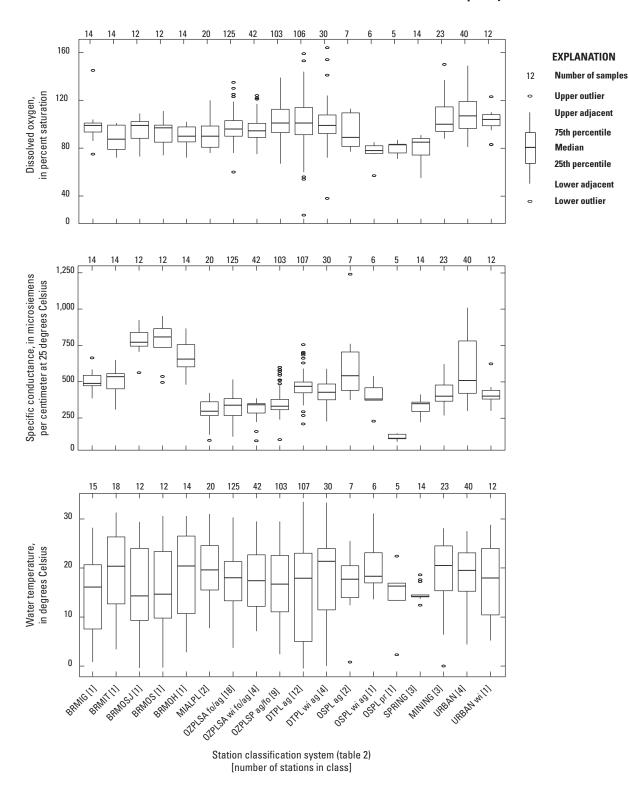


Figure 5. Distribution of physical properties, suspended-solids concentrations, and suspended-sediment concentrations from surface-water quality stations in Missouri, water year 2017.

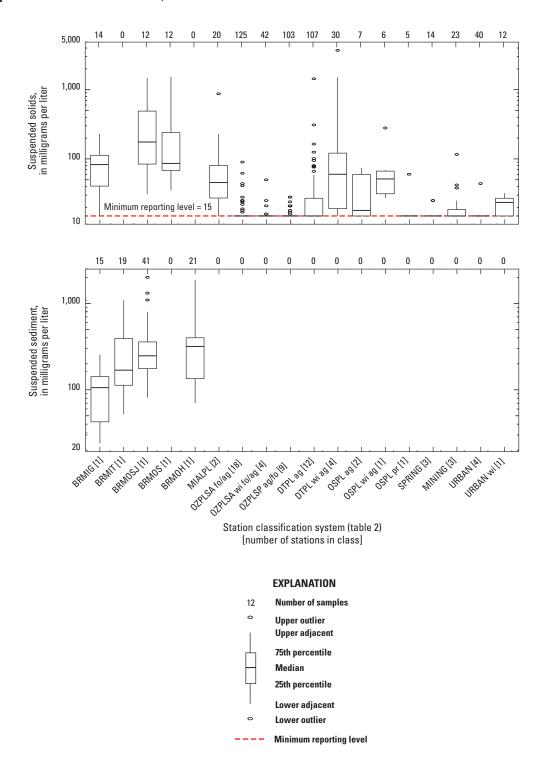


Figure 5. Distribution of physical properties, suspended-solids concentrations, and suspended-sediment concentrations from surface-water quality stations in Missouri, water year 2017.—Continued

