

May gets top billing as Oklahoma’s rowdiest weather month, and it certainly lived up to that notoriety this year. At least three major severe weather outbreaks occurred during May. These short but intense periods of disturbed weather brought the state tornadoes, severe winds, hail to the size of grapefruits, and widespread flooding. Data from the National Weather Service suggest as many as 50 tornadoes touched down during the month, a number that could rise as more possible twisters are investigated. The state’s first tornado death since May 9, 2016, occurred with a large EF2 tornado that struck the Elk City area on May 16. The tornado, which reached 1000 yards wide at one point, was on the ground for 18 miles. The fatality occurred as it struck a vehicle, killing the driver who was fleeing the tornado. As many as eight businesses and 200 homes were damaged or destroyed along the twister’s path in Beckham County. The Oklahoma Mesonet site at Walters recorded a thunderstorm related

that saw impressive surpluses erase equally impressive deficits. The spring statewide average was 13.78 inches, nearly 3 inches above normal to rank as the 19th wettest on record. The northeast and Panhandle areas experienced their fifth and sixth wettest spring on record, respectively. The totals exceeded normal by 8-10 inches across the northeast. There were small pockets of 1-4 inch deficits across southern Oklahoma. The January-May statewide average ended at 18.4 inches, 3.89 inches above normal to rank as the 14th wettest such period on record. The wet spring eradicated the last traces of drought within Oklahoma by the end of May, per the U.S. Drought Monitor. It was the first drought-free report for the state since June 21, 2016. Over 73 percent of the state was in drought at the beginning of March.

The wet, stormy weather ensured Oklahoma’s first cooler than normal month since December 2016. The statewide

### May 2017 Statewide Extremes

Description	Extreme	Station	Day
High Temperature	102°F	Altus, Grandfield	27
Low Temperature	29°F	Kenton	1
High Precipitation	10.05 in.	Tishomingo	--
Low Precipitation	0.97 in.	Hooker	--

wind gust of 104 mph on the 18th, the seventh highest wind gust recorded by the network since its inception in 1994. The small town then suffered a flash flood the following evening. The last severe outbreak of the month hit the state on the 27th into the 28th with damaging hail, severe winds and numerous tornado warnings.

According to preliminary data from the Oklahoma Mesonet, the statewide average precipitation total was just a tad below normal at 4.66 inches. The rainfall totals were quite variable across the state, however. Mesonet sites in the Panhandle and a broad swath from south central into the northeast ranged from 1-4 inches above normal. Interspaced in between was an even larger area of below normal totals, with deficits of 1-4 inches. The far southeast also came in 2-3 inches below normal. Tishomingo led the Mesonet with 10.05 inches while Tipton brought up the rear with an inch. May’s totals end a climatological spring season (March-May)

### May 2017 Statewide Statistics

#### Temperature

	Average	Depart.	Rank (1895-2017)
Month (May)	66.6°F	-1.6°F	34th Coolest
Season-to-Date (Mar-May)	61.3°F	2.0°F	17th Warmest
Year-to-Date (Jan-May)	55.0°F	3.3°F	3rd Warmest

#### Precipitation

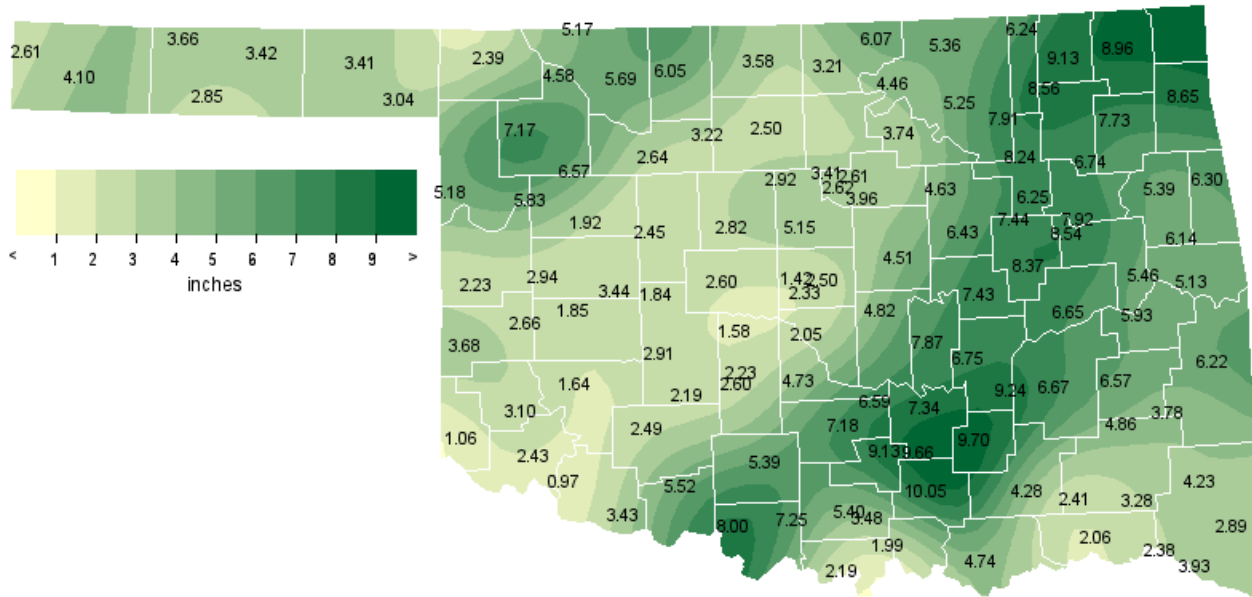
	Total	Depart.	Rank (1895-2017)
Month (May)	4.66 in.	0.16 in.	2nd Driest
Season-to-Date (Mar-May)	13.78 in.	2.66 in.	19th Wettest
Year-to-Date (Jan-May)	18.40 in.	3.89 in.	14th Wettest

