

# OKLAHOMA MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARY

## FEBRUARY 2006



Winter's final stanza finished as the 5th driest February on record, and added yet another month to the ongoing droughty conditions in Oklahoma. Precipitation was so sparse that no precipitation was recorded in the northwestern one-third of the state for the duration of the month. The only locations receiving any significant rainfall were in southeastern Oklahoma, and even then that precipitation was well below normal. February also finished cooler than normal, which is somewhat surprising for what seemed like a warm month. Extreme cold during the middle of the month surpassed any warmth which did occur, however. Despite finishing below normal, February was only the 50th coolest of the 112 years on record. The lack of precipitation signaled an obvious lack of severe weather as well. The weather was once again favorable for another type of hazard, however, as the dry and windy conditions combined to produce extreme wildfire danger. The winter as a whole goes into the record books as the 2nd driest and 13th warmest since 1895. In reality, winter-like weather was largely absent during the December-February period. Cold snaps struck in early December and mid-February, while the state basked in spring-like temperatures the remainder of the season.

### Precipitation

The entire state was abnormally dry during February. The southeast had the least-depressing precipitation total with more than an inch of rain, on average. On the opposite end of the spectrum was the Panhandle with a complete lack of measurable precipitation, which obviously ties that region with its driest on record. North central and west central Oklahoma had equally dismal fortunes, both reporting a hundredth of an inch of precipitation on average for the month. Idabel reported the most rainfall for the month with 2.66 inches. The state's winter deficit nearly exceeded four inches.

### Temperature

The state was surprisingly below normal temperature-wise for February. Despite very warm weather early and late in the month, an extended cold spell in the middle dropped the statewide-averaged temperature to a degree below normal. The season as a whole was very warm at three degrees above normal, the 13th warmest on record.

### February 2006 Statewide Extremes

Description	Extreme	Station	Date
High Temperature	90°F	Hollis	Feb 28th
Low Temperature	-2°F	Kenton	Feb 18th
High Precipitation	2.66 in.	Idabel	
Low Precipitation	0.00 in.	27 Stations	

### February Daily Highlights

**February 1-3:** High temperatures rose into the 60s and 70s ahead of a weak cold front which had stalled in the northwest on the 1st. The front meandered north-south for a couple of days, its exact position determining whether highs were in the 50s and 60s or 60s and 70s. The front triggered a few rain showers on the 2nd in southern Oklahoma. The Mesonet site at Eufaula recorded more than a half of an inch on the 2nd. An upper-level disturbance on the 3rd brought enough cloudiness to drop high temperatures back down into the 50s and 60s as well as triggering light rain in the southeast.

**February 4-9 :** Temperatures were more seasonable on the 4th with lows in the 20s and 30s and highs in the 40s and 50s. A cold front moved through the state on the 5th. Highs ahead of the front reached the 70s, but remained in the 50s behind the front. Cooler temperatures greeted the state on the 6th and 7th before warming a bit on the 8th and 9th.

**February 10-15 :** A cold front and upper-level storm met over the state on the 10th, triggering light to moderate precipitation over the southeast. Totals were generally light, with a half of an inch reported at the Mt. Herman Mesonet site. Cool weather ensued for a couple of days with highs in the 40s and 50s and lows from the teens to the 30s. The weather warmed a bit after that with highs in the 60s and 70s. Strong winds and low humidity combined with the warmth to send wildfire potential skyrocketing during that period. A weak cold front moved into the state on the 15th and stalled, cooling northern Oklahoma to more seasonable weather.

**February 16-20 :** A much stronger cold front entered the state early on the 15th. Temperatures quickly dropped 20-30 degrees after the frontal passage from the 40s and 50s into the 20s. Strong northerly winds gusting to over 45 mph dropped wind chills below zero. The cold air remained in place while an upper-level storm approached from the west on the 18th. Light freezing rain, sleet, and a bit of snow created traffic problems with very little accumulation. Single digit lows in the northwest combined with strong winds to produce wind chills of 10-15 degrees below zero. High temperatures didn't rise above freezing on the 18th. More light freezing rain and snow moved in on the 19th. Once again the precipitation was light, but the ice made travel treacherous. After a bit more freezing drizzle and freezing fog early on the 20th, skies slowly cleared and temperatures rose into the 30s and 40s.

**February 21-25:** This period accounted for the only significant wet weather during the month. The first couple of days were gray and cool with scattered drizzle and highs mostly in the 40s. A slight warm-up occurred the next two days with intermittent periods of light rain before an upper-level storm moved into the area on the 25th. Moisture was carried northward on strong southerly winds, providing sufficient moisture for a few heavy rain showers in the extreme south. The Mesonet sites at Antlers, Durant, Hugo, and Idabel all recorded more than an inch of rainfall.

**February 26-28:** The rainfall ended as high pressure settled over the state. Sunny skies and a significant warm up found temperatures rising into the 80s by the end of the month. Strong southerly winds and the low humidity combined to exacerbate the ongoing wildfire problem as February ended.

<b>February 2006 Statewide Statistics</b>			
<b>Temperature</b>			
	<b>Average</b>	<b>Depart.</b>	<b>Rank (1892-2006)</b>
Month (Feb)	40.7°F	-1.0°F	50th Coolest
Season-to-Date (Dec-Feb)	41.8°F	3.0°F	13th Warmest
Year -to-Date (Jan-Feb)	43.8°F	5.0°F	9th Warmest

<b>Precipitation</b>			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Depart.</b>	<b>Rank (1892-2006)</b>
Month (Feb)	0.31 in.	-1.45 in.	5th Driest
Season-to-Date (Dec-Feb)	1.46 in.	-3.77 in.	2nd Driest
Year-to-Date (Jan-Feb)	1.22 in.	1.99 in.	11th Driest

Depart. = Departure from 30-year normal

## **February 2006 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.

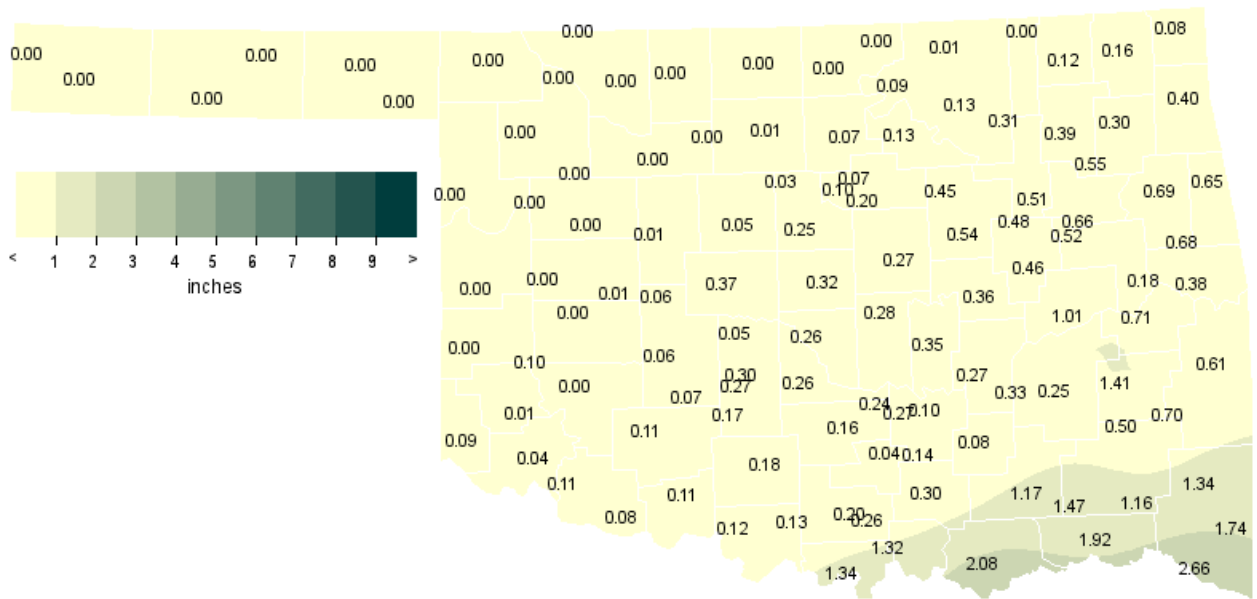
### **Flooding**

No flooding events reported in the state.

