



FLORIDA KEYS

National Weather Service

Forecast Office

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WETTEST OCTOBER ON RECORD FOR THE MIDDLE KEYS FOURTH WETTEST OCTOBER SINCE 1871 AT KEY WEST FOURTH WETTEST COMBINED SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER AT KEY WEST

PROLIFIC RAINFALL TOTALS WERE MEASURED THROUGHOUT THE FLORIDA KEYS ISLAND CHAIN DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER. EPISODES OF HEAVY RAINFALL PERIODICALLY INUNDATED THE ISLAND CHAIN THROUGHOUT THE MONTH, WITH THE LARGEST TOTALS OCCURRING DURING OCTOBER 15TH – 19TH, DUE TO A SLOW-MOVING SUBTROPICAL LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM THAT INITIALLY STALLED OVER MEXICO'S YUCATAN PENINSULA AND THEN TRAVERSED THE EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO. RAINFALL TOTALS DURING THIS FIVE-DAY PERIOD GENERALLY RANGED FROM 15 TO 20 INCHES ACROSS THE LOWER KEYS, 10 TO 15 INCHES ACROSS THE MIDDLE KEYS, AND 5 TO 10 INCHES ACROSS THE UPPER KEYS. THE 20.34 INCHES OF RAINFALL MEASURED AT THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT SET THE MONTHLY RECORD FOR OCTOBER. KEY WEST RECORDED THE FOURTH HIGHEST RAINFALL TOTAL FOR OCTOBER SINCE 1871.

17.14 INCHES OF RAINFALL WAS MEASURED AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DURING OCTOBER 2011. THIS WAS A SURPLUS OF 12.21 INCHES. 15.21 INCHES OF THIS TOTAL FELL BETWEEN OCTOBER 15TH – 19TH, WITH A DAILY RECORD OF 6.91 INCHES MEASURED ON OCTOBER 17TH. THIS RAINFALL EVENT REPRESENTS THE FIFTH WETTEST FIVE-DAY SPAN AT KEY WEST SINCE 1871, AND THE MOST SINCE JANUARY 1983. THE HIGHEST TOTAL DURING ANY FIVE-DAY STRETCH AT KEY WEST OCCURRED FROM NOVEMBER 10TH – 14TH, 1980, WHEN 25.17 INCHES FELL. THE WETTEST OCTOBER ON RECORD AT KEY WEST OCCURRED IN 1933, WHEN 23.56 INCHES WAS MEASURED. IN ADDITION, 24.44 INCHES OF RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT KEY WEST DURING THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER. THIS IS THE FOURTH WETTEST COMBINED SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER ON RECORD AT KEY WEST. 22.35 INCHES OF THIS TOTAL FELL FROM SEPTEMBER 25TH THROUGH OCTOBER 19TH. THE WETTEST COMBINED SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER ON RECORD AT KEY WEST OCCURRED IN 1969, WHEN 31.78 INCHES OF RAINFALL FELL.

THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT MEASURED A RAINFALL SURPLUS OF 15.56 INCHES FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, WHICH BROUGHT THE ANNUAL DEFICIT AT MONTH'S END DOWN TO 5.82 INCHES. 12.88 INCHES OF RAINFALL WAS MEASURED FROM OCTOBER 15TH – 19TH. THIS RAINFALL EVENT REPRESENTS THE SECOND WETTEST FIVE-DAY SPAN SINCE RECORDS BEGAN IN 1982. THE MOST RAINFALL MEASURED DURING ANY FIVE-DAY STRETCH IN THE MIDDLE KEYS OCCURRED FROM JANUARY 20TH – 24TH, 1983, WHEN 14.69 INCHES FELL AT THE COOPERATIVE OBSERVING STATION ON DUCK KEY. IN ADDITION, 23.52 INCHES OF RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT MARATHON DURING THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER. THIS IS THE THIRD WETTEST

COMBINED SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER SINCE 1982. THE WETTEST SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER IN THE MIDDLE KEYS OCCURRED IN 1999, WHEN 25.98 INCHES WAS MEASURED AT DUCK KEY.

THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WAS 79.3 DEGREES, WHICH WAS 0.9 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL. THREE DAILY RECORD WARM MINIMUM TEMPERATURES WERE EITHER TIED OR ESTABLISHED AT KEY WEST DURING THE FIRST HALF OF OCTOBER. ABOVE NORMAL WARMTH THAT BEGAN DURING THE SPRING MONTH RESULTED IN KEY WEST RECORDING THE THIRD WARMEST COMBINED APRIL THROUGH OCTOBER ON RECORD. THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT KEY WEST FROM APRIL 1ST THROUGH OCTOBER 31ST WAS 83.0 DEGREES. THE WARMEST COMBINED APRIL THROUGH OCTOBER AT KEY WEST OCCURRED IN 2007, WHEN THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE DURING THESE SEVEN MONTHS WAS 83.2 DEGREES. ABNORMALLY WARM LOW TEMPERATURES HAVE ALSO PERSISTED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF SPRING. THE AVERAGE DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 78.9 DEGREES AT KEY WEST FROM APRIL 1ST THROUGH OCTOBER 31ST IS THE WARMEST ON RECORD. TEMPERATURE RECORDS AT KEY WEST DATE BACK TO 1872.

THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER WAS 78.9 DEGREES, OR 1.8 DEGREES BELOW AVERAGE. ABOVE NORMAL WARMTH THAT BEGAN DURING THE SPRING MONTHS RESULTED IN MARATHON RECORDING THE THIRD WARMEST APRIL THROUGH OCTOBER SINCE RECORDS HAVE BEEN KEPT FOR THE MIDDLE KEYS. THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT FROM APRIL 1ST THROUGH OCTOBER 31ST WAS 83.8 DEGREES. THE PRIOR WARMEST COMBINED APRIL THROUGH OCTOBER AT MARATHON OCCURRED IN 2009, WHEN THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE DURING THESE SEVEN MONTHS WAS 83.5 DEGREES. TEMPERATURE RECORDS FOR THE MIDDLE KEYS ONLY DATE BACK TO 1982.

BELOW ARE PRELIMINARY RAINFALL TOTALS FOR OCTOBER ALONG THE KEYS ISLAND CHAIN...COMPARING 2011 TO 2010 AND THE DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL VALUES WHERE AVAILABLE.

OCTOBER 2011 RAINFALL TOTALS/DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL/2010 IN INCHES

Station – Station Type	October 2011	Dep. from Normal	October 2010	Dep. from Oct. 2010
Dry Tortugas National Park – <i>COOP</i>	11.90	+ 8.02	5.08	+ 6.82
Key West WFO – <i>NWS</i>	16.32	+ 11.39	7.43	+ 8.89
Key West International Airport – <i>Automated</i>	17.14	+ 12.21	6.58	+10.56
Key West East – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	16.00	+ 11.07	7.15	+ 8.85
Big Coppitt Key – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	23.99	N/A	2.90	+ 21.09
Cudjoe Key – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	23.58	N/A	2.83	+ 20.75
Cudjoe Key – <i>Citizen Observer</i>	20.85	N/A	2.38	+18.47
Big Pine Key – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	25.47	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bahia Honda State Park – <i>COOP</i>	22.84	+17.45	5.10	+17.74
Florida Keys Marathon Airport – <i>Automated</i>	20.34	+ 15.56	10.84	+9.50
Curry Hammock State Park – <i>COOP</i>	20.78	+ 14.65	8.01	+ 12.77
Duck Key – <i>COOP</i>	17.19	+ 11.39	5.86	+ 11.33
Islamorada – <i>COOP</i>	12.11	+6.90	1.96	+10.15
Islamorada – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	18.72	+ 13.51	5.57	+ 13.15
John Pennekamp State Park – <i>COOP</i>	20.22	+ 13.09	3.06	+ 17.16
Key Largo – <i>CocoRaHS</i>	7.82	+0.69	6.33	+ 1.49

NORMAL VALUES FOR KEY WEST LOCATIONS ARE THE 1981-2010 CLIMATIC AVERAGES FOR THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. RECORDS ARE NOT YET TRACKED AT THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT DUE TO THE SHORT PERIOD OF AUTOMATED DATA.