Depart. = departure from 30-year normal

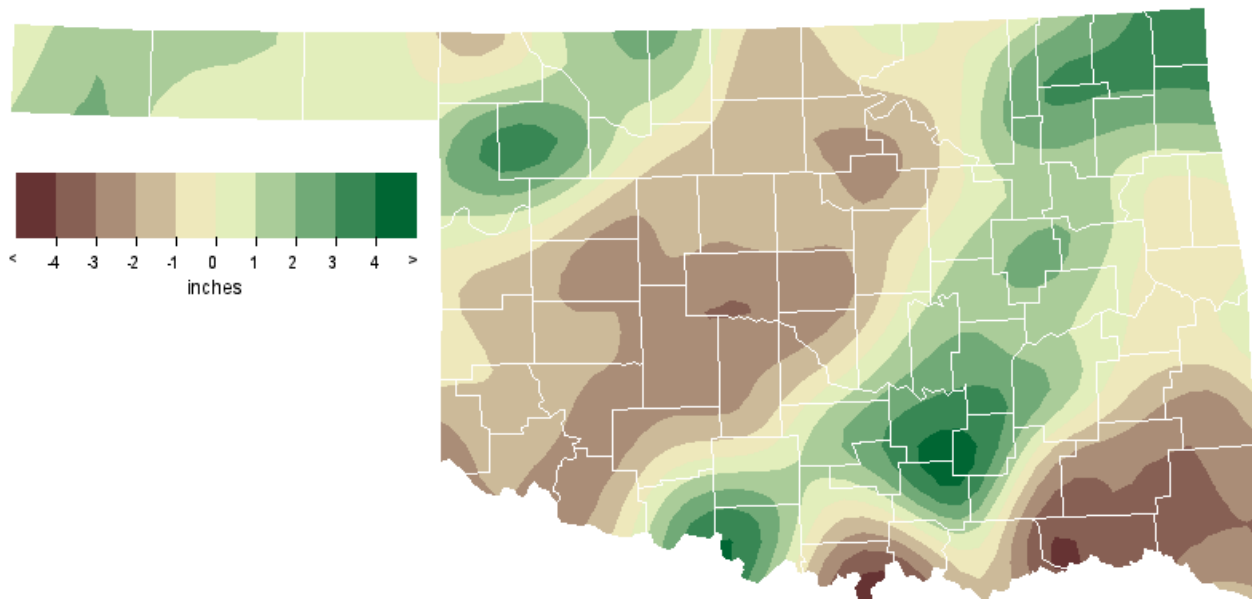
average temperature of 66.6 degrees fell 1.6 degrees below normal to rank as the 34th coolest May on record. While the month itself was mild, one weekend was befitting of mid-summer. Temperatures rose into the upper 90s and 100s from the 25th through the 27th. Combined with a strong flow of moisture from the Gulf of Mexico, the heat index rose even higher, prompting a heat advisory for central and southern

Oklahoma. Burneyville registered a heat index of 110 degrees on the 27th. Altus and Grandfield recorded the highest actual air temperature of 102 degrees that same day. The lowest reading was 29 degrees at Kenton on May 1 – also the state’s last freeze. The first five months of the year ended at 55 degrees, the third warmest such period on record.

