



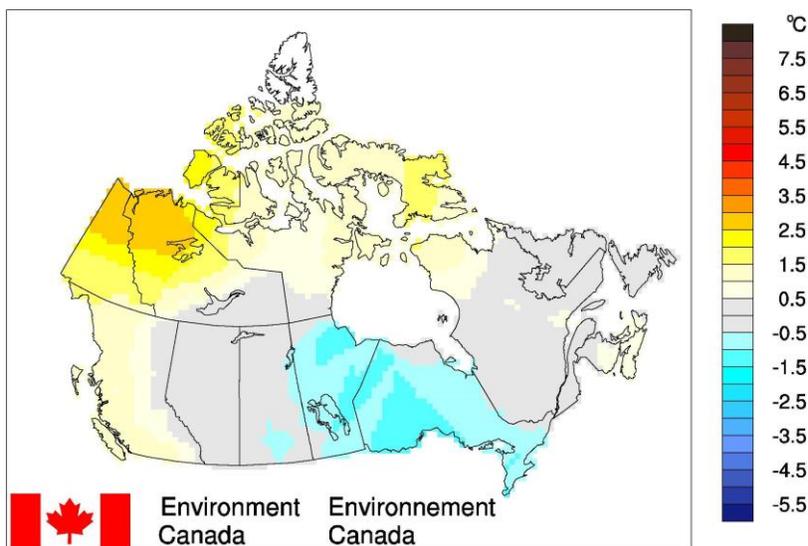
Climate Trends and Variations Bulletin – Annual for 2014

This bulletin summarizes recent climate data and presents it in a historical context. It first examines the national average temperature for the season or year, and then highlights interesting regional temperature information. Precipitation is examined in the same manner.

National Temperature

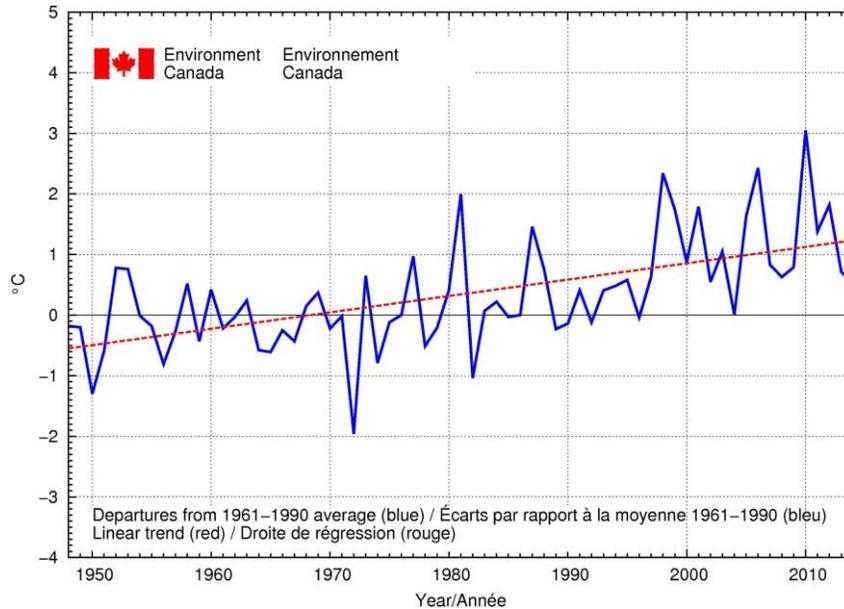
The national average temperature for the year 2014 was 0.5°C above the baseline average (defined as the mean over the 1961–1990 reference period), based on preliminary data, which is the 25th warmest observed since nationwide recording began in 1948. The warmest year occurred in 2010, when the national average temperature was 3.0°C above the baseline average. The coldest year occurred in 1972, when temperature averaged across the country was 2.0°C below the baseline average. The temperature departures map for the year 2014 (below) shows that most of British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut and some areas in northern Quebec experienced temperatures above the baseline average. Below-average temperatures were mainly recorded in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. Temperatures near the baseline average were found in the rest of the country.

