

Central Indiana

February 2016

Climate Summary

40th Warmest on record at Indianapolis

72nd Driest on record at Indianapolis

Tied for 72nd Snowiest on record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

February began very mild with high temperatures rising into the lower 60s in many locations on the 2nd and 3rd. Indianapolis established a new record high for the 2nd with a high of 61, breaking a 105 year-old record of 59 set in 1911. Cooler weather returned for the next several days but in general, temperatures remained near to above normal. Highs peaked in the 50s on the 7th before much colder air returned to central Indiana for the next seven to ten days. With an arctic airmass across much of the Ohio Valley, highs from the 10th through the 14th were well below normal, running from the mid-teens into the 20s. Several locations experienced their coldest morning of the month during this time period as lows fell into the single digits.

Strong southwest flow brought much milder air into the region beginning on the 18th and 19th, culminating in the warmest day of the month on the 20th as temperatures warmed into the upper 60s and lower 70s under sunny skies. Indianapolis set another record high on the 20th with 72 degrees, besting the 67 recorded on the date in 1983. For many locations, the first 70 degree day came almost a month earlier than in 2015, and closer to 6 to 8 weeks earlier than 2013 and 2014 when 70 degree weather didn't make an appearance until early to mid-April.

Temperatures once again fell back to below normal levels for the 24th through 26th with the passage of strong low pressure producing heavy snow over northwest parts of central Indiana and a cold rain elsewhere. Once again though, windy southerly flow

developing ahead of a cold front enabled temperatures to surge into the 50s and 60s for the last three days of the month, highlighted by mid and upper 60s on the 28th.

Site	February 2016 Avg Temp	February 2016 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
Indianapolis	34.8	+2.7	72 on 20	7 on 13
Lafayette	31.8	+1.3	68 on 20	4 on 13
Muncie	34.3	+4.6	71 on 20	4 on 13
Terre Haute	34.9	+2.5	71 on 20	7 on 11 and 13
Bloomington (*)	35.9	+2.8	72 on 20	3 on 11
Shelbyville (**)	36.1	+4.4	72 on 20	8 on 13
Indy – Eagle Crk.	34.3	+2.3	71 on 20	7 on 13

(*) Bloomington high and average temperature missing for February 14.

(**) Shelbyville temperature missing for February 17.

At Indianapolis, there were 18 days with above normal average temperatures, 1 day with normal average temperatures and 10 days with below normal average temperatures.

February 2016 was the 40th warmest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Precipitation

Monthly liquid precipitation returned to normal in many areas of the state during February. Melted precipitation totals ranged from over an inch in west central Indiana to more than 6 inches in Bartholomew County in south-central Indiana. Much of the state received between 1.5 and 5 inches for the month.

There were three main precipitation events during February. The first was on the late on the 2nd when one-half to more than 2 inches of rain fell in much of central and southern Indiana. The second was early on the 21st when one-half to nearly 3 inches of rain fell south of the I-70 corridor in central and southern Indiana. The most widespread precipitation event occurred on the 24th when one-half to nearly 2.5 inches of liquid precipitation fell state-wide, falling as heavy snow over northwest Indiana.

Lowland flooding followed the rain events of the 2nd, 21st, and 24th. The most widespread flooding occurred after the rains of the 24th. Lowland flooding continued into March in southern Indiana. Warm conditions at the end of the month melted all of the snow cover in the state.

Site	February 2016 Precipitation	February 2016 Difference from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis	2.25	-0.07	1.70 on 24	5 days 18-22
Lafayette	1.65	-0.11	1.08 on 24	7 days 17-23
Muncie	1.84	-0.47	1.33 on 24	6 days 18-23
Terre Haute (*)	1.77	-0.16	1.30 on 24	4 days 4-7 and 17-20
Bloomington	3.70	+0.94	1.85 on 24	5 days 15-19
Shelbyville	3.28	+0.92	1.98 on 24	5 days 16-20
Indy – Eagle Crk.	1.31	-0.82	1.08 on 24	5 days 18-22

(*) – Terre Haute precipitation missing for February 28.

February 2016 was the 72nd driest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Snowfall

Snowfall for February was near to slightly below normal for much of the state to above normal for northwest and northern portions of north central Indiana. Snowfall during the month ranged from around 2 inches in portions of central Indiana to near 30 inches in northwest Indiana. The biggest snow storm of the month for central and southern Indiana was the 14th when the area received 2 to 4 inches. Indianapolis officially recorded 4.4 inches of snow for the month.

A potent storm system brought blizzard conditions and more than a foot of snow to northwest Indiana while 1.5 to 2.5 inches of rain fell in the warm sector along and east of the I-69 corridor.

Severe Weather

Scattered strong thunderstorms produced gusty winds on the afternoon of the 2nd, otherwise no severe weather occurred in central Indiana during the month of February.

For information on severe weather in other areas during February, visit the Storm Prediction Center “Severe Weather Event Summaries” website at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/online/>.

Miscellaneous

The maximum wind gust at the Indianapolis International Airport was 52 mph from the southwest on the 19th. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 14 days during the month, with dense fog occurring on the 14th. Ice pellets occurred on the 24th, and thunder on the 2nd.

March 2016 Outlook

The official outlook for March 2016 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates a greater chance of above normal temperatures across central Indiana. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is 42.2 degrees. The outlook also calls for an equal chance of above, near, or below normal precipitation. The average precipitation for March at Indianapolis is 3.56", with 2.6" of snowfall.

Spring 2016 Outlook

The official outlook for meteorological spring (March-May 2016) from the Climate Prediction Center indicates a slightly greater chance of above normal temperatures. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the spring season is 52.6 degrees. The outlook also calls for a greater chance of below normal precipitation. The average spring season precipitation is 12.42 inches along with 2.8 inches of snowfall, most of which typically falls during the month of March.

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.