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➤ Climate trends and variability ➤ Adjusted and homogenized Canadian climate data

Climate data: homogenized surface air temperature data

This website provides monthly, seasonal and annual means of the daily maximum, minimum and mean temperatures from the Third Generation of Homogenized Temperature datasets (Vincent et al. 2020) which now replace the first and second generation datasets (Vincent and Gullett, 1999; Vincent et al. 2012).

The Third Generation of Homogenized Temperature dataset was prepared for use in climate trend analysis in Canada. In this version, the list of stations was revised to include observations from a larger number of surface monitoring stations, in particular those collected at Reference Climate Stations and at some Canadian Aviation Weather Services stations, which were used to extend past climate observations into recent times. The data were quality controlled. The daily minimum temperature was adjusted from 1961 to recent years, for the change in observing time in 1961 at principal stations (Vincent et al. 2009). Parallel daily data were used to detect non-climatic shifts when observations from nearby sites were merged into a single record to create long-term series (Vincent et al. 2018a). Series of annual and seasonal mean temperatures were tested for homogeneity (Wang et al. 2007; Vincent et al. 2002; Vincent et al. 1998). Daily temperatures were adjusted using a Quantile-Matching procedure to remove inhomogeneities if needed (Wang et al. 2010).

Homogenized temperature datasets have been used in the analysis of climate trends (Vincent et al. 2015) and trends in climate indices in Canada (Vincent et al. 2018b). The procedures used to produce the Third Generation are described in Vincent et al. (2020).

Questions and comments can be sent to dccah-ahccd@ec.gc.ca.

Homogenized temperature data

Reference to the third generation homogenized temperature

Vincent, L. A., M. M. Hartwell, and X. L. Wang, 2020. A third generation of homogenized temperature for trend analysis and monitoring changes in Canada's climate, Atmosphere-Ocean., 58:3, 173-191, doi:10.1080/07055900.2020.1765728.

Further references

Vincent, L.A., E.J. Milewska, X. L. Wang, and M. M. Hartwell, 2018a. Uncertainty in homogenized daily temperatures and derived indices of extremes illustrated using parallel observations in Canada, Intl. J. Climatol., 38:2, 692-707. DOI: 10.1002/JOC.5203

Vincent, L. A., Zhang, X., Mekis, É., Wan, H. & Bush, E.J., 2018b. Changes in Canada's climate: Trends in indices based on daily temperature and precipitation data. Atmosphere-Ocean, doi:10.1080/07055900.2018.1514579

Vincent, L. A., Zhang, X., Brown, R. D., Feng, Y., Mekis, É., Milewska, E. J., ... Wang, X. L., 2015. Observed trends in Canada's climate and influence of low-frequency variability modes. Journal of Climate, 28, 4545–4560. doi:10.1175/JCLI-D-14-00697.1

Vincent, L. A., X. L. Wang, E. J. Milewska, H. Wan, F. Yang, and V. Swail, 2012. A second generation of homogenized Canadian monthly surface air temperature for climate trend analysis, J. Geophys. Res., 117, D18110, doi:10.1029/2012JD017859.

Vincent, L.A., E.J. Milewska, R. Hopkinson and L. Malone, 2009: Bias in minimum temperature introduced by a redefinition of the climatological day at the Canadian synoptic stations. Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology, 48, 2160-2168. DOI: 10.1175/2009JAMC2191.1.

Vincent, L.A., X. Zhang, B.R. Bonsal and W.D. Hogg, 2002: Homogenization of daily temperatures over Canada. Journal of Climate, 15, 1322-1334.

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Vincent, L.A., 1998: A technique for the identification of inhomogeneities in Canadian temperature series. Journal of Climate, 11, 1094-1104.

Wang, X. L., H. Chen, Y. Wu, Y. Feng, and Q. Pu, 2010: New techniques for detection and adjustment of shifts in daily precipitation data series. J. Appl. Meteor. Climatol., 49, 2416-2436. DOI: 10.1175/2010JAMC2376.1

Wang, X. L., Q. H. Wen, and Y. Wu, 2007: Penalized maximal t test for detecting undocumented mean change in climate data series. J. Appl. Meteor. Climatol., 46 (No. 6), 916-931. DOI:10.1175/JAM2504.1

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