Temperature Departures from the 1961–1990 Average – Annual for 2014



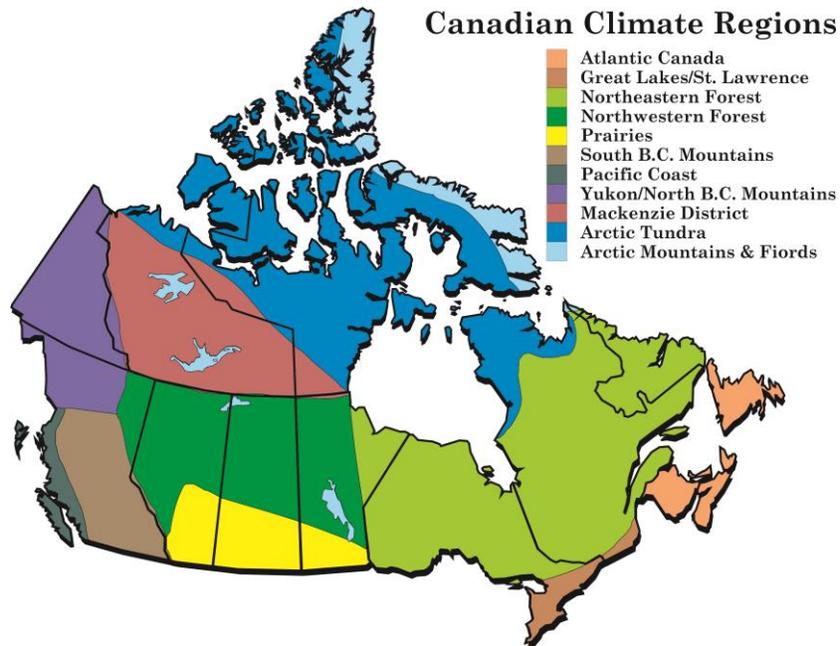
The time series graph (below) shows that, when averaged across the nation, annual temperatures have fluctuated from year to year over the period 1948–2014. The linear trend indicates that annual temperatures averaged across the nation have warmed by 1.6°C over the past 67 years.

Annual National Temperature Departures and Long-term Trend, 1948–2014



Regional Temperature

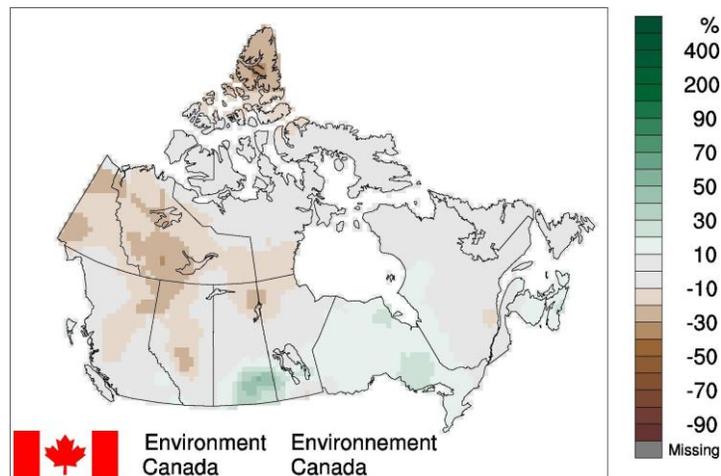
When examined on a regional basis, most of the 11 climate regions recorded temperatures near the baseline average in the year 2014. Average annual temperatures for 2014 were among the 10 warmest on record for 3 climate regions: the Pacific Coast (3rd warmest at 1.2°C above average), the Yukon/North B.C. Mountains (7th warmest at 1.8°C above average), and the Arctic Mountains and Fjords (10th warmest at 1.4°C above average). Only 1 of the 11 regions experienced an average annual temperature for 2014 that ranked among the 10 coldest since 1948: the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence region (7th coldest at 0.5°C below average). All 11 climate regions exhibit positive trends in annual temperatures over the 67 years of record. The strongest trend is observed in the Mackenzie District region (2.6°C), while the weakest trend (0.7°C) is found in Atlantic Canada. A table listing the regional and national temperature departures and rankings from 1948 to 2014 and a table that summarizes regional and national trends and extremes are available on request to CTVB@ec.gc.ca.



