NWS Wilmington, Ohio
February 2016
Regional Climate Summary

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February featured a wide-ranging spectrum of weather extremes across the area, including record warmth and an extended period of subfreezing temperatures. Snowfall for the month was generally slightly above normal and several heavy rain events allowed for above normal liquid-equivalent precipitation across the region. February both started out and ended on a warm note, but there were several significant temperature ups-and-downs throughout the month.

Temperatures

February started out very warm with temperatures well above normal, in the 50s and 60s, for the first few days of the month. Much cooler air ushered into the region on the 4th, bringing an end to the warm spell. Temperatures were nearly 25 degrees cooler on the 4th than the 3rd. Slightly warmer temperatures filtered back in to the region for the next several days before arctic air returned to the Ohio Valley. The arctic blast allowed for an extended period of much below normal temperatures toward the middle of the month. There were several days in this stretch where high temperatures only made it into the teens and lows dropped close to 0°F. All three locations had a six-day stretch where temperatures did not hit the freezing mark.

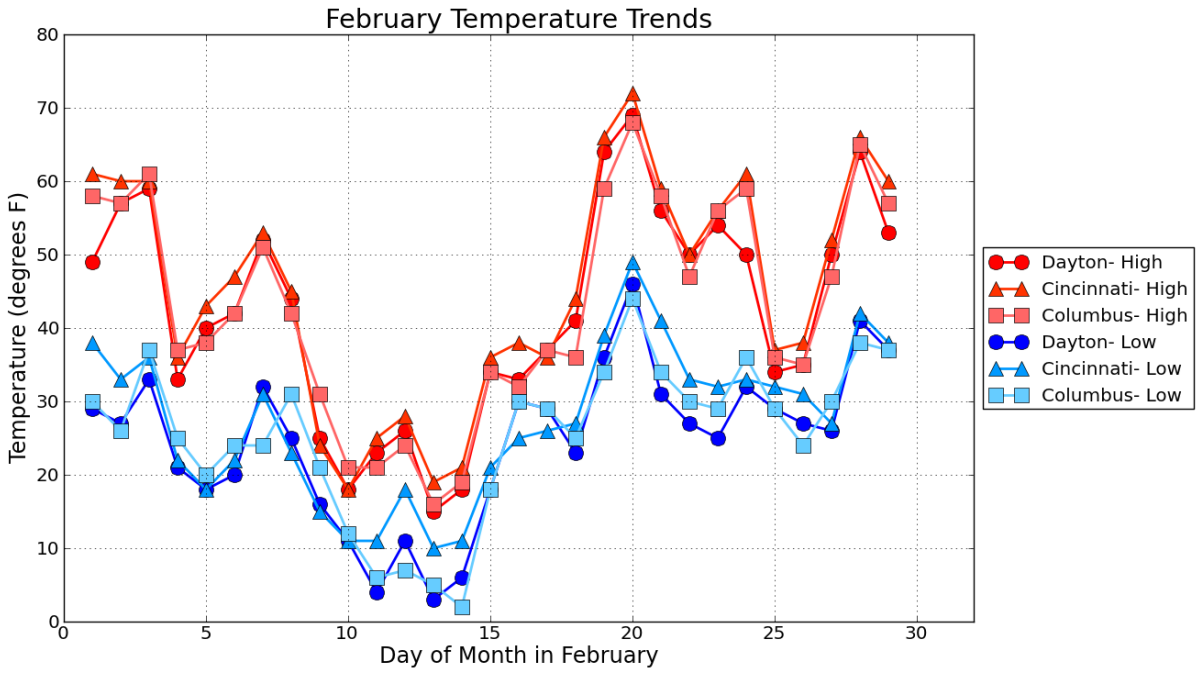
Temperatures moderated toward the middle of the month, with much above normal temperatures (50s and 60s) within the following several days. The unseasonably warm stretch continued toward the last 1/3 of the month, with record warmth across the region on the 20th. Cincinnati (CVG) (72°F/1891) and Columbus (CMH) (68°F/1891) both tied their respective daily record high temperatures, while Dayton (DAY) broke its daily record high temperature, reaching 69°F (old record was 68°F set in 1891). Colder air slowly filtered into the area on the 25th, bringing an end to a 6-day stretch of high temperatures in the 50s and 60s.

