



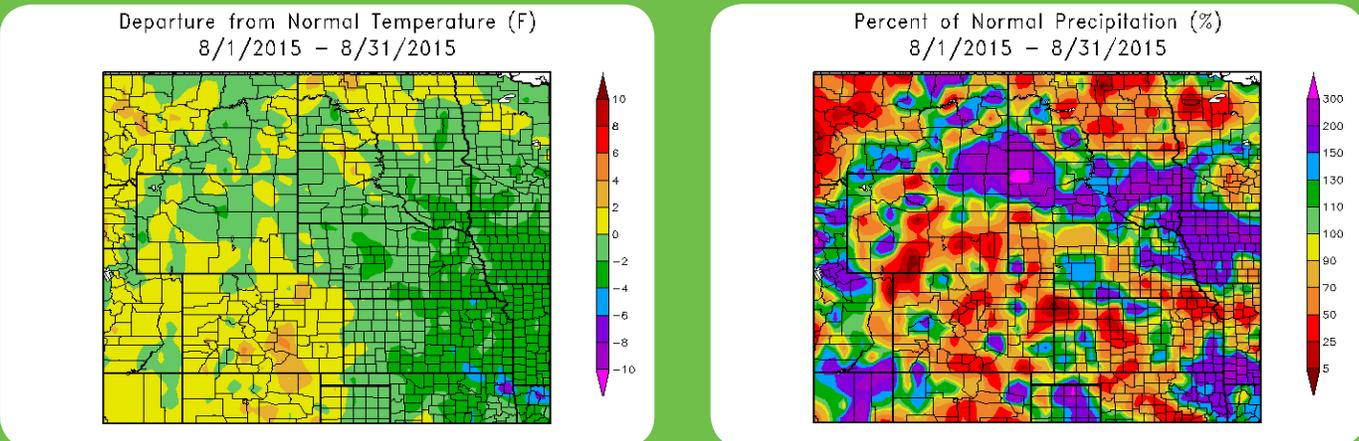
Smoky skies

It was another relatively quiet month for the contiguous U.S. The majority of the country had average temperatures within 2.0 degrees F (1.1 degrees C) of normal and precipitation extremes were not widespread. There were some exceptions, however. On the warm side, areas of the West Coast along with portions of the Desert Southwest and New England had temperature departures that were generally 2.0-4.0 degrees F (1.1-2.2 degrees C) above normal. Meanwhile, on the cool side, much of the central U.S. had departures of 2.0-4.0 degrees F (1.1-2.2 degrees C) below normal.

Precipitation varied across the country, but unlike the last few months, heavy precipitation was not widespread. Wetter areas included coastal portions of the Pacific Northwest, pockets of the West, an area stretching from southeastern Montana through eastern Iowa, and another swath stretching from southeastern Kansas and northeastern Oklahoma through portions of Georgia and Florida. Where rain fell in heavy bursts, some locations did experience flash flooding. Meanwhile, the eastern sides of Washington and Oregon, along with much of Idaho, Montana, California, Texas, and Louisiana were quite dry with many locations receiving less than 25 percent of normal precipitation. As a result, drought conditions intensified or developed in many of these areas.

Smoke from wildfires has been a common occurrence this summer and August was no exception. The Pacific Northwest was the epicenter for wildfires this month where over a million acres have burned this season and winds brought smoke from these fires all the way to the High Plains and Midwest regions. The smoke had a wide range of impacts, including some benign and some harmful. For instance, smoke suppressed daytime temperatures this month, but also created beautiful sunsets. On the other hand, smoke also resulted in air quality issues, which caused respiratory problems for sensitive groups. Although smoke can reduce incoming solar radiation, which is important for crop development, there is no evidence that the smoke has negatively impacted crops.

Temperature and Precipitation Overview



Above: Departure from 1981-2010 normal temperature (left) and percent of normal precipitation (right) for August 2015 in the High Plains region. Maps produced by the High Plains Regional Climate Center and are available at: <http://hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current>.

