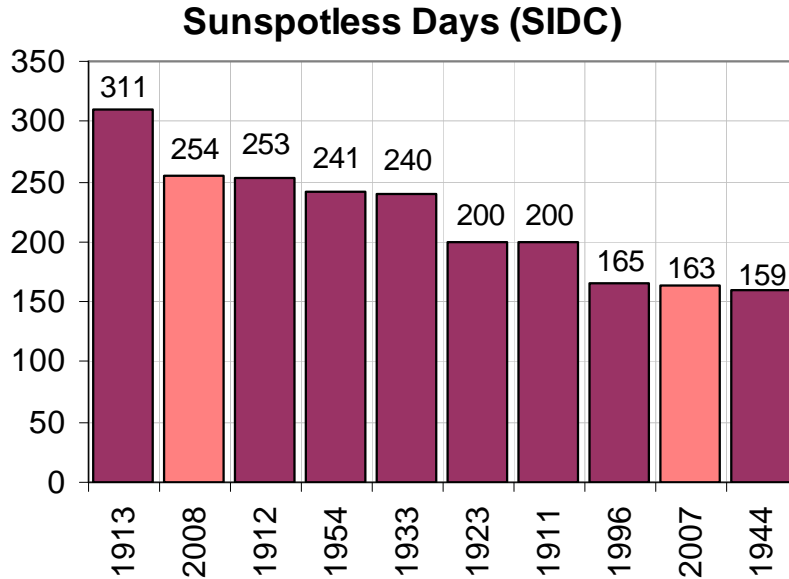


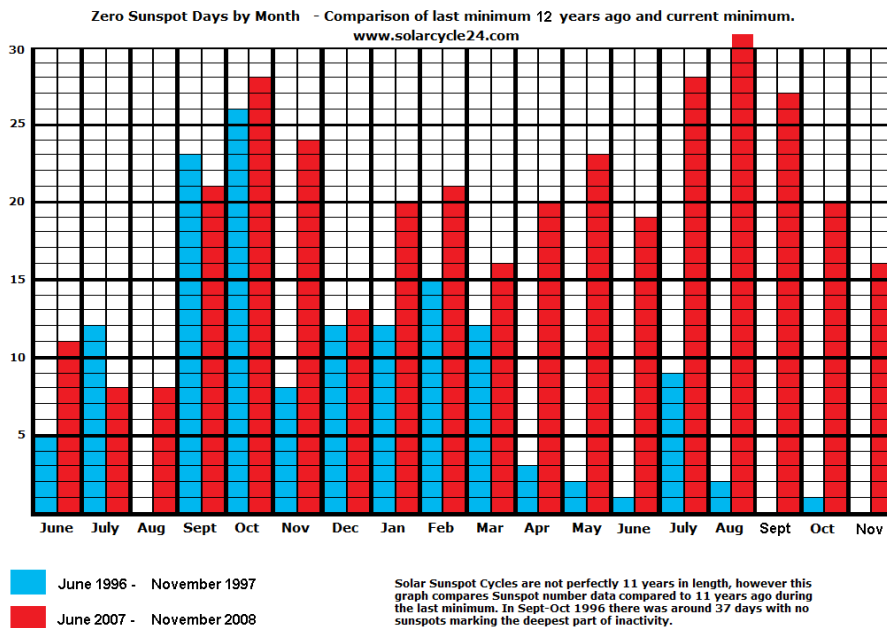
2008 Now Ranks #2 Since 1990 in # Sunspotless Days