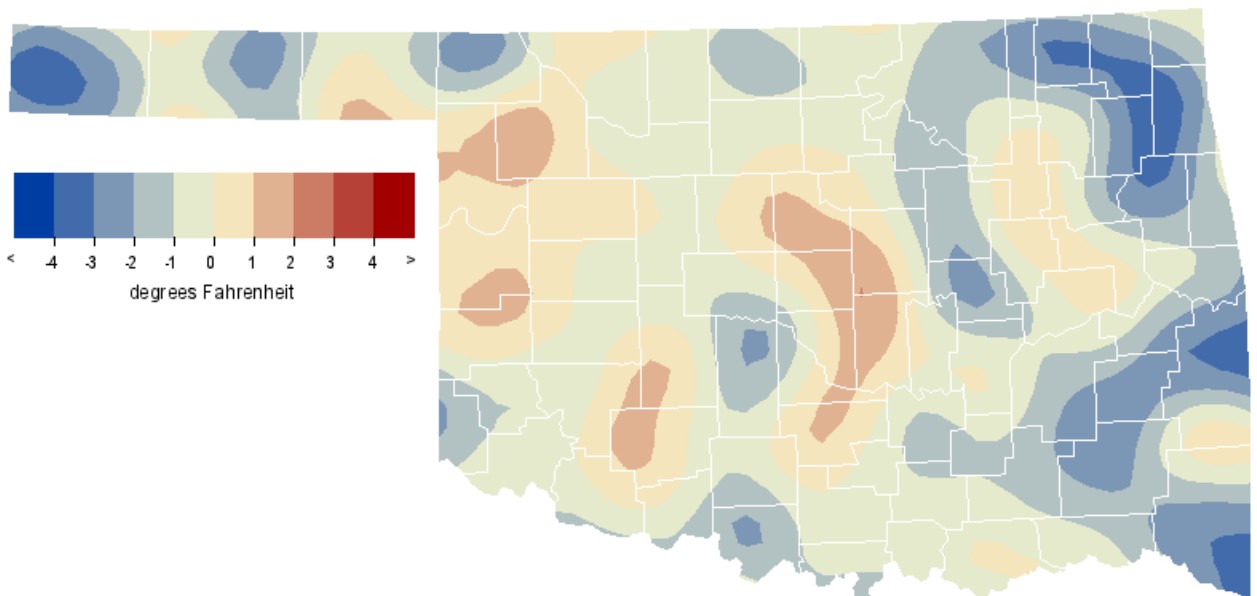
### **Record Events Report**

Description	Day	Location	Record	Previous Record	Year
High Temperature	16	McAlester	81	80	1976

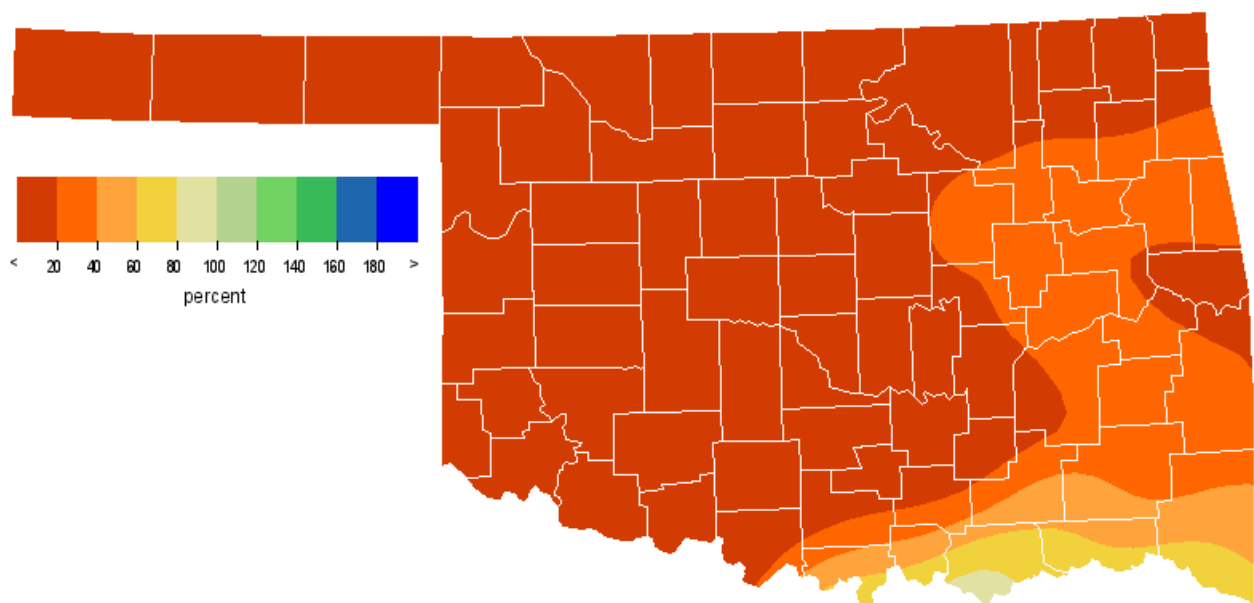
## February 2006 Observed Precipitation



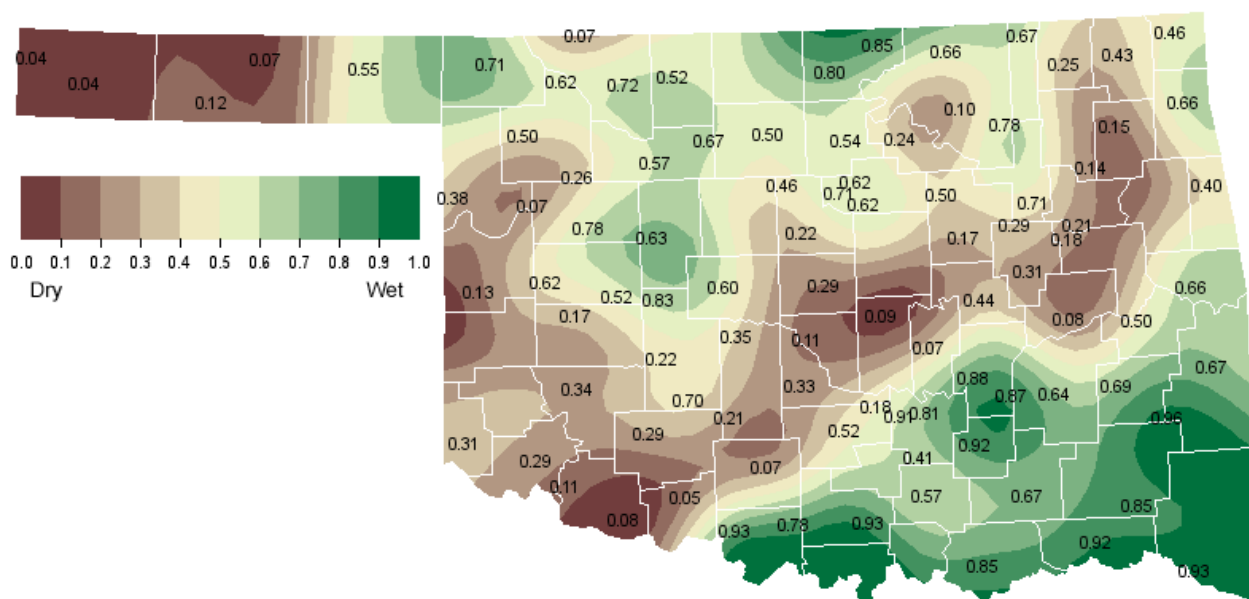
## February 2006 Departure from Normal Precipitation



