

At 2 degrees above normal across the state, February’s warmth was not quite as striking as the previous two winter months, but it still managed to rank as the 33rd warmest February on record. The statewide average precipitation total of 1.78 inches was virtually normal and ranked as the 42nd wettest February on record. Much of the state was actually a bit on the dry side, but the fourth wettest February on record for north central Oklahoma helped boost the statewide average. Golf clubs replaced parkas as the outdoor accessory of choice this winter, and Oklahoma’s kids can only dream of missed school days filled with sledding and snowball fights. The mildness of this winter – the 11th warmest on record at nearly 3 degrees above normal – stands in stark contrast to the cold, snowy experiences of the previous two years. Tulsa has recorded a paltry 1.7 inches of snow so far this cool season and Oklahoma City reported a similar total of 1.8 inches. This winter ranked as the ninth warmest in Oklahoma City dating back to 1891. Tulsa’s average winter temperature tied for the sixth warmest dating back to 1905.

February 2012 Statewide Extremes

Description	Extreme	Station	Day
High Temperature	81°F	Hollis	28
Low Temperature	8°F	Jay	12
High Precipitation	4.95 in.	Freedom	
Low Precipitation	0.27 in.	Goodwell	--

PRECIPITATION

Freedom led the state with 4.95 inches of precipitation during the month and helped propel that region to their fourth wettest February on record. This winter was also the second wettest on record for north central Oklahoma with an average total of 6.84 inches, a surplus of 3.39 inches. Statewide, this winter was the 30th wettest with an average of 6.08 inches, 0.85 inches above normal.

TEMPERATURE

Virtually the entire state experienced above normal temperature to some extent during February. Northeastern Oklahoma had the highest ranking with its 22nd warmest February since 1895. Hollis led the state’s high temperatures at 81 degrees on the 28th. Jay brought up the rear at 8 degrees on the 12th.

FEBRUARY DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 1-3: The first three days of the month had a lot of unsettled weather, thanks to a cold front and a strong upper-level storm system that moved across the state. The front generated strong-to-severe storms across northwestern Oklahoma on the second. Hail up to 1.5 inches in diameter was reported near Freedom along with 65 mph winds. The storms continued into the third with more large hail and severe wind reports. The highest rainfall totals ended up in northwestern Oklahoma where 2-4 inch amounts were widespread. With the passage of the cold front, temperatures rose into the 40s and 50s in the north and 60s and 70s in the south.

FEBRUARY 4-6: The front brought a cold start to this period. Lows were mostly in the 20s and 30s through the sixth and highs managed to rise into the 50s on that day.

FEBRUARY 7-10: A storm system moved across Kansas and brought light rain and snow to the state on the seventh. Most of the snow totals were less than 2 inches. The highest total reported was 2.3 inches from Dewey County. The rainfall totals were also light, most less than a quarter of an inch. An arctic air mass slowly filtered into the region after the storm system pulled away. Highs on the 10th rose into the 30s for the most part, although there were a few 40s in the south. Strong northerly winds made it feel much colder.

February 2012 Statewide Statistics

Temperature

	Average	Depart.	Rank (1895-2012)
Month (February)	43.7°F	2.0°F	33rd Warmest
Season-to-Date (Dec-Feb)	41.7°F	2.9°F	11th Warmest
Year-to-Date (Jan-Feb)	43.2°F	4.4°F	14th Warmest

Precipitation

	Average	Depart.	Rank (1895-2012)
Month (February)	1.78 in.	0.02 in.	42nd Wettest
Season-to-Date (Dec-Feb)	6.08 in.	0.85 in.	30th Wettest
Year-to-Date (Jan-Feb)	3.73 in.	0.52 in.	36th Wettest

Depart. = departure from 30-year normal

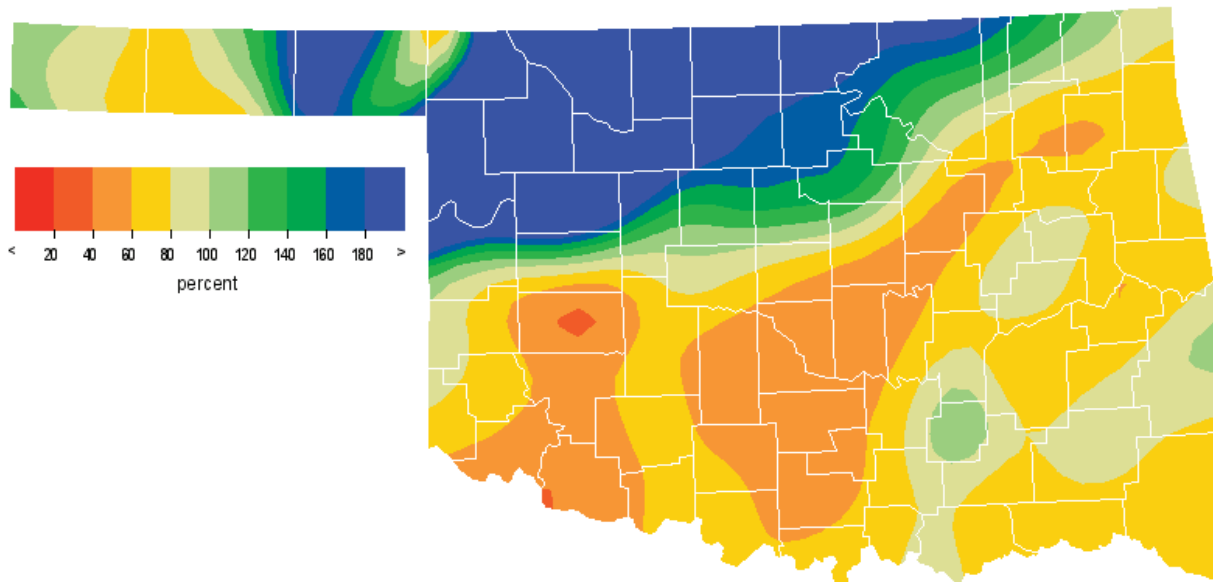
FEBRUARY 11-14: Some of the coldest air of the season filtered into the state following the storm system's departure. Lows dropped into the teens and 20s across the state. Winds of up to 30 mph produced wind chills near zero. Almost the entire state stayed below freezing that afternoon. Another approaching system increased cloudiness on the 12th with snow falling that night into the 13th. A good 1-3 inch blanket fell across much of the state. Roger Mills County saw a few reports of 4 inches. Temperatures rose into the 40s and 50s that afternoon and melted the snow rather quickly. Light winds, freezing temperatures and dense fog led to a travel nightmare. Freezing fog was reported over most of the northern half of the state. Temperatures rose into the 40s and 50s again that afternoon to end that problem.

FEBRUARY 15-19: This five day stretch was a bit on the rainy side, although none of the rain amounts ever rose above more than about a quarter of an inch. The rain was kicked off by a couple of weak storm systems that moved over the state. Temperatures were a bit on the cool side with lows in the 30s and highs in the 50s.

