

Central Indiana

September 2026 Preliminary Climate Summary

ALL-TIME WARMEST SEPTEMBER on RECORD at INDIANAPOLIS

32nd Driest September on record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

Site	September 2026 Avg Temp	September 2026 Dep from Nml	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
Indianapolis AP	73.8	+6.0	97 on 4 th	49 on 27 th
Lafayette	71.6	+6.1	96 on 4 th , 15 th	43 on 27 th
Muncie	70.6INC	M	95 on 3 rd	42 on 25 th , 27 th
Terre Haute	73.2	+6.6	97 on 1 st , 3 rd , 4 th , 15 th	43 on 27 th
Bloomington	72.7	+6.2	95 on 3 rd , 4 th	42 on 27 th
Shelbyville	72.0	+4.4	96 on 4 th	43 on 27 th
Eagle Creek AP	72.7	+5.1	96 on 4 th	47 on 27 th

Indianapolis' average daily temperatures were above/below/near normal on 22/6/2 days, while 9+ degrees above normal on 9 days. September 2026 followed the anomalously warm pattern of March–April 2026, led by the **highest average minimum** temperature since 1871 (64.5°F), while continuing the at or above normal trend observed through all Septembers since 2015.

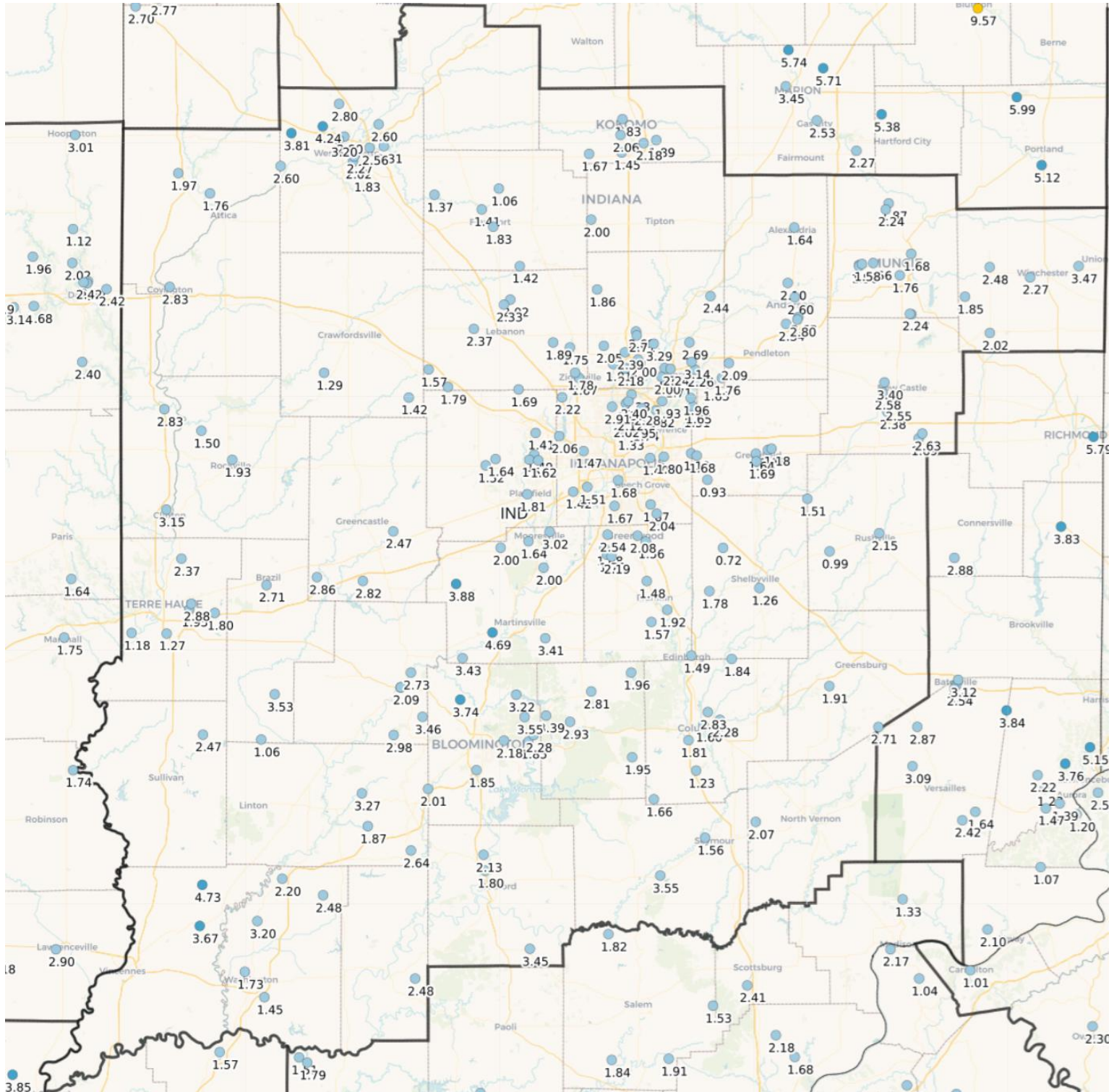
Precipitation

Site	September 2026 Precipitation	September 2026 Dep from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis Intl	1.29	−1.85	0.64 on 21 st	6 days, 25 th –30 th
Lafayette	2.13	−0.46	0.65 on 16 th	8 days, 1 st –8 th
Muncie	1.43	−1.66	0.49 on 12 th	7 days, 24 th –30 th
Terre Haute	1.19	−1.74	1.09 on 21 st	9 days, 1 st –9 th , 22 nd –30 th
Bloomington	0.36INC	M	M on 21 st	9 days, 1 st –9 th
Shelbyville	T INC	M	M on 21 st	9 days, 22 nd –30 th
Eagle Creek Arpk	1.96	−0.61	0.99 on 12 th	7 days, 24 th –30 th

In contrast to well above normal rainfall in August, widespread below normal precipitation included the 4th driest September of the last 16 years at both Indianapolis and Muncie. The month was framed by 9-day totals generally under 0.10" both over the 1st–9th (amid unseasonable heat) and the 22nd–30th (during seasonably mild conditions).

September 2026 Total Precipitation

As Reported by Central Indiana CoCoRaHS Observers



For the period 1200 AM EDT 9/1/2026 -to- 700 AM EDT 10/1/2026, data is unofficial**

Mainly below normal, yet surprisingly variable totals of **1.25-3.00"** were the rule, with locally heavier rainfall (**3.40-4.75"**) in Knox and Tippecanoe Counties and north of Bloomington, and lowest totals (**0.70-1.00"**) in the vicinity of northern Shelby County.

Severe & Impactful Weather

