OKLAHOMA MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARY
March 2009

OKLAHOMA CLIMATOLOGICAL SURVEY

A late-month blizzard kicked all other March weather stories to the curb with northwestern Oklahoma seeing more than 2 feet of snow and drifts taller than the average adult. The storm – which provided the state with snow, sleet, freezing rain, and severe thunderstorms – struck on the 27th and 28th. Preliminary reports from the National Weather Service (NWS) offices in Norman and Amarillo indicate the state's 24-hour snowfall record might have been bested in several locations. The previous record was 23 inches from the Buffalo blizzard of February 1971. The totals indicate the spring snowstorm rivals the worst in state history. Before that late storm system, the month was on its way to being exceedingly warm and dry. Despite the moisture and cold air, however, the month still finished as the 32nd warmest and 58th driest on record. That continues a pattern seen during the previous couple months of 2009, and the first three months of the year now rank as the 19th warmest such period since 1895, and the 33rd driest. Severe weather consisted of standard spring fare – large hail and strong winds. One tornado touched down during the month, a weak EF-0 twister which struck near Pawnee early on the 24th.

Precipitation

While the snowfall in the northwest undoubtedly helped the dry conditions there, much of the state was still very dry for the month. The statewide average precipitation total was nearly an inch below normal, with the driest spots located in the western half of Oklahoma. There were wet sections of the state as well, with above normal precipitation totals found in portions of southwestern and northeastern Oklahoma, and into the southeastern corner. The first three months of the year continued dry, more than 2 inches below normal. West central Oklahoma has been the hardest hit due to lack of moisture at nearly three inches below normal for January-March, the 18th driest such period on record. Only the northeast has fared well at just a fraction below normal, the 53rd wettest on record.

Temperature

Despite a few cold intrusions, including the aforementioned blizzard, February ended nearly 2 degrees above normal. All portions of the state were above normal save for small areas in the Panhandle and in far eastern Oklahoma. The January-March period's statewide average temperature was more than 2 degrees above normal.

March 2009 Statewide Extremes

Description	Extreme	Station	Day
High Temperature	92ºF	Altus, Fairview 5	22
Low Temperature	7ºF	Beaver	1
High Precipitation	7.08 in.	Mt. Herman	
Low Precipitation	0.25 in.	Boise City	

March Daily Highlights

March 1-3: March began with unseasonably cool air on the first with low temperatures dipping into the single digits and teens across most of Oklahoma. The month's lowest temperature of 7 degrees was recorded at the Beaver Mesonet site on this day. Temperatures moderated over the next couple of days as winds kicked up from the south as high as 35 mph. By the third, temperatures were in the 60s and 70s across much of the state.

March 4-7: Lots of extreme warmth occurred in this four day period, courtesy of strong south winds kicked up by surface and upper-level low pressure systems. The winds, gusting to 40 mph at times, brought temperatures in the 80s and 90s into all parts of Oklahoma. Altus and Fairview both recorded 92 degrees on the fifth to lead state temperatures for the month. A cold front brought cooler air into the northwest on the sixth, but the warm air returned across the state on the seventh in the form of a warm front. A few scattered storms brought fractional rainfall amounts to a few areas on the seventh.

March 8-14: A cold front early on the eighