Comparison of 1971-2000 to 1981-2010 Annual Normals

The 1981-2010 normals were calculated using different methods than the 1971-2000 normals. As such, the two databases should not be directly compared. However, the National Climatic Data Center, which is responsible for formulating U.S. normals, re-calculated the 1981-2010 normals in a separate database using the 1971-2000 methods so that the two normals packages could be compared "apples to apples."

In the table below, the differences between the old and new normals are shown. The values show the increase or decrease from the old normals to the new normals. So, for example, the average annual temperature at Bowling Green increased (got warmer) by 0.6° from the old normals to the new normals. For another example, average annual precipitation at Louisville increased (got wetter) from the old normals to the new normals.

Annual Differences:

	Bowling Green	Lexington	Louisville
Average Temperature	0.6°	0.4°	0.5°
Average Maximum Temperature	0.5°	0.4°	0.4°
Average Minimum Temperature	0.7°	0.5°	0.6°
Number of Days with 90+ Temperatures	0.4°	2.4°	2.4°
Number of Days with High Temperature at or Below 32	-2.1°	-1.4°	-1.8°
Number of Days with Low Temperature at or Below 32	-3.9°	-1.4°	-2.3°
Number of Days with High Temperature at or Below 0	-0.4°	-0.6°	-0.3°
Average Precipitation	-2.03"	-0.77"	+0.24"
Number of Days with Measurable Precipitation	-2.8	-1	-2.8
Number of Days with at Least 0.10" of Precipitation	-2.5	-1.3	-1.7
Number of Days with at Least 0.50" of Precipitation	-0.4	-0.6	0
Number of Days with at Least 1" of Precipitation	-0.2	-0.1	+0.5
Average Snowfall	-1.4	-1.9	-1.3
Number of Days with Measurable Snowfall	+0.1	-1.7	-1.6
Number of Days with at Least 1" of Snowfall	-0.9	-0.6	-0.5
Heating Degree Days	-165	-97	-102
Cooling Degree Days	+67	+53	+79