

September 2015 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

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Overview

Temperatures in September 2015 were well above normal with the greatest departures existing in Central and Northern Lower Michigan. Each official climate site recorded top-ten warmest monthly mean temperatures. Muskegon temperatures were good enough to achieve the 2nd warmest September on record (1961 was the warmest). Lansing tied their 4th warmest September on record (with 1921 and 1931; 1881 was the warmest), and Grand Rapids tied their 6th warmest (with 1927; 1931 was the warmest). Severe weather was fairly lackluster with only few reports scattered about the forecast area. By-and-large, below normal precipitation was recorded, though locally heavy rainfall led to some higher totals.

Despite much of the summer being absent of temperatures greater or equal to 90 degrees, September spared no warmth. The first week of September included high temperatures that were just as warm, if not warmer, in some locations. Temperatures largely remained above normal with a short-lived cool down centered around September 12th. Warmer weather returned by September 15th. The remainder of the month brought few days of near normal temperatures, while the majority of time was spent above normal until September 30th. Fall-like weather moved back in for the last day of the month.

At the three official climate sites (Grand Rapids, Muskegon and Lansing), about three-quarters of the month was void of measurable precipitation. Conditions were drier than normal for much of the southern half of Lower Michigan. Generally, the lowest precipitation totals stretched right along and south of Interstate 96, where roughly 50 percent of normal precipitation was received. Amounts gradually increased to the north of Muskegon, Grand Rapids and Lansing, where spatial averages were only slightly below normal to near normal, as precipitation was approximately 75 percent or so of normal.

Severe weather was hard to come by through the month of September. The first week of the month was responsible for much of the month's activity. Severe weather reports were limited and only included isolated wind damage around Zeeland and in Central Michigan. Minor localized flooding also occurred in various locations, mainly in northern sections of the forecast area, with two rain events on September 8th and September 18th. Otherwise, September was fairly quiet, as no significant severe weather occurred.

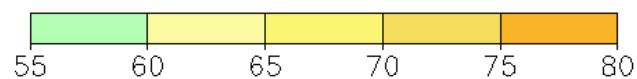
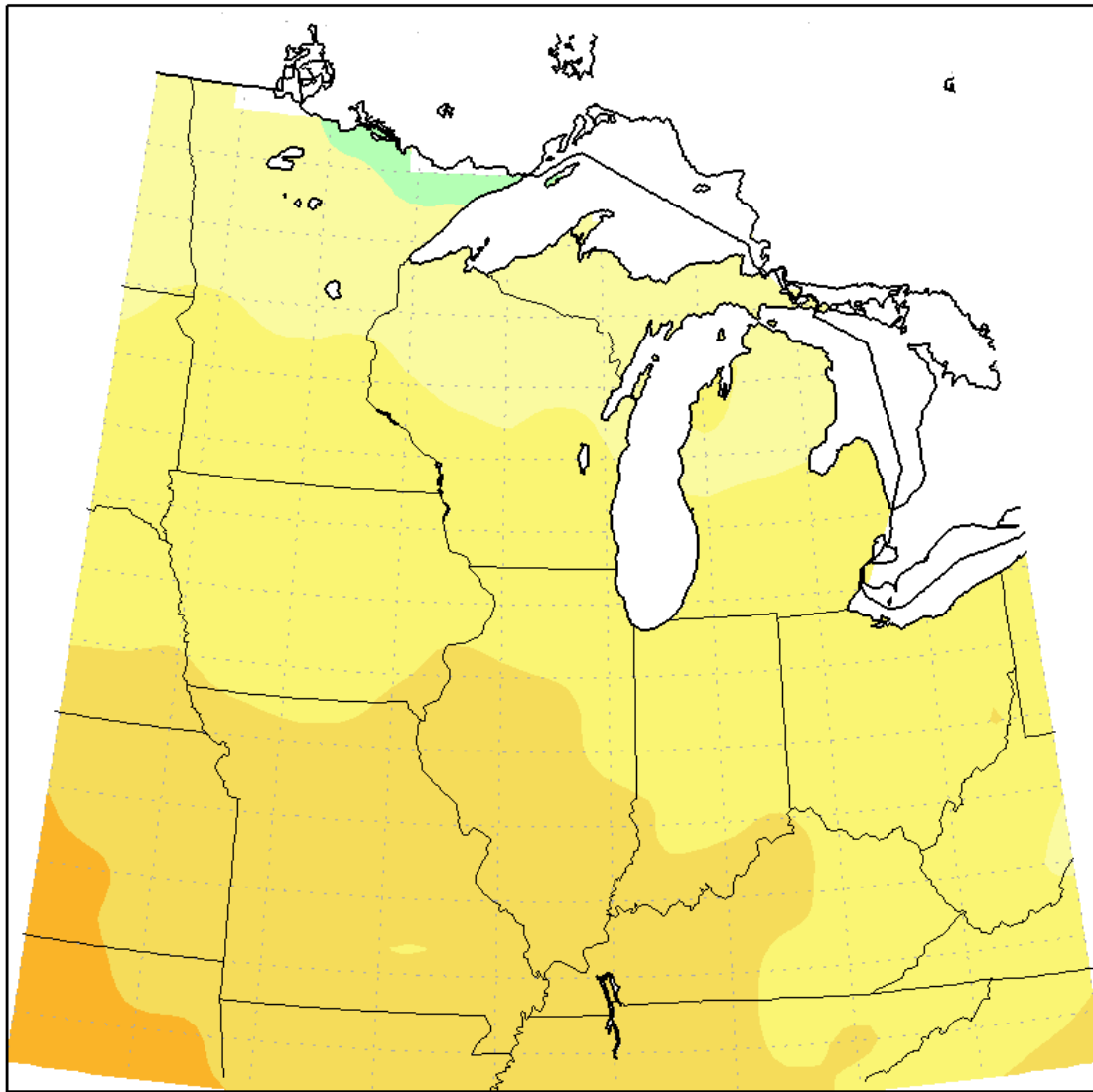
September 2015 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Table 1. Reported temperature and precipitation amounts for September 2015 at the primary climate stations in Southwest Lower Michigan and departures from normal.

