

OKLAHOMA MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARY

DECEMBER 2005



December started as a true winter month, with bone-chilling cold, a dusting of snow, and enough wind to make you think twice about going outside. The month's latter portions more closely resembled April as temperatures reached the 80-degree mark and residents experienced the warmest Christmas Day in over 25 years. The month's first half was cold enough to keep the statewide-averaged temperature slightly below normal, finishing as the 40th coolest December on record. The precipitation was a different matter with barely enough precipitation falling to wet the rain gauge – the 4th driest December on record. The dry weather only exacerbated an already-severe drought, especially in the southeast, which suffered through its driest December on record, and its 2nd driest calendar year. The droughty conditions along with strong winds combined to produce dangerous wildfire conditions for most of the month, prompting state officials to declare a state of emergency for all 77 counties.

Precipitation

When the highest precipitation total for the month is barely a half of an inch (Pryor), that's a fairly good indication of how dry December actually was. That is also reflected in the statewide-averaged precipitation total of just less than a quarter of an inch, nearly a two-inch deficit for the month. The ongoing droughty conditions were made worse in every corner of the state, but the eastern third continued to be particularly hard hit. Southeastern and east central sections of the state fell over 22 inches and nearly 17 inches below normal for the year, respectively. Only the Panhandle, west central, and north central Oklahoma were anywhere close to normal, and even those areas fell up to two inches below normal.

Temperature

The calendar year 2005 finished at over a degree above normal. All areas but the southeast were within the twenty warmest years on record with east central Oklahoma being the warmest at nearly two degrees above normal. December temperatures were marked by an outbreak of arctic weather early in the month, with lows falling down to -15 degrees (Kenton) and wind chills routinely down to -20 degrees, only to be replaced by record warmth in the months final 10 days.

Description	Extreme	Station	Date
High Temperature	84°F	Durant	Dec 3rd
Low Temperature	-15°F	Kenton	Dec 8th
High Precipitation	0.56 in.	Pryor	
Low Precipitation	0.03 in.	Kenton	

December Daily Highlights

December 1-5: A cold front passed through the state overnight on the 1st, supplying the month's first day with cool temperatures and northerly winds. The weather had warmed into the 60s by the following day, however. A warm start led to an even warmer day on the third. Highs in southern Oklahoma rose into the 80s, with the month's warmest temperature of 84 degrees being recorded at the Durant Mesonet site. McAlester tied its previous record high temperature on that day of 78 degrees. The cold front brought temperatures into a more winter-like area for the next couple of days, with lows from the teens to the 30s, and highs in the 30s and 40s.

December 6-9: An even stronger cold front brought a reinforcing blast of cold air on the 6th, ushering in some of the coldest weather of the last decade to the state of Oklahoma. High temperatures barely escaped the single digits in the Panhandle during this period, with Kenton and Boise City reaching a frigid 10 degrees on the 7th. Six locations tied or broke their record for minimum temperatures on the 8th and the 9th, while Kenton plunged to -15 degrees on the morning of the 8th. Much of northern Oklahoma dropped to below freezing from the 7th through the 9th with the help of clear skies, light winds, and snow cover of up to a couple of inches. The snow began falling on the 7th, but the cold airmass didn't allow for much melting. Temperatures finally rose above freezing for much of the area on the afternoon of the 9th, but remained in the 30s.

December 10-16: A shocking return to the 60s greeted the state for the next several days following the arctic-like conditions of the past week. An upper-level disturbance moving through the Southern Plains brought a little moisture to the state on the 13th with temperatures moderating into the 50s and just a few 60s. Another cold front on the 14th dropped low temperatures in the Panhandle back into the single digits, with lows elsewhere remaining in the 20s and 30s.

December 17-21: The next five days could be considered the wet period of a month with very little precipitation, despite the scant amounts that actually fell. A weak upper-level disturbance moved through overnight on the 17th, bringing light rain and some snow to the west. The precipitation expanded and moved east during the day with snow in the north and rain elsewhere. Intermittent wintry precipitation continued for the next several days. Freezing drizzle and light freezing rain made for hazardous travel in the northwest, while Oklahoma City broke its record for daily snowfall on the 20th with 1.6 inches. Temperatures during this period rose into the 20s in the northwest, 30s in central sections, and low 40s in the south. The 21st combined cold temperatures with fog to form freezing fog, which once again created travel problems. The fog eventually burned off and temperatures warmed into the 60s under sunny skies.

December 22-31: The rest of the month was more spring-like than winter, with the warm temperatures, low humidities, and strong winds creating dangerous wildfire conditions. Temperatures managed to rise into the 70s in some portions of the state, and a weak cold front triggered a few showers on the 24th. Amounts were light, although about a third of an inch fell in northeastern sections. Record-breaking warmth was on tap for the next couple of days. The 25th was the warmest Christmas Day in over 25 years – the bright sunshine pushing temperatures into the 60s and 70s. Wildfires broke out across the state on the 26th and 27th until another weak cold front cooled things down on the 28th. High temperatures only rose into the 60s, and winds were not quite as strong, coming from the north at 10-20 mph. Another weak front on the 30th moved across the state, bringing winds of 15-30 mph, once again worsening the already dangerous fire conditions. The month's last day brought temperatures in the 60s and 70s and strong winds, igniting several fires across the state.

December 2005 Statewide Statistics			
Temperature			
	Average	Depart.	Rank (1892-2005)
Month (Dec)	38.1°F	-0.9°F	40th Coolest
Year-to-Date (Jan-Dec)	61.0°F	1.3°F	15th Warmest
Precipitation			
	Total	Depart.	Rank (1892-2005)
Month (Dec)	0.24 in.	-1.78 in.	4th Driest
Year-to-Date (Jan-Dec)	27.52 in.	-9.17 in.	17th Driest
Depart. = Departure from 30-year normal			

December 2005 Severe Weather

Significant Tornadoes (F2 or greater)

No significant tornadoes reported in the state.

Hail (2 inches in diameter or greater)

No hail greater than 2 inches in diameter reported in the state.

Wind Gusts (70 mph or greater)

No wind gusts 70 mph or greater reported in the state.

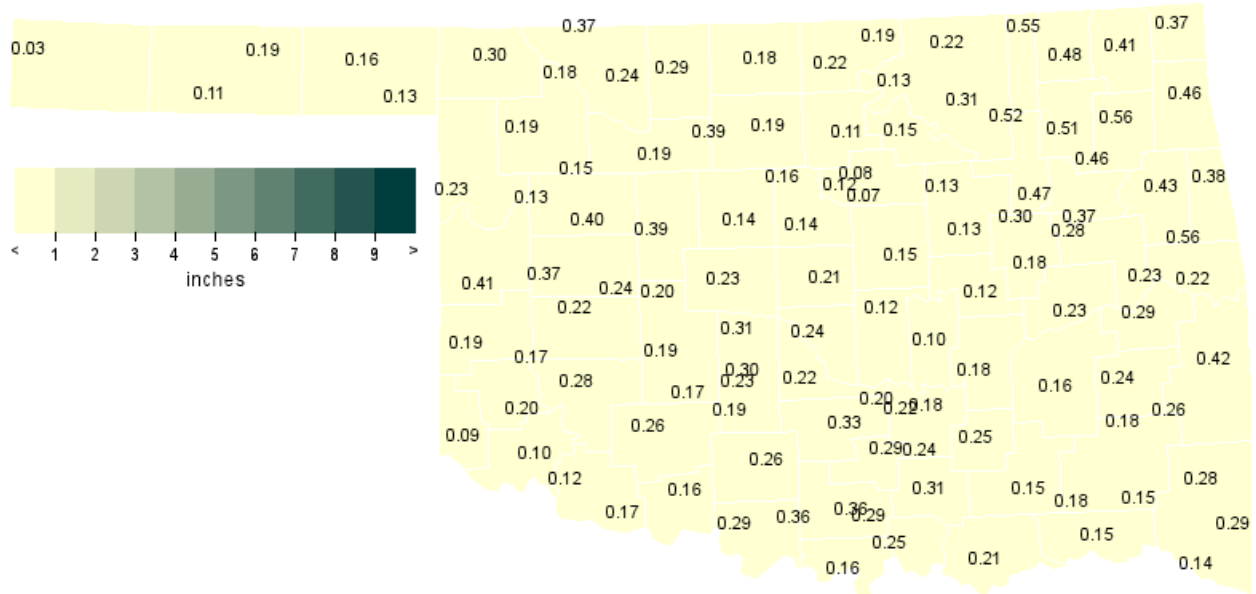
Flooding

No flooding events reported in the state.