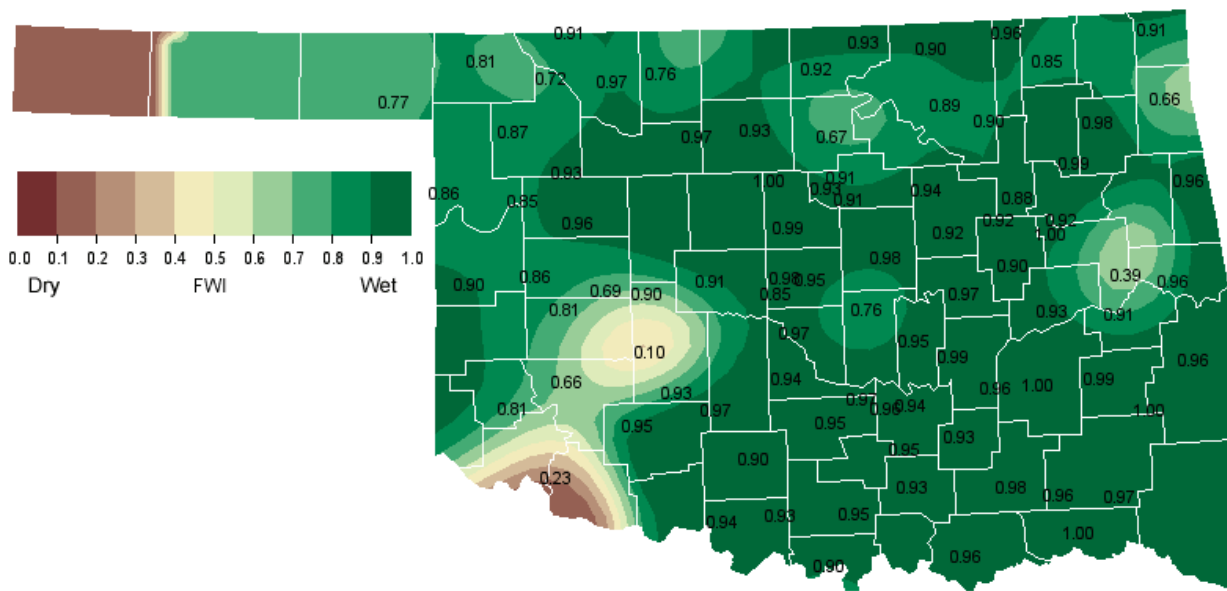
FEBRUARY 20-22: An upper-level disturbance and accompanying dryline produced severe weather in the state on the 20th. Quick-moving storms dropped less than a half of an inch of rain, but also produced winds of up to 65 mph and some large hail. A microburst destroyed a mobile home near Ada that afternoon. Scattered damage was reported in central Oklahoma with downed power poles and broken windows. Behind the dryline, non-thunderstorm winds of up to 60 mph produced blowing dust. The weather calmed by the 21st. Clear skies and highs in the 60s and 70s greeted the state that afternoon. Highs were 15-25 degrees above normal on the 22nd, rising into the 60s and 70s.

FEBRUARY 23-29: The month's last seven days started on the cool and windy side, but finished on the bumpy side. A dry cold front passage on the 23rd led to highs in the 50s and winds of up to 45 mph. A similar day was found on the 24th before a bit of a warm up on the 25th. Winds on the 25th gusted to over 50 mph with the approach of a deepening low-pressure system in the Rockies. Highs rose into the 60s that day and on the 26th. A weak cold front moved through the state overnight on the 27th and stalled near the Red River before moving north later that day as a warm front. Light showers overnight on the 28th gave way to highs in the 70s and 80s later that day, along with wind gusts of nearly 70 mph. A dryline moved into the Panhandle, and storms fired along it later that day in the northwest. The storms continued overnight, reaching severe levels at times. A wind gust of 70-80 mph was estimated near Braman in Kay County. Golf ball size hail and wind damage to trees and structures was reported across northern Oklahoma. Rainfall totals were mostly light, with about half of an inch in the northeast.

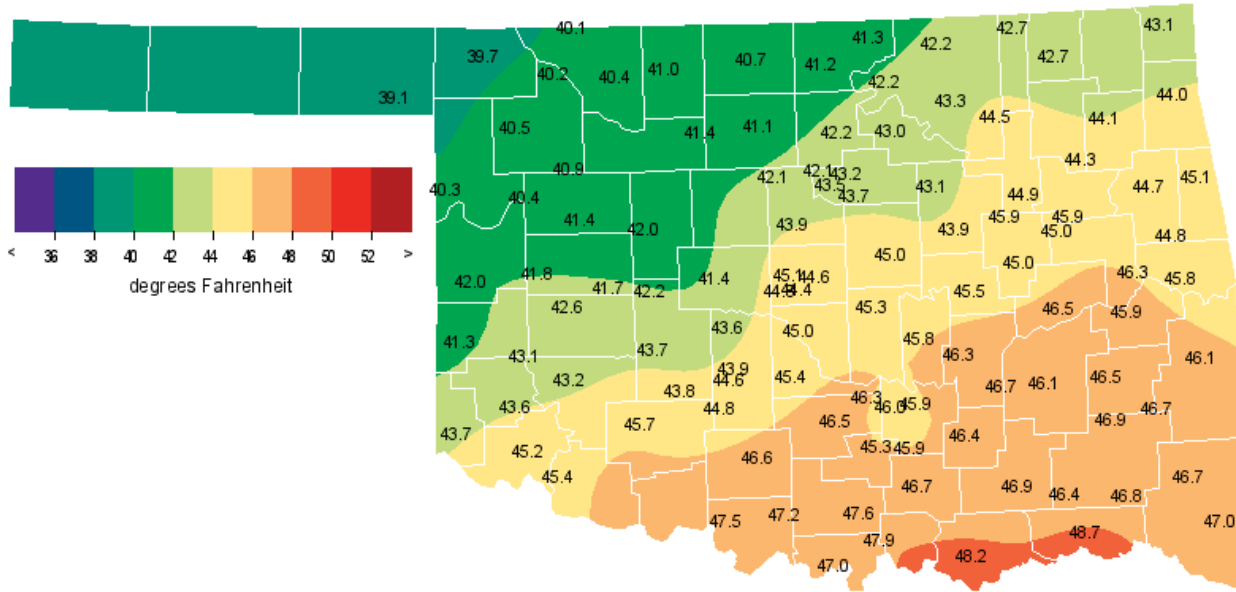
FEBRUARY 2012 PERCENT OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION



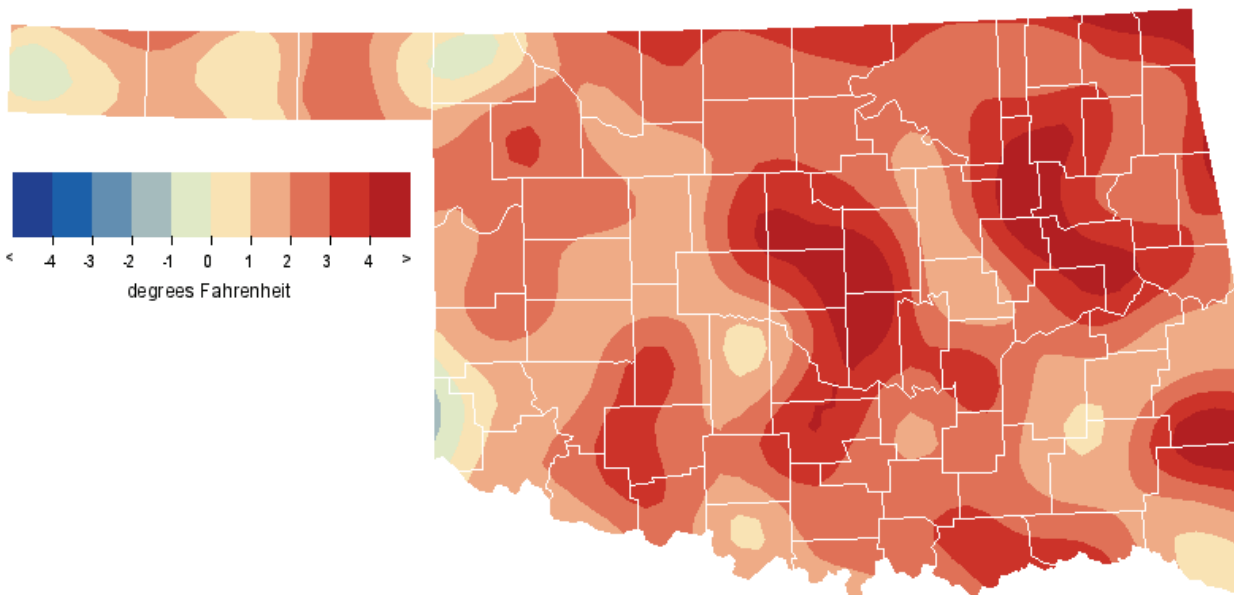
FEBRUARY 2012 AVERAGE SOIL MOISTURE AT 25CM