Precipitation

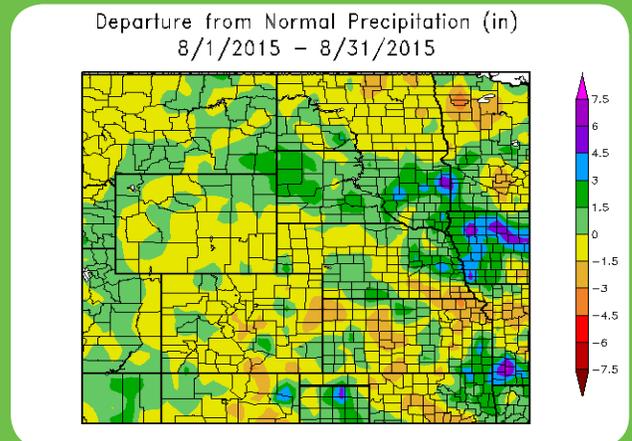
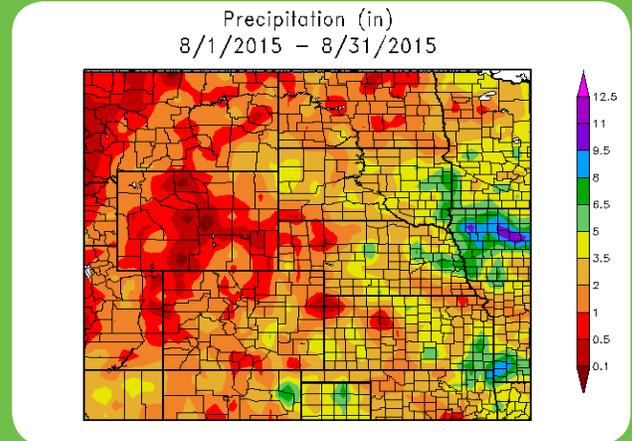
As expected for the summer, precipitation varied this month across the High Plains region. Much of the region was on the drier side; however, areas receiving less than 50 percent of normal precipitation were not widespread and generally occurred in southern Wyoming, central Colorado, and pockets of Kansas and North Dakota. On the wet end of the spectrum, areas receiving greater than 150 percent of normal precipitation included a large swath running from southeastern Montana and northeastern Wyoming through South Dakota and into Minnesota and Iowa. Portions of eastern Nebraska and southeastern Kansas also received at least 150 percent of normal precipitation.

Due to the wide range in precipitation, numerous locations ranked in the top 15 wettest or driest Augusts on record, including Pueblo, CO (6th wettest), Omaha, NE (6th wettest), Sioux Falls, SD (9th wettest); and Goodland, KS (3rd driest), Sidney, NE (5th driest), and Boulder, CO (11th driest).

At the end of the month, an impressive heavy rainfall event occurred in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The official August total that pushed Sioux Falls to its 9th wettest August was 6.57 inches (167 mm), with 2.60 inches (66 mm) falling on the 27th (period of record 1893-2015). This total is measured at the airport on the north side of town; however, locations on the south side of town received much more that evening. Several CoCoRaHS stations reported over 5.00 inches (127 mm) of rain and the highest amount was a whopping 7.52 inches (191 mm). According to the South Dakota State Climate Office, one of the South Dakota Mesonet stations recorded 4.00 inches (102 mm) of rain in a mere 70 minutes and 1.35 inches (34 mm) of that fell in only 10 minutes. These rainfall rates are very high and not typical for the High Plains region. Not surprisingly, this heavy rain event caused flash flooding, which submerged cars and damaged homes and businesses.

Due to the heavy rainfall this year, many locations have already reached their annual average precipitation. Lincoln, Nebraska surpassed its annual average this month by 0.38 inches (10 mm) with a total of 29.33 inches (745 mm) so far this year. Meanwhile, Rapid City, South Dakota could be on track to have its wettest year on record. With 22.59 inches (574 mm) so far this year, 2015 already ranks as the 4th wettest year on record (period of record 1948-2015). Currently, Rapid City is 6.30 inches (160 mm) above normal for the entire year.

Regional Precipitation



Above: Total precipitation in inches (top) and departure from normal precipitation in inches (bottom) for August 2015. These maps are produced by HPRCC and can be found on the Current Climate Summary Maps page at: <http://hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current>.

