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WINTERS WARMING FASTEST IN COLDEST STATES

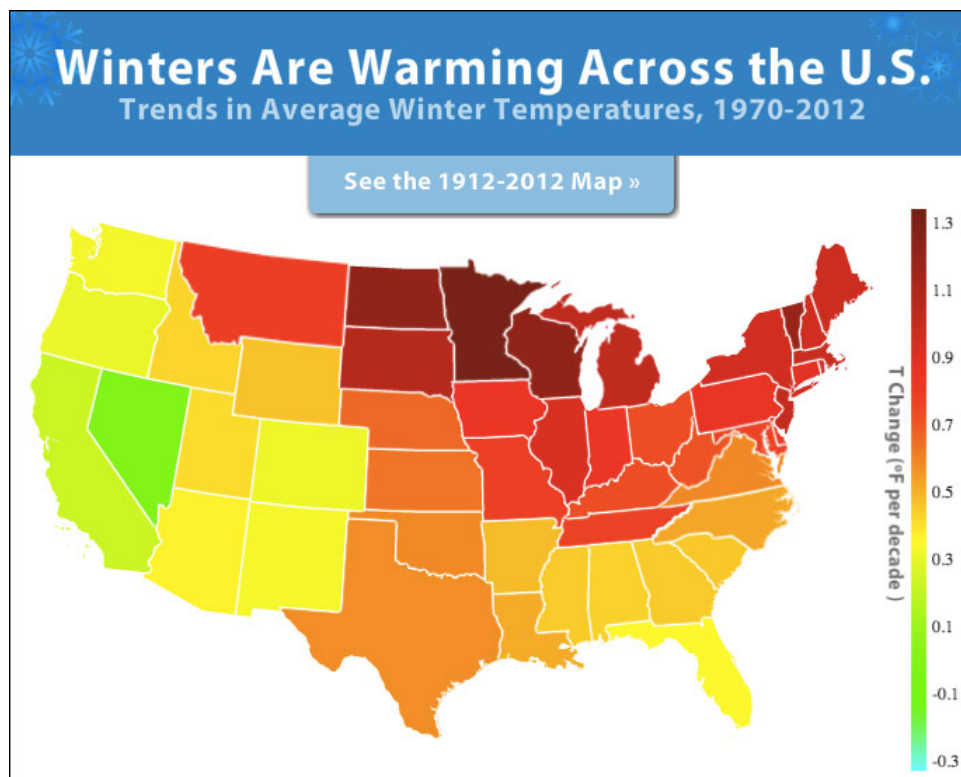
Winter temperatures up more than 4 degrees F in just 43 years in some states

PRINCETON, N.J. – A dramatic winter warming trend has developed since 1970, with the coldest states warming the fastest, according to an analysis of 101 years of temperature records. The data, collected from thousands of government weather stations, is analyzed in the report [Warming Winters](#) by Climate Central, a science and journalism organization based in Princeton, N.J.

In the past 43 years, average winter temperatures have increased in all of the lower 48 states, at a rate more than four-and-a-half times faster per decade than the rate over the past 100 years.

And cold states lead the way. Winters in the top 5 fastest-warming states – Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Vermont and South Dakota – heated up four-and-a-half times faster than winters in the five slowest-warming states – Nevada, California, Oregon, Colorado, and Washington – since 1970.

Climate Central's new interactive graphic illustrates how winter temperatures have warmed state-by-state since both 1970 and 1912.



[Click Here](#) to explore the interactive

When measured over the past century, winters in some states actually got colder. December-through-February temperatures in 13 states, mostly in the Southeast, bucked the warming trend over the past 101 years and either cooled significantly or exhibited a non-significant slight cooling trend. But even in those 13 states, winters have been warming since 1970.

Winter nights in some states have warmed even more dramatically. Across the nation, winter nighttime

temperatures warmed about 30 percent faster than yearly average nighttime temperatures. And since 1970, overnight winter temperatures in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Vermont have warmed faster than 1.25°F per decade, or more than 5°F in just 43 years.

“There has been a dramatic winter-warming trend in northern states since 1970,” said Alyson Kenward, a senior scientist at Climate Central and co-author of the report. “But not all regions warm at the same pace or during the same time of year.

“Winters in some states are warming slowly, including states that are heating up the fastest overall, like Arizona and Colorado,” Kenward said, “providing further evidence of the acute regional and seasonal variations in our changing climate.”

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[Climate Central](#) is a non-profit science and journalism organization, headquartered in Princeton, N.J.

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