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8 hours ago - Energy & Environment

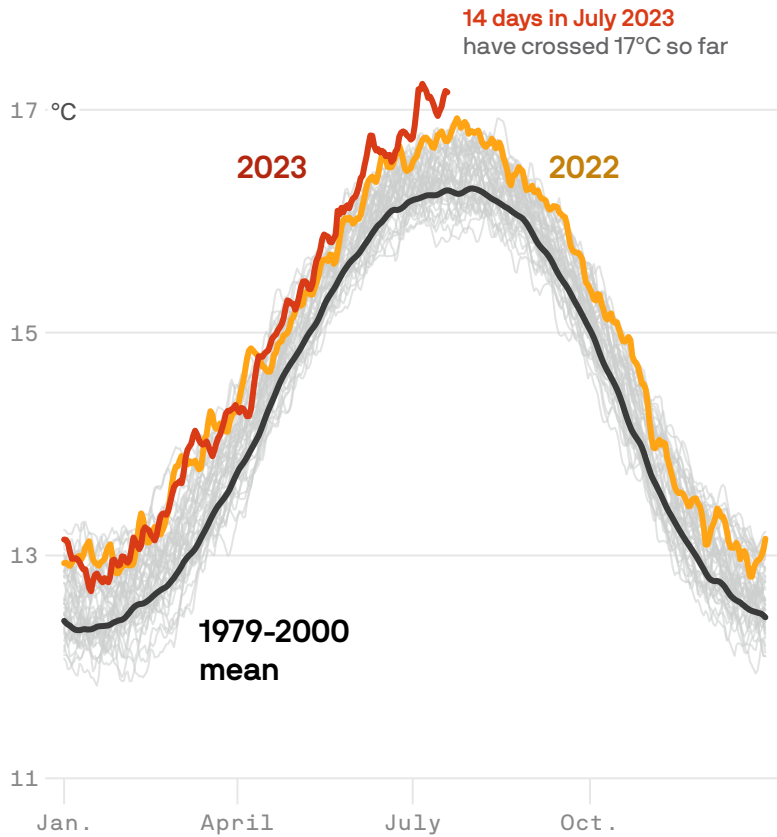
The 15 hottest days, in the world's hottest month



Andrew Freedman, author of [Axios Generate](#)



1979-2023 (As of July 19)



Data: NOAA CFS/CFSR via [Climate Reanalyzer](#), University of Maine; Chart: Simran Parwani/Axios

By the end of the week, it is likely that 15 days just this month will have breached an [unprecedented global temperature threshold](#) — a clarion wakeup call in the form of extreme weather.

Why it matters: [Nearly every facet of the climate system](#) is flashing red this summer, from record-low sea ice extent in Antarctica to [hot tub-like ocean waters surrounding South Florida](#), and [all-time high temperature records](#) set in multiple countries on at least three continents.

- And all this is occurring as [human-caused emissions](#) of greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels and other sources continue to increase, despite the existence of ever-

Zoom in: Already this month, 14 days have recorded surface air temperatures greater than 17°C (62.6°F) — spikes that have not been seen for roughly 125,000 years.

- In fact, Wednesday marked the 17th straight day with global temperatures hotter than any prior days on record.

Several more records are all but certain to fall in the coming weeks:

- July [will be the hottest month](#) on Earth since instrument records began in the 19th century.
- The milestone for the hottest summer worldwide is in jeopardy, according to the [European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts](#).
- NOAA and the ECMWF has said additional heat waves are likely in coming weeks, particularly if the dominant weather pattern — featuring multiple, stuck heat domes around the hemisphere — is not disrupted.

By the numbers: The heat domes worldwide have been noteworthy for their duration, expansiveness and severity. This is the case even in places famous for hot weather, where people would normally shrug off a hot stretch.

- The overnight minimum temperature Wednesday morning in Phoenix was a sweltering 97°F, an all time high for that location.
- On Friday, the city is forecast to have its record [20th-straight day](#) with a high temperature of 110°F or greater.
- Austin, Texas, has had [10-straight days](#) with a high temperature of 105°F or greater, an unprecedented streak.

- It is downright deadly, particularly for vulnerable populations including the elderly, young children, those with chronic illnesses and people without access to air conditioning.
- Early figures on heat-related deaths in parts of the U.S., for example, are starting to emerge, and in coming weeks it is likely these will climb.
- A [recent study](#) in the journal *Nature Medicine* found severe heat waves in Europe last summer killed as many as 61,000 people.

The intrigue: The 17°C demarcation line is not a hard climate boundary beyond which ice sheets will melt and the oceans rise inexorably. Rather, it represents yet another warning — a "Stop, turn back" sign on the march to a more treacherous and less familiar planet.