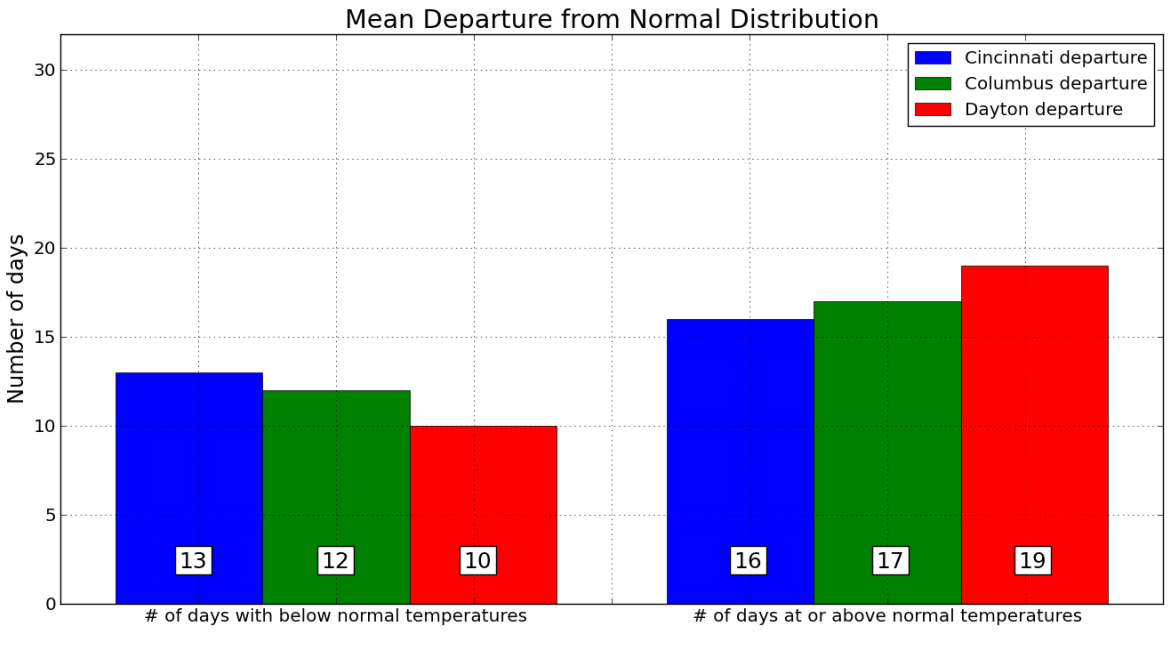
The month ended on a very warm note, with high temperatures once again in the 50s and 60s. In fact, both CMH and DAY tied their respective daily record high temperatures of 65°F (1896/1939/1955) and 64°F (1972) on the 28th.

Site	Average Temperature (°F)	Average High Temperature (°F)	Average Low Temperature (°F)	*Departure From Normal (°F)	Maximum Temperature (°F/date)		Minimum Temperature (°F/date)	
Cincinnati (CVG)	36.3°F	45.2°F	27.4°F	+1.8°F	72°F	02/20	10°F	02/13
Columbus (CMH)	34.2°F	42.9°F	25.4°F	+1.4°F	68°F	02/20	2°F	02/14
Dayton (DAY)	33.4°F	42.2°F	24.6°F	+2.4°F	69°F	02/20	3°F	02/13

**Not All Februarys Have 29 Days*

Temperatures (Continued)





*Not All Februarys Have 29 Days

Precipitation

The month of February started off with a wet pattern across the area, with many locations receiving half of an inch to two inches of rain from the 2nd through the 3rd. A daily record of 0.91 inches of rainfall was set at Dayton, Ohio on February 2nd, breaking the old record of 0.58 inches set in 1970.

Only light precipitation was recorded on the 4th and dry conditions settled in from the 5th-7th. A mix of precipitation occurred on the 8th as the area transitioned back to a cooler pattern. An extended period of snowy days followed the transition to a more winter-like pattern, with several weak snow-makers. In fact, from the 8th through the 14th, Cincinnati (CVG) recorded 7 consecutive days of snow, including measurable snow on 5 days. During the stretch, Cincinnati measured 7.9" of total snow. In that same span, Dayton (DAY) and Columbus (CMH) recorded 4.1" and 5.4" of total snow, respectively. A system then approached the region late on the 15th into the 16th, bringing rain and snow to much of the area. Columbus was the only one of the sites to record snow with the event, measuring 2.4" for the entire event.

