

## Alaska's Warmth So Far This Year Is Off the Charts

Jon Erdman

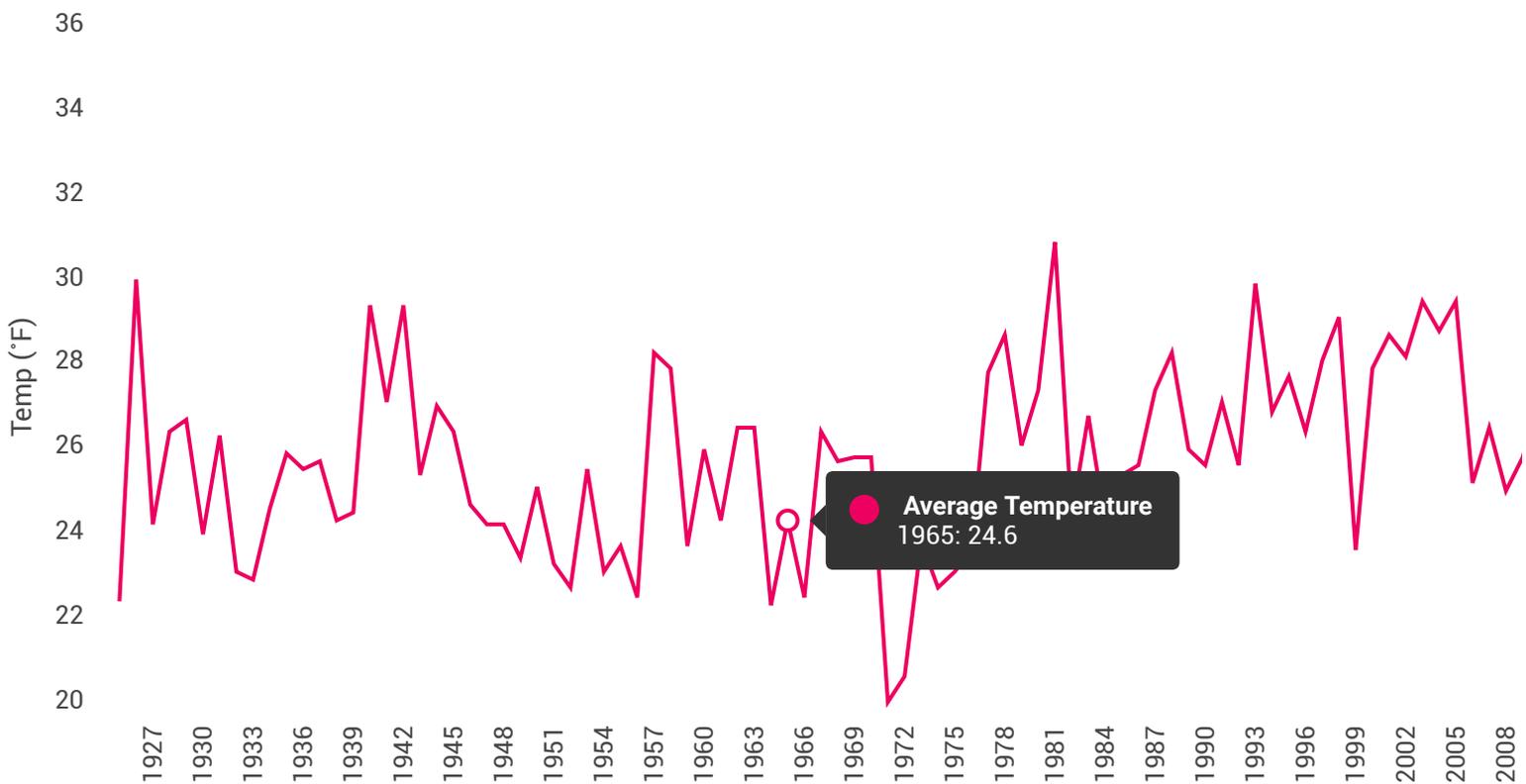
Published: August 10, 2016

Alaska has had the warmest start to any year dating to the 1920s, according to a government report released Monday.

The state's January-July 2016 mean temperature of 33.9 degrees Fahrenheit was 8.1 degrees above the long-term [1925-2000] average and smashed the previous record in 1981, according to data from NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information.