FEBRUARY 2012 AVERAGE TEMPERATURE



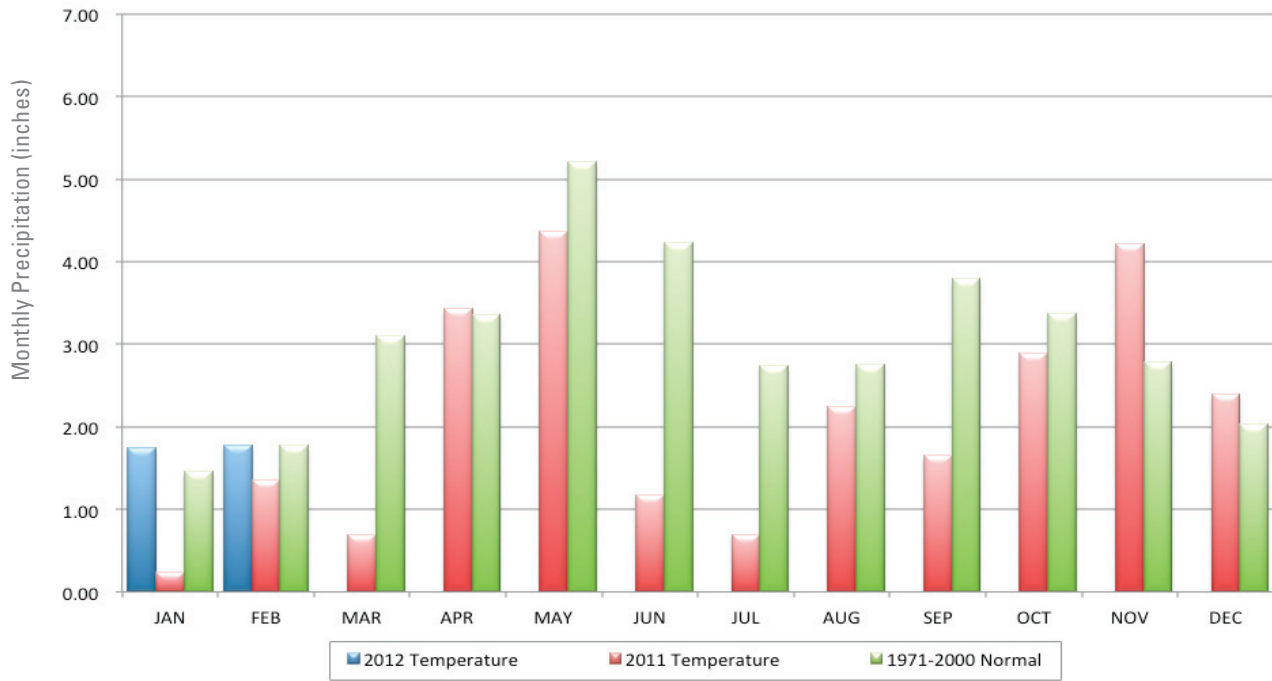
FEBRUARY 2012 DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL TEMPERATURE