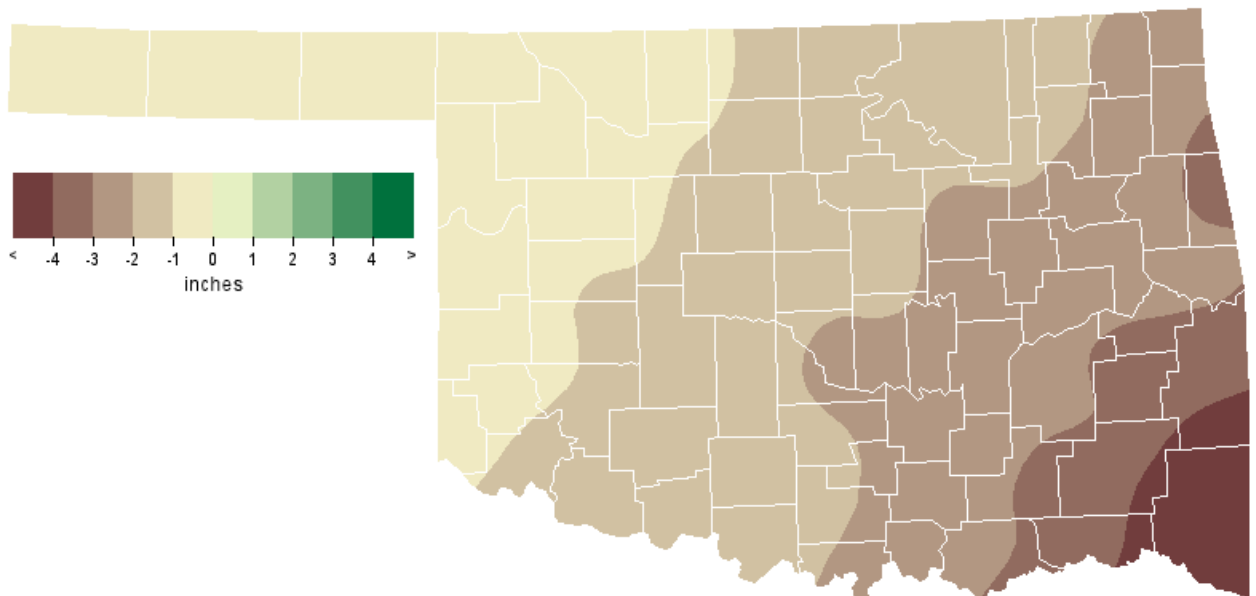
Record Events Report

Description	Day	Location	Record	Previous Record	Year
Warmest Maximum Temperature (tied)	3	McAlester	78	78	1970
Coollest Minimum Temperature	8	McAlester	6	17	1968
Coollest Minimum Temperature (tied)	8	Bartlesville	-3	-3	1917
Coollest Minimum Temperature (tied)	9	Tulsa	0	0	1917
Coollest Minimum Temperature	9	McAlester	1	13	1977
Coollest Minimum Temperature	9	Muskogee	-1	0	1917
Coollest Minimum Temperature	9	Bartlesville	-6	0	1917
Daily Maximum Snowfall	20	Oklahoma City	1.6 inches	1.0 inches	1895
Warmest Maximum Temperature	26	Oklahoma City	74	68	1968
Warmest Maximum Temperature	27	McAlester	77	76	1971
Warmest Maximum Temperature (tied)	27	Muskogee	77	77	1946

