

Brilliant fares to London.
Flights from only \$344*

* One-way based on r/t from NYC to LON. Taxes & fees extra.

BRITISH AIRWAYS

Book now ▶

 NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM

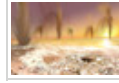
[Site Index](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Shop](#) | Search

Go

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC NEWS

REPORTING YOUR WORLD DAILY

TODAY'S BEST NEWS PHOTO



[Photo in the News: Martian Geysers Spew Ice, Dust](#)

VIDEO IN THE NEWS



[Video: First Captive-Bred Panda Released in China](#)

News Front Page

15 Most Popular News Stories

Photos in the News

Videos in the News

Animals & Nature News

Archaeology & Paleontology News

Environment News

Health News

History & Culture News

Offbeat News

Science & Space News

Travel & Adventure News

NEWS FEEDS

[XML](#) [RSS](#)

Get our news delivered directly to your desktop—free.

[How to Use XML or RSS](#)

PODCASTS

Download free [National Geographic podcasts](#), featuring news, travel, music, animals, and more!

[New to podcasts?](#)

FREE NEWSLETTER

Sign up for our free [Inside National Geographic newsletter](#).

Every two weeks we'll send you our top stories and photos ([see sample](#)).

CONTACT US

[News Front Page](#) > [Environment](#)

Greenland Ice Sheet Is Melting Faster, Study Says

John Roach
for [National Geographic News](#)
August 10, 2006

The Greenland ice sheet is melting three times faster today than it was five years ago, according to a new study.

The finding adds to evidence of increased global warming in recent years and indicates that melting polar ice sheets are pushing sea levels higher, the authors report.



[Enlarge Photo](#)

[Email to a Friend](#)

RELATED

[Greenland Glacier Losing Ice Much Faster, Study Says](#)

[Geo Signs: Glacial Melt Photos](#)

[Global Warming Is Rapidly Raising Sea Levels, Studies Warn](#)

According to the study, Greenland ice loss now amounts to more than 48 cubic miles (200 cubic kilometers) each year.

"Significant melting has a significant impact on sea level rise," said Jianli Chen, a research scientist at the University of Texas at Austin who led the study.

The finding, reported today by the online edition of the journal *Science*, closely agrees with another study on the [rapid wasting of Greenland's glaciers](#) published in the journal in February.

Both studies suggest the shrinking ice sheet now contributes about 0.02 inch (0.5 millimeter) a year to global sea level rise.

"That's a very big number," Chen said.

Losses and Gains

TODAY'S MOST POPULAR NEWS STORY



[Jellyfish Invasion Puts Sting on Europe Beaches](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

LATEST PHOTOS IN THE NEWS



[Martian Geysers Spew Ice, Dust](#)



[Looted Peru Headdress Recovered in London](#)



[Volcano Eruption Wipes Out Ecuador Villages](#)

[More Photos in the News](#)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S PHOTO OF THE DAY



• [Today's Photo](#)
• [Download as Wallpaper](#)

World Music



New at National Geographic
Explore artists, albums, and styles from around the globe.
[World Music](#)

SHOP



[Visual History of the World Book](#)

Losses and Gains

Global sea levels have risen by about 0.1 inch (2.8 millimeters) a year over the past decade.

If all the ice on Greenland were to melt into the North Atlantic Ocean, global sea levels would rise by about 21.3 feet (6.5 meters).

Thus scientists are keen to understand if the Danish-owned Arctic island ([Greenland map](#)) is losing more ice mass through melting and discharge of glaciers than it is gaining from fresh snowfall.

Richard Alley is a glaciologist at Pennsylvania State University in University Park who was not involved with the study.

Continued on [Next Page >>](#)

Click here to get 12 months of National Geographic Magazine

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
The Judas Gospel
\$19

Sponsored Links

[Ice Melting with a Weed Burner](#)

View weed burner video and photos. Melt ice and kill weeds with no chemicals.

www.eweedcontrol.com

[Snow Melt Cable](#)

Self-regulating heating cable gives freeze protection for roofs/gutters, melting snow and ice.

www.snowmeltcables.com

LATEST VIDEOS IN THE NEWS



[Video: First Captive-Bred Panda Released in China](#)



[Video: Everest Team Rescues Climber Left for Dead](#)



[Video: Sea Eagles Play "Chicken" in Turf Dispute](#)

[More Videos in the News](#)

SOURCES AND RELATED WEB SITES

[Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment](#)

[NASA Goddard Space Flight Center: Earth Observing System](#)

[Science](#)

[Pennsylvania State University: Geosciences](#)