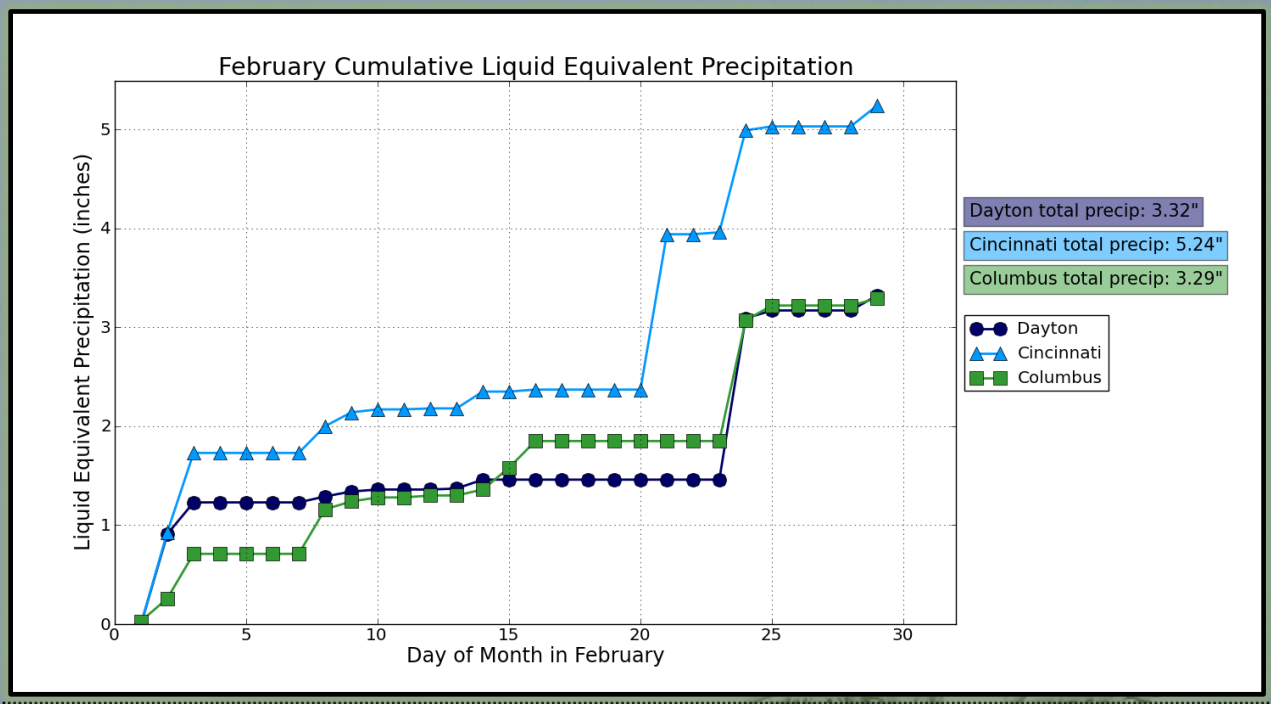
A drier pattern evolved near/shortly after the middle of the month, with the exception being a heavy rain event that impacted mainly southern Ohio, southern Indiana, and northern Kentucky on the 21st, with rain totals of 1-2". A strong low pressure system moved across the Ohio Valley on the 24th, bringing heavy rain to parts of the area. Dayton (DAY) set a new record daily maximum rainfall, measuring 1.63" (breaking old record of 1.27" set in 1909). As colder air settled into the area on the 25th, snow showers allowed for light accumulations of generally less than 1 inch.

A weak cold front moved through the Ohio Valley early on the 29th, bringing a couple of tenths of an inch of rain to the area.