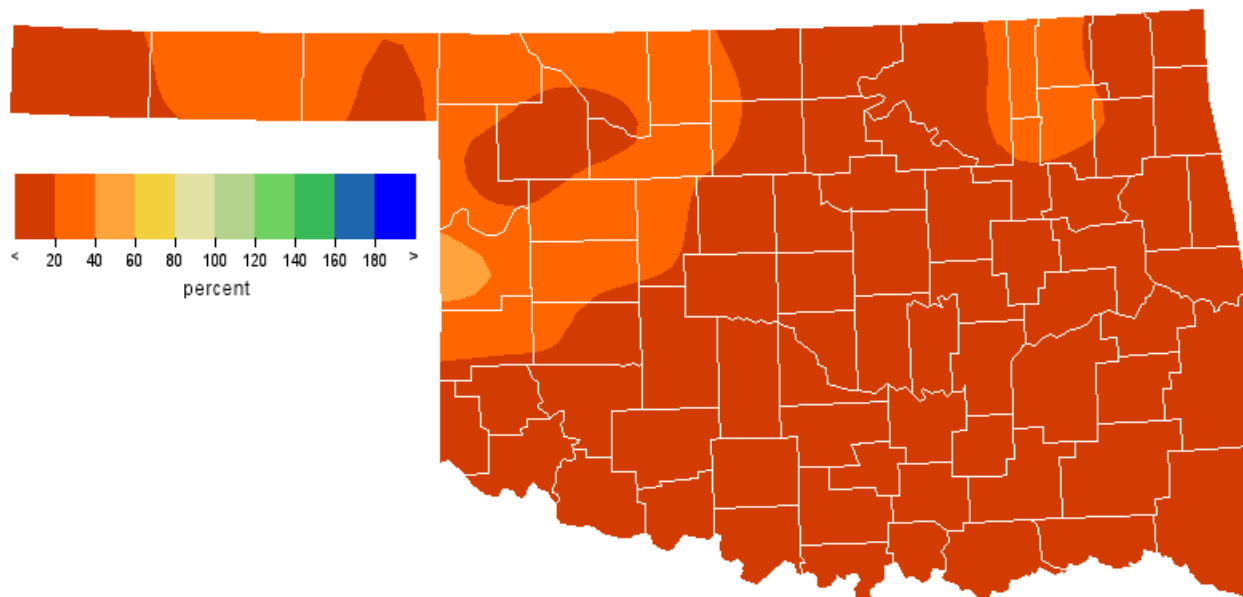
December 2005 Observed Precipitation



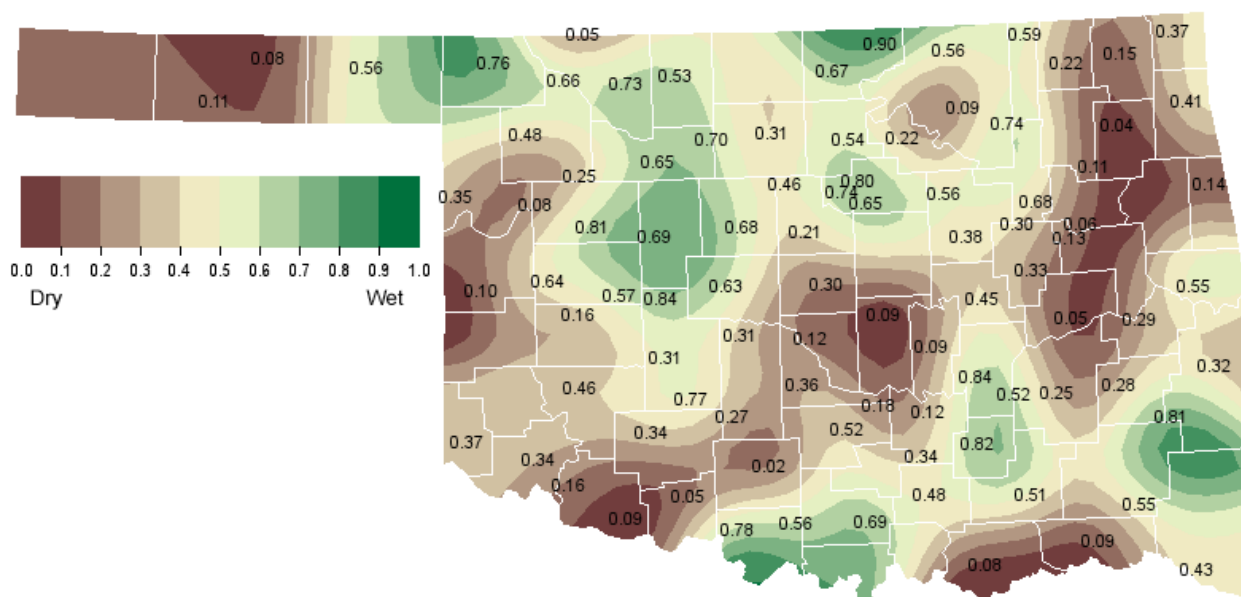
December 2005 Departure from Normal Precipitation



December 2005 Percent of Normal Precipitation



December 2005 Average Soil Moisture at 25cm



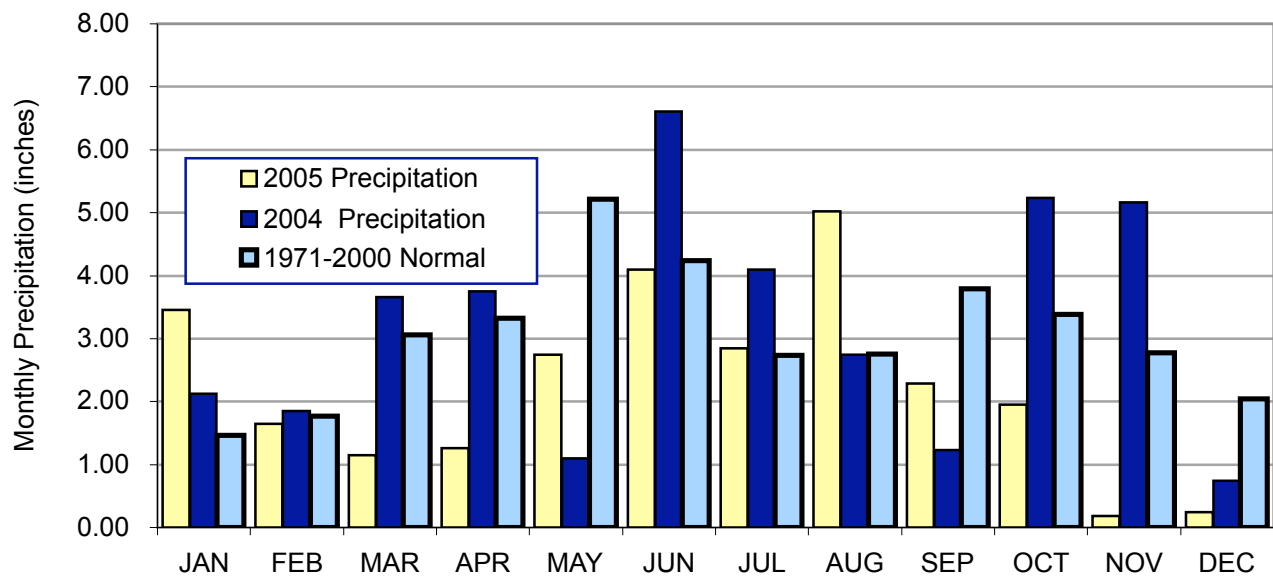
Mesonet Monthly Summary for December 2005