National Precipitation

As a whole, Canada experienced slightly drier than average conditions in the year 2014 (2% below the baseline average), making it the 22nd driest year observed over the 67 years of record. The wettest year was 2005 (16% above the baseline average), and the driest was 1956 (12% below the baseline average). The precipitation percent departure map for the year 2014 (below) shows overall conditions near the baseline average. Slightly wetter than average conditions were mainly found in southern Manitoba and Ontario. Most of Yukon, Northwest Territories and Ellesmere Island experienced drier than average conditions in 2014.

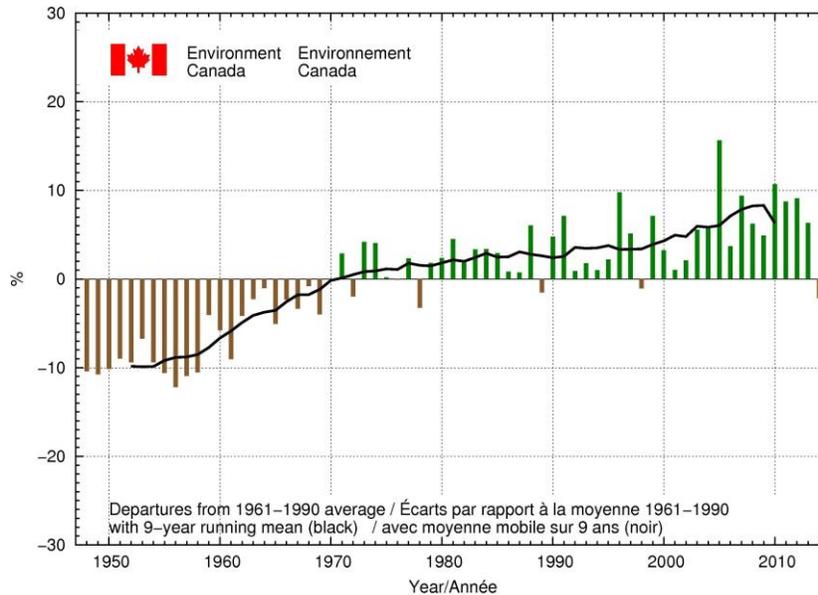
Precipitation Departures from the 1961–1990 Average – Annual for 2014



It should be noted that "average" precipitation in northern Canada is generally much less than it is in southern Canada, and hence a percent departure in the north represents much less precipitation than the same percentage in the south. The national precipitation rankings are therefore often skewed by the northern departures and do not necessarily represent rankings for the volume of water falling on the country.

The precipitation percent departures graph (below) shows that, when averaged across the nation, annual precipitations have tended to be wetter than the 1961–1990 baseline average since the mid-1970s.

Annual National Precipitation Departures with Nine-year Running Mean, 1948–2014



Regional Precipitation

Two of the 11 climate regions experienced notably drier than average conditions in the year 2014: the Yukon/Northern B.C. Mountains (6th driest at 13% below average) and the Mackenzie District (5th driest at 17% below average). Precipitation for the year 2014 was among the 10 wettest recorded since 1948 in only 1 region: the Atlantic Canada region (8th wettest at 9% above average). A table listing the regional and national precipitation departures and rankings from 1948 to 2014 and a table that summarizes regional and national extremes are available on request to CTVB@ec.gc.ca.

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