

Central Indiana

August 2019

Climate Summary

Tied for 52nd Warmest on record at Indianapolis

Tied for 55th Wettest on record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

August began warm with high temperatures primarily in the upper 80s and lower 90s through the first week of the month. Highs slipped back into the mid 80s in the wake of a frontal passage on the 8th, and would remain near normal levels for August through the middle of the month. Lows throughout the first half of August were predominantly in the 60s with a few nights as warm as the lower 70s.

Much of central Indiana experienced the warmest temperatures of the month on the 18th and 19th as highs rose into the lower 90s. Severe thunderstorms ahead of a cold front kept highs mainly in the mid and upper 80s on the 20th before as more noticeable cooldown with lower humidity levels began on the 22nd and would largely continue through the end of the month. Highs through the last 10 days of August typically ranged from the mid 70s to the lower 80s with the coolest days coming on the 26th and the 31st as clouds and rain kept temperatures in the lower and mid 70s. Lows during the last week of August dropped as low as the mid 50s on a few nights.

Overall, temperatures ended up near normal across central Indiana for the month, running up to a degree above average.

Site	August 2019 Avg Temp	August 2019 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
Indianapolis	74.7	+0.5	91 on 18 and 19	56 on 29
Lafayette	72.7	-0.5	91 on 5 and 8	53 on 29
Muncie	73.8	+1.3	90 on 8 and 18	54 on 24

Terre Haute	73.9	+1.1	90 on 8 and 19	54 on 24
Bloomington	73.3	+0.3	91 on 18 and 19	54 on 25
Shelbyville	73.4	+1.0	92 on 18	54 on 29
Indy – Eagle Crk.	74.3	+0.2	90 on 5 and 18	56 on 29

At Indianapolis, there were 18 days with above normal average temperatures, 11 days with below normal average temperatures and 2 days with a normal average temperature.

August 2019 was tied for the 52nd warmest in the Indianapolis area since 1871.

Precipitation

While parts of the state remain in drought, August saw a few significant storm events.

August 6th, a slow moving storm developed over parts of Brown and Bartholomew counties and produced 1.5 to 2.5 inches of rain, prompting a flood advisory.

August 8th saw a swath of a quarter inch to around an inch over central portions of central Indiana ahead of a cold frontal passage, with dry conditions to the north and south.

On August 12th-13th, a couple of storm complexes moved across Indiana. This brought a quarter inch to upwards of two inches of rainfall to southwestern portions of the state.

August 17th-18th, a couple of upper waves interacting with a stationary boundary in a warm humid atmosphere brought a large area of one to over two inches of rain to central parts of the area and northeast parts of the state with a couple rounds of storms.

August 20th, a line of thunderstorms that formed in Iowa during the early morning hours moved southeast into Indiana during the afternoon and brought half an inch to an inch of rain across much of Indiana south of I-70.

August 22nd saw storms move into Indiana after midnight, with around a quarter to half an inch of widespread rainfall. Southwestern parts of central Indiana saw 1.5 to over two inches, while a few northwestern counties saw half an inch to an inch.

August 26th-27th saw another couple of rounds of storms which brought a widespread half inch to upwards of two inches of rain to much of central Indiana.

Overall, rainfall amounts for August varied from less than an inch over an area of northwest Indiana, two to four inches over northern and eastern Indiana, and three to over 6 inches over central and southwestern parts of the state. This translated to over

two inches below normal for northwest parts of the area, to over two inches above normal for western and central parts of the area.

Site	August 2019 Precipitation	August 2019 Difference from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis	3.54	+0.41	1.25 on 18	5 days 1-5
Lafayette	2.82	-0.64	1.83 on 26	10 days 1-10
Muncie	3.32	+0.02	0.64 on 13	5 days 1-5
Terre Haute	3.61	0.00	1.61 on 17	5 days 1-5
Bloomington	4.18	+0.66	1.33 on 26	5 days 1-5
Shelbyville	4.33	+0.94	0.82 on 8	4 days 1-4
Indy – Eagle Crk.	4.65	+1.46	1.12 on 18	7 days 1-7

August 2019 was tied for the 55th wettest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Severe Weather

Severe thunderstorms impacted parts of central Indiana on several days throughout the first 3 weeks of the month. On the late evening of the 12th and early morning of the 13th, severe storms tracked into the Wabash Valley and western Indiana before weakening. These storms produced wind damage and a small EF1 tornado in Sullivan County.

More substantial severe weather occurred on the evening of the 18th and the afternoon of the 20th as central Indiana was impacted by squall lines producing widespread wind damage. Storms were at their most intense across western portions of the area before weakening as they tracked through the Indianapolis area and into eastern portions of the state. Large hail also occurred in a few locations. The squall line on the 20th produced a peak wind gust to 73 mph at Indianapolis International Airport with numerous reports of wind damage throughout central Indiana. For more information on both of these events, visit the links listed below:

<https://www.weather.gov/ind/august182019severe>
<https://www.weather.gov/ind/aug202019severe>

For information on severe weather in other areas during August, visit the Storm Prediction Center “Severe Weather Event Summaries” website at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/online/>.

Miscellaneous

The maximum wind gust at Indianapolis International Airport was 73 mph out of the west during the afternoon of the 20th as a severe line of thunderstorms impacted the Indianapolis metro area. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 12 days during the month. Thunder was reported on 9 days in August.

September 2019 Outlook

The official outlook for September 2019 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates equal chances for near, above or below normal temperatures and precipitation for the month. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is 66.9 degrees. The average precipitation for September at Indianapolis is 3.12”.

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.