

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency Air Quality Report – June 2021

The Air Quality Index (AQI) was in the MODERATE category on five days in June and in the GOOD category the rest of the month (Figure 1 and Table 1). Ozone was the predominant pollutant on four of the MODERATE days and PM₁₀ on the remaining one. The maximum daily AQI for the month was 74 (MODERATE) based on an 8-hour average ozone concentration of 0.062 ppm recorded at the Spokane-Greenbluff air monitoring station on the 4th (Figure 2 and Table 2). The only MODERATE reading for particulate matter was a result of blowing dust on the 5th, when a 24-hour average PM₁₀ concentration of 57 micrograms per cubic meter of air ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) was recorded at the Spokane-Augusta & Fiske monitoring station. The maximum daily AQI for PM_{2.5} was 48 (AQI-GOOD, 24-hour avg = $11.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at Spokane-Augusta & Fiske on the 29th). Figure 3 shows the day-to-day variation in PM_{2.5} readings across the air monitoring network.

See Appendix 1 of this report for information about federal air quality standards and Appendix 2 for a description of the AQI. The daily air quality data for June for all monitoring stations in the Spokane region are provided in Appendix 3. Current and historical air quality data can be obtained electronically from the Washington State Department of Ecology's air monitoring data website, <https://enviwa.ecology.wa.gov/home/map>.

Figure 1: Air Quality Index (AQI) values for June 2021. The data represent the maximum AQI values across all monitoring stations within Spokane County. A strong high pressure ridge over the region brought unusually high temperatures and high ozone concentrations June 2nd through June 4th. The high pressure ridge was followed by a low pressure trough/cold front which brought strong winds and blowing dust (and higher PM₁₀ readings) to the area on the 5th. Another high pressure ridge enabled ozone concentrations to rise to AQI-MODERATE levels on the 18th.