MESONET MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 2012

NAME	MEAN TEMP	HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	DAY	DAY	HDD	CDD	TOT PPT	HIGH 24-HR	DAY	NAME	MEAN TEMP	HIGH TEMP	LOW TEMP	DAY	DAY	HDD	CDD	TOT PPT	HIGH 24-HR	DAY
PANHANDLE																					
Arnett	40.3	75	28	15	12	716	0	3.41	1.56	3	Goodwell	36.7	75	22	13	8	****	****	.27	.12	3
Beaver	38.8	77	28	15	11	****	****	1.35	.78	2	Hooker	37.8	75	22	16	11	****	****	.55	.25	2
Boise City	35.2	65	28	12	8	****	****	.37	.28	2	Kenton	35.8	67	25	14	11	****	****	.36	.18	2
Buffalo	39.6	77	28	15	11	735	0	1.53	.65	3	Slapout	39.0	76	28	12	11	754	0	1.08	.39	2
NORTH CENTRAL																					
Alva	40.4	74	22	14	11	714	0	3.37	2.51	3	May Ranch	40.1	74	22	12	11	723	0	4.30	1.99	3
Blackwell	41.2	69	22	15	11	690	0	2.68	1.21	3	Medford	40.8	70	22	15	11	703	0	3.50	2.43	3
Breckinridge	41.1	69	22	15	11	694	0	3.10	2.12	3	Newkirk	41.3	70	22	13	11	686	0	2.54	1.38	3
Cherokee	41.0	73	22	14	11	695	0	3.42	2.54	3	Red Rock	42.2	73	22	13	12	661	0	2.37	1.64	3
Fairview	****	***	***	***	***	****	****	3.25	2.51	3	Seiling	40.8	74	22	15	11	702	0	3.57	2.76	3
Freedom	40.2	72	22	13	11	720	0	4.95	2.35	2	Woodward	40.4	74	22	14	11	712	0	4.16	1.96	3
Lahoma	41.4	70	22	15	11	684	0	3.06	2.43	3											
NORTHEAST																					
Bixby	45.0	75	22	16	12	581	0	1.00	.35	3	Nowata	42.7	74	22	9	12	646	0	2.37	1.39	3
Burbank	42.2	71	22	14	12	662	0	2.80	1.67	3	Pawnee	43.0	73	22	14	12	638	0	2.80	1.92	3
Claremore	44.7	74	22	13	12	****	****	1.27	.66	28	Porter	45.9	76	22	16	12	553	0	1.76	1.04	3
Copan	42.7	73	22	13	12	647	0	3.08	1.46	3	Pryor	44.0	73	22	11	12	608	0	1.26	.39	3
Foraker	42.2	73	22	13	12	662	0	3.89	2.17	3	Skiatook	44.5	74	22	15	11	596	0	2.19	1.27	3
Inola	44.3	74	22	13	12	600	0	1.27	.59	3	Vinita	43.1	71	22	12	12	636	0	2.14	1.13	3
Jay	43.9	70	28	8	12	612	0	1.43	.33	3	Wynona	43.3	74	22	13	12	629	0	2.05	1.17	3
Miami	43.2	71	28	11	12	632	0	1.91	.69	3											
WEST CENTRAL																					
Bessie	42.7	72	22	18	12	647	0	.52	.24	9	Putnam	41.4	72	22	16	11	684	0	3.15	2.56	3
Butler	41.8	75	28	18	11	673	0	1.03	.37	13	Retrop	43.1	76	28	18	11	636	0	.75	.25	13
Camargo	40.4	74	22	15	12	713	0	2.81	2.43	3	Watonga	42.0	70	22	15	11	668	0	1.90	1.25	3
Cheyenne	41.9	76	28	15	11	669	0	1.02	.46	3	Weatherford	41.7	69	28	16	12	675	0	.57	.23	9
Erick	41.3	78	28	17	11	688	0	.86	.32	13											
CENTRAL																					
Acme	44.7	73	22	19	11	589	0	.96	.29	9	Ninnekah	44.5	73	22	19	12	594	0	.81	.22	9
Bowlegs	45.7	74	22	14	12	559	0	1.37	.58	3	Norman	45.0	74	22	17	12	581	0	.91	.28	3
Bristow	43.9	75	22	11	12	613	0	.82	.26	9	Oilton	43.1	74	22	11	12	635	0	2.23	1.19	3
Lake Carl Blac	42.1	72	22	12	12	663	0	2.60	1.82	3	OKC East	44.4	74	22	16	12	596	0	.94	.24	9
Chandler	45.0	74	22	16	12	580	0	1.12	.38	3	OKC North	45.1	74	22	17	12	577	0	1.13	.44	3
Chickasha	43.9	73	22	17	12	611	0	.64	.22	9	OKC West	44.8	74	22	18	11	585	0	.97	.27	9
El Reno	41.4	73	22	12	12	685	0	1.37	.49	3	Okemah	45.5	74	22	16	12	565	0	1.55	.79	3
Guthrie	44.0	73	22	16	12	610	0	2.64	2.04	3	Perkins	43.8	73	22	17	12	615	0	2.41	1.72	3
Kingfisher	42.2	72	22	16	12	****	****	1.59	1.03	3	Shawnee	45.3	74	22	15	12	571	0	.85	.29	9
Marena	43.5	72	22	15	12	625	0	2.90	2.17	3	Spencer	44.6	74	22	16	12	593	0	1.29	.53	3
Minco	43.6	72	22	17	12	620	0	1.10	.29	9	Stillwater	43.2	74	22	14	12	633	0	2.93	2.22	3
Marshall	42.2	71	22	15	12	663	0	2.49	1.77	3	Washington	45.4	73	22	16	12	568	0	1.14	.27	18
EAST CENTRAL																					
Cookson	44.7	72	23	10	12	587	0	2.17	1.28	3	Sallisaw	45.8	74	23	15	12	555	0	1.69	.68	3
Eufaula	46.5	72	23	19	11	537	0	2.09	1.38	3	Stigler	45.8	73	23	16	12	556	0	1.57	.41	3
Haskell	45.1	75	22	16	12	576	0	2.15	1.26	3	Stuart	46.7	74	23	19	12	530	0	2.30	1.26	3
Hectorville	45.9	75	22	15	12	554	0	.94	.24	3	Tahlequah	44.7	71	23	11	12	589	0	1.68	.73	3
Holdenville	46.3	73	22	17	12	542	0	1.31	.41	3	Webbers Falls	46.3	73	23	19	11	543	0	1.37	.62	3
McAlester	46.1	75	23	17	12	548	0	1.33	.28	3	Westville	45.1	70	23	14	11	578	0	2.10	.91	3
Okmulgee	45.0	75	22	14	12	580	0	2.12	1.40	3											
SOUTHWEST																					
Altus	45.2	80	28	20	11	574	0	.64	.27	13	Hollis	43.7	81	28	16	8	616	0	.69	.42	13
Apache	43.8	73	22	19	11	614	0	1.15	.37	3	Mangum	43.6	79	28	19	11	620	0	.87	.40	13
Fort Cobb	43.7	72	22	19	12	618	0	.82	.35	9	Medicine Park	45.7	74	22	18	11	561	0	.90	.28	9
Grandfield	46.5	75	3	21	11	****	****	.58	.36	13	Tipton	45.4	79	28	20	11	570	0	.52	.28	13
Hinton	42.2	71	22	17	11	661	0	.83	.27	3	Walters	45.9	76	3	21	11	****	****	.83	.35	13
Hobart	43.2	75	28	19	11	632	0	.53	.19	9											
SOUTH CENTRAL																					
Ada	45.9	73	23	15	12	553	0	1.27	.31	20	Madill	47.9	77	23	22	11	497	0	1.68	.82	3
Ardmore	47.6	76	23	21	11	503	0	1.03	.40	13	Newport	47.9	74	23	20	11	****	****	.89	.38	13
Burneyville	47.0	75	23	22	11	523	0	1.37	.54	3	Pauls Valley	46.5	74	22	20	12	537	0	1.11	.43	3
Byars	46.3	71	22	17	12	543	0	1.28	.39	3	Ringling	47.2	74	23	22	11	516	0	1.13	.42	18
Centrahoma	46.3	76	23	19	12	542	0	3.24	2.05	3	Sulphur	45.4	72	23	19	12	570	0	1.11	.37	3
Durant	48.2	78	23	23	12	486	0	2.19	.90	3	Tishomingo	46.7	75	23	21	11	531	0	1.87	.69	3
Fittstown	45.9	72	23	20	11	555	0	1.29	.27	13	Vanoss	46.0	72	22	17	12	551	0	1.27	.43	3
Ketchum Ranch	46.6	72	23	21	11	533	0	1.03	.30	3	Waurika	47.4	74	28	22	11	509	0	1.22	.46	3
Lane	46.9	77	23	19	12	525	0	1.62	.64	3											
SOUTHEAST																					
Antlers	46.4	79	23	17	12	540	0	2.25	1.05	3	Idabel	48.2	77	23	22	12	****	****	2.69	.87	3
Antlers	****	***	***	***	***	****	****	****	****	***	Mt Herman	46.7	78	23	18	12	532	0	2.61	1.22	3
Broken Bow	47.0	78	23	19	12	522	0	2.40	.60	3	Talihina	46.7	78	23	17	12	530	0	2.43	1.53	3
Clayton	46.9	78	23	16	12	525	0	2.70	1.72	3	Wilburton	46.5	77	23	18	12	536	0	1.94	.83	3
Cloudy	46.8	78	23	19	12	527	0	2.42	1.10	3	Wister	46.0	77	23	15	12	550	0	2.71	1.78	3
Hugo	48.7	79	23	22	12	473	0	2.00	.83	3											

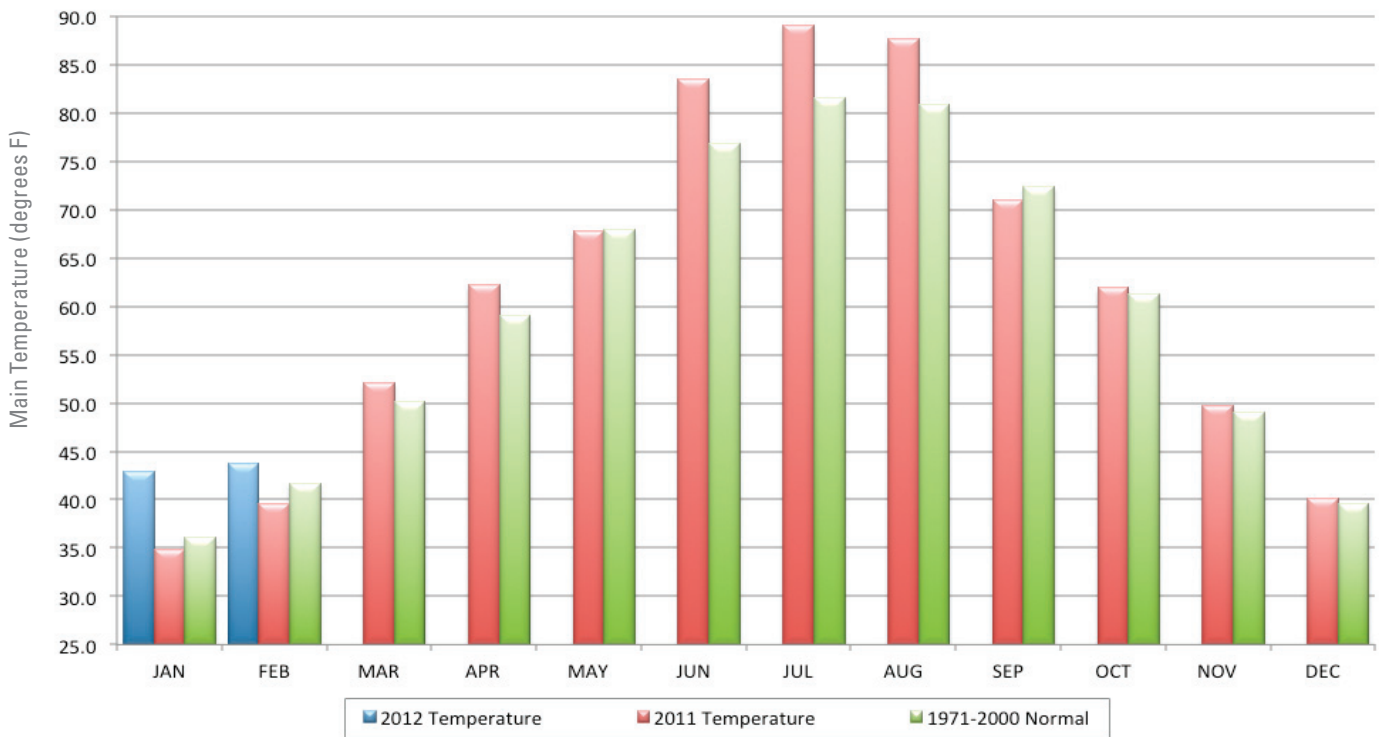
2011 AND 2012 STATEWIDE PRECIPITATION MONTHLY TOTALS VS. NORMAL