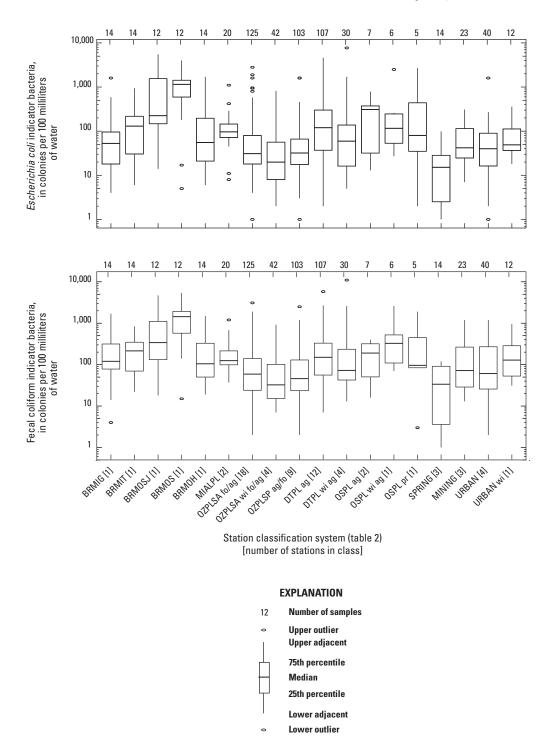


Figure 6. Distribution of fecal indicator bacteria density in samples from surfacewater quality stations in Missouri, water year 2017.

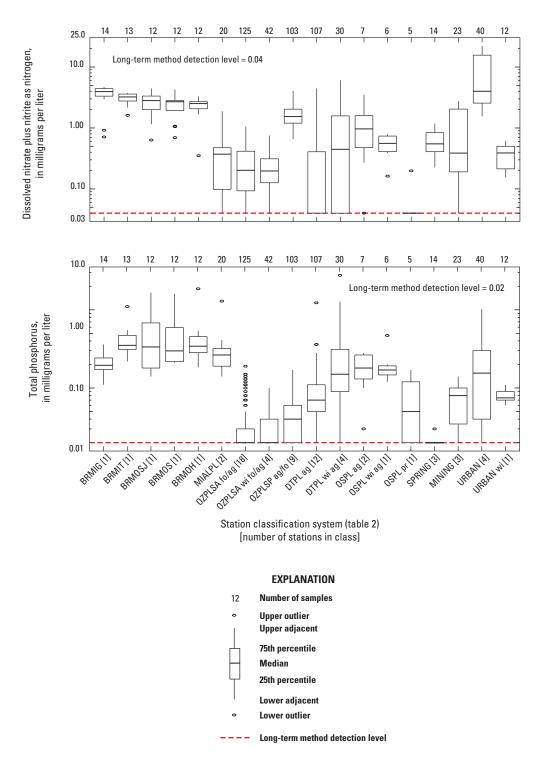
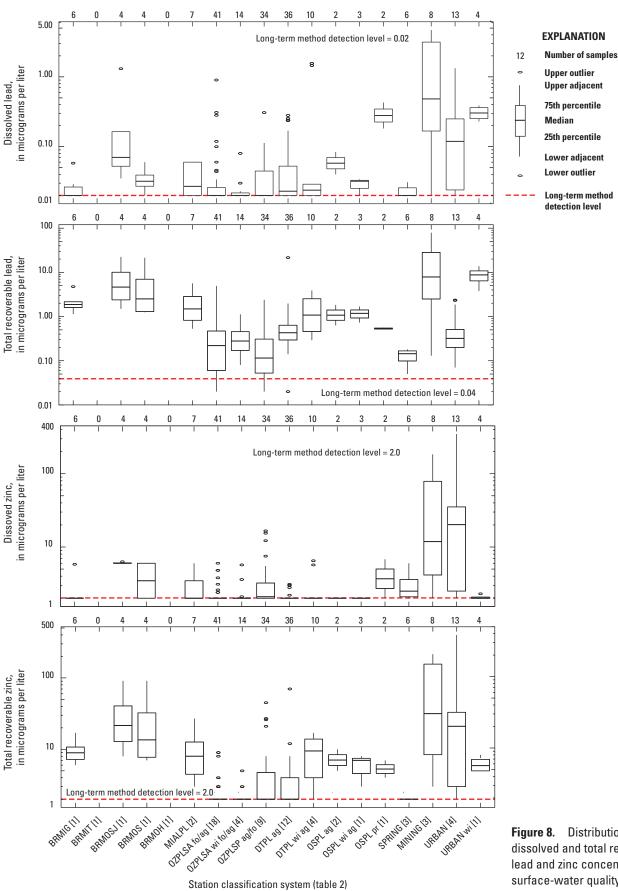


Figure 7. Distribution of dissolved nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen and total phosphorus concentrations in samples from surface-water quality stations in Missouri, water year 2017.



