



Less familiar views of the Earth from above the North Pole and South Pole respectively. Global sea ice coverage averages approximately 25 million km<sup>2</sup>, the area of the North American continent, whereas ice sheets and glaciers cover approximately 15 million km<sup>2</sup>, roughly 10% of the Earth's land surface area. (Data from the Special Sensor Microwave Imager (SSM/I) instrument on a Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) satellite.)