February 2012 Mesonet Precipitation Comparison

Climate Division	Precipitation (inches)	Departure from Normal (inches)	Rank since 1895	Wettest on Record (Year)	Driest on Record (Year)	Feb-11
Panhandle	1.12	0.48	24th Wettest	2.94 (1911)	0.00 (1896)	0.53
North Central	3.41	2.19	4th Wettest	4.10 (1911)	0.00 (1904)	0.74
Northeast	2.08	0.10	44th Wettest	5.80 (1985)	0.10 (1963)	2.88
West Central	1.40	0.26	32nd Wettest	3.64 (1997)	0.00 (1904)	0.35
Central	1.53	-0.33	51st Wettest	5.08 (1938)	0.00 (1904)	1.76
East Central	1.76	-0.67	51st Driest	9.15 (1938)	0.00 (1895)	1.97
Southwest	0.77	-0.56	50th Driest	3.89 (1997)	0.00 (1902)	0.71
South Central	1.48	-0.73	49th Driest	7.66 (1938)	0.02 (1902)	1.67
Southeast	2.42	-0.73	46th Driest	10.12 (1945)	0.36 (1895)	2.16
Statewide	1.78	0.02	42nd Wettest	4.66 (1938)	0.18 (1996)	1.46

2011 AND 2012 STATEWIDE TEMPERATURE MONTHLY TOTALS VS. NORMAL



February 2012 Mesonet Temperature Comparison

Climate Division	Average Temp (F)	Departure from Normal (F)	Rank since 1895	Hottest on Record (Year)	Coldest on Record (Year)	Feb-11
Panhandle	39.7	1.4	38th Warmest	47.5 (1954)	23.1 (1899)	34.6
North Central	40.9	1.6	36th Warmest	49.6 (1954)	22.4 (1899)	35.3
Northeast	43.6	3.2	22nd Warmest	49.8 (1976)	25.6 (1899)	37.5
West Central	41.8	1.2	40th Warmest	51.0 (1954)	23.8 (1905)	38.5
Central	44.1	2.2	31st Warmest	51.6 (1976)	26.2 (1899)	40.1
East Central	45.7	2.9	27th Warmest	52.1 (1976)	28.7 (1899)	41.3
Southwest	44.1	1.0	44th Warmest	52.5 (1954)	26.8 (1905)	41.6
South Central	46.7	1.9	36th Warmest	53.6 (1976)	30.0 (1905)	43.6
Southeast	46.9	2.2	30th Warmest	52.6 (1976)	31.4 (1899)	43.3
Statewide	43.7	2.0	33rd Warmest	50.7 (1954)	26.6 (1899)	39.4

RECORD EVENT REPORTS

Description	Day	Location	Record	Previous Record	Year
Daily Maximum Rainfall	3	Tulsa	0.84 inches	0.53 inches	1960

MESONET EXTREMES FOR FEBRUARY 2012

Climate Division	High Temp (F)			Low Temp (F)			High Monthly Rainfall (inches)		High Daily Rainfall (inches)		
	Day	Station	Day	Station	Day	Station	Station	Day	Station		
Panhandle	77	28th	Buffalo	12	11th	Slapout	3.41	Arnett	1.56	3rd	Arnett
North Central	74	22nd	Seiling	12	11th	May Ranch	4.95	Freedom	2.76	3rd	Seiling
Northeast	76	22nd	Porter	8	12th	Jay	3.89	Foraker	2.17	3rd	Foraker
West Central	78	28th	Erick	15	11th	Cheyenne	3.15	Putnam	2.56	3rd	Putnam
Central	75	22nd	Bristow	11	12th	Bristow	2.93	Stillwater	2.22	3rd	Stillwater
East Central	75	23rd	McAlester	10	12th	Cookson	2.30	Stuart	1.40	3rd	Okmulgee
Southwest	81	28th	Hollis	16	8th	Hollis	1.15	Apache	0.42	13th	Hollis
South Central	78	23rd	Durant	15	12th	Ada	3.24	Centrahoma	2.05	3rd	Centrahoma
Southeast	79	23rd	Antlers	15	12th	Wister	2.71	Wister	1.78	3rd	Wister
Statewide	81	28th	Hollis	8	12th	Jay	4.95	Freedom	2.76	3rd	Seiling

MARCH OUTLOOK

The retreat of winter and the onset of spring progress across Oklahoma during March, but the change of season is not smooth. Despite the generally moderating climate, winter intrudes from time-to-time, especially in the first half of the month, bringing with it some frigid weather and, occasionally, some frighteningly heavy snowstorms. By the end of the month, spring is typically in full sway, including occasional full participation in the severe thunderstorm season.

As befits a transitional month, March is Oklahoma’s fifth coolest month. The statewide-average normal monthly temperature of 51.0 degrees is compiled from a collection of station-specific normals that range from 45.1 degrees in the panhandle at Goodwell to 55.7 degrees at Ardmore in south central Oklahoma. Monthly averages of statewide temperatures have included a maximum of 58.3 degrees in 2007 and a minimum of 37.6 degrees in 1915. Normal daily maximum temperatures are bounded by southerly Waurika’s 68.8 degrees and northerly Arnett’s 59.3. Extremes of normal daily minimum temperatures are found in the panhandle at Boise City, 29.8 degrees, and in the south at Ardmore, 43.8 degrees.

Temperature

Mean	51.0 degrees
Warmest Location	55.7 degrees, Ardmore
Coollest Location	45.1 degrees, Goodwell
Warmest March	2007, 58.3 degrees
Coollest March	1915, 37.6 degrees
Hottest recorded	104 degrees, Frederick, March 27, 1971
Coldest recorded	-18 degrees, Hooker, March 7, 1920 Kenton, March 1, 1922 & March 6, 1948

Normal statewide-averaged precipitation in March is 3.06 inches, ranking March as the state’s 6th wettest month. The extreme monthly statewide averages of March precipitation are 7.46 inches in 1973 and 0.38 inches in 1971. Southeastern Oklahoma’s Smithville carries the title of wettest station in March with a normal precipitation total of 5.52 inches. The least normal March precipitation in the state, 1.05 inches, belongs to Regnier in the northwestern panhandle. The northeastern Oklahoma town of Kansas holds the apparent record for the wettest March in the state with a reported 13.37 inches of rain in 1973.