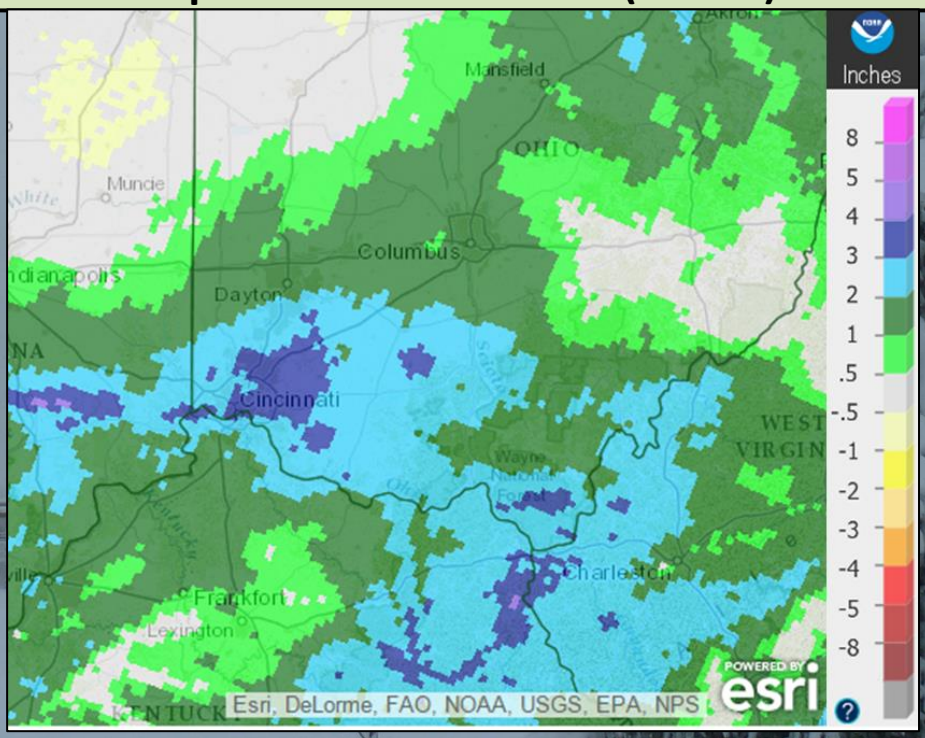
Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	*Departure From Normal (in.)	Max Daily Precipitation (in./date)		Total Snowfall (in.)	*Departure From Normal (in.)	Max Daily Snowfall (in./date)	
Cincinnati (CVG)	5.24"	+ 2.43"	1.57"	02/21	8.4"	+1.9"	2.9"	02/14
Columbus (CMH)	3.29"	+ 1.04"	1.22"	02/24	9.1"	+3.0"	1.9"	02/16
Dayton (DAY)	3.32"	+ 1.08"	1.63"	02/24	5.6"	-0.3"	1.9"	02/14

**Not all Februarys have 29 days*

Precipitation (Continued)



February Liquid Equivalent Precipitation Departure From Normal (inches)



