

# Central Indiana

## July 2018

### Climate Summary

*Tied for 39<sup>th</sup> Warmest on record at Indianapolis*

*63<sup>rd</sup> Driest July on record at Indianapolis*

## Temperatures

It was a hot start to July as temperatures surged into the lower and mid 90s through the first 5 days of the month. It was the warmest Independence Day since 2012 with many locations experiencing their hottest day of the month. Humidity levels produced peak heat indices at 105° to 110° for many through this period. The passage of a cold front on the afternoon and evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> broke the heat wave, with a much more comfortable airmass settling across central Indiana in its wake. Highs topped out only in the lower to mid 80s on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> before warmer temperatures slowly returned.

Periodic surges of heat with highs in the upper 80s to middle 90s impacted the region on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and again from the 13<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>. After the 20<sup>th</sup> however in the wake of another cold front, cooler temperatures would settle in with highs predominantly ranging from the upper 70s into the 80s. The arrival of a slow moving upper level system with low pressure tracking through the Ohio Valley brought an extended period of wet, cool and unsettled weather to wrap up the last few days of the month. Highs struggled to rise into the lower 70s on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> under thick cloud cover.

Site	July 2018 Avg Temp	July 2018 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
Indianapolis	77.1	<b>+1.6</b>	94 on 4 and 14	58 on 18
Lafayette	73.4	<b>-1.2</b>	92 on 4	52 on 18 and 28

Muncie	74.9	<b>+0.5</b>	93 on 1 and 3	53 on 7
Terre Haute	75.0	<b>0.0</b>	94 on 4 and 5	54 on 8 and 28
Bloomington	75.1	<b>+1.2</b>	94 on 4	57 on 8 and 28
Shelbyville	75.1	<b>+1.0</b>	93 on 4	55 on 28
Indy – Eagle Crk.	76.7	<b>+1.5</b>	94 on 4	59 on 8

At Indianapolis, there were 18 days with above normal average temperatures, 9 days with below normal average temperatures and 4 days with normal average temperatures.

July 2018 was tied for the 39<sup>th</sup> warmest in the Indianapolis area since 1871.

## Precipitation

Monthly rainfall ranged from around an inch in southwest Indiana to over 8 inches in east central and southeast Indiana. Monthly totals were below normal to near normal for much of Indiana. The previously very wet area of southwest Indiana that received more than 10 inches of rain in June totaled only 1 to 2 inches for July. Much of the state received between 2 and 5 inches of rain during July.

July was relatively dry for many areas of the state through the 19<sup>th</sup>. Significant rainfall of 2 or more inches fell only on the 3<sup>rd</sup> in east central Indiana, on the 4<sup>th</sup> in northwest Indiana, on the 5<sup>th</sup> in west central Indiana and on the 16<sup>th</sup> in central and east central Indiana. The biggest rainfall during July in central Indiana occurred in the Greenfield area on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup>. Storms dropped more than 4 inches of rain from 4:30pm to 8:00pm in the local area.

The dry weather pattern in July changed on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The eastern half and the northwestern portions of the state received from one-half to slightly over 5 inches from the 20<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. After nearly a week of generally dry weather, much of Indiana received from one-half to over 5 inches of rain from late on the 29<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Timely rains during July only occurred in a few areas of the state. Numerous locations received little or no rainfall for 14 or more days. Many sites were dry to abnormally dry by the 29<sup>th</sup>. The arrival of widespread rainfall the last few days of July alleviated some of the dry conditions that developed during the month as cloudy, wet and rather cool weather prevailed. The rains at the close of the month benefited crops and vegetation. Stream levels were at or below seasonal normals.

Site	July 2018 Precipitation	July 2018 Difference from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis	3.00	<b>-1.55</b>	0.88 on 31	9 days 6-14

Lafayette	3.05	<b>-0.92</b>	1.02 on 5	4 days 6-9 and 25-28
Muncie	4.90	<b>+0.52</b>	3.15 on 20	4 days 6-9 and 11-14
Terre Haute	3.31	<b>-1.48</b>	1.20 on 30	6 days 23-28
Bloomington	4.51	<b>-0.38</b>	1.49 on 31	8 days 6-13
Shelbyville	4.47	<b>-0.24</b>	1.47 on 31	9 days 6-14
Indy – Eagle Crk.	3.32	<b>-0.94</b>	0.84 on 30	4 days 6-9 and 11-14

July 2018 was the 63<sup>rd</sup> driest July in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

## Severe Weather

While thunderstorms periodically impacted central Indiana throughout the month, very little severe weather occurred. The primary event occurred on the afternoon of the 20<sup>th</sup> and produced wind damage and large hail across primarily the southeast half of central Indiana. Golf ball size hail occurred near Crothersville in southern Jackson County, with even larger hail stones just southeast of the area through southern Indiana and northern Kentucky. A small EF0 tornado on the ground for less than a mile occurred near Moonville in northeast Madison County. A barn was destroyed and an adjacent home sustained significant roof damage.

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

## Miscellaneous

The maximum wind gust at the Indianapolis International Airport was 42 mph from the west-southwest on the afternoon of the 20<sup>th</sup> as thunderstorms moved through the Indianapolis metro area. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 16 days this month. Thunder was reported at Indianapolis on 8 days in July.

## August 2018 Outlook

The official outlook for August 2018 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates an equal chance of near, above or below normal temperatures across central Indiana. At

Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is 74.2 degrees. A slightly greater chance of above normal precipitation exists for central Indiana as well. The average precipitation for August at Indianapolis is 3.13”.

***Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.***