

# Arctic Report Card: Update for 2014

Tracking recent environmental changes

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### What's new in 2014?

**Rising air and sea temperatures continue to trigger changes in the Arctic.** *The Arctic is warming at twice the rate of anywhere else on Earth.*

However, natural variation remains, such as the slight increase in March 2014 sea ice thickness and only a slight decrease in total mass of the Greenland ice sheet in summer 2014.



### Highlights

**The warming Arctic atmosphere was strongly connected** to lower latitudes in early 2014 causing cold air outbreaks into the eastern USA and warm air intrusions into Alaska and northern Europe.

**Snow cover extent** in April 2014 in Eurasia was the lowest since 1967 and **sea ice extent** in September was the 6th lowest since 1979.

**Polar bears numbers** in western Hudson Bay and the southern Beaufort Sea are decreasing in connection with a decrease in the availability of sea ice.

**The tundra is "browning"** as the length of the growing season is decreasing in Eurasia, but maximum tundra greenness and biomass are increasing across the Arctic.

**Sea surface temperatures and primary production** are increasing as the sea ice retreats throughout the Arctic Ocean.

**On the Greenland ice sheet** nearly 40% of the surface experienced melting conditions in summer 2014 and the albedo (reflectivity) reached a new record low value in August.



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