<https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/enso/mei/table.html>

MEI Index (updated: 7 September 2018)

Bimonthly MEI values (in 1/1000 of standard deviations), starting with Dec1949/Jan1950, thru last

month. More information on the MEI can be found on the [MEI homepage](https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/enso/mei/mei.html).

Missing values are left blank. Note that values can still change with each monthly update, even

though such changes are typically smaller than +/-0.1. All values are normalized for each bimonthly

season so that the 44 values from 1950 to 1993 have an average of zero and a standard deviation of "1".

Responses to 'FAQs' can be found below this table:

YEAR DECJAN JANFEB FEBMAR MARAPR APRMAY MAYJUN JUNJUL JULAUG AUGSEP SEPOCT OCTNOV NOVDEC

1950 -1.03 -1.133 -1.283 -1.071 -1.434 -1.412 -1.269 -1.042 -.597 -.406 -1.138 -1.235

1951 -1.049 -1.152 -1.178 -.511 -.374 .288 .679 .818 .773 .768 .726 .504

1952 .433 .138 .071 .224 -.307 -.756 -.305 -.374 .347 .306 -.328 -.098

1953 .044 .401 .277 .687 .756 .191 .382 .209 .527 .124 .099 .351

1954 -.036 -.027 .154 -.616 -1.465 -1.558 -1.355 -1.456 -1.138 -1.32 -1.113 -1.088

1955 -.74 -.669 -1.117 -1.621 -1.653 -2.247 -1.976 -2.05 -1.803 -1.725 -1.813 -1.846

1956 -1.408 -1.275 -1.371 -1.216 -1.304 -1.523 -1.244 -1.118 -1.327 -1.461 -1.014 -.993

1957 -.915 -.348 .108 .383 .813 .73 .926 1.132 1.158 1.114 1.167 1.268

1958 1.473 1.454 1.313 .991 .673 .812 .7 .421 .209 .237 .501 .691

1959 .553 .81 .502 .202 -.025 -.062 -.112 .111 .126 -.038 -.151 -.247

1960 -.287 -.253 -.082 .007 -.322 -.287 -.318 -.25 -.439 -.332 -.308 -.39

1961 -.15 -.235 -.073 .017 -.302 -.185 -.208 -.3 -.271 -.51 -.416 -.608

1962 -1.065 -.963 -.692 -1.04 -.89 -.87 -.683 -.538 -.528 -.642 -.598 -.482

1963 -.718 -.837 -.675 -.761 -.473 -.144 .404 .59 .778 .848 .866 .765

1964 .878 .481 -.256 -.545 -1.234 -1.15 -1.384 -1.486 -1.284 -1.196 -1.211 -.907

1965 -.536 -.329 -.259 .086 .464 .867 1.367 1.425 1.43 1.25 1.378 1.27

1966 1.307 1.186 .689 .515 -.178 -.193 -.116 .152 -.06 -.018 .022 -.181

1967 -.462 -.898 -1.05 -1.03 -.448 -.236 -.492 -.391 -.601 -.655 -.407 -.357

1968 -.602 -.727 -.635 -.944 -1.093 -.812 -.503 -.104 .244 .46 .607 .367

1969 .67 .849 .458 .622 .674 .801 .49 .212 .2 .537 .683 .417

1970 .38 .432 .228 .014 -.099 -.636 -1.055 -1.007 -1.226 -1.068 -1.063 -1.203

1971 -1.204 -1.507 -1.79 -1.839 -1.429 -1.42 -1.207 -1.213 -1.439 -1.399 -1.301 -.969

1972 -.575 -.398 -.256 -.166 .423 .966 1.826 1.8 1.574 1.667 1.74 1.787

1973 1.723 1.515 .87 .491 -.099 -.758 -1.056 -1.334 -1.712 -1.65 -1.482 -1.826

1974 -1.912 -1.768 -1.743 -1.62 -1.048 -.694 -.75 -.664 -.599 -1.031 -1.23 -.886

1975 -.522 -.576 -.85 -.927 -.838 -1.148 -1.497 -1.712 -1.853 -1.968 -1.748 -1.732

