

# Report reassesses variations in global warming

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Experts at the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) have issued a new assessment of temperature trends and variations from the latest available data and analyses. They present evidence that global warming slowed less from 1998 to 2012 than first thought.

The experts also document substantial warming since then: global [temperature](#) peaked in February 2016 at a level around 1.5°C above its level early in the Industrial Revolution. Pursuing efforts to limit the long-term temperature increase to 1.5 °C was a goal set in the Paris Agreement in 2015.

"It is salutary that the world touched the 1.5°C level less than twenty years after touching the 1°C level in the record-breaking year of 1998, following a strong El Niño," said Prof. Adrian Simmons, lead author of the *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society* article.

"The updates we publish each month for the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service show a temperature fall of only around 0.3°C since this February's El Niño peak." He added that [global temperature](#) remains high partly because sea-ice extent (the area of ocean where there is at least some sea ice) is exceptionally low in both hemispheres.

**More information:** A. J. Simmons et al, A reassessment of temperature variations and trends from global reanalyses and monthly

surface climatological datasets, *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society* (2016). [DOI: 10.1002/qj.2949](https://doi.org/10.1002/qj.2949)

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