**Data source and description**

This text-format time-series dataset of monthly (from Jan 1950 to present), area-averaged sea surface temperature (SST) indices, also referred to as El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) SST indices, are in <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/data/indices/ersst5.nino.mth.81-10.ascii>

The ten columns in the dataset are respectively:

YR MON NINO1+2 ANOM NINO3 ANOM NINO4 ANOM NINO3.4 ANOM

The base period for the reference climatology used to compute the anomalies is 1971-2000.

The area definitions for the indices are: Niño 1+2 (0-10°South)(90°West-80°West); Niño 3 (5°North-5°South)(150°West-90°West); Niño 4 (5°North-5°South) (160°East-150°West); Niño 3.4 (5°North-5°South)(170-120°West)

The SST units are degree C.

A link to the documentation of the original global dataset is

<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/data-access/marineocean-data/extended-reconstructed-sea-surface-temperature-ersst-v5>