

Tricks and Treats: A look back at Halloween weather.
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On most fall days, you never know what weather to expect. Typical of late fall, temperatures may be in the 80s one day and in the 50s the next. Halloween is no exception. Looking back at the last 50 years or so, Oklahoma's Halloweens have seen their share of heat and cold, wet and dry.

Overall, only about one out of five years has recorded significant precipitation during Halloween. Years with precipitation range from only 6% of the years out in the Panhandle to just over a quarter of years in the east. The wettest year at many places across the state was 1998, although Durant, which holds the state record for the wettest Halloween with 5.35 inches, set its record in 1974.

Typical temperatures for October 31 are the upper-60s to low-70s for daytime highs and mid- to upper-40s for nighttime lows. The warmest Halloween temperature on record was 90 degrees, set at Durant and Ardmore in 1934. Most places in Oklahoma, however, set their records in 1950, when upper 80s were commonplace across the state. The coolest temperature on record for Halloween is 15 degrees, set at Goodwell in 1991 and at Clinton and Ponca City in 1993. Teens were common across the state in 1993, which set the mark as the coldest Halloween at many locations statewide. Young trick-or-treaters need jackets about half of the time across most of the state, but those in the northwestern parts could use a jacket almost every year.

There even has been a bit of snow during some Halloweens. The heaviest snowfall was in 1991, when Woodward recorded two inches and Goodwell reported 0.4 inch. A trace of snow was reported during other years at Enid, Clinton, Oklahoma City, and Ponca City.

Notes on Table:

- Data are displayed below for selected cities across Oklahoma.
- Goodwell data are used instead of Guymon data because of insufficient climate records for Guymon.
- 'Significant rainfall' is defined as one-tenth of an inch or more.
- 'Jacket weather' is defined as the percentage of days with a minimum temperature of 45 degrees or less (i.e., likely to be in the 50s to near 60 in the evening).

GOODWELL (1948-2000)

Average Temperature: High: 66, Low: 36

Records: 87 in 1950

15 in 1991

Jacket Weather: 94% of years

Significant Rainfall: 3 of 50 years (06%)

Heaviest: 1.19 inches in 1961

Snowfall: Trace in 1960 and 1979, 0.4 inch in 1991

WOODWARD (1948-2000)

Average Temperature: High: 68, Low: 40

Records: 87 in 1950

23 in 1954

Jacket Weather: 73% of years

Significant Rainfall: 10 of 53 years (19%)

Heaviest: 3.21 inches in 1998

Snowfall: Trace in 1951, 2.00 inches in 1991

ENID (1894-2000)

Average Temperature: High: 67, Low: 44

Records: 87 in 1938

17 in 1993

Jacket Weather: 53% of years

Significant Rainfall: 23 of 99 years (23%)

Heaviest: 3.52 inches in 1998

Snowfall: Trace in 1929

CLINTON (1948-2000)

Average Temperature: High: 68, Low: 43

Records: 86 in 1950

15 in 1993

Jacket Weather: 54% of years

Significant Rainfall: 10 of 52 years (19%)

Heaviest: 1.98 inches in 1998

Snowfall: Trace in 1967 and 1972

ALTUS (1948-2000)

Average Temperature: High: 70, Low: 45

Records: 88 in 1982

17 in 1993

Jacket Weather: 54% of years

Significant Rainfall: 11 of 51 years (22%)

Heaviest: 1.43 inches in 1998

Snowfall: none on record

LAWTON (1948-2000)

Average Temperature: High: 69, Low: 46

Records: 88 in 1950

24 in 1993

Jacket Weather: 51% of years

Significant Rainfall: 9 of 49 years (18%)

Heaviest: 3.16 inches in 1972

Snowfall: none on record

ARDMORE (1901-2000)

Average Temperature: High: 72, Low: 48

Records: 90 in 1934

20 in 1993

Jacket Weather: 40% of years

Significant Rainfall: 18 of 95 years (19%)

Heaviest: 4.72 inches in 1974

Snowfall: none on record

OKLAHOMA CITY (1948-2000)

Average Temperature: High: 67, Low: 46

Records: 84 in 1948

16 in 1993

Jacket Weather: 48% of years

Significant Rainfall: 10 of 52 years (19%)

Heaviest: 1.82 inches in 1972

Snowfall: Trace in 1991

PONCA CITY (1948-2000)

Average Temperature: High: 66, Low: 45

Records: 88 in 1950

15 in 1993

Jacket Weather: 49% of years

Significant Rainfall: 10 of 53 years (19%)

Heaviest: 2.08 inches in 1998

Snowfall: Trace in 1951 and 1991

TULSA (1948-2000)

Average Temperature: High: 68, Low: 48

Records: 87 in 1950

18 in 1993

Jacket Weather: 40% of years

Significant Rainfall: 11 of 52 years (21%)

Heaviest: 3.12 inches in 1981

Snowfall: none on record

MIAMI (1948-2000)

Average Temperature: High: 67, Low: 45

Records: 86 in 1950

17 in 1993

Jacket Weather: 51% of years

Significant Rainfall: 14 of 50 years (28%)

Heaviest: 1.85 inches in 1979

Snowfall: none on record

MCALESTER (1953-2000)

Average Temperature: High: 70, Low: 48

Records: 86 in 1977

19 in 1993

Jacket Weather: 42% of years
Significant Rainfall: 11 of 45 years (24%)
Heaviest: 2.44 inches in 1981
Snowfall: none on record

DURANT (1901-2000)

Average Temperature: High: 72, Low: 47

Records: 90 in 1934

20 in 1993

Jacket Weather: 45% of years

Significant Rainfall: 25 of 94 years (27%)

Heaviest: 5.35 inches in 1974

Snowfall: none on record

IDABEL (1948-2000)

Average Temperature: High: 71, Low: 47

Records: 85 in 1950

25 in 1980

Jacket Weather: 42% of years

Significant Rainfall: 12 of 51 years (24%)

Heaviest: 2.70 inches in 1979

Snowfall: none on record