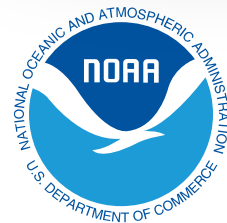




THE MID-SOUTH
CLIMATE REPORT
DEC 2017

NWSMemphis
#CLIMATESOCIAL





Mid-South Climate Summary : December 2017

The final month of 2017 ended near to cooler than normal, with precipitation totals near to slightly wetter than normal.

TEMPERATURE

December ranged from a near to cooler than normal month around the Mid-South, as extremely cold temperatures grasped the region late in the month. Jackson was the coolest site, with an average temperature of 40.3°, which was near normal at just 0.5° below the normal value. Jonesboro’s monthly average temperature was 40.4°, or 0.9° warmer than normal. Memphis, typically the site with the warmest monthly average temperature, recorded an average temperature of 42.4° for December, which was 1.2° cooler than normal. Tupelo was the official site with the warmest average temperature for the month at 43.4°, which was still 0.7° below the normal value for December. Temperatures for the year were again warmer than normal, continuing a streak which has now lasted the past several years. A full detail of the climate of 2017 can be found in our 2017 Climate Review.

| | Memphis | Jackson | Jonesboro | Tupelo |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Average Temperature (Month) | 42.4 | 40.3 | 40.4 | 43.4 |
| Normal Avg. Temp (Month) | 43.6 | 40.8 | 39.5 | 44.1 |
| Departure from Normal (Month) | -1.2 | -0.5 | 0.9 | -0.7 |
| Average Temperature (Year) | 64.7 | 62.1 | 62.3 | 64.4 |
| Normal Avg. Temp (Year) | 63.1 | 59.8 | 60.0 | 62.5 |
| Departure from Normal (Year) | 1.6 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 1.9 |
| Maximum Temperature | 71.0 | 70.0 | 71.0 | 75.0 |
| Minimum Temperature | 14.0 | 12.0 | 13.0 | 18.0 |



PRECIPITATION

Precipitation totals around the region ranged from near to wetter than normal during December, although it was not enough to pull the region out of the precipitation deficit for 2017 as a whole. Memphis was the wettest site for December, recording over 7.00” of rain, enough to be 1.52” wetter than the normal value. Likewise, Jackson also experienced a wetter than normal December with its monthly total of 6.61” being 1.26” above normal. Tupelo picked up 6.46” of rain during the month, which was just 0.18” above the monthly normal value. Jonesboro was the “driest” official site with its 5.12”, which was actually 0.35” above normal. Even though December received sufficient rainfall, it was still not enough to bring the year to normal values, as all four sites fell at least slightly below normal for 2017. As far as snow goes, only Tupelo recorded any snowfall during December, with a trace on the 27th.

| | Memphis | Jackson | Jonesboro | Tupelo |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total Precipitation (MONTH) | 7.26 | 6.61 | 5.12 | 6.46 |
| Normal Precipitation (MONTH) | 5.74 | 5.35 | 4.77 | 6.28 |
| Departure from Normal (MONTH) | 1.52 | 1.26 | 0.35 | 0.18 |
| Percent of Normal | 126% | 124% | 107% | 103% |
| Total Precipitation (YEAR) | 51.38 | 49.54 | 47.17 | 47.82 |
| Normal Precipitation (YEAR) | 53.68 | 53.27 | 48.10 | 55.01 |
| Departure from Normal (YEAR) | -2.30 | -3.73 | -0.93 | -7.19 |
| Percent of Normal (YEAR) | 96% | 93% | 98% | 87% |



Climate Outlook

The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) issues monthly and seasonal climate forecasts based on climate signals. The latest one month outlook, for the month of January, paints the region in an area of enhanced odds for cooler than normal temperatures. In addition, most of the region is also highlighted in an area of enhanced odds for above normal precipitation. The exception to this is North Mississippi, which is instead highlighted in equal chances of above, near, or below normal precipitation totals. The latest three month outlook currently encompasses the first three months of the year, January, February, and March. The temperature outlook for this period of time highlights the region in enhanced odds of warmer than normal temperatures. Similarly, the precipitation three month outlook paints the entire region in enhanced odds of above normal precipitation totals. Much of this is due to the presence of La Niña over the equatorial Pacific Ocean. La Niña alters the jet stream overhead the United States in a way which results in warmer than normal conditions across the south during the winter months. The one month outlooks for January for temperature and precipitation can be found below on the left and right, respectively.