Streamflow Update

According to data from the United States Geological Survey (USGS), streamflows across the High Plains region were largely normal this month. Much above normal to record high flows occurred in the Black Hills in South Dakota and along the Missouri River in Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri. Below normal flows continued along the Republican River in Nebraska and also north-central Kansas. Due to a combination of spring runoff and recent heavy rains, water has returned to parts of the Arkansas River in Kansas that, in recent years, had none. According to KSNW-TV, the last time water flowed in the Arkansas River below Garden City, Kansas was in 2000. In southeastern Colorado, water released from the John Martin Reservoir into the Arkansas River is usually diverted to ditches but the extra water was able to flow downstream.

Temperatures

Average temperatures were near normal for much of the High Plains region this month. Temperature departures were generally within 2.0 degrees F (1.1 degrees C) above or below normal, but there were a few exceptions. For instance, the eastern halves of Kansas and Nebraska, along with southeastern South Dakota were on the cooler side with temperature departures of 2.0-4.0 degrees F (1.1-2.2 degrees C) below normal. On the warm side, south-central Colorado had temperature departures generally in the 2.0-4.0 degrees F (1.1-2.2 degrees C) above normal range. Isolated areas had larger departures and a few locations ranked in the top 15 coolest or warmest Augusts on record, including Pueblo, CO (5th warmest), Colorado Springs, CO (9th warmest), Iola 1 W, KS (12th coolest), and Salina, KS (14th coolest). Pueblo, Colorado had its 5th warmest August with an average temperature of 77.6 degrees F (25.3 degrees C). Although 4.2 degrees F (2.3 degrees C) above normal, this could not beat the 1970 record of 79.8 degrees F (26.6 degrees C). Pueblo has records dating back to 1888.

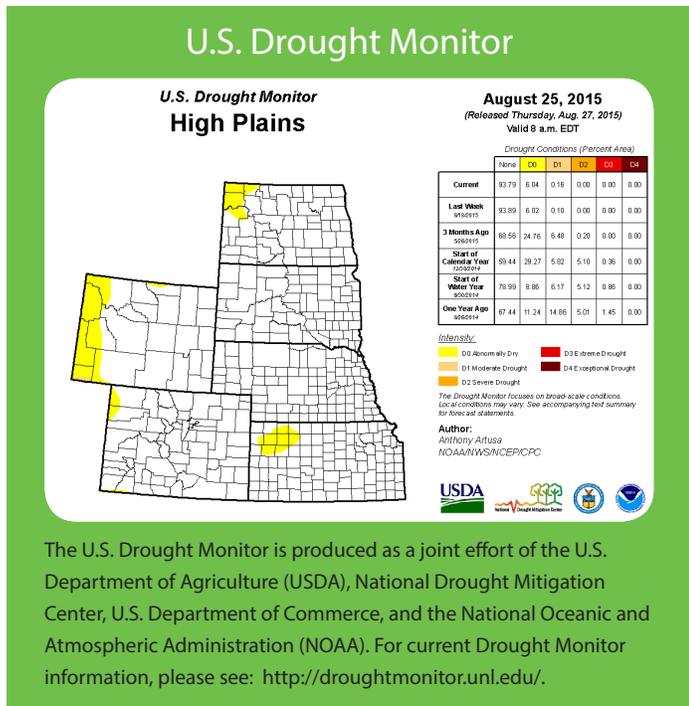
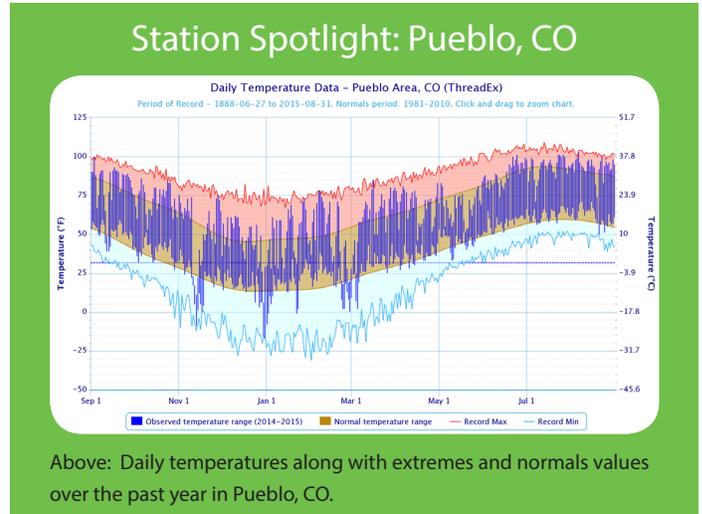
At the end of the month, minimum temperatures dipped to around freezing in western parts of the Dakotas and eastern Wyoming. August frosts are not unheard of in these parts, but are considered on the early side. On average, the first fall frost occurs in mid to late September. Hettinger, North Dakota dipped to just below freezing on the morning of the 24th with a low of 31 degrees F (-0.6 degrees C), while Hill City, South Dakota had a low of 32 degrees F (0.0 degrees C). Both locations set new record lows for the day; however, they have relatively short records. At this time, there is no indication that this light frost had any impact to crops.

