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Oceans & Ice

Key figures · Updated 27 November 2026 · 9 pages summarised · climatemetrics.org

The headline figures from every Oceans & Ice 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.

Ocean Heat & Marine Heatwaves

Figures as of Sep 2026 · Page updated 2 Sep 2026

The ocean has absorbed more than 90% of the extra heat trapped by greenhouse gases since industrialization began, making it the planet's dominant heat reservoir.

~21.0°C	Average global sea surface temperature, June 2026 — the warmest June on record
20.94°C	Average sea surface temperature, Jan–Jun 2026 — 2nd-warmest such period on record
82%	Of the global ocean experiencing marine heatwave conditions, end of June 2026
83%	The record for that measure, set in 2024

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/ocean-heat-and-marine-heatwaves

Ocean Acidification

Figures as of Sep 2026 · Page updated 2 Sep 2026

Roughly a quarter of the CO2 humans emit each year is absorbed by the ocean — which sounds like good news for the atmosphere, but it comes at a direct chemical cost to the ocean itself.

~30%	Increase in ocean acidity since the pre-industrial era
~25%	Of annual human CO2 emissions absorbed by the ocean
13%	Of global coastline habitat lost for key shellfish species
-80%	Pacific Northwest oyster seed production decline, 2005–2009, tied to acidification

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/ocean-acidification

Sea Level Rise

Figures as of Sep 2026 · Page updated 2 Sep 2026

Sea level rise is one of the most measurable, unambiguous signals of a warming planet — a continuous satellite record stretching back to 1992, cross-checked against a global tide gauge network. It's also accelerating: the rate of rise today is roughly double what it was three decades ago.

~11.1cm	Total global mean sea level rise, 1993–2023

~3.8–4.5mm/yr	Current rate of global mean sea level rise (recent multi-year average)
~2.1–2.9mm/yr	Rate of rise in the early-1990s/2000s portion of the satellite record
~0.8mm/yr	Acceleration in the rate of rise, per decade, since 1993

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/sea-level-rise

Coral Reef Status

Page updated 15 Aug 2026

Coral reefs cover under 1% of the ocean floor but support roughly a quarter of all marine species and over a billion people's food, income, or coastal protection.

84.4%	Of world's reef area exposed to bleaching-level heat stress, Jan 2023–Sep 2025
83+	Countries/territories with confirmed mass bleaching in the 4th Global Bleaching Event
~50%	Of world's live coral cover lost since the 1950s
14%	Of remaining coral lost in a single decade, 2009–2018 (GCRMN)

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/coral-reef-status

AMOC

Page updated 14 Aug 2026

The AMOC is the Atlantic Ocean's great heat-and-salt conveyor belt: warm surface water flows north, sinks near Greenland, and returns south as cold deep water.

~15–17 Sv	AMOC transport at 26°N, 2011–2020 average, down from ~18–19 Sv in 2004–08
-1.0 Sv/decade	Measured RAPID trend, 2004–2023 (90% CI 0.4–1.6)
~15%	Estimated weakening since ~1950, per sea-surface "fingerprint" & proxy studies
<2100	IPCC: very high confidence AMOC weakens this century; medium confidence against an abrupt collapse

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/atlantic-meridional-overturning-circulation-amoc

Arctic Weather & Ice Melt

Page updated 15 Sep 2026

The Arctic is warming several times faster than the global average.

36	Live weather stations/points fetched from 5 sources, right now, in your browser
-12.1%	Arctic sea ice September-minimum decline per decade, 1979–2025

-129 Gt	Greenland ice sheet net mass change, 2025 (less loss than the 2003–24 average)
~264 Gt/yr	Greenland's average annual mass loss, 2002–2025 (~0.8mm/yr sea level rise)

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/arctic-melt

Antarctic Weather

Page updated 21 Sep 2026

This map shows staffed national research stations (e.g. Amundsen-Scott, McMurdo, Vostok, Neumayer III) — the permanently or seasonally staffed bases operated by national Antarctic programs, active as of 2024.

56	Active Automatic Weather Stations in the AMRDC network
28	Also carry a WMO station ID, feeding the Global Telecommunication System
~15 min	How often the live weather model updates its current-conditions estimate
-119.4	F/84.1C recorded at Concordia Weather Station on 18-Jul-2026

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/antarctic-weather

Antarctic Greening & Glacier Melt

Figures as of August 2026 · Page updated 14 Aug 2026

Antarctica holds about 90% of Earth's freshwater ice — enough to raise global sea level by roughly 58 metres if it all melted.

~135 Gt/yr	Average Antarctic ice mass loss, 2002–2025 (NASA GRACE/GRACE-FO)
13.5 mm	Antarctica's total contribution to global sea level rise, 1979–2024
13.8×	Increase in vegetated area on the Antarctic Peninsula, 1986->2021
3,732 km²	Average surface meltwater extent per melt season, 2006–2021

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/antarctic-greening-and-glacier-melt

Glacier Status

Figures as of Sep 2026 · Page updated 2 Sep 2026

Twenty-two indicators on the roughly 200,000 glaciers outside the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets — the smaller mountain and valley glaciers in the Alps, the Himalaya, the Andes, Alaska and elsewhere that supply drinking water, irrigation and hydropower to nearly two billion people.

408 Gt	Global glacier mass lost in hydrological year 2025 (~1.1mm sea-level rise)
39 yrs	Consecutive years every glacier region has shown net annual loss
9,583 Gt	Cumulative glacier mass lost since 1975 (26.4mm of sea-level rise)

~200,000	Individual glaciers worldwide outside the two ice sheets (Randolph Glacier Inventory)

Full page, charts and sources: climatemetrics.org/glacier-status