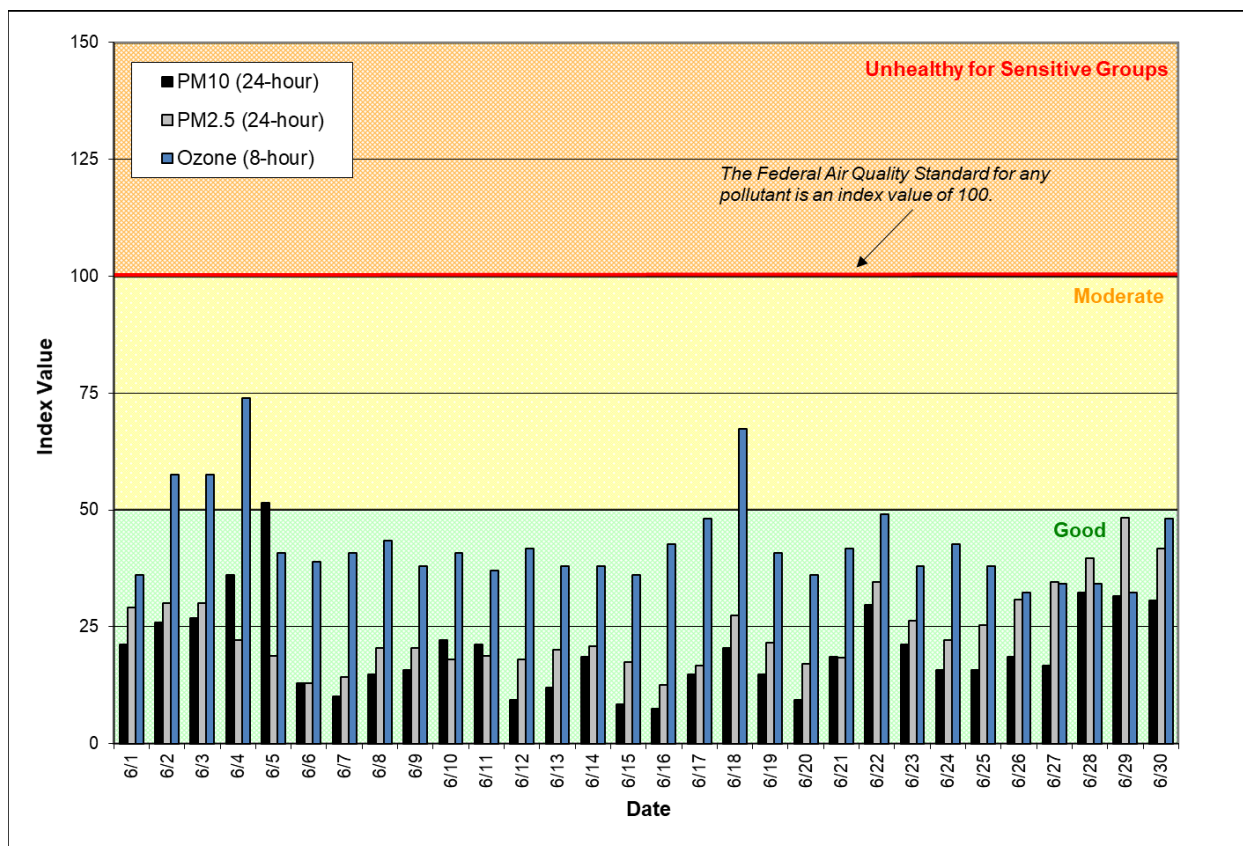


Figure 2: Eight-hour maximum ozone concentrations for the Spokane region in June. The threshold for the moderate category of the AQI for ozone is 0.055 ppm averaged over eight hours. An ozone measurement above 0.070 ppm, averaged over eight hours, is the level of the federal ozone standard. A strong high pressure ridge over the region brought unusually high temperatures and high ozone concentrations June 2nd through June 4th. Another high pressure ridge enabled ozone concentrations to rise to AQI-MODERATE levels on the 18th.

