

CLIMATE FACT CHECK: JUNE 2026 EDITION

Exposing false climate claims about alleged 'looming' catastrophe,
Antarctica, heatwaves, & food production

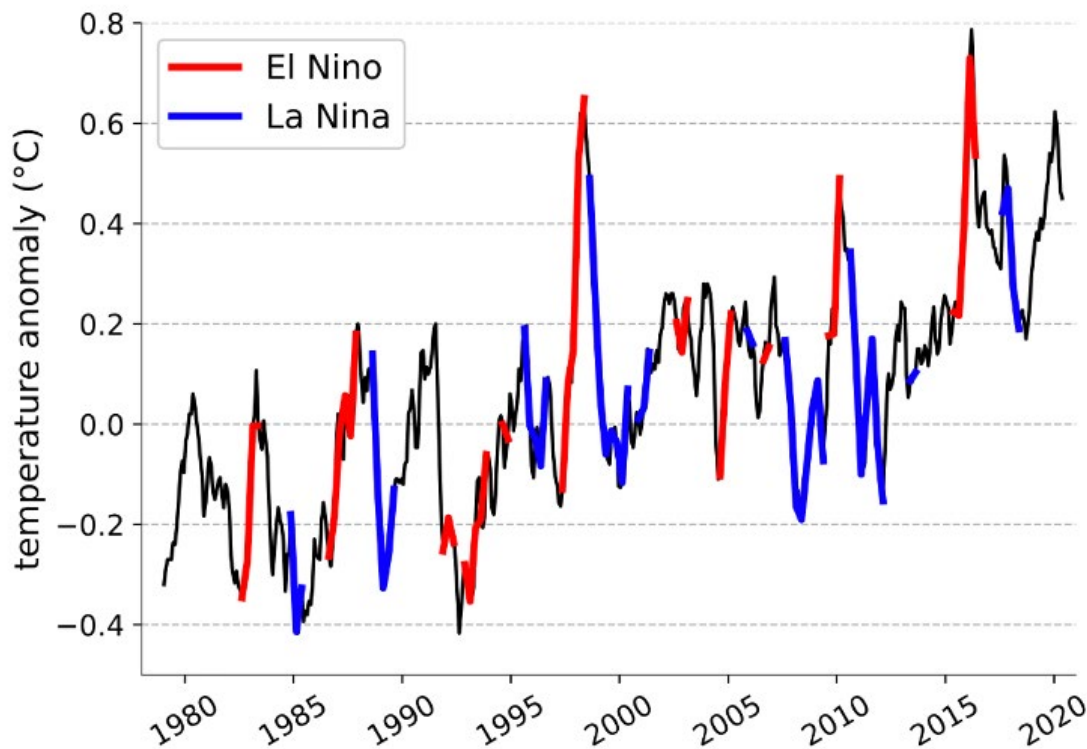
June 10th: The developing “super El Niño” is not creating a looming climate catastrophe



REUTERS

Claim: Recent reporting from outlets like [Reuters](#) and [The Independent](#) suggests that the much-anticipated strong El Niño developing in the equatorial Pacific Ocean will cause record-high temperatures and bad weather. In particular, *Reuters* claims that the El Niño episode will be so bad because it comes on top of and is exacerbated by anthropogenic climate change, which will potentially make 2027 the “hottest year on record.”

Fact-Check: El Niño is nothing new. It is not caused by increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentration. It is a naturally occurring [ocean-atmosphere oscillation](#) that develops every 2–7 years when Pacific trade winds weaken, allowing warmer surface waters to shift eastward. This phenomenon has been documented for centuries. A temporary temperature spike during El Niño does not prove that global warming is accelerating any more than a temperature dip during La Niña is proof that the planet is about to experience a long-term cooling trend. What it does demonstrate, however, is that there is significant internal variability, which satellite-derived bulk atmospheric temperature data from the [University of Alabama in Huntsville \(UAH\)](#) clearly show.



June 14th: No Futurism, one momentary hot spot in Antarctica doesn't prove there is a climate crisis

Futurism

Claim: A [recent article](#) in the online journal *Futurism* claims that climate change caused a "huge heatwave" in Antarctica, bringing temperatures on the Antarctic Peninsula nearly 36°F above average and briefly pushing readings above freezing. The article is largely a rewrite of a [Guardian story](#) focused on temperatures measured on the Trinity Peninsula, the northernmost extension of Antarctica. Researchers reported temperatures reaching approximately 15.4°C (59.7°F) briefly on June 6th.

