

Central Indiana

November 2020

Climate Summary

8th Warmest on Record at Indianapolis

47th Wettest on Record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

November started out chilly with highs generally in the upper 40s and lower 50s. The cooldown was short lived however, as an extended period of dry and unseasonably warm weather commenced on the 3rd and would continue until a cold front passed late in the evening on the 10th. Multiple consecutive days in the 70s were common with the peak of the warmth coming on the 8th as temperatures rose into the upper 70s and lower 80s. Many locations experienced their warmest temperatures for so late in the fall. Indianapolis set record high temperatures on three consecutive days from the 8th through the 10th.

Temperatures returned to seasonable levels in the wake of the cold front late on the 10th but remained mild with daytime highs generally in the 50s and lower 60s and lows in the upper 20s and lower 30s through the middle part of the month. Another surge of warmer air came north into the Ohio Valley on the 19th and 20th with highs rising into the middle 60s. The onset of clouds and rain on the 22nd would drop temperatures back into the 50s, with the passage of a cold front on the 23rd lowering temperatures even further. The remainder of the month was generally cool with highs ranging from the 40s into the lower 50s. Temperatures briefly rose into the mid and upper 50s on the afternoon of the 25th ahead of strong low pressure and an associated cold front.

Despite the cooler weather the last week of November, it was a warm month with average temperatures generally 4 to 6 degrees above normal. For Indianapolis, the 6 days with temperatures at 70° or warmer was the most in November since 2010. The month ended up as the 8th warmest November on record in Indianapolis. Interestingly, four of the top ten warmest Novembers in the 150 year period of record have occurred over the last decade: 2011, 2015, 2016 and now 2020.

Site	November 2020 Avg Temp	November 2020 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
Indianapolis	48.2	+4.6	79 on 8	26 on 2
Lafayette	48.4	+5.6	80 on 8	24 on 2 and 14
Muncie	49.2	+6.6	81 on 8	24 on 14
Terre Haute	47.7	+4.4	80 on 8	22 on 14
Bloomington	48.3	+4.5	80 on 8	24 on 2
Shelbyville	49.6	+4.9	82 on 8	24 on 14
Indy – Eagle Crk.	47.9	+3.9	79 on 8	26 on 14

At Indianapolis, there were 17 days with above normal average temperatures, 10 days with below normal average temperatures and 3 days with average normal temperatures.

November 2020 was the 8th warmest in the Indianapolis area since 1871.

Precipitation

Rainfall for the month of November was quite variable across the state. Precipitation totals for the month ranged from 1.5 to 3 inches over an area north of a line approximately from Terre Haute to Crawfordsville to Kokomo. South of that line amounts ranged from 3 to 6 inches, with another dry pocket of 2 to 3 inches around an area from Seymour stretching southwestward. A large swath of near normal to an inch or so above normal precipitation was found along a line centered from south of Terre Haute to Indianapolis to Muncie. Another area of similar values was found over northeastern parts of the state. Southeast of the aforementioned line, precipitation was one to two inches below normal, and this was the case northwest of the line as well. For Indianapolis International Airport, the month ended with nearly exactly normal precipitation for the month with a departure from normal of -0.05 inches.

The first organized precipitation producing system of the month moved through the area on November 10th and 11th, with a strong cold front plowing through central Indiana late on the night of the 10th. Much of central Indiana saw around a quarter inch of rain with this system, along with some embedded thunderstorms.

A low pressure system with a slow moving front moving through on the 14th and 15th brought between half an inch and an inch of rain to much of central Indiana.

Larger rainfall events came primarily over the last third of the month as the pattern transitioned to a more active one. On November 21-22 (ending the morning of the 23rd), a system brought between 0.75 inches and 1.75 inches to central Indiana, with lesser amounts to the north and south.

A low pressure system moving through on the 24th and 25th brought rainfall amounts from about three quarters of an inch to almost 2 inches, with locally higher amounts under the heavier storms.

The first measurable snowfall of the year for much of central Indiana came to end the month of November as a low pressure system from the southeastern U.S. came north as an upper trough swung southeast out of central Canada. This system produced more snowfall as it got east into Ohio, but still managed to produce from a trace to a few tenths of an inch over central portions of the forecast area, with more than an inch along the Indiana/Ohio border.

Site	November 2020 Precipitation	November 2020 Difference from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis	3.65	-0.05	1.20 on 25	8 days 2-9
Lafayette	2.67	-0.30	0.80 on 22	8 days 2-9
Muncie	2.77	-0.68	0.90 on 22	8 days 2-9
Terre Haute	3.89	+0.05	1.46 on 22	9 days 1-9
Bloomington	4.24	+0.30	1.99 on 25	8 days 2-9
Shelbyville	3.36	-0.37	1.26 on 22	9 days 1-9
Indy – Eagle Crk.	3.86	+0.16	1.02 on 22	8 days 2-9

November 2020 was the 47th wettest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Severe Weather

Scattered strong storms occurred on the afternoon of the 10th and again on the morning of the 15th across parts of central Indiana. These storms produced gusty winds and in some cases, small hail. On the evening of the 25th, a line of storms produced strong winds over southeast portions of central Indiana.

For information on severe weather in other areas during November, 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 65 mph out of the west-southwest on the 15th as strong winds impacted central Indiana in the wake of an intense storm system. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 8 days during the month.

December 2020 Outlook

The official outlook for December 2020 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates a greater chance for above normal temperatures. At Indianapolis, the average temperature is 31.6°. The outlook also calls for greater chances of below normal precipitation. The average precipitation for December at Indianapolis is 3.17", with 6.9" of snowfall.

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.