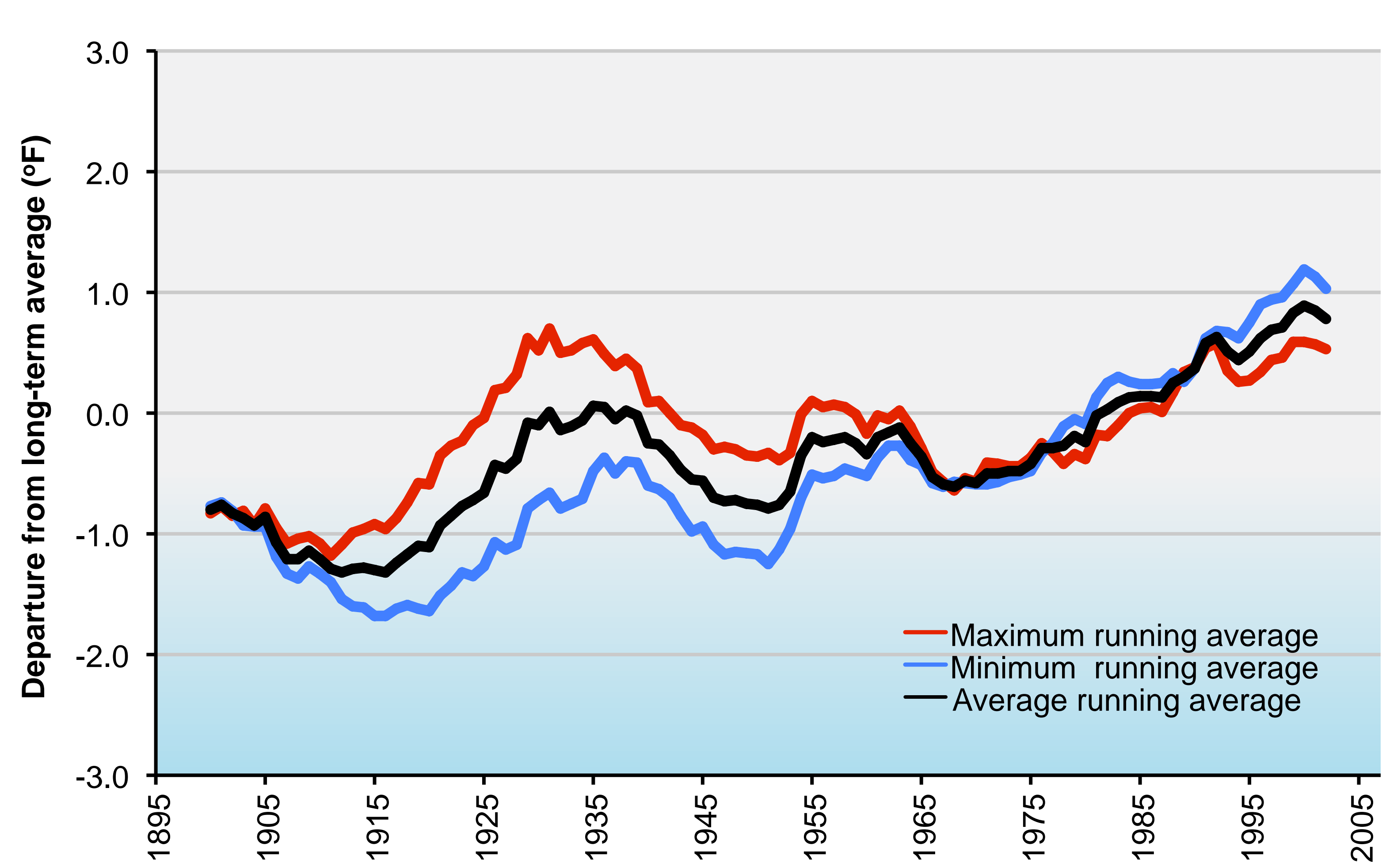


INDICATORS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN CALIFORNIA

Temperature is a direct indication of climate change. It is an important physical factor that can affect agriculture, forestry, water supplies and human and ecosystem health.