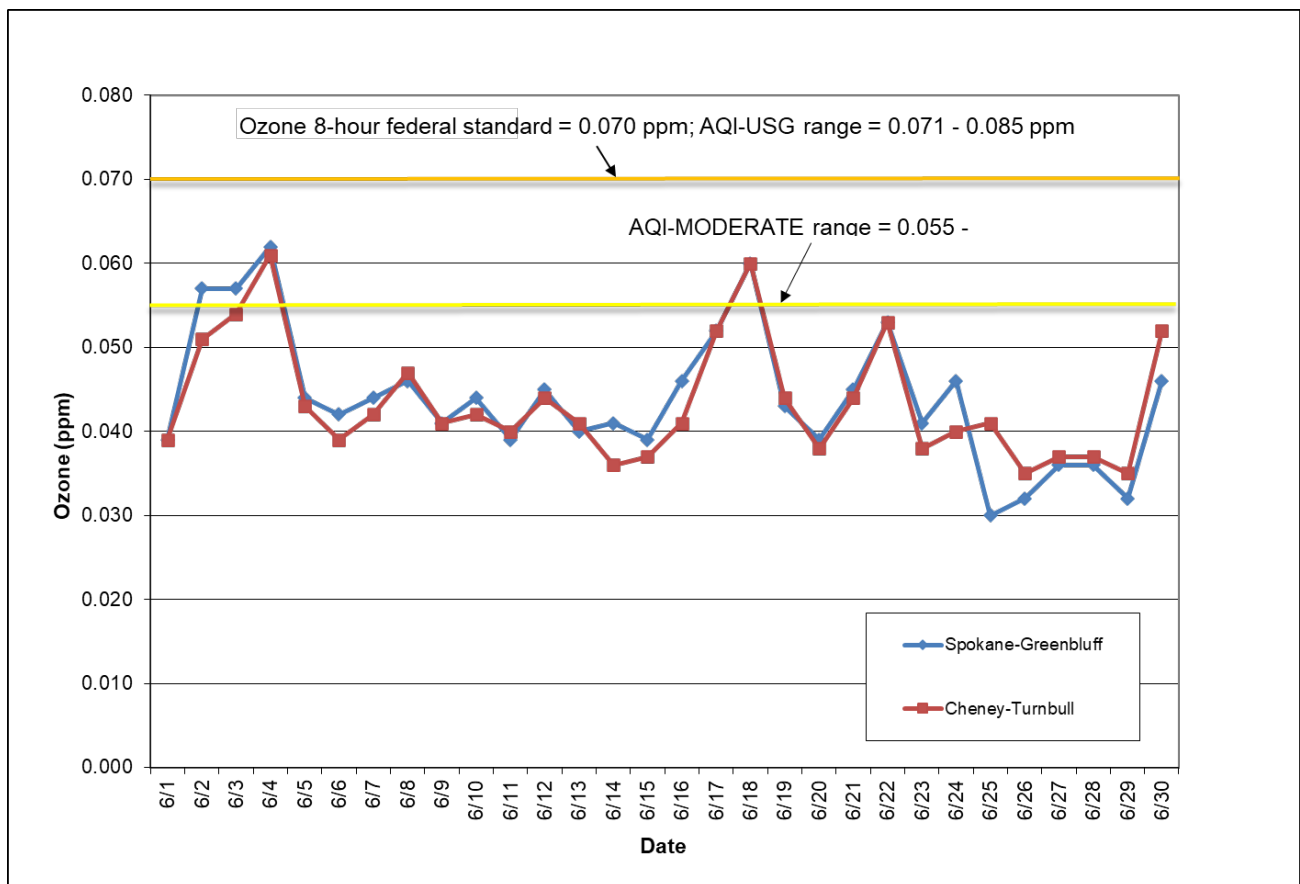


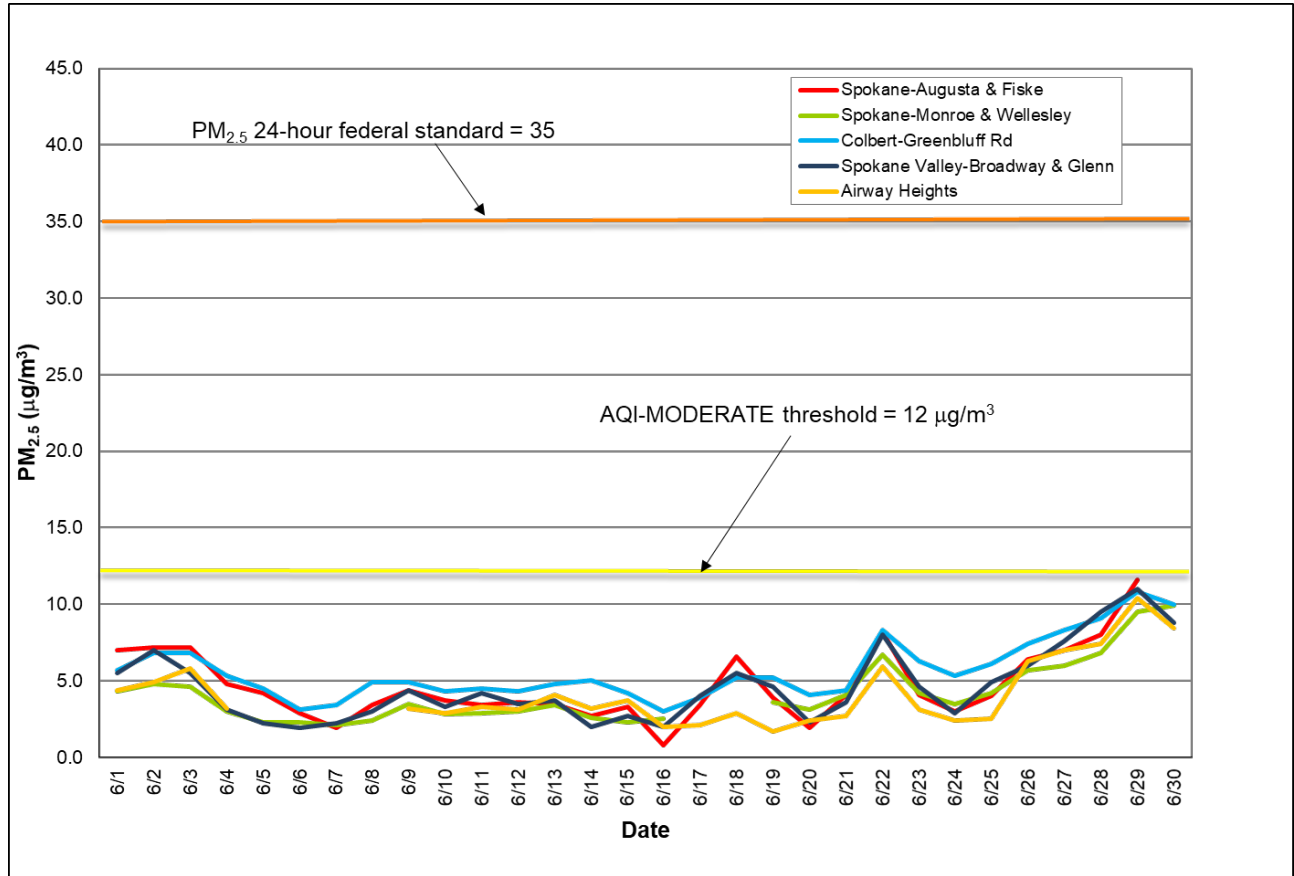
Figure 3: Multi-station 24-hour average PM_{2.5} for June 2021; Spokane County.

