



# FLORIDA KEYS

## National Weather Service

### Forecast Office

<http://www.weather.gov/keywest>

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### **COOLEST DECEMBER ON RECORD FOR THE KEY WEST AREA DECEMBER 2010 WAS 2<sup>ND</sup> COOLEST MONTH EVER RECORDED IN KEY WEST LOOKING BACK AT A RECORD-SETTING YEAR FOR KEY WEST AND THE KEYS**

LAST MONTH RANKED HIGH IN THE RECORD BOOKS WITH REGARDS TO COOL TEMPERATURES. KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AVERAGED 63.1 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT FOR DECEMBER 2010, A DIFFERENCE OF 8.9 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL. THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT REGISTERED AN AVERAGE TEMPERATURE OF 61.5 DEGREES, AN EVEN COOLER 9.6 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL.

WHILE THESE VALUES ALONE MAY BE IMPRESSIVE, THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE FOR KEY WEST GOES INTO THE RECORD BOOKS AS THE COOLEST DECEMBER ON RECORD. IN ADDITION TO BEING THE COOLEST DECEMBER ON RECORD IT ALSO TIES FEBRUARY 1976 FOR THE 2ND COOLEST MONTH EVER RECORDED IN KEY WEST. THE COOLEST MONTH ON RECORD IS JANUARY 1981 WHEN THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE WAS 61.3 DEGREES. TEMPERATURE DATA FOR THE KEY WEST AREA DATE BACK TO THE SUMMER OF 1872.

FOR THE MARATHON AIRPORT, DECEMBER 2010 TAKES THE TITLE OF COOLEST ON RECORD IN THE PAST 10 YEARS. THIS IS ALSO THE COOLEST MONTH EVER RECORDED AT THE AIRPORT SINCE JULY 2000.

IN KEY WEST THERE WERE 9 DAILY TEMPERATURE RECORDS SET OR TIED DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER. IT MAY NOT BE MUCH OF A SURPRISE THAT THESE WERE ALL FOR COOL OR COLD TEMPERATURES. THE OLDEST RECORD BROKEN LAST MONTH WAS ON THE 15TH WHEN THE TEMPERATURE DROPPED TO 46 DEGREES, SHATTERING THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 52 SET BACK IN 1885.

REVIEWING DAILY TEMPERATURE DATA BETWEEN KEY WEST AND MARATHON IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THESE SITES SAW ONLY 1 AND 2 DAYS OF NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL AVERAGE DAILY TEMPERATURES, RESPECTIVELY.

BELOW ARE PRELIMINARY RAINFALL TOTALS FOR DECEMBER ALONG THE KEYS ISLAND CHAIN, COMPARING 2010 TO 2009 AND THE DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL VALUES WHERE AVAILABLE.

**DECEMBER 2010 RAINFALL TOTALS/DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL/2009 IN INCHES**

<b>Station – Station Type</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Dep. fm Normal</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Dep. fm 2009</b>
Dry Tortugas National Park – <i>COOP</i>	1.45		3.57	+2.12
Key West WFO – <i>NWS</i>	0.72	-1.42	5.12	-4.40
Key West International Airport – <i>ASOS</i>	0.58	-1.56	4.49	-3.91
Big Coppitt Key – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	0.78		3.94	-3.16
Cudjoe Key – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	0.81		5.72	-4.91
Cudjoe Key – <i>Citizen Observer</i>	0.55		4.44	-3.89
Bahia Honda State Park – <i>COOP</i>	0.61		1.45	-0.84
Florida Keys Marathon Airport – <i>ASOS</i>	1.11	-0.79	2.05	-0.94
Curry Hammock State Park – <i>COOP</i>	2.52	+0.62	2.58	-0.06
Duck Key – <i>COOP</i>	1.88	-0.02	2.00	-0.12
Islamorada – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	0.99		1.19	-0.20
Islamorada – <i>COOP</i>	1.92		1.08	+0.84
John Pennekamp State Park – <i>COOP</i>	1.33		7.60	-6.27
Key Largo – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	0.65		3.61	-2.96

## **TAKING A LOOK BACK AT THE YEAR 2010**

THE AVERAGE YEARLY TEMPERATURE AT KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LAST YEAR AND THE MARATHON AIRPORT WAS A MILD 75.9 DEGREES. THIS IS 2.2 DEGREES BELOW THE YEARLY NORMAL FOR KEY WEST AND 1.6 DEGREES BELOW THE YEARLY NORMAL FOR MARATHON. WHILE NOT THE COLDEST YEAR ON RECORD FOR KEY WEST, IT TIES THE YEARS 1900, 1895, AND 1889 FOR THE 4TH COOLEST. THE KEY WEST RECORD FOR COLDEST YEAR STILL BELONGS TO 1901 WHEN THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE WAS 74.7 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT. HOWEVER, DECEMBER 2010 DOES RANK AS THE COLDEST ON RECORD FOR THE MARATHON/DUCK KEY AREA SINCE RECORDS BEGAN IN 1982.

RAINFALL FOR THE YEAR ENDED SLIGHTLY ABOVE NORMAL IN KEY WEST, BUT WELL ABOVE NORMAL IN MARATHON. YEARLY TOTALS WERE 39.33 INCHES IN KEY WEST AND 54.13 INCHES IN MARATHON. THESE AMOUNTS ARE 0.39 INCHES AND 13.13 INCHES ABOVE NORMAL, FOR KEY WEST AND MARATHON RESPECTIVELY.

