



NWS Wilmington, Ohio January 2016 Regional Climate Summary

Regional Climate Summary

While the final month of 2015 was characterized by a warm and wet weather pattern that featured very little snow, the first month of 2016 was seasonably cold and dry, with near normal snow. Cincinnati and Columbus both recorded their first measurable snow of the season on the 10th of January. While temperatures were seasonably cold for the first several weeks of the month, January ended on a very warm note across the area, with several days of high temperatures around 60°F!

Temperatures

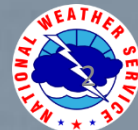
January started out seasonably cold across the region, but still lacked snow. Lows dipped into the teens early on the 5th, but above normal temperatures returned to the area by the 6th across portions of the area. More widespread above normal temperatures occurred by the 7th ahead of an advancing low pressure system. Above normal temperatures continued until the 10th with highs in the 40s and 50s.

After the passage of a cold front, arctic air spilled into the region on the 10th, resulting in a 40° drop through the day. Lows dropped to near 10°F across the area. On the 11th, low temperatures dropped into the single digits for the first time of the season. Another cold front moved through on the 12th, allowing temperatures to once again drop into the single digits.

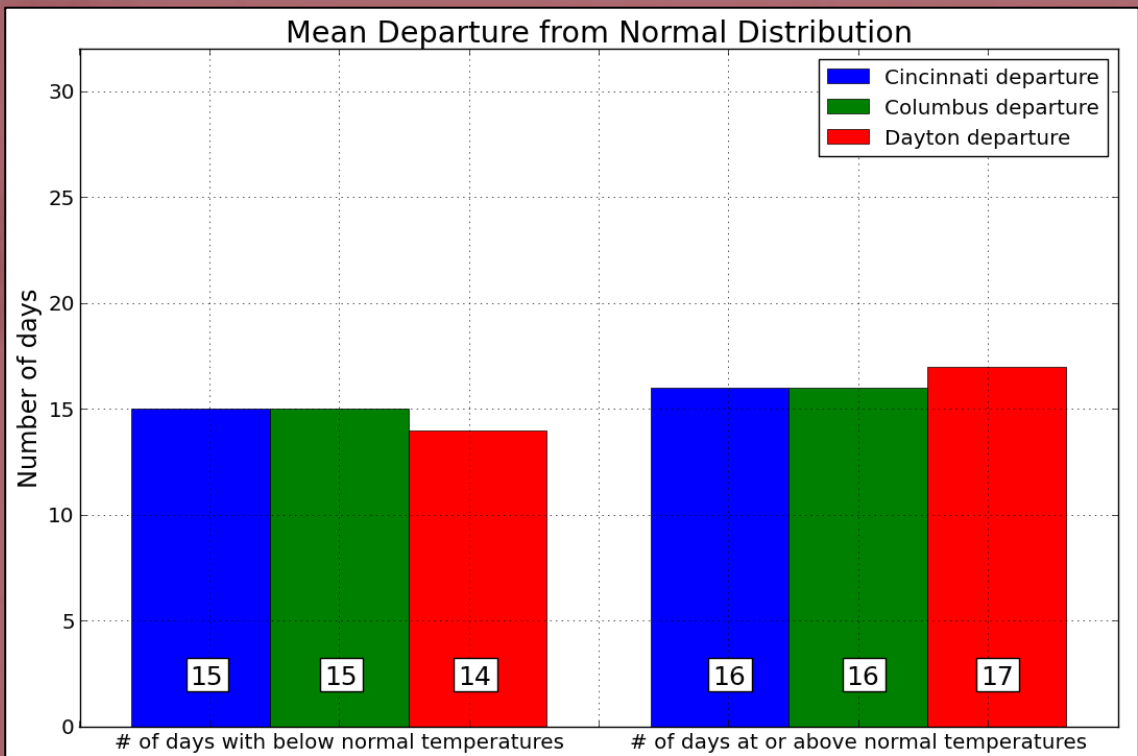