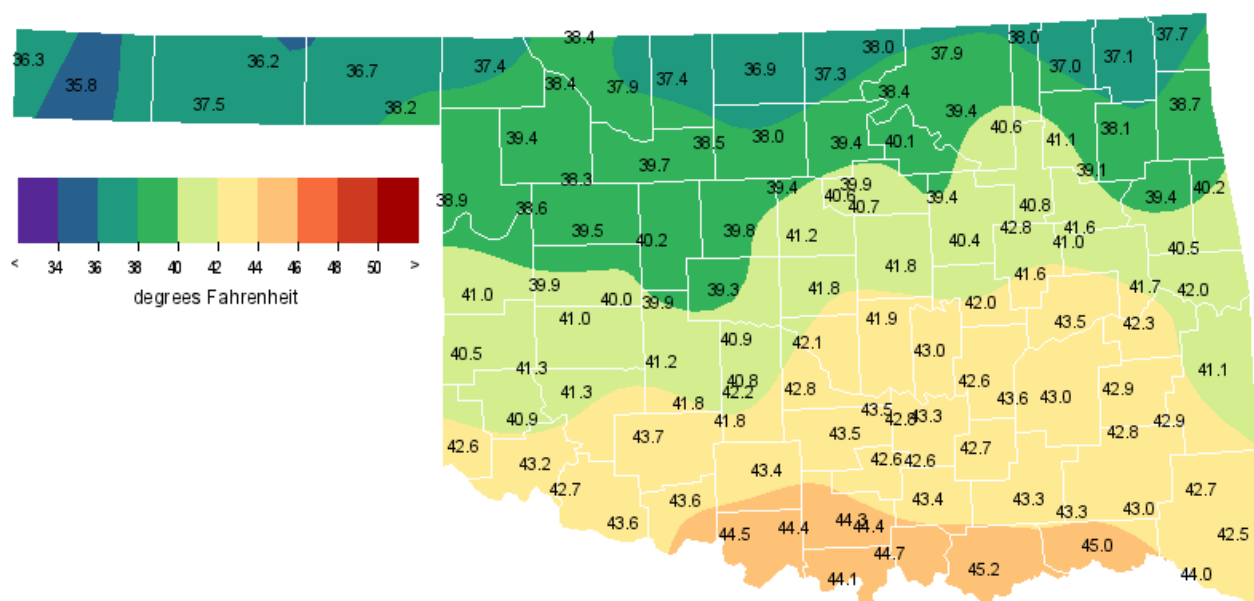
## February 2006 Percent of Normal Precipitation



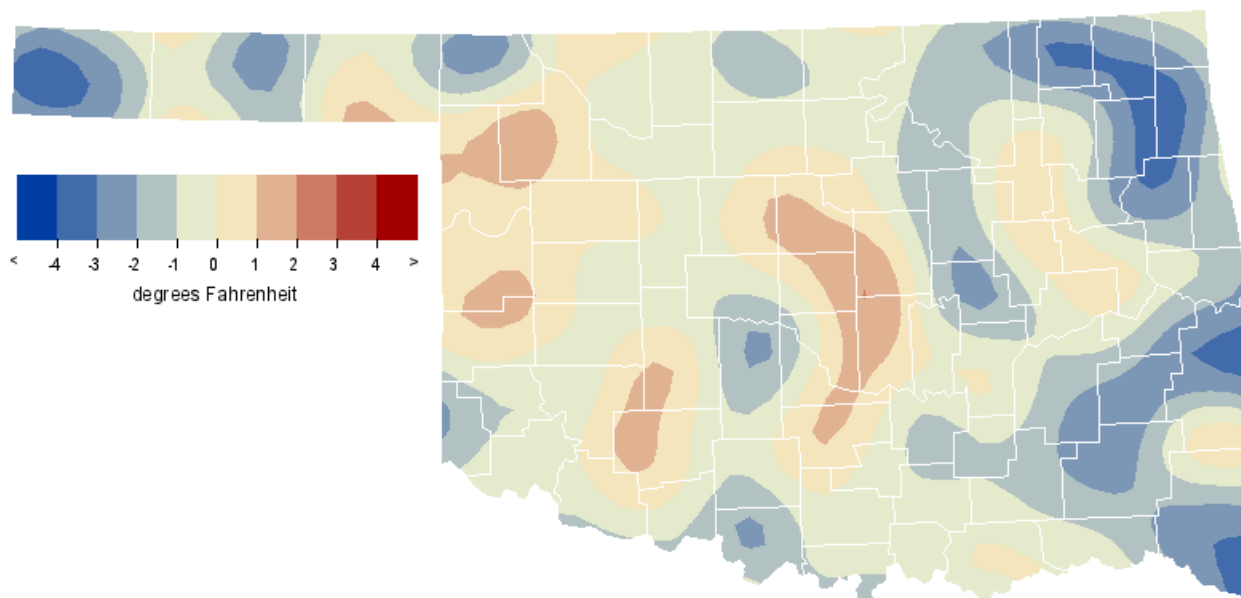
## February 2006 Average Soil Moisture at 25cm



## February 2006 Average Temperature



## February 2006 Departure from Normal Temperature



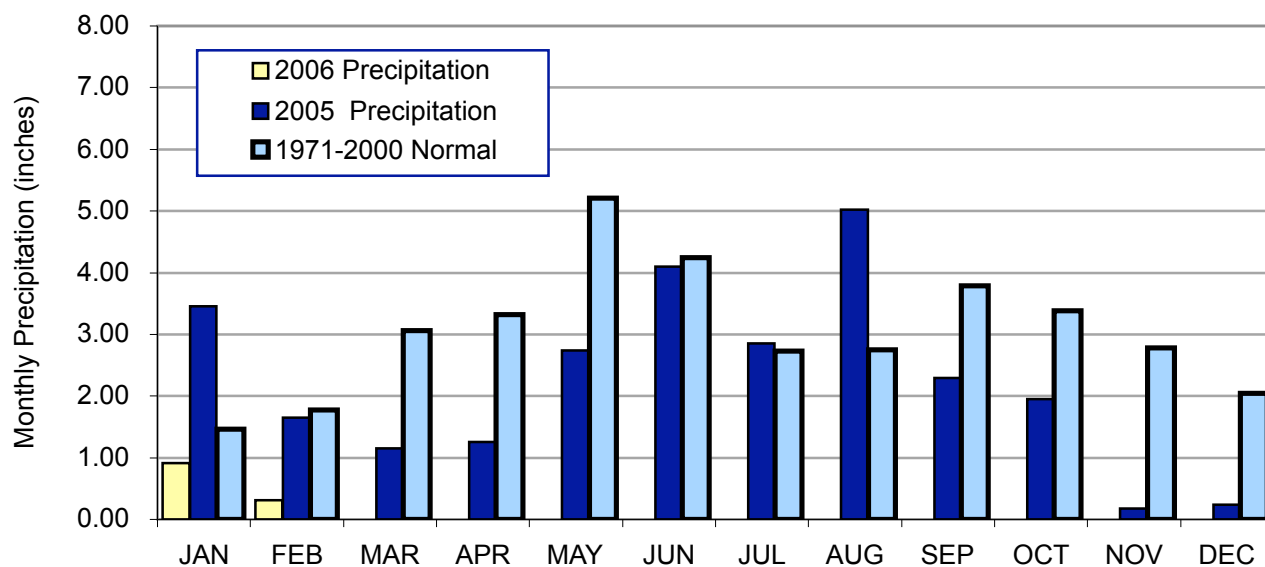
# Mesonet Monthly Summary for February 2006

