



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 12, 2012

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The Southwest (Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas), is the fastest-warming region in the nation

Michigan, Wisconsin and northern-tier states round out the Top 10

Warming trend will worsen droughts, increase wildfire risk and alter growing seasons

[Interactive state-by-state map](#)

(June 12 – Princeton) Global warming isn't uniform. According to a new [analysis from Climate Central](#), over the past 100 years, the continental U.S. has warmed about 1.3 degrees F, but between 1912 and 2011 the top 10 fastest-warming states warmed 60 times faster than the 10 slowest-warming states.

Led by Arizona, the fastest-warming state in the nation, much of that warming was concentrated in the Southwest and upper Midwest. Arizona was followed in the top 10 by Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Vermont, New Mexico, Utah, Maine, Texas and Massachusetts.

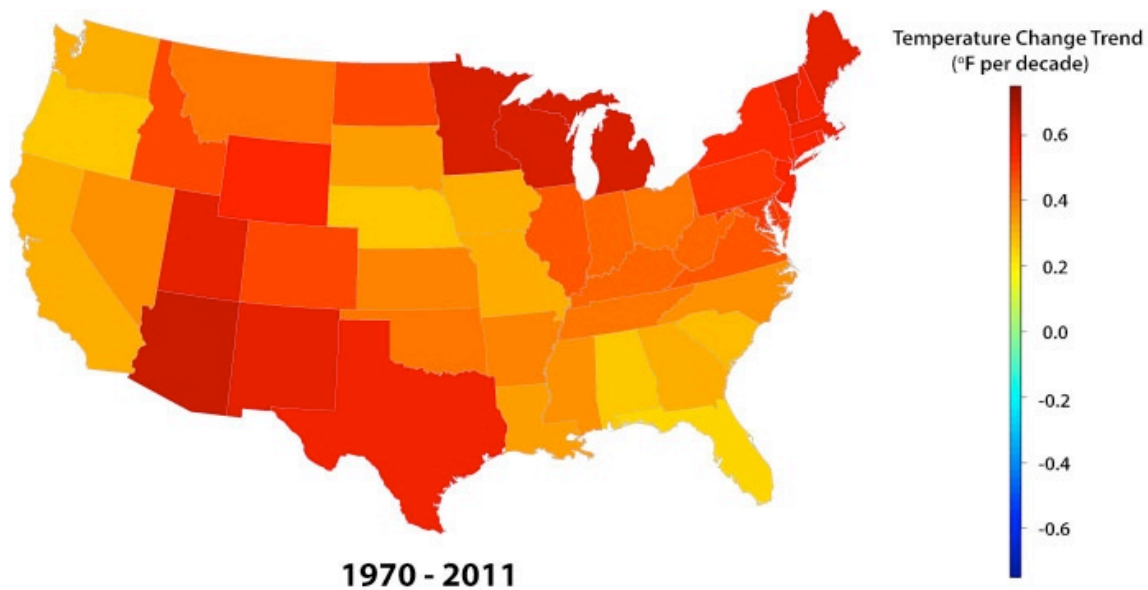
"The Southwest and North Central and Northeastern states are clearly warming faster than the rest of the country," said report author Claudia Tebaldi, one of the senior scientist at Climate Central authors of the report and visiting scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. "As warming continues, future droughts could be hotter and more severe, seasons will be altered, and the risk of wildfires will increase significantly, making summers like 2011 increasingly common."

When observed over the past century, a clear "warming hole" is apparent in the Southeastern U.S., where states cooled through the middle of the century, and only then began to warm. Three states — Alabama, Arkansas and Georgia — didn't warm at all over the 100-year period.

But starting in 1970, things changed. The pace of warming accelerated to three times the rate of the century average, and every state showed a warming trend. The top 10 fastest states warmed at an average 0.6 degrees F per decade since 1970, and 17 states warmed faster than a half a degree F per decade since that time.

This strong warming trend coincided with the time when the effect of greenhouse gas pollution started to overwhelm the other natural and human influences on climate at the global and continental scales.

Whether considering a century of warming or 42 years, the states that have warmed the most include northern-tier states from Maine to Michigan and Minnesota and southwestern states such as Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. Places that warmed the least are clustered in the Southeast and the central Midwest, including Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Iowa and Nebraska.



To see more temperature trends in Arizona, [visit the interactive here.](#)

This analysis is based on recorded daily high (maximum) and low (minimum) temperatures from the National Climatic Data Center's U.S. Historical Climatology Network of weather stations.

The first five months of 2012 were the warmest on record in the U.S., and the 12-month period ending May 2012 was the warmest 12-month period on record in the country.