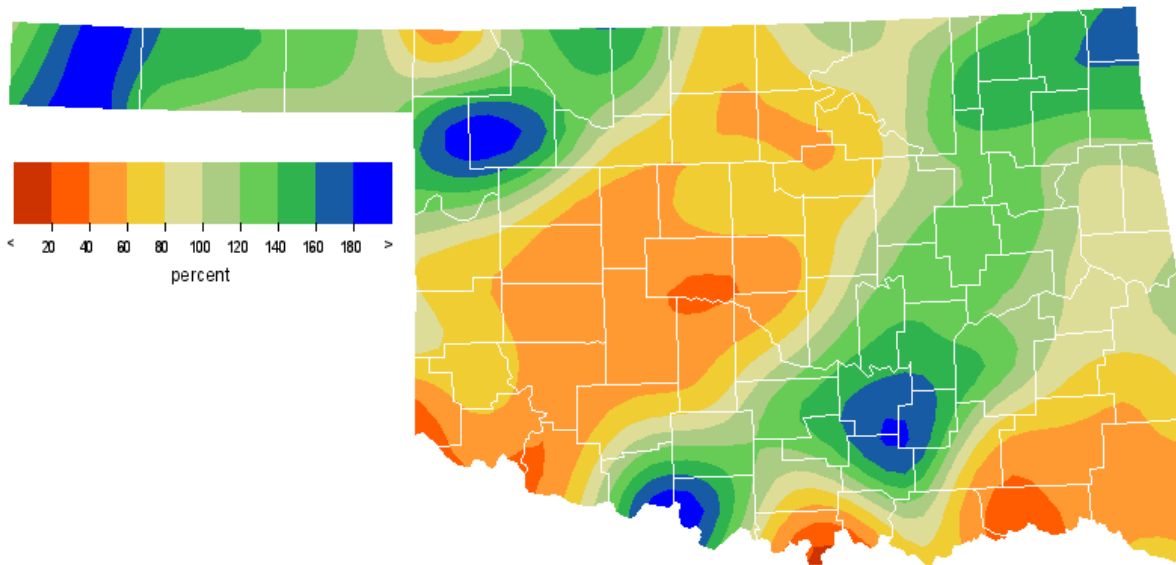
## MAY 2017 OBSERVED PRECIPITATION



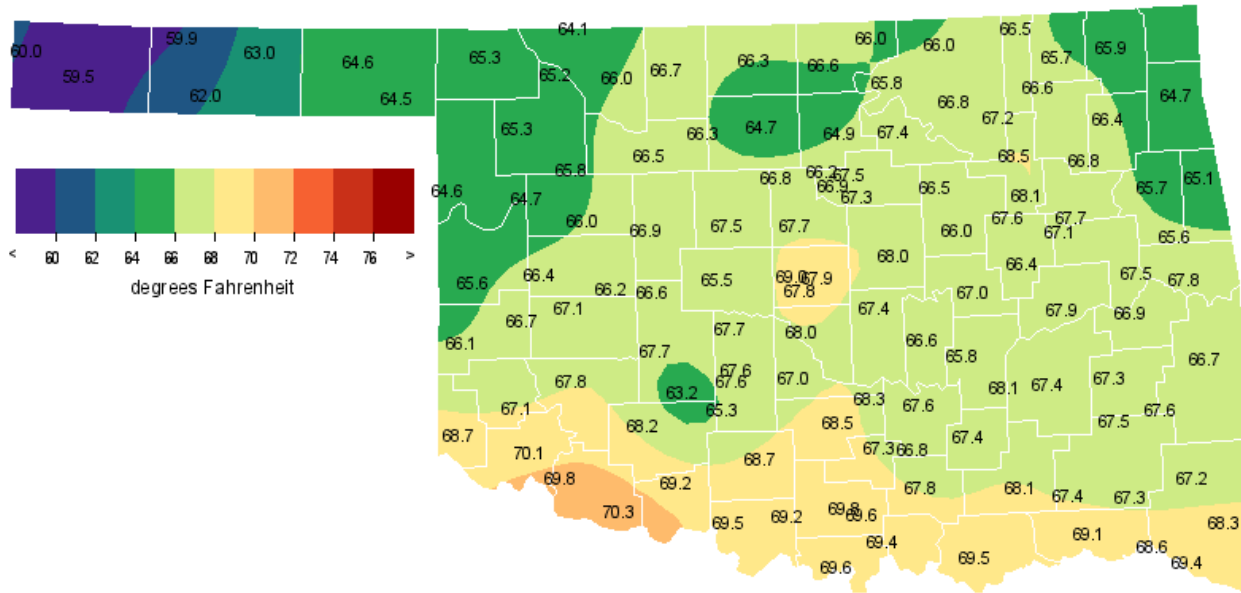
## MAY 2017 DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL PRECIPITATION