Table 1 summarizes the daily AQIs by category for the month and year-to-date and Tables 2 and 3 contain the maximum AQI values for each pollutant for the month and for the year-to-date, respectively.

Table 1: AQI summary as of June 30, 2021

Category	Number of days in June	Number of days this year to date
Good (0-50)	25	160
Moderate (51-100)	5	21
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150)	0	0
Unhealthy (151-200)	0	0
Very Unhealthy (201-300)	0	0
Hazardous (>300)	0	0

Table 2: Maximum AQI values and pollutant concentrations for this reporting period.

Pollutant	AQI		Location	Date
O ₃	74 (conc. = 0.062 ppm)	Moderate	Greenbluff	6/4
PM ₁₀	52 (conc. = 57 µg/m ³)	Moderate	Spokane-Augusta & Fiske	6/5
PM _{2.5}	48 (conc. = 11.6 µg/m ³)	Good	Spokane-Augusta & Fiske	6/29

Table 3: Maximum AQI values and pollutant concentrations for this year to date.

Pollutant	AQI		Location	Date
O ₃	74 (conc. = 0.062 ppm)	Moderate	Greenbluff	6/4
PM ₁₀	61 (conc. = 76 µg/m ³)	Moderate	Spokane-Augusta & Fiske	3/28
PM _{2.5}	67 (conc. = 20.5 µg/m ³)	Moderate	Spokane Valley – Broadway & Glenn	1/23

Appendix 1 – National Ambient Air Quality Standards

The Clean Air Act requires EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six common air pollutants, carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), ground-level ozone (O₃) and sulfur dioxide (SO₂; Table A-1). These are known as “criteria” pollutants because the US EPA established regulatory limits to concentrations in ambient air using human health or environmentally based criteria. Carbon monoxide, particulate matter and ozone are monitored in Spokane County by the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (SRCAA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).

Table A-1: National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutant [links to historical tables of NAAQS reviews]		Primary/ Secondary	Averaging Time	Level	Form
Carbon Monoxide (CO)		primary	8 hours	9 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year
			1 hour	35 ppm	
Lead (Pb)		primary and secondary	Rolling 3 month period	0.15 µg/m ³ ⁽¹⁾	Not to be exceeded
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)		primary	1 hour	100 ppb	98th percentile of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years
		primary and secondary	1 year	53 ppb ⁽²⁾	Annual Mean
Ozone (O₃)		primary and secondary	8 hours	0.070 ppm ⁽³⁾	Annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour concentration, averaged over 3 years
Particle Pollution (PM)	PM _{2.5}	primary	1 year	12.0 µg/m ³	annual mean, averaged over 3 years
		secondary	1 year	15.0 µg/m ³	annual mean, averaged over 3 years
		primary and secondary	24 hours	35 µg/m ³	98th percentile, averaged over 3 years
	PM ₁₀	primary and secondary	24 hours	150 µg/m ³	Not to be exceeded more than once per year on average over 3 years
Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)		primary	1 hour	75 ppb ⁽⁴⁾	99th percentile of 1-hour daily maximum concentrations, averaged over 3 years
		secondary	3 hours	0.5 ppm	Not to be exceeded more than once per year

(1) In areas designated nonattainment for the Pb standards prior to the promulgation of the current (2008) standards, and for which implementation plans to attain or maintain the current (2008) standards have not been submitted and approved, the previous standards (1.5 µg/m³ as a calendar quarter average) also remain in effect.

(2) The level of the annual NO₂ standard is 0.053 ppm. It is shown here in terms of ppb for the purposes of clearer comparison to the 1-hour standard level.

(3) Final rule signed October 1, 2015, and effective December 28, 2015. The previous (2008) O₃ standards additionally remain in effect in some areas. Revocation of the previous (2008) O₃ standards and transitioning to the current (2015) standards will be addressed in the implementation rule for the current standards.

(4) The previous SO₂ standards (0.14 ppm 24-hour and 0.03 ppm annual) will additionally remain in effect in certain areas: (1) any area for which it is not yet 1 year since the effective date of designation under the current (2010) standards, and (2) any area for which implementation plans providing for attainment of the current (2010) standard have not been submitted and approved and which is designated nonattainment under the previous SO₂ standards or is not meeting the requirements of a SIP call under the previous SO₂ standards (40 CFR 50.4(3)). A SIP call is an EPA action requiring a state to resubmit all or part of its State Implementation Plan to demonstrate attainment of the require NAAQS.

