

Monthly Air Temperature Trends in Switzerland 1901-2000 and 1975-2004

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We analysed monthly temperature trends in Switzerland, focusing on the 20th Century (1901-2000) on one hand and on the past 30 years (1975-2004) on the other, in order to compare the regional with Northern Hemisphere and global trends and understand monthly geographical distributions.

Results show that Swiss temperature increases for both periods were twice as high as trends in mean values for global, Northern Hemisphere datasets (HadCRUT2v) during the 20th Century.

The Southern alpine area in Switzerland has warmed less than regions North of the alpine ridge during the 20th Century. During the past 30 years, we observed no significant differences between both sides of the Alps but stations below 1500 m.a.s.l. had stronger increasing trends than those at higher elevation.

Mean monthly trends during the 20th Century show that April, May and June have warmed less than average, July to September and January to March more than average. During the period 1975-2004 trends from September to January are lower while they are higher from February to August.