

# Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Missouri

Location	Type	Years	Details
<b>Columbia</b>	WBO WBAS WSO	1889-1996	The Weather Bureau operations in Columbia date to 1889, operating on the University of Missouri campus until 1936, at which point it moved to the Post Office. A separate Weather Bureau Airways Station opened in February 1944 at the original downtown Columbia airport. Operations were consolidated at the airport in November 1951. Rawinsonde observations began in the early 1950's. A WSR-3 radar was commissioned in August 1957. The radar and facility moved to the new Columbia Regional Airport in October 1969. Rawinsonde observations remained at the old site until August 1970, when the function was transferred to Monett; winds aloft were measured at the new facility until July 1981. The radar was replaced with a WSR-74C in November 1977. The office was closed in May 1996, after functions were transferred to the St. Louis office.
<b>Hannibal</b>	WBO	1891-1933	A Weather Bureau Office was established at the Federal Building in April 1892. The office closed in the summer of 1933, and the observation site became a cooperative weather station.
<b><u>Kansas City</u></b>	SigSvc WBO WBAS DFO FAWS WSO HQ NMC NCEP RFC TC	1888- present	<p>The Signal Service established an office in Kansas City in 1888, with the Weather Bureau assuming operations in 1890. Several downtown locations were utilized, with a separate office at the municipal airport opening in 1934; the two were merged at the airport in 1939. In January 1944, a Flight Advisory Weather Service office was added. In 1954, the <a href="#">Severe Local Storms (SELS) unit</a> was moved here from Washington DC. In 1966, SELS became part of the new National Severe Storms Forecast Center (NSSFC), and it operated along with the WB forecast office and several smaller subsectors to become the largest Weather Bureau operation outside of Washington. In 1972, the Weather Service Office portion was moved to the Kansas City International Airport, while NSSFC moved to the Federal Building downtown. The NSSFC was renamed the Storm Prediction Center in 1995, and moved to Oklahoma in 1997. The WSO moved to Pleasant Hill in 1993, with a skeleton staff remaining at the airport to operate the WSR-57 radar until its decommissioning in summer 1996.</p> <p>The Central Region Headquarters and the NWS Training Center currently are on the northwest edge of Kansas City, having moved from earlier locations downtown. The same building contains the Aviation Weather Center, part of NCEP.</p> <p>The Kansas City (now Missouri Basin) River Forecast Center was established in September 1946. It absorbed the functions of the St. Louis RFC in January 1966. It was relocated to Pleasant Hill in 1993, at a facility co-located with the forecast office.</p>
<b>Malden</b>	WBO	1943-1945	A Weather Bureau office opened at the Malden Army Airfield in April 1943. It closed at the end of 1945, with the site re-opening in 1949 under CAA control.
<b>Monett</b>	WSMO	1970-1995	A Weather Service Meteorological Observatory was established 9/4/1970, with upper air observations taken. A network radar, the WSR-57, was commissioned in March 1971. The office closed after radar and upper air functions moved to the expanded Springfield office.
<b><u>Pleasant Hill</u></b>	WFO RFC	1993- present	A Weather Forecast Office was established in 1993, replacing the WSO at Kansas City International Airport. The Missouri Basin River Forecast Center also operates from this location.

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<b>St. Joseph</b>	WBO WBAS	1910-1964	The Weather Bureau opened its St. Joseph office at the beginning of 1910. An airways station was opened in 1935 at Rosecrans Field. The main WBO remained downtown until 1947, at which point it moved to the airport; it did move back to the original location for a few months in 1952 due to flooding. Airways operations were transferred to the CAA in August 1954, and the Weather Bureau handled climatological and public service duties. The office closed at the end of 1964.
<b><u>St. Louis</u></b>	SigSvc WBO DFO FAWS WBAS WSFO WSMO RFC	1870-1996	<p>The Army Signal Service established its St. Louis office in October 1870, and was transferred to the Weather Bureau in 1890. A second office was opened at Lambert Field in 1929, operating concurrently with the downtown office. A Flight Advisory Weather Service office was added in January 1944. The city office was closed in 1958, with its functions moved to Lambert Field. The WSR-1 radar was installed in June 1955, replaced by the WSR-57 radar in July 1960. The forecast office and radar were moved to a new facility in St. Peters in 1974, while observations remained at Lambert Field until commissioning of an automated weather station in 1996.</p> <p>A <a href="#">River Forecast Center</a> was opened at St. Louis in 1946. Operations were transferred to the RFC in Kansas City at the end of 1965.</p>
<b><u>St. Peters</u></b>	WSFO WSMO	1974-1994	The NWS forecast office was moved from Lambert Airport to a new location 15 miles northwest, in October 1974. The WSR-57 radar was also moved at that time, although the official surface observations remained at Lambert. Forecast operations moved to Weldon Spring in 1990, and some staff remained to operate the old radar until it was decommissioned in 1994.
<b>Springfield</b>	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO WFO	1887- present	The Signal Service established an office 9/20/1887, which was taken over by the new Weather Bureau 7/1/1891. Observations were at various downtown locations until the early 1930's, when an office was established at the old Springfield Municipal Airport; the station moved to the new airport 7/2/1945. A WSR-1 radar was installed 3/28/1957. On 12/14/1971, the Springfield WSO joined the ranks as one of the few NWS offices to take a direct hit from a tornado; the wind exceeded 100 knots (the limit of the gust recorder), and the pressure fell to 28.83 inches. A new office was built in 1994, with a WSR-88D and upper air station installed soon after.
<b><u>Weldon Spring</u></b>	WFO	1990- present	Weldon Spring became the home of the St. Louis NWS forecast office in 1990, after moving from St. Peters. The 6th of the nationwide WSR-88D Doppler network was installed here in 1992.