Snow does not come every March, but when it does it comes in bunches. Boise City averages 6.6 inches of snow during the month, the greatest average snowfall among the state’s reporting locations. Stations in the state’s southern half generally average less than half-an-inch of snow during March. Snowstorms have dropped as much as 20 inches of snow on northern parts of Oklahoma several times. In 1988, Cherokee (29.5 inches), Laverne (27.5 inches), and Waynoka (25 inches) all reported monthly totals of over 2 feet of snow. Gate recorded 27 inches in March 1969 and Vinita noted 24 inches in March 1970. Both the 1988 and 1970 totals are additionally notable as most of the snow was reported on St. Patrick’s Day. Beaver reported substantial snow in March 1912 to complete the state’s seasonal snowfall record (winter of 1911/12) of 87.3 inches. A late-season snowstorm struck the panhandle in 1926, as Boise City reported 16 inches of snow on the 30th. Another late-season blizzard struck the northwest in 2009 with 26 inches being reported at both Woodward and Freedom.

The state has averaged 3.7 tornadoes each March since 1950. The actual number has ranged from none (16 times in 55 years, including 2002) to 17 in 1991. Two deadly March tornadoes, each killing 10, were at Gowen on March 13, 1922 and Lenna on March 25, 1948. Two other notable tornadoes struck the Oklahoma City area, including Will Rogers Airport and Tinker Air Force Base, on March 20th and 25th in 1948. The first tornado caused over \$10 million in property damage, much of it to military aircraft. Damage from the second was \$6 million. On the 25th, Air Force meteorologists recognizing the similarity of conditions to those of the 20th, issued what is now accepted to be the first successful and scientific forecast of a tornado.

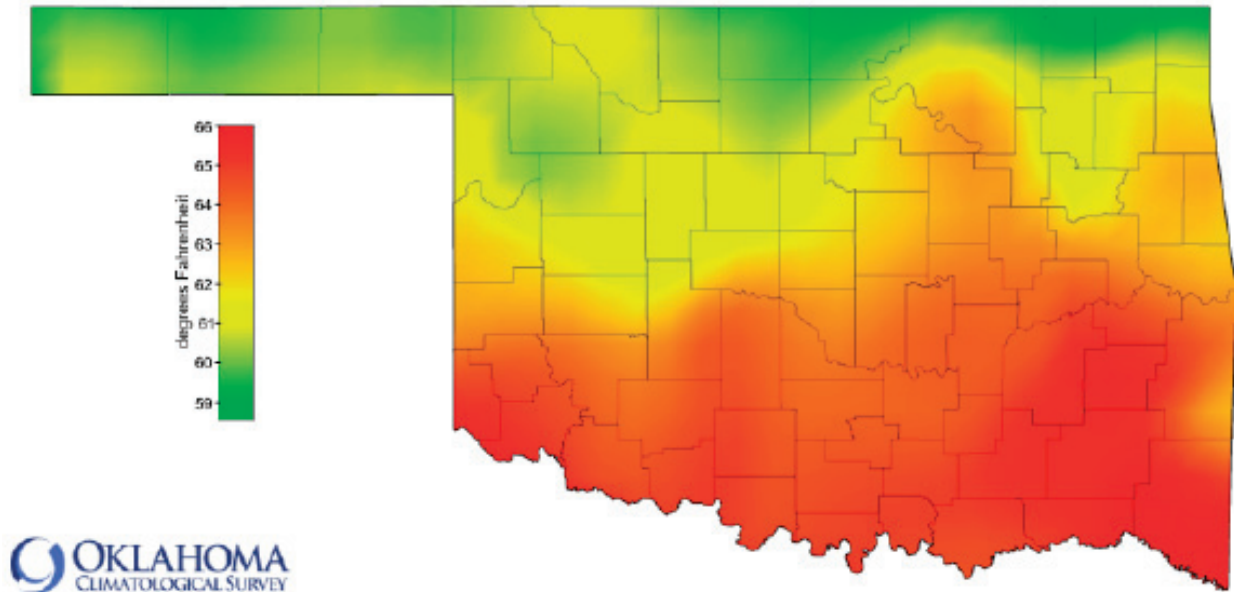
Precipitation

Mean	3.06 inches
Wettest March	1973, 7.46 inches
Driest March	1971, 0.38 inches
Wettest location	Smithville, 5.52 inches
Driest location	Regnier, 1.05 inches
Most recorded	13.37 inches, Kansas, 1973

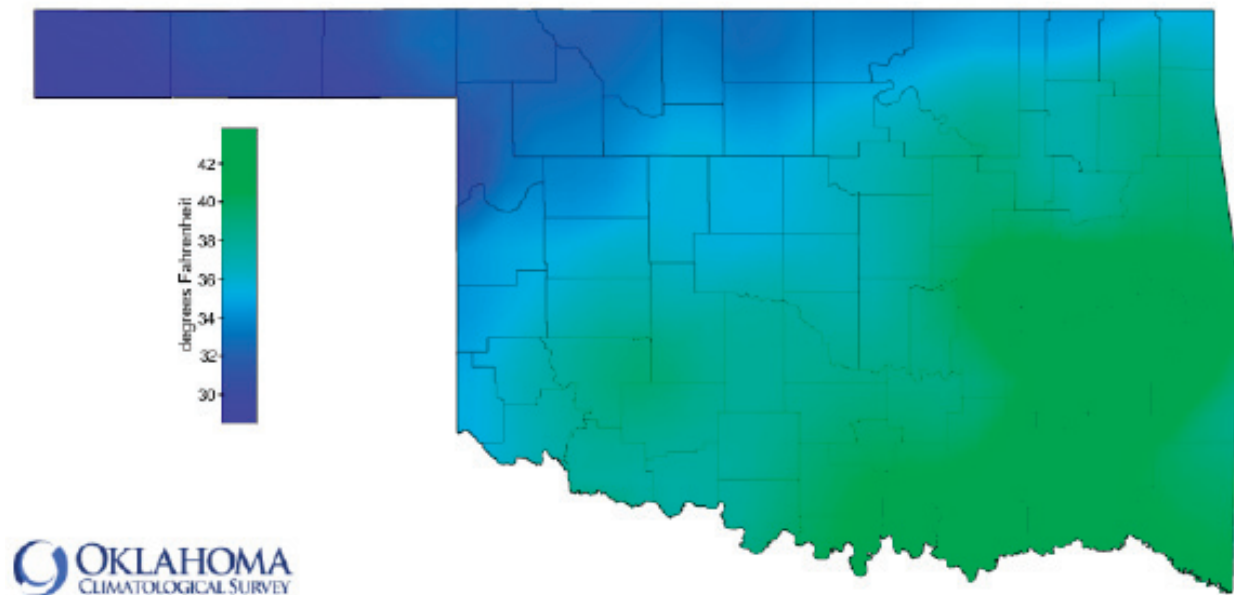
Tornadoes

Average March Tornadoes	4.1
Most	17 (1991)

