

From: CLIMLIST <climlist@SRCC.LSU.EDU>
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Subject: Radiosonde Data Products from NCDC

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NOAA announces the availability of a new dataset consisting of monthly time series of homogeneity-adjusted radiosonde temperatures. These are more suitable for the study of longer-term climate variability and change (e.g., interdecadal time-scales and trends) than unadjusted data from more traditional data archives. Temporal homogeneity may be compromised by artificial changes introduced via historical changes in instruments and recording practices.

These new data, Radiosonde Atmospheric Temperature Products for Assessing Climate (RATPAC), are now available online from the National Climatic Data Center. Data coverage is near-global from a limited network of 85 stations, beginning in 1958 and continuing to present. Data are available on 13 pressure levels from the surface to the stratosphere (up to 30 hPa).

RATPAC consists of two subsets of data:

- (1) RATPAC-A contains averages over large regions (e.g., global, hemispheric, tropical and extratropical domains). This set is recommended for analysis of interannual and longer-term changes over large areas.
- (2) RATPAC-B contains data for individual stations. This set is recommended for analysis of interannual and longer-term changes at individual station locations or for regional means on spatial scales smaller than those provided by RATPAC-A.

The RATPAC datasets were created through a collaborative effort involving NOAA scientists from the Air Resources Laboratory, the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, and the National Climatic Data Center. For more a complete explanation of the dataset construction methodology and rationale, and to access these data visit:

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/cab/ratpac/index.php>

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