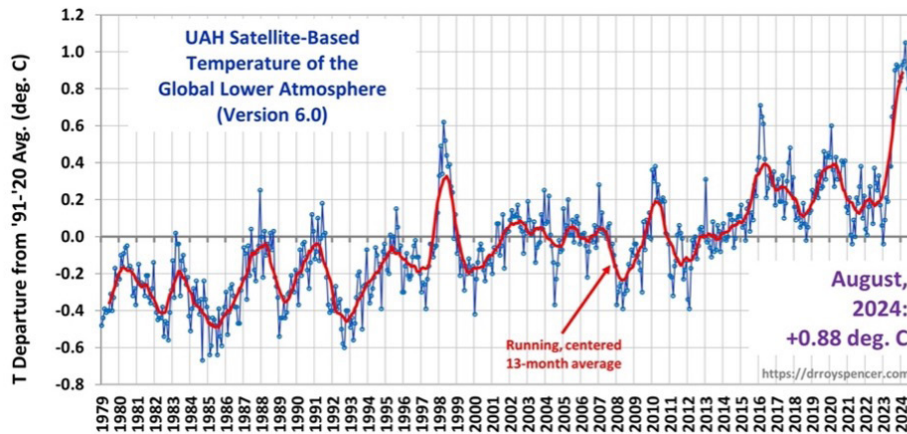


CLIMATE FACT CHECK: AUGUST 2024 EDITION

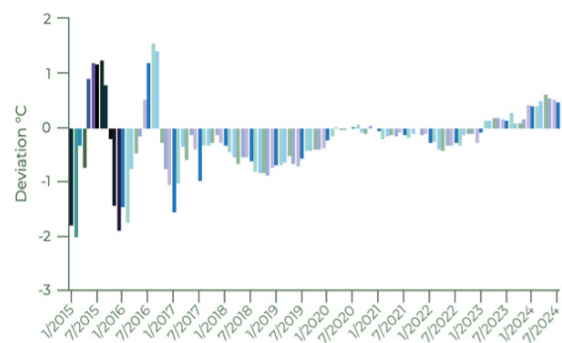
As has been the case for the past year, [NASA satellite data](#) has its “average global temperature” running warmer:



Meanwhile, the average of real-time surface stations measurements as presented by [Temperature.global](#) still has the Earth in a cooling trend since January 2015.

Now, on to this month's fact checks.

GLOBAL TEMPERATURE



Average (Jan 2015-July 2024): -0.217°C
Source: Temperature.Global
Data: NOAA global METARs 2015-current
NDBC global buoy reports 2015-current
MADIS Mesonet Data, NOAA OMOs
<https://temperature.global>

DEATH VALLEY HAD THE 'HOTTEST MONTH EVER'?

The *Washington Post* reported in "[Death Valley just recorded the hottest month ever observed on the planet](#)" that: "Death Valley, Calif., registered an average July temperature of 108.5 degrees, the highest monthly value ever recorded among thousands of weather stations around the globe...Scientists say the warmth is linked to decades of global heating from human emissions of greenhouse gases."

The Washington Post

Fact Check. NASA temperature data from the Death Valley station reveal no warming since temperatures began being recorded in 1912. July 2024 was hot in Death Valley. But there is no evidence it is emissions related. [Get more details.](#)

CLIMATE 'TIPPING POINTS'?

The *New York Times* reported in "[How Close Are the Planet's Climate Tipping Points?](#)" that: "Earth's warming could trigger sweeping changes in the natural world that would be hard, if not impossible, to reverse."

The New York Times

Fact Check. The Times spotlighted seven so-called climate "tipping points": mass death of coral reefs; abrupt thawing of permafrost; collapse of the Greenland ice; break up of West Antarctic ice; sudden shift in the West African monsoon; loss of Amazon rainforest; and shutdown of Atlantic currents. All of these were speculative events for which there is no there, there. [Get more details.](#)

EMISSIONS SLOWING DOWN STORMS?

Bloomberg News reported in "[Storm Debby Is Deadly — Because It's Slow](#)" that: "Scientists have been paying closer attention to these sluggish tropical systems. In 2017, Hurricane Harvey meandered around Texas and Louisiana for days, dropping 40 inches of rain in some places and killing more than 100 people nationwide... research in 2018 showed tropical cyclones slowed globally by about 10% from 1949 to 2016. In the Atlantic, the effect has been even greater"

Bloomberg

Fact Check. In the 2018 research referenced, the best satellite data showed that, since 1980, there has been no change in storm speed. [Get more details.](#)

47,000 HEAT-RELATED DEATHS IN EUROPE IN 2023?