Drought Conditions

The little drought that remained in the High Plains region improved over the past month. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the total area in drought (D1-D4) in the region decreased to under a half a percent. Every state in the region except for Wyoming is now drought free. At the end of the month, only a very small area of moderate drought conditions (D1) remained in southwestern Wyoming. Abnormally dry conditions (D0) were still present over western Wyoming, northwestern North Dakota, northwestern Kansas, and parts of western Colorado. However, cooler and wetter conditions eliminated D0 areas in Nebraska, South Dakota, and southern North Dakota.

These cool, wet conditions at the beginning of the month allowed for the last area of D1 in Kansas to improve. Now that only D0 remains, this is the first time since early November 2010 that Kansas has been drought free.

While not a major concern in the High Plains region at this time, drought rages on in parts of the West where conditions worsened over the past month. Much of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana had an expansion of extreme drought conditions (D3). For instance, Montana's D3 coverage expanded eastward and increased by about 5 percent. Although portions of the headwaters of the Missouri River are in drought at this time, streamflows are near normal. The outlooks show that this area could have a warmer and drier winter so conditions should continue to be monitored over the next several months.



The U.S. Drought Monitor is produced as a joint effort of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Drought Mitigation Center, U.S. Department of Commerce, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). For current Drought Monitor information, please see: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>.

Climate Outlooks

The latest outlooks from the Climate Prediction Center indicate that the current El Niño will continue to strengthen, peaking as a strong event late this fall or early winter. There is even a chance that this event could surpass the 1997-1998 El Niño to become the strongest on record. El Niño impacts are most pronounced in the winter, but according to research on the 1997-1998 El Niño, these impacts could be more beneficial than harmful (Changnon 1999). The seasonal temperature and precipitation outlooks below combine the effects of long-term trends, soil moisture, and when applicable, the El Niño Southern Oscillation cycle (ENSO). To learn more about these outlooks, please see: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

If you are looking for more information about El Niño and its impacts there are many resources available. One way to get up-to-date information is to check out the ENSO blog here: <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/department/8443/all>. A special report on El Niño in the Missouri River Basin states is also available here: <http://www.drought.gov/media/pgfiles/ENSO-MOBasin-2015-Final.pdf>.

Temperature

The fall temperature outlook shows a higher probability of above-normal temperatures for the western third of the U.S. as well as areas along the East and Gulf coasts. Meanwhile, an area of the central U.S., centered on northern Texas, Oklahoma, and southern Kansas, has a higher probability for below-normal temperatures. For the High Plains region, this includes Kansas, southeastern Colorado, and southern Nebraska. Only northwestern North Dakota and central and western Wyoming have a higher chance for above-normal temperatures. Other areas of the region have equal chances for above, below, or near normal temperatures.

Precipitation

The fall precipitation outlook has a higher probability for above-normal precipitation across much of the Desert Southwest, Great Plains, and Southeast. The majority of the High Plains region is included with above-normal precipitation being favored in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, and most of South Dakota and Wyoming. Similar to last month, below-normal precipitation is favored for parts of the Pacific Northwest, Great Lakes, and Northeast. The remainder of the contiguous U.S. has equal chances for above, below, or near normal precipitation.

Drought

The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook shows that the last drought holdout in the High Plains region, far southwestern Wyoming, will likely be removed over the next three months. Elsewhere, drought conditions are expected to persist in much of the West and the Southeast. Improvements could occur across portions of the Four Corners region as well as areas in Texas and Louisiana. Meanwhile, drought development is likely across parts of the Southeast and New England.