NAME	MEAN TEMP	HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	DAY	DAY	HDD	CDD	TOT PPT	HIGH 24-HR	DAY	NAME	MEAN TEMP	HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	DAY	DAY	HDD	CDD	TOT PPT	HIGH 24-HR	DAY
PANHANDLE																					
Arnett	36.5	72	22	-2	8	885	0	.23	.10	17	Goodwell	35.3	77	26	-8	8	921	0	.11	.11	20
Beaver	34.2	74	26	-7	8	955	0	.16	.09	20	Hooker	34.5	77	26	-8	8	947	0	.19	.15	20
Boise City	****	***	***	***	***	****	****	****	****	***	Kenton	33.6	76	26	-15	8	974	0	.03	.02	8
Buffalo	34.6	74	22	-5	8	943	0	.30	.16	17	Slapout	35.8	73	26	-5	8	905	0	.13	.05	16
NORTH CENTRAL																					
Blackwell	34.6	73	26	-2	8	941	0	.22	.15	17	Medford	34.6	69	26	1	8	942	0	.18	.10	17
Breckinridge	35.9	72	26	2	8	904	0	.19	.18	17	Newkirk	34.8	69	26	-4	8	937	0	.19	.08	13
Cherokee	34.5	69	26	-1	8	945	0	.29	.26	17	Red Rock	36.3	75	26	-1	8	890	0	.11	.08	17
Fairview	36.7	70	29	1	8	878	0	.19	.16	17	Seiling	35.2	68	22	-3	8	925	0	.15	.09	17
Freedom	35.4	73	22	-3	8	918	0	.18	.13	17	Woodward	36.6	73	22	-2	8	881	0	.19	.08	20
Lahoma	35.8	68	26	2	8	904	0	.39	.34	17	Alva	34.8	69	26	-1	8	935	0	.24	.19	17
May Ranch	35.4	73	22	-3	8	919	0	.37	.17	17											
NORTHEAST																					
Bixby	36.8	74	27	-4	9	873	0	.47	.25	24	Pryor	35.3	74	27	-4	9	920	0	.56	.29	24
Burbank	35.9	72	26	-2	8	903	0	.13	.04	10	Skiatook	37.8	72	27	3	8	843	0	.52	.31	24
Copan	35.3	70	27	-2	9	921	0	.55	.31	24	Vinita	34.9	72	27	-7	9	934	0	.41	.29	24
Foraker	35.0	68	26	-4	8	929	0	.22	.08	10	Wynona	36.5	71	27	-4	9	884	0	.31	.14	24
Jay	36.9	72	27	0	9	870	0	.46	.30	24	Porter	38.4	76	27	1	9	826	0	.37	.23	24
Miami	35.5	71	27	0	9	913	0	.37	.25	24	Inola	36.2	75	27	-4	9	894	0	.46	.31	24
Nowata	34.5	73	27	-5	9	944	0	.48	.36	24	Claremore	38.1	75	27	1	9	835	0	.51	.31	24
Pawnee	37.0	73	26	0	9	868	0	.15	.05	23											
WEST CENTRAL																					
Bessie	38.1	69	26	1	8	834	0	.22	.10	17	Putnam	36.7	66	26	-2	8	879	0	.40	.19	17
Butler	36.5	68	26	0	8	883	0	.37	.29	17	Retrop	38.6	71	26	0	8	819	0	.17	.10	20
Camargo	34.7	69	26	-4	8	940	0	.13	.05	17	Watonga	37.9	66	26	2	8	840	0	.39	.30	17
Cheyenne	38.5	70	29	-1	8	820	0	.41	.26	20	Weatherford	37.3	67	26	-1	8	859	0	.24	.14	17
Erick	37.7	72	29	1	8	846	0	.19	.09	20											
CENTRAL																					
Bowlegs	39.7	75	27	-1	9	783	0	.10	.04	13	Okemah	38.6	75	27	-1	9	819	0	.12	.05	24
Bristow	37.0	75	27	-3	9	869	0	.13	.05	24	Perkins	37.9	76	26	2	8	841	0	.07	.03	17
Chandler	38.6	73	27	-1	9	818	0	.15	.07	17	Shawnee	38.7	73	27	3	9	816	0	.12	.07	17
Chickasha	37.5	74	26	0	9	853	0	.30	.13	17	Spencer	39.5	74	26	3	8	790	0	.21	.13	17
El Reno	36.8	73	26	-1	8	874	0	.23	.12	20	Stillwater	36.6	76	26	-1	9	881	0	.08	.04	17
Guthrie	38.4	74	26	2	8	826	0	.14	.08	17	Washington	40.1	76	26	4	9	773	0	.22	.12	20
Kingfisher	36.8	71	26	3	8	874	0	.14	.10	17	Ninnekah	39.3	75	26	1	9	796	0	.23	.11	17
Marena	37.9	76	26	1	8	842	0	.12	.07	17	Acme	40.1	75	26	4	8	770	0	.19	.10	20
Minco	38.3	72	26	2	8	827	0	.31	.15	17	Norman	39.1	74	26	5	8	802	0	.24	.11	17
Oilton	36.4	73	27	-2	9	887	0	.13	.06	23	Marshall	36.3	74	26	-1	8	890	0	.16	.16	17
EAST CENTRAL																					
Calvin	39.3	75	27	0	9	797	0	.18	.11	13	Stigler	39.0	77	27	-1	9	806	0	.29	.15	24
Cookson	38.4	74	27	0	9	825	0	.56	.32	24	Stuart	41.3	76	27	3	9	735	0	****	****	***
Eufaula	41.1	76	27	4	9	740	0	.23	.11	24	Tahlequah	36.5	72	27	-2	9	883	0	.43	.28	24
Haskell	37.7	76	27	-2	9	847	0	.28	.20	24	Webbers Falls	38.6	76	27	1	9	817	0	.23	.12	24
McAlester	40.6	77	3	1	9	758	0	.16	.09	13	Westville	38.1	72	27	2	9	835	0	.38	.25	24
Okmulgee	38.1	77	27	-3	9	833	0	.18	.09	24	Hectorville	39.4	75	27	3	9	794	0	.30	.13	24
Sallisaw	39.1	76	27	3	9	802	0	.22	.11	13											
SOUTHWEST																					
Altus	40.1	77	26	3	8	772	0	.10	.04	17	Medicine Park	41.3	74	26	5	8	735	0	.26	.16	17
Fort Cobb	38.0	74	26	3	8	838	0	.19	.11	20	Tipton	40.3	75	26	5	8	767	0	.12	.04	16
Hinton	37.3	69	26	1	8	859	0	.20	.11	17	Walters	41.5	79	26	5	9	728	0	.16	.07	13
Hobart	38.4	72	26	4	8	824	0	.28	.14	17	Apache	38.8	73	26	3	8	811	0	.17	.10	20
Hollis	39.2	75	26	3	8	799	0	.09	.05	17	Grandfield	41.4	78	26	5	8	730	0	.17	.09	17
Mangum	38.5	75	26	2	8	820	0	.20	.09	17											
SOUTH CENTRAL																					
Ada	41.2	75	27	3	9	737	0	.18	.13	13	Ringling	42.6	80	3	6	9	693	0	.36	.21	13
Burneyville	42.4	83	3	1	9	700	0	.16	.14	13	Sulphur	40.1	75	26	1	9	772	0	.29	.15	13
Byars	41.6	74	26	6	8	725	0	.20	.11	13	Tishomingo	41.3	80	3	3	9	735	0	.31	.21	13
Centrahoma	40.4	79	3	2	9	763	0	.25	.15	13	Waurika	42.7	80	26	6	9	690	0	.29	.20	13
Durant	43.7	84	3	6	9	662	1	.21	.15	13	Vanoss	40.7	75	27	0	9	753	0	.22	.12	13
Ketchum Ranch	41.6	77	26	4	9	726	0	.26	.13	13	Newport	43.1	81	3	7	9	678	0	.36	.17	13
Lane	40.9	82	3	4	9	746	0	.15	.14	13	Ardmore	43.1	81	3	5	9	679	0	.29	.17	13
Madill	43.1	83	3	3	9	679	0	.25	.14	13	Fittstown	40.8	75	3	2	9	750	0	.24	.12	13
Pauls Valley	41.4	76	26	4	9	730	0	.33	.11	13											
SOUTHEAST																					
Antlers	40.9	82	3	3	9	747	0	.18	.17	13	Mt Herman	41.4	81	3	6	9	731	0	.28	.15	13
Clayton	41.1	77	3	6	9	741	0	.18	.11	13	Talihina	40.1	79	3	4	9	771	0	.26	.13	13
Cloudy	41.4	81	3	7	9	730	0	.15	.12	13	Wilburton	39.6	79	3	2	9	788	0	.24	.14	13
Hugo	43.3	82	3	9	9	672	0	.15	.14	13	Wister	38.1	79	3	1	9	833	0	.42	.17	13
Idabel	42.4	82	3	9	9	****	****	.14	.06	13	Broken Bow	40.9	82	3	7	9	748	0	.29	.08	13

December 2005 Mesonet Precipitation Comparison

Climate Division	Precipitation (inches)	Departure from Normal (inches)	Rank since 1895	Wettest on Record (Year)	Driest on Record (Year)	Dec-04
Panhandle	0.16	-0.54	24th Driest	2.55 (1913)	0.00 (1922)	0.20
North Central	0.22	-1.08	12th Driest	4.55 (1913)	0.00 (1922)	0.37
Northeast	0.40	-1.88	11th Driest	6.72 (1984)	0.16 (1950)	1.30
West Central	0.28	-0.86	28th Driest	4.03 (1932)	0.00 (1908)	0.43
Central	0.17	-1.84	7th Driest	6.67 (1984)	0.00 (1908)	0.91
East Central	0.29	-2.69	2nd Driest	8.95 (1987)	0.21 (1908)	1.18
Southwest	0.18	-1.20	14th Driest	4.94 (1991)	0.00 (1908)	0.69
South Central	0.26	-2.27	5th Driest	7.01 (1932)	0.07 (1950)	0.97
Southeast	0.23	-3.84	1st Driest	12.76 (1971)	0.25 (1917)	1.58
Statewide	0.24	-1.78	4th Driest	4.98 (1984)	0.10 (1950)	0.85