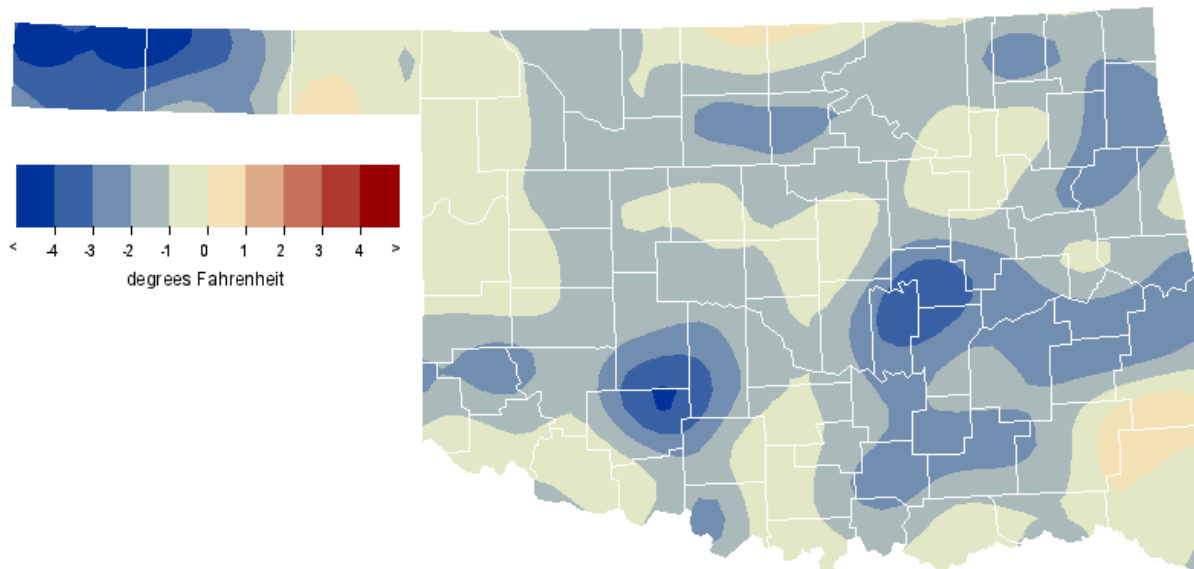
# MAY 2017 PERCENT OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION



## MAY 2017 AVERAGE TEMPERATURE



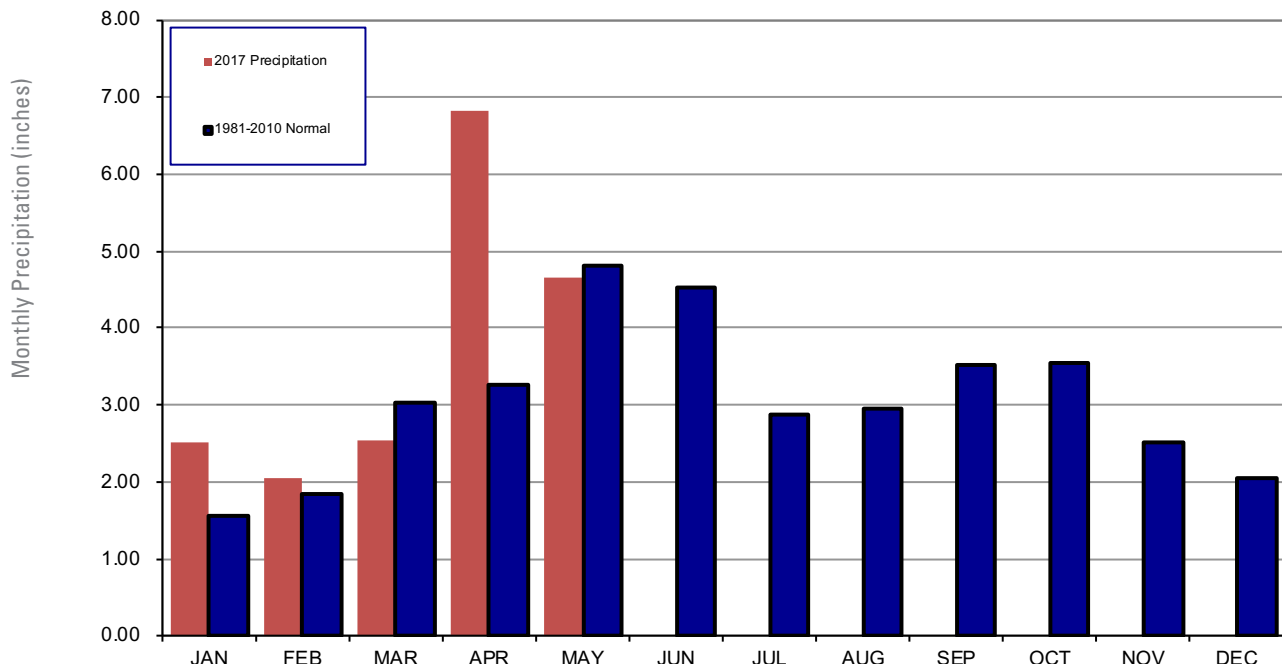
## MAY 2017 DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL TEMPERATURE



