This plot shows Earth's global average temperature relative to the average for twentieth century. The data come from the website of the National Centers for Environmental Information, formerly the National Climate Data Center (NCDC) of the U.S. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) at http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/. The data are from thermometer measurements of temperature, culled to avoid urban heating effects and other spurious influences.

The year 2015 was distinct both for setting the record for the highest temperature in the series and for the greatest one-year increase in temperature from the previous year.

For more context for these data, see the FQS pages on “Temperatures from the Last Glacial Maximum to the future” and on “Temperatures from the Middle Pleistocene to the future”.