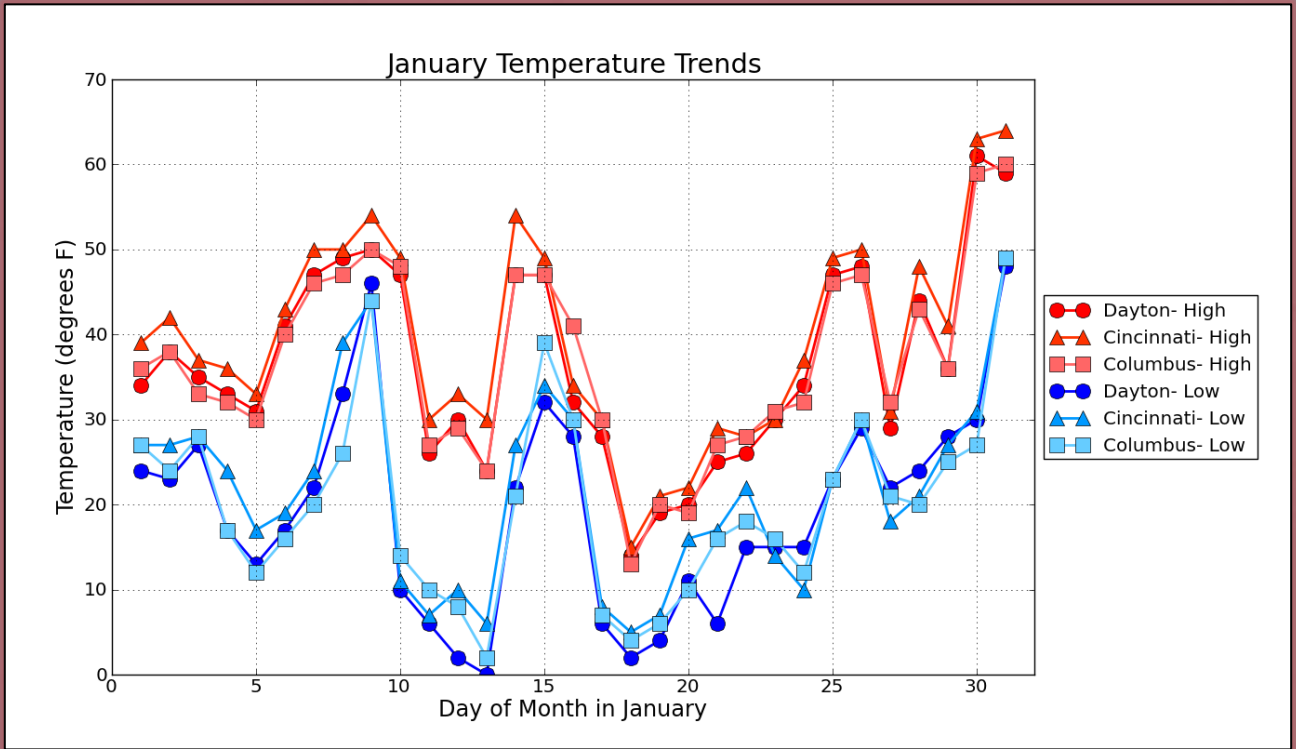
A roller coaster of temperatures occurred during the middle of the month. Highs in the 40s and even some 50s for the 14th and 15th gave way to more single digit lows by the 17th-19th. High temperatures on the 18th were only in the teens across many locations, with daily average temperatures running 20 degrees below normal during the stretch. Although the below normal temperature trend continued, temperatures moderated by the 24th and southerly flow in advance of a cold front allowed warmer air to return to the area by the 25th.

A cold front moved through early on the 26th, which led to falling temperatures through the day. However, the cool-down was brief as high temperatures topped out in the mid 40s both on the 28th and 29th. Temperatures remained above normal for the remainder of the month with high temperatures soaring into the 50s and 60s for the final two days of January. Columbus (CMH) tied its daily record high minimum on the 31st, dropping to only 49 degrees (tied with 1/31/1988).

Site	Avg Temp (°F)	Avg High Temp (°F)	Avg Low Temp (°F)	Departure From Normal (°F)	Maximum Temperature (°F)	Minimum Temperature (°F)
Cincinnati (CVG)	30.5°	39.4°	21.7°	-0.3°	63°F (30 th /31 st)	5°F (18 th)
Columbus (CMH)	28.4°	36.7°	20.1°	-1.2°	60°F (31 st)	2°F (13 th)
Dayton (DAY)	27.9°	36.5°	19.4°	+0.4°	61°F (30 th)	0°F (13 th)



Temperatures (Continued)



