

Central Indiana

October 2015

Climate Summary

Tied for 45th Warmest on record at Indianapolis

Tied for 51st Driest on record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

A quick cool snap occurred during the first few days of the month as moisture was drawn north into the region from a stagnant upper low over the Carolinas. The coolest day of the month for many took place on the 3rd as a combination of clouds and light rain kept highs in the upper 40s and lower 50s. Temperatures warmed immediately however with the departure of the system, with a return to sunny and dry conditions bringing several days with highs in the middle and upper 70s from the 4th through the 8th.

The passage of a weak cold front on the 9th, brought highs down slightly, falling back into the upper 60s and lower 70s through the middle of the month. A cold front passed through central Indiana during the afternoon and evening of the 15th, with a strong area of Canadian high pressure ushering in much cooler weather over the following couple of days. The growing season ended for some spots on the 17th and for the entire area on the 18th as morning lows fell into the 20s both days.

Temperatures rose once again following the hard freeze on the morning of the 18th, peaking with afternoon highs into the lower 80s for many on the 22nd. Highs fell back into the 60s and 70s through the 26th, before even cooler weather followed as the remnants and moisture from Hurricane Patricia impacted the region. The last few days of the month saw near to slightly below normal temperatures with highs in the 50s and lows in the upper 30s to middle 40s.

Site	October 2015 Avg Temp	October 2015 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature

Indianapolis	57.0	+2.0	82 on 22	30 on 18
Lafayette	54.8	+0.5	79 on 8 and 21	26 on 18
Muncie	52.6	-1.2	76 on 8	27 on 17 and 18
Terre Haute	56.5	+2.3	82 on 22	24 on 18
Bloomington	56.8	+2.2	83 on 22	25 on 18
Shelbyville	57.8	+3.6	83 on 22	26 on 18
Indy–Eagle Crk.	56.1	+1.3	79 on 22	31 on 18

At Indianapolis, there were 19 days with above normal average temperatures, 12 days with below average temperatures, and 1 day with average temperatures.

October 2015 was tied for the 45th warmest in the Indianapolis area since 1871.

Precipitation

The remnants of Hurricane Patricia brought the biggest rain event to much of central and southern Indiana in more than three months. Rainfall of 1 to more than 4 inches in less than 2 days helped relieve drought and fire danger conditions that were building during October. Prior to the 27th, this was the driest start to October for the Indianapolis area in 52 years.

Monthly totals prior to the remnants of Hurricane Patricia varied from around one-tenth of an inch in west central Indiana to slightly over 2 inches in southwest. Afterwards, the total rainfall during October measured from around an inch in northwest Indiana to more than 7 inches in portions of southwest Indiana. Much of central and southern Indiana received 1 to 4 inches during the month. Additional light rainfall fell on the 31st as a weak upper level disturbance tracked through the area.

Even with the rainfall on the 27th and 28th, monthly rainfall was below normal for much of the state. Only south central, southeast and portions of southwest, central and east central Indiana received normal to above normal rainfall during October. This was the driest October for the Indianapolis area since 2010.

Abnormally dry (D0) to moderate drought (D1) conditions prevailed in nearly 80% of the state prior to the 27th according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. This was the driest late October for the state in 5 years. At the end of the month, stream flow was at or above seasonal levels as a result of the recent rains.

Site	October 2015 Precipitation	October 2015 Difference from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis	1.82	-1.30	0.91 on 27	11 days 10-20

Lafayette	1.77	-1.12	0.92 on 27	7 days 14-20
Muncie	1.86	-1.06	0.87 on 27	7 days 14-20
Terre Haute (*)	1.11	-2.46	1.06 on 28	5 days 10-14 and 16-20
Bloomington	2.73	-0.80	1.33 on 27	10 days 13-22
Shelbyville	3.33	+0.22	1.22 on 27	10 days 13-22
Indy–Eagle Crk.	1.76	-1.35	0.90 on 27	12 days 9-20

(*) Precipitation data for Terre Haute was not available on October 27

October 2015 was tied for the 51st driest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Severe Weather

No severe weather occurred in central Indiana during October. Gusty winds with a line of showers along a cold front on the evening of the 28th produced isolated wind damage near Yorktown in Delaware County.

For information on severe weather in other areas during October, 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 39 mph out of the west on the evening of the 28th as showers along a cold front moved through the Indianapolis area. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 10 days during the month, with dense fog occurring on the 6th and 7th. No thunder was reported during October.

November 2015 Outlook

The official outlook for November 2015 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates a greater chance for above normal temperatures for central Indiana. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is 43.6 degrees. The outlook also calls for a slightly greater chance of above normal precipitation. The average precipitation for November at Indianapolis is 3.70”.

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.