

NOAA's Updated U.S. Climate Data Will Establish "New Normal"

"NOAA will soon release a much-anticipated update of U.S. climate data for placing recent weather conditions—such as heat waves and flooding rain—into historical context.

"This new 30-year dataset will span from 1991 to 2020 and is scheduled for release in May 2021. Climatologists from NOAA NCEI are currently compiling and reviewing 30 years of weather and climate data from across the U.S. to serve as the nation's updated climate "normals" for the next 10 years. This new 30-year dataset will span from 1991 to 2020 and is scheduled for release in May 2021.

"What Are Climate Normals?"

"Traditionally, scientists define climate normals as three-decade averages of climatological variables. The [current batch of 30-year Climate Normals](#) developed and used by NOAA covers the period from 1981 to 2010 and is calculated from observations at approximately 9,800 stations across the U.S. operated by NOAA National Weather Service.

"NOAA's Climate Normals provide a baseline to compare yesterday's weather and tomorrow's forecast to a standard for each location and time of year," said Mike Palecki, project manager for NOAA's 1991 to 2020 Climate Normals. "They can be used to understand the impacts of climate on many activities such as agriculture decision support, electricity load planning, building heating requirements calculation, construction scheduling, and many other factors impacting all sectors of the economy."

"These new Normals are a better baseline for today's climate, helping inform activities in many economic sectors," Palecki added. "Interestingly, this shift will result in there being fewer 'above normal' temperature days in most of the U.S. at the start of this decade compared to recent years that used the previous Normals cycle. Climate will continue to change in the U.S. during this decade, however, so we will need to do this again in 2031."

"Once the new NOAA Normals are released in May 2021, they will be available to the public from [NCEI](#)."

READ MORE AT: <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/news/Upcoming-NOAA-2020-Climate-Normals>