Precipitation

The new year started out dry across the region with only snow showers through the first full week of 2016. Cincinnati and Columbus finished the first week of January with only trace amounts of snow for the season. On the 8th of January, an advancing low pressure system and the associated warm front, brought scattered rain showers with totals around a quarter of an inch. A strong low pressure system tracked across the western Ohio Valley from the 9th into the 10th. Snowfall totals were around 2” with the liquid equivalent of precipitation around a quarter of an inch. The 10th was the first measurable snowfall of the season for Cincinnati (where 2.5” of snow was recorded) and for Columbus (with 1.0”). Snow squalls impacted the region on the 12th as another strong system moved through the region, where Cincinnati recorded 2.0” of snow, Columbus 2.4”, and Dayton 1.5”.

Another snowmaker moved through the area on the 20th bringing another 2.4” to Cincinnati, 1.1” to Columbus, and 1.3” to Dayton. A storm system also moved through the region from the 22nd into the 23rd, with Cincinnati picking up 1.3” of snow, Columbus measuring 0.1”, and Dayton recording 0.2”. Most of the heavier snow fell southeast of the three sites across portions of northeast Kentucky and southcentral Ohio, where snow totals topped 10” in some places.

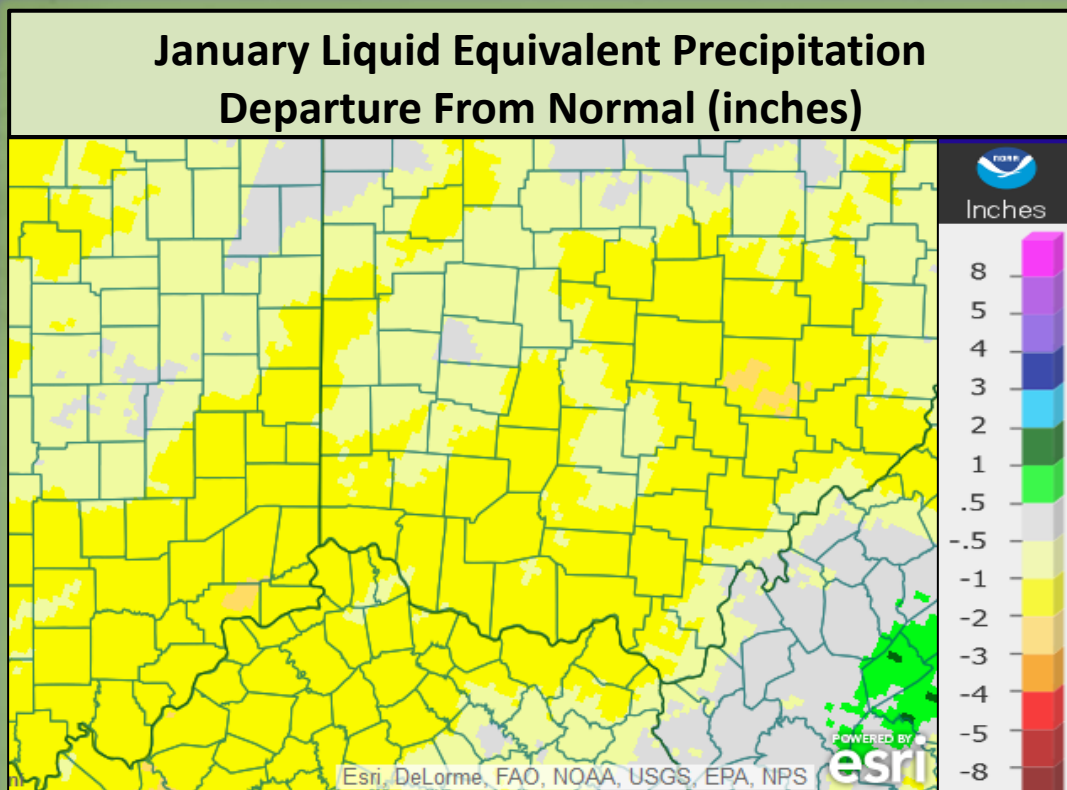
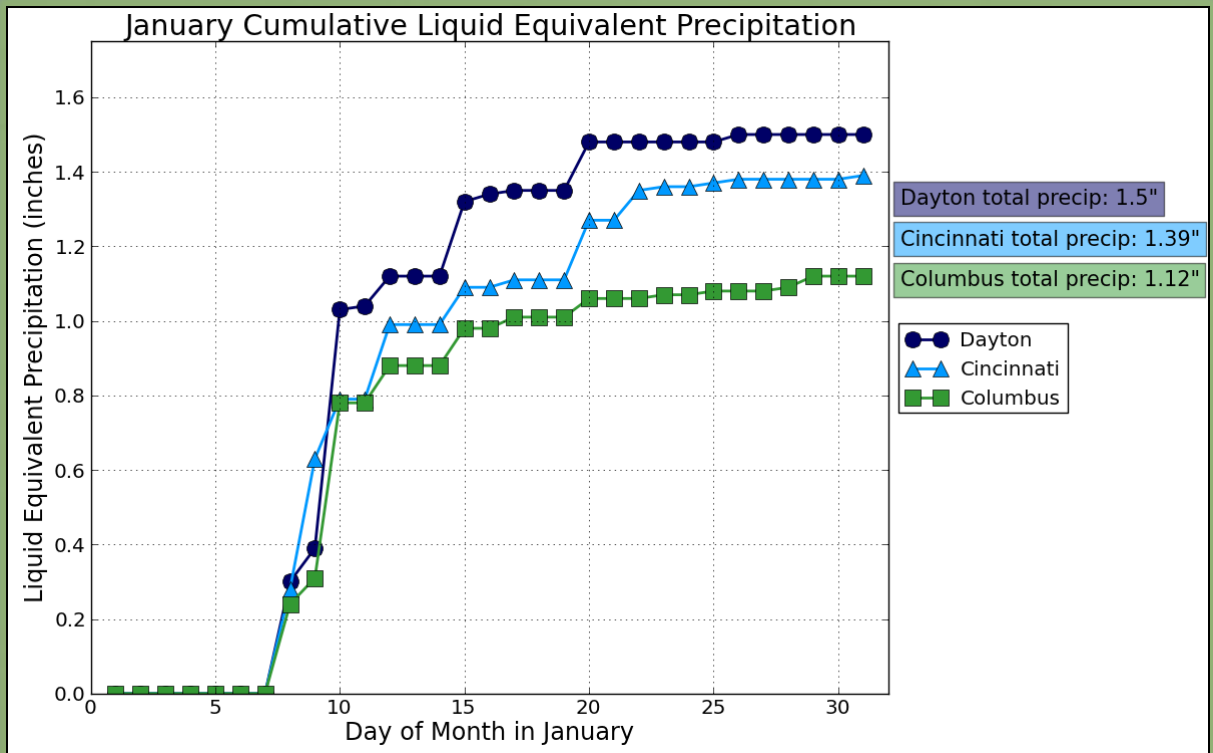
Light rain showers moved through on the evening of the 25th into the morning of the 26th ahead of and along a cold front. Additional light precipitation in the form of rain and snow showers moved through late on the 28th and into the early morning hours of the 29th. Light snow showers lingered into the late morning hours on the 29th. The end of the month ended on a dry note, with only a few rain showers very late in the evening on the 31st.