# MESONET MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR MAY 2017

PANHANDLE										NORTH CENTRAL										NORTHEAST										WEST CENTRAL										CENTRAL										EAST CENTRAL										SOUTHWEST										SOUTH CENTRAL										SOUTHEAST																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
NAME	MEAN TEMP	HIGH TEMP	LOW DAY	TEMP DAY	HDD	CDD	TOT PPT	HIGH 24-HR	DAY	NAME	MEAN TEMP	HIGH TEMP	LOW DAY	TEMP DAY	HDD	CDD	TOT PPT	HIGH 24-HR	DAY	NAME	MEAN TEMP	HIGH TEMP	LOW DAY	TEMP DAY	HDD	CDD	TOT PPT	HIGH 24-HR	DAY	NAME	MEAN TEMP	HIGH TEMP	LOW DAY	TEMP DAY	HDD	CDD	TOT PPT	HIGH 24-HR	DAY	NAME	MEAN TEMP	HIGH TEMP	LOW DAY	TEMP DAY	HDD	CDD	TOT PPT	HIGH 24-HR	DAY	NAME	MEAN TEMP	HIGH TEMP	LOW DAY	TEMP DAY	HDD	CDD	TOT PPT	HIGH 24-HR	DAY	NAME	MEAN TEMP	HIGH TEMP	LOW DAY	TEMP DAY	HDD	CDD	TOT PPT	HIGH 24-HR	DAY	NAME	MEAN TEMP	HIGH TEMP	LOW DAY	TEMP DAY	HDD	CDD	TOT PPT	HIGH 24-HR	DAY																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
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Arnett	64.5	88	15	35	1	93	78	5.18	1.46	10	Goodwell	62.0	94	25	31	1	141	48	2.85	.65	2	Bixby	68.1	92	27	44	2	42	138	6.25	2.94	19	Porter	67.7	91	26	44	1	45	129	7.92	4.35	19	Burkhead	64.5	98	25	31	1	112	97	3.41	1.18	27	Hooker	63.0	95	25	31	1	127	64	3.42	.62	15	Burbank	65.8	91	27	40	4	77	100	4.46	1.20	3	Kenton	60.0	90	25	29	1	185	30	2.61	.54	9	Copan	66.5	88	27	41	4	65	112	6.24	2.17	3	Slapout	64.4	93	14	34	1	106	89	3.04	.90	2	Foraker	66.0	89	27	40	1	75	105	5.36	1.88	3	Alva	65.9	91	15	37	1	75	105	5.69	2.33	10	Miami	*****	***	***	***	***	*****	*****	*****	*****	***	Freedom	65.3	92	31	33	1	85	95	4.58	1.05	18	Wynona	66.8	91	27	42	1	59	116	5.25	1.64	10	Fairview	66.5	90	31	37	1	64	111	2.64	1.10	11	Putnam	66.0	89	27	35	1	75	106	1.92	1.12	10	Lahoma	66.4	91	31	35	1	68	112	3.22	.99	11	Weatherford	66.3	90	27	34	1	70	109	3.44	2.11	18	Wichita	67.1	92	27	40	1	77	112	3.41	1.17	10	Chickasha	67.6	96	27	36	1	51	131	2.23	.81	10	El Reno	65.4	90	27	37	1	83	96	2.60	1.04	10	Chandler	68.0	92	27	42	1	47	139	4.51	.93	10	Guthrie	67.6	92	27	37	1	59	141	5.15	2.66	19	Kingfisher	67.4	96	27	38	1	62	137	2.82	1.03	11	Okemah	67.0	92	27	42	2	58	121	7.43	4.88	19	Marena	67.0	93	27	40	1	60	121	2.62	.58	10	Perkins	67.4	93	27	41	4	60	133	3.96	1.96	19	Minco	67.7	94	27	37	1	46	129	1.58	.89	16	Spencer	67.9	92	27	40	1	57	147	2.50	.72	19	Marshall	66.8	95	27	36	1	78	133	2.92	1.37	11	