



Glacier of the month

April 2024

ADAMELLO GLACIER



Characteristics:

With a surface area of 17 km² and an estimated volume of 2 km³, the Adamello Glacier, located on the border of the regions Lombardy and Trentino, is the biggest of its kind in the Italian Alps. It comprises six units, i.e. Pian di Neve Plateau, Miller Superiore, Salerno, Adamé, Corno di Salerno, Mandrone, which together represent 1/4 of Lombardy's glacier area, and extends several hundred meters in altitude (2530 m – 3440 m a.s.l.) with an estimated maximum ice thickness of 260 m.

In recent years it has lost much of its area and ice mass due to increasing air temperatures, surface albedo feedback loops and a decrease in snowfall that could slow down its melting. Snow melt onset has shifted from mid-May to mid-April and no ice accumulation has been recorded in the last two decades. Since the Little Ice Age (14th - 19th century), the retreat of the Adamello glacier ice sheet is estimated to be 2.1 km in length and 900 m in height.

The comparative pictures show the glacier in August 1891/2020 and are courtesy of the [On the Trail of the Glaciers](#) project, promoted by the non-profit association Macromicro.

