



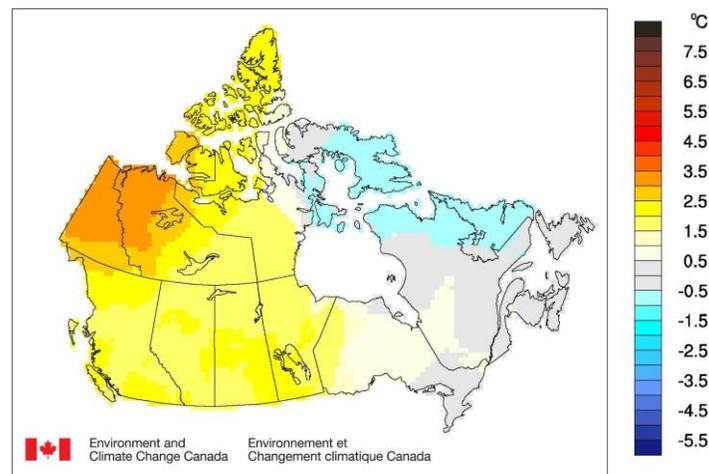
Climate Trends and Variations Bulletin – Annual 2015

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

National Temperature

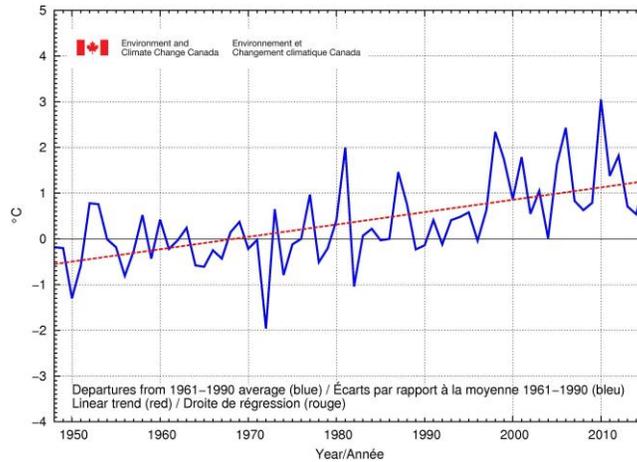
The national average temperature for the year 2015 (January to December) was 1.3°C above the baseline average (defined as the mean over the 1961–1990 reference period), based on preliminary data, which is the 11th warmest observed since nationwide recording began in 1948. The warmest year occurred in 2010, when the national average temperature was 3.0°C above the baseline average. The coldest year occurred in 1972, when the national average temperature was 2.0°C below the baseline average. The temperature departures map for 2015 (below) shows that from Ontario westward, the average annual temperature was at or above the baseline average. The greatest temperature departures were recorded in the Yukon and western Northwest Territories. It was cooler than the baseline average over eastern Nunavut, northern Quebec, and Labrador.

Temperature Departures from the 1961–1990 Average – Annual 2015



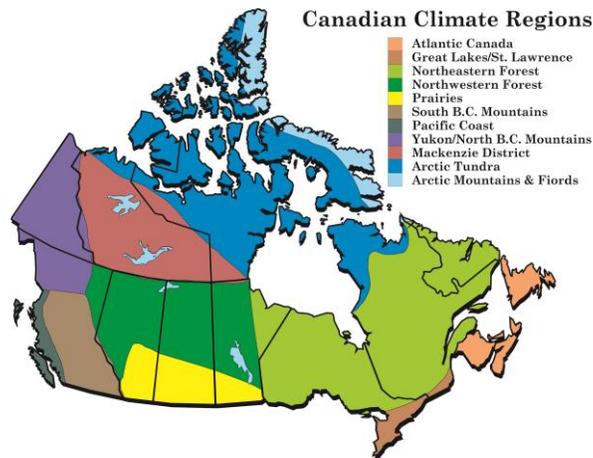
The time series graph (below) shows that, when averaged across the country, annual temperatures have fluctuated from year to year over the period 1948–2015. The linear trend indicates that annual temperatures averaged across the nation have warmed by 1.6°C over the past 68 years.

