

Russia's 2020 Average Temperatures Broke All Records – Ministry

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Last year's spike marks the first time average temperatures have been over 3 degrees Celsius higher than the norm since measurements began. **Gavriil Grigorov / TASS**

Russia's 2020 temperatures were a record 3.22 degrees Celsius above the historical average, according to a new [draft report](#) by Environment Ministry experts published on Tuesday.

The spike represents the first time temperatures have been over 3 C higher than the norm since measurements began in 1936. Last year's anomaly beat the previous record seen in 2007 by more than 1 C, the report said.

Winter 2019–2020 was also the warmest winter since 1936 in all but two Russian regions, with nationwide temperatures 5 C higher than the 1961–1990 average.

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Russia is a signatory to the 2015 Paris Agreement which seeks to keep global warming within 2

C above pre-industrial levels — a goal that UN climate experts warned is at risk of becoming impossible if urgent action isn't taken to cut carbon emissions.

Nearly three-quarters — 72% — of Russia's territory experienced an extreme weather event of some kind in 2020, according to the report.

In 2020, Russia's Emergencies Ministry reported 104 weather emergencies nationwide, more than double the number recorded the previous year. The number of dangerous flooding events doubled, forest fires quadrupled and hurricanes and severe storms rose tenfold over 2019 levels.

“This trend remains true in 2021. The number and scale of dangerous natural events are rising and so is the damage inflicted by them,” Vasily Yablokov, head of Greenpeace Russia's climate change division, [told](#) the Kommersant business daily. “And it will get worse with every year.”

The draft report must go through a series of public hearings before it can become official.

Its findings add to the urgency facing the world's largest country — which is warming 2.5 times faster than the rest of the world — as its leadership wakes up to the realities of manmade climate change.

President Vladimir Putin [vowed](#) to allocate funding to protect the country's forests after unprecedented fires tore across Siberia this summer, a disaster experts linked to climate change, negligence and an underfunded forest service.

Some 57% of Russians say they already feel the impact of the climate crisis on their daily lives, according to a [poll](#) last year by the state-run polling agency VTsIOM. However, 25% of Russians remain [skeptical](#) that climate change is linked to human activity.

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