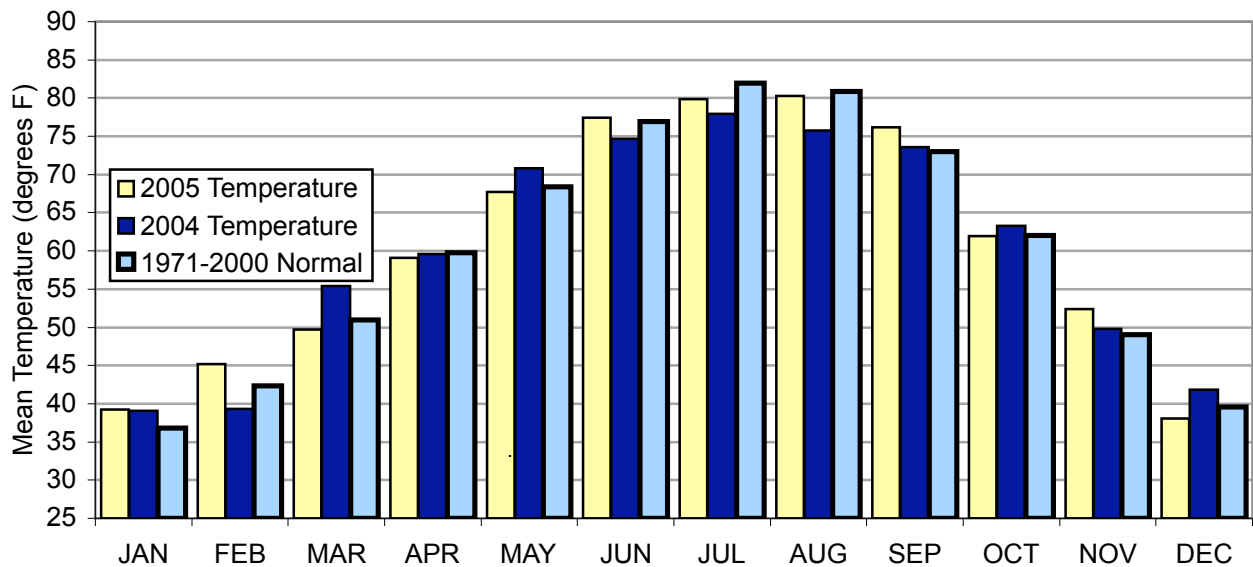
2004 and 2005 Statewide Precipitation Monthly Totals vs. Normal



December 2005 Mesonet Temperature Comparison

Climate Division	Average Temp (F)	Departure from Normal (F)	Rank since 1895	Hottest on Record (Year)	Coldest on Record (Year)	Dec-04 (F)
Panhandle	34.9	-0.1	49th Coolest	41.6 (1933)	22.6 (1983)	38.6
North Central	35.4	-1.1	36th Coolest	43.7 (1965)	21.9 (1983)	38.9
Northeast	36.3	-1.9	33rd Coolest	45.1 (1931)	24.3 (1983)	40.5
West Central	37.3	-0.1	49th Coolest	44.2 (1965)	24.0 (1983)	40.6
Central	38.2	-1.1	41st Coolest	46.4 (1965)	25.3 (1983)	41.7
East Central	39.0	-1.6	34th Coolest	47.6 (1933)	27.4 (1983)	41.5
Southwest	39.5	-0.3	47th Coolest	46.7 (1965)	27.5 (1983)	42.2
South Central	41.8	-0.3	46th Coolest	48.5 (1965)	29.2 (1983)	43.1
Southeast	40.9	-1.5	31st Coolest	50.7 (1984)	30.7 (1983)	41.4
Statewide	38.1	-0.9	40th Coolest	45.4 (1965)	25.8 (1983)	40.9

2004 and 2005 Statewide Temperature Monthly Averages vs. Normal



Mesonet Extremes for December 2005

Climate Division	High Temp (F)	Day	Station	Low Temp (F)	Day	Station	High Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Station	High Daily Rainfall (inches)	Day	Station
Panhandle	77	26th	Hooker	-15	8th	Kenton	0.30	Buffalo	0.16	17th	Buffalo
North Central	75	26th	Red Rock	-4	8th	Newkirk	0.39	Lahoma	0.34	17th	Lahoma
Northeast	76	27th	Porter	-7	9th	Vinita	0.56	Pryor	0.36	24th	Nowata
West Central	72	29th	Erick	-4	8th	Camargo	0.41	Cheyenne	0.30	17th	Watonga
Central	76	26th	Stillwater	-3	9th	Bristow	0.31	Minco	0.16	17th	Marshall
East Central	77	3rd	McAlester	-3	9th	Okmulgee	0.56	Cookson	0.32	24th	Cookson
Southwest	79	26th	Walters	1	8th	Hinton	0.28	Hobart	0.16	17th	Medicine Park
South Central	84	3rd	Durant	0	9th	Vanoss	0.36	Ringling	0.21	13th	Ringling
Southeast	82	3rd	Hugo	1	9th	Wister	0.42	Wister	0.17	13th	Wister
Statewide	84	3rd	Durant	-15	8th	Kenton	0.56	Pryor	0.36	24th	Nowata

January Climatological Outlook

The weather in Oklahoma during January, Oklahoma's coldest and driest month, is marked by many and rapid variations. Cold fronts move through the state on a regular basis, bringing air from colder regions of the earth, but cold weather rarely lasts for more than a few days at a time. The north or northwest winds that spread the colder air typically give way to a day or so of calm and sunshine, followed by a return to the prevailing southerly winds which dominate the state's weather throughout the year. The state is located within the range of the winter meandering of the jet stream. Oklahoma's proximity to both the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico to the southeast and the mountain barrier to the west enhances the potential for the development of winter storms beneath the jet. The Gulf provides moisture and is a source of thermal energy that interacts with the areas of low pressure, which are initiated under the jet stream east of the mountains. This interaction often results in the development of winter storms. Many of the winter storms in the eastern half of the country are born in Oklahoma.

Temperature

Mean: 36.8 degrees
Warmest January: 1923, 47.5 degrees
Coolest January: 1930, 24.9 degrees
Warmest location: Waurika, 41.9 degrees
Coolest location: Turpin, 30.7 degrees
Hottest recorded: 92 degrees, Cloud Chief, January 31, 1911
Coldest recorded: -27 degrees, Watts, January 18, 1930

According to National Weather Service cooperative network data from 1971 through 2000, the statewide-averaged normal temperature for the month is 36.8 degrees. Normal temperatures across Oklahoma range from 41.9 degrees at Waurika in the south to 30.7 degrees at Turpin in the eastern panhandle. Normal daily maximum temperatures vary between 54.0 degrees at Waurika, near the Red River at Oklahoma's southern border, down to 41.9 degrees at Newkirk, near the state's northern border. Normal daily minimum temperatures range from 30.8 degrees at Okemah to 16.7 degrees at Turpin. The coldest January temperature ever recorded in the state is -27 degrees, recorded at Watts on January 18, 1930. At the other extreme, Cloud Chief reported a daily maximum temperature of 92 degrees on January 31, 1911. The warmest and coldest Januarys, averaged statewide, were 47.5 degrees in 1923 and 24.9 degrees in 1930, respectively.

Precipitation

Mean: 1.46 inches
Wettest year: 1949, 5.23 inches
Driest year: 1986, 0.04 inches
Wettest location: Broken Bow, 3.49 inches
Driest location: Goodwell, 0.29 inches
Most recorded: 13.85 inches, Smithville, 1950

Oklahoma's normal monthly precipitation during January, averaged across the state, is 1.46 inches. Normal monthly precipitation for the month ranges from 3.49 inches in the southeast at Broken Bow to 0.29 inch in the panhandle at Goodwell. Most of the precipitation falls as rain, although snow, sleet, and freezing rain are all observed. The statewide-averaged normal snowfall (including sleet) is 2.4 inches, most of which falls in the northern half of the state. The panhandle town of Boise City averages 7.0 inches of snow during January. On average, snowfalls of at least one inch occur on 2.5 January days at Boise City. The wettest January in the state's weather record is 1949, when the statewide average was 5.23 inches. The driest January was 1986, when the state's rain gauges collected an average of only 0.04 inches of precipitation. Smithville was deluged with 13.85 inches of precipitation during January 1950.