1976 -1.587 -1.366 -1.213 -1.157 -.483 .276 .633 .654 1.064 .978 .511 .565

1977 .529 .29 .145 .552 .31 .414 .888 .684 .824 1.016 .99 .877

1978 .777 .912 .935 .199 -.378 -.605 -.42 -.199 -.364 .003 .203 .406

1979 .608 .379 .002 .301 .374 .429 .396 .615 .801 .694 .759 1.004

1980 .677 .601 .684 .912 .958 .911 .769 .329 .302 .223 .27 .111

1981 -.25 -.14 .455 .669 .189 -.024 -.026 -.09 .209 .132 -.021 -.126

1982 -.258 -.125 .1 .008 .443 .93 1.612 1.778 1.835 2.061 2.441 2.425

1983 2.677 2.931 3.008 2.812 2.498 2.235 1.793 1.159 .507 .056 -.115 -.17

1984 -.314 -.509 .151 .39 .18 -.049 -.054 -.155 -.085 .026 -.332 -.585

1985 -.546 -.576 -.696 -.468 -.706 -.166 -.126 -.365 -.508 -.119 -.042 -.279

1986 -.293 -.183 .028 -.107 .353 .279 .401 .765 1.116 1.002 .89 1.202

1987 1.249 1.218 1.716 1.855 2.107 1.958 1.878 1.973 1.905 1.671 1.286 1.293

1988 1.115 .716 .495 .389 .193 -.582 -1.109 -1.295 -1.501 -1.313 -1.447 -1.311

1989 -1.103 -1.241 -1.035 -.76 -.393 -.242 -.43 -.494 -.287 -.319 -.058 .131

1990 .243 .573 .951 .46 .652 .511 .147 .127 .398 .303 .4 .362

1991 .319 .323 .399 .449 .741 1.051 1.044 1.008 .778 1.031 1.202 1.34

1992 1.747 1.886 1.985 2.247 2.085 1.735 1.045 .559 .518 .663 .595 .664

1993 .692 .99 .987 1.408 1.993 1.616 1.204 1.026 1.011 1.09 .848 .595

1994 .352 .193 .159 .465 .58 .803 .904 .762 .931 1.437 1.312 1.251

1995 1.219 .959 .845 .453 .57 .507 .234 -.147 -.416 -.461 -.463 -.537

1996 -.597 -.566 -.236 -.391 -.041 .087 -.173 -.374 -.426 -.338 -.134 -.325

1997 -.48 -.605 -.248 .527 1.132 2.275 2.825 3.002 3.057 2.423 2.551 2.344

1998 2.455 2.777 2.751 2.658 2.206 1.336 .392 -.336 -.6 -.789 -1.069 -.908

1999 -1.039 -1.123 -.95 -.88 -.596 -.339 -.478 -.739 -.937 -.954 -1.031 -1.142

2000 -1.122 -1.189 -1.09 -.397 .251 .001 -.159 -.145 -.21 -.367 -.701 -.55

2001 -.496 -.649 -.548 -.05 .282 .052 .297 .332 -.147 -.255 -.138 .033

2002 .017 -.16 -.118 .401 .886 .932 .712 1.002 .921 1.02 1.101 1.156

2003 1.214 .944 .83 .413 .214 .107 .177 .309 .492 .534 .584 .362

2004 .332 .37 -.036 .358 .558 .315 .571 .617 .591 .524 .818 .684

2005 .325 .816 1.057 .626 .885 .589 .519 .343 .329 -.152 -.374 -.55

2006 -.428 -.414 -.521 -.571 .045 .526 .716 .748 .84 .976 1.297 .965

2007 .985 .537 .125 .026 .348 -.155 -.248 -.442 -1.175 -1.204 -1.149 -1.178

2008 -1.006 -1.371 -1.552 -.858 -.345 .142 .088 -.269 -.545 -.681 -.584 -.646

2009 -.714 -.69 -.705 -.106 .326 .751 1.06 1.05 .745 .924 1.134 1.059

2010 1.066 1.526 1.462 .978 .658 -.228 -1.103 -1.671 -1.86 -1.888 -1.472 -1.558

2011 -1.719 -1.544 -1.554 -1.387 -.199 -.003 -.193 -.517 -.751 -.917 -.933 -.945

2012 -.98 -.675 -.382 .11 .757 .842 1.126 .607 .351 .097 .141 .111

2013 .103 -.068 -.026 .09 .205 -.094 -.314 -.481 -.125 .148 -.042 -.234

2014 -.27 -.259 .018 .295 1.001 1.046 .915 .937 .593 .45 .773 .566

2015 .417 .464 .614 .916 1.583 2.097 1.981 2.334 2.532 2.256 2.3 2.12

2016 2.216 2.17 1.963 2.094 1.752 1.053 .352 .167 -.091 -.363 -.197 -.11

2017 -.052 -.043 -.08 .744 1.445 1.039 .456 .009 -.449 -.551 -.277 -.576

2018 -.623 -.731 -.502 -.432 .465 .469 .076 .132

(1) If you are trying to relate the MEI to monthly values of, say, precipitation, it may be

expedient to use the MEI value of month(i-1) and month(i) as if it were the value for

month(i) only. Since it takes a week or so for the global atmosphere to respond to tropical

SST anomalies, the resulting lag is thus built into the analysis (I have verified this for

southwest U.S. precipitation).

(2) Next update: 13 October (or earlier) 2018

(3) Are there MEI values available prior to 1950? YES, the link to the sister website for

the MEI.ext is [here](http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/enso/mei.ext).

Numerical values for the MEI.ext are available

[here](http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/enso/mei.ext/table.ext.html).

(4) Why do I believe that the MEI is better for monitoring ENSO than the SOI or various SST

indices? In brief, the MEI integrates more information than other indices, it reflects

the nature of the coupled ocean-atmosphere system better than either component, and it is

less vulnerable to occasional data glitches in the monthly update cycles. Now, if you are

interested in ENSO impacts in a very specific part of the world, I would suggest that you

obtain other ENSO indices as well and establish which one best fits your needs.

For instance, in Australia, Darwin sea level pressure and/or the SOI may be more appropriate

than the MEI. My claim here is that the MEI does a better job than other indices for the

overall monitoring of the ENSO phenomenon, including, for instance, world-wide correlations

with surface temperatures and rainfall.

(5) I have been asked about MEI-like indices for the Indian Ocean, and at present I have no such

project under way, nor do I know of any such data.

(6) Given the integrative approach of the MEI, I am very hesitant to give out subsets of the data

that make up the MEI (for instance, its SST or SLP components alone). Therefore, I will not

honor requests of that nature.

(7) If you are interested in MEI predictions, please contact me directly under my e-mail address:

[Klaus Wolter (klaus.wolter@noaa.gov)](mailto:klaus.wolter@noaa.gov).

Link to ranked MEI values is [here](https://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/enso/mei/rank.html).

Go back to [MEI homepage](http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/psd/enso/mei/).