[MORE: First Six Months of 2016 Were Globe's Record Warmest]

# Alaska's Mean January-July Temperature

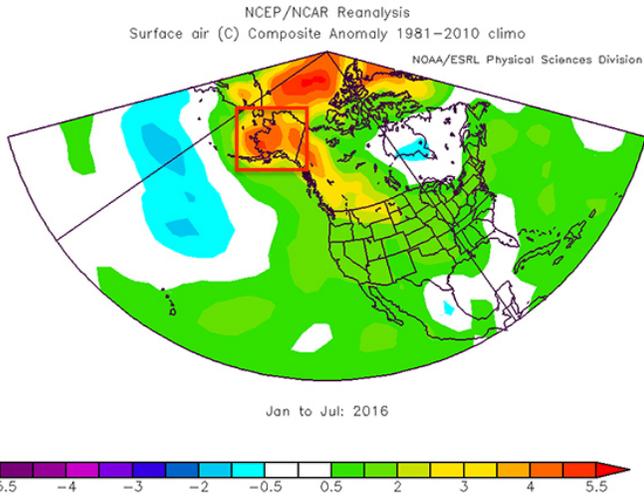


Data: NOAA/NCEI

Perhaps even more notable, this was the first time in 91 years of records the January-July mean temperature in our 49th state was above freezing.

"The warm sea-surface temperatures have been a large factor in the air temperatures," said Alaska-based climatologist Dr. Brian Brettschneider. "In the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea, sea-surface temperatures are at 100-year highs."

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All but one month so far in 2016 has been among the top five warmest on record for that respective month in Alaska.

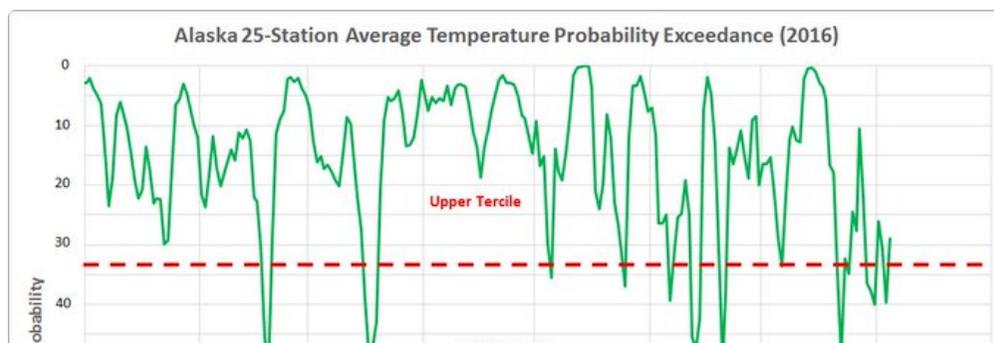
February and April set records in the state and spring 2016 (March through May) was the record warmest spring.

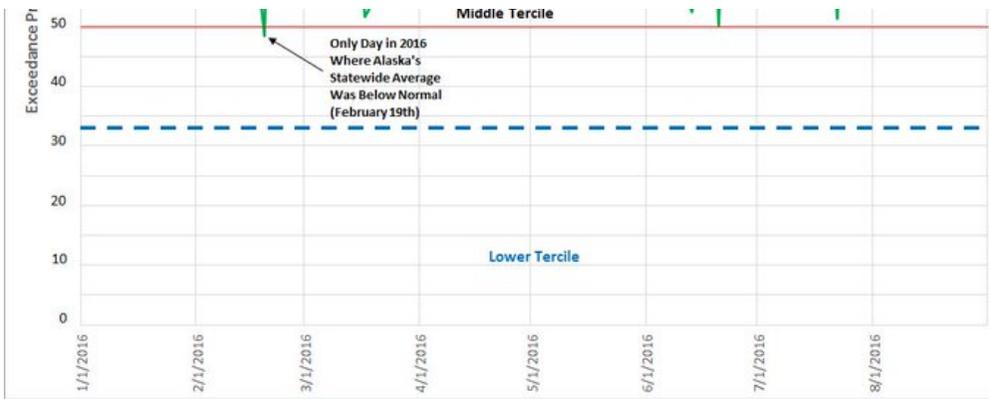
January-July 2016 departures from average surface temperatures, in degrees Celsius. Average period used is 1981-2010. Alaska is highlighted by the red box.