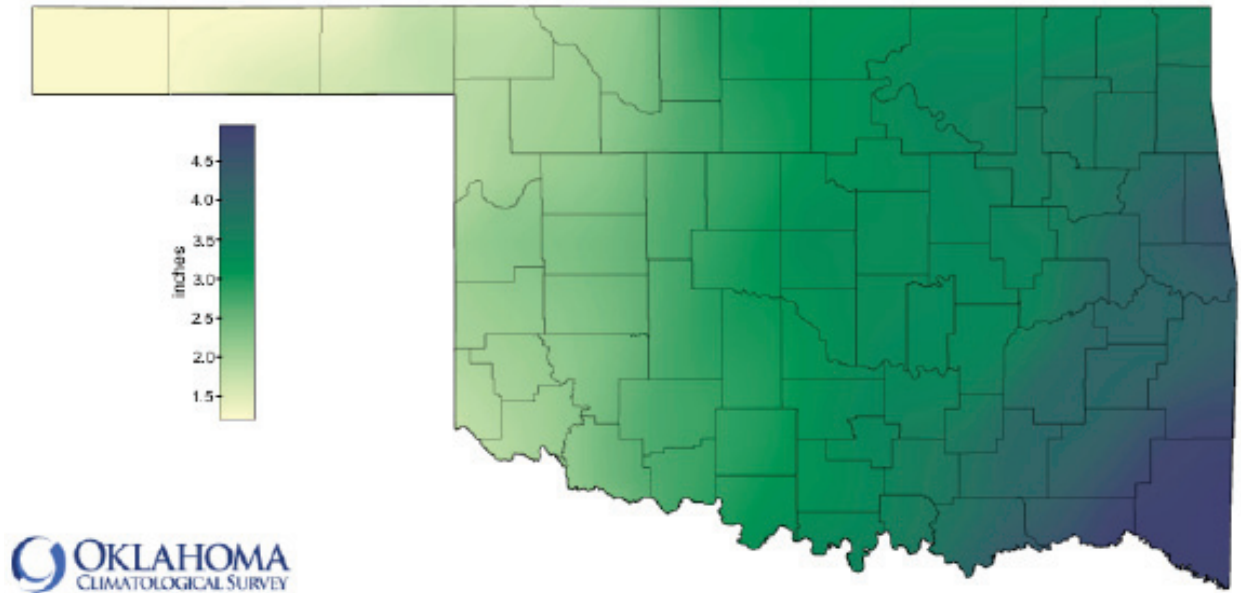
MARCH NORMAL DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (1981-2010)



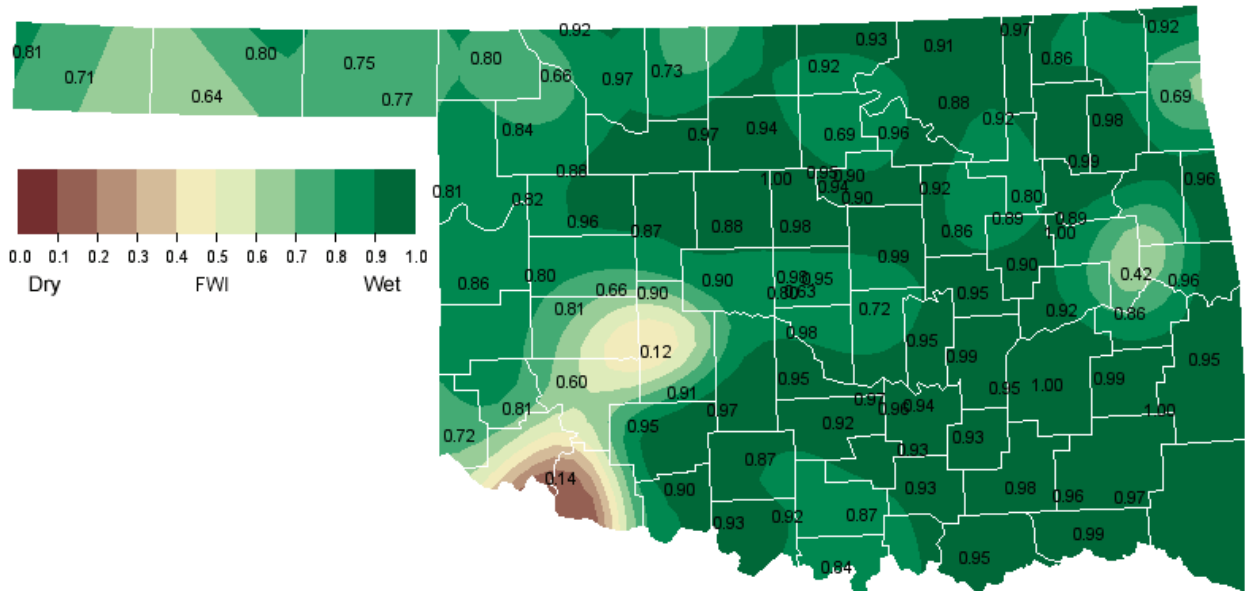
MARCH NORMAL DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (1981-2010)



MARCH NORMAL PRECIPITATION (1981-2010)



MARCH 1, 2012 SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS AT 25CM



MARCH 2012 DROUGHT INDICES

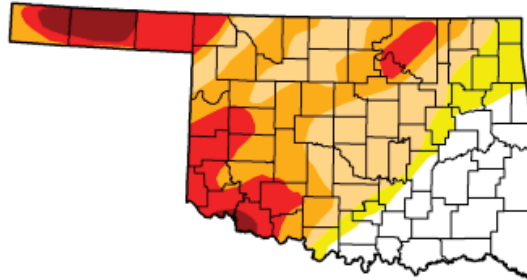
U.S. Drought Monitor

Oklahoma

February 28, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	24.91	75.09	66.46	41.79	19.03	3.78
Last Week (02/21/2012 map)	24.91	75.09	66.46	41.79	19.03	3.78
3 Months Ago (11/29/2011 map)	7.33	92.67	85.70	59.58	39.92	10.27
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	14.83	85.17	78.76	50.55	27.48	3.33
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	78.97	66.42
One Year Ago (02/22/2011 map)	0.02	99.98	63.04	18.15	0.00	0.00



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



Released Thursday, March 1, 2012
Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center

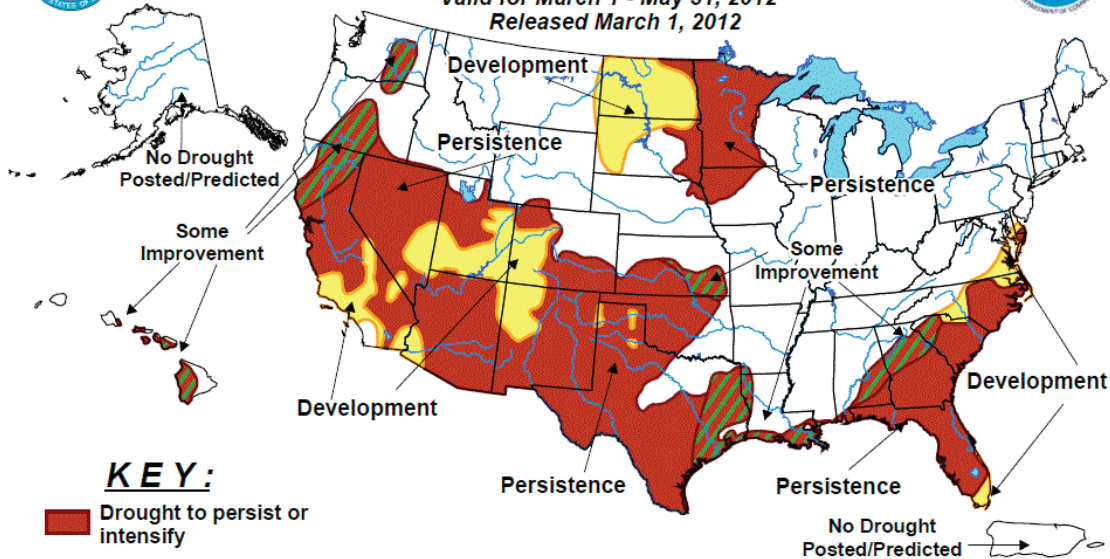
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for March 1 - May 31, 2012
Released March 1, 2012

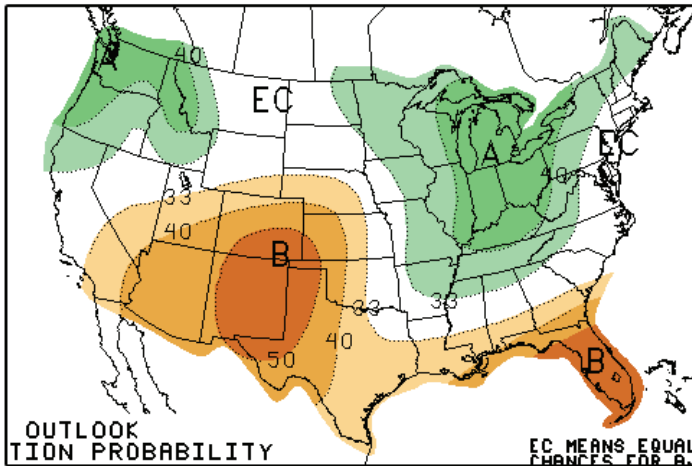


KEY:

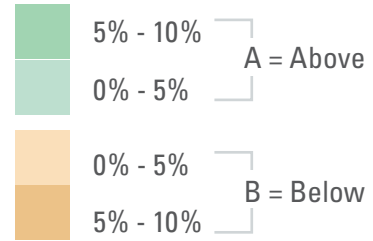
- Drought to persist or intensify
- Drought ongoing, some improvement
- Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
- Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.