Annual National Temperature Departures and Long-term Trend, 1948–2015



Regional Temperature

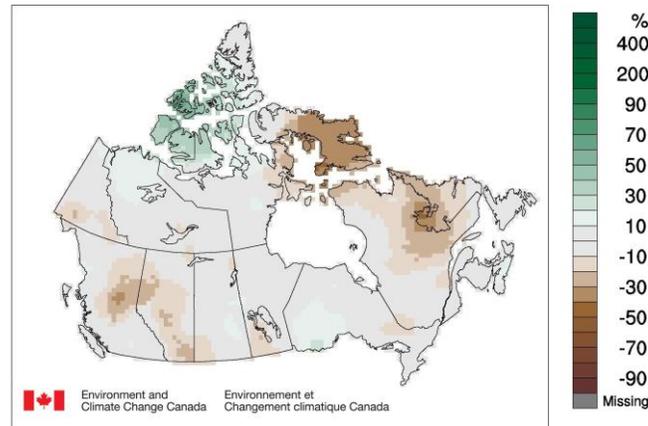
When examined on a regional basis, average annual temperatures for 2015 were among the 10 warmest on record since 1948 for 6 of the 11 climate regions, with 3 regions experiencing their warmest year on record. The 6 regions are: North B.C. Mountains/Yukon (warmest at 2.9°C above average); Pacific Coast (warmest at 2.0°C above average); South B.C. Mountains (warmest at 1.9°C above average); Prairies (third-warmest at 2.0°C above average); Mackenzie District (fifth-warmest at 2.3°C above average); and Northwestern Forest (eighth-warmest at 1.9°C above average). Although none of the 11 climate regions experienced an average annual temperature for 2015 that ranked among the 10 coldest since 1948, Atlantic Canada did have a slightly cooler-than-average year at 0.1°C below average. All 11 climate regions exhibit positive trends for annual temperatures over the 68 years of record. The strongest trend is observed in the Mackenzie District (+2.6°C), while the weakest trend (+0.6°C) is found in the Atlantic Canada region. A table listing the regional and national temperature departures and rankings from 1948 to 2015 and a table that summarizes regional and national trends and extremes are available on request to ec.btv-ctvb.ec@canada.ca.



National Precipitation

The national average precipitation for the year 2015 was 2.6% below the baseline average, based on preliminary data, making it the 20th-driest year since nationwide recording began in 1948. The wettest year was 2005 (15.6% above the baseline average), and the driest year was 1956 (12.2% below the baseline average). The precipitation percent departure map for the year 2015 (below) shows conditions were close to average for most of the country. It was a slightly drier-than-average year for central B.C., Alberta, eastern Nunavut, and over northern Quebec and Labrador. It was wetter than average over the western Arctic Archipelago in 2015.

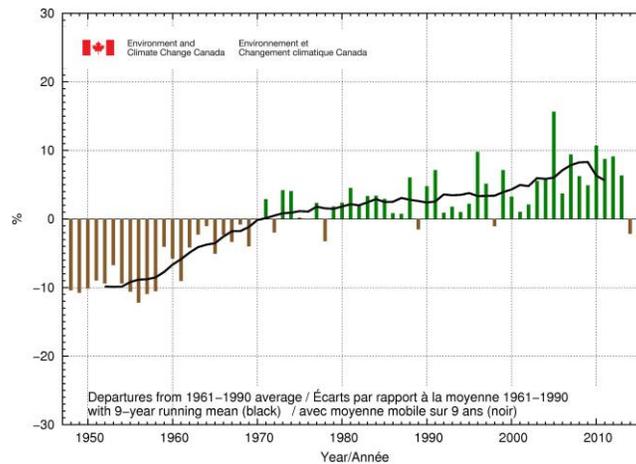
Precipitation Departures from the 1961–1990 Average – Annual 2015



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 precipitation amounts have tended to be wetter than the 1961–1990 average since the beginning of the 1970s.

Annual National Precipitation Departures with Nine-year Running Mean, 1948–2015



Regional Precipitation

Precipitation for 2015 was among the 10 driest recorded since 1948 in only 1 of the 11 climate regions: the Northeastern Forest (ninth-driest at 6.7% below average). There were no regions in 2015 that ranked among the 10 wettest recorded since 1948. A table listing the regional and national precipitation departures and rankings from 1948 to 2015 and a table that summarizes regional and national extremes are available on request to ec.bttvc-ctvb.ec@canada.ca.

ISBN 20160323-007
Cat. No.: En81-23E-PDF

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