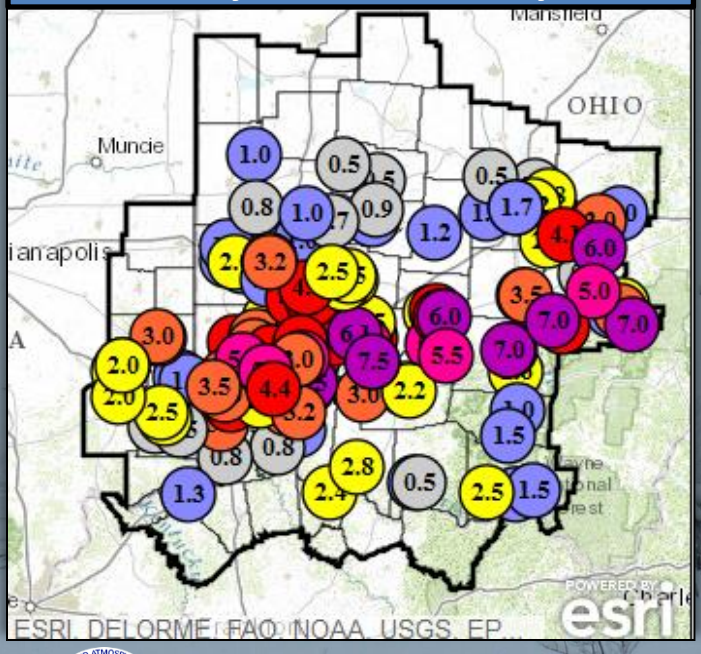
Winter Weather

Light snow occurred on the 3rd and 4th across portions of the region. A storm system brought heavier snowfall accumulations to parts of the area on the 8th and into the 9th. During the day on the 8th a heavy snow shower brought over an inch of snow to isolated portions of the region, with the Wilmington area seeing some of the heaviest totals. Most of this snow melted during the afternoon, however a band of snow that developed the night of the 8th and into the 9th dropped 6-7 inches of snow in a corridor from Clermont County to Hocking County with lesser amounts further north/south. Reported snow totals for this event are shown in the bottom left image. Lighter snow showers continued into the 10th and the 11th.

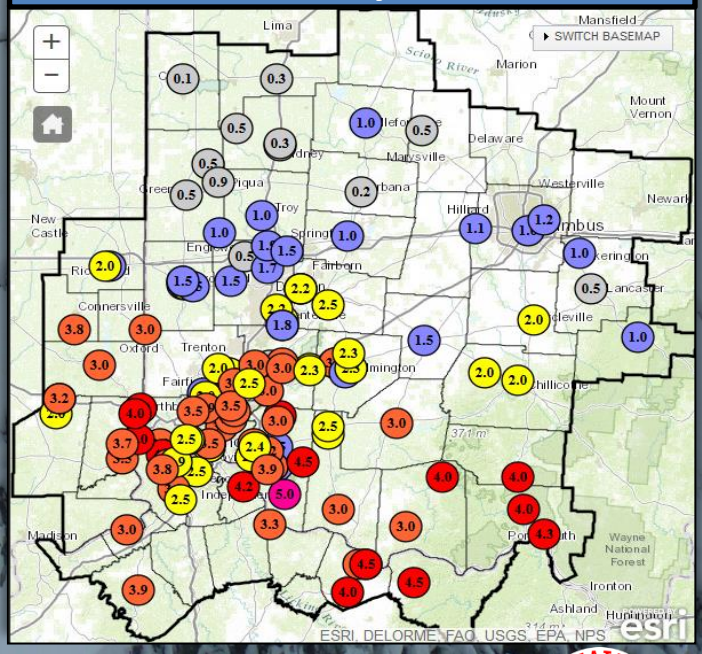
Another system brought some quick-hitting snow to the area during the afternoon and evening hours on the 14th. Between 2 and 4+ inches were measured across southern portions of the area, despite snowing for only 4 to 6 hours in any one place. Reported snow totals are shown on bottom right image.

Additional light snow impacted the area on the 16th, but the last part of the month featured very little snow across the area as temperatures were generally well above normal.

February 8th Into February 9th



February 14th



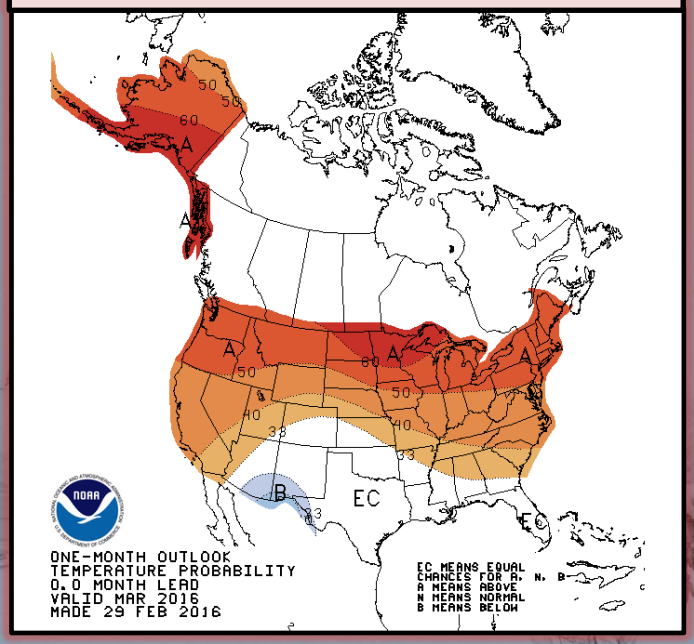
March Outlook

The latest outlook from the Climate Predication Center (CPC) favors above normal temperatures across the region for the month of March. This is the 5th consecutive monthly outlook indicating favorable probabilities for either near normal or above normal temperatures for the area. Currently, there is no clear signal supporting above or below normal precipitation for the Ohio Valley.