MARCH 2012 U.S. PRECIPITATION FORECAST

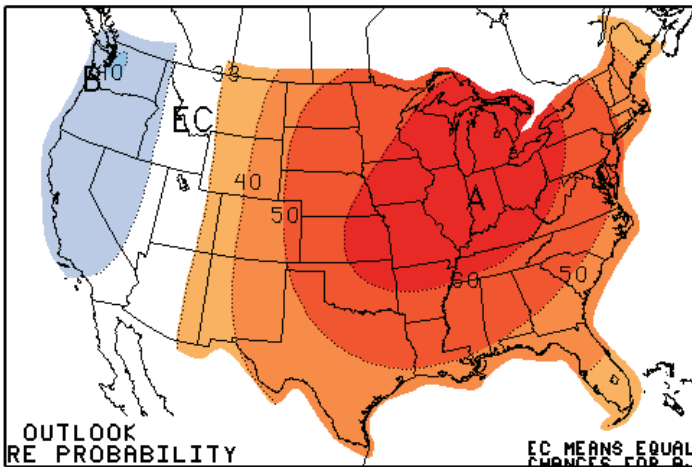


Percent Likelihood of Above or Below Average Precipitation*

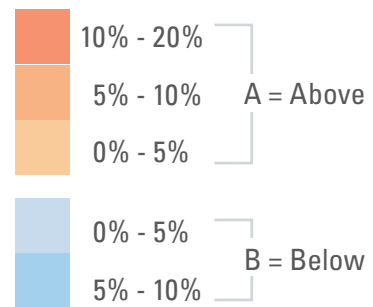


*EC indicates no forecasted anomalies due to lack of model skill.

MARCH 2012 U.S. TEMPERATURE FORECAST



Percent Likelihood of Above or Below Average Temperatures*

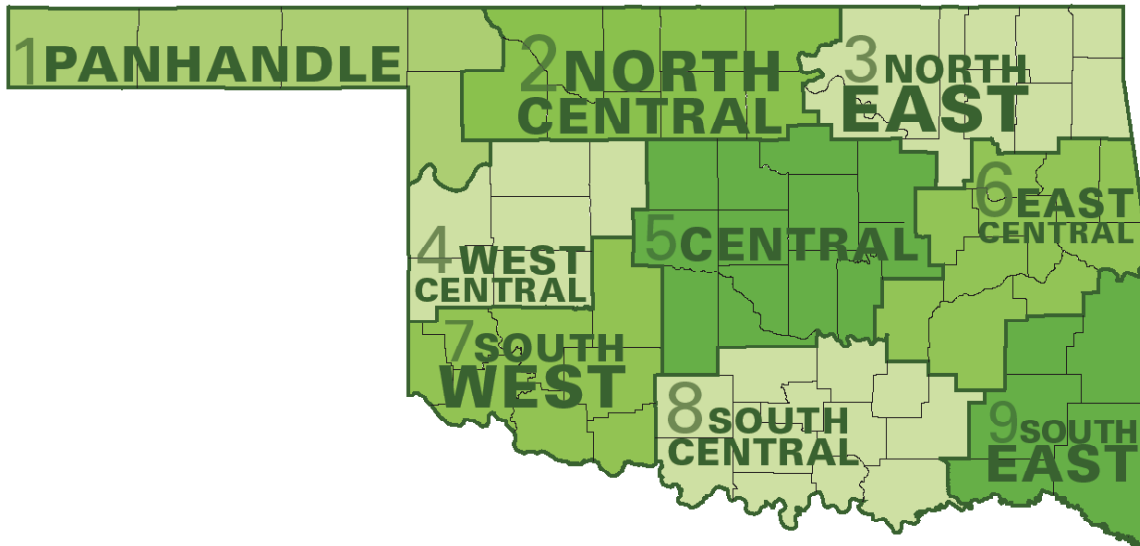


*EC indicates no forecasted anomalies due to lack of model skill.

MARCH CLIMATE NORMALS

Climate Division	Max. Temperature (°F)	Min. Temperature (°F)	Avg. Temperature (°F)	Precipitation (inches)
1	61.5	31.6	46.5	1.58
2	60.4	33.7	47.1	2.67
3	62.5	37.9	50.2	3.61
4	61.7	34.7	48.2	2.29
5	62.6	37.6	50.2	3.15
6	63.3	39.6	51.5	3.99
7	64.5	37.0	50.8	2.29
8	64.9	40.0	52.5	3.50
9	65.5	39.9	52.7	4.45
Statewide	62.9	37.0	50.0	3.16

Oklahoma Climate Divisions



INTERPRETATION INFORMATION

MEAN DAILY TEMPERATURE: Calculated from an average of the daily maximum and minimum temperatures. Daily averages are summed for each day, and then divided by the number of valid data points – typically the number of days in the month. Although this may differ from the “true” daily average, it is consistent with historical methods of observation and comparable to the normals and extremes for stations and regions of the state.

DEGREE DAYS: Degree Days are calculated each day of the month for which there is a temperature report and the mean temperature for the day is less than (Heating Degree Days) or greater than (Cooling Degree Days) 65 degrees. Daily values are summed to arrive at a monthly total. HDD/CDD are qualitative measures of how much heating/cooling was required to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature. Missing observations may result in an artificially high or low value.

SEVERE WEATHER REPORTS: Only the most significant events are listed. Tornadoes of F2 or greater strength (on the 0-5 Fujita scale), hail of two inches diameter or greater, and wind speeds of 70 miles per hour or above are listed. National Weather Service defines storms as severe when they produce a tornado, hail of three-quarters inch or greater, or wind speeds above 57 miles per hour (50 knots). For additional reports, contact the Oklahoma Climatological Survey, Storm Prediction Center, or your local National Weather Service forecast office.

SOIL MOISTURE: The soil moisture variable displayed is the Fractional Water Index (FWI), measured at a depth of 25 cm. This unitless value ranges from very dry soil having a value of 0, to saturated soils having a value of 1.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

SUNRISE / SUNSET TABLES

U.S. Naval Observatory: <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data>

SEVERE STORM REPORTS

Storm Prediction Center: <http://spc.noaa.gov/climo/>

National Climatic Data Center (more than about 4-5 months old):

<http://www4.ncdc.noaa.gov/cgi-win/wwwcgi.dll?wwEvent~Storms>

SEASONAL OUTLOOKS

Climate Prediction Center:

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/OUTLOOKS_index.html

CLIMATE CALENDARS AND OTHER LOCAL WEATHER AND CLIMATE INFORMATION

Oklahoma Climatological Survey:

<http://climate.mesonet.org> or <http://climate.ok.gov/>



Oklahoma Climatological Survey is the State Climate Office for Oklahoma

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