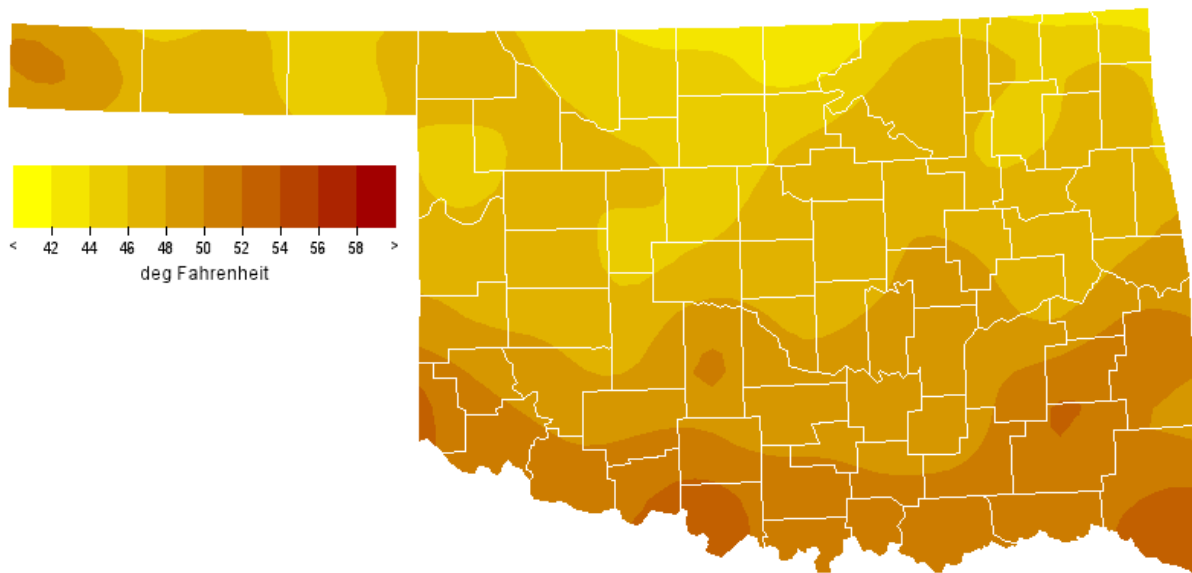
Snowfall records are not as reliable as those for temperature and total precipitation (which includes water obtained from melted snow), but the greatest January snowfalls appear to have been recorded in 1905, 1930, 1949, 1988, 1990, and 2001. Statewide information is somewhat sketchy regarding the 1905 event, but it is known that Fort Reno recorded a cumulative depth of 24.5 inches of snow over the course of the month. In January 1930, noted above for its extreme cold, 25.0 inches of snow fell at Jefferson, and the state's reporting stations averaged 11.7 inches for the month. The reported January 1949 snowfall totals include 30.1 inches at Union City and 25.3 inches at Ponca City. In 1988, most of the state was blanketed by 10 inches of snow (16 to 18 inches in some locales) in a major snowstorm that came on the heels of an ice storm during the previous month. Goodwell reported 16 inches on snow on January 19, 1990, accumulating 18 inches over a two-day period, in a snowstorm whose Oklahoma extent was mainly confined to the panhandle. The state record for January monthly snowfall is 32.7 inches, set at Kenton in 2001. Nearly half of that total (16 inches) was reported on the 16th.

Tornadoes

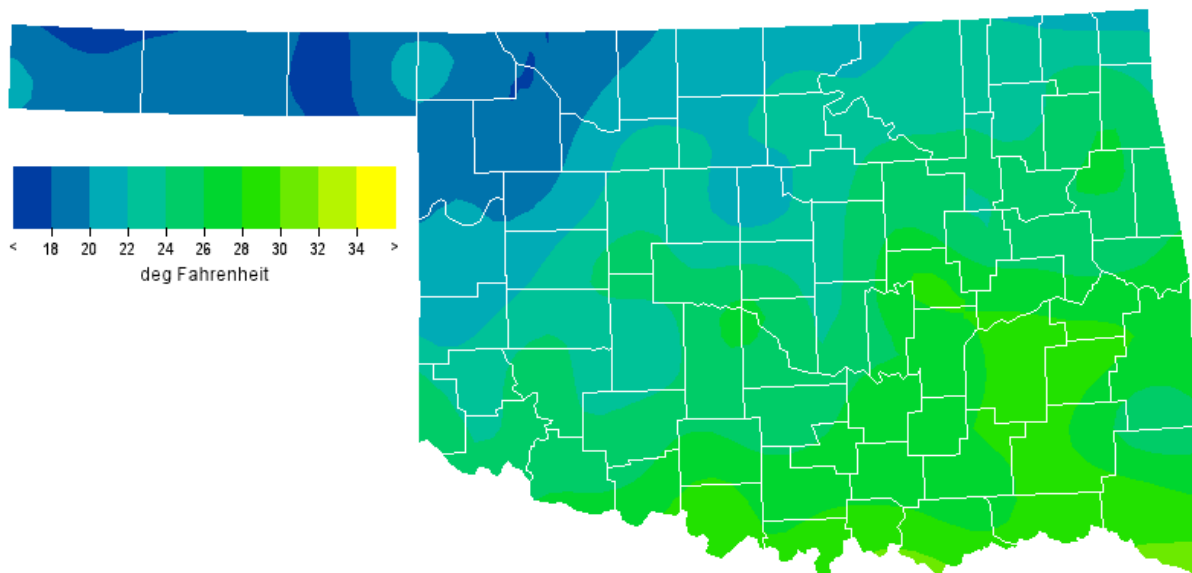
Average January Tornadoes: 0.2
Most: 4 (1967)

Tornadoes are not usually a part of the January weather in Oklahoma, but the month is not immune to them. Reasonably reliable counts of tornadoes in the state are available since 1950. During that time, 12 tornadoes have occurred during January, including 4 each in 1957 and 1967. On January 4, 1917, an F3 tornado (severe damage, estimated wind speeds of 158-206 miles per hour) struck a Choctaw boarding school at Vireton (13 miles northeast of McAlester), killing 16 students and injuring 10 others.

