

Global temperature for 2015 was the highest since 1891

The annual anomaly of the global average surface temperature for the year 2015 (i.e. the combined average of the near-surface air temperature over land and the sea surface temperature) is estimated at +0.42°C above the 1981-2010 average, ranked as the warmest record for the 125-year period since 1891 (Figure 1).

In 2015, the monthly average air temperatures for January, March, May, June, July, August, September, October, November and December, and the seasonal average air temperatures for the boreal spring, summer and autumn were also the highest recorded since 1891.

Warm temperature deviations are especially seen over wide area of Eurasia, the Indian Ocean, and the North and Eastern Tropical Pacific (Figure 2).

On a longer time scale, the annual global average surface temperature has been rising at a rate of about 0.71°C per century.

Nine of the 10 warmest years on record since 1891 have occurred during this century. The recent high temperatures are thought to be affected by the global warming trend due to increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations including carbon dioxide. Moreover the global averaged surface temperature is affected by inter-annual to decadal natural fluctuations intrinsic to the earth's climate, and the highest temperature for 2015 is thought to be due to El Niño event which has continued since the boreal summer 2014.

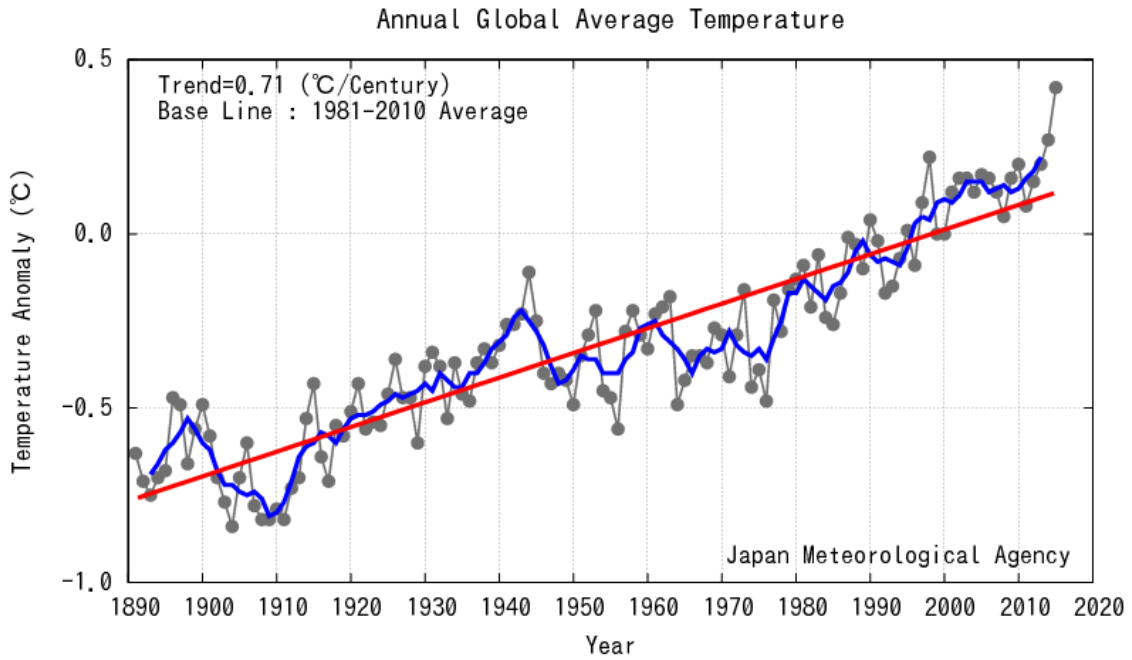


Figure 1 Long-term change in annual mean surface temperature anomalies over the globe
 The black line with filled circles indicates anomalies of surface temperature in each year. The blue line indicates five-year running mean, and the red line indicates a long-term linear trend. Anomalies are represented as deviations from the 1981-2010 average.

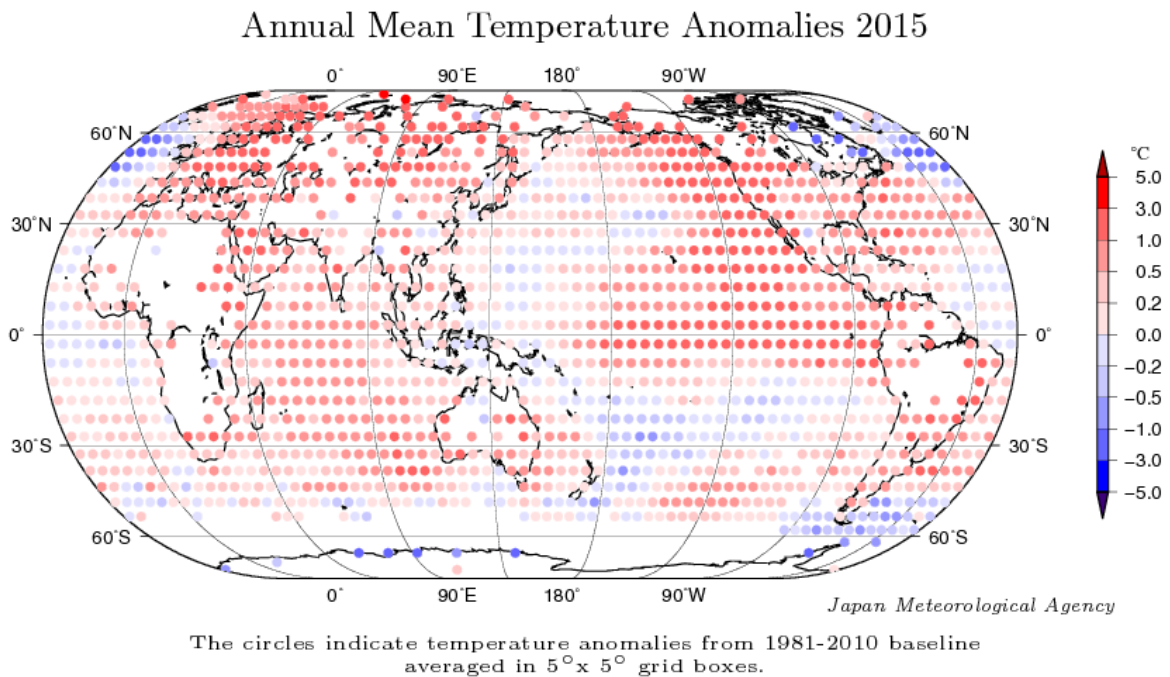


Figure 2 Annual mean temperature anomalies in 2015
 The circles indicate anomalies of surface temperature averaged in 5° x 5° grid boxes. Anomalies are deviations from the 1981-2010 average.

Ranking of annual global average temperatures

Rank	Year	Temperature Anomaly w.r.t. 1981-2010 average
1	2015	+0.42
2	2014	+0.27
3	1998	+0.22
4	2013	+0.20
	2010	+0.20
6	2005	+0.17
7	2009	+0.16
	2006	+0.16
	2003	+0.16
	2002	+0.16