NAME	MEAN		HIGH		LOW		TOT HIGH		NAME	MEAN		HIGH		LOW		TOT HIGH					
	TEMP	TEMP	DAY	TEMP	DAY	HDD	CDD	PPT		24-HR	DAY	TEMP	TEMP	DAY	TEMP	DAY	HDD	CDD	PPT	24-HR	DAY
<b>PANHANDLE</b>																					
Arnett	38.9	85	28	5	18	731	0	.00	.00	1	Goodwell	37.5	86	28	1	18	770	0	.00	.00	1
Beaver	36.7	86	28	2	18	792	0	.00	.00	1	Hooker	36.2	85	28	1	18	808	0	.00	.00	1
Boise City	35.8	82	28	-2	18	817	0	.00	.00	1	Kenton	36.3	78	28	-2	18	804	0	.00	.00	1
Buffalo	37.2	87	28	5	18	****	****	.00	.00	1	Slapout	38.2	85	28	3	18	750	0	.00	.00	1
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>																					
Blackwell	37.3	81	28	9	18	777	0	.00	.00	1	Medford	37.0	80	28	9	18	784	0	.00	.00	1
Breckinridge	38.0	83	28	9	18	757	0	.01	.01	20	Newkirk	38.0	79	28	7	18	756	0	.00	.00	1
Cherokee	37.4	82	28	8	18	774	0	.00	.00	1	Red Rock	39.4	82	28	10	18	718	0	.07	.03	21
Fairview	39.7	85	28	8	18	709	0	.00	.00	1	Seiling	38.3	87	28	6	18	****	****	.00	.00	1
Freedom	38.5	86	28	6	18	****	****	.00	.00	1	Woodward	39.5	87	28	5	18	714	0	.00	.00	1
Lahoma	38.5	83	28	8	18	742	0	.00	.00	1	Alva	38.0	83	28	7	18	757	0	.00	.00	1
May Ranch	38.2	82	28	4	18	****	****	.00	.00	1											
<b>NORTHEAST</b>																					
Bixby	40.8	79	28	13	18	677	0	.51	.40	21	Pryor	38.1	77	28	8	13	753	0	.30	.20	20
Burbank	38.4	81	28	8	18	745	0	.09	.08	20	Skiatook	40.6	79	28	10	18	683	0	.31	.30	22
Copan	38.0	78	28	9	18	757	0	.00	.00	1	Vinita	37.1	77	28	9	18	782	0	.16	.08	20
Foraker	37.9	80	28	8	18	760	0	.01	.01	20	Wynona	39.5	81	28	10	18	715	0	.13	.12	21
Jay	38.7	78	28	10	18	736	0	.40	.35	21	Porter	41.5	77	28	13	18	657	0	.66	.37	21
Miami	37.2	78	28	9	18	****	****	.08	.05	21	Inola	39.1	79	28	10	13	725	0	.55	.40	21
Nowata	37.0	77	28	10	12	784	0	.12	.08	21	Claremore	41.2	79	28	11	18	****	****	.39	.28	22
Pawnee	40.1	81	28	10	18	698	0	.13	.12	21											
<b>WEST CENTRAL</b>																					
Bessie	41.0	82	28	9	18	671	0	.00	.00	1	Putnam	39.5	84	28	7	18	714	0	.00	.00	1
Butler	39.9	87	28	9	18	703	0	.00	.00	1	Retrop	41.4	82	28	11	18	661	0	.10	.06	21
Camargo	38.6	86	28	7	18	****	****	.00	.00	1	Watonga	40.2	83	28	7	18	695	0	.01	.01	21
Cheyenne	41.0	84	28	6	18	673	1	.00	.00	1	Weatherford	40.1	82	28	8	18	698	0	.01	.01	21
Erick	39.8	79	27	10	18	****	****	.00	.00	1											
<b>CENTRAL</b>																					
Bowlegs	42.9	80	28	13	13	618	0	.35	.20	21	Okemah	42.0	78	28	11	13	645	0	.36	.19	21
Bristow	40.4	78	28	10	12	688	0	.54	.26	21	Perkins	40.7	81	28	11	18	679	0	.20	.16	21
Chandler	41.9	81	28	12	18	648	0	.27	.17	21	Shawnee	41.3	80	28	12	18	****	****	.28	.19	21
Chickasha	40.8	82	28	7	12	676	0	.30	.30	21	Spencer	41.8	81	28	11	18	650	1	.32	.28	21
El Reno	38.8	84	28	10	18	****	****	.37	.28	21	Stillwater	39.9	83	28	11	18	702	0	.07	.04	21
Guthrie	41.1	83	28	10	18	668	0	.25	.23	21	Washington	42.7	82	28	13	18	623	0	.26	.23	21
Kingfisher	39.8	83	28	11	18	****	****	.05	.05	21	Ninnekah	42.2	83	28	10	12	638	0	.27	.27	21
Marena	40.7	84	28	11	18	681	0	.10	.07	21	Acme	41.8	83	28	11	18	649	0	.17	.07	21
Minco	41.0	82	28	10	18	673	0	.05	.05	21	Norman	42.1	82	28	12	18	642	0	.26	.26	21
Oilton	39.3	79	28	10	13	719	0	****	.31	22	Marshall	39.4	83	28	10	18	717	0	.03	.02	21
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>																					
Calvin	42.6	79	16	12	12	****	****	.27	.19	20	Stigler	42.2	79	16	16	13	638	0	.71	.22	2
Cookson	40.5	77	16	12	12	686	0	.68	.32	22	Stuart	43.5	79	16	17	18	601	0	.33	.23	20
Eufaula	43.5	79	16	15	18	603	1	1.01	.61	2	Tahlequah	39.4	75	28	11	13	717	0	.69	.44	22
Haskell	40.9	78	15	13	18	674	0	.52	.41	21	Webbers Falls	41.7	80	16	14	13	653	0	.18	.13	2
McAlester	43.0	80	16	14	13	617	2	.25	.12	20	Westville	40.2	77	28	14	18	694	0	.65	.37	22
Okmulgee	41.5	79	28	10	13	660	2	.46	.34	21	Hectorville	42.8	80	28	12	18	624	1	.48	.41	21
Sallisaw	42.1	78	16	16	13	642	0	.38	.20	20											
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>																					
Altus	43.1	87	28	14	18	613	0	.04	.02	3	Medicine Park	43.2	83	28	11	18	****	****	.11	.09	21
Fort Cobb	41.0	82	28	11	18	****	****	.06	.06	21	Tipton	41.8	78	27	12	12	****	****	.11	.07	3
Hinton	40.0	83	28	8	18	701	0	.06	.06	21	Walters	43.6	85	28	13	12	600	0	.11	.09	3
Hobart	41.3	83	28	11	18	665	0	.00	.00	1	Apache	41.6	82	28	11	18	****	****	.07	.06	21
Hollis	42.6	90	28	14	18	627	0	.09	.05	3	Grandfield	43.6	84	28	15	18	600	0	.08	.06	3
Mangum	40.5	81	27	11	12	****	****	.01	.01	20											
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>																					
Ada	43.5	81	16	16	18	****	****	.10	.10	20	Ringling	44.3	83	28	14	12	578	0	.13	.07	3
Burneyville	44.0	82	16	16	12	587	0	1.34	.76	25	Sulphur	42.5	80	16	12	12	629	0	.04	.02	20
Byars	43.0	80	28	14	18	****	****	.24	.12	21	Tishomingo	43.4	83	16	16	12	606	0	.30	.16	3
Centrahoma	42.8	81	16	11	12	623	0	.08	.06	19	Waurika	44.5	85	28	17	12	577	1	.12	.08	3
Durant	45.1	82	16	20	12	556	0	2.08	1.22	25	Vanoss	42.9	81	16	13	12	620	0	.27	.16	21
Ketchum Ranch	43.2	82	28	14	18	****	****	.18	.07	3	Newport	44.1	81	16	17	12	****	****	.20	.10	3
Lane	43.3	80	16	15	12	609	0	1.17	.68	25	Ardmore	43.7	81	16	18	12	****	****	.26	.10	3
Madill	44.7	83	16	16	12	568	0	1.32	.60	24	Fittstown	42.5	80	16	16	18	630	0	.14	.11	20
Pauls Valley	43.5	80	28	15	18	602	0	.16	.10	20											
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>																					
Antlers	43.3	82	16	14	12	609	0	1.47	1.02	25	Mt Herman	42.8	78	16	17	13	623	0	1.34	.48	10
Clayton	42.7	80	16	16	13	623	0	.50	.19	22	Talihina	42.9	78	16	16	13	619	0	.70	.23	2
Cloudy	42.9	80	16	17	13	618	0	1.16	.43	25	Wilburton	42.8	80	16	15	13	622	1	1.41	.60	2
Hugo	45.0	81	16	20	12	561	0	1.92	1.16	25	Wister	41.0	80	16	13	12	671	0	.61	.30	10
Idabel	43.9	80	16	17	13	590	0	2.66	1.46	25	Broken Bow	42.4	80	16	15	13	632	0	1.74	.48	25