September featured several days with thunderstorms that included isolated damaging winds. On the 4th's unseasonably hot and humid conditions promoted afternoon cells that became briefly severe in Rush and Madison Counties. A similarly oppressive 5th brought scattered storms that downed large trees in Crawfordsville (Montgomery Co.) and flattened corn in Tipton County. The 15th's overall mundane storms produced a microburst in Clinton County which downed trees onto homes and a car. Numerous strong thunderstorms on the 17th began with one severe cell that downed multiple trees in the Delphi area. Lastly, the 18th's approaching front downed a couple trees near Bicknell (Knox Co.).

September 2026 was the [warmest ever recorded](#) at Indianapolis, averaging **73.8°F** (surpassing 73.7° in 2019), led by the highest average September minimum temperature, 64.5°F (passing 64.3° from 1881 and 64.2° from 1925); meanwhile the average maximum temperature, 83.1°F, was the 5th-highest on record. The month began with a heat wave that had started on August 30th, with a 5-day streak of 95F+ at Indianapolis during the 1st-5th; this was only the 20th such streak in the 156-year record, and also the latest-ever occurrence (surpassing 1953's streak of 95°F+ during 8/27-9/2). Overall above normal warmth through the rest of the month's first half led to another, 3-day, hot period with highs of 91-93°F at Indianapolis through the 15th-17th; this was the 7th-latest such period on record for the city. The month finished with 9 hot days (90°F+), the most in September at Indianapolis since 1983. Daily minimum temperatures were just as notable, with the ten 70°F+ readings the greatest in September during the modern record, and observed within the month's first 18 days. The four 75°F+ lows were an all-time September record (surpassing 3 from 1881, and 2 in both 1931 and 1939); each was a daily record high minimum, including 77°F on the 4th, [another all-time September record high at Indianapolis](#). The only Septembers to tally more daily record high temperatures (both maximums and minimums) were 1881 and 1931 (5 daily records each).

"Severe Weather Event Summaries" website at spc.noaa.gov/climo/online

October 2026 Outlook

The official outlook for October 2026 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates equal chances of above, below, or near normal temperatures across Indiana and the Ohio Valley. The normal October temperature at Indianapolis is **55.5** degrees.

The outlook also indicates equal chances of above, below, or near normal precipitation across the Midwest and Ohio Valley. The normal October precipitation at Indianapolis is **3.22"**.

INC – Temperature data is missing at Muncie (**29th** maximum and **30th** minimum). Precipitation data is missing at Bloomington on the **12th**, **18th**, **21st**; and at Shelbyville on the **20th**.

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Weather Forecast Office's State Climate Team

Questions should be referred to nws.indianapolis@noaa.gov