

Fig. 1: Global temperature variation, in Celsius; Trend since Nov. 16, 1978: $+0.13^{\circ}$ C per decade

Global composite temp.: $+0.29$ C (about 0.52° Fahrenheit) above 20-year average for February.

Northern Hemisphere: $+0.51$ C (about 0.92° Fahrenheit) above 20-year average for February.

Southern Hemisphere: $+0.08$ C (about 0.14° Fahrenheit) above 20-year average for February.

January temperatures (revised): Global Composite: $+0.31$ C above 20-year average

Northern Hemisphere: $+0.36$ C above 20-year average

Southern Hemisphere: $+0.25$ C above 20-year average

(All temperature variations are based on a 20-year average (1979-1998) for the month reported.)

Notes on data released March 7, 2005:

Virtually the entire Arctic region from 70° north latitude to the North Pole was warmer than seasonal norms in February, with some temperatures in the Beaufort Sea and Banks Island north of Canada's Yukon Territory as much as 7.5 C (13.5° Fahrenheit) warmer than seasonal norms, according to Dr. John

Christy, director of the Earth System Science Center at The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH).

In the past eight years there have been only five months when temperatures in the Arctic were cooler than seasonal norms.

At the same time, however, temperatures over

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much of Eastern Siberia and Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula dropped as much as 5.5 C (9.9° F) *below* seasonal norms.

Color maps of local temperature anomalies may soon be available on-line at:

<http://climate.uah.edu/>

The processed temperature data is available on-line at:

<http://vortex.nsstc.uah.edu/data/msu/t2lt/uahncdc.lt>

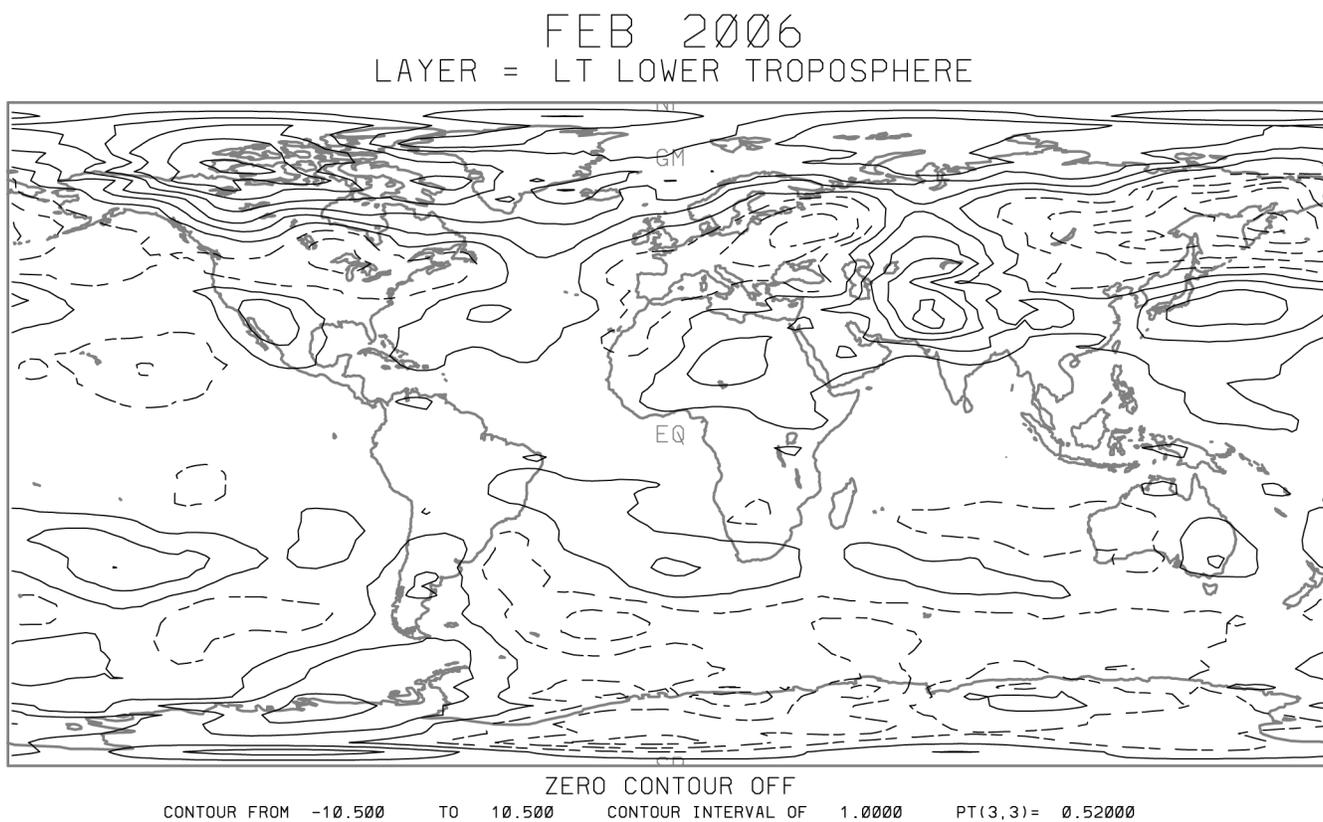
As part of an ongoing joint project between UAH and NOAA, Christy and Dr. Roy Spencer, a principal research scientist in the ESSC, use data gathered by microwave sounding units on NOAA satellites to get accurate temperature readings for almost all regions of the Earth. This includes remote desert, ocean and

rain forest areas for which reliable climate data are not otherwise available. The satellite-based instruments measure the temperature of the atmosphere from the surface up to an altitude of about eight kilometers above sea level.

Once the monthly temperature data is collected and processed, it is placed in a "public" computer file for immediate access by atmospheric scientists in the U.S. and abroad.

Neither Spencer nor Christy receives any research support or funding from oil, coal or industrial companies or organizations, or from any private or special interest groups. All of their climate research funding comes from state and federal grants or contracts.

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Broken lines outline areas cooler than seasonal norms; solid lines outline areas warmer than seasonal norms. Each contour represents one degree Celsius, starting at -0.5 and +0.5 degrees C.