

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES GUIDE

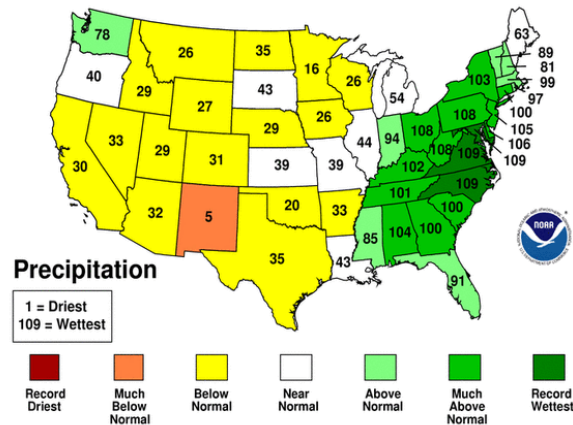
NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA CENTER

ASHEVILLE, NC



2003 * Annual Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



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See <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/ol/climate/climateproducts.html> for a digital copy of this guide.

A message from the Director, National Climatic Data Center

The National Climatic Data Center offers a wide range of products and services. Our users range from large engineering firms designing the latest in safe energy efficient structures, to the attorney documenting a weather event, to the individual planning for a retirement move.

Services offered include data resource consultations, subscription items and publications, copies of original records, certifications, generation of specialized climate studies, and a host of other climate-related activities. Services are delivered on a variety of media including on-line access, CD-ROMs, magnetic tape, floppy disks, computer tabulations, maps, and publications.

Tom Karl
Director

About the National Climatic Data Center

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Data Centers (of which NCDC is the largest) are world-class centers that provide long-term preservation, management, and ready accessibility to environmental data. The combined archive includes records taken even before Ben Franklin's weather observations and continues with the latest real-time satellite imagery. The Centers are part of the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service (NESDIS). The NCDC is located in Asheville, NC .

NCDC Mission Statement

NCDC's mission is to manage the Nation's resource of global climatological in situ and remotely sensed data and information to promote global environmental stewardship; to describe, monitor and assess the climate; and to support efforts to predict changes in the Earth's environment. This effort requires the acquisition, quality control, processing, summarization, dissemination, and preservation of a vast array of climatological data generated by the national and international meteorological services.

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NCDC 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

Conferences, Papers, and Outreach

Assessment of Urban Vs Rural Temperatures

DOC's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center Meteorologist, Dr. Thomas Peterson, is author of an article entitled, "Assessment of Urban Versus Rural In Situ Surface Temperatures in the Contiguous United States: No Difference Found," which appeared in the September 15, 2003, issue of Journal of Climate. The study revealed that stations located in urban areas were found to be no warmer than nearby rural stations, contradicting the commonly accepted opinion that the effects of urbanization creates a warm bias in many temperature records. Although urban heat islands certainly exist, NOAA's National Weather Service generally does not locate in situ stations in locations that are likely warmer than nearby rural areas such as industrial sections of towns or at major highway intersections. The in situ stations are more likely to be in "park cool islands." Therefore, this study concluded the in situ climate record is better than many people might think.

Reconciling Vertical Temperature Trends Workshop

Reconciling Vertical Temperature Trends: A Reconciling Vertical Temperature Trends workshop was held at DOC's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Climatic Data Center on October 27-29, 2003. The workshop was held in anticipation of producing a report for the U.S. Climate Change Science Program and was coordinated internationally with a newly constituted Global Climate Observing System/Atmospheric Observations Panel for Climate Working Group on Reconciling Vertical Temperature Trends. Specifically, the workshop was designed to: 1) Assess the state of the science in the measurement of temperature from space, weather balloons, and from surface instrumentation; 2) assess whether any unresolved differences in the trends are consistent or inconsistent with present understanding of anthropogenic or natural climate forcing (e.g. model simulations); and 3) define the measurements, analyses, or other actions required to reduce uncertainties. There were approximately 50 scientists who participated in the workshop. More information along with presentations are available: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/rvtt.html>

Canada/U.S. Bi-lateral Meeting

NCDC hosted a Canadian/U.S. Bi-lateral meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, April 30 - May 1, 2003. Issues of mutual interest to both Environment Canada and NCDC were discussed including: the U.S. Climate Reference Network and the Canadian Climate Station Initiative; monitoring observing system performance; data management and data rescue issues/efforts; and global data exchange and access.