

While some parts of the U.S. are warming rapidly and others show signs of cooling, Dallas-Fort Worth sits somewhere in the middle, according to an analysis by *The Washington Post*.

For years, 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit (2 degrees Celsius) has been recognized as a critical global warming threshold. Scientists and researchers believe that if Earth's average temperature rises by that figure by 2100, catastrophic changes could follow.

The Post's study of more than a century's worth of temperature data across the Lower 48 states and 3,107 U.S. counties found that 71 counties have already hit that mark. *The Post* analyzed the data to find a relationship between average annual temperatures and the passage of time.

What temperature rises have North Texas counties seen? From 1895 to 2018, according to *The Post's* report, Collin County saw an increase of 0.7 degree Fahrenheit. Smaller increases were seen in Dallas (0.1 degree), Tarrant (0.3 degree) and Denton (0.5 degree) counties.



[The Washington Post](#)

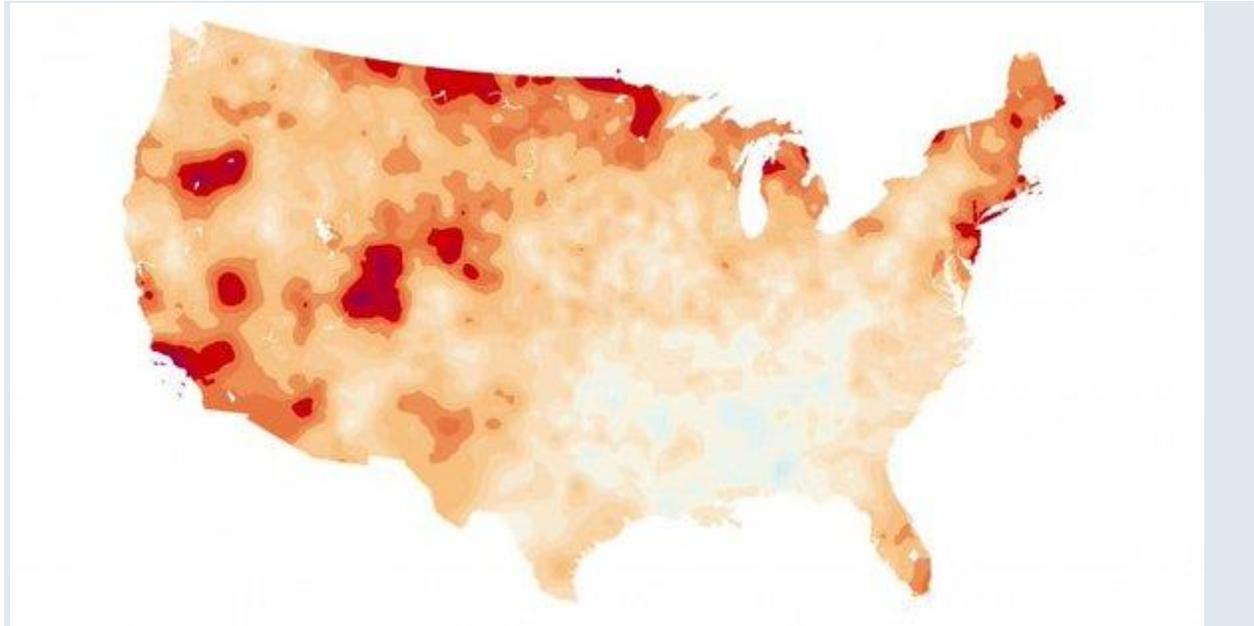
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Rhode Island is the first state in the Lower 48 whose average temperature rise has eclipsed 2 degrees Celsius.

