

**New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA**

**MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS**

REPORT FOR:

MONTH: **OCTOBER**

YEAR : **2003**

TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2  
NOAA / National Weather Service  
1325 East West Highway, Room 7230  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

SIGNATURE

**Paul S. Trotter, MIC**

In Charge of HSA

DATE **November 15, 2003**

*When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (WSOM E-41).*

**...Dry Weather Persisted Over The Area Through October...**

Several weak to moderate upper-level weather systems moved across the Lower Mississippi River valley during October. However, at the surface, high pressure persisted as the dominant weather feature. Monthly rainfall totals were below normal over coastal and southwest Mississippi, as well as parts of south central Louisiana. Rainfall totals were above average for southeast Louisiana. No significant flooding occurred during October.

The strongest weather system of the month developed during the second week of October and produced significant rainfall through October 12. An upper-level low pressure trough, along with a surface cold front, moved southeast to the Louisiana coast, stalled, and dissipated by October 7. By October 9, a broad trough developed along the southeast Texas coast and extended northeast to the Louisiana coast. Eventually, a surface low pressure area developed along that trough October 10 and became centered over southeastern Louisiana. The strong cold front and the low pressure system combined to produce copious stratiform rainfall. Local amounts were over four inches at many locations; a few stations reported 5.0 inches or more. The big rains of October 9 and October 10, produced flash flooding over urban areas. Although a few streams rose in response to the heavy rainfall, dry antecedent conditions prevented flooding.

Another strong cold front pushed south into the region later in the month. From October 25 to October 27, thunderstorms developed. Local amounts over 0.5 inch occurred over a large portion of southern Mississippi and southeast Louisiana. By October 28, the front had stalled just offshore, which allowed a few light showers to continue.

For October, areal rainfall amounts over the river basins averaged less than 2.0 inches over parts of south central Louisiana and southwest Mississippi. Areal rainfall amounts over coastal Mississippi were between 2.0 and 3.0 inches, while basin averages over southeastern Louisiana ranged to 4.5 inches. Local rainfall totals for October as great as 6.14 inches were reported.