Temperature Outlook

THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK
TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY
0.5 MONTH LEAD
VALID SON 2015
MADE 20 AUG 2015

EC MEANS EQUAL CHANCES FOR A, N, B
A MEANS ABOVE
N MEANS NORMAL
B MEANS BELOW

Precipitation Outlook

THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY
0.5 MONTH LEAD
VALID SON 2015
MADE 20 AUG 2015

EC MEANS EQUAL CHANCES FOR A, N, B
A MEANS ABOVE
N MEANS NORMAL
B MEANS BELOW

Drought Outlook

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Valid for August 20 - November 30, 2015
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period Released August 20, 2015

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short-lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor area's intensity of D1 to D4.

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

Author: David Miskus NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

Legend:
■ Drought persists in tenancies
■ Drought remains but improves
■ Drought removal likely
■ Drought development likely

<http://go.usa.gov/hHte>

Above: The three-month temperature probability outlook (top), the three-month precipitation probability outlook (middle), and the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook (bottom). For more information on these outlooks, produced by the Climate Prediction Center, see: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

Station Summaries: By the Numbers

Colorado	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Akron Washington County Airport	88.6	58.8	73.7	1.6	99	08/26	43	08/23	0.68	-1.62	30
Alamosa San Luis Airport	82.5	45.5	64.0	1.3	88	08/15+	35	08/24	0.50	-0.77	39
Colorado Springs Municipal Airport	85.4	57.2	71.3	2.6	94	08/06	45	08/20	1.73	-1.61	52
Denver International Airport	89.8	58.3	74.0	1.5	98	08/15	43	08/23	1.18	-0.51	70
Grand Junction Walker Field Airport	89.7	60.6	75.2	-0.3	97	08/16+	52	08/18	0.70	-0.25	74
Pueblo Memorial Airport	93.7	61.4	77.6	4.2	103	08/06	50	08/20	4.24	1.92	183

Kansas	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Concordia Municipal Airport	85.0	62.5	73.7	-3.4	97	08/02	48	08/24	4.20	1.06	134
Dodge City Regional Airport	88.9	62.5	75.7	-2.4	104	08/08	49	08/24	1.75	-1.00	64
Goodland Renner Field	89.8	59.7	74.8	1.1	99	08/26	47	08/23	0.37	-2.33	14
Topeka Municipal Airport	86.1	64.3	75.2	-2.2	93	08/09+	50	08/24	3.10	-1.14	73
Wichita Mid-Continent Airport	87.0	66.9	77.0	-3.0	97	08/08	54	08/25	6.38	2.67	172

Nebraska	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Chadron Municipal Airport	88.7	54.1	71.4	-0.8	105	08/15	34	08/23	0.81	-0.77	51
Grand Island Airport	84.2	60.4	72.3	-1.7	96	08/02	45	08/24	1.24	-1.88	40
Lincoln Municipal Airport	85.4	62.2	73.8	-1.5	96	08/02	46	08/24	3.78	0.29	108
Norfolk Karl Stefan Airfield	81.9	59.5	70.7	-2.1	93	08/02	40	08/24	2.69	-0.56	83
North Platte Regional Airport	83.9	56.4	70.2	-1.9	96	08/02	40	08/23	3.19	0.90	139
Omaha Eppley Airport	82.9	63.4	73.2	-1.4	97	08/02	50	08/25	8.95	5.13	234
Valentine Miller Field	86.0	57.4	71.7	-1.1	101	08/15	38	08/24	1.89	-0.29	87

North Dakota	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Bismark Municipal Airport	85.4	55.0	70.2	0.7	105	08/15	42	08/24	1.41	-0.87	62
Fargo International Airport	81.8	57.1	69.4	0.1	96	08/14	42	08/25	1.29	-1.27	50
Grand Forks International Airport	80.7	54.1	67.4	0.3	96	08/14	40	08/20	2.89	0.01	100
Theodore Roosevelt Airport	85.3	51.8	68.6	0.2	102	08/12	37	08/24	0.76	-0.78	49
Williston International Airport	86.8	54.4	70.6	1.7	104	08/14	38	08/24	0.89	-0.56	61

All data are preliminary and subject to change. + indicates multiple dates, latest date listed.