## February 2006 Mesonet Precipitation Comparison

Climate Division	Precipitation (inches)	Departure from Normal (inches)	Rank since 1895	Wettest on Record (Year)	Driest on Record (Year)	Feb-05
Panhandle	0.00	-0.64	1st Driest	2.94 (1911)	0.00 (1896)	0.79
North Central	0.01	-1.21	3rd Driest	4.10 (1911)	0.00 (1904)	1.27
Northeast	0.26	-1.72	2nd Driest	5.80 (1985)	0.10 (1963)	2.26
West Central	0.01	-1.13	4th Driest	3.64 (1997)	0.00 (1904)	0.94
Central	0.25	-1.61	8th Driest	5.08 (1938)	0.00 (1904)	1.95
East Central	0.51	-1.92	11th Driest	9.15 (1938)	0.00 (1895)	1.87
Southwest	0.07	-1.26	9th Driest	3.89 (1997)	0.00 (1902)	1.41
South Central	0.48	-1.73	19th Driest	7.66 (1938)	0.02 (1902)	1.93
Southeast	1.35	-1.79	22nd Driest	10.12 (1945)	0.36 (1895)	2.76
Statewide	0.31	-1.45	5th Driest	4.66 (1938)	0.18 (1996)	1.70

## 2005 and 2006 Statewide Precipitation Monthly Totals vs. Normal

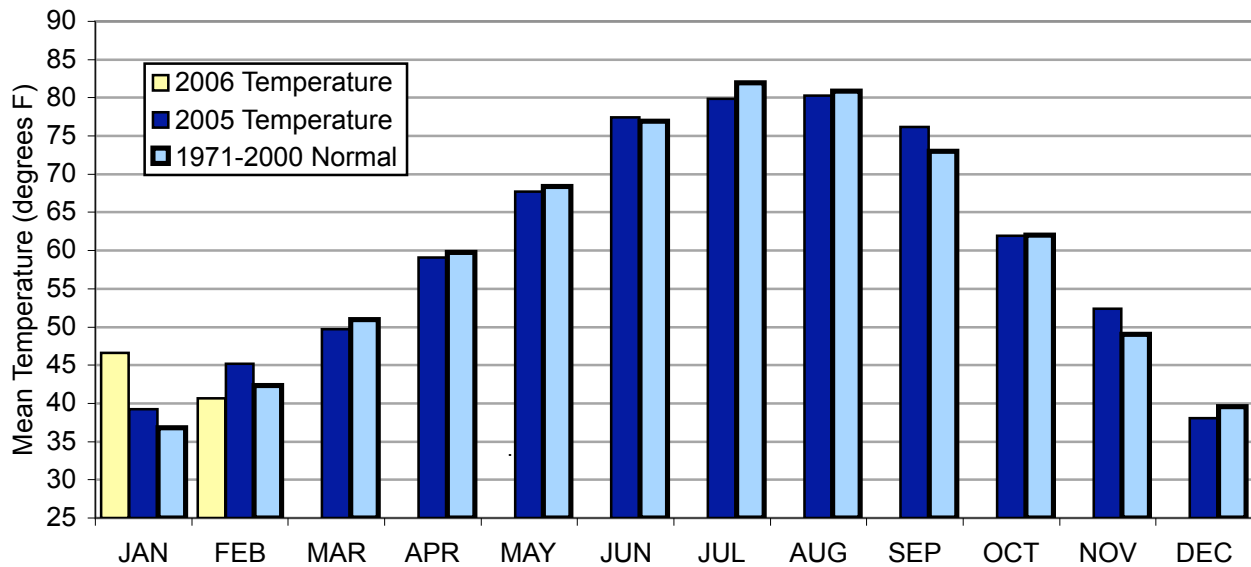




## February 2006 Mesonet Temperature Comparison

Climate Division	Average Temp (F)	Departure from Normal (F)	Rank since 1895	Hottest on Record (Year)	Coldest on Record (Year)	Feb-05 (F)
Panhandle	37.1	-1.2	48th Coolest	47.5 (1954)	23.1 (1899)	41.8
North Central	38.3	-1.0	52nd Coolest	49.6 (1954)	22.4 (1899)	42.8
Northeast	39.0	-1.4	50th Coolest	49.8 (1976)	25.6 (1899)	44.7
West Central	40.2	-0.4	56th Coolest	51.0 (1954)	23.8 (1905)	44.0
Central	41.1	-0.8	55th Coolest	51.6 (1976)	26.2 (1899)	44.9
East Central	41.9	-0.9	53rd Coolest	52.1 (1976)	28.7 (1899)	46.6
Southwest	42.2	-0.9	55th Coolest	52.5 (1954)	26.8 (1905)	45.5
South Central	43.7	-1.1	53rd Coolest	53.6 (1976)	30.0 (1905)	47.5
Southeast	43.0	-1.7	43rd Coolest	52.6 (1976)	31.4 (1899)	47.0
Statewide	40.7	-1.0	50th Coolest	50.7 (1954)	26.6 (1899)	44.9