Although no daily precipitation records were tied or set at any of the three sites during the month, Columbus (CMH) recorded its tenth driest January on record.

Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure From Normal (in.)	Max Daily Precipitation (in./date)		Total Snowfall (in.)	Max Daily Snowfall (in./date)	
Cincinnati (CVG)	1.39”	-1.61”	0.35”	9 th	8.5”	2.5”	10 th
Columbus (CMH)	1.12”	-1.61”	0.47”	10 th	5.4”	2.4”	12 th
Dayton (DAY)	1.50”	-1.21”	0.64”	10 th	4.8”	1.3”	10 th , 12 th , 20 th



Precipitation (Continued)

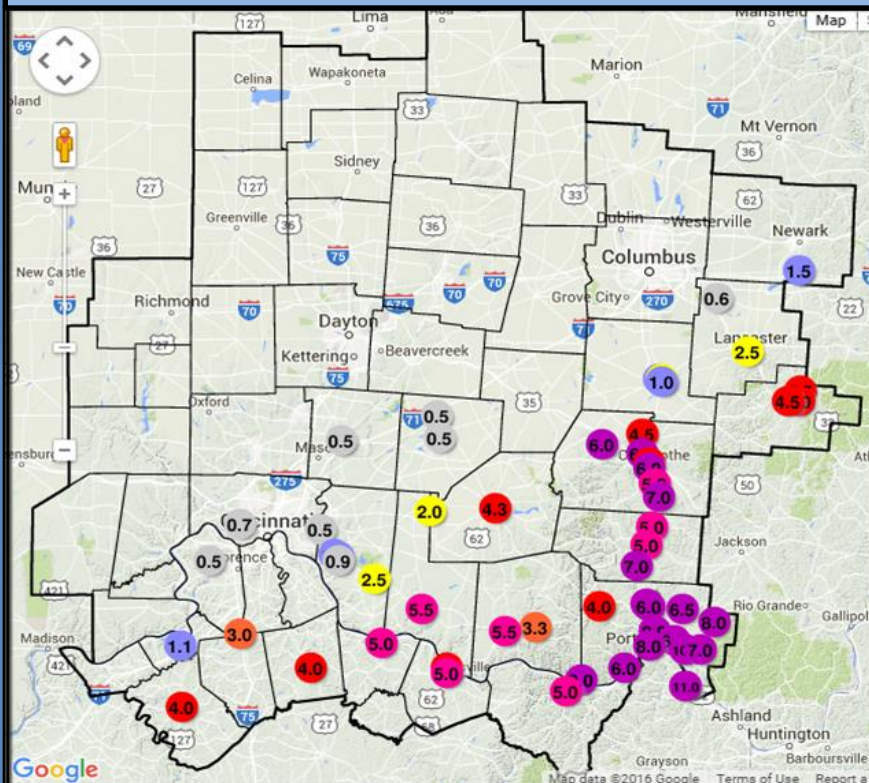


Winter Weather

Although snow fell on numerous days during the month, the accumulations were relatively light on most days. Snow squalls developed and moved through during the day on the 12th. These squalls quickly reduced visibilities and led to several accidents, including several significant pileups that closed the interstates. One significant winter storm moved through on the 22nd into the 23rd. This storm brought snow to locations generally southeast of I-71. The heaviest snow fell across portions of northeast Kentucky and south-central Ohio, where totals topped 10 inches in some spots.

Location	CVG	CMH	DAY
2016 January Snowfall (in.)	8.5"	5.4"	4.8"
Normal January Snowfall (in.)	6.5"	9.2"	7.9"

January 22nd-23rd Snowfall Totals



Selected Totals

- 11" - Franklin Furnace
- 10" - Wheelersburg
- 9" - Lucasville
- 8" - Portsmouth
- 7" - Scioto Trail SP
- 6" - Chillicothe
- 5.5" - West Union
- 5.5" - Georgetown
- 5" - Piketon
- 5" - Vanceburg
- 5" - Aberdeen
- 4" - Owenton
- 4" - Logan
- 4" - Hillsboro
- 4" - Falmouth
- 3" - Crittenden
- 2.5" - Lancaster
- 1.5" - Amelia



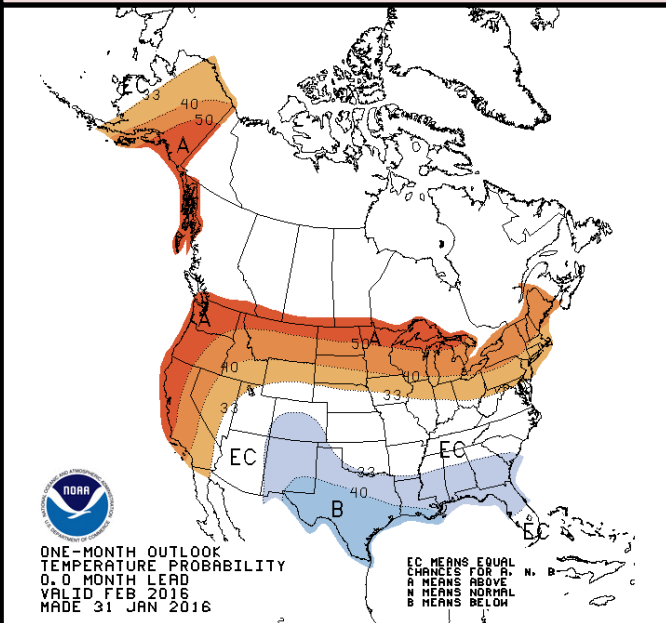
February Outlook

The latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center calls for an increased likelihood of above normal temperatures across northern portions of the region and equal chances of above, below, and normal temperatures across southeast Indiana, southern Ohio, and northern Kentucky. An increased likelihood of below normal precipitation is called for across the region this month.