Data are retrieved through the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS) and are available online through the CLIMOD system.

For more information please contact us: <http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/contact.php>.

August 2015 Climate Summary

South Dakota	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Aberdeen Regional Airport	81.2	56.3	68.7	-0.3	94	08/15	41	08/25	2.94	0.51	121
Huron Regional Airport	81.8	58.5	70.1	-1.5	94	08/15	41	08/24	5.04	2.61	207
Pierre Regional Airport	86.0	59.2	72.6	-1.1	104	08/15	44	08/24	2.49	0.69	138
Rapid City Regional Airport	84.5	55.2	69.8	-1.7	100	08/15+	38	08/23	3.41	1.85	219
Sioux Falls Joe Foss Field Airport	80.2	58.7	69.4	-1.2	91	08/15+	43	08/25	6.57	3.52	215

Wyoming	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Casper Natrona County International AP	86.2	50.3	68.3	-0.7	97	08/14	29	08/23	0.83	-0.02	98
Cheyenne Municipal Airport	84.0	52.9	68.5	0.9	95	08/15	38	08/23	0.65	-1.30	33
Lander Hunt Field Airport	86.3	54.0	70.1	0.5	95	08/25+	39	08/23	0.58	-0.03	95
Laramie Regional Airport	80.5	46.3	63.4	1.1	88	08/14	37	08/19	1.30	0.07	106
Rawlins Municipal Airport	82.8	48.9	65.9	0.7	91	08/14+	32	08/19	0.48	-0.28	63
Sheridan County Airport	87.9	50.6	69.3	0.3	104	08/14	30	08/23	0.60	-0.12	83

August 2015 Highlights

Monthly Rankings

Precipitation in inches / Temperature in degrees F

Wettest / Driest	Precipitation / Ranking	Record / Year	Period of Record
Pueblo, CO	4.24 / 6th wettest	5.85 / 1955	1888-2015
Goodland, KS	0.37 / 3rd driest	0.13 / 1964	1895-2015
Hays 1 S, KS	0.46 / 6th driest	Trace / 1894	1892-2015
Independence, KS	8.14 / 6th wettest	10.55 / 2013	1893-2015
Omaha, NE	8.95 / 6th wettest	12.50 / 1903	1871-2015
Sidney Muni AP, NE	0.54 / 5th driest	0.08 / 1970	1948-2015
Huron, SD	5.04 / 9th wettest	6.66 / 1900	1881-2015
Lead, SD	4.23 / 7th wettest	7.77 / 1964	1909-2015
Sioux Falls, SD	6.57 / 9th wettest	9.33 / 1932	1893-2015
Rapid City, SD	3.41 / 5th wettest	4.83 / 1982	1942-2015
Shoshoni, WY	0.03 / 10th driest	0.00 / 1985+	1931-2015
Warmest / Coolest	Temperature / Ranking	Record / Year	Period of Record
Pueblo, CO	77.6 / 5th warmest	78.9 / 1970	1888-2015
Parsons 2 NW, KS	74.8 / 5th coolest	74.0 / 1950	1925-2015

All data are preliminary and subject to change. + indicates multiple dates, latest date listed.

Data are retrieved through the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS) and are available online through the CLIMOD system.

For more information please contact us: <http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/contact.php>.

North Dakota Monthly Climate Summary

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 North Dakota State Climate Office, North Dakota State University
 For more information: www.ndsu.edu/ndsco or www.ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu



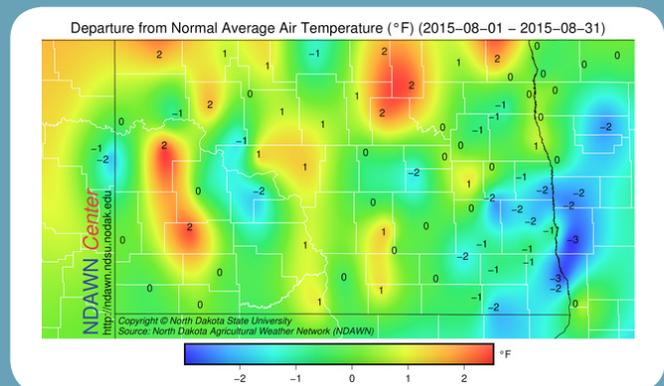
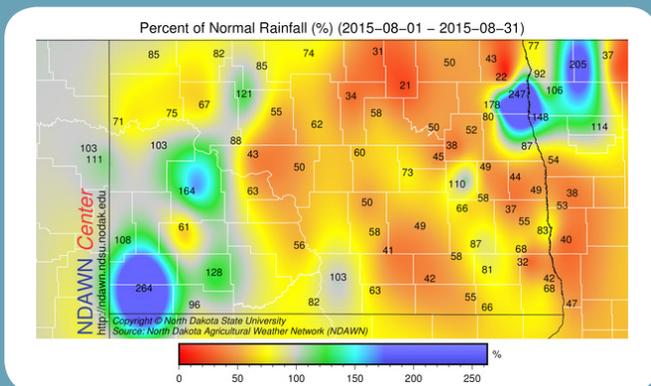
Precipitation:

