Climate at a Glance

Global Time Series


Highlights:

- 2020 was the second-warmest year on record based on NOAA’s temperature data, and land areas were record warm.

- Averaged across land and ocean, the 2020 surface temperature was 1.76°F (0.98°C) warmer than the twentieth-century average of 57.0°F (13.9°C) and 2.14°F (1.19°C) warmer than the pre-industrial period (1880-1900).

- Despite a late-year La Niña event that cooled a wide swath of the tropical Pacific Ocean, 2020 came just 0.04°F Fahrenheit (0.02°Celsius) shy of tying 2016 for warmest year on record.

- Earth’s temperature has risen by 0.14°F (0.08°C) per decade since 1880, and the rate of warming over the past 40 years is more than twice that: 0.32°F (0.18°C) per decade since 1981.

- The 10 warmest years on record have occurred since 2005.

- From 1900 to 1980 a new temperature record was set on average every 13.5 years; from 1981–2019, a new record was set every 3 years.

- Full 2020 report
State of the Climate

Assessing the Global Climate in February 2021

Coldest February for the globe since 2014; significant cool temperature departures across North America and northern Asia