Appendix 2 – Air Quality Index

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is EPA’s color-coded tool for communicating daily air quality to the public and can be calculated for any of the criteria pollutants except lead, provided monitoring data are available. An index value above 100 indicates that the concentration of a criteria pollutant exceeded the limit established in the NAAQS. Categories of the AQI are “Good” (green, 0-50), “Moderate” (yellow, 51-100), “Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” (USG; orange, 101-150), “Unhealthy” (red, 151-200), “Very Unhealthy” (purple, 201-300) and “Hazardous” (maroon, 301-500; Table A-2).

Table A-2: Air pollutant breakpoints for the Air Quality Index.

Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Color Code	Index Numerical Value	Breakpoints				Health Effects
			O ₃ (ppm) 8-hour	PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³) 24-hour	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³) 24-hour	CO (ppm) 8-hour	
Good	Green	0-50	0.000-0.054	0.0-12.0	0-54	0.0-4.4	Air quality is considered satisfactory and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate	Yellow	51-100	0.055-0.070	12.1-35.4	55-154	4.5-9.4	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange	101-150	0.071-0.085	35.5-55.4	155-254	9.5-12.4	People especially sensitive to air pollution may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected. An AQI in this category or above indicates that air pollution exceeds levels acceptable under federal air quality standards.
Unhealthy	Red	151-200	0.086-0.105	55.5-150.4	255-354	12.5-15.4	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	Purple	201-300	0.106-0.200	150.5-250.4	355-424	15.5-30.4	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.
Hazardous	Maroon	>300	0.201 to the Significant Harm Level* (0.600 ppm, 2 hour average)	250.5+	425+	30.5+	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.

*The significant harm level (SHL) is set at a level that represents imminent and substantial endangerment to public health.

Appendix 3

Table A-3: Summary air quality data for June for air monitoring stations in Spokane County. Particulate matter mass concentration is reported as 24-hour averages in micrograms per cubic meter of air ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) and daily 8-hour maximum ozone concentrations are reported in parts per million (ppm). The Airway Heights PM2.5 monitor was down June 5-8 because of a power outage and the Monroe & Wellesley PM2.5 monitor was offline for calibration on the 17th and 18th. Troubleshooting an electrical problem at the Augusta & Fiske stations resulted in loss of data on the 29th and 30th. See Appendix 2 for an explanation of AQI color codes.