Location		Average Temperature (°F)	Precipitation (inches)
Grand Rapids	Observed	67.2	2.26
	Normal	62.8	4.28
	Above/Below Normal	+4.4	-2.02
Lansing	Observed	66.5	1.34
	Normal	61.9	3.50
	Above/Below Normal	+4.6	-2.16
Muskegon	Observed	66.7	2.59
	Normal	62.1	3.89
	Above/Below Normal	+4.6	-1.30

September 2015 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Average Temperature (°F)
September 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015

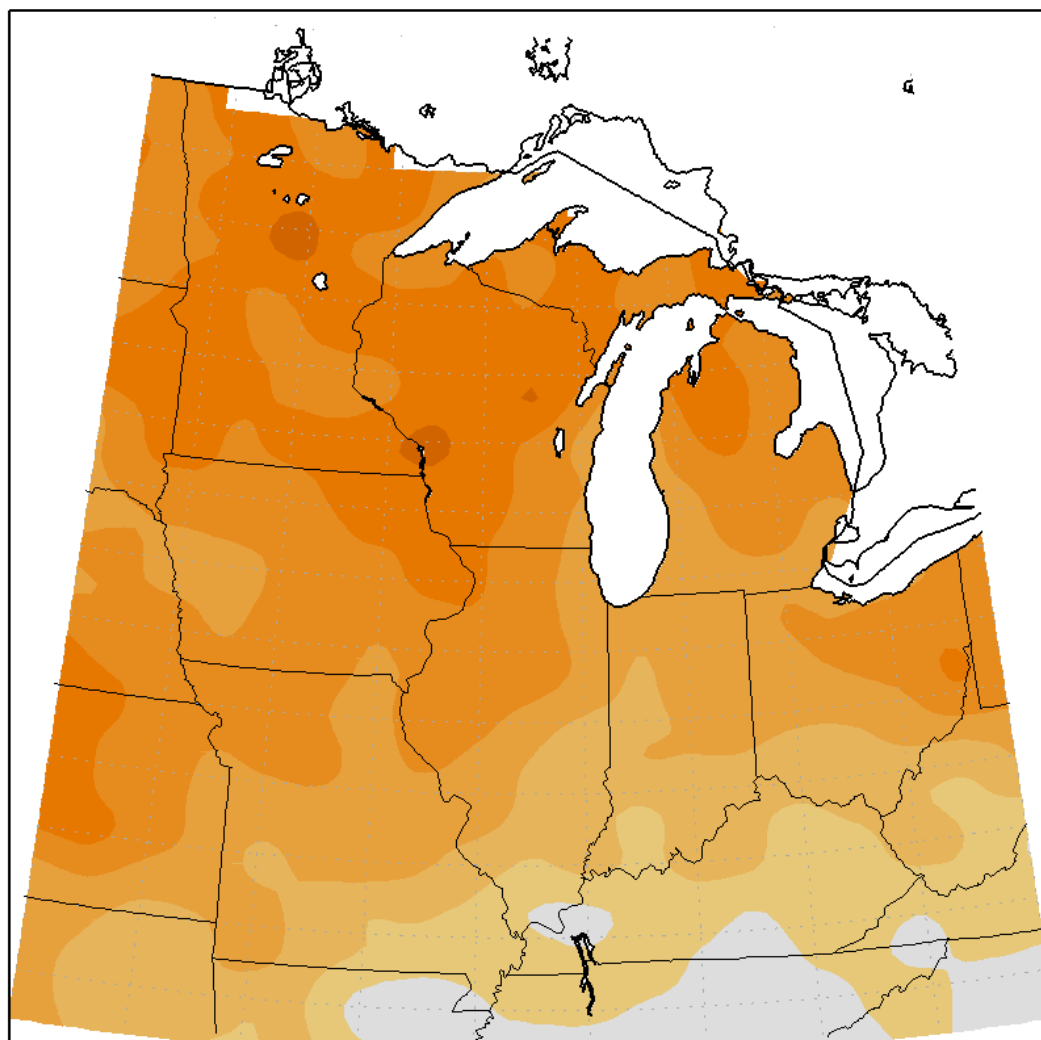


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Figure 1. Average temperature (°F) for September 2015.

September 2015 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean
September 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015



Mean period is 1981–2010.

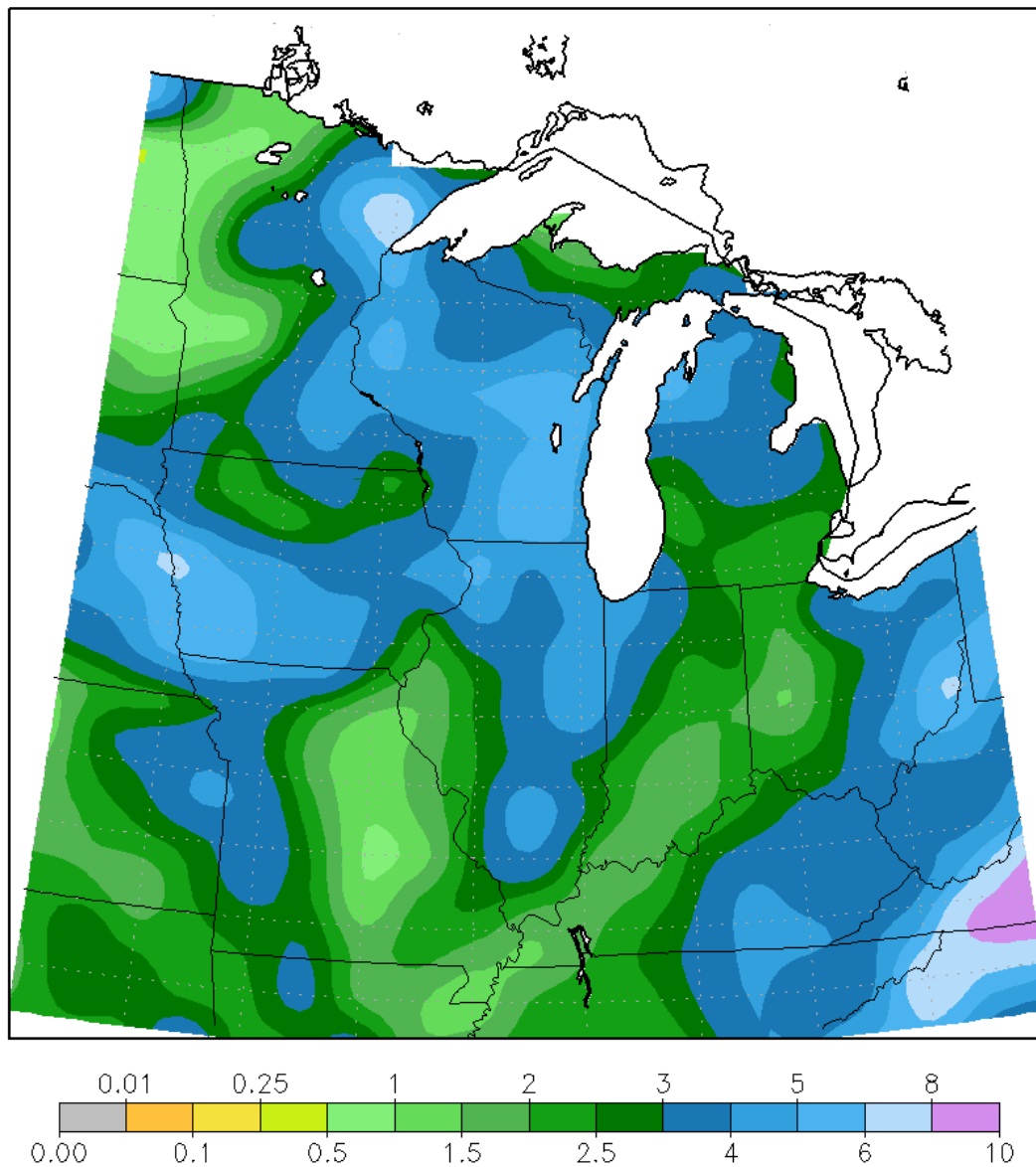


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Figure 2. Average temperature departure from normal (°F) for September 2015.

