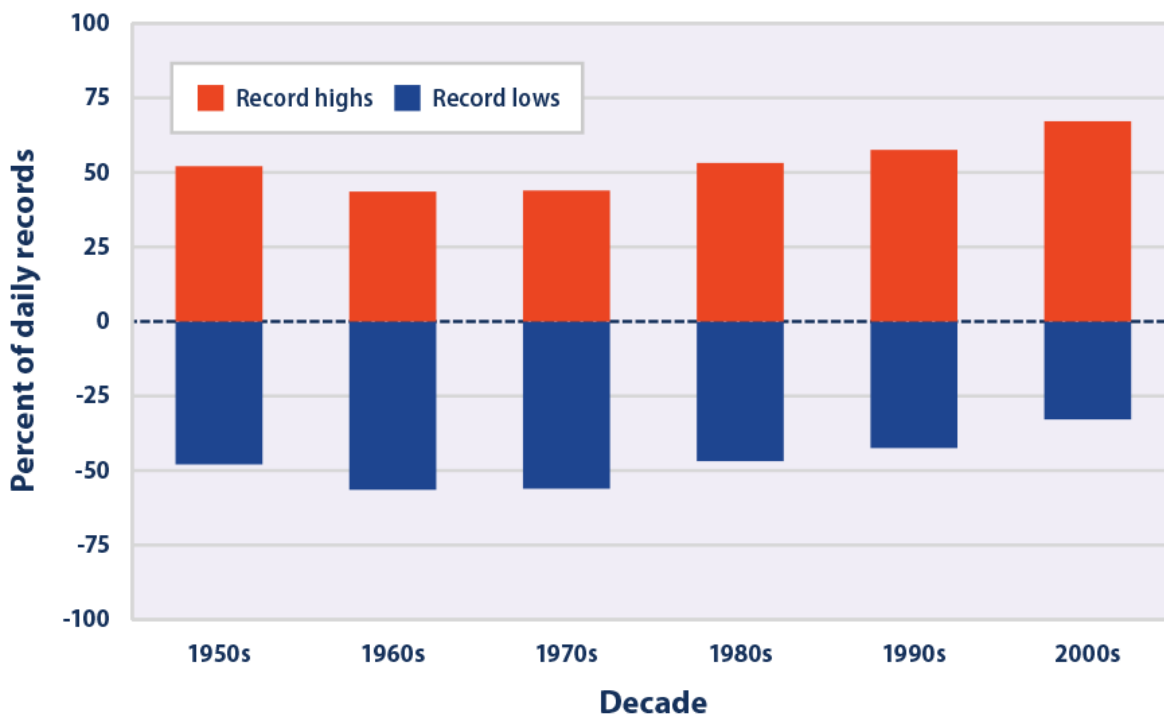


Figure 6. Record Daily High and Low Temperatures in the Contiguous 48 States, 1950–2009



This figure shows the percentage of daily temperature records set at weather stations across the contiguous 48 states by decade. Record highs (red) are compared with record lows (blue).

Data source: Meehl et al., 2009¹¹

Indicator Notes

Temperature data are less certain for the early part of the 20th century because fewer stations were operating at that time. In addition, measuring devices and methods have changed over time, and some stations have moved. The data have been adjusted to the extent possible to account for some of these influences and biases, however, and these uncertainties are not sufficient to change the fundamental trends shown in the figures.

Data Sources

The data for this indicator are based on measurements from weather stations managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Figure 1 uses data from the National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Network. Figures 2 and 3 come from the U.S. Climate Extremes Index, which is based on a smaller group of long-term weather stations that are tracked by the National Centers for Environmental Information and referred to as the U.S. Historical Climatology Network. Figures 4 and 5 use data from a somewhat larger set of stations tracked by the National Centers for Environmental

Information, known as the Global Historical Climatology Network. Figure 6 uses National Weather Service data processed by Meehl et al. (2009).¹² All of these weather station records are available online at: www.ncdc.noaa.gov, and information about the Climate Extremes Index can be found at: www.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/cei.

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 - ⁹ NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). 2016. National Centers for Environmental Information. Accessed May 2016. www.ncdc.noaa.gov.
 - ¹⁰ NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). 2016. National Centers for Environmental Information. Accessed May 2016. www.ncdc.noaa.gov.
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