- It is also the product of a modern but not 100% precise method of carefully estimating the planet's temperature on a daily basis.
- It involves computer model reanalysis, in which data from ships, buoys, surface weather stations, satellites and other sources are crunched and calculated in near-real-time.

What they're saying: Forget about the overused expression, "the new normal," to describe our current climate moment. As Friedericke Otto, a climate scientist at Imperial College London told Axios, "We're nowhere near a normal."

- "Whenever we stop burning fossil fuels we can begin to figure out what 'normal' means again," Otto said.

summer of 1988, [told The Guardian](#): "We are headed wittingly into the new reality – we knew it was coming."

- He termed humanity "damned fools," saying: "We have to taste it to believe it."

The bottom line: Perhaps this is our taste of the new type of extreme heat, as we transition into even more unstable times. Because this is both one of the hottest summers of our lives, and one of the coolest of the rest of our lives.



Go deeper



Russell Contreras

2 hours ago - Politics & Policy

"Oppenheimer" brings painful memories for New Mexico Hispanics



Henry Herrera witnessed the Trinity Test. Photo illustration: Sarah Grillo/Axios. Photos: Russell Contreras/Axios, Bettmann/Contributor and Corbis via Getty Images

As cinephiles gear up for Friday's release of "[Oppenheimer](#)," the blockbuster biopic about the "father of the atomic bomb," some residents in southern New Mexico where the bomb was first tested say they've been largely erased from the narrative.

The big picture: Those residents say their families have battled rare cancers for generations and have been ignored while [Manhattan Project](#) scientists like [J. Robert Oppenheimer](#) are celebrated.

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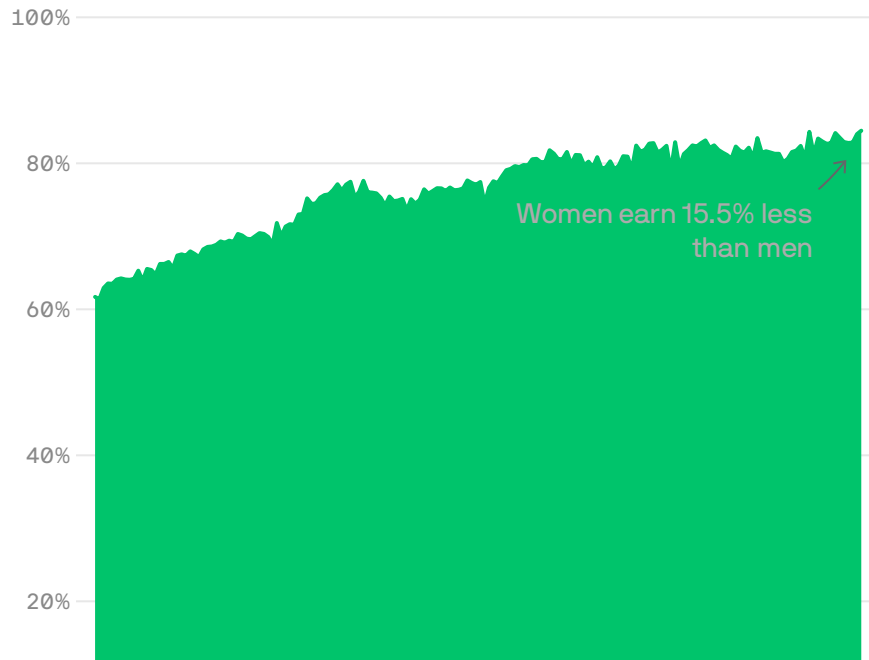


Courtenay Brown
3 hours ago - Economy & Business

Gender pay gap now the narrowest on record

women's earnings as a share of men's earnings

Median weekly earnings of full-time workers; Q1 1979 to Q2 2023



Data: Bureau of Labor Statistics; Note: Seasonally adjusted; Chart: Axios Visuals

America's working women were feared to suffer the worst in the pandemic recovery. The opposite, however, has proven to be the case, with [women serving as historic drivers](#) of a labor market that remains surprisingly strong.

Why it matters: The pay gap between full-time working women and male counterparts is now the narrowest on record. The dynamic has been long in the making — a reflection of discrimination's slow fade and other structural forces that have held women back on pay.

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AirTag and Tile stalking remains a thorny problem



Illustration: Annelise Capossela/Axios

Personal tracking devices like [AirTag](#) and Tile were designed to help avoid mishaps such as lost keys, but they're raising alarms about privacy and security.

Why it matters: Mounting accounts of the devices' misuse have prompted Apple and Google to try helping users identify and thwart tracking without consent — as states pass legislation outlawing this intrusion.

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