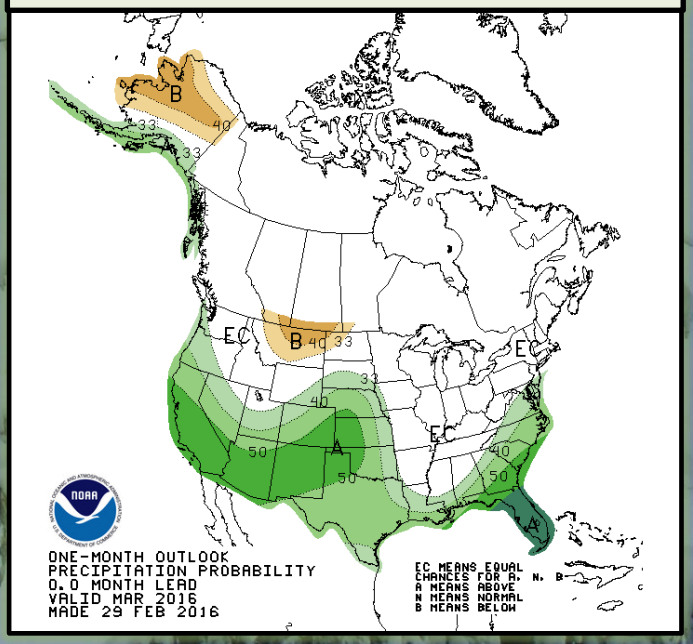
Site	Normal Avg Temp (°F)	Normal High (°F)	Normal Low (°F)
Cincinnati (CVG)	45.1	54.0	36.2
Columbus (CMH)	44.4	52.6	36.1
Dayton (DAY)	42.8	51.1	34.6

Site	Normal Precipitation (in.)	Normal Snowfall (in.)
Cincinnati (CVG)	3.43	0.4
Columbus (CMH)	3.20	0.9
Dayton (DAY)	3.39	0.6

March Temperature Outlook



March Precipitation Outlook

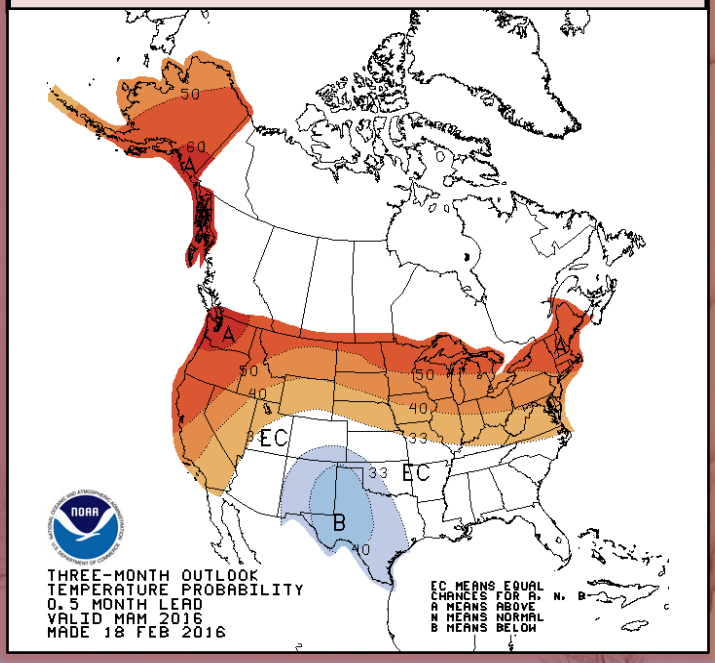


Spring Outlook

The three-month outlook, issued by the Climate Prediction Center (CPC), covers the spring months of March, April, and May. The current forecast indicates favorable probabilities for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation across the Ohio Valley.

Current data suggests that the strong El Niño that had evolved over the past several months will gradually weaken as summer approaches. A transition to an ENSO-neutral state is expected during the late spring and early summer.

Three-Month (MAM) Temp. Outlook



Three-Month (MAM) Precip. Outlook