

# Selected Significant Climate Anomalies and Events December 2016

**GLOBAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE**  
December 2016 average global land and ocean surface temperature was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest since records began in 1880.

**ICELAND**  
Most stations had monthly temperatures at or near their warmest on record. The capital city of Reykjavik had its 4<sup>th</sup> warmest December on record.

**EUROPE**  
The December temperature for Europe ranked in the warmest quarter of all years in its 107-year record. Denmark reported its 6<sup>th</sup> warmest December and the United Kingdom had its 8<sup>th</sup> warmest on record.

**ASIA**  
The Asian continent experienced its 14<sup>th</sup> warmest December in the 107-year continental record.

**ARCTIC SEA ICE EXTENT**  
December 2016 sea ice extent was 7.8% below the 1981-2010 average. This marked the 2<sup>nd</sup> smallest December sea ice extent since satellite records began in 1979, 7,700 miles greater than the record-small extent of 2010.

**AUSTRIA AND FRANCE**  
Austria and France were both record dry during December. For France, the last two Decembers were the two driest in the 57-year national record.

**SUPERTYPHOON NOCK-TEN**  
(December 21<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016)  
10-min maximum winds: 185 km/h. The Category 5-equivalent storm weakened before making eight landfalls over the Philippines on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, leading to three fatalities.

**CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES**  
The contiguous U.S. observed an average December precipitation total in its highest third among all Decembers on record. Nine of the past 11 Decembers have been wetter than average.

**AFRICA**  
It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest December for Africa in the 107-year continental record, behind only 2009.

**SOUTH AMERICA**  
Overall, it was the 3<sup>rd</sup> warmest December in the 107-year continental record for South America.

**ANTARCTIC SEA ICE EXTENT**  
December 2016 sea ice extent was 22.2% below the 1981-2010 average, the smallest extent in the 37-year satellite record.

**AUSTRALIA**  
Australia observed its 5<sup>th</sup> wettest December in its 117-year record. South Australia was record wet for the month, while the Northern Territory and Western Australia were both 3<sup>rd</sup> wettest.



Please Note: Material provided in this map was compiled from NOAA's State of the Climate Reports. For more information please visit: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc>