OKLAHOMA MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARY
NOVEMBER 2006

OKLAHOMA CLIMATOLOGICAL SURVEY

Oklahoma was enjoying the epitome of an "Indian Summer" during November with just a couple of bouts of cold air to contend with, only to be snapped back to reality in the month's final two days by one of the worst winter storms in recent memory. The coldest air of the season was accompanied by freezing rain, sleet, 15 inches of snow, blizzard warnings, and snow drifts of up to three feet deep. In east central Oklahoma, where the cold air lagged behind the precipitation, more than six inches of rain fell. The warmth of the first 28 days helped the month finish as the 34th warmest November on record. Despite the abundant rainfall in the southeastern half of the state, and keeping in mind that a significant amount of moisture was still contained in frozen precipitation at month's end, November was only the 47th wettest on record. That unremarkable ranking is a direct reflection of the continued aridity of the northwestern half of the state.

Precipitation

As has been the case the past several months, the state was basically cut in half with regards to precipitation, and the northwestern half ended as the big loser once again. The southeastern corner saw general amounts from 5-10 inches, enough to allow east central and southeast sections to finish well over an inch above normal, the 13th and 20th wettest Novembers on record for those areas, respectively. The Panhandle fell on the other end of the spectrum. None of the stations in that region registered more than a tenth of an inch of precipitation, while the Oklahoma Mesonet stations at Boise City and Goodwell were bone dry thoughout the month. The Panhandle received an average of two-hundredths of an inch of precipitation in November, which is over an inch below normal, and the 10th driest on record. North central and northeastern Oklahoma had a deficit of more than an inch as well. It should be noted, however, that the snowfall at the end of the month in those regions had not melted in time to register in rain gauges to count towards November totals. The statewide average was about a half of an inch below normal. The seasonal averages reflected the haves and have-nots, with north central Oklahoma suffering through the 4th driest autumn on record. The southeast fared the best at more than an inch above normal, the 25th wettest on record. The statewide average for January-November remained nearly 10 inches below normal, or the 13th driest such period on record.

Temperature

Nearly all areas of the state were 2-3 degrees above normal for the month, which was reflected in the statewide average temperature of 50.5 degrees. Despite the warmth of November, fall was a half a degree below normal, the 38th coolest on record. The cool autumnal season brought the year-to-date statewide average temperature down from its previous rank as warmest to the 3rd warmest on record. South central Oklahoma remains on track to finish with the warmest year on record for that region at nearly three degrees above normal.

November 2006 Statewide Extremes

Description	Extreme	Station	Date
High Temperature	92ºF	Alva, Freedom	Nov 8
Low Temperature	4ºF	Beaver	Nov 30
High Precipitation	10.51 in.	Talihina	
Low Precipitation	0.00 in.	Goodwell, Boise City	

November Daily Highlights

November 1-3: Low temperatures plunged to the 20s and 30s over most of the state on the 1st, with a few teens in the far northwest. Sunny skies allowed the afternoon high temperatures to bounce back to the 50s and 60s. The following morning was even more frigid, with teens and 20s widespread. High temperatures that day remained 10-15 degrees below normal in the 50s. The dome of high pressure which had ushered in the cold air began to shift to the east on the 3rd. That, coupled with an approaching upper-level low pressure system, swung the winds around from the south at 20-30 mph, allowing high temperatures to bounce back into the 60s, along with a few 70s.

November 4-6: A The air was decidedly more moist on the 4th, making for a cloudy and mild morning. Low temperatures managed to hover in the 40s over a good deal of the state, with a few 50s in the far southeast. Rain showers moved across far northeastern Oklahoma in the early morning hours, but precipitation amounts were very light. High temperatures rose into the 60s for the most part. Showers and storms were widespread on the 5th as the upper-level storm neared the state.

Strong to severe thunderstorms struck west central Oklahoma early on the 5th. Some small hail was reported, and rainfall amounts of more than an inch accompanied the storms. Low temperatures managed to remain in the 40s and 50s with the cloud cover and rainfall. The southeastern one-third received the bulk of the storms and rainfall in the afternoon. Some areas along the Arkansas border saw nearly four inches of rain from the storms. In general, 1-3 inches fell across the southeastern one-third of the state. The thick cloud cover and rainfall kept most areas in the 60s and low 70s for high temperatures. The wet ground and calm winds made for a foggy morning on the 6th. Low temperatures were in the 40s and 50s. The clouds broke up in the afternoon to allow for plenty of sunshine and temperatures well above normal in the 60s and 70s.

November 7-10: Another foggy morning in central sections. Lows in the 30s and 40s gave way to highs in the 70s and 80s with southerly winds gusting over 15 mph. The 8th was the warmest day of the month across the state. Many places set records for high temperatures, with several locations setting all-time November high temperature records. The 8th started out warm with low temperatures in the 40s and 50s, and highs reaching into the 80s and 90s. The Oklahoma Mesonet sites and Alva and Freedom registered the state's highest temperatures of the month with 92 degrees. That tied the all-time November temperature record at Alva, previously set in 1950, and surpassed the 90 degrees recorded at Freedom in 2005 to set a similar mark. A cold front entered the state on the 9th and cooled the northwest down a bit. Temperatures rose into the 80s ahead of the front, but fell to the 70s behind the boundary. The front moved through on the 10th and brought the weather back to more seasonable levels. High temperatures in the 50s and 60s were accompanied by northerly winds at 35-40 mph.

November 11-15: A cool morning following the frontal passage on the 11th gave way to highs in the 50s. Light showers and highs in the 50s and 60s prevailed for the next couple of days. An approaching cold front and low pressure system meant increasing clouds on the 14th, and signaled a return of rain chances for the next two days. The more robust totals were once again in east central Oklahoma, where 1-2 inches fell. Other areas of the state generally saw less than a quarter of an inch, if at all. Winds gusted from the north at nearly 50 mph as the front moved through.

November 16-20: The northerly winds decreased as the low pressure system moved away from the region, being replaced by surface high pressure. Lows fell into the teens in northern Oklahoma on the 16th, but were in the upper 20s to low 30s elsewhere. Most of this period was the same, with lows in the 20s and 30s and highs in the 50s and 60s.

November 21-26: An extremely warm period brought about "Indian Summer" conditions over the next six days for most of the state. Highs reached to near 80 degrees on the 22nd and the following day, Thanksgiving, across much of the state. A weak cold front moved slowly into northwestern Oklahoma on the 24th but didn't create much of a temperature difference. The cool front became stationary across the northwest, with temperatures in the 60s behind the front and 70s ahead of the front. Oklahoma City set a record high on the 24th at 76 degrees. Temperatures continued warm through the 26th ahead of an approaching cold front and upper level storm system.

November 27-30: The next four days saw easily the coldest air of the season for the state, and one of the worst winter storms in years. A cold front moved slowly southeastward into the northwest on the 27th and promptly stalled, triggering a few showers in north central Oklahoma. Temperatures behind the front also remained in the 40s, while southerly winds ahead of the boundary warmed the state into the 70s. The cold air retreated into Kansas overnight on the 28th in the form of a warm front. The mild and humid air helped fuel showers and thunderstorms, some of which approached severe limits with hail and high winds. Low temperatures were well above normal in the 50s and 60s, which helped highs that day rise into the 70s. The bottom fell out on the 29th however, as an unusually strong cold front barreled through the state from the north just as a powerful upper-level storm system approached from the west. The two converged over Oklahoma and brought heavy rains, sleet, freezing rain, and snow to virtually the entire state through the 30th. The southeastern one-third of the state received mostly liquid precipitation, with a bit of sleet and freezing rain thrown in. Over six inches of rain fell in east central parts of the state. The northwestern half of the state had mostly snow, with up to 15 inches falling in the Bartlesville area. Winds gusting to over 40 mph prompted the NWS to issue blizzard warnings for portions of north central and northeastern Oklahoma, where the snow drifted to over three feet high. Much of the precipitation that fell in the northwestern half of the state will not be reflected in the November precipitation statistics since it is frozen and will not be tallied until it melts.

November 2006 Statewide Statistics

Temperature

	Average	Depart.	Rank (1892-2006)
Month (Nov)	50.5ºF	2.2ºF	34th Warmest
Season-to-Date (Sep-Nov)	60.2ºF	-0.5ºF	38th Coolest
Year-to-Date (Jan-Nov)	64.1ºF	2.5ºF	3rd Warmest

Precipitation

	Total	Depart.	Rank (1892-2006)
Month (Nov)	2.28 in.	-0.54 in.	47th Wettest
Season-to-Date (Sep-Nov)	7.32 in.	-2.69 in.	43rd Driest
Year-to-Date (Jan-Nov)	25.02 in.	-9.65 in.	13th Driest

Depart. = Departure from 30-year normal

November 2006 Severe Weather

Significant Tornadoes (F2 or greater)

No significant tornadoes reported in the state.

Hail (2 inches in diameter or greater)

No significant hail reported in the state.

Flooding

No flooding events reported in state.

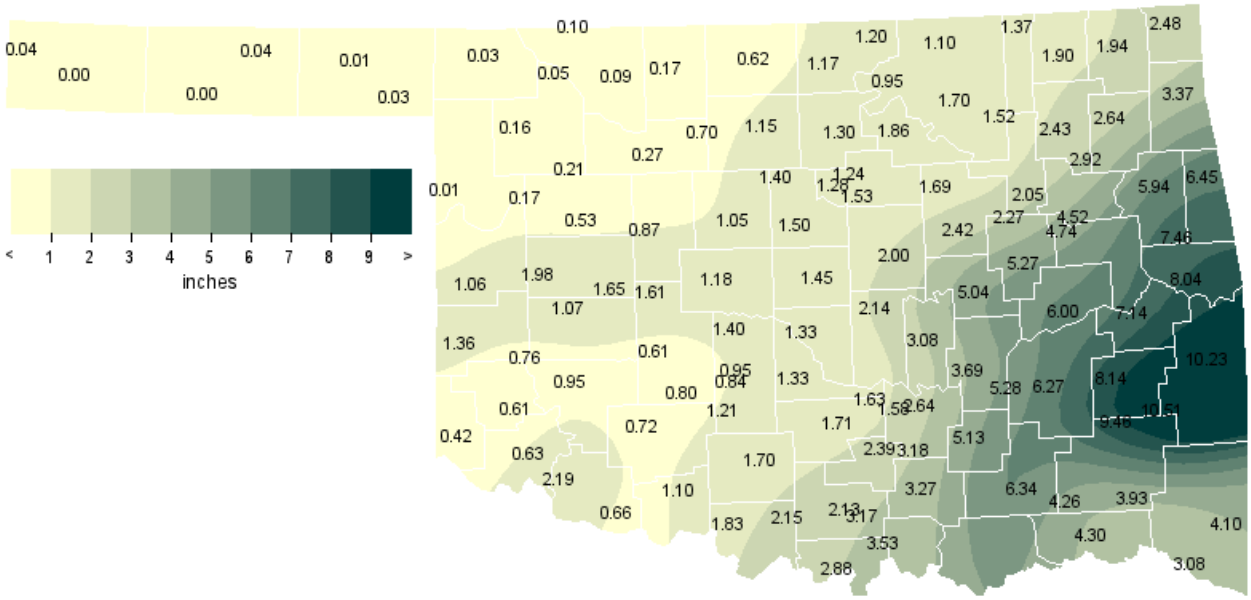
Wind Gusts (70 mph or greater)

Speed (m.p.h.)	Location	County	Day
71	Boise City Mesonet	Cimmaron	14
70	10 NW Texhoma	Texas	14

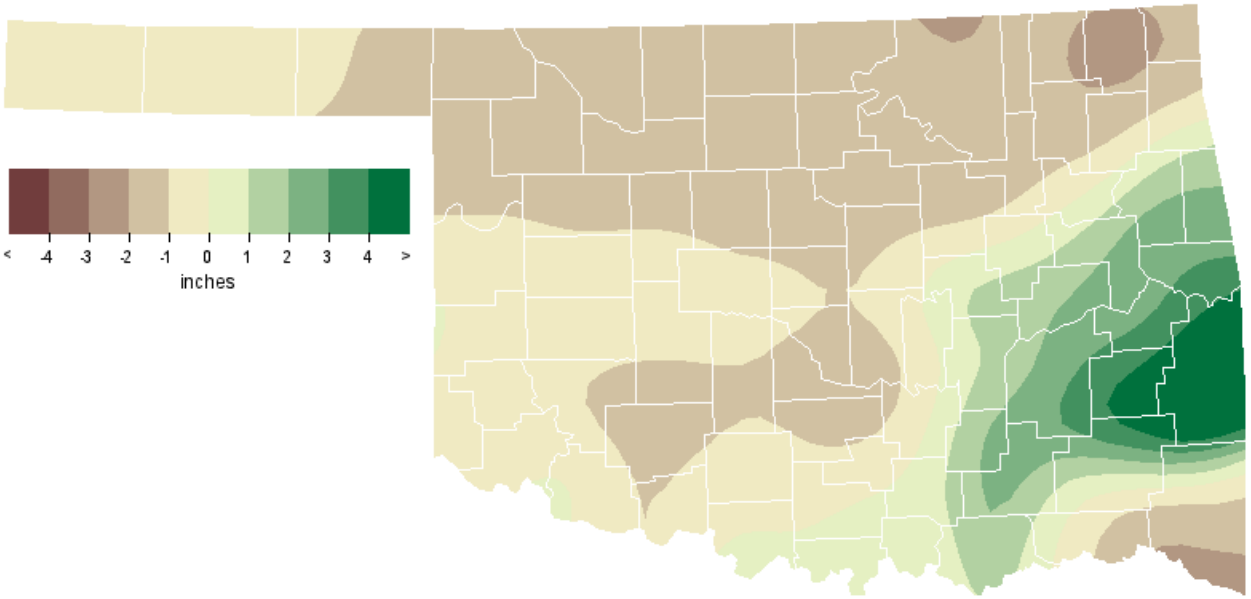
Record Event Report

Description	Day	Location	Record	Previous Record	Year
Warmest Maximum Temperature	8	Bartlesville	88	85	2005
Warmest Maximum Temperature (tied)	9	Bartlesville	83	83	1988
Warmest Maximum Temperature (tied)	24	Oklahoma City	76	76	1990
Warmest Maximum Temperature	29	McAlester	75	73	1975
Coolest Maximum Temperature	30	Oklahoma City	29	32	1896
Daily Snowfall	30	Oklahoma City	4.6 inches	0.3 inches	1955
Daily Rainfall	30	Tulsa	1.14 inches	0.73 inches	1981
Daily Snowfall	30	Tulsa	10.4 inches	0.3 inches	1955

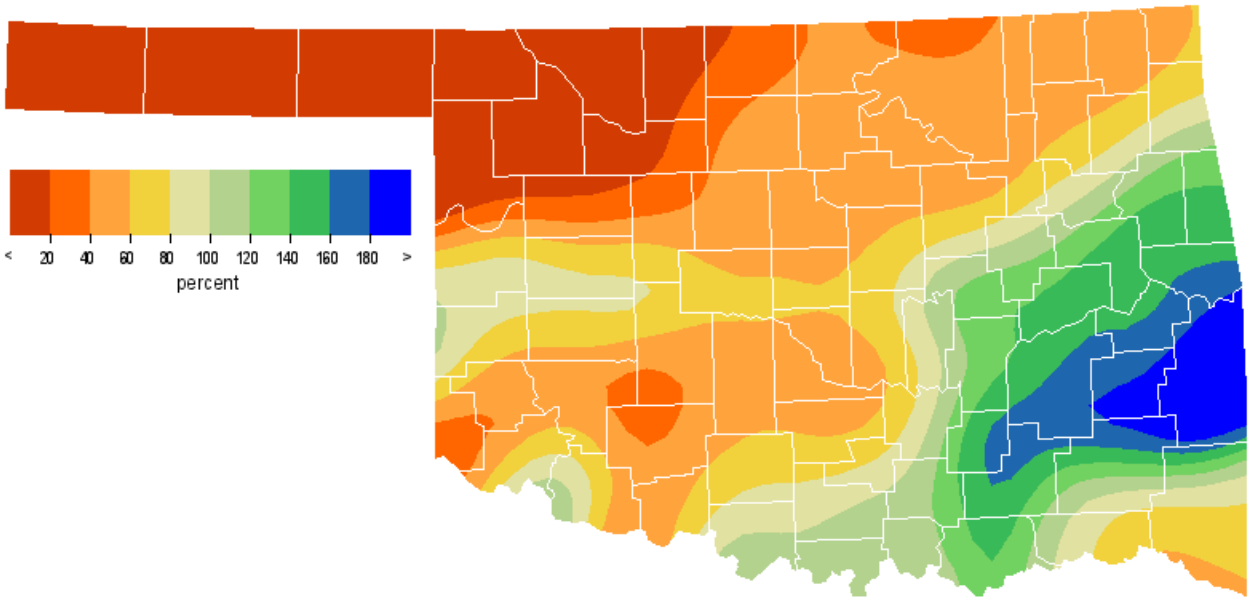
November 2006 Observed Precipitation



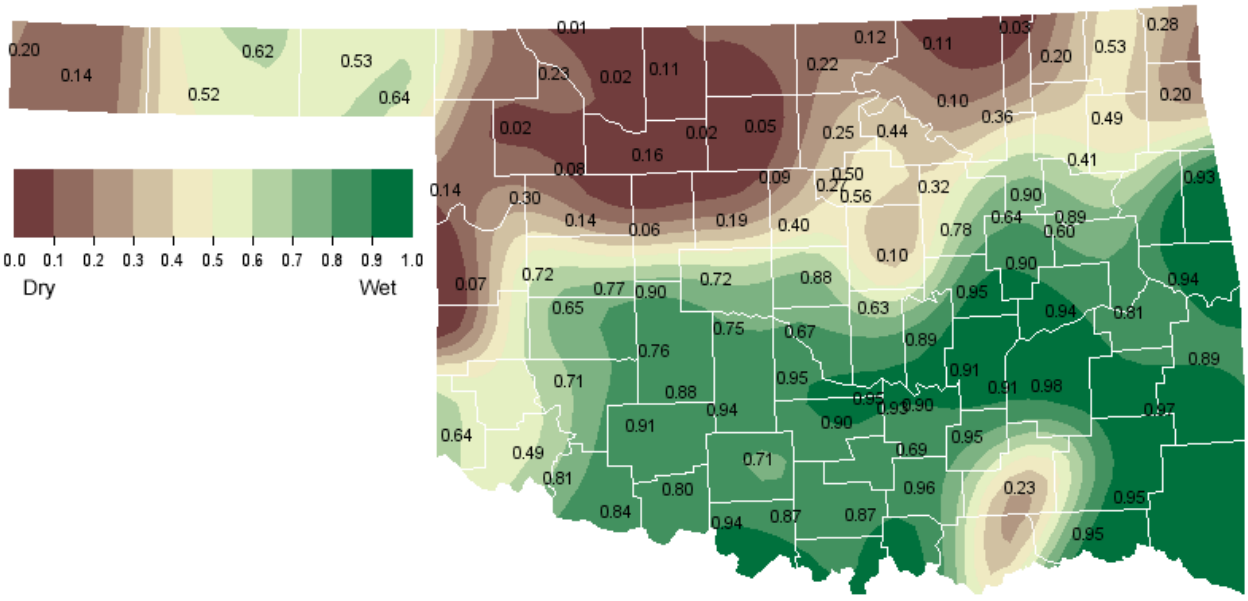
November 2006 Departure from Normal Precipitation



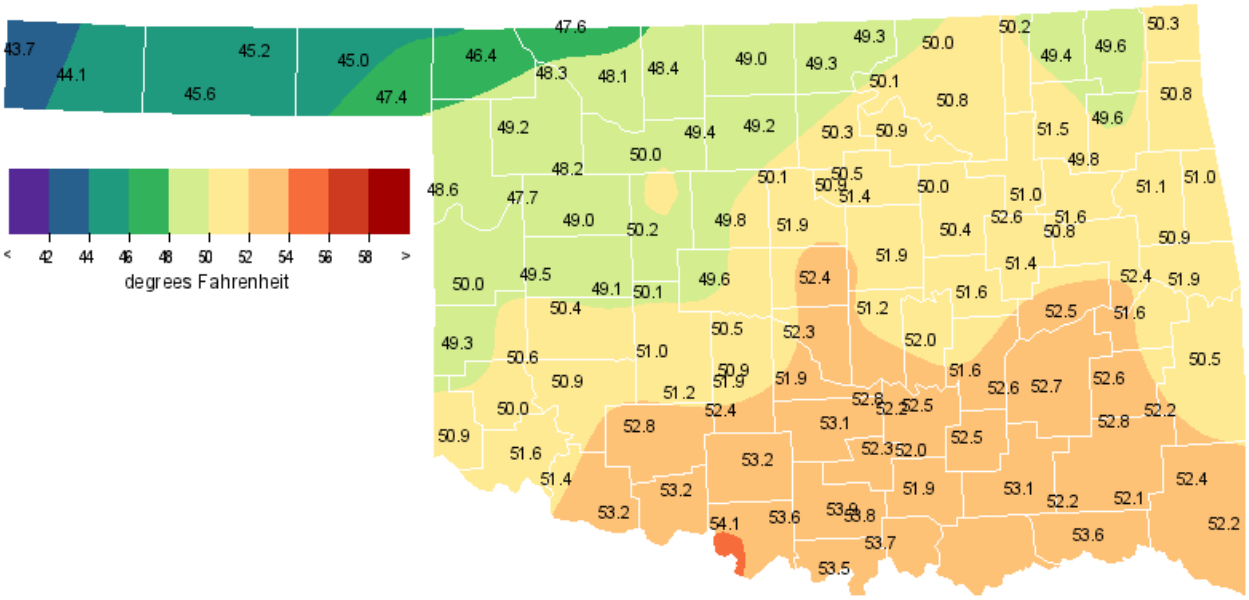
November 2006 Percent of Normal Precipitation



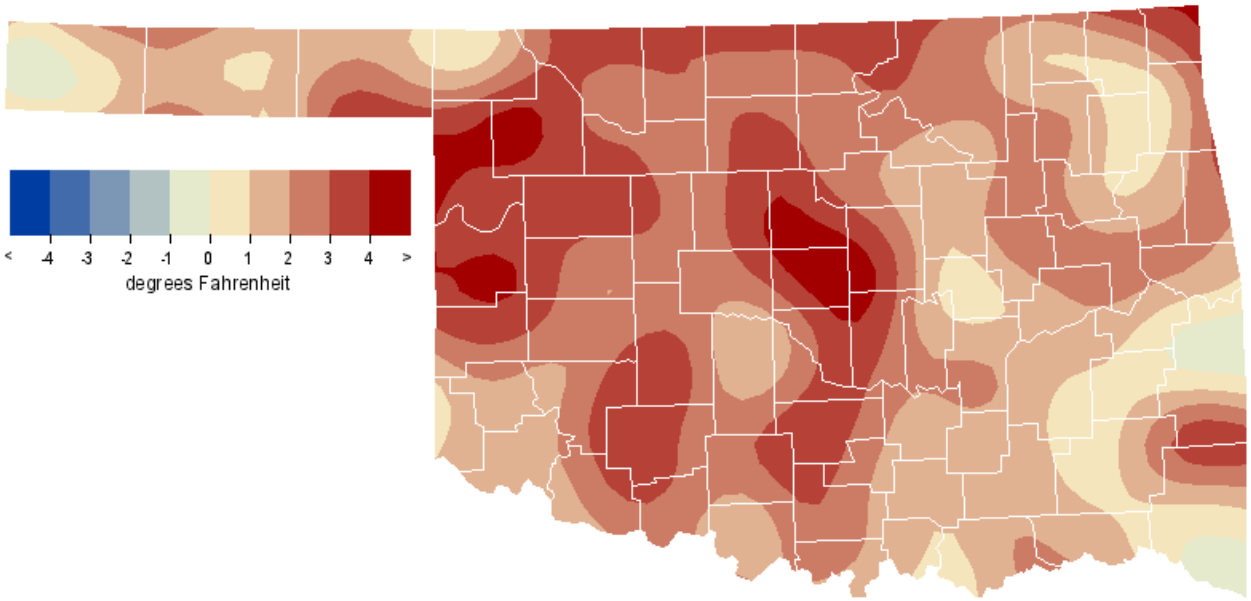
November 2006 Average Soil Moisture at 25cm



November 2006 Average Temperature



November 2006 Departure from Normal Temperature



Mesonet Monthly Summary for November 2006

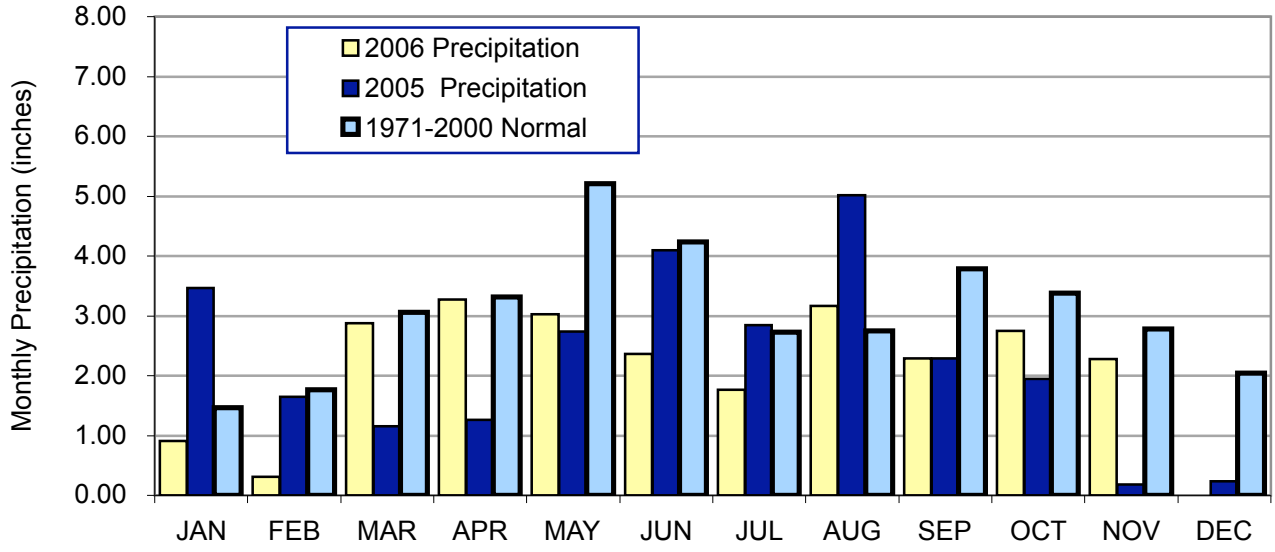
NAME	MEAN TEMP	HIGH TEMP	HIGH DAY	LOW TEMP	LOW DAY	HDD	CDD	TOT PPT	HIGH 24-HR	HIGH DAY
PANHANDLE										
Arnett	48.6	90	8	14	30	494	1	.01	.01	28
Beaver	45.0	88	8	4	30	600	0	.01	.01	12
Boise City	44.1	86	8	8	30	627	0	.00	.00	1
Buffalo	46.4	91	8	11	30	559	2	.03	.01	5
NORTH CENTRAL										
Alva	48.1	92	8	12	30	511	4	.09	.03	15
Blackwell	49.2	87	8	17	30	474	1	1.17	.41	27
Breckinridge	49.2	86	8	17	30	477	4	1.15	.58	27
Cherokee	48.4	91	8	11	30	500	2	.17	.11	15
Fairview	50.0	91	8	18	30	453	4	.27	.20	27
Freedom	48.3	92	8	14	30	505	3	.05	.05	15
Lahoma	49.4	87	8	16	30	471	1	.70	.34	15
NORTHEAST										
Bixby	51.0	82	8	18	30	420	0	2.05	.82	29
Burbank	50.1	88	8	17	30	451	4	.95	.56	15
Claremore	51.5	82	8	17	30	410	5	2.43	.95	15
Copan	50.6	85	8	16	30	****	****	1.37	.45	29
Foraker	50.0	88	8	16	30	456	6	1.10	.47	15
Inola	49.8	79	8	17	30	457	0	2.92	1.20	29
Jay	50.7	86	9	16	30	438	8	3.37	1.59	29
Miami	50.2	86	9	17	30	448	4	2.48	1.00	29
WEST CENTRAL										
Bessie	50.3	84	8	17	30	441	0	1.07	1.03	5
Butler	49.5	86	8	14	30	466	0	*****	1.96	5
Camargo	47.7	88	8	10	30	519	0	.17	.15	15
Cheyenne	50.0	84	8	18	30	456	8	1.06	.98	5
Erick	49.2	82	8	7	30	474	0	1.36	1.35	5
CENTRAL										
Acme	52.4	82	9	19	30	382	5	1.21	.76	5
Bowlegs	52.0	82	8	19	30	393	4	3.08	1.24	5
Bristow	50.5	84	8	18	30	437	0	2.42	.86	28
Chandler	51.8	85	8	18	30	400	5	2.00	.70	15
Chickasha	50.9	83	8	20	30	423	0	.95	.42	5
El Reno	49.7	86	8	18	30	461	1	1.18	.67	5
Guthrie	51.9	87	8	18	30	403	9	1.50	.70	15
Kingfisher	49.8	86	8	18	30	459	2	1.05	.53	5
Marena	50.8	87	8	18	30	429	5	1.28	.50	15
Minco	50.5	83	8	18	30	437	3	1.40	.78	5
EAST CENTRAL										
Calvin	51.6	79	8	19	30	409	6	3.69	1.58	5
Cookson	50.3	79	9	17	30	****	****	7.46	2.54	5
Eufaula	52.5	77	8	19	30	377	3	6.00	1.93	29
Haskell	50.8	79	8	18	30	427	1	4.74	1.55	29
Hectorville	52.5	83	8	18	30	382	7	2.27	.76	15
McAlester	52.6	78	8	20	30	376	6	6.27	2.29	29
Okmulgee	51.4	81	8	19	30	410	2	5.27	1.75	5
SOUTHWEST										
Altus	51.6	81	8	11	30	403	0	.63	.45	5
Apache	51.3	80	9	18	30	413	2	.80	.28	5
Fort Cobb	51.0	84	8	18	30	421	1	.61	.27	5
Grandfield	53.2	85	9	16	30	359	6	.66	.57	5
Hinton	50.1	83	8	18	30	448	2	1.61	1.26	5
Hobart	50.8	81	8	14	30	426	0	.95	.61	5
SOUTH CENTRAL										
Ada	52.6	82	8	19	30	384	12	2.64	1.33	5
Ardmore	53.8	81	8	21	30	346	9	*****	1.71	29
Burneyville	53.4	84	8	23	30	359	12	2.88	1.97	29
Byars	52.8	81	8	19	30	376	10	1.63	.79	5
Centrahoma	52.5	80	8	20	30	384	10	5.13	2.46	29
Durant	*****	***	***	***	***	****	****	*****	*****	***
Fittstown	52.0	81	8	18	30	395	5	3.18	1.69	5
Ketchum Ranch	53.2	83	9	21	30	360	7	1.70	.90	5
Lane	53.0	80	9	22	30	366	7	6.34	2.49	29
SOUTHEAST										
Antlers	52.2	80	8	21	30	392	8	4.26	1.52	5
Broken Bow	52.1	83	10	23	21	389	3	4.10	2.44	5
Clayton	52.8	78	8	22	30	372	6	9.46	3.66	5
Cloudy	52.1	78	10	21	30	386	0	3.93	1.70	5
Hugo	53.7	79	8	22	30	346	6	4.30	2.23	5

NAME	MEAN TEMP	HIGH TEMP	HIGH DAY	LOW TEMP	LOW DAY	HDD	CDD	TOT PPT	HIGH 24-HR	HIGH DAY
Goodwell	45.6	86	8	9	30	583	0	.00	.00	1
Hooker	45.3	86	8	6	30	592	0	.04	.02	27
Kenton	43.6	86	8	9	30	641	0	.04	.02	10
Slapout	47.3	89	8	12	30	533	2	.03	.02	12
May Ranch	47.6	90	8	16	30	528	7	.10	.07	15
Medford	49.0	89	8	15	30	482	2	.62	.42	15
Newkirk	49.1	87	8	16	30	****	****	1.20	.67	27
Red Rock	50.3	87	8	17	30	446	6	1.30	.63	15
Seiling	48.2	90	8	16	30	506	2	.21	.17	15
Woodward	49.2	91	8	14	30	480	7	.16	.16	15
Nowata	49.9	84	9	17	30	****	****	1.90	1.00	29
Pawnee	50.9	87	8	17	30	430	7	1.86	.84	15
Porter	51.7	80	9	18	30	403	3	4.52	1.34	29
Pryor	49.9	84	9	17	30	****	****	2.64	1.29	29
Skiatook	52.5	84	8	25	29	****	****	1.47	.66	29
Vinita	49.5	87	9	16	30	468	3	1.94	1.14	29
Wynona	50.7	88	8	17	30	433	5	1.70	.60	15
Putnam	49.0	85	8	15	30	481	2	.53	.32	5
Retrop	50.6	83	8	15	30	433	0	.76	.75	5
Watonga	50.2	83	8	17	30	448	4	.87	.35	5
Weatherford	49.1	78	8	12	30	478	0	1.65	1.18	5
Marshall	50.1	87	8	18	30	451	4	1.40	.70	5
Ninnekah	51.9	83	8	20	30	396	2	.84	.42	5
Norman	52.3	83	8	19	30	387	5	*****	.64	5
Oilton	49.4	79	9	17	30	****	****	1.69	.71	15
Okemah	51.5	79	8	19	30	408	3	5.04	1.43	5
Perkins	51.4	86	8	18	30	413	4	1.53	.50	15
Shawnee	51.2	81	8	18	30	415	2	2.14	.75	15
Spencer	52.3	84	8	18	30	389	9	1.45	.57	15
Stillwater	50.5	88	8	18	30	435	1	1.24	.52	15
Washington	52.0	83	8	19	30	395	3	1.33	.65	5
Sallisaw	51.9	80	9	20	30	396	3	8.04	2.44	5
Stigler	51.6	81	8	20	30	403	2	7.14	2.56	5
Stuart	52.6	78	8	19	30	378	5	5.28	2.14	29
Tahlequah	51.1	81	9	17	30	420	3	5.94	2.03	29
Webbers Falls	52.3	81	9	20	30	386	6	3.36	1.99	5
Westville	51.0	82	9	16	30	423	4	6.45	1.89	30
Hollis	50.8	85	8	10	30	425	0	.42	.39	5
Mangum	50.1	81	8	10	30	448	0	.61	.58	5
Medicine Park	52.7	81	8	20	30	371	3	.72	.26	5
Tipton	51.4	78	8	11	30	409	0	2.19	1.28	5
Walters	53.2	85	9	18	30	363	8	1.10	.77	5
Madill	53.8	81	8	22	30	347	10	3.53	2.03	29
Newport	53.9	83	8	20	30	345	11	*****	1.48	5
Pauls Valley	53.2	82	8	20	30	365	12	1.71	1.04	5
Ringling	53.5	82	9	22	30	353	10	2.15	1.56	5
Sulphur	52.3	80	8	19	30	389	8	2.39	1.73	5
Tishomingo	52.0	81	8	20	30	****	****	3.27	1.95	29
Vanoss	52.7	83	8	19	30	****	****	1.58	.84	5
Waurika	54.1	84	9	22	30	338	12	1.83	1.49	5
Idabel	53.9	84	10	24	30	****	****	3.08	1.61	5
Mt Herman	52.3	81	10	20	30	381	0	*****	*****	***
Talihina	52.2	79	8	21	30	385	2	10.51	3.85	29
Wilburton	52.5	80	8	20	30	379	5	8.14	3.60	5
Wister	50.4	83	8	21	30	437	1	10.23	3.31	5

November 2006 Mesonet Precipitation Comparison

Climate Division	Precipitation (inches)	Departure from Normal (inches)	Rank since 1895	Wettest on Record (Year)	Driest on Record (Year)	Nov-05
Panhandle	0.02	-1.02	10th Driest	4.07 (1909)	0.00 (1897)	0.22
North Central	0.55	-1.53	34th Driest	6.48 (1964)	0.00 (1910)	0.12
Northeast	2.18	-1.44	52nd Driest	7.37 (1994)	0.00 (1904)	0.52
West Central	1.05	-0.68	53rd Driest	6.62 (1964)	0.00 (1897)	0.04
Central	1.70	-1.11	49th Driest	6.88 (1931)	0.00 (1910)	0.03
East Central	5.71	1.41	13th Wettest	10.16 (1996)	0.20 (1914)	0.26
Southwest	0.94	-0.79	48th Driest	6.61 (2004)	0.00 (1897)	0.00
South Central	2.83	-0.27	39th Wettest	7.62 (1902)	0.00 (1903)	0.10
Southeast	6.45	1.38	20th Wettest	13.16 (1946)	0.00 (1903)	0.80
Statewide	2.28	-0.54	47th Wettest	6.12 (2004)	0.14 (1910)	0.22

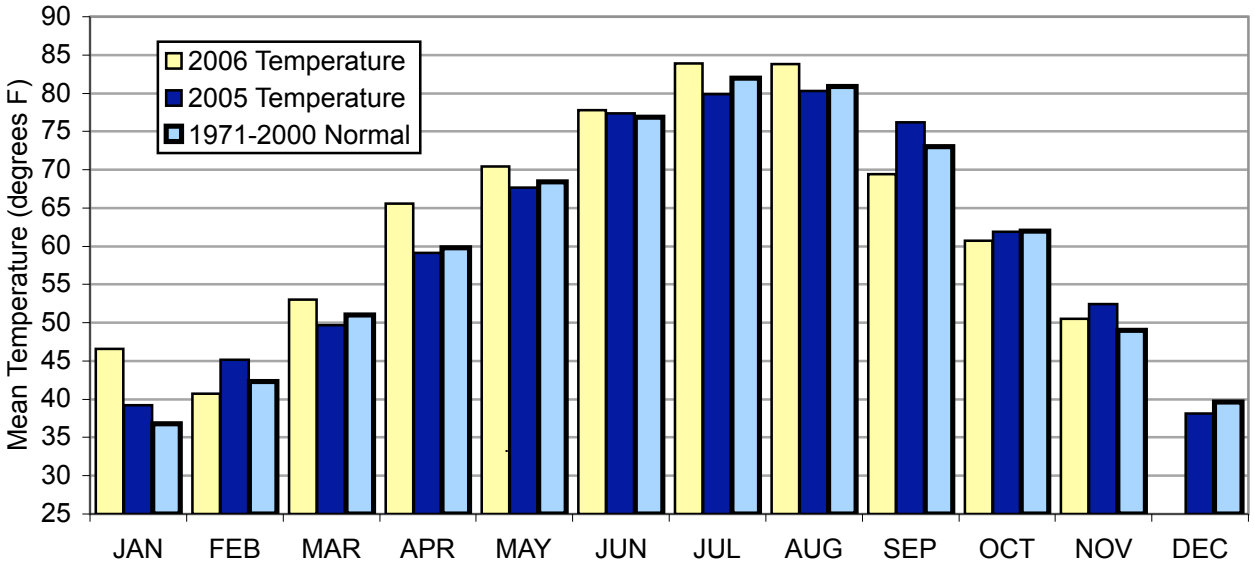
2005 and 2006 Statewide Precipitation Monthly Totals vs. Normal



November 2006 Mesonet Temperature Comparison

Climate Division	Average Temp (F)	Departure from Normal (F)	Rank since 1895	Hottest on Record (Year)	Coldest on Record (Year)	Nov-05 (F)
Panhandle	45.8	1.8	41st Warmest	51.4 (1999)	36.0 (1929)	48.4
North Central	48.9	2.6	29th Warmest	54.5 (1999)	39.0 (1929)	50.6
Northeast	50.4	2.4	27th Warmest	56.4 (1999)	40.9 (1929)	52.8
West Central	49.5	2.7	30th Warmest	54.7 (1999)	39.7 (1929)	51.5
Central	51.2	2.4	29th Warmest	56.8 (1999)	41.3 (1929)	54.3
East Central	51.8	1.9	32nd Warmest	57.8 (1999)	43.4 (1929)	55.0
Southwest	51.5	2.3	34th Warmest	56.3 (1999)	42.1 (1929)	54.3
South Central	53.0	2.0	34th Warmest	58.3 (1927)	44.1 (1929)	57.0
Southeast	52.3	1.6	44th Warmest	58.9 (1909)	44.1 (1976)	55.4
Statewide	50.5	2.2	34th Warmest	56.0 (1999)	41.3 (1929)	53.3

2005 and 2006 Statewide Temperature Monthly Averages vs. Normal



Mesonet Extremes for November 2006

Climate Division	High Temp (F)	Day	Station	Low Temp (F)	Day	Station	High Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Station	High Daily Rainfall (inches)	Day	Station
Panhandle	91	8th	Buffalo	4	30th	Beaver	0.04	Kenton	0.02	12th	Slapout
North Central	92	8th	Freedom	11	30th	Cherokee	1.30	Red Rock	0.67	27th	Newkirk
Northeast	88	8th	Burbank	16	30th	Foraker	4.52	Porter	1.59	29th	Jay
West Central	88	8th	Camargo	7	30th	Erick	1.98	Butler	1.96	5th	Butler
Central	88	8th	Stillwater	17	30th	Oilton	5.04	Okemah	1.43	5th	Okemah
East Central	83	8th	Hectorville	16	30th	Westville	8.04	Sallisaw	2.56	5th	Stigler
Southwest	85	9th	Grandfield	10	30th	Hollis	2.19	Tipton	1.28	5th	Tipton
South Central	84	9th	Waurika	18	30th	Fittstown	6.34	Lane	2.49	29th	Lane
Southeast	83	8th	Wister	20	30th	Wilburton	10.51	Talihina	3.85	29th	Talihina
Statewide	92	8th	Freedom	4	30th	Beaver	10.51	Talihina	3.85	29th	Talihina

December Climatological Outlook

The winter month of December is Oklahoma's second coldest and third driest month. Overnight freezes are the rule, particularly in northern portions of the state, and winter storms often provide the state with snow and ice that create more havoc than the precipitation totals they provide are worth.

Temperature

Mean: 39.6 degrees
Warmest December: 1933 and 1965, 46.5 degrees
Coolest December: 1983, 26.5 degrees
Warmest location: Waurika, 44.2 degrees
Coolest Location: Turpin, 33.5 degrees
Hottest recorded: 92 degrees, Ardmore, December 30, 1951
Coldest recorded: -19 degrees, Goodwell, December 12, 1932

The statewide-averaged monthly mean temperature in December is 39.6 degrees. The range of mean temperature from south-to-north is greater than 10 degrees Fahrenheit, ranging from 44.2 degrees at Waurika to 33.5 degrees at Turpin. Since 1892, the historical range of December statewide-averaged mean temperature is from a low of 25.8 degrees in 1983 to a high of 45.4 degrees, achieved in 1965. Normal daily maximum temperatures for the month range from 45.2 degrees at Newkirk to 56.0 degrees at Waurika. Normals of daily minimum temperatures vary from 19.7 degrees at Beaver to 33.9 degrees at Okemah. The state's recorded December temperature extremes are 92 degrees at Ardmore on December 30, 1951 and 18 degrees below zero (-18) at Perry on December 22, 1989.

Precipitation

Mean: 2.04 inches
Wettest Year: 1984, 4.98 inches
Driest Year: 1980, 0.07 inches
Wettest location: Smithville, 5.19 inches
Driest location: Goodwell, 0.34 inches
Most recorded: 18.13 inches, Bear Mountain Tower, 1971

December precipitation, including rain and melted snow or sleet, when averaged statewide, accumulates only to a depth of 2.04 inches. The historical range of statewide-averaged monthly precipitation is from 0.10 inch in 1950 to 4.98 inches in 1984.The range of normal precipitation, increasing from the northwest to the southeast, is from 0.34 inch at Goodwell to 5.19 inches at Smithville. The extreme southeastern corner of the state received a record-breaking soaking in December 1971, exemplified by the 18.13 inches recorded at Bear Mountain Tower in Western McCurtain County, which established the state record for December precipitation at a given station. The state record for daily precipitation during December (11.34 inches) was established at the same location on December 10, 1971.

Snow is common in the northwestern portions of the state by late December. Boise City averages 6.1 inches of snow per December. Stations in the far southern portions of the state generally average less than one-half inch of snow during December. Records for snowfall extremes were set at Beaver. That panhandle city, while en route to a state-record seasonal snowfall of 87 inches, received 35 inches of snow in December 1911, including 22 inches reported on the 19th. From 1911 forward, sufficient snow has been on the ground on Christmas morning for large portions of the state to declare a "White Christmas" in seventeen different years. Most snowy Christmases have occurred in the state's northwestern half, but other areas of the state have also been affected from time-to-time.

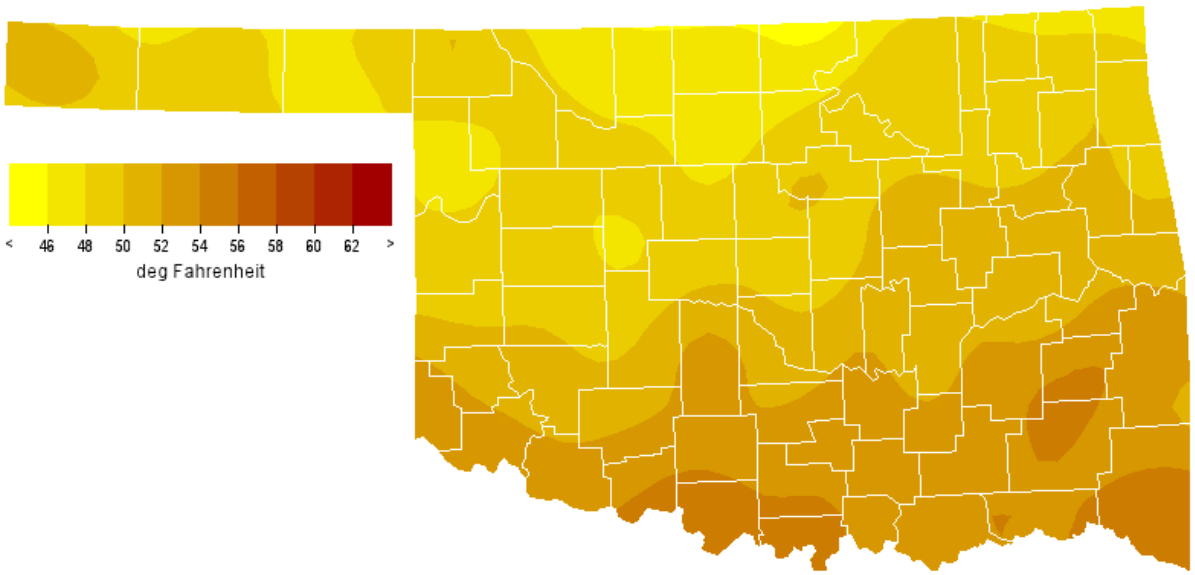
An unfortunate by-product of developing winter storms is the presence of sleet or freezing rain. Major ice storms spread across much of the state, beginning on Christmas Day in 1987 and, again, in 2000. Those two storms left 114,000 and 175,000 customers, respectively, without power for several days. A similar storm in mid-December 1937 left extensive damage to power and telephone lines in central and northern Oklahoma. For many late December travelers, the winter storms that seem inevitable during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day sometimes appear to have become something of an Oklahoma tradition. Other major ice storms struck Oklahoma during the Decembers of 1897, 1916, 1924, 1969, 1972, and 1998.

Tornadoes

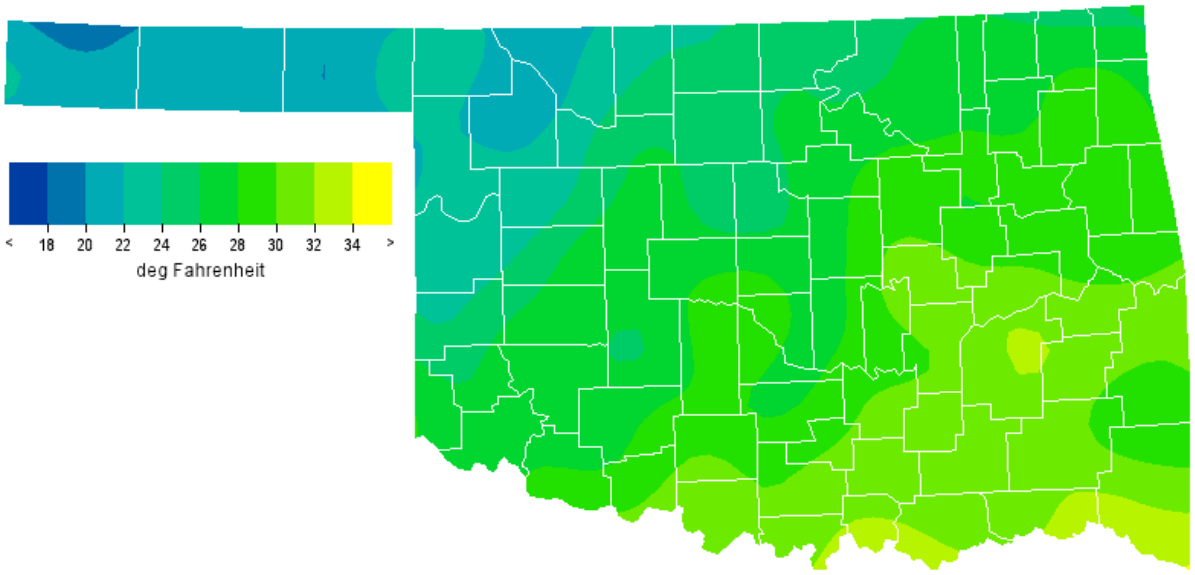
Average December Tornadoes: 0.4
Most: 4 (1982)

Tornadoes are not a regular December feature. Only 22, occurring in seven different years, are included in the comprehensive database that begins in 1950. Four tornadoes were reported in Oklahoma during each of 1971, 1975, and 1982.

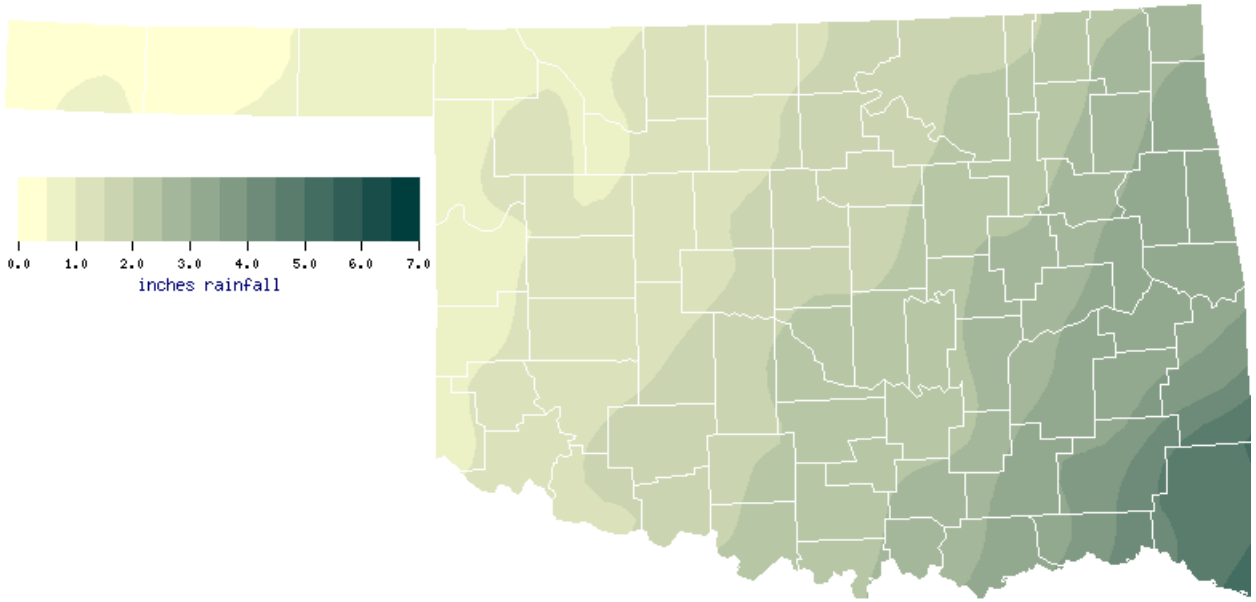
December Normal Monthly Maximum Temperature (1971-2000)



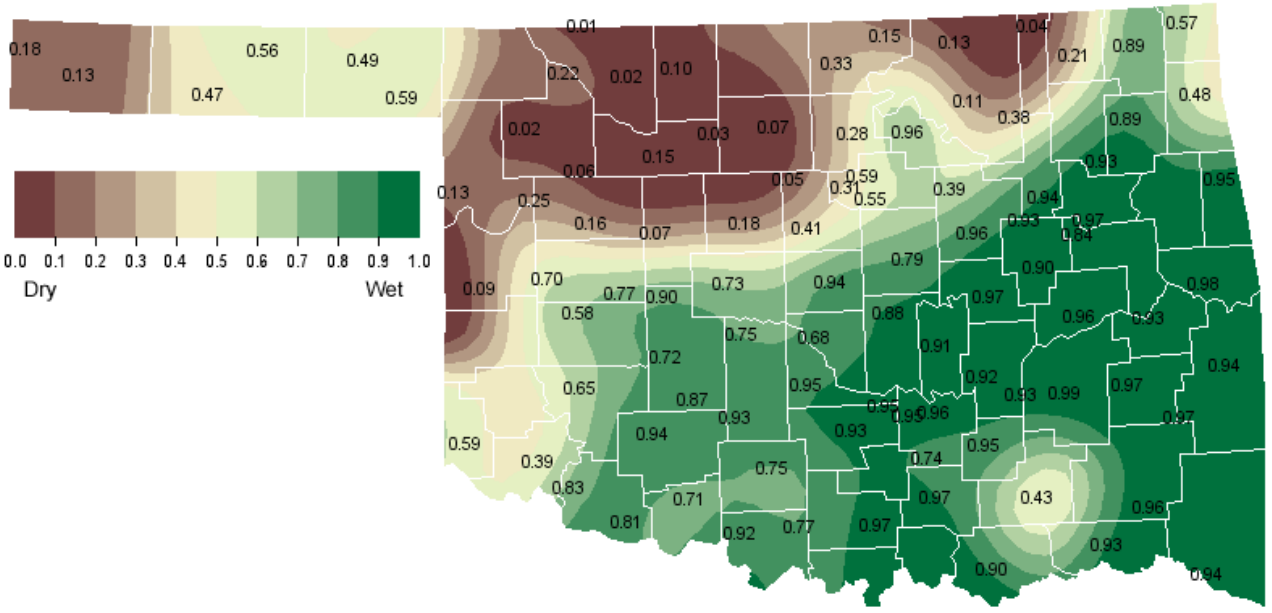
December Normal Monthly Minimum Temperature (1971-2000)



December Normal Precipitation (1971-2000)