[number of stations in class]

Figure 8. Distribution of dissolved and total recoverable lead and zinc concentrations from surface-water quality stations in Missouri, water year 2017.

EXPLANATION

Laboratory reporting level (LRL)—Ambient

Water-Quality Monitoring Network

less than LRL are estimated

LRL are estimated

Sample

samples

Laboratory reporting level (LRL)—U.S. Geological Survey National Stream Quality Assessment Network (NASQAN) collections. Concentrations less than

Number of detections/total number of

(AWQMN) collections. Concentrations

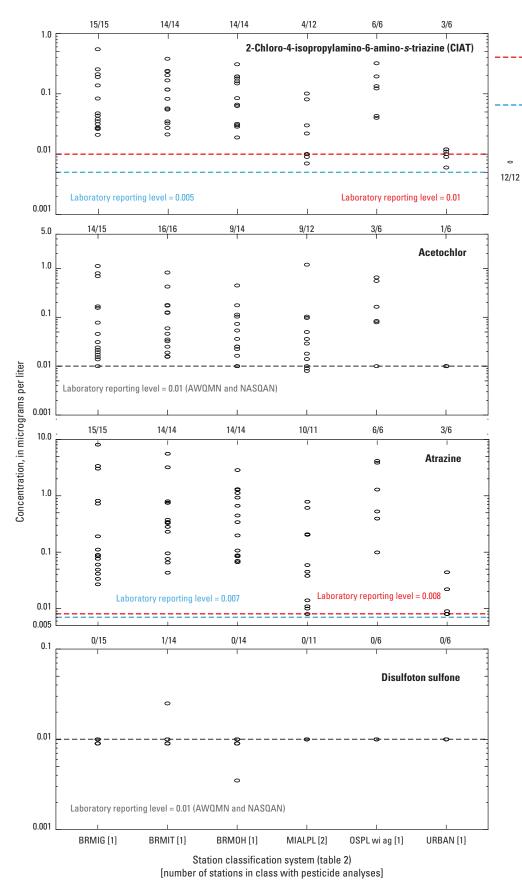


Figure 9. Detection of selected pesticides in samples from selected surface-water quality stations, water year 2017.

