

2015: A Year in Review

2015 was a year of wild swings, especially when it came to precipitation. The year started off slowly with snowfall, despite a colder than normal January. The most extreme weather of the winter came during February into early March as more than half of the annual snowfall fell during a four to five week period. The coldest temperatures of the year occurred during this time period as well, making February the fifth coldest on record at Indianapolis.

The spring was mild with extended periods of dry weather, especially from the middle of April through most of May. The pattern shifted rather suddenly however as the month changed from May to June, transitioning to a much wetter and more unsettled weather pattern that would last through the first half of the summer. Nearly half of the annual rainfall in many areas across central Indiana would fall during June and July as frontal boundaries became nearly stationary across the Ohio Valley, setting the stage for repeated bouts of severe weather and heavy rainfall producing flash flooding. Much of the area received in excess of ten inches of rainfall during the month of July. For Indianapolis, not only was the 13.14 inches measured during July a record wettest July, it was also the most precipitation in any month in recorded history at Indianapolis.

Just as fast as the wetter, more unsettled pattern developed in early June, the weather pattern shifted back to a warmer and much drier regime in August, lasting through much of the fall. The longest stretch of hot weather came during the first several days on September, with many locations rising above 90 degrees for seven to eight consecutive days. For Indianapolis, it was the hottest start to a September since 1925.

Colder air and the arrival of the region's first snow held off until the middle of November for most, with no extended period of cold weather. This resulted in the fall season being the 9th warmest on record at Indianapolis. The warm weather continued into December with weather more typical of the spring or fall at times as opposed to winter. Average temperatures were generally 11 to nearly 14 degrees above normal for the month. A rare winter severe weather event impacted central Indiana on the afternoon of December 23, producing wind damage and three weak tornadoes. The year wrapped up with a widespread heavy rainfall that led to extensive river

flooding as three to six inches of rain fell over a 48 hour period across much of the area.

The following information will represent a very comprehensive look back on the year that was. The information is arranged in this order:

- Annual and Seasonal Conditions***
- Miscellaneous Weather Stats***
- Records Tied or Broken***
- Links to Top Weather Stories of 2015***

Annual and Seasonal Climate Stats for Indianapolis

For the whole year

	Average Temperature	Total Precipitation	Total Snowfall	Highs of 80/90 or hotter	Lows of 0 or colder
2015	53.9	48.15	24.7	100/13	7
NORMAL	53.2	42.44	25.9	99/18	5
2015 Difference from Normal	+0.7	+5.71	-1.2	+1/-5	+2
All-Time Rank	Tied for 39th Warmest	23rd Wettest	Tied for 51st Snowiest		

******Note, for purposes of the above table, snowfall is referring to the calendar year period, from Jan 1 to Dec 31.***

Actual Numbers and Difference from Normal

2014-15 WINTER SEASON SUMMARY

	Average Temperature	Total Precipitation	Total Snowfall	Highs below Freezing	Lows Below Zero

Winter 2014-2015	26.5	5.70	17.0	34	6
Normal Winter	30.5	8.15	22.0	27	6
2014-2015 Difference from Normal	-4.0	-2.45	-5.0	+7	0

Winter Ranks:

Tied for 22nd Coldest

29th Driest

59th Snowiest

2015 SPRING SEASON SUMMARY

	Average Temperature	Total Precipitation	Total Snowfall	Highs of 80 or more	Lows At or Below Freezing
Spring 2015	53.5	9.98	5.9	14	19
Normal Spring	52.6	12.42	2.8	10	20
2015 Difference from Normal	+0.9	-2.44	+3.1	+4	-1

Spring Ranks:

Tied for 34th Warmest

Tied for 53rd Driest

Tied for 29th Snowiest

2015 SUMMER SEASON SUMMARY

	Average Temperature	Total Precipitation	Highs of 90 or more
Summer 2015	73.4	23.05	6
Normal Summer	73.9	11.93	16
2015 Difference from Normal	-0.5	+11.12	-10

Summer Ranks:

58th Coolest

2nd Wettest

2015 FALL SEASON SUMMARY

	Average Temperature	Total Precipitation	Total Snowfall	Highs of 80 or more
Fall 2015	58.5	6.38	1.3	19
Normal Fall	55.2	9.94	1.1	17
2015 Difference from Normal	+3.3	-3.56	+0.2	+2

Fall Ranks:

9th Warmest

35th Driest

WINTER 2015-2016 SUMMARY SO FAR

	Average Temperature	Total Precipitation	Total Snowfall	Highs of 32 or colder
December 2015	42.6	5.59	0.6	15
Normal December	31.6	3.17	6.9	1
2015 Difference From Normal	+11.0	+2.42	-6.3	-14

December 2015 Ranks:

3rd Warmest

9th Wettest

30th Least Snowiest

Miscellaneous Information for Indianapolis in 2015

Date of Final Spring Frost: April 27

Date of Final Measurable Spring Snow: March 1 (5.9")

Date of First Fall Frost: October 17

Date of First Measurable Fall Snow: November 21 (1.3")

Hottest High Temperature: 94 (September 4)

Coldest Low Temperature: -7 (January 8)

Coldest High Temperature: 9 (February 19)

Warmest Low Temperature: 74 (July 19 and July 28)

Heaviest Daily Rainfall: 4.43 (July 7)

Heaviest Daily Snowfall: 5.9 (March 1)

Wettest 7 day period: 7.85 (July 7-13)

Most Consecutive days with temperatures below freezing: 9 (February 12-20)

Most Consecutive days with highs of 90 or hotter: 7 (September 2-8)