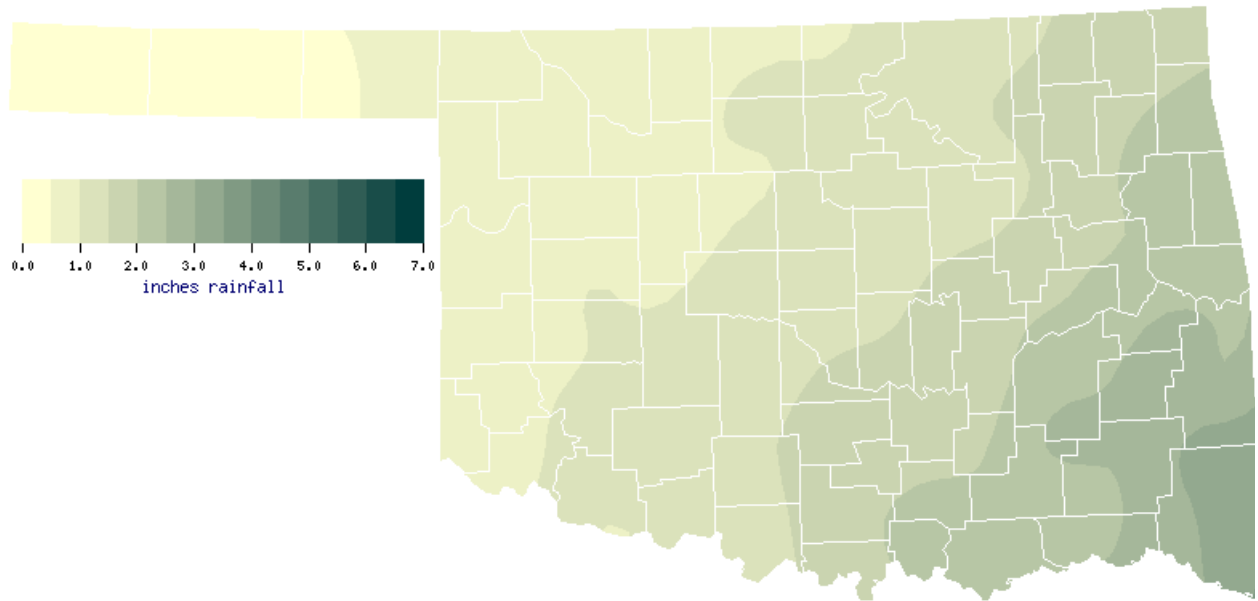
January Normal Monthly Maximum Temperature (1971-2000)



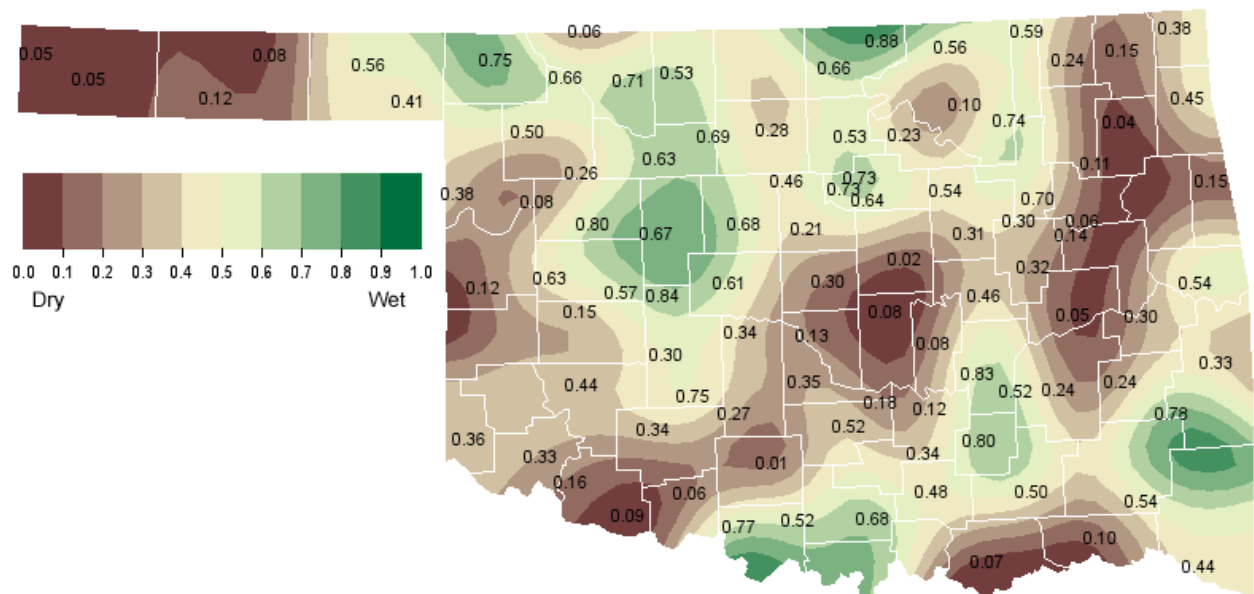
January Normal Monthly Minimum Temperature (1971-2000)



January Normal Precipitation (1971-2000)

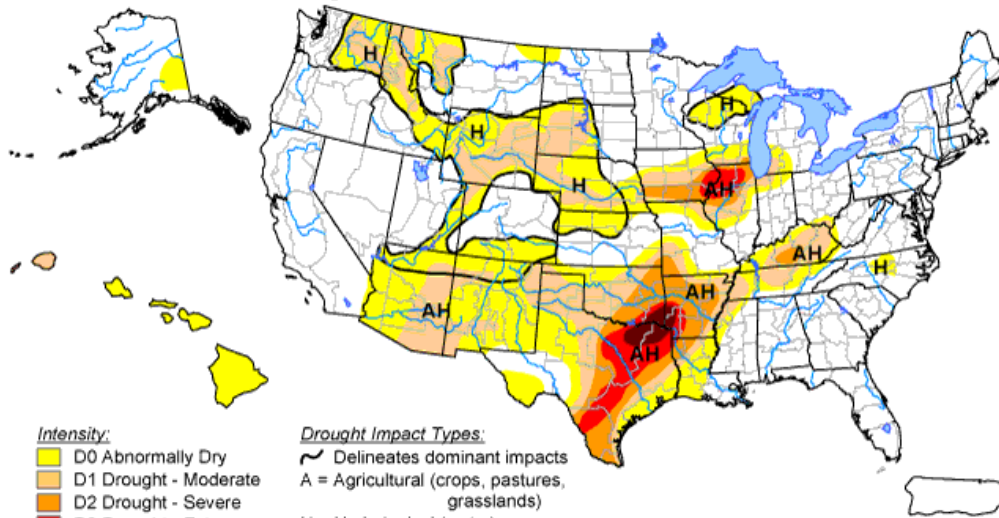


January 1, 2006 Soil Moisture Conditions at 25cm



U.S. Drought Monitor

January 3, 2006
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:
 D0 Abnormally Dry
 D1 Drought - Moderate
 D2 Drought - Severe
 D3 Drought - Extreme
 D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:
 ~ Delineates dominant impacts
 A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
 H = Hydrological (water)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

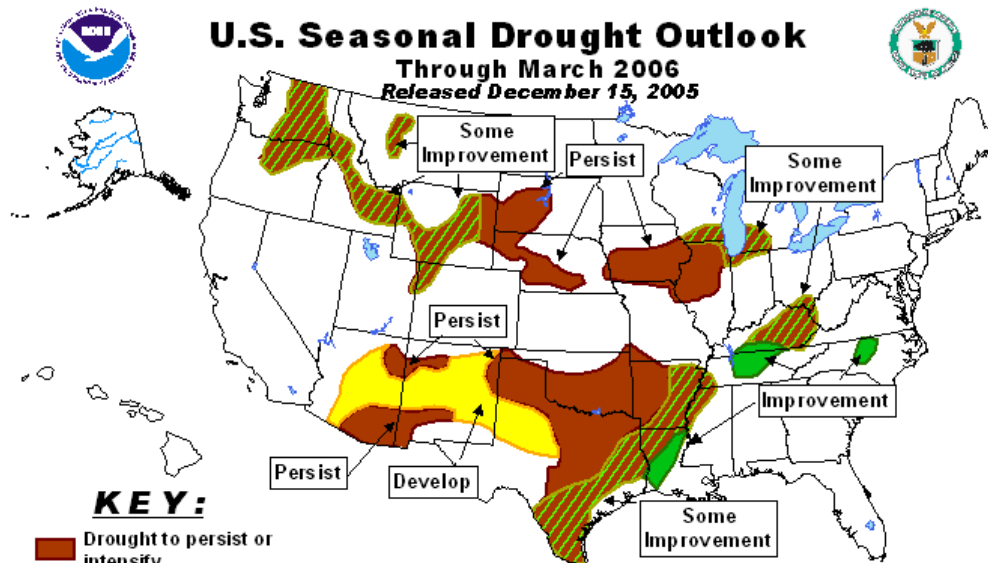


Released Thursday, January 5, 2006
 Author: Douglas Le Comte, CPC/NOAA

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Through March 2006
 Released December 15, 2005

