

Austria's glaciers shrank in 2012, study says

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The Tiefenbach glacier in Austria on October 31, 2012. Nearly all of Austria's glaciers shrank significantly last year, with one glacier receding a record 97.3 metres (319.2 feet), the Austrian Alpine Association (OeAV) said Friday.

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Out of the 95 glaciers measured, 93 retreated an average 17.4 metres (57 feet) in 2012 while just two were unchanged, the body said in its annual

report.

One of the masses of ice, the Pasterze glacier that counts as Austria's longest, showed the biggest recorded loss—97.3 metres—since records began in 1879.

In 2011, the group found Austrian glaciers declined by an average of 17 metres, compared to 14 metres in 2010.

According to the latest findings, 98 percent of the country's glaciers retreated in 2012.

"The reason for the declines is last year's high [average temperature](#)," said Andrea Fischer of the University of Innsbruck, charged with tracking the glaciers for the alpine club.

Fischer said she expected the country's [glaciers](#) to decline further in coming years.

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