

August 2017 Mid-South Climate Summary

OVERVIEW

A departure from the warmer than normal streak witnessed for the past year over most of the region, August 2017 was uniformly cooler than normal for the region by as much as 3.2°. The month was also excessively wet areawide, thanks mostly to remnants from Tropical Storm Harvey late in the month.

TEMPERATURE

August is one of the warmest months of the year for the region, the final punch of summer before the temperatures finally begin to cool during the months of September and October. This year, however, was cooler than a typical August, by as much as 3.2° at Jonesboro. The average monthly temperature for Jonesboro did result in a departure which was the greatest of all four official sites, although the site remains 2.6° warmer than normal for the year through the end of August. Memphis had an average monthly temperature which was 2.6° cooler than normal, while remaining 2.4° above normal for 2017 to date. Similarly, Jackson was 2.1° cooler than normal for August, while currently the site is at 3.2° warmer than normal for the year, the greatest departure from normal for the year of the four official sites. Jackson recorded the coolest daily low temperature of the four sites with 54°. Tupelo recorded the warmest monthly average temperature of the four sites, narrowly above Memphis by just 0.2°, which resulted in a 1.2° departure below the monthly normal, the least of the four sites. However, for the year to date, Tupelo remains 2.8° warmer than normal. Additionally, Tupelo recorded the warmest daily high temperature of the four sites with 97°.

Temperature Notables:

Jackson - #10 Coolest Month of August on Record at 76.5°

August Temperature Data for the Mid-South:

| | Memphis | Jackson | Jonesboro | Tupelo |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Average Temperature (MONTH) | 79.4 | 76.5 | 76.6 | 79.6 |
| Normal Avg. Temp (MONTH) | 82.0 | 78.6 | 79.8 | 80.8 |
| Departure from Normal (MONTH) | -2.6 | -2.1 | -3.2 | -1.2 |
| Average Temperature (YEAR) | 67.4 | 65.0 | 64.7 | 67.1 |
| Normal Avg. Temp (YEAR) | 65.0 | 61.8 | 62.1 | 64.3 |
| Departure from Normal (YEAR) | 2.4 | 3.2 | 2.6 | 2.8 |
| | | | | |
| Maximum Temperature | 95.0 | 95.0 | 93.0 | 97.0 |
| Minimum Temperature | 65.0 | 54.0 | 61.0 | 61.0 |

PRECIPITATION

While August may have been short of normal on temperatures for the region when compared to normal, precipitation totals exceeded normal values. This was mostly due to the fact that remnants from Tropical Storm Harvey moved across the region on the final day of the month, with one day rain totals well over 5.00” at some locales. Otherwise, August was largely dry for the Mid-South. Memphis was the wettest official site, exceeding its monthly normal precipitation amount by 6.41”. This was enough to make for the 4th wettest month of August on record for the site. Memphis was previously drier than normal for the year to date, but thanks to the rains from Harvey remnants is now 1.28” wetter than normal for 2017 to date. Jackson had a monthly precipitation total some 3.86” above the monthly normal amount, but remains just slightly below normal for the year to date with a departure of 0.84” below. Jonesboro had a monthly precipitation which was 3.75” wetter than normal for August, while the site remains well above normal for 2017 to date with a departure of 8.51”, the greatest of the four sites. Tupelo was within an inch of normal for August, ending the month with a precipitation departure of only 0.85” above. For the year to date Tupelo is only slightly below normal, by 0.42”.

Precipitation Notables:

Memphis- #4 Wettest Month of August on Record with 9.29”

Jackson - #5 Wettest Month of August on Record with 6.86”

August Precipitation Data for the Mid-South:

| | Memphis | Jackson | Jonesboro | Tupelo |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Total Precipitation (MONTH) | 9.29 | 6.86 | 6.29 | 4.30 |
| Normal Precipitation (MONTH) | 2.88 | 3.00 | 2.54 | 3.45 |
| Departure from Normal (MONTH) | 6.41 | 3.86 | 3.75 | 0.85 |
| Percent of Normal | 323% | 229% | 248% | 125% |
| Total Precipitation (YEAR) | 36.66 | 35.03 | 39.62 | 36.05 |
| Normal Precipitation (YEAR) | 35.38 | 35.87 | 31.11 | 36.47 |
| Departure from Normal (YEAR) | 1.28 | -0.84 | 8.51 | -0.42 |
| Percent of Normal (YEAR) | 104% | 98% | 127% | 99% |

Summer 2017 Mid-South Climate Summary

OVERVIEW

August signaled the end of meteorological summer, which spans from June to August. This meteorological summer ended near to cooler than normal around the region, with precipitation totals which were generally wetter than normal.