Stillwater	67.4	93	27	41	4	59	134	2.61	.63	19	Cookson	65.6	89	27	42	5	77	96	6.14	3.02	19	Washington	67.0	93	27	38	1	50	112	4.73	1.72	19	Eufaula	67.9	90	26	43	1	44	133	6.65	4.05	19	Sallisaw	67.7	91	27	43	2	42	126	5.13	1.55	19	Haskell	67.1	92	26	43	5	55	121	8.54	4.49	19	Stigler	66.9	90	27	42	2	56	114	5.93	2.46	19	Hectorville	67.6	89	27	44	1	46	127	7.44	3.67	19	Stuart	68.2	92	26	43	1	39	137	9.24	5.16	19	Holdenville	68.0	92	26	41	1	****	*****	6.34	4.20	19	Tahlequah	65.7	88	26	43	6	76	99	5.39	2.50	19	McAlester	67.4	91	26	42	5	46	122	6.67	2.25	18	Webbers Falls	67.5	94	27	43	2	47	125	5.46	2.78	19	Okmulgee	66.4	90	26	41	2	62	105	8.37	4.46	19	Westville	65.1	87	27	41	1	86	89	6.30	2.61	19	Altus	70.1	102	27	37	1	25	182	2.43	2.03	10	Hollis	68.7	100	25	35	1	34	148	1.06	.99	10	Apache	67.6	96	27	36	1	****	*****	2.19	1.13	16	Mangum	67.0	97	27	33	1	52	116	3.10	1.46	16	Fort Cobb	67.6	96	27	37	1	50	132	2.91	2.32	10	Medicine Park	68.2	96	27	39	1	38	138	2.49	.92	10	Grandfield	70.2	102	27	37	1	23	185	3.43	1.52	18	Tipton	69.8	100	27	35	1	31	179	.97	.50	10	Hinton	66.6	92	27	37	1	64	114	1.84	.64	10	Walters	69.2	98	27	39	1	28	158	5.52	2.13	18	Hobart	67.8	95	27	35	1	54	141	1.64	.73	10	Ada	67.6	92	26	41	1	52	133	7.34	4.88	19	Lane	68.0	92	26	42	6	36	131	4.28	1.74	20	Ardmore	69.6	95	26	39	1	27	168	3.48	1.23	19	Madill	69.3	97	26	40	1	32	167	1.99	.61	28	Burneyville	69.7	100	26	35	1	37	183	2.19	.94	28	Newport	69.8	96	27	37	1	28	178	5.40	2.04	19	Byars	68.4	92	27	39	1	42	148	6.59	4.05	19	Pauls Valley	68.5	94	27	40	1	37	147	7.18	4.08	19	Centrahoma	67.3	92	26	41	5	53	126	9.70	4.63	19	Ringling	69.2	95	27	38	1	34	164	7.25	3.64	19	Durant	69.5	93	26	43	1	24	165	4.74	2.73	20	Sulphur	67.3	92	27	38	5	58	128	9.13	4.51	19	Fittstown	66.8	92	26	38	1	54	109	9.66	4.92	19	Tishomingo	67.8	94	26	38	1	43	131	10.05	4.57	19	Ketchum Ranch	68.7	95	27	36	1	36	149	5.39	3.37	19	Waurika	69.6	98	27	37	1	27	169	8.00	3.10	18	Antlers	67.3	92	26	40	6	39	111	2.41	.53	27	Mt Herman	67.1	89	27	41	1	48	115	4.23	1.90	11	Broken Bow	68.3	88	27	42	6	30	134	2.89	1.52	11	Talihina	67.6	90	27	41	2	41	121	3.78	1.76	20	Clayton	67.5	90	26	42	2	41	119	4.86	1.92	20	Valliant	68.6	90	26	42	6	31	142	2.38	.98	11	Cloudy	67.2	88	26	42	1	42	110	3.28	1.15	20	Wilburton	67.3	90	26	42	5	49	120	6.57	2.63	20	Hugo	69.2	91	26	44	1	25	154	2.06	.70	11	Wister	66.8	90	27	40	2	50	105	6.22	3.64	20	Idabel	69.3	92	26	44	6	25	159	3.93	2.15	11