Although there were a few isolated exceptions, much of North Dakota recorded below average precipitation during the month (Figure 1). The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) average rainfall was 1.57 inches which is near 75% of the statewide average of 2.09 inches. There were two locations that recorded well above average rainfall, one in the northern Red River Valley and the other in the southwestern part of the state. The heavier rain in those two locations were associated with stagnant deformation (“wraparound”) bands of rain from separate mid-latitude cyclones. The heaviest rain from a single event occurred at the Grafton NDAWN site where 7.14 inches was recorded during the overnight hours of August 22-23.

Temperature:

Most of North Dakota recorded a monthly average temperature very near normal in August (Figure 2). The NDAWN average temperature was 67.9 which is just slightly above the current 30 year average of 67.6 degrees. The monthly average temperatures may not have been exceptionally warm, yet the highest temperatures recorded in North Dakota in two years were measured during the month. Last year no 100° readings were recorded in North Dakota and through July 31 triple digit heat was still lacking, but in August a total of 36 maximums occurred within the NDAWN mesonet with almost all of them being recorded on August 12, 14 and 15. The warmest maximum during the month recorded at a NDAWN station was 104° at Watford City on August 12, Williston on August 14, and at Mandan and Fort Yates on August 15.

Temperature and Precipitation Overview



Above: Percent of normal precipitation (left, figure 1, produced by NDAWN) and departure from normal average temperature (right, figure 2, produced by NDAWN) for August 2015 in North Dakota.

Kansas Climate Summary

Mary Knapp - Service Climatologist
Kansas Weather Data Library, Kansas State University
For more information: www.ksre.ksu.edu/wdl



Cool and Dry

August was drier than normal in most of the state. State-wide average precipitation was 2.80 inches or 85 percent of normal. The Northeast division of the state saw the lowest percent of normal precipitation at 46 percent or an average of 1.80 inches. The Northwest wasn't far ahead with 56 percent of normal or an average of 1.55 inches. The two divisions with above normal precipitation were the Southwest and Southeast divisions. The Southwest division saw 101 percent of normal, or an average of 2.73 inches, while the North Central Division had 130 percent of normal or an average of 4.74 inches. The state-wide average was 2.80 inches or 83 percent of normal. This ranks as the 55th driest August on record, placing it in the middle third of the 121 year distribution. The greatest monthly precipitation reports were 8.42 inches at Iola 1W, Allen County (NWS) and 8.78 inches at Wichita 3.2 NW, Sedgwick County (CoCoRaHS). While 73 new daily precipitation records were set, none of these were new records for August.

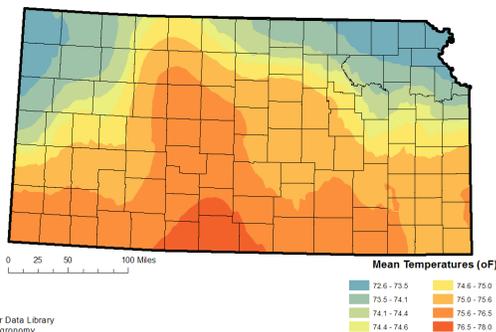
Temperatures were cooler than normal across the state. The state-wide average temperature was 75.0F, 2.1 degrees cooler than normal for the month. There were no new record high temperatures set during the month. In contrast, there were 9 new record cold high temperatures, and 3 records that tied. On the low temperature side, the same trend prevailed with 15 new record low minimum temperatures and 11 records tied. There were 3 new record daily warm minimum temperatures for the month, but no new monthly record lows set. The western divisions were the closest to normal, averaging between 0.7 and 0.9 degrees cooler than normal. The Southeast and the South Central divisions were the coldest, with both averaging 3.5 degrees cooler than normal. The warmest reading was 108F and was recorded on the 9th at Hays, Ellis County (NWS). The coolest reading for the state was 42F at Oberlin, Decatur County (NWS) on the 25th. While the temperatures weren't particularly outside of the normal range, late-planted spring crops such as corn and soybeans are still behind in development, with rising concerns that an early frost will have a negative impact on yields.

