

Arctic change in 2025

A compact, sourced reading of selected results from the NOAA Arctic Report Card 2025.



Generated illustrative image. It does not document a Still North expedition or collapse event.

The facts below are NOAA results, not measurements by the fictional Still North institute. Periods, baselines, units, ranks, and uncertainty remain attached because each changes what the result means.

+1.60°C

A warm Arctic water year

The 2025 Arctic water year was the warmest since at least 1900. Mean surface air temperature was 1.60°C above the 1991 to 2020 average. A water year and its baseline define the comparison.

[NOAA Surface Air Temperature 2025](#)

4.60 million km²

Sea ice at both seasonal limits

March 2025 had the lowest sea-ice maximum in the satellite record. The September daily minimum was 4.60 million km² and ranked tenth lowest. Extent differs from area, thickness, volume, age, and local travel conditions.

The same assessment reports that ice older than four years has declined by more than 95% since the 1980s, leaving a cover dominated by younger ice.

[NOAA Sea Ice 2025](#)

-129 ± 50 Gt

Greenland mass balance

The assessed Greenland mass balance was -129 ± 50 Gt. The uncertainty is part of the result. Estimating the whole ice sheet combines accumulation, runoff, flow, and ice discharge from complementary observations and models.

[NOAA Greenland Ice Sheet 2025](#)

Third highest

Tundra greenness

Tundra greenness reached the third-highest value in the 26-year MODIS satellite record. Greenness is a remote-sensing indicator, not a universal measure of ecological benefit. Local plants, moisture, snow, disturbance, herbivory, and timing can produce different consequences.

[NOAA Tundra Greenness 2025](#)

More than 200

Documented rusting watersheds

More than 200 affected watersheds have been documented. Mineral exposure associated with thaw can alter color and chemistry. The count is not a complete census, and orange color alone does not identify cause, duration, chemistry, or biological effect at one stream.

[NOAA Rusting Rivers 2025](#)

Read the observing system too

Headline results depend on stations, satellites, ships, community observations, data systems, maintenance, governance, and skilled people. Gaps and method changes remain part of the record.

- [Atlantification of the Arctic Ocean](#)
- [Assessing the Arctic observing network](#)
- [Complete NOAA Arctic Report Card 2025](#)

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Prepared for demo.searchcue.com. Consult the linked NOAA chapters for methods, authors, figures, and complete references.