Fact-Check: This article is highly misleading. An individual weather event tells us nothing meaningful about long-term climate trends. The Antarctic "heatwave" was not continent-wide, but rather a localized, unalarming event. The *Futurism* article failed to mention the exceptionally cold conditions occurring simultaneously elsewhere on the continent. [According to observations](#), the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station recorded a temperature of -73.6°C (-100.5°F) on June 16th, with a daily maximum of only -69.9°C (-93.8°F). That was the South Pole's first sub -70°C reading since 2023. Antarctica also set a new worldwide [low-temperature record for March](#) earlier this year, when Vostok dipped to -76.4°C (-105.5°F) on March 24th. Lastly, the warmest region in Antarctica is the Antarctic Peninsula. Nicknamed the "[banana belt](#)," it stretches northward toward South America and experiences milder maritime conditions. During austral summer, temperatures have been known to exceed 10°C (50°F), albeit briefly.

MIN. TEMPERATURE (C) 03/25/2026 00:00 UTC



June 21st: No, extreme heat is not the deadliest “climate hazard”



UNITED NATIONS

Claim: Amidst the late June European heatwave, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) claimed in a [recent X post](#) that “Extreme heat kills more people each year than all other climate hazards.”

Fact-Check: The United Nations is incorrect. Extreme heat is actually humans’ smallest temperature risk in most regions. From 2000–19, [extreme heat](#) was linked to an annual average of 153,078 excess deaths globally (e.g., hyperthermia or heatstroke). But over that same period, [extreme cold](#) was linked to 205,932 deaths (e.g., hypothermia) per year. Extreme cold exposure therefore kills ~1.3x more people each year than extreme heat. [Peer-reviewed research](#) has found that extreme cold kills more than 47,000 people per year in Asia each year, on average, than extreme heat. That figure is well over 6,500 in Europe, Latin America, and North America too.

UNDRR @UNDRR

Extreme heat kills more people each year than all other climate hazards. Yet public finance systems are reactive, only spending after the crisis.

[@UNDRR](#) and [@NDMAIndia](#) report sets out a comprehensive heat resilience financing strategy [ow.ly/pLRc50ZeWWi](#) #BeatTheHeat

A comprehensive heat resilience financing strategy combines risk reduction and shock absorption

Heat resilience financing strategy

Risk reduction

- Public budgets
- Concessional finance
- policy reforms (regulation, procurement, etc)
- Fiscal incentives
- Capital-market instruments

Shock absorption

Risk retention

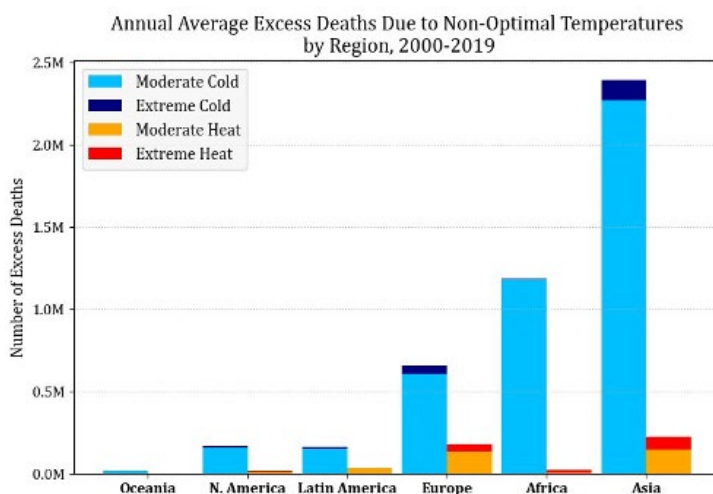
- Disaster funds
- Contingent credits
- Scalable social protection

Risk transfer

- Insurance, risk pools, etc

Together, public budgets, private capital, and pre-arranged financial protection can help build heat resilience and provide resources to respond to crises

Source: UNDRR & NDMA, 2023



Data source: Zhao Q. et al. Global, regional, and national burden of mortality associated with non-optimal ambient temperatures from 2000 to 2019: a three-stage modelling study. *Lancet Planet Health*. 2021 Jul;5(7):e415-e425. doi: 10.1016/S2542-5196(21)00081-4. PMID: 34245712.

