

2016: A Year in Review

Warmer than normal temperatures for much of the year helped 2016 become one of the warmest years in recent memory. In Indianapolis, 2016 was the 5th warmest over the period of record extending back to 1871.

The winter of 2015-2016 was mild with only short periods of colder than normal weather through January and February. Snow was limited through the winter with the warmer than normal temperatures, with many areas receiving only about half of the average snowfall for the winter season.

After a cool start to March, a much warmer pattern set in for most of the early spring before settling into a mild and wet regime through April and the first half of May. Warmer than normal conditions returned by late May and early June and would persist for much of the summer season. Wetter conditions developed by late June and would last through a stormy August highlighted by two unusual and record breaking tornado outbreaks for the Hoosier state. Severe thunderstorms on the evening of August 15th would produce eight tornadoes, a new August daily record for tornadoes in Indiana. That record would stand for a mere nine days before a larger and more destructive tornado outbreak occurred on the 24th. Eleven tornadoes occurred during the afternoon and evening of August 24th, including a large tornado that caused significant damage in Kokomo.

Calmer conditions arrived as the calendar turned to September, but temperatures remained very warm through the fall season as most locations did not experience their first freeze or see snowflakes until well into November. Indianapolis experienced their second warmest fall on record, behind only the 1931 fall season. Highs nearly reached 80 on the first two days of November, and it wasn't until the weekend before Thanksgiving that more sustained cold finally arrived and stayed in the region. The coldest December in six years wrapped up the year, highlighted by a couple nights of subzero lows on December 18th and 19th. Indianapolis started the morning of the 19th at -1°, the first December day with a subzero temperature since Christmas Day 2004.

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 2016*

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
2016	55.8	45.96	16.3	112/28	1
NORMAL	53.2	42.44	25.9	99/18	5
2016 Difference from Normal	+2.6	+3.52	-9.6	+13/+10	-4
All-Time Rank	5 th Warmest	30 th Wettest	Tied for 52 nd Least 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

2015-16 WINTER SEASON SUMMARY

	Average Temperature	Total Precipitation	Total Snowfall	Highs below Freezing	Lows Below Zero
Winter 2015-2016	34.4	9.30	10.8	21	0
Normal Winter	30.5	8.15	22.0	27	6
2015-2016 Difference from Normal	+3.9	+1.15	-11.2	-6	-6

Winter Ranks:

Tied for 12th Warmest

50th Wettest

50th Least Snowiest

2016 SPRING SEASON SUMMARY

	Average Temperature	Total Precipitation	Total Snowfall	Highs of 80 or more	Lows At or Below Freezing
Spring 2016	55.1	13.80	1.2	10	16
Normal Spring	52.6	12.42	2.8	10	20
2016 Difference from Normal	+2.5	+1.38	-1.6	+0	-4

Spring Ranks:

Tied for 12th Warmest

40th Wettest

Tied for 46th Least Snowiest

2016 SUMMER SEASON SUMMARY

	Average Temperature	Total Precipitation	Highs of 90 or more
Summer 2016	76.4	17.51	27
Normal Summer	73.9	11.93	16
2016 Difference from Normal	+2.5	+5.58	+11

Summer Ranks:

15th Warmest

7th Wettest

2016 FALL SEASON SUMMARY

	Average Temperature	Total Precipitation	Total Snowfall	Highs of 80 or more
Fall 2016	60.0	9.40	T	22
Normal Fall	55.2	9.94	1.1	17

2016 Difference from Normal	+4.8	-0.54	-1.1	+5
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Fall Ranks:
2nd Warmest
58th Wettest

WINTER 2016-2017 SUMMARY SO FAR

	Average Temperature	Total Precipitation	Total Snowfall	Highs of 32 or colder
December 2016	30.3	1.52	4.9	9
Normal December	31.6	3.17	6.9	1
2016 Difference From Normal	-1.3	-1.65	-2.0	+8

December 2016 Ranks:

50th Coolest
25th Driest
58th Snowiest

Miscellaneous Information for Indianapolis in 2016

Date of Final Spring Frost: May 16
Date of Final Measurable Spring Snow: March 3 (1.2")

Date of First Fall Frost: November 10
Date of First Measurable Fall Snow: December 13 (3.9")

Hottest High Temperature: 93 (August 11)
Coldest Low Temperature: -1 (December 19)

Coldest High Temperature: 13 (January 18 and December 15)
Warmest Low Temperature: 77 (July 22 and July 24)

Heaviest Daily Rainfall: 2.71" (July 18)
Heaviest Daily Snowfall: 3.9" (December 13)

Wettest 7 day period: 3.95" (July 12-18)

Most Consecutive days with temperatures below freezing: 8 (January 16-23)
Most Consecutive days with highs of 90 or hotter: 5 (July 21-25)

