Global Climate Update

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Melbourne high temperature of 115.5°F --- a 36°F anomaly.
Excessive air condition use ==> 0.5 million houses without electricity.
The climate of 2008

Jan-Dec Global Mean Temperature over Land & Ocean

Anomaly (°C) relative to 1901-2000

NCDC/NESDIS/NOAA
• 2008 mean anomaly of 0.49 °C wrt 1901-2000 (8th warmest)
• 2005 was the warmest at 0.61 °C
**ENSO** (Nino3.4): -0.80 °C, diminishing; forecast: zero by July

**PDO**: -1.27 standard deviations, intensifying; coupled model forecast: normal at coast by Jul-Aug-Sep
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)

Generated 3/5/2009 at HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA Regional Climate Centers
Canonical warm ENSO surface temperatures.

Opposite sign for this winter’s cold ENSO.
Precipitation Anomalies Dec-Feb 2009
(with respect to a 1961-1990 base period)
National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA
The extreme heatwave that scorched southern Australia during the end of January and beginning of February was accompanied by very dry conditions. These conditions contributed to the development of Australia's worst wildfires in history. Nearly 400 wildfires were blazing across Victoria; however, many feared that some of these fires were set by arsonists. Making matters worse was the wind, blowing the fires in unpredictable directions in minutes. The devastating fires decimated nearly 200,000 hectares (500,000 acres) of bushland in Victoria (CNN), burned over 2,000 homes, and killed 210 people (Associated Press/BBC News).” NOAA NCDC
The United States experienced its fifth driest December-February period on record. Texas had its driest winter ever and the Southeast experienced its 10th driest winter. Only the East-North-Central region (Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) had precipitation averages that were above normal.
Opposite sign for this winter’s cold ENSO.
Fargo North Dakota Precipitation

Precipitation
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

Accumulated Observed: thick line
Accumulated Normal: thin line

Daily Observed
Period Total: 3.5 inches: 89.1 mm
Surplus: 1.3 inches: 32.0 mm

Data updated through 28 MAR 2009

CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER/NCEP

1 January 28 March
April-May-June temperature probability. A continuation of cooler than normal conditions.

Interpret as the tilting of odds towards general categories of conditions.
April-May-June precipitation probability outlook. Drier than normal.

Precipitation skill from ENSO variability. ENSO is going away.