

Central Indiana

May 2015

Climate Summary

24th Warmest on record at Indianapolis

36th Driest on record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

After a chilly start in the 30s for much of the region on the morning of the 1st, May started out warm and dry as a large ridge of high pressure dominated across the region. High temperatures were mainly in the 70s through the 4th, then rose into the 80s for an extended stretch that lasted through the 10th and 11th. At Indianapolis, the 6 days of 80°+ highs was the most in the first ten days of May since 2001. Many locations reached their warmest temperatures of the month on either the 6th or 7th as highs made in into the mid and upper 80s.

The passage of a cold front on the 11th ushered in temperatures closer to normal for mid-May over the following week. With the exception of a brief return to highs in the lower 80s for many on the 15th and again on the 17th-18th, highs largely remained in the 60s and 70s. Cooler air again returned with the passage of a cold front late on the 18th. An upper level trough developed over the region and brought with the coolest daytime highs of the month coming as weak disturbances moved through the Ohio Valley. Highs remained only in the lower and middle 50s over much of the area on the 20th under cloudy skies with light rain, by far the coolest daytime high of the month. The departure of the upper trough brought a return to warmer temperatures for the Memorial Day weekend.

Warmer and more humid conditions persisted through much of the rest of the month with highs in the 80s and lows in the 60s. The last day of May resembled mid-April as cloudy drizzly weather followed in the wake of a cold front. Early morning highs in the 60s fell into the upper 50s for much of the day.

Site	May 2015 Avg Temp	May 2015 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
Indianapolis	66.8	+4.1	86 on 6 and 7	39 on 1
Lafayette	63.8	+1.9	85 on 7 and 29	31 on 1
Muncie	66.3	+4.5	88 on 7	38 on 1
Terre Haute	66.4	+3.4	86 on 8 and 28	37 on 1
Bloomington	66.2	+3.6	87 on 7 and 8	37 on 1
Shelbyville	68.5	+5.6	90 on 7	39 on 1
Indy – Eagle Crk.	66.0	+3.2	85 on 7	41 on 1

At Indianapolis, there were 22 days with above normal average temperatures and 9 days with below normal average temperatures.

May 2015 was the 24th warmest in the Indianapolis area since 1871.

Precipitation

May rainfall ranged from below normal in central and southern Indiana south of U.S. Highway 36 to near normal to above normal in areas along and north of the highway in the remainder of the state. Monthly totals measured from less than an inch in the Connersville area of east central Indiana to over 9 inches in the Kentland area of northwest Indiana. Much of the state received between 2 and 5 inches of rain during the month.

Rainfall was rather infrequent and spotty during all of May except on the 30th. After a four week dry spell for many areas, beneficial rainfall of 0.50 inches to 5 inches fell in much of central and northern Indiana from repeated storms on the 30th. Large portions of southern Indiana, especially in the south central and southeast areas, missed this rain and received less than 0.25 inches.

Rainfall in excess of 3 inches on the 30th caused localized flooding in central and northern Indiana. Indianapolis doubled their monthly rainfall in only seven hours on the 30th. Near flood stage conditions followed along the Wabash River in western Indiana in early June as a result of this rain. Lowland flooding occurred at the end of May and early June along the Kankakee River in northwest Indiana. Even with the beneficial rains on the 30th, most locations were below normal for May.

Site	May 2015 Precipitation	May 2015 Difference from	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
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		Normal		
Indianapolis	2.45	-2.60	1.28 on 30	4 days 21-24
Lafayette	4.13	-0.06	0.97 on 30	3 days 5-7 and 17-19
Muncie	4.70	+0.29	1.24 on 30	3 days 1-3, 6-8 and 21-23
Terre Haute	3.71	-2.92	0.89 on 15	4 days 21-24
Bloomington	1.55 (*)	-3.69	0.44 on 10	3 days 1-3, 5-7 and 22-24
Shelbyville	2.49	-2.79	0.48 on 15	4 days 5-8 and 21-24
Indy – Eagle Crk.	1.74	-3.53	0.54 on 30	3 days 1-3, 5-7 and 21-23

May 2015 was the 36th driest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.
 (*) – Bloomington precipitation missing on May 30 and 31.

Severe Weather

May was a relatively quiet month for severe weather across central Indiana. Scattered strong to severe storms on the evening of the 4th, 11th and 15th produced large hail and damaging winds over parts of the region.

The biggest severe weather event of the month occurred on the afternoon and evening of the 30th, as scattered strong to severe thunderstorms developed across the area ahead of low pressure. The storms pulsed in intensity, with several near and to the northeast of the Indianapolis metro area producing wind damage. Additionally, an intense storm briefly produced quarter size hail in southern Boone County. A brief EF1 tornado occurred in southeast Marion County during the evening where two boundaries from storms interacted. The tornado was on the ground for about a minute and traveled almost a third of a mile near Southeastern and Irvington Avenues. Two homes sustained significant damage, with minor roof damage to a few other homes. Trees were downed along the path, and two vehicles were stacked on top of one another. Straight line wind damage to primarily trees and limbs also occurred over Franklin Township in southeast Marion County, extending to near New Palestine.

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

Miscellaneous

The maximum wind gust at Indianapolis International Airport was 58 mph out of the south-southwest during the early afternoon of the 30th as a severe thunderstorm moved through the Indianapolis area. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 12 days during the month, with dense fog occurring on the 30th. Thunder was reported on 5 days during the month.

June 2015 Outlook

The official outlook for June 2015 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates a greater chance of above normal temperatures for central Indiana. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is 72.0 degrees. The outlook also calls for a slightly greater chance of near to below normal precipitation. The average precipitation for June at Indianapolis is 4.25”.

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.