Other parts of the Northeast — New Jersey, Connecticut, Maine and Massachusetts — trail close behind. <https://wapo.st/2c-hot-states>



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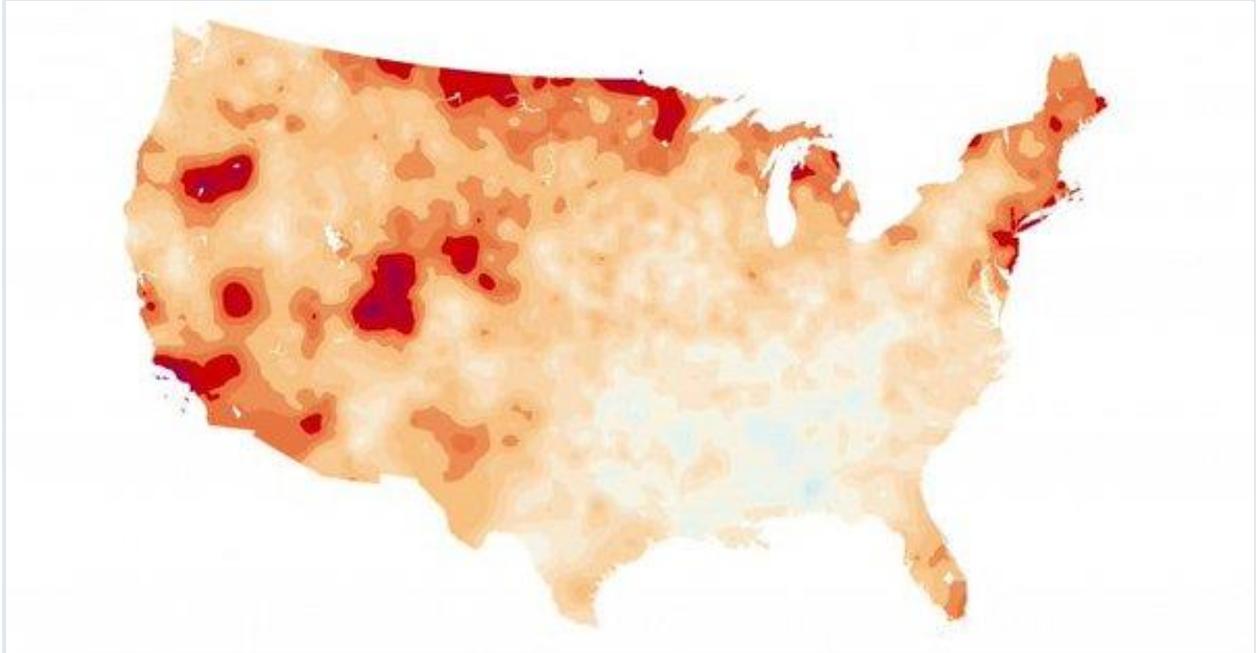


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This interactive graphic will show you the annual change in temperature for your county.

(You can also click any temperature underlined in the story to convert between Celsius and Fahrenheit.) <https://wapo.st/31EXTpJ>



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How do other major Texas counties compare? El Paso County saw a jump of 1.3 degrees, Harris County an increase of 0.9 degree and Travis County a bump of 0.7 degree, according to *The Post*.

By comparison, New York and Los Angeles counties, have seen far more rapid warming, with *The Post* reporting jumps of 3.9 and 4.1 degrees, respectively. That puts them above the threshold.

Not all portions of the U.S. are heating evenly, the study found. Alaska is the fastest-warming state, while Rhode Island was the first of the Lower 48 states to see its annual average temperature rise 2 degrees Celsius, or 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, according to the study.

Daniel Pauly, a marine scientist at the University of British Columbia, told *The Post* that areas that have already reached the threshold "are chunks of the future in the present."

In addition to climate change, several factors could be to blame for rising temperatures. Looking into smaller areas makes it harder to determine the cause of warming, according to *The Post's* study, which cited urban heat island effects, air pollution levels, ocean currents and El Niño weather patterns as possible reasons for warming in certain areas.

Other parts of the country, such as the South, have experienced a modest drop in average annual temperatures, the study found. Butler County in southern Alabama, for example, saw a decrease of 0.9 degree. Although trends were traced back to the late 1800s, the study notes that since the 1960s, temperatures in the South have risen.

Some Texas counties outside of Dallas-Fort Worth have also seen slight drops, *The Post* found, including dips of 0.4 degree in Ellis County and 0.2 degree in Kaufman County.

Link: <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/climate-change-1/2019/08/15/parts-us-hit-critical-global-warming-threshold-dallas-fort-worth-stands>