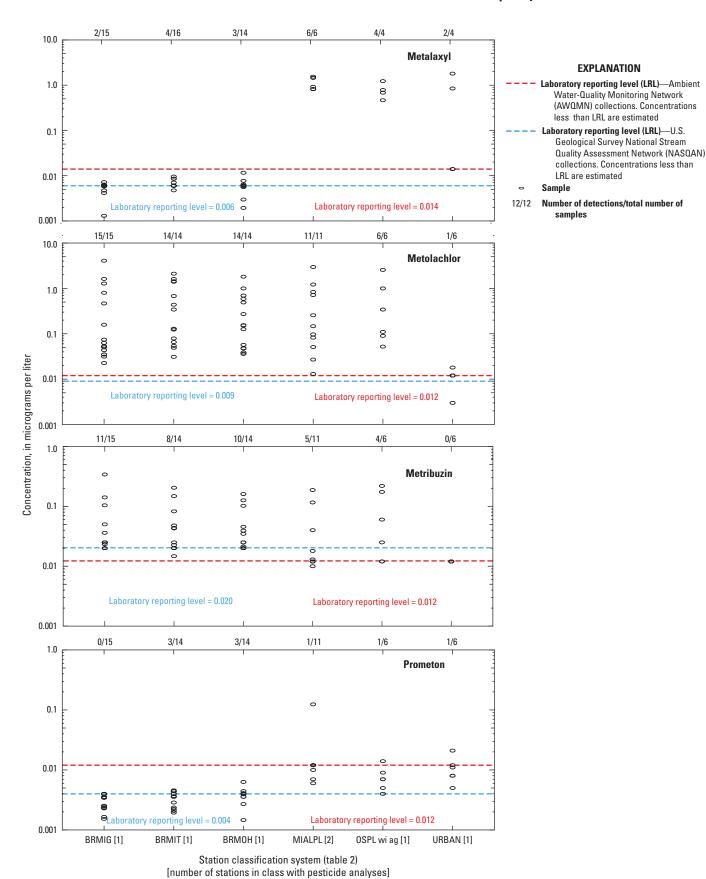


Figure 9. Detection of selected pesticides in samples from selected surface-water quality stations, water year 2017.—Continued

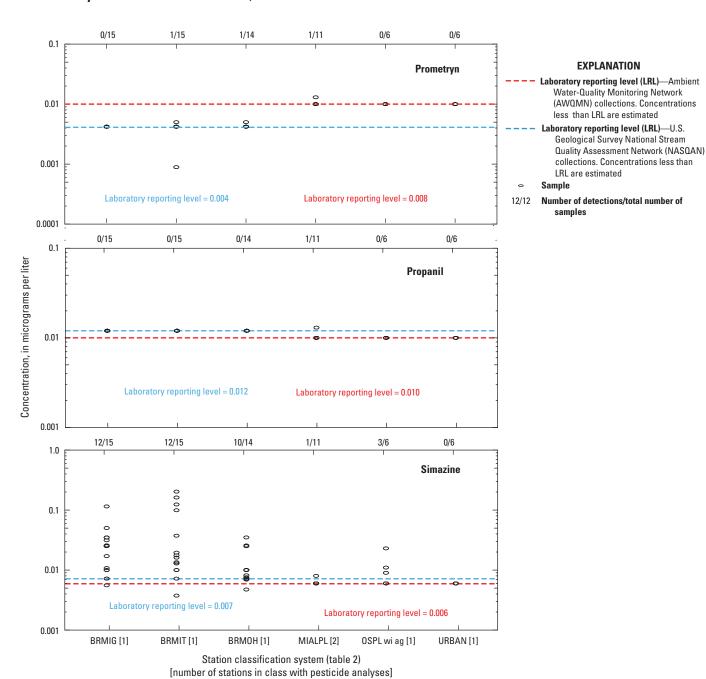


Figure 9. Detection of selected pesticides in samples from selected surface-water quality stations, water year 2017.—Continued

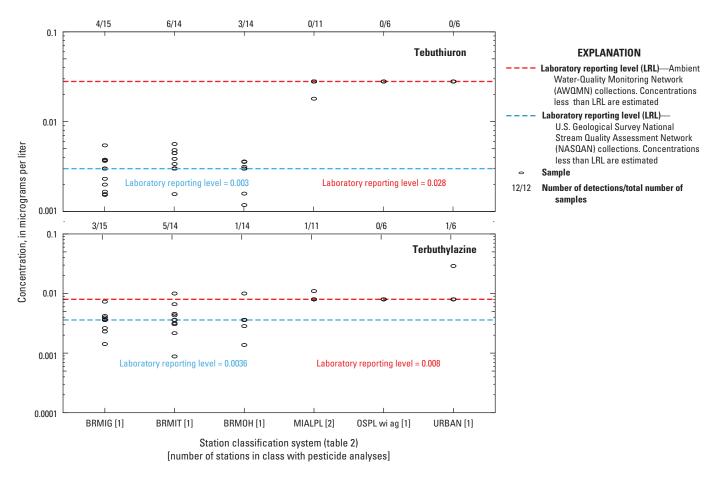


Figure 9. Detection of selected pesticides in samples from selected surface-water quality stations, water year 2017.—Continued

stations had the largest median concentration of dissolved zinc. The smallest median concentrations of total recoverable zinc were at the LT–MDL of 2.0 μ g/L at the OZPLSA (fo/ag and wi fo/ag), OZPLSP ag/fo, DTPL ag, and SPRING stations. The largest median concentration of total recoverable zinc was at the MINING stations (35 μ g/L).