**Alaska Statewide Temperature Rankings in 2016  
[Data: NOAA/NCEI]**

January	Fourth warmest
February	Record warmest
March	Fifth warmest
April	Record warmest
May	Second warmest
June	Ninth warmest
July	Fourth warmest

"Only one day since December has been below [cooler] than average statewide," said Brettschneider, emphasizing perhaps the most stunning statistic of them all.





**Brian Brettschneider**

@Climatologist49



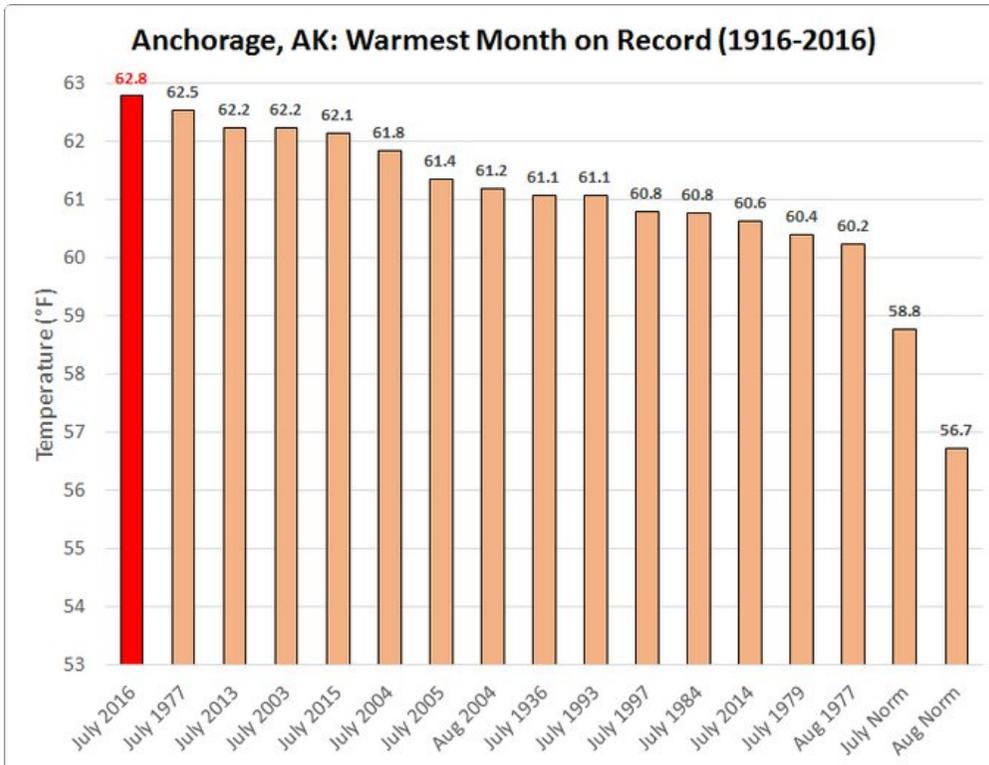
Alaska 25-City temperature index now above normal 223 of last 224 days through August 5th (12/26/15-8/5/16). #akwx

2:20 PM - 6 Aug 2016



Nearly every major reporting station in Alaska has had its warmest January through July, according to the Southeast Regional Climate Center, including Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau, Barrow and Nome.

July was the single warmest month on record in Anchorage, topping July 1977. July was also the muggiest month [highest monthly dewpoint] on record in Fairbanks, as well as several other locations across the state, according to Brettschneider.



**Brian Brettschneider**

@Climatologist49



July 2016 is warmest month on record for Anchorage, AK.

#akwx #warm #hot @NWSAnchorage

1:18 PM - 21 Jul 2016

1:18 PM - 31 Jul 2016

← ↻ 43 ❤️ 13

In mid July, Kuparuk set an all-time record high for any station near the Arctic coast, reaching 86 degrees.

In fact, it's increasingly likely Alaska will top its record warm year, even if the rest of the year is cooler.

"If August-December is anywhere above the bottom 1/4 percentile [i.e. warmer than the coolest 25 percent of August-December periods], 2016 will be Alaska's warmest year on record," said Brettschneider in a tweet Monday.

Two of the three warmest years on record in Alaska have occurred the past two years, headed by 2014 (warmest) and 2015 (third warmest).