## 2005 and 2006 Statewide Temperature Monthly Averages vs. Normal



## Mesonet Extremes for February 2006

Climate Division	High Temp			Low Temp			High Monthly Rainfall		High Daily Rainfall		
	(F)	Day	Station	(F)	Day	Station	(inches)	Station	(inches)	Day	Station
Panhandle	87	28th	Buffalo	-2	18th	Kenton	0.00	Beaver	0.00	1st	Beaver
North Central	87	28th	Seiling	4	18th	May Ranch	0.07	Red Rock	0.03	21st	Red Rock
Northeast	81	28th	Pawnee	8	18th	Foraker	0.66	Porter	0.40	21st	Inola
West Central	87	28th	Butler	6	18th	Cheyenne	0.10	Retrop	0.06	21st	Retrop
Central	84	28th	El Reno	7	12th	Chickasha	0.54	Bristow	0.31	22nd	Oilton
East Central	80	16th	Webbers Falls	10	13th	Okmulgee	1.01	Eufaula	0.61	2nd	Eufaula
Southwest	90	28th	Hollis	8	18th	Hinton	0.11	Walters	0.09	3rd	Walters
South Central	85	28th	Waurika	11	12th	Centrahoma	2.08	Durant	1.22	25th	Durant
Southeast	82	16th	Antlers	13	12th	Wister	2.66	Idabel	1.46	25th	Idabel
Statewide	90	28th	Hollis	-2	18th	Kenton	2.66	Idabel	1.46	25th	Idabel

# March Climatological Outlook

The retreat of winter and the onset of spring progress across Oklahoma during March, but the change of season is not smooth. Despite the generally moderating climate, winter intrudes from time-to-time, especially in the first half of the month, bringing with it some frigid weather and, occasionally, some frighteningly heavy snowstorms. By the end of the month, spring is typically in full sway, including occasional full participation in the severe thunderstorm season.

## Temperature

Mean: 51.0 degrees  
Warmest Location: 55.7 degrees, Ardmore  
Coolest Location: 45.1 degrees, Goodwell  
Warmest March: 1907, 59.6 degrees  
Coolest March: 1915, 39.2 degrees  
Hottest recorded: 104 degrees, Frederick, March 27, 1971  
Coldest recorded: -18 degrees, Hooker, March 7, 1920  
Kenton, March 1, 1922 & March 6, 1948

As befits a transitional month, March is Oklahoma's 5th coolest month. The statewide-average normal monthly temperature of 51.0 degrees is compiled from a collection of station-specific normals that range from 45.1 degrees in the panhandle at Goodwell to 55.7 degrees at Ardmore in south central Oklahoma. Monthly averages of statewide temperatures have included a maximum of 57.9 degrees both 1907 and 1910 and a minimum of 37.6 degrees in 1915. Normal daily maximum temperatures are bounded by southerly Waurika's 68.8 degrees and northerly Arnett's 59.3. Extremes of normal daily minimum temperatures are found in the panhandle at Boise City, 29.8 degrees, and in the south at Ardmore, 43.8 degrees.

## Precipitation

Mean: 3.06 inches  
Wettest March: 1973, 7.46 inches  
Driest March: 1971, 0.38 inches  
Wettest location: Smithville, 5.52 inches  
Driest location: Regnier, 1.05 inches  
Most recorded: 13.37 inches, Kansas, 1973

Normal statewide-averaged precipitation in March is 3.06 inches, ranking March as the state's 6th wettest month. The extreme monthly statewide averages of March precipitation

are 7.46 inches in 1973 and 0.38 inches in 1971. Southeastern Oklahoma's Smithville carries the title of wettest station in March with a normal precipitation total of 5.52 inches. The least normal March precipitation in the state, 1.05 inches, belongs to Regnier in the northwestern panhandle. The northeastern Oklahoma town of Kansas holds the apparent record for the wettest March in the state with a reported 13.37 inches of rain in 1973.

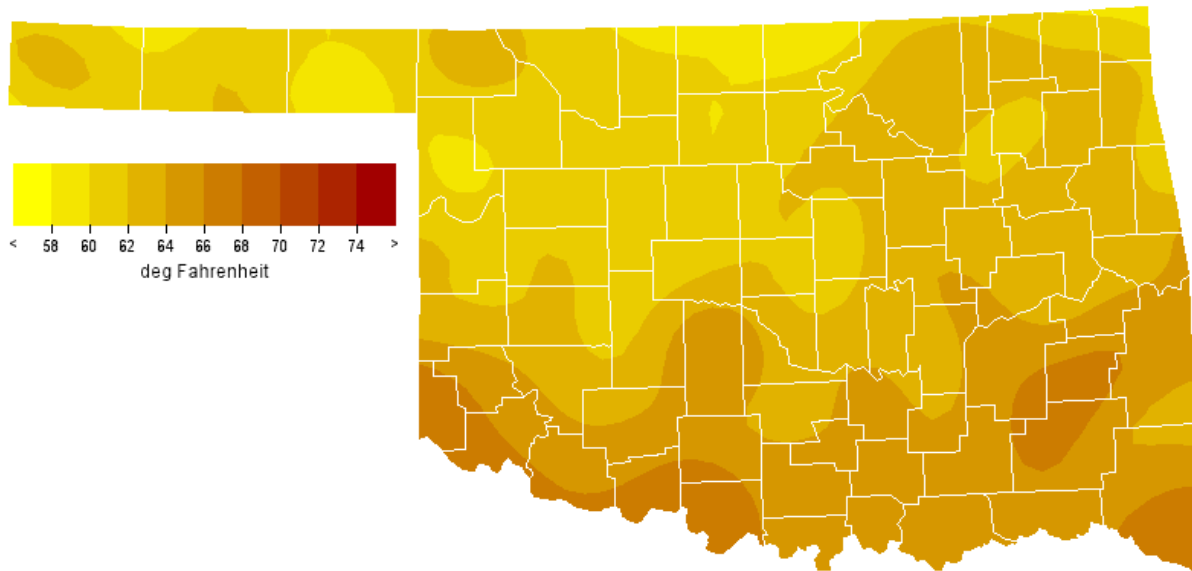
Snow doesn't come every March, but when it does it comes in bunches. Boise City averages 6.6 inches of snow during the month, the greatest average snowfall among the state's reporting locations. Stations in the state's southern half generally average less than half-an-inch of snow during March. Snowstorms have dropped as much as 20 inches of snow on northern parts of Oklahoma several times. In 1988, Cherokee (29.5 inches), Laverne (27.5 inches), and Waynoka (25 inches) all reported monthly totals of over 2 feet of snow. Gate recorded 27 inches in March 1969 and Vinita noted 24 inches in March 1970. Both the 1988 and 1970 totals are additionally notable as most of the snow was reported on St. Patrick's Day. Beaver reported substantial snow in March 1912 to complete the state's seasonal snowfall record (winter of 1911/12) of 87.3 inches. A late-season snowstorm struck the panhandle in 1926, as Boise City reported 16 inches of snow on the 30th.

