CLIMATE METRICS · FREE FACT SHEET

Impacts

Key figures · Updated 27 November 2026 · 11 pages summarised · climatemetrics.org

The headline figures from every Impacts page on Climate Metrics, taken from each page as it is published today. Every figure keeps the source and date given on its page: follow the links for full context, charts and citations.

Food Security

Page updated 17 Aug 2026

A historically strong El Niño is peaking through late 2026, and food prices have hit a three-year high — but the honest picture is more regional than "yields are down everywhere." This page separates three distinct questions: which countries feed the rest of the world, which countries rely most on imports to feed themselves,…

131.1	FAO Food Price Index, July 2026 — a 3-year high
~90%	Chance of a historically strong El Niño by Oct–Dec 2026 (NOAA)
266 million	People facing high acute food insecurity across 13 FAO-WFP hunger hotspots
4	Countries/territories with active Famine risk: Sudan, South Sudan, Gaza, Somalia

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/food-security

Fresh Water Stress

Page updated 14 Aug 2026

Every country draws its water from some mix of five sources: rainfall and surface runoff, rivers, lakes, groundwater aquifers, glacial/snow meltwater, and (for a growing number of arid states) desalinated seawater.

181	Countries with usable renewable-freshwater data (of ~193 assessed)
77	Are at or below the Falkenmark water-stress threshold (1,700 m³/person/year)
27	Are in absolute scarcity (under 500 m³/person/year)
25	Countries WRI classifies as facing "extremely high" water stress every year

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/fresh-water-stress-worldwide

Heat-Related Mortality

Figures as of Sep 2026 · Page updated 2 Sep 2026

Of all the ways climate change harms human health, heat is the most direct and the best quantified: hotter temperatures kill people, especially the very old, the very young, and those without access to cooling, and the annual toll has been rising steadily for decades.

~546,000	Average annual heat-related deaths globally (recent estimate)

+23%	Increase in the rate of heat-related mortality since the 1990s
16 days	Average extra days of dangerous heat exposure per person in 2024, attributable to climate change
4×	Increase in heatwave-day exposure for infants and older adults over the last 20 years

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/heat-related-mortality

Cold-Related Deaths

Figures as of Sep 2026 · Page updated 2 Sep 2026

This is one of the more genuinely counterintuitive corners of climate data. Cold still kills far more people than heat does worldwide, and the best long-run global and UK evidence shows cold-related mortality has been declining for decades — a product of warmer winters, better heating and healthcare.

8.5%	Share of global deaths attributable to cold temperatures (vs. 0.9% for heat), most recent estimate
-0.51 pt	Decline in global cold-death share of all deaths, 2000–2019
18,200	England & Wales' lowest-ever recorded excess winter deaths (2013–14), down from ~106,400 in 1950–51
2×	Increase in the US CDC's classified cold-related death rate, 1999–2022 — the opposite direction

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/cold-related-deaths

Climate & Disaster Displacement

Figures as of Aug 2026 · Page updated 23 Aug 2026

"Climate migration" covers two quite different phenomena that get conflated in most coverage: acute, often temporary displacement when a flood, storm or fire forces people from their homes right now, and the slower, longer-term relocation driven by worsening drought, sea level rise or repeated disaster.

45.8M	New disaster-driven internal displacements in 2024 — a record, 99.5% climate/weather-related
83.4M	Total people living in internal displacement worldwide, end of 2024 (conflict + disasters)
9.8M	Of that total displaced specifically by disasters, as of end of 2024
216M	People projected to become internal climate migrants by 2050, World Bank Groundswell

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/climate-and-disaster-displacement

Vector-Borne Disease

Figures as of September 2026 · Page updated 14 Sep 2026

Mosquitoes that carry malaria, dengue and chikungunya are highly sensitive to temperature — and as the planet warms, their ranges are shifting into higher altitudes, higher latitudes, and regions with no historical exposure or public health infrastructure built for these diseases.

4.7 km/yr	Average poleward range shift of African Anopheles malaria vectors over the last century
6.5 m/yr	Average upward elevation shift of the same malaria vectors
27	Chikungunya outbreaks recorded in Europe in 2025 — a continental record
126M	People in Africa newly at risk from the invasive urban malaria mosquito An. stephensi

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/vector-borne-disease-spread

Wildfires

Figures as of Sep 2026 · Page updated 2 Sep 2026

Wildfire is one of the clearest places where climate change shows up as lived experience rather than a distant statistic.

112.3M ha	Land burned globally, year to date as of 1 Aug 2026 (all fire types)
55%	Share of 2026's global burned area occurring in Africa alone
13.6M ha	Burned in DR Congo in 2026, the most of any single country
2.0M ha	Burned in Canada in 2026, across multiple provinces

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/wildfires

Drought Monitor

Figures as of Sep 2026 · Page updated 2 Sep 2026

Drought is a slower, quieter disaster than a fire or flood, which makes it easy to underweight even though it affects far more land area and people.

~30%	Of global land surface affected by drought in 2025
+74%	Expansion in drought-affected area, 2018–2022 vs. 1981–2017 baseline
+40%	Average increase in drought severity attributable to rising evaporative demand
80×	More likely: 2026's Western European drought, attributed to climate change

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/drought-monitor

Tropical Cyclones

Figures as of Sep 2026 · Page updated 2 Sep 2026

The honest answer is "in a specific way, yes" — and the specifics matter more than the headline.

217	Category 5 storms recorded globally, 1982–2025 (44-year satellite record)
59%	Of those 217 occurred in the second half of that period
5	Category 5 storms recorded in 2025
$55–61bn	Estimated total Atlantic basin losses, 2025

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/tropical-cyclones

Global Deforestation

Figures as of Sep 2026 · Page updated 2 Sep 2026

2025 brought genuinely good news on tropical forest loss — a sharp drop from 2024's record — but the underlying picture is more mixed than the headline suggests: loss remains far above where it needs to be to meet global forest commitments, and fire is playing a growing role in what forest loss remains.

4.3M ha	Tropical primary rainforest lost in 2025 (roughly the size of Denmark)
-36%	Drop in tropical primary forest loss, 2025 vs. 2024's record high
25.5M ha	Total global tree cover loss in 2025, all causes (larger than the UK)
42%	Share of 2025's tree cover loss attributable to fire

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/global-deforestation

Species Extinction & Biodiversity

Figures as of Aug 2026 · Page updated 20 Oct 2026

Biodiversity loss doesn't get the same day-to-day coverage as extreme weather, but the numbers are stark: the average size of monitored wildlife populations has fallen by nearly three-quarters since 1970.

-73%	Average decline in monitored wildlife population sizes, 1970–2020
35,000	Vertebrate populations tracked, across 5,495 species
-85%	Decline in freshwater species populations — the steepest of any ecosystem
-95%	Decline in Latin America & the Caribbean — the steepest of any region

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/species-extinction-and-biodiversity-loss