The *New York Times* reported in "[Heat Contributed to 47,000 Deaths in Europe Last Year, but Relief Programs Helped](#)" that: "More than 47,000 Europeans died from heat-related causes during 2023, the world's hottest year on record, a new report in *Nature Medicine* has found. But the number could have been much higher."

The New York Times

Fact Check. The death toll was determined by computer modelling not by a count of death certificates indicating that heat was the cause or contributing factor. While it would not be surprising to learn that some number of Europeans died from heat-related causes in 2023, the 47,000 claims is just made-up. [Get more details.](#)

'HOTTEST MONTH' ON RECORD?

Bloomberg News report in "[Was July 2023 or July 2024 the Hottest Month on Record? Yes](#)" that: "After all these millions of data points have been ingested and analyzed, the difference stems from the tiniest of margins: NOAA found July was 0.03°C (0.05°F) hotter than July last year, NASA's analysis shows it was 0.02°C warmer, while Copernicus says this July was just 0.04°C cooler than July 2023."

Bloomberg

Fact Check. Past the fact that there is no such physical quantity as "global temperature," it certainly cannot be credibly estimated to the hundredths of a degree. There is: much uncertainty in local temperature data; much local data is just estimated or fabricated; surface stations coverage of the planet is uneven, if not parse; and satellites can only imprecisely estimate surface temperatures. The uncertainties in global temperatures calculated by NOAA and NASA are so embarrassing that they are never presented. [Get more details.](#)

CALIFORNIA WILD-FIRES CAUSED BY GLOBAL WARMING?

The *New York Times* reported in "[Half Their Land Burned in a Decade: The California Counties Constantly on Fire](#)" that: "A warming climate has fueled bigger and hotter wildfires, with increasingly intense spells of heat and drought turning forests into tinderboxes," citing wildfire incidence in six California counties.

The New York Times

Fact Check. A review of the local temperature trends in each of the six counties does not indicate any warming that obviously correlates with emissions. [Get more details.](#)

EMISSIONS WARMING THE ATLANTIC?

WideOpenSpaces.com reported in "[The Atlantic Ocean Is Warming Rapidly—Here's What That Means](#)" that: "As early as March 2023, the North Atlantic Ocean was breaking heat records. And it's only getting worse. Just a few days ago, Chief Meteorologist Jeff Beradelli wrote on the News Channel 8 website, 'Meteorologists like myself were astonished by last year's unprecedented sea surface temperatures in the North Atlantic. And yet, to our amazement, they are even more deviant right now.'"

wide open
SPACES

Fact Check. Five months later WideOpenSpaces reported in "[Scientists Say The Atlantic Ocean Is Cooling Down And They Don't Know Why](#)" that: "Despite the fact temperatures reached new highs in the Atlantic Ocean, things have reversed course recently. Experts observed a rapid cooling of the sea over the past few months. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), things started cooling in May. Experts say the ocean is a couple of degrees cooler than it normally is at this time of year." It's not looking like emissions had anything to do with the earlier warming because emissions have only increased. [Get more details.](#)

EMISSIONS CAUSE MORE US HEAT DEATHS?

The *Los Angeles Times* reported in "[As national heat deaths rise, California girds for worsening bouts of extreme temperature](#)" that: "Heat-related mortality is on the rise in the United States, where high temperatures have caused or contributed to the deaths of more than 21,500 people since 1999, new research has found. The last seven years in particular have been marked by a surge in heat-related deaths, including 2,325 deaths in 2023 — the planet's hottest year on record, according to a study published Monday in the medical journal JAMA."

Los Angeles Times

Fact Check. Accepting the heat-related death count at face value, more than quarter of the heat-related deaths claimed in 2023, for example, occurred in Maricopa County, Arizona. Local officials, there, have reported that most of the heat-related deaths occur among the homeless and/or substance abusers, both of which have increased in recent years due to economic conditions and social policies. The recent trend of increasing heat-related deaths in the US is due to factors other than emissions. [Get more details.](#)

OCEANS 'OVERFLOWING'?

The Associated Press reported in "[The worldwide catastrophe of rising seas especially imperils Pacific paradises, Guterres says](#)" that: "Highlighting seas that are rising at an accelerating rate, especially in the far more vulnerable Pacific island nations, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued yet another climate SOS to the world. This time he said those initials stand for 'save our seas'.. 'This is a crazy situation,' Guterres said. 'Rising seas are a crisis entirely of humanity's making. A crisis that will soon swell to an almost unimaginable scale, with no lifeboat to take us back to safety.' 'A worldwide catastrophe is putting this Pacific paradise in peril,' he said. 'The ocean is overflowing.'"