## Tornadoes

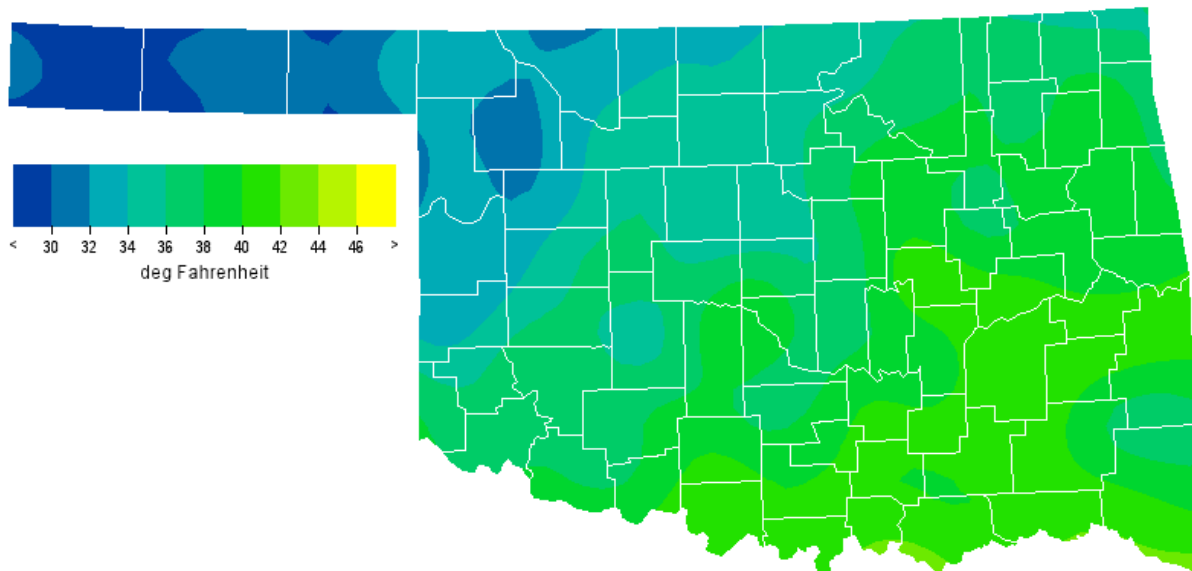
Average March Tornadoes: 4  
Most: 17 (1991)

The state has averaged 3.7 tornadoes each March since 1950. The actual number has ranged from none (16 times in 55 years, including 2002) to 17 in 1991. Two deadly March tornadoes, each killing 10, were at Gowen on March 13, 1922 and Lenna on March 25, 1948. Two other notable tornadoes struck the Oklahoma City area, including Will Rogers Airport and Tinker Air Force Base, on March 20th and 25th in 1948. The first tornado caused over \$10 million in property damage, much of it to military aircraft. Damage from the second was \$6 million. On the 25th, Air Force meteorologists recognizing the similarity of conditions to those of the 20th, issued what is now accepted to be the first successful and scientific forecast of a tornado.

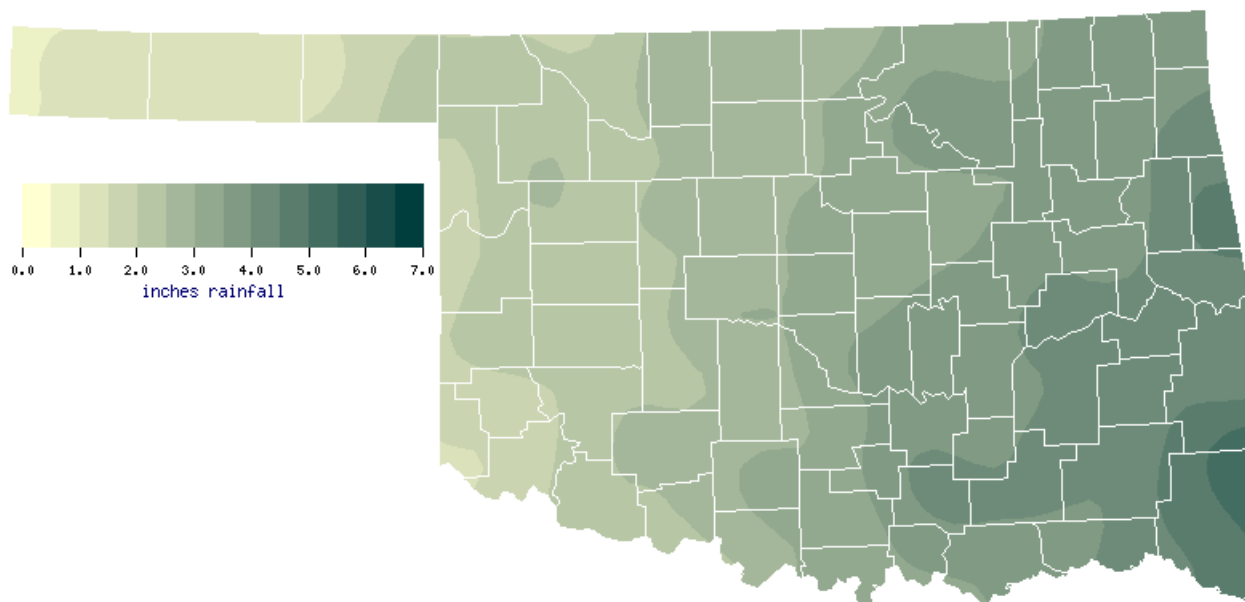
## March Normal Monthly Maximum Temperature (1971-2000)



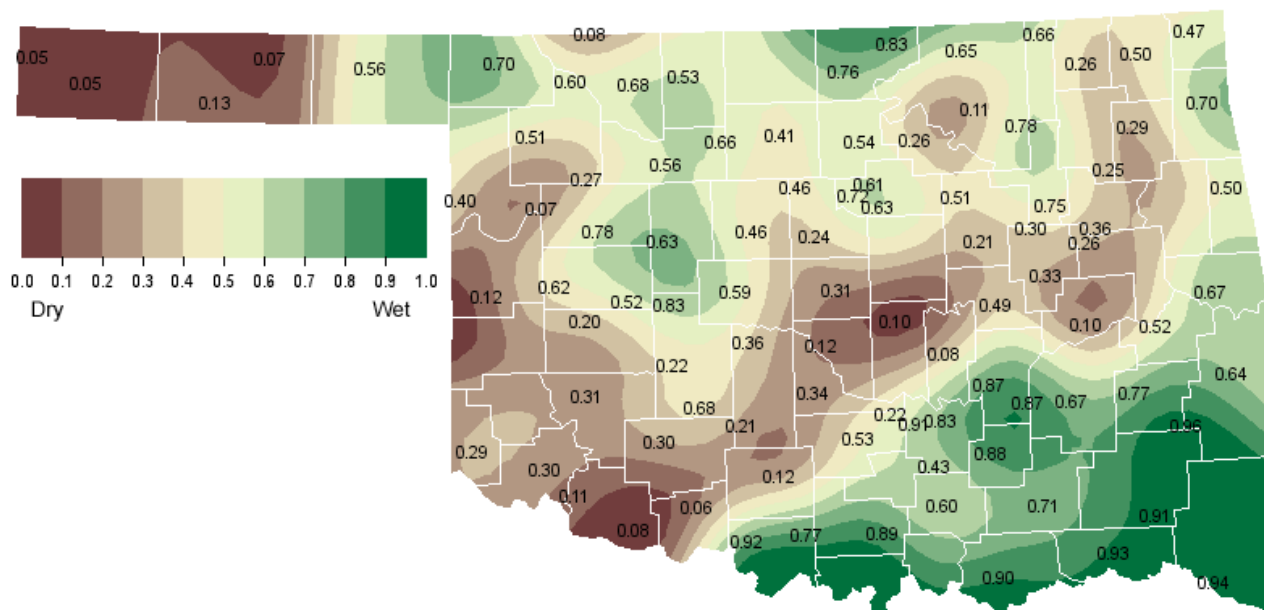
## March Normal Monthly Minimum Temperature (1971-2000)



