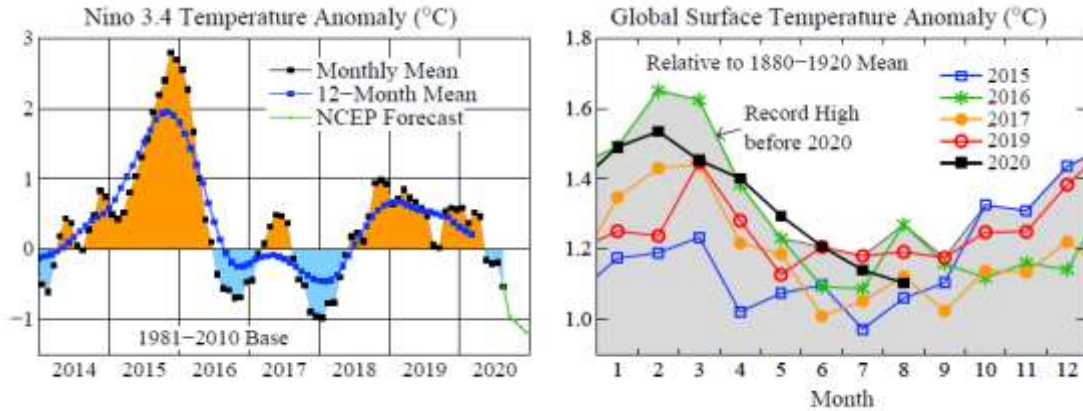


## August 2020 Global Temperature Update



August 2020 was the fourth warmest August since adequate global data began in 1880. Global temperature was 0.85°C relative to the 1951-1980 base period and 1.10°C relative to the 1880-1920 mean. Warmer Augusts were in 2016 (1.27°C), 2019 (1.19°C) and 2017 (1.12°C) relative to the 1880-1920 mean.

2020 thus stumbled in its [horserace](#) with 2016 for record warm year (upper right figure), perhaps dragged down by the developing La Nina (upper left), as we cautioned in our [April Temperature Update](#). It's still possible for 2020 to catch 2016, though, as the late months in 2016 were also cooled by a La Nina.

The important question concerns the acceleration in global warming in recent years, as global temperature in the past five years has been well above the nearly linear trend of warming in the past 50 years. We will discuss the relation between the accelerated warming and climate forcings in a future communication.

It was extremely hot in the large portion of Central Europe and the Southwest United States in August. Death Valley, California reached a record high 130°F (54.4°C). This heat wave continued into September and is contributing to the severity and spread of wildfires in the western states.

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