

NWS FORM E-5 (11-88) (PRES. by NWS Instruction 10-924)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA)	
		NEW ORLEANS/BATON ROUGE, LA	
MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS		REPORT FOR:	YEAR
		MONTH JANUARY	2015
TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2 NOAA / National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283		SIGNATURE	
		KENNETH GRAHAM METEOROLOGIST-IN-CHARGE	
		DATE FEBRUARY 15, 2015	

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924)

An X inside this box indicates that no flooding occurred within this hydrologic service area.

...Copious Rainfall in January Induced Flooding and Eased Drought Conditions...

January started with fair weather conditions over southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi, before a storm began strengthening over the Gulf of Mexico. By January 3rd, stormy weather covered the region. Many locations received over 2.0 inches in 24-hour period. The heaviest rains developed on January 3rd and 4th over central and east-central Louisiana. Port Allen had 3.79 inches and Baton Rouge Airport measured 3.56 inches on January 3rd. Areal-average rainfall totals for the weather week ending on January 4th ranged from 1.39 to around 1.9 inches.

A strong cold front brought frigid weather to the region, but little rainfall. Areal-average rainfall totals were 0.1 inch or less by January 11th. A very strong frontal boundary produced significant rainfall across the region during the following week. Areal-average rain totals ranged from near 0.6 inch up to 0.83 inch for the weather week ending January 18th.

Copious, widespread rain developed on January 22nd and 23rd, when a cold front interacted with large area of low pressure situated over the Gulf of Mexico. With the dynamics of the combined systems, many locations had 2.0 inches or more during the week. Rainfall was especially heavy over east-central, south-central, and extreme southeast Louisiana. Isolated amounts over 3.0 inches occurred, with the maximum, 4.20 inches, at Galliano, LA. Areal-average rainfall totals ranged from 2.6 to around 3.0 inches for the week ending January 25th. Drier weather conditions returned to southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi by the end of January. No rain was recorded over the last days of the month for this region.

Flooding...

Early in January, minor flooding developed in Louisiana on the Tickfaw River at Liverpool; on the Tangipahoa River at Robert; and on the Lower Pearl River at Bogalusa and Pearl River. Flood waters receded on the Tickfaw and Tangipahoa Rivers by January 7th. Flooding continued on the Lower Pearl River until January 13th.

After the widespread heavy rainfall events late in January, minor flooding briefly developed on January 23rd at Lyman, MS on the Biloxi River. Brief, minor flooding occurred on January 27th and again on January 28th at Donaldsonville, LA on the Lower Mississippi River.

Monthly Reports by Agricultural Region	Areal Average	Departure from Normal
Southwest Mississippi	N/A	N/A
South Central Mississippi (1 Site)	5.70	- 0.38
Coastal Mississippi	6.58	+1.30
Central Louisiana (2 Sites)	5.99	+0.07
East Central Louisiana	4.86	- 0.85
South Central Louisiana (6 Sites)	4.78	- 0.47
Southeast Louisiana	4.49	- 0.86

Extreme Rainfall for the Month (Inches and Departure from Normal)

Clinton, LA	8.61	+2.86	Galliano, LA	7.00	+1.86
Saucier, MS	7.94	+2.30	Baton Rouge (BTR), LA	6.37	+0.65

Drought...

At the onset of January, Moderate Drought (D1) conditions persisted over extreme southeast Louisiana and much of coastal Mississippi. Other areas had normal to Abnormally Dry (D0) soil moisture levels. With the heavy rains, mainly late in January, drought conditions eased, as soil moisture contents were restored. Moderate Drought (D1) conditions only lingered over parts of St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes. Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions covered less area across coastal Mississippi and extreme southeast Louisiana.

Along with other information sources, data and reports are routinely mined from the following:

NOAA National Weather Service

NOAA Southern Regional Climate Center

Louisiana Office of State Climatology

Mississippi Office of State Climatology

Harrison County Emergency Management Agency

United States Geological Survey

United States Army Corps of Engineers

St. Tammany Parish Office of Engineering

USDA/National Drought Mitigation Center

Mississippi and Louisiana CoCoRaHS