**March Normal Precipitation (1971-2000)**

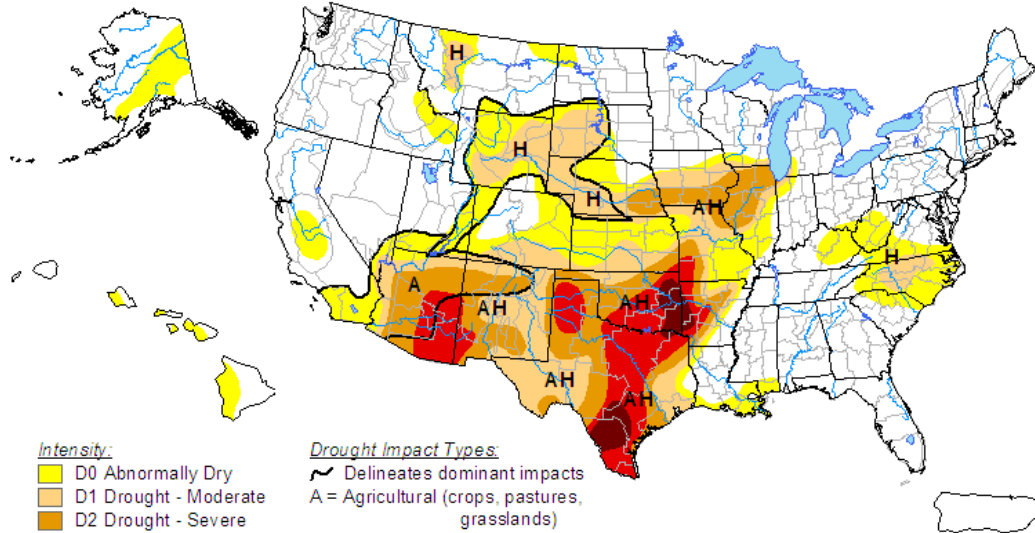


**March 1, 2006 Soil Moisture Conditions at 25cm**



# U.S. Drought Monitor

February 28, 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, March 2, 2006

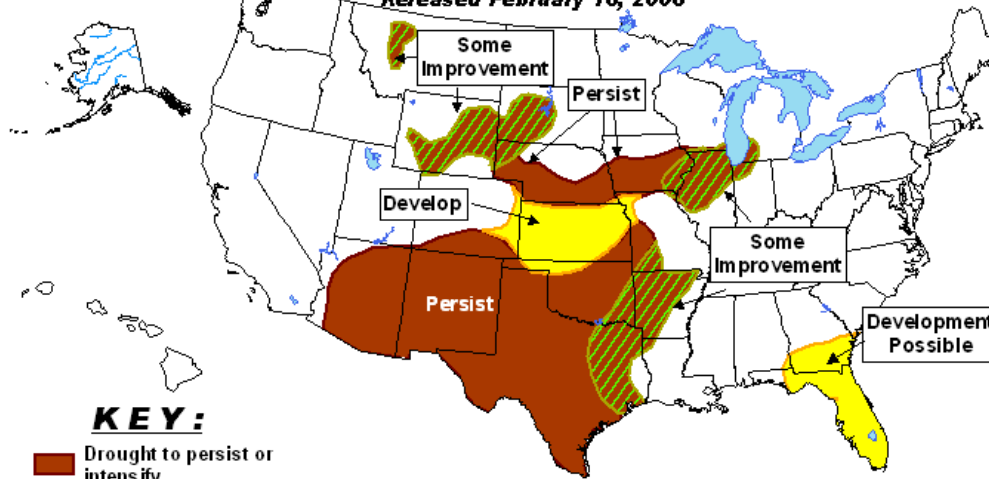
Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

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



## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Through May 2006  
Released February 16, 2006

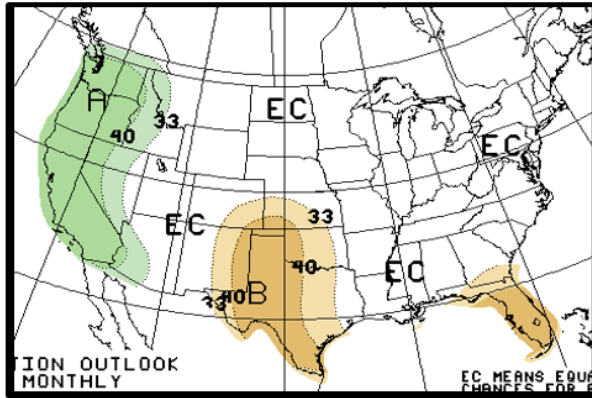


**KEY:**

- 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.

### March 2006 U.S. Precipitation Forecast

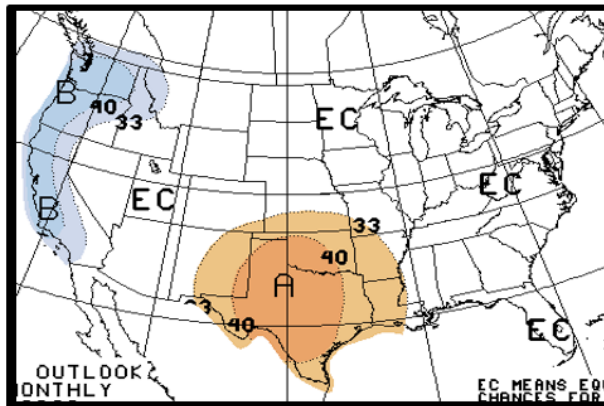


Percent Likelihood of Above or Below Average Precipitation\*

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

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

### March 2006 U.S. Temperature Forecast



Percent Likelihood of Above and Below Average Temperatures\*

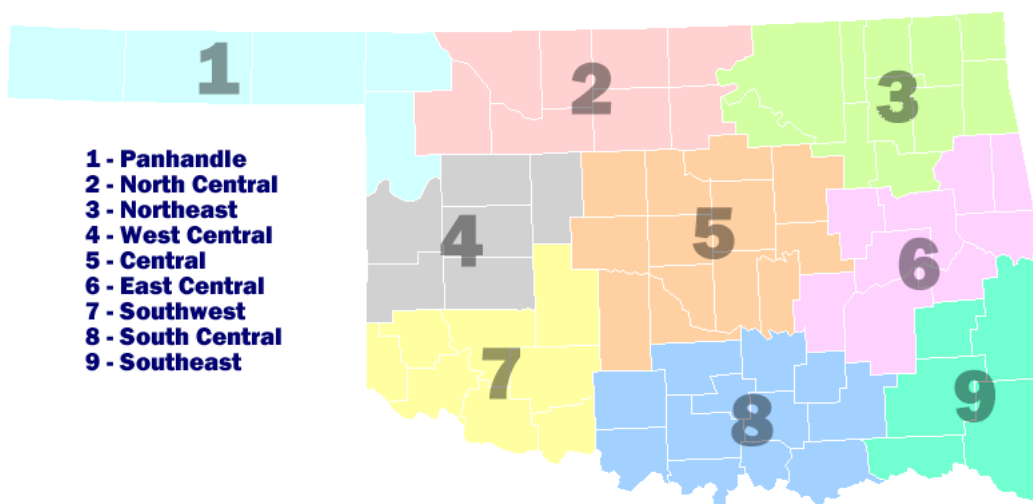
	10% - 20%	A = Above
	5% - 10%	
	0% - 5%	
	0% - 5%	B = Below
	5% - 10%	

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

## March Climate Normals

Climate Division	Max. Temperature (°F)	Min. Temperature (°F)	Avg. Temperature (°F)	Precipitation (inches)
1	61.5	31.6	46.5	1.58
2	60.4	33.7	47.1	2.67
3	62.5	37.9	50.2	3.61
4	61.7	34.7	48.2	2.29
5	62.6	37.6	50.2	3.15
6	63.3	39.6	51.5	3.99
7	64.5	37.0	50.8	2.29
8	64.9	40.0	52.5	3.50
9	65.5	39.9	52.7	4.45
Statewide	62.9	37.0	50.0	3.16

## 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](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](mailto:ocs@ou.edu)) or telephone (405/325-2541)



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