ALL-IN-ALL THERE WERE 50 DAILY RECORDS BROKEN LAST YEAR. OF THOSE, 3 WERE FOR NEW DAILY RAINFALL RECORDS AND THE REST WERE FOR TEMPERATURE READINGS. THE YEAR STARTED OFF COLD WITH SEVERAL BLASTS OF ARCTIC AIR PENETRATING THE FLORIDA PENINSULA AND KEYS.

ON JANUARY 11TH 2010 THE TEMPERATURE PLUMMETED TO 42 DEGREES, THE 2ND COLDEST TEMPERATURE READING EVER OBSERVED IN KEY WEST. THE RECORD FOR COLDEST TEMPERATURE REMAINS 41 DEGREES ON JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> 1886 AND JANUARY 13TH 1981. TEMPERATURES IN DECEMBER DIPPED BACK TO WITHIN 2 DEGREES OF THE RECORD LOW FOR THE MONTH OF 44 DEGREES, MOST RECENTLY SET BACK IN 1989 ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

IN CONTRAST TO THE NOTEWORTHY COLD PERIODS 2010 BROUGHT TO THE KEYS, JUNE 2010 SET A RECORD AS THE WARMEST JUNE ON RECORD FOR KEY WEST AND MARATHON. THIS IS A MORE SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT IN KEY WEST SINCE RECORDS GO BACK TO THE YEAR 1873.

## **SOME WEATHER HEADLINES FROM 2010 THROUGHOUT THE FLORIDA KEYS**

### *JANUARY*

- COLD SPELL TAKES HOLD OF KEYS AND IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE (6TH)
- HISTORIC COLD WAVE IN KEY WEST (13TH)
- JANUARY TIES AS 5TH COLDEST JANUARY IN KEY WEST SINCE 1873
- JANUARY 7TH THROUGH 13TH TIES COLDEST WEEK ON RECORD FOR KEY WEST

### *FEBRUARY*

- COLDEST FEBRUARY IN THREE DECADES AND 4TH COLDEST ON RECORD
- COLDEST JANUARY-FEBRUARY PERIOD FOR KEY WEST IN THREE DECADES
- 2ND WETTEST FEBRUARY IN FIVE DECADES AND 7TH WETTEST SINCE 1871

### *MARCH*

- COLDEST MARCH IN THREE DECADES AND 3RD COLDEST ON RECORD
- WINTER 2009-2010 TIES 1977-1978 AS THE COLDEST ON RECORD
- 2ND DRIEST MARCH IN THREE DECADES...TIES WITH MARCH 1994

### *APRIL*

- APRIL 2010 FIRST RECORD-FREE MONTH IN KEY WEST SINCE MARCH 2009

### *MAY*

- DRIEST MAY IN KEY WEST IN MORE THAN FIVE DECADES
- 3RD WARMEST MAY IN KEY WEST IN OVER THREE DECADES
- 3RD WARMEST MAY IN MARATHON IN ALMOST THREE DECADES

### *JUNE*

- WARMEST JUNE ON RECORD FOR KEY WEST AND MARATHON
- 2ND WARMEST MONTH OVERALL FOR MARATHON AREA - SINCE 1982
- 13TH WARMEST MONTH RECORDED IN KEY WEST - SINCE 1872

### *JULY*

- 5TH WETTEST JULY IN PAST 3 DECADES FOR PARTS OF FLORIDA KEYS
- NEAR-NORMAL MONTHLY AVERAGE TEMPERATURES FOR KEY WEST/MARATHON

### *AUGUST*

- KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HAS NEAR-NORMAL AUGUST
- 3RD WARMEST AUGUST FOR MARATHON AREA IN ALMOST 30 YEARS
- VERY WET MONTH FOR MOST OF THE MIDDLE AND UPPER KEYS

### *SEPTEMBER*

- A WET 24-HOUR PERIOD FOR THE MIDDLE AND UPPER KEYS (28TH-29TH)
- WETTEST SEPTEMBER ON RECORD FOR MARATHON - SINCE 1982
- 5TH WETTEST SEPTEMBER ON RECORD FOR KEY WEST IN PAST THREE DECADES
- VERY WET END TO THE MONTH FOR THE MIDDLE AND UPPER KEYS

### *OCTOBER*

- RECORD-BREAKING WET MORNING IN KEY WEST (26TH)
- 4TH WETTEST OCTOBER FOR MARATHON IN ALMOST THREE DECADES
- 9TH WETTEST OCTOBER FOR KEY WEST IN THE PAST THREE DECADES
- COOL START TO THE MONTH ENDS RELATIVELY NORMAL FOR THE KEYS

### *NOVEMBER*

- FIRST STRONG COLD FRONT OF THE FALL SEASON (4TH)
- COOLER THAN NORMAL NOVEMBER FOR THE FLORIDA KEYS
- ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL AMOUNTS ACROSS KEY WEST
- BELOW NORMAL RAINFALL TOTALS AROUND MARATHON AREA

*DECEMBER*

- LOW TEMPERATURE READINGS ACROSS THE FLORIDA KEYS (14TH)
- LOW TEMPERATURE READINGS ACROSS THE FLORIDA KEYS (15TH)
- LOW TEMPERATURE READINGS ACROSS THE FLORIDA KEYS (28TH)

PREVIOUS PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS FROM 2010 ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR LOCAL CLIMATE WEBSITE AT: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/key/?n=climate>

NORMAL VALUES FOR KEY WEST LOCATIONS ARE THE AVERAGE OF 1979-2000 AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AND FOR THE MARATHON AREA THEY ARE THE AVERAGE SPANNING 1982-2004 AT DUCK KEY. RECORDS ARE NOT YET TRACKED AT THE MARATHON AIRPORT DUE TO THE SHORT PERIOD OF ASOS DATA.