Statewide Annual Temperature Trends



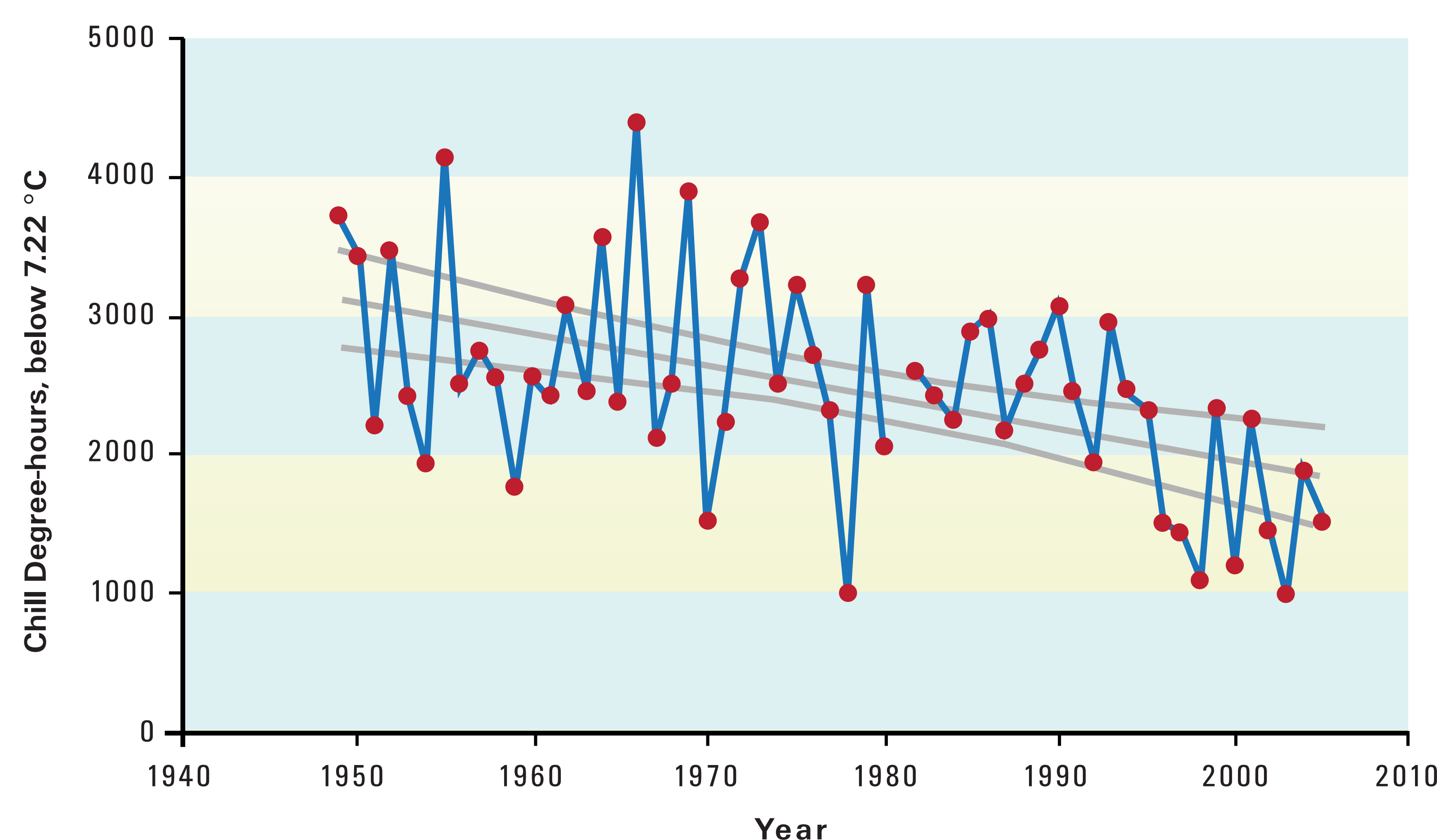
Source: Desert Research Institute, 2008

California's temperatures have been rising over the past century consistent with warming globally. Minimum temperatures—which correspond to nighttime temperatures—have been increasing at a faster rate than maximum temperatures since the mid-1970s.

CHANGES IN CLIMATE

- California has warmed by about 2°F in the past century. Nighttime temperatures are warming faster than daytime temperatures. Likewise, larger counties (with populations over 1 million) are warming faster than those with smaller populations.
- Summertime extreme heat—especially at night—is rising. Extreme heat events can result in heat-related deaths and illnesses, decreased agricultural production, increased irrigation requirements, and greater electricity demands.
- Precipitation trends show little change over the past century.

Winter Chill in Orland, CA



Source: Baldocchi and Wong, 2008

Agricultural regions of California are warming. Warmer temperatures extend the length of the growing season, thus potentially increasing the yield. Some fruit trees such as almonds require an extended period of cold temperatures to become dormant and to bear fruit. Warming can reduce the length of the dormant period potentially affecting blooming and fruit production.