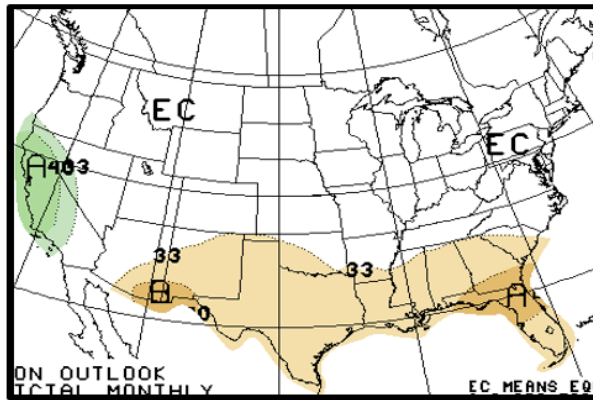


KEY:

- Drought to persist or intensify
- Drought ongoing, some improvement
- Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
- Drought development likely

Depicts general, large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by numerous indicators, including short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance, so use caution if using this outlook for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4). For weekly drought updates, see the latest Drought Monitor map and text. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.

January 2006 U.S. Precipitation Forecast

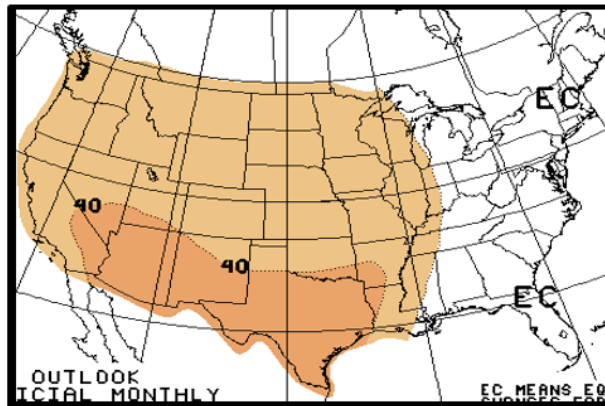


Percent Likelihood
of Above or Below
Average Precipitation*

	5% - 10%	A = Above
	0% - 5%	
	0% - 5%	B = Below
	5% - 10%	

*EC indicates no forecasted anomalies due to lack of model skill.

January 2006 U.S. Temperature Forecast



Percent Likelihood
of Above and Below
Average Temperatures*

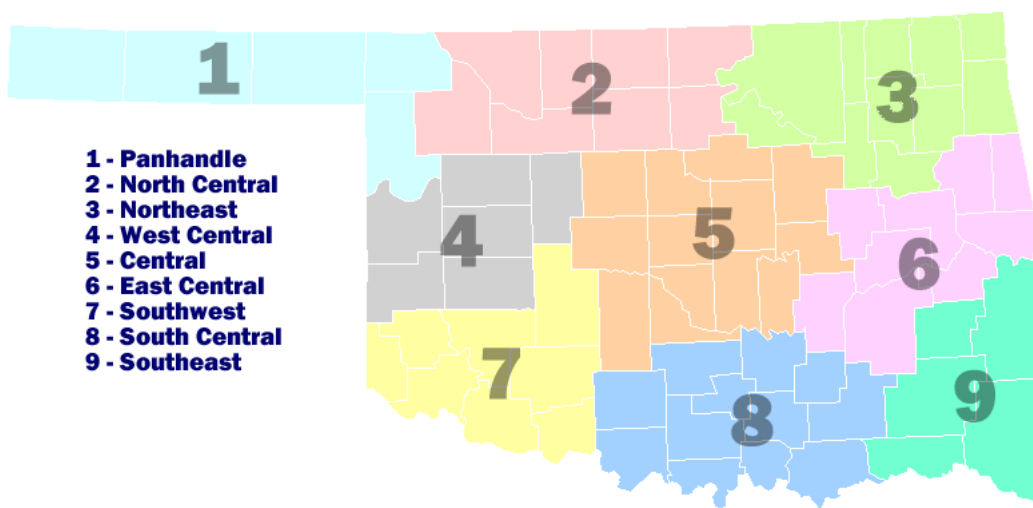
	10% - 20%	A = Above
	5% - 10%	
	0% - 5%	
	0% - 5%	B = Below
	5% - 10%	

*EC indicates no forecasted anomalies due to lack of model skill.

January Climate Normals

Climate Division	Max. Temperature (°F)	Min. Temperature (°F)	Avg. Temperature (°F)	Precipitation (inches)
1	47.3	19.2	33.3	0.51
2	44.7	20.5	32.6	0.95
3	46.3	24.0	35.2	1.58
4	46.9	22.4	34.6	0.83
5	47.5	24.5	36.0	1.33
6	48.0	26.4	37.2	2.10
7	49.7	24.2	37.0	1.08
8	50.4	27.2	38.8	1.91
9	51.3	27.7	39.5	2.81
Statewide	47.9	24.1	36.0	1.51

Oklahoma Climate Divisions



Interpretation Information

Mean Daily Temperature: Calculated from an average of the daily maximum and minimum temperatures. Daily averages are summed for each day, and then divided by the number of valid data points – typically the number of days in the month. Although this may differ from the “true” daily average, it is consistent with historical methods of observation and comparable to the normals and extremes for stations and regions of the state.

Degree Days: Degree Days are calculated each day of the month for which there is a temperature report and the mean temperature for the day is less than (Heating Degree Days) or greater than (Cooling Degree Days) 65 degrees. Daily values are summed to arrive at a monthly total. HDD/CDD are qualitative measures of how much heating/cooling was required to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature. Missing observations may result in an artificially high or low value.

Severe Weather Reports: Only the most significant events are listed. Tornadoes of F2 or greater strength (on the 0-5 Fujita scale), hail of two inches diameter or greater, and wind speeds of 70 miles per hour or above are listed. National Weather Service defines storms as severe when they produce a tornado, hail of three-quarters inch or greater, or wind speeds above 57 miles per hour (50 knots). For additional reports, contact the Oklahoma Climatological Survey, Storm Prediction Center, or your local National Weather Service forecast office.

Soil Moisture: The soil moisture variable displayed is the Fractional Water Index (FWI), measured at a depth of 25 cm. This unitless value ranges from very dry soil having a value of 0, to saturated soils having a value of 1.

Additional Resources

Sunrise / Sunset tables

U.S. Naval Observatory: <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data>

Severe Storm Reports

Storm Prediction Center: <http://spc.noaa.gov/climo/>

National Climatic Data Center (more than about 4-5 months old):

<http://www4.ncdc.noaa.gov/cgi-win/wwcgi.dll?wwEvent~Storms>

Seasonal Outlooks

Climate Prediction Center:

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/OUTLOOKS_index.html

Climate Calendars and other local weather and climate information

Oklahoma Climatological Survey: <http://climate.ocs.ou.edu> or

<http://www.ocs.ou.edu/>

E-mail (ocs@ou.edu) or telephone (405/325-2541)



Oklahoma Climatological Survey is the State
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