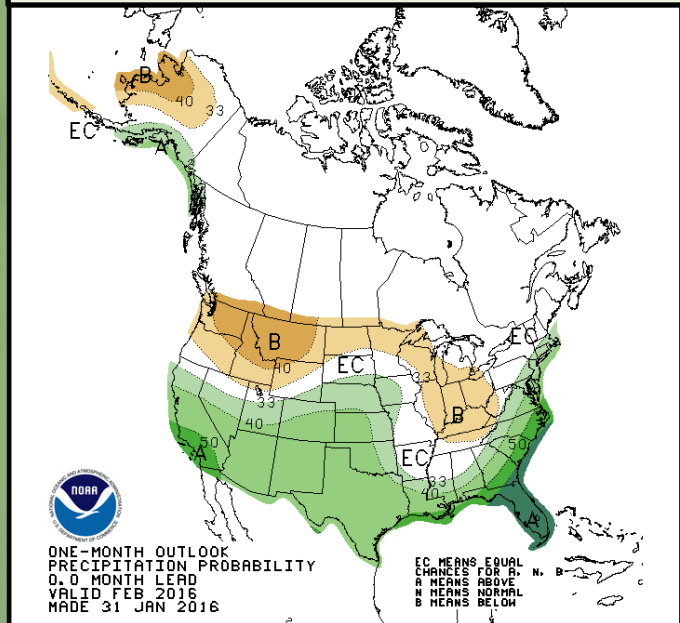
Site	Normal Avg Temp (°F)	Normal High (°F)	Normal Low (°F)
Cincinnati (CVG)	34.5°	42.9°	26.0°
Columbus (CMH)	32.8°	40.6°	25.0°
Dayton (DAY)	31.0°	38.9°	23.1°

Site	Normal Precipitation (in.)	Normal Snowfall (in.)
Cincinnati (CVG)	2.81"	6.5"
Columbus (CMH)	2.25"	6.1"
Dayton (DAY)	2.24"	5.9"

February Temperature Outlook



February Precipitation Outlook



Late Winter / Early Spring Outlook

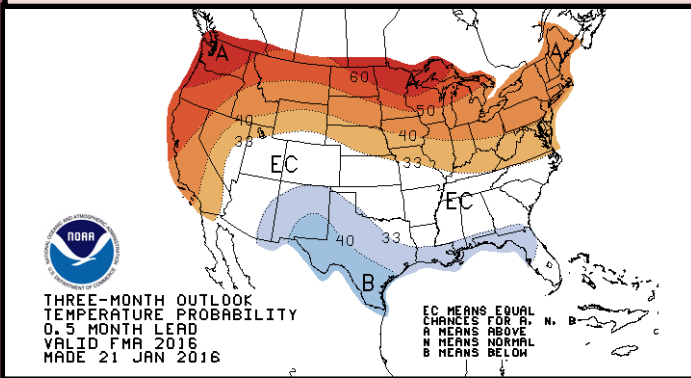
The strong El Niño currently in place is expected to gradually weaken this upcoming spring. The latest February to April outlook from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) indicates an increased likelihood of above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation across the area.

The values in the table below are a measure of how strong the El Niño event is. The red color indicates it meets the $+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ threshold for the Oceanic Niño Index (ONI) for a minimum of 5 consecutive overlapping seasons (3 month periods). The ONI is one measure of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation. An El Niño event is considered a strong event when values of 1.5 or higher are achieved. The October, November, December (OND) 3 month value below was up to 2.3.

El Niño records go back to 1950. In that time, the top three El Niño seasons prior to this one have been 1972-1973 with a top ONI of 2.0, 1982-1983 with a top ONI value of 2.1, and 1997-1998 with an ONI value of 2.3. This means that the 2015-2016 has tied 1997-1998 for the top ONI values since records began. More information about El Niño and the ONI can be found at the Climate Prediction Center's website. <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

Year	DJF	JFM	FMA	MAM	AMJ	MJJ	JJA	JAS	ASO	SON	OND	NDJ
2015	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.3	-----

Three-Month (FMA) Temp. Outlook



Three-Month (FMA) Precip. Outlook

