NOAA Climate Science & Services
Monthly Climate Update

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February 2019 Monthly Climate Webinar

Global Temperature January 2019

Land & Ocean Temperature Departure from Average Jan 2019
(with respect to a 1981–2010 base period)

- Global Land + Ocean: +0.88°C / +1.58°F
  - Tied with 2007 as the third warmest Jan in the 140-year record
  - The 10 warmest Jan have all occurred since 2002
  - Jan 2019 marks the 43rd consecutive Jan and the 409th consecutive month with temperatures above the 20th century average

- Global Land: +1.51°C / +2.72°F
  - 4th warmest on record
- Global Ocean: +0.65°C / +1.17°F
  - 3rd warmest on record
  - The global temperature record dates to 1880 (140 years)
• Almost certain (99.9% chance) 2019 will end among the 10 warmest years on record
Contiguous U.S. January 2019

Temperature: 32.7°F, +2.6°F, 29th warmest January on record
Precipitation: 2.49”, +0.18”, Tied with 1939 as 37th wettest January on record

- The western half of the CONUS and parts of the southeast had warmer-than-average conditions
- CA’s Jan 2019 temperature ranked as 11th warmest
- No state ranked below-average for Jan
- Northeast, parts of the Midwest, High Plains and Florida were much wetter than average
- Northwest and parts of New Mexico and Texas were drier than average
- Precipitation helped bring back snowpack back to near-normal levels
Current U.S. Drought

15.1% of Contiguous U.S. in Drought
(1.4 percentage points since late Jan)

- Improvement: Parts of the West, High Plains and Florida
- Degradation: Parts of Texas and Idaho
- Outside CONUS: Drought improved in Hawaii, while it deteriorated across Puerto Rico’s southwestern coast

U.S. Drought Monitor

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/
Sea Surface Temperatures & ENSO

- Sea surface temperatures
  - Above normal SSTs in the eastern and central equatorial Pacific
  - Atmosphere and ocean conditions more aligned
  - El Niño conditions are present, with an El Niño Advisory issued 14 Feb

- ENSO forecast
  - El Niño likely to persist through spring 2019
  - The chances of returning to Neutral increase during the summer
  - ENSO Neutral likely during autumn 2019
TODAY’S PRESENTATION:

- [http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/briefings](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/briefings)

**NOAA’s National Centers for Environmental Information:**

[www.ncdc.noaa.gov](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov)


**NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center:** [www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

**U.S. Drought Monitor:** [http://drought.gov](http://drought.gov)

**Climate Portal:** [www.climate.gov](http://www.climate.gov)

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