

The logo features the text "Maryland's Climate" in a white, cursive script font, positioned above the text "THE COCORAHS 'STATE CLIMATES' SERIES" in a white, all-caps, sans-serif font. Both are set against a dark green rectangular background.

Maryland's Climate

THE COCORAHS 'STATE CLIMATES' SERIES

Climate of Maryland: “Between Appalachian Mountains and Atlantic Ocean”

By Konstantin Vinnikov, Maryland State Climate Office

Maryland, a Mid-Atlantic coastal state, enjoys a beautiful climate. The proximity of the Atlantic Ocean keeps our climate mild and relatively stable. Annual mean Maryland average temperature was the lowest, 50.5° F, in 1904 and the highest, 57.2° F, in 1998. Maximum precipitation occurs in the summer and the minimum in the autumn. Each of Maryland’s seasons has its beauty. We enjoy blue skies and sunshine almost every day of the year.

Maryland has a good historical record of meteorological observations. Nevertheless, the last comprehensive analysis of Maryland’s climate was initiated and funded by Maryland’s government a hundred years ago. The resulting reports were published in 1899, 1907 and 1910 by the Maryland Weather Service and are available electronically from Google Books.

Studies of contemporary climate change in the region have shown that from 1895 to 2008, precipitation decreased in the summer and increased in the autumn. These changes in precipitation result in an observable summer decrease in river runoff. Quantitatively, the Maryland century-scale climate-warming trend is approximately equal to the global trend. It features slowly increasing temperatures and total precipitation but decreasing seasonal variation. Currently, the most important climate change threat facing Maryland is sea-level rise. Climatic records do not show significant change in Maryland weather variability.

Air quality in the state has improved from recent years. During the past two decades, ozone concentrations have been decreasing thanks to a large reduction in power plant NO_x emissions. However, Maryland power-plant SO₂ and CO₂ emissions have not changed significantly during the past decade.

For more information about the climate of Maryland please visit: <http://metosrv2.umd.edu/~climate/>