Selected Pesticide Concentrations and Detection Frequencies

Samples collected for the analysis of dissolved pesticide compounds during the 2017 water year are presented in this report for seven stations. The AWQMN and NASQAN pesticide programs use different analytical methods and the detection limits are somewhat different. Samples from four AQWMN stations were analyzed for a suite of 85 pesticides (both stations in the MIALPL, one OSPL wi ag station, and one URBAN station; fig. 9). An expanded list of 228 pesticides were analyzed in samples from three Big River stations (BRMIG, BRMIT, and BRMOH) as part of the NASQAN program.

Thirteen pesticide compounds were detected above their LRL in at least one sample during the 2017 water year. The thirteen constituents are 2-chloro-4-isopropylamino-6-aminos-triazine (more commonly referred to as CIAT, a degradation product of atrazine), acetochlor, atrazine, disulfoton sulfone, metalaxyl, metolachlor, metribuzin, prometon, prometryn, propanil, simazine, tebuthiuron, and terbuthylazine (fig. 9). The most frequently detected pesticides were CIAT (detected in 83 percent of the samples collected), acetochlor (75-percent detection), atrazine (94-percent detection), and metolachlor (92-percent detection). Metribuzin and simazine were detected in more than half of the samples analyzed (58 and 57 percent, respectively). The concentrations for pesticide compounds shown in figure 9 were less than 1.00 µg/L except acetochlor, atrazine, metalaxyl, and metolachlor. Of the three Big River stations, BRMIT had the greatest percentage of detections (52 percent of samples collected had detections greater that the LRL). Of the four AWQMN monitoring stations, the OSPL wi ag station had the greatest percentage of detections (43 percent of all samples had detections greater than the LRL).

Summary

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), collects surface-water quality data in Missouri each water year (October 1 through September 30). These data, stored and maintained in the USGS National Water Information System database, are collected as part of the Missouri Ambient Water-Quality Monitoring Network (AWQMN) and constitute a permanent, accessible source of representative, reliable, impartial, and timely information for developing an enhanced understanding of the State's water resources. In addition to the AWQMN, the USGS also collects data at two USGS National Stream Quality Assessment Network (NASQAN) stations and, in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, routinely collects suspended-sediment concentration data and various particle-size distribution data on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. These data assist in understanding long-term trends in the concentration of selected constituents as well as sediment transport and navigable channel assessments along the large rivers.

Surface-water quality data collected during water year 2017 at 72 stations (70 AWQMN and 2 NASQAN stations) are summarized in this report, among which are 4 stations with suspended-sediment data collected in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Stations were classified corresponding to physiographic province, primary land use, or unique station types. The annual summary of selected constituents provides Missouri Department of Natural Resources with current information to assess the quality of surface water within the State and ensure the objectives of the AWQMN are being met. The data collected also provide support for the design, implementation, and evaluation of preventive and remediation programs.

The analyses presented in this report are for dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, water temperature, suspended solids, suspended sediment, *Escherichia coli* bacteria, fecal coliform bacteria, dissolved nitrate plus nitrite as nitrogen, total phosphorus, and dissolved and total recoverable lead and zinc. Plots of the concentrations of these constituents are presented by the different station classes. In addition, 13 pesticide compound concentrations are presented for seven stations. A comparison of 2017 streamflow data to long-term streamflow, a summary of hydrologic conditions in the State including peak streamflows, monthly mean streamflows, and 7-day low flows at selected stations also are presented.

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