By Joseph D'Aleo, CCM, Fellow AMS

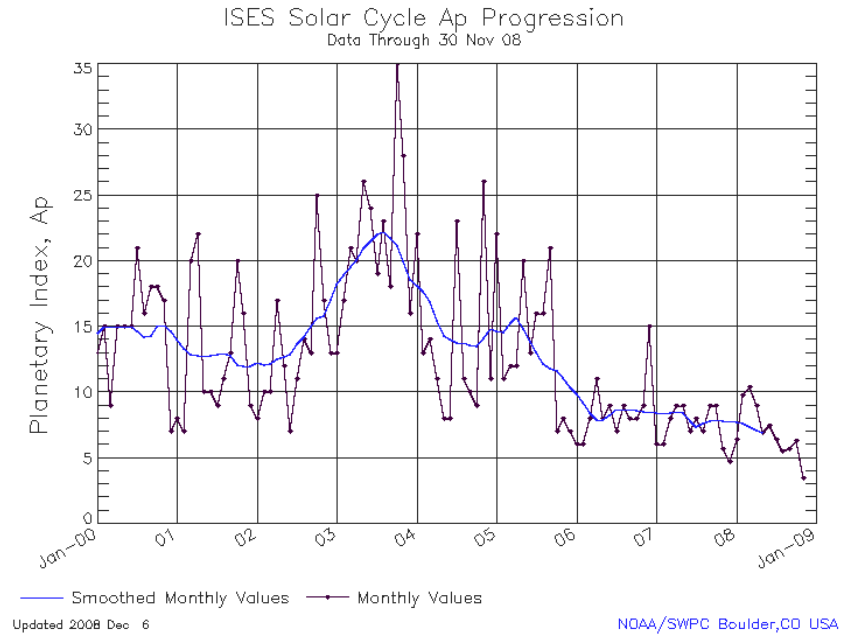
With the number of sunspotless days reaching 16 so far this month, we have now exceeded 1912 as the 2nd quietest sun year since 1900. Only 1913 ranked higher with 311 days. With 12 more days this month as of this writing, we could reach as high as 266 days. Note that 2007 also ranked in the top 10.



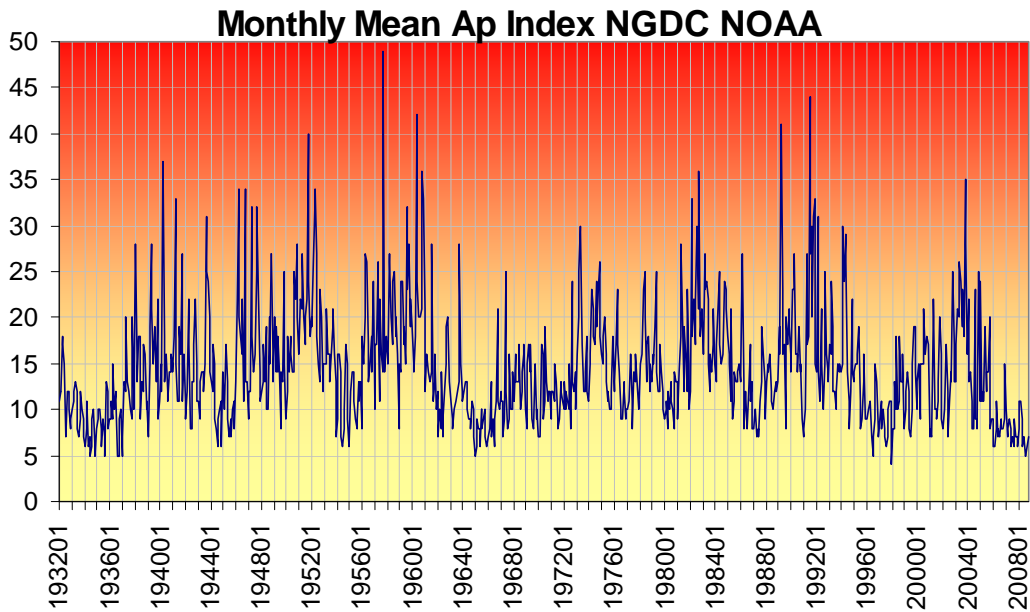
This is the month by month comparisons of sunspotless days this solar minimum (red) through November and the last minimum in the mid 1990s (blue).



The geomagnetic activity has also been extremely low. This is the Ap Index. This plot displays monthly average Ap values and 13-month running smoothed Ap values. The most recent data are always USAF estimates; official values are included as they become available.



Longer term, the Ap Index looks like this.



See this Anthony Watts post on the massive breach of the earth's magnetic field discovered by NASA [here](#) and the possible solar role in the lowering of the earth's Ionosphere to an [all-time low altitude](#).