 Associated Press

Fact Check. As reported previously in the [Climate Fact Check: June 2024 Edition](#), 89% of Pacific islands have increased in size since the mid-20th century. Islands that are sinking have been affected by earthquakes and storms. [Get more details.](#)

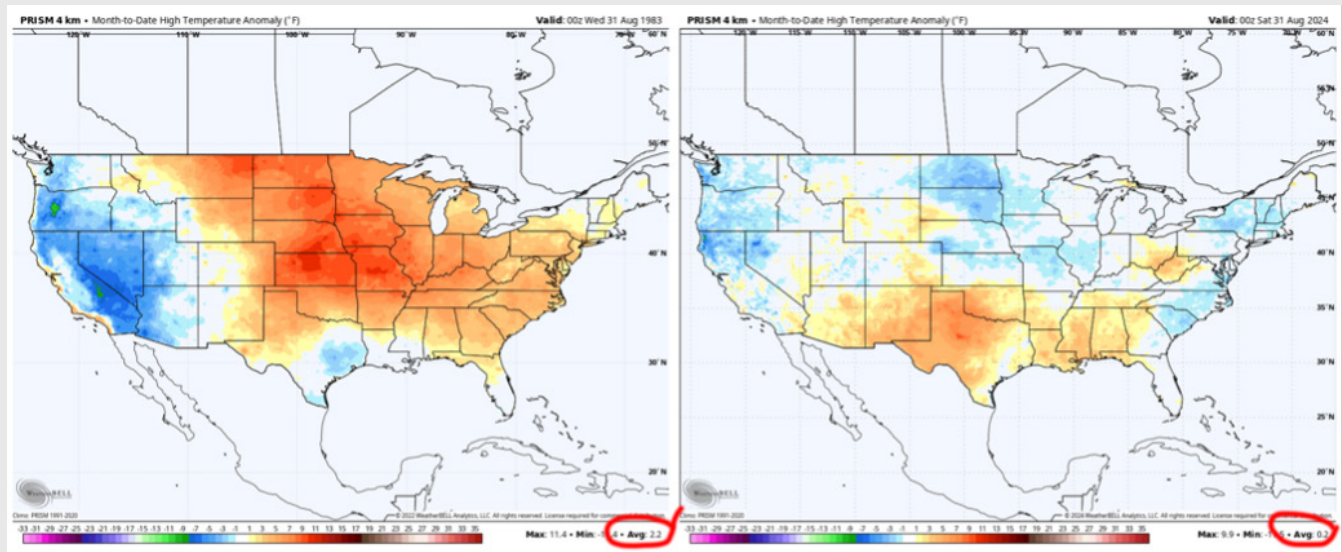
EMISSIONS MELTING GREAT TETON GLACIERS?

The *New York Times* reported in "[Climate Change Comes to the Tetons](#)" that: "In one of North America's most stunning mountain ranges, melting glaciers and warmer temperatures are raising fears of ecological tipping points."

The New York Times

Fact Check. The Great Tetons were ice-free as recently as 6,000 years ago when atmospheric carbon dioxide was at a pre-industrial level. The glaciers visible today are thought to have formed during the Little Ice Age, which lasted from about 1400 to 1850 or so. Not surprisingly, those glaciers have been retreating since the warming that ended the Little Ice Age began. [Get more details.](#)

Finally, we'll close by noting that although the *Washington Post* bemoaned the US summer as "[another brutally hot summer](#)," the average maximum temperature for the US in August 2024 was 2°F cooler than for August 1983. That's 41 years of emission-driven warming down the drain.



Until next month, check out these and more fact checks at:

[ClimateRealism.com](#)

- [Stick to Finance, Financial Times; Weather is Not Getting Worse](#)
- [No, New York Times, Maine Lobsters Aren't Dwindling Due to Climate Change](#)
- [Wrong, Associated Press, There Is No Evidence That Climate Change Is Inducing Wildfires That Threaten Farm Workers](#)
- [The BBC Is Promoting a False Catastrophic Narrative About the Great Barrier Reef, It's Doing Fine](#)
- [No, NYT, 'Climate Tipping Points' are Not in Our Near Future](#)

[WattsUpWithThat.com](#)

- [Barrier Islands: Sea Level Rise is not the Problem](#)
- [Record Setting Crops Are Good News, Bloomberg, Thanks for Reporting It](#)
- [Party Over for Alarmists as Sea Temperatures Plunge Around the World](#)
- [The modern rate of sea level rise is not even close veering outside the range of natural variability.](#)
- [The Snow Crab Collapse: A Tale of Unproven Assumptions and Overlooked Explanations](#)

See you in October for the September Climate Fact Check!