Gao Y. et al.; MCC Collaborative Research Network. Global, regional, and national burden of mortality associated with cold spells during 2000-19: a three-stage modelling study. *Lancet Planet Health*. 2024 Feb;8(2):e108-e116. doi: 10.1016/S2542-5196(23)00277-2. PMID: 38331527

Zhao Q, Li S, Ye T, Wu Y, Gasparrini A, Tong S, et al. (2024) Global, regional, and national burden of heatwave-related mortality from 1990 to 2019: A three-stage modelling study. *PLoS Med* 21(5): e1004364. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1004364>

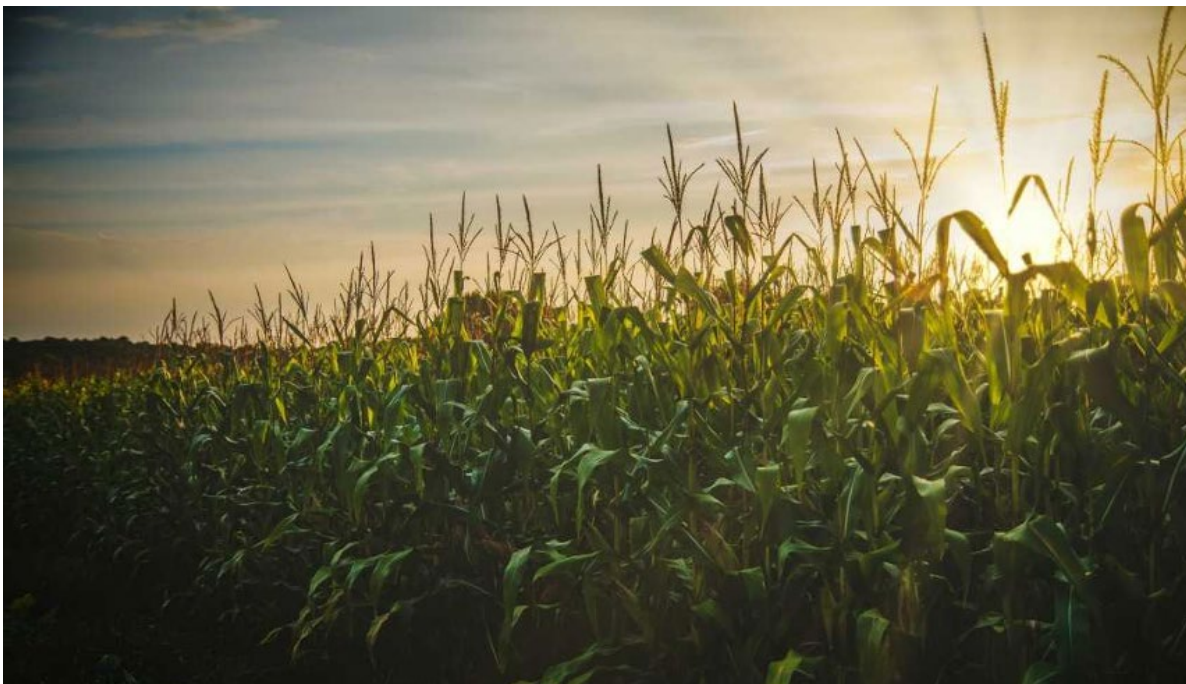
Chart: Chris Martz

June 26th: Wrong, Bloomberg, climate change has not curtailed food production and raised prices



Claim: *Bloomberg's* news agency recently [published a story](#) claiming that climate change is "ratcheting up prices" by turning "one-off weather shocks into more regular events that can decimate harvests and strain supply chains." It asserts that "As their effects compound, extreme heat and droughts threaten to make climate inflation an economic fixture" and that "economists predict that the higher temperatures climb, the more bloated household costs like groceries may become."

Fact-Check: This story is replete with false claims about both worsening weather and worsening crop production. Data from the United Nations [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)](#) show that global crop production of major staples has dramatically increased during a period of modest warming and rising CO₂ levels, setting record after record despite short-term shocks from geopolitical events, pandemics, or weather. CO₂ acts as an [aerial fertilizer](#), enhancing photosynthesis and water-use efficiency in plants; thousands of experiments confirm yield boosts ([~33% with doubled CO₂ in controlled settings](#), and real-world gains are also substantial). Global warming has [lengthened growing seasons](#), reduced frost events, and expanded arable land, contributing to the largest decline in hunger in history. The United Nations reports the number of hungry people has fallen by roughly [two billion since 1990](#). Contrary to the story's implications of worsening extremes driving permanent "climate inflation," the IPCC expresses [low confidence](#) in detectable human influence on global trends in both droughts or floods (with mixed regional signals and no clear attribution for worsening agricultural outcomes tied to CO₂ emissions).