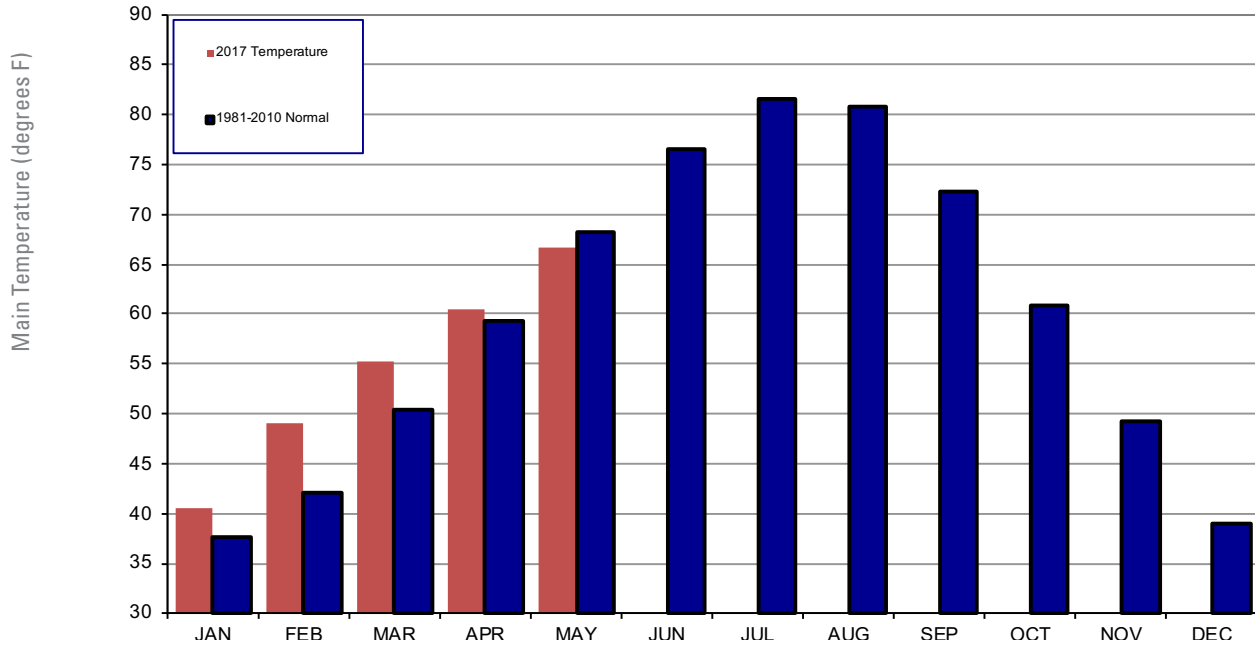
## 2017 STATEWIDE PRECIPITATION MONTHLY TOTALS VS. NORMAL