September 2015 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
September 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015

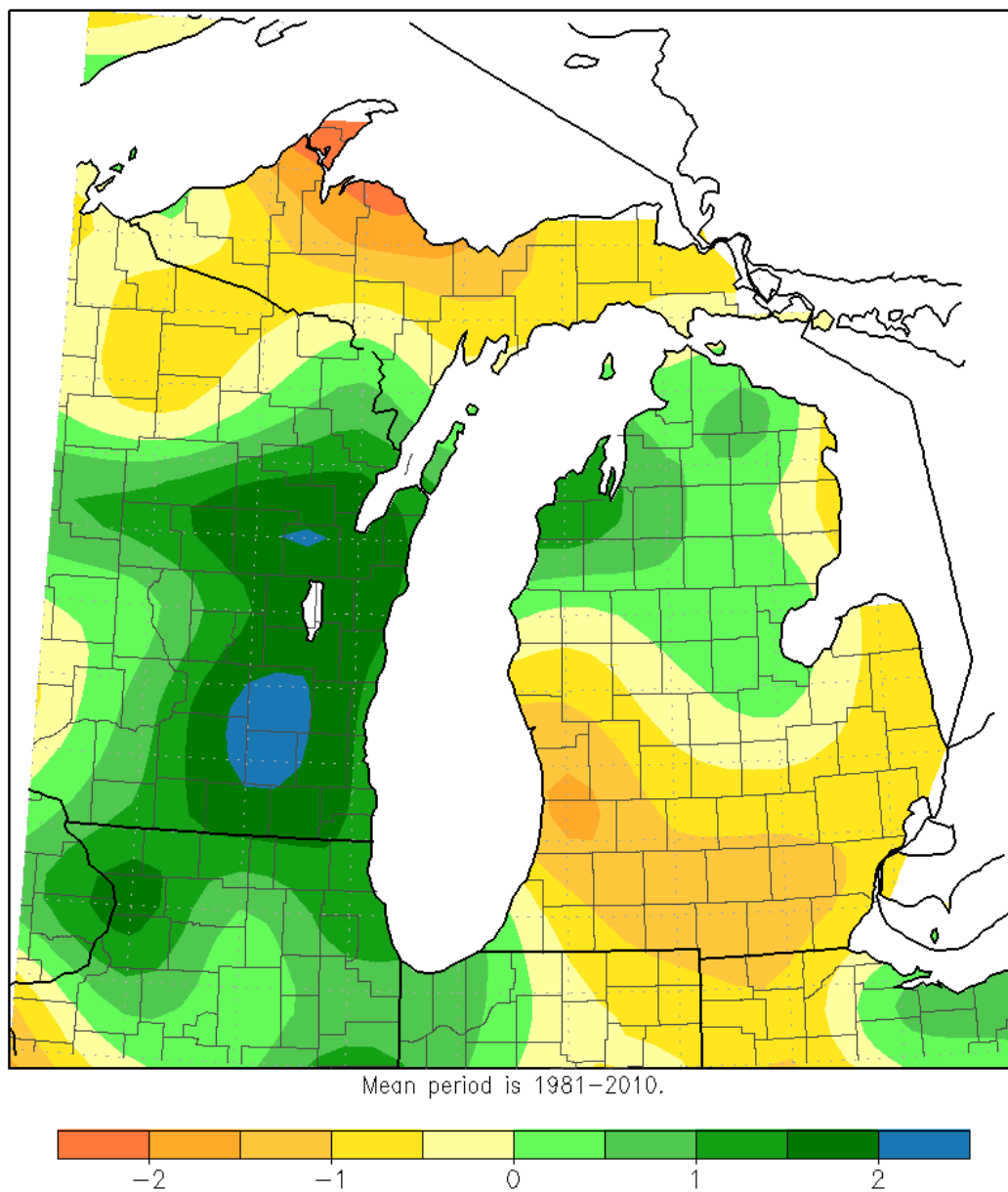


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Figure 3. Total precipitation (in inches) for September 2015.

September 2015 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from Mean
September 1, 2015 to September 30, 2015



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Figure 4. Total precipitation departure from normal (in inches) for September 2015.