TEMPERATURE

The highest temperature recorded around the region was 99.0° at Memphis on July 21st. The last week of July was the warmest of the summer, with temperatures topping out daily in the upper 90s. However, this was not enough to offset the cooler than normal temperatures experienced during other parts of the summer. In fact, Memphis was cooler than normal for the summer by 1.1°, while all the remaining four sites were within a degree below the respective normal values. These were not significant enough to break any top 10 coolest summer records, but the cooler than normal temperatures were likely welcome by residents of the Mid-South.

| | Memphis | Jackson | Jonesboro | Tupelo |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Average Temperature (Summer 2017) | 80.3 | 77.9 | 78.8 | 79.5 |
| Normal Avg. Temp (Summer) | 81.4 | 78.1 | 79.5 | 80.1 |
| Departure from Normal (Summer 2017) | -1.1 | -0.2 | -0.7 | -0.6 |

PRECIPITATION

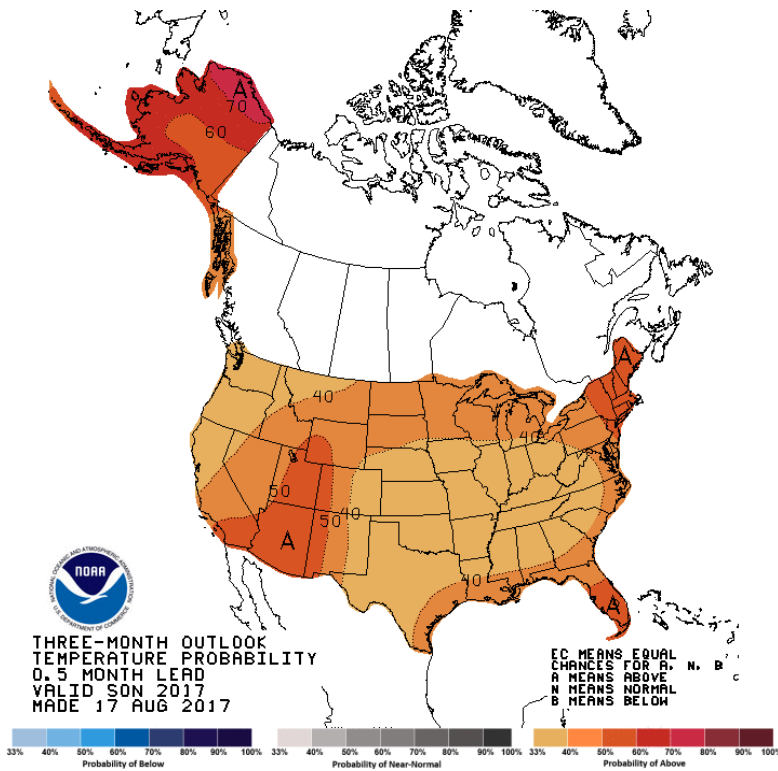
Thanks to late summer excessive rainfall from remnants of Tropical Storm Harvey the region overall experienced a wetter than normal summer. Memphis led the charge by having a 6.71” departure above the seasonal normal, which made for the 7th wettest summer on record for the site. Both Jonesboro and Tupelo were near 2.50” wetter than normal for the summer, while Jackson was right at normal with a departure of just 0.05” from normal.

| | Memphis | Jackson | Jonesboro | Tupelo |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Precipitation (Summer 2017) | 17.81 | 12.38 | 12.43 | 14.29 |
| Normal Precipitation (Summer) | 11.10 | 12.33 | 9.83 | 11.87 |
| Departure from Normal (Summer 2017) | 6.71 | 0.05 | 2.60 | 2.42 |

CLIMATE OUTLOOK

TEMPERATURE

The month of September has already been off to a cooler than normal start. The one month outlook from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) highlighted the region in an area of enhanced odds of cooler than normal temperatures for the month of September. The latest 8-14 day outlook, encompassing the remainder of the month indicates, however, warmer than normal temperatures are likely to end the month. As for the three month outlook, encompassing the months of September, October, and November collectively, the latest outlook highlights the region for enhanced odds of warmer than normal conditions. *The current three month temperature outlook for the months of September, October, and November collectively is featured to the left.*



PRECIPITATION

The month of September is on track for precipitation at the midway point. Meanwhile, the 8-14 day outlook encompassing the remainder of the month indicates the eastern portion of the region could experience near to drier than normal conditions, while the western half of the region could experience near to wetter than normal conditions. For the collective months of September, October, and November, or meteorological fall, the latest three month outlook for precipitation highlights the region in enhanced odds for above normal precipitation totals. *This outlook can be found to the right.*

