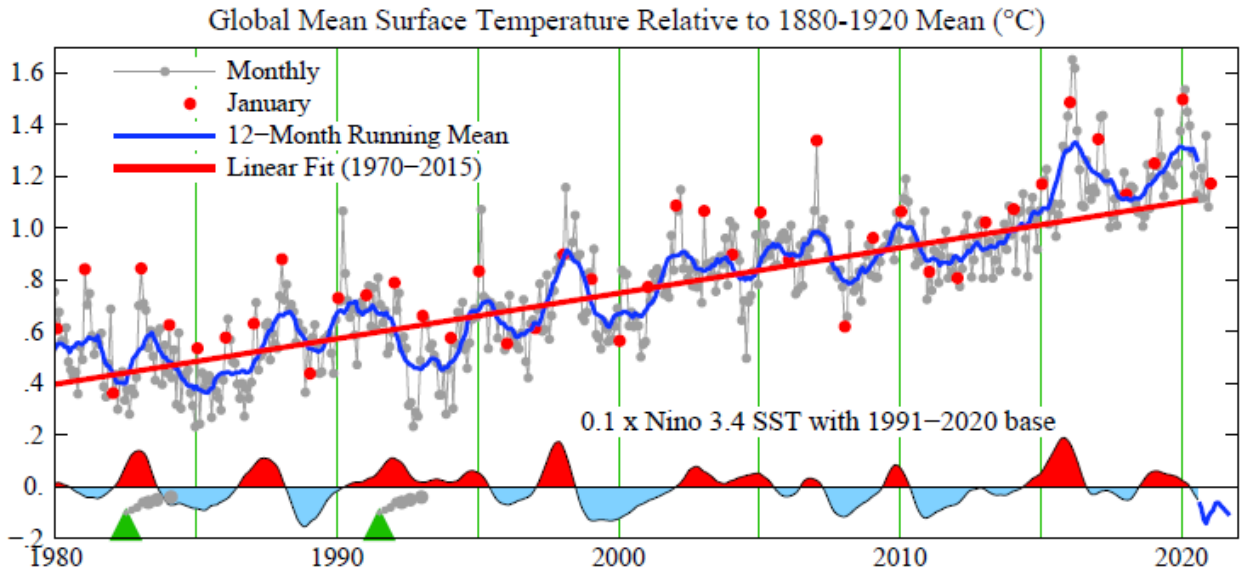


January 2021 Global Temperature Update



2020 vs. 2016 horse race is over – a virtual dead heat, despite the minimal El Nino push of 2020. What can we learn this year? The big question concerns the reality of apparent global warming acceleration since 2015. So, the thing to watch is how much the current La Nina will cool the planet, specifically the blue line, the 12-month running mean global temperature. If the blue line minimum does not drop below the red trend line, we probably have a real acceleration that we can then try to relate to climate forcings.

January 2021 was a lot (0.32°C) cooler than January 2020. January 2021 was the 6th warmest January since adequate global data began in 1880, at +0.86°C relative to the 1951-1980 base period and +1.17°C relative to the 1880-1920 mean. Below are global maps of temperature anomalies for the past six Januarys. North America and the Arctic were unusually warm in January 2021, but some people in Siberia must have realized they were still living in Siberia. After 2020 – when it was 10°C above normal – they thought things had changed. Well, climate has changed – but not that much.

Sign up for our Monthly Temperature Updates [here](#). Sign up for our other Communications [here](#).

January Surface Temperature Relative to 1951-1980 Mean (°C)

