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Verification of the accuracy and timeliness of Canadian Weather Warnings using the Weather Warning Index

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The Canadian Weather Warning Index (WWI) was designed three years ago as a summary measure of the accuracy and timeliness of weather warnings issued by Canadian regional forecast offices. The index is on a range of 0 to 10, and is sensitive to both the accuracy, measured by the Extreme Dependency Index (EDI) and the timeliness measured by a function of the lead time between issuance of the warning and the time that the threshold for hazardous conditions has been reached. Scores are computed annually for a representative set of regions in Canada, and composited over several weather elements. Results are released annually to the public as part of a performance report from Environment Canada.

Following a review of the design of the WWI, the results for the first few years will be shown. Issues associated with the data collection and computation of the score will also be discussed.