Most Consecutive days with measurable precipitation: 8 (May 7-14)
Most Consecutive days with no measureable precipitation: 11 (July 30-August 11)

Records Tied/Broken at Indianapolis

Date	Record Type	New Record Amount	Old Record Amount	Old Record Year
February 2	Max Temperature	61	59	1911
February 20	Max Temperature	72	67	1983
February 24	Precipitation	1.70"	1.05"	1956
July 3	Coldest Max	67	70	1924
July 18	Precipitation	2.71"	2.61"	1996
September 17	Precipitation	1.09"	1.07"	1969
October 17	Warmest Min	64	62	1881, 1928, 1935, 1947 and 1980
October 18	Warmest Min	68	65	2007
November 2 (Tied)	Max Temperature	78	78	1961
November 18	Max Temperature	75	73	1930 and 1941

Top Weather Stories of 2016

[Easter Sunday Severe Weather](#)

[March 31 Tippecanoe County Tornado](#)

[April 26 Severe Weather](#)

[April 28 Zionsville Tornado](#)

[May 1 Severe Storms](#)

[May 7 and May 11 Severe Storms](#)

[June 15 Severe Weather](#)

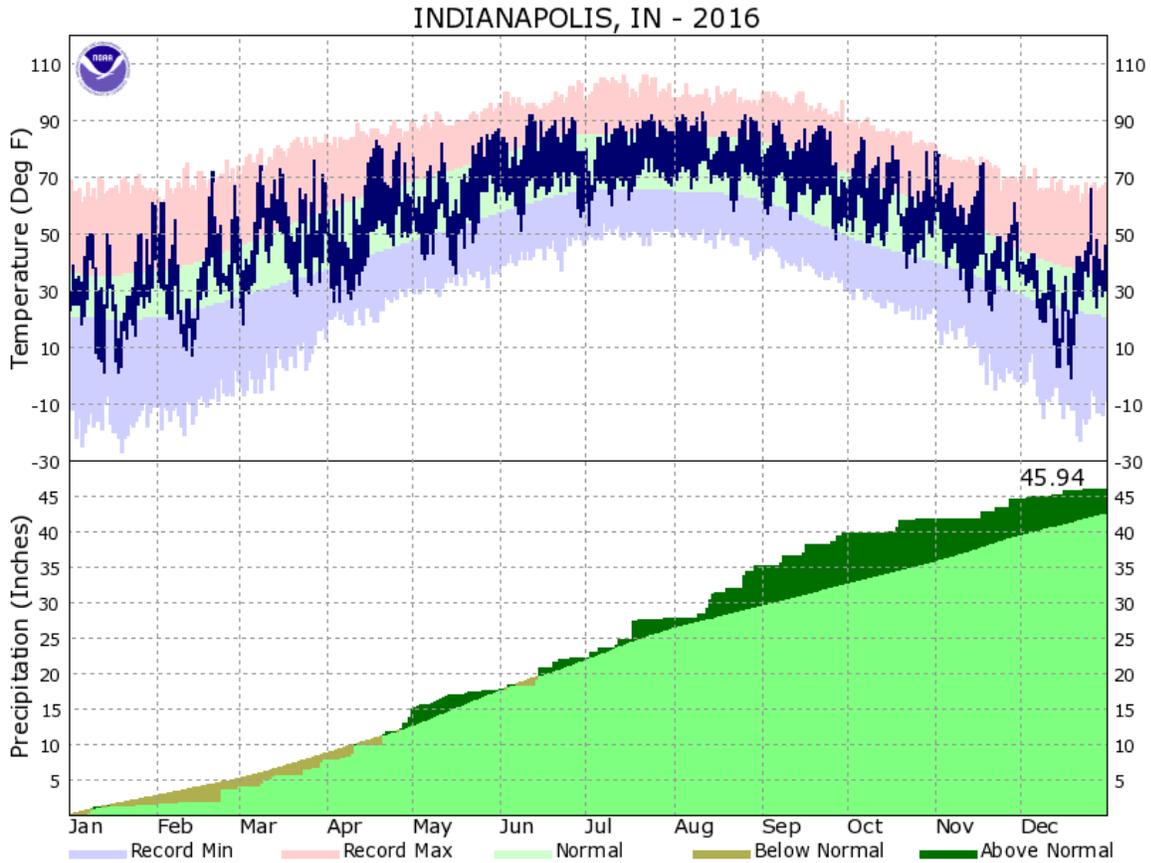
[June 23 Early Morning Storms with Damaging Winds](#)

[July 13 Severe Weather](#)

[August 15 Tornadoes](#)

[August 24 Tornado Outbreak](#)

[November 17-18 Record Warmth and Severe Weather](#)



Data prepared by the Indianapolis NWS Climate Team