January-July 2016 was the third-warmest such period on record for the Lower 48 states dating to 1895, according to NOAA/NCEI.

*Jonathan Erdman is a senior meteorologist at weather.com and has been an incurable weather geek since a tornado narrowly missed his childhood home in Wisconsin at age 7.*

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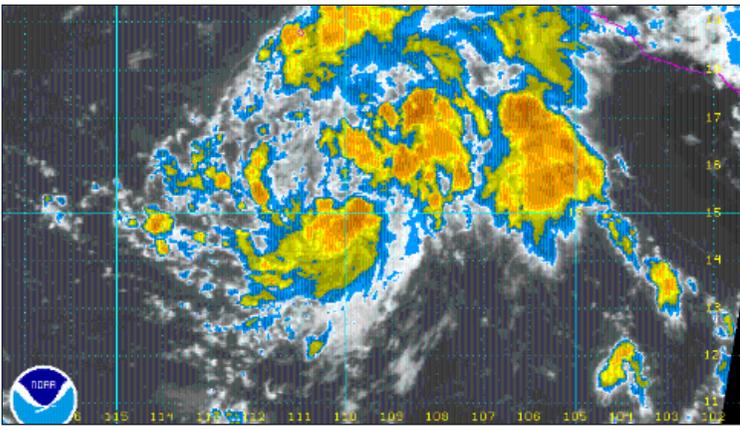
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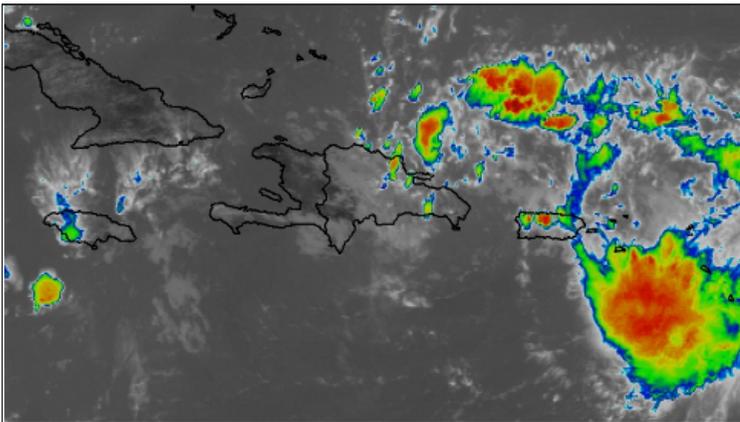
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99L Poised to Become Tropical Storm Hermine

By Dr. Jeff Masters

August 24, 2016

A strong tropical wave called Invest 99L is already bringing winds of tropical storm force to the northern Lesser Antilles Islands, and it could become a tropical storm at any time over the next day as it heads west-northwest at 15 mph towards Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The future of 99L remains uncertain, although models suggest a good chance it will be heading toward Florida this weekend and perhaps entering the Gulf of Mexico early next week.

Hottest Reliably Measured Air Temperatures on Earth: PART TWO

*By Christopher C. Burt*  
*August 19, 2016*

In my previous blog I discussed the various contenders for what might be the hottest reliably measured air temperatures on Earth. That blog focused on those that were most likely not reliable for various reasons. In this blog I will briefly list those that I believe to be the most reliably measured. This takes into account such factors as climatology (general and specific to the sites at time of observation), properly exposed instrumentation, and good correspondence with other temperature observations in the vicinity of the record-breaking site(s).

An extraordinary meteorological event; was one of its results a 1000-year flood?

*By Stu Ostro*  
*October 5, 2015*

The confluence of meteorological ingredients the first weekend in October 2015 resulted in an extraordinary weather event with severe impacts. Was one of them a 1000-year flood?

Why the Arrest of a Science-Loving 14-year-old Matters

*By Shaun Tanner*  
*September 16, 2015*

By now, many of you have heard or read about the arrest of Ahmed Mohamed, a 14-year-old high school student from Irving, Texas. Ahmed was arrested because school officials called the police after he showed one of his teachers his homemade clock. Mistaken for a bomb, Ahmed was taken into custody, interrogated, shamed, suspended (still on suspension today, Wednesday), and reprimanded. All of this after it has been found that the "device" he brought to school was indeed, a homemade clock.

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