Most Consecutive days with measurable precipitation: 8 (July 7-14)

Most Consecutive days with no measureable precipitation: 20 (October 4-23)

Records Tied/Broken at Indianapolis

Date	Record Type	New Record Amount	Old Record Amount	Old Record Year
February 24	Min Temperature	-6	-2	1900
March 1	Snowfall	5.9	5.5	1963
July 7	Precipitation	4.43	4.22	1915
July	Precipitation	13.14	13.12	1875
October 3 (Tied)	Coldest Max	50	50	1980
November 5 (Tied)	Max Temperature	76	76	1978
November 5	Warmest Min	61	58	2005
July 28	Min Temperature	51	54	2004 and 1971
November 21	Snowfall	1.3	0.8	1996
December 12	Max Temperature	70	63	1927
December 12	Warmest Min	57	50	1873
December 13	Warmest Min	55	52	1929
December 23 (Tied)	Max Temperature	64	64	1933

Top Weather Stories of 2015

[January 6 Snow](#)

[January 11-12 Ice Storm](#)

[February 1 Snow](#)

[February 16 Snow](#)

[February 21 Snow](#)

[February 28-March 1 Snow](#)

[April 8 Severe Weather](#)

[April 9-10 Severe Weather](#)

[May 4 Hail Storms](#)

[May 30 SE Indy Metro Tornado](#)

[June 7-8 Severe Weather and Heavy Rain](#)

[June 12 Severe Weather](#)

[June 21 Early Morning Severe Weather](#)

[7th Wettest June on Record at Indianapolis](#)

[July 12 Flash Flooding and Princes Lakes Tornado](#)

[July 13-14 Severe Weather and Flash Flooding](#)

[July 17 Tippecanoe County Tornadoes](#)

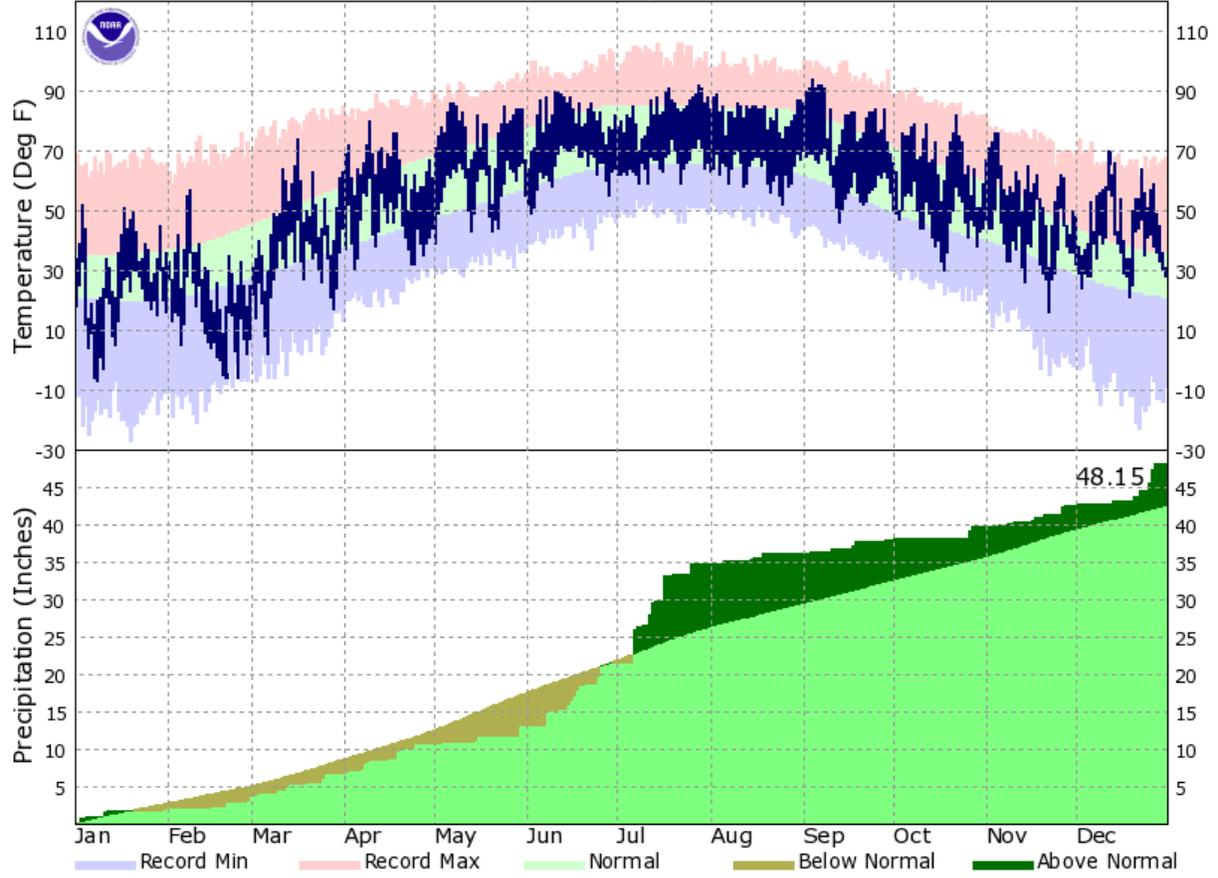
[July 2015 – Wettest Month on Record](#)

[November 21 Snowfall](#)

[December 23 Severe Weather](#)

[December 26-28 Heavy Rainfall and Flooding](#)

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - 2015



Data prepared by the Indianapolis NWS Climate Team