### May 2017 Mesonet Precipitation Comparison

Climate Division	Precipitation (inches)	Departure from Normal (inches)	Rank since 1895	Wettest on Record (Year)	Driest on Record (Year)	May-16 (inches)
Panhandle	3.41	0.71	41st Wettest	7.12 (2015)	0.19 (2004)	1.68
North Central	4.70	0.34	42nd Wettest	11.11 (1957)	0.63 (1970)	3.59
Northeast	7.01	1.32	26th Wettest	17.98 (1943)	1.45 (1911)	5.03
West Central	3.00	-1.07	51st Driest	12.10 (1982)	0.42 (1966)	2.40
Central	3.69	-1.33	43rd Driest	15.50 (2015)	0.92 (1988)	3.44
East Central	6.77	0.94	42nd Wettest	17.48 (2015)	1.56 (1921)	4.13
Southwest	2.51	-1.70	35th Driest	16.40 (2015)	0.44 (1966)	4.47
South Central	6.40	1.08	43rd Wettest	20.69 (2015)	0.58 (1988)	5.87
Southeast	3.87	-2.28	28th Driest	20.03 (2015)	1.21 (1988)	3.77
Statewide	4.66	-0.16	62nd Driest	14.42 (2015)	1.23 (1988)	3.85

## 2017 STATEWIDE TEMPERATURE MONTHLY TOTALS VS. NORMAL



### May 2017 Mesonet Temperature Comparison

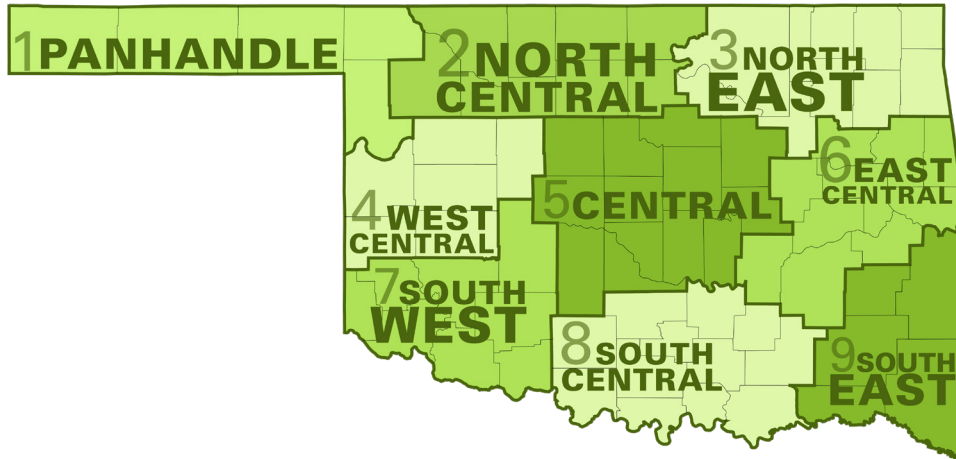
Climate Division	Average Temp (F)	Departure from Normal (F)	Rank since 1895	Hottest on Record (Year)	Coldest on Record (Year)	May-16 (F)
Panhandle	62.6	-2.5	29th Coolest	71.1 (1896)	58.0 (1907)	62.5
North Central	65.7	-1.7	41st Coolest	74.5 (1962)	60.6 (1907)	65.3
Northeast	66.7	-0.8	45th Coolest	74.4 (1962)	61.7 (1917)	65.0
West Central	66.2	-1.7	34th Coolest	75.0 (1896)	60.9 (1907)	66.2
Central	67.2	-1.4	34th Coolest	74.6 (1962)	62.0 (1907)	66.9
East Central	66.8	-1.7	28th Coolest	74.3 (1962)	63.2 (1917)	66.5
Southwest	68.1	-1.9	30th Coolest	76.4 (1996)	63.5 (1907)	68.2
South Central	68.6	-1.5	28th Coolest	75.1 (1996)	63.5 (1907)	67.7
Southeast	67.9	-0.7	44th Coolest	73.1 (1899)	62.8 (1917)	67.2
Statewide	66.6	-1.6	34th Coolest	74.0 (1962)	61.9 (1907)	66.1



## MESONET EXTREMES FOR MAY 2017

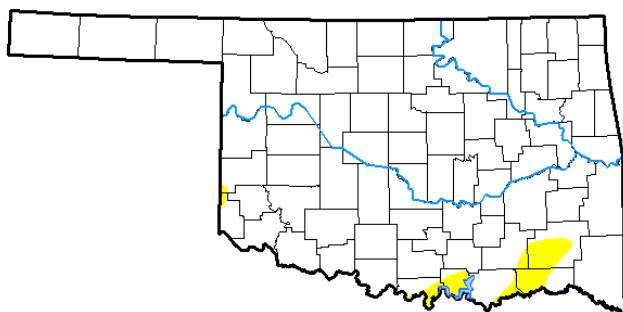
Climate Division	High Temp (F)	Day	Station	Low Temp (F)	Day	Station	High Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Station	High Daily Rainfall (inches)	Day	Station
Panhandle	98	25th	Beaver	29	1st	Kenton	5.18	Arnett	1.46	10th	Arnett
North Central	93	27th	Breckinridge	33	1st	Freedom	7.17	Woodward	3.36	16th	Seiling
Northeast	94	27th	Pawnee	40	4th	Pawnee	9.13	Nowata	4.35	19th	Porter
West Central	95	27th	Erick	32	1st	Camargo	5.83	Camargo	3.18	16th	Camargo
Central	96	27th	Ninnekah	36	1st	Chickasha	7.87	Bowlegs	5.33	19th	Bowlegs
East Central	94	27th	Webbers Falls	41	2nd	Okmulgee	9.24	Stuart	5.16	19th	Stuart
Southwest	102	27th	Altus	33	1st	Mangum	5.52	Walters	2.32	10th	Fort Cobb
South Central	100	26th	Burneyville	35	1st	Burneyville	10.05	Tishomingo	4.92	19th	Fittstown
Southeast	92	26th	Antlers	40	6th	Antlers	6.57	Wilburton	3.64	20th	Wister
Statewide	102	27th	Altus	29	1st	Kenton	10.05	Tishomingo	5.33	19th	Bowlegs

Oklahoma Climate Divisions



# U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma

**May 30, 2017**  
(Released Thursday, Jun. 1, 2017)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	97.17	2.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 05-23-2017	97.17	2.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 02-28-2017	12.64	87.36	73.14	28.77	0.18	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-03-2017	5.61	94.39	83.21	55.75	5.55	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-27-2016	57.82	42.18	19.04	3.05	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 05-31-2016	97.18	2.82	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

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

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

Author:

Chris Fenimore  
NCEI/NESDIS/NOAA



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

## 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 November 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 November result in an artificially high or low value.

## 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 Centers for Environmental Information:

<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>

### SEASONAL OUTLOOKS

Climate Prediction Center:

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/OUTLOOKS\\_index.shtml](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/OUTLOOKS_index.shtml)

### CLIMATE CALENDARS AND OTHER LOCAL WEATHER AND CLIMATE INFORMATION

Oklahoma Climatological Survey:

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



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