

## **(UPDATED\*) Lots of ink: 2010 data out; NOAA & NASA agree global warming didn't stop**

NASA-GISS annual temps thru 2010

Last year in the USA was the 23rd warmest as far back as direct data go, says the annual report on such things from the Nat'l Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Even with all that snow, 23rd! Big whoop, warmer than the historic norm, and that's not the real news you already know.

2010 also was statistically tied with 2005, world wide, as hottest ever. It also was warmer than the El Niño-boasted 1998 that some contrarians say probably marked the high point for global warming and so they conclude it has stopped. Ergo, one presumes, atmospheric physicists can collectively take further credit for explaining, starting a century ago or so, that the CO2 stunt that humankind is pulling ought to warm things up. Things did sort of stall for a few years – but stop? Look at the plot. That looks pretty normal for this jerky line with an upward trend.

A separately-calculated report from NASA, via the Goddard Institute for Space Studies in Manhattan has slightly different numbers as in the uppermore right plot, but the same message: 2010 and 2005 are for now the record holders Yet to weigh in are the Hadley Center/Met Office in the UK, and the World Meteorological Organization.

Last year was also tops in recorded history for rain and snow. NOAA does not have an official explanation for that. This all is big news, but not terribly complex or challenging to report in its essence. The trick is to put the news in some political context without getting bogged down.

### **Stories:**

- **Washington Post – Juliet Eilperin** : [\*2010 ties '05 as warmest year on record\*](#) ; The illus is smart, at least with the on line story (dunno what went in the street edition), showing a Pakistani man struggling in that nation's monster floods last year. It's a reminder one ought not reduce climate change to one variable. She packs her story with data summaries. Nine of 10 hottest in history have been since 2000. Arctic sea ice still trending down. It's been 34 years since a year's global temperature average was below that of the 20th century as a whole. And it was the wettest ever. Her politics come up at the end with a source talking about the wisdom of lighting up a cigarette when the X-ray shows danger in the lungs. Not the best analogy really – by the time one has lung cancer, fatalism can be understandable, even defensible.
- **USA Today – Doyle Rice** : [\*2010 tied for Earth's warmest year on record\*](#) ; He provides balance, the kind that some people attach to the f-word (not the usual one, but false). He contacts CATO Institute's resident meteorologist Pat Michaels, who says he's not impressed. Interesting, he also cites data from another fave of

the doubters, John Christy at University of Alabama-Huntsville, that in essence agree with NOAA's and NASA-GISS's figures.

- **Bloomberg/Bus. Wk- Tony C. Dreibus, Mathew Carr:** [\*Global Temperatures Matched Record High Last Year, NOAA Says\*](#) ; Two reporters for five graphs with info all, looks like, right off the release.
- **Telegraph (UK) Louise Gray:** [\*Flood warnings: hottest year confirms global warming say experts\*](#) ; NOAA may not have ascribed a reason for the floods and snow, but Gray says simply that it's because "warm air tends to hold more water." The Met Office, she reports, will have its figures out later this month. And she quotes (with citation) Eilperin's kicker at the WaPost on smoking, cancer, and climate change. Also, despite the hed's implied surprise, the NOAA man at the press conference didn't say this confirms global warming – at least not for the first time. He said it reinforced it.
- **NYTimes – Justin Gillis:** [\*Figures on Global Climate Show 2010 Tied 2005 as the Hottest Year on Record\*](#) ; He ties it up nicely, saying that regardless of trends "2010 will go down as one of the more remarkable years in the annals of climatology" with blistering heat waves, prodigious snowstorms, and coral reef die-offs. He missed the shrinking, [\*thinning arctic sea ice\*](#).
- **NPR – Richard Harris:** [\*Last Year: The Warmest on Record \(Again\)\*](#) ; Sharp hed, the sort one sees in the likes of the Economist. NPR's lead is, as in the Post, of Pakistan's floods. There is, one detects, a certain tone of exasperation in both the printed story and the broadcast.
- **AP – Randolph E. Schmid:** [\*2010 ties 2005 as warmest year on record worldwide\*](#) ;
- **Reuters – Timothy Gardner:** [\*2010 ties for warmest years, emissions to blame – US\*](#) ; While most reporters seem content to report what the scientists say has happened so far, Gardner gathers up what they think is coming in years and decades. It's not pretty. He also reports that the NOAA news came out a day late due to the East Coast snow storm.
- **Christian Sci. Monitor – Pete Spotts:** [\*Global warming waning? Hardly. 2010 was tied as warmest year on record\*](#) ;
- **Wall St. Journal – Gautam Naik:** [\*Last Year Tied 2005 for Hottest on Record\*](#) ;
- **Guardian (UK) Suzanne Goldenberg:** [\*Last year was joint warmest on record, say climatologists ; Earth's temperatures above average for 34th consecutive year and joint warmest since 1880\*](#) ;

#### \*UPDATES:

- **Science News – Alexandra Witze:** [\*2010 ties record for warmest year yet\*](#) ;
- **Huffington Post – Peter Gleick:** [\*2010 Hottest Year on Record: The Graph That Should Be on the Front Page of Every Newspaper\*](#); This is a (well informed but partisan, and on the side of data) op-ed-type piece with a particularly feisty and evenly-divided set of comments. Warmists and contrarians get in their licks about equally. Plus, presumably knowing his way around plot smoothing routines, Gleick dresses up this temp graph (looks like NOAA's data) with a "standard polynomial trendline" to punctuate his piece's message that global warming

didn't stop – it's more likely accelerating. [Peter Gleick](#), incidentally, is a hydrologist and director of an institute devoted to water issues. Also of interest to many of this site's readers, he has a brother in the science writing clan, [James Gleick](#).

- Mashup special! **Philippine Daily Inquirer**: [Global climate hotter, wettest](#) ; With no byline or hint of source on top, and a lot of familiar passages, this was getting my blood up as a rewrite ripoff. But no, it's fine, just a normal rewrite. At its end is credit to *four* major news outlets – NYTimes, AP, AFP, and Reuters.

**Grist for the Mill**: NOAA [Press Release](#), NASA/GISS [Press Release](#);

- Charlie Petit