Severe weather was more limited in August, as storm systems were less common. Preliminary data indicate there were 2 tornadoes reported, compared to 7 in July, 15 during June, and 99 in May. Hail reports were also fewer with 45 reports this month versus 55 reports in July, 83 in June, and 108 in May. Damaging winds were also less common. There were 65 reports in August, 114 reports in July, 65 reports in June, and only 52 reports last May.

Drought conditions deteriorated slightly, which was not unexpected, given the lower than average precipitation. Greater expansion was limited due to the wetter than normal conditions in June and the cooler than normal temperatures this month. Only abnormally dry conditions remain on the latest U.S. Drought Monitor map. This area is in portions of the Northwest, North Central and Central divisions, where rainfall for growing season is less than normal. Thirty seven counties in western Kansas remain in drought watch status according to the latest advisory from the Kansas Water Office. A return to normal or above normal precipitation is needed to sustain improvements. Some long-term hydrological deficits are in place affecting some water supplies and reservoirs.

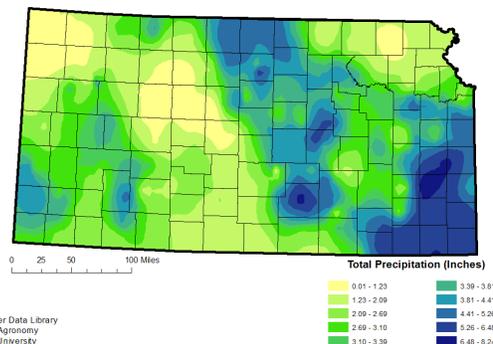
Temperature and Precipitation Overview

Monthly Mean Temperatures
August 1 - August 31, 2015



Produced by Weather Data Library
Department of Agronomy
Kansas State University

Monthly Precipitation Summary
August 1 - August 31, 2015



Produced by Weather Data Library
Department of Agronomy
Kansas State University

Above: August 2015 monthly mean temperatures (left) and total precipitation (right) in Kansas. Maps produced by Weather Data Library, Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University.

About the High Plains Regional Climate Center

The High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) is one of six NOAA Regional Climate Centers (RCCs) that has been providing timely climate data and information to the public for cost effective decision-making since 1987. The HPRCC primarily serves the six-state region of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming, but has also served people from all across the country and even throughout the world. HPRCC operates under a three-tiered structure of climate services and works closely with other organizations on the local, regional, and national levels. HPRCC staff engage with a wide range of stakeholders including K-20 education, the public, media, private industry, research, and state/tribal/federal entities, among others.

Much of the data and products found throughout this publication were built on the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS) framework. ACIS was designed to manage the complex flow of information from climate data collectors to the end users of climate data information. The main purpose of ACIS is to alleviate the burden of climate information management for people who use climate information to make management decisions.

HPRCC is involved in the ongoing development and management of ACIS. In the spring of 2014, the RCCs released a new website for ACIS. This new and improved website not only contains descriptions of ACIS and the sources of data found within, but also features real-world examples of how RCCs and external groups are using ACIS for their particular climate data needs. In addition to these examples, there is extensive documentation and tutorials on how ACIS can be used and accessed by external clients using Web Services. For more information see: <http://rcc-acis.org>.



Additional Summary Information for the High Plains

Missouri River Basin Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook

For more information:
www.drought.gov/drought/content/resources/reports

Midwest and Great Plains Monthly Climate and Drought Webinar

To sign up for future webinars:
<http://www.drought.gov/drought/content/regional-programs/regional-drought-webinars>

For an archive:
www.hprcc.unl.edu/webinars.php

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