

July 2023 Northern Michigan Climate Summary

Alpena

Average Temperature	Average Temp. Departure	Precipitation	Precipitation Departure
68.4°F	+0.2°F	5.61"	+2.41"

Houghton Lake

Average Temperature	Average Temp. Departure	Precipitation	Precipitation Departure
67.1°F	-0.7°F	2.86"	+0.12"

Sault Ste. Marie

Average Temperature	Average Temp. Departure	Precipitation	Precipitation Departure
66.0°F	0.0°F	4.01"	+0.94"

Gaylord

Average Temperature	Average Temp. Departure	Precipitation	Precipitation Departure
68.5°F	+2.5°F	3.17"	+0.08"

Traverse City

Average Temperature	Average Temp. Departure	Precipitation	Precipitation Departure
71.2°F	+0.9°F	1.73"	-1.03"

Notes from July 2023

Alpena (Records 1916 - Present)

- 5th wettest July on record: 5.61" of rain
 - 3.49" of rain observed on July 26th
 - No daily record (daily record: 3.59" July 26th, 2020)
 - ***3rd wettest calendar day on record***

Temperature wise, July 2023 was pretty standard across much of northern Michigan, with most spots generally winding up within a degree of climatological normal. A particularly warm stretch was observed closing out the Independence Day holiday, with July 4th being the warmest day for numerous places across the region. Highs during this time generally peaked above 90 in northern lower and well into the 80s across eastern upper Michigan. Much of the rest of the month had temperatures right around normal for July. One exception was near the Saginaw Bay on July 8th, where a persistently cloudy and rainy day kept temperatures largely in the upper 60s.

Precipitation was not evenly distributed throughout northern Michigan for the month of July. An overwhelming portion of the month featured disturbances diving southeast through Ontario, resulting in most days seeing scattered showers and thunderstorms across northeast lower and eastern upper Michigan owing to better instability and higher moisture concentration associated with being closer to these disturbances... while much of northwest lower Michigan remained dry. The overall flow was rather weak over much of the month, resulting in any storms moving rather slowly. This led to a handful of days where slow moving thunderstorms dumped prolonged torrential rainfall in localized areas.

Torrential rainfall was observed on July 5th near Oscoda (the town) and July 15th across southern Oscoda County (with spots realizing localized 4-5" of rainfall both days), and July 26th across Alpena County. As a matter of fact, July 26th, 2023 will go down as the third wettest calendar day ever (thus far) in Alpena since records began in 1916, despite the 3.49" of rain observed was not a daily record (3.59" of rain was observed on July 26th, 2020). Additionally, this helped catapult Alpena's rain total to 5.61" for the month, which was good for the fifth wettest July on record. As a whole, several places across northeast lower and near Saginaw bay observed 5-8" of rainfall in July, a testament to the persistence of the pattern that set up. On the other side of the coin, northwest lower Michigan missed out on many of these wetter days, with Traverse City winding up more than an inch below normal for the month. Across north central lower Michigan, rain was slightly more frequent, and being sandwiched between the wetter and drier portions of the region resulted in both Houghton Lake and Gaylord seeing near normal precipitation. Alpena and Sault Ste. Marie both saw above to well above normal rainfall in July 2023.