December 1, 2006 Soil Moisture Conditions at 25cm



December 2006 Drought Indices

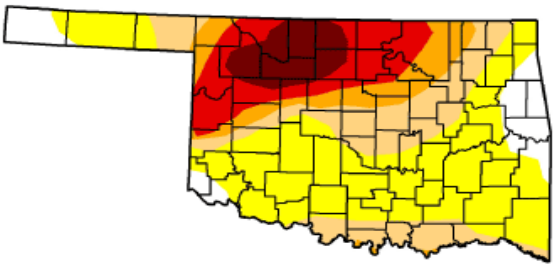
U.S. Drought Monitor

Oklahoma

December 5, 2006
Valid 8 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	8.4	91.6	48.4	29.2	20.3	7.4
Last Week (11/28/2006 map)	10.8	89.2	68.7	38.9	23.7	10.2
3 Months Ago (9/12/2006 map)	2.6	97.4	94.3	53.0	26.4	12.3
Start of Calendar Year (1/3/2006 map)	1.3	98.7	79.9	40.8	10.1	5.7
Start of Water Year (10/3/2006 map)	2.7	97.3	92.7	46.2	16.6	0.0
One Year Ago (12/6/2005 map)	1.4	98.6	62.6	14.4	6.5	0.0



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.

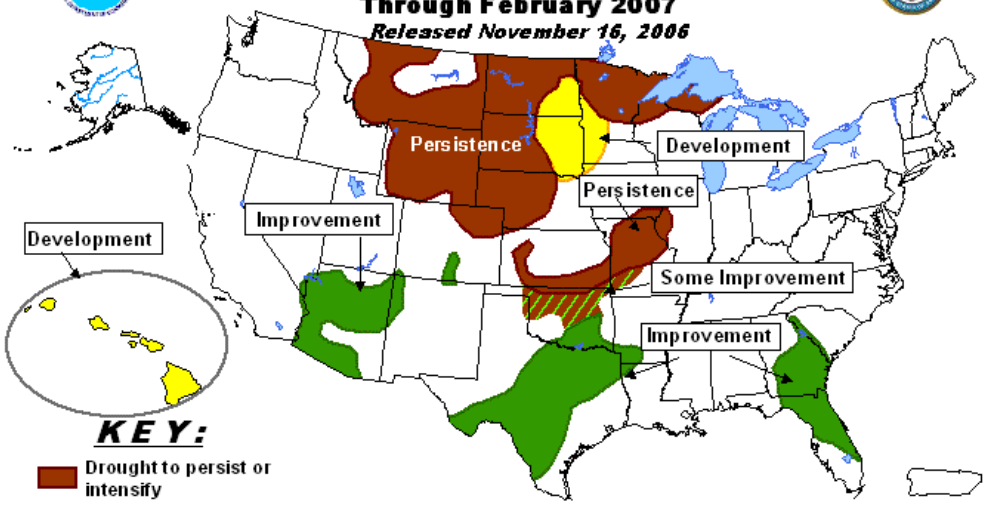
http://drought.unl.edu/dm

USDA National Drought Mitigation Center

Released Thursday, December 7, 2006
Author: Thomas Heddinghaus, CPC/NOAA

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Through February 2007
Released November 16, 2006

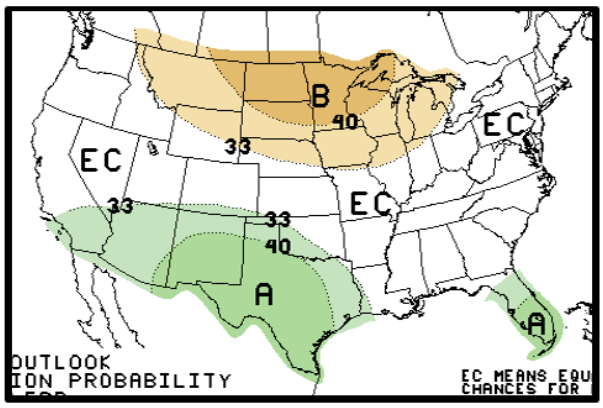


KEY:

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

Depicts general, large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by numerous indicators, including short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more that a few days in advance, so use caution if using this outlook for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4). For weekly drought updates, see the latest Drought Monitor map and text. 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.

December 2006 U.S. Precipitation Forecast



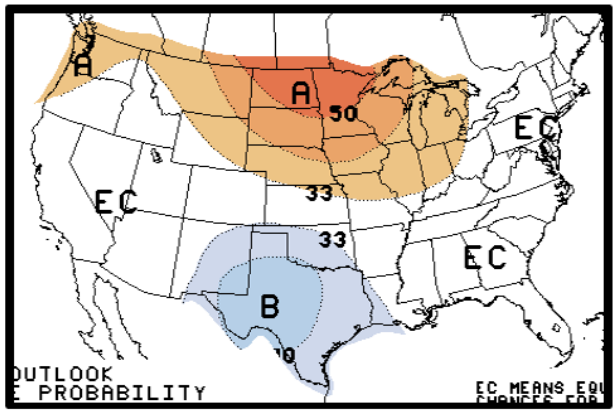
Percent Likelihood of Above or Below Average Precipitation*

5% - 10%
0% - 5%
A = Above

0% - 5%
5% - 10%
B = Below

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

December 2006 U.S. Temperature Forecast



Percent Likelihood of Above and Below Average Temperatures*

10% - 20%
5% - 10%
0% - 5%
A = Above

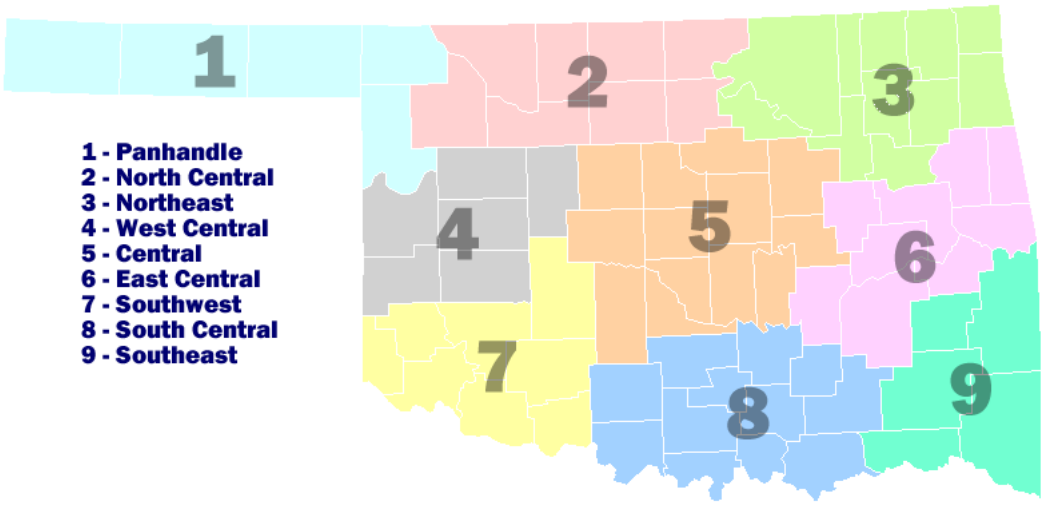
0% - 5%
5% - 10%
B = Below

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

December Climate Normals

Climate Division	Max. Temperature (∞F)	Min. Temperature (∞F)	Avg. Temperature (∞F)	Precipitation (inches)
1	49.2	21.7	35.5	0.68
2	47.2	23.9	35.6	1.30
3	49.4	27.8	38.6	2.29
4	48.8	25.3	37.1	1.11
5	50.2	28.0	39.1	1.98
6	51.2	30.0	40.6	3.01
7	51.6	27.1	39.4	1.39
8	53.3	30.4	41.9	2.54
9	53.9	30.7	42.3	4.21
Statewide	50.5	27.3	38.9	2.14

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/wwcgi.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.ocs.ou.edu or
http://www.ocs.ou.edu/
E-mail (ocs@ou.edu) or telephone (405/325-2541)

OKLAHOMA CLIMATOLOGICAL SURVEY

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