Pollutant Concentration											Air Quality Index (AQI)											
Date	Ozone - Turnbull NWR (8 hour max, ppm)	Ozone - Greenbluff (8 hour max, ppm)	PM _{2.5} - Airway Heights (24 hour avg, µg/m³)	PM _{2.5} - Colbert (24 hour avg, µg/m³)	PM _{2.5} - Spokane, Augusta & Fiske (24 hour avg, µg/m³)	PM _{2.5} - Spokane Valley, Broadway & Glenn (24 hour avg, µg/m³)	PM _{2.5} - Spokane, Monroe & Wellesley (24 hour avg, µg/m³)	PM ₁₀ - Turnbull NWR BAM (24 hour avg, µg/m³)	PM ₁₀ - Spokane, Augusta & Fiske (24 hour avg, µg/m³)	PM ₁₀ - Spokane Valley, Broadway & Glenn (24 hour avg, µg/m³)	Date	Ozone - Turnbull NWR	Ozone - Greenbluff	PM _{2.5} - Airway Heights	PM _{2.5} - Colbert	PM _{2.5} - Spokane - Augusta & Fiske	PM _{2.5} - Broadway & Glenn	PM _{2.5} - Monroe & Wellesley	PM ₁₀ - Turnbull NWR	PM ₁₀ - Augusta & Fiske	PM ₁₀ - Broadway & Glenn	MAXIMUM
6/1	0.039	0.039	4.4	5.7	7.0	5.5	4.3	14	23	18	6/1	36	36	18	24	29	23	18	13	21	17	36
6/2	0.051	0.057	4.9	6.8	7.2	7.0	4.8	17	28	23	6/2	47	58	20	28	30	29	20	16	26	21	58
6/3	0.054	0.057	5.8	6.8	7.2	5.5	4.6	29	29	22	6/3	50	58	24	28	30	23	19	27	27	20	58
6/4	0.061	0.062	3.2	5.3	4.8	3.1	3.0	26	39	29	6/4	71	74	13	22	20	13	13	24	36	27	74
6/5	0.043	0.044		4.5	4.2	2.2	2.3	34	57	39	6/5	40	41		19	18	9	10	31	52	36	52
6/6	0.039	0.042		3.1	2.9	1.9	2.3	7	14	6	6/6	36	39		13	12	8	10	6	13	6	39
6/7	0.042	0.044		3.4	1.9	2.2	2.1	8	11	6	6/7	39	41		14	8	9	9	7	10	6	41
6/8	0.047	0.046		4.9	3.4	3.0	2.4	15	16	13	6/8	44	43		20	14	13	10	14	15	12	44
6/9	0.041	0.041	3.2	4.9	4.4	4.4	3.5	13	17	12	6/9	38	38	13	20	18	18	15	12	16	11	38
6/10	0.042	0.044	2.9	4.3	3.7	3.3	2.8	19	24	17	6/10	39	41	12	18	15	14	12	18	22	16	41
6/11	0.040	0.039	3.3	4.5	3.4	4.2	2.9	12	23	18	6/11	37	36	14	19	14	18	12	11	21	17	37
6/12	0.044	0.045	3.1	4.3	3.6	3.5	3.0	5	10	7	6/12	41	42	13	18	15	15	13	5	9	6	42
6/13	0.041	0.040	4.1	4.8	3.5	3.7	3.4	11	13	10	6/13	38	37	17	20	15	15	14	10	12	9	38
6/14	0.036	0.041	3.2	5.0	2.7	2.0	2.6	20	16	12	6/14	33	38	13	21	11	8	11	19	15	11	38
6/15	0.037	0.039	3.7	4.2	3.3	2.7	2.3	4	9	5	6/15	34	36	15	18	14	11	10	4	8	5	36
6/16	0.041	0.046	2.0	3.0	0.8	2.0	2.5	5	8	5	6/16	38	43	8	13	3	8	10	5	7	5	43
6/17	0.052	0.052	2.1	3.9	3.4	4.0		10	16	12	6/17	48	48	9	16	14	17		9	15	11	48
6/18	0.060	0.060	2.9	5.2	6.6	5.5		13	22	15	6/18	67	67	12	22	28	23		12	20	14	67
6/19	0.044	0.043	1.7	5.2	3.9	4.6	3.6	13	16	12	6/19	41	40	7	22	16	19	15	12	15	11	41
6/20	0.038	0.039	2.4	4.1	1.9	2.3	3.1	9	10	6	6/20	35	36	10	17	8	10	13	8	9	6	36
6/21	0.044	0.045	2.7	4.4	4.1	3.6	4.1	20	16	13	6/21	41	42	11	18	17	15	17	19	15	12	42
6/22	0.053	0.053	5.9	8.3	8.2	8.0	6.7	32	32	27	6/22	49	49	25	35	34	33	28	30	30	25	49
6/23	0.038	0.041	3.1	6.3	4.1	4.6	4.2	18	23	15	6/23	35	38	13	26	17	19	18	17	21	14	38
6/24	0.040	0.046	2.4	5.3	3.0	2.9	3.5	16	17	13	6/24	37	43	10	22	13	12	15	15	16	12	43
6/25	0.041	0.030	2.5	6.1	4.0	4.9	4.2	14	17	15	6/25	38	28	10	25	17	20	18	13	16	14	38
6/26	0.035	0.032	6.3	7.4	6.4	6.0	5.7	18	20	14	6/26	32	30	26	31	27	25	24	17	19	13	32
6/27	0.037	0.036	7.0	8.3	7.0	7.6	6.0	18	18	16	6/27	34	33	29	35	29	32	25	17	17	15	35
6/28	0.037	0.036	7.4	9.1	8.0	9.5	6.8	35	24	22	6/28	34	33	31	38	33	40	28	32	22	20	40
6/29	0.035	0.032	10.4	10.8	11.6	11.0	9.5	34		30	6/29	32	30	43	45	48	46	40	31		28	48
6/30	0.052	0.046	8.4	10.0		8.8	9.9	33		30	6/30	48	43	35	42		37	41	31		28	48
AVG	0.043	0.044	4.2	5.7	4.7	4.7	4.1	17	20	16	AVG	41	42	17	24	20	19	17	16	19	15	42
MAX	0.061	0.062	10.4	10.8	11.6	11.0	9.9	35	57	39	MAX	71	74	43	45	48	46	41	32	52	36	74