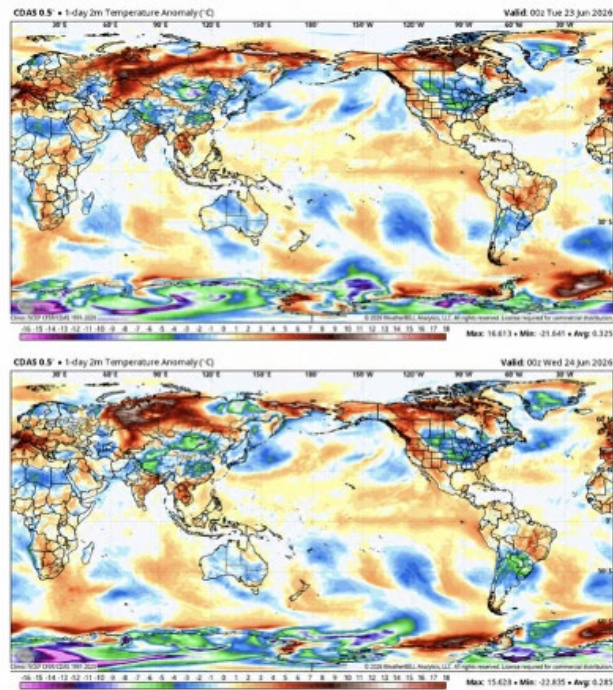
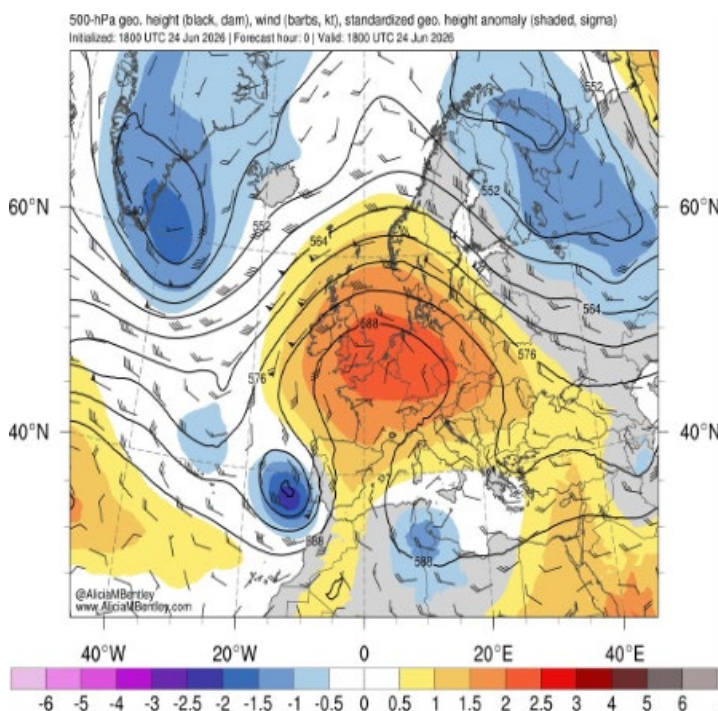
June 26th: No, Washington Post, the June European heatwave was not “virtually impossible” without climate change.



Claim: *The Washington Post* published an [article](#) detailing the rather intense heatwave that gripped Europe in late June.

Predictably, they cited a [new rapid attribution “study”](#) published online by the overzealous World Weather Attribution (WWA) claiming that “The extreme heat would have been ‘virtually impossible’ 50 years ago.”

Fact-Check: This is misleading, at best. Individual weather events, including heatwaves, tell us nothing about long-term trends. The heatwave was caused by an “omega block” in the jet stream. Omega blocks get their name because they resemble the Greek letter omega, Ω . Hot Saharan air was transported northward, then compressed beneath the ridge. The ideal gas law states that if the pressure on a gas is increased, its temperature will rise. That’s how heatwaves form. This process has nothing to do with greenhouse gases. There are even studies suggesting that a reduced north-south temperature difference due to global warming (specifically Arctic amplification) could reduce atmospheric blocking events. The global mean surface temperature also fell from day to day, proving that a warmer background state does not cause heatwaves.



Until next month, enjoy these and other great climate fact checks at:

[ClimateRealism.com](#)

- [No, The Conversation, the AMOC Doesn't Have an Image Problem. It Has a Credibility Problem](#)
- [Wrong, ScienceAlert: Sea Level 'Acceleration' Isn't What the Measured Data Show](#)
- [No, New York Times, Climate Change Is Not Making Tennis Players Ill](#)

[ClimateDepot.com](#)

- [UN climate agency warns of 'slower' games due to 'extreme heat during the World Cup](#)
- [Physicist Dr. Will Happer warned the world has been taken in by 'the climate madness of a pseudo-scientific doomsday cult'](#)
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[Wattsupwiththat.com](#)

- [It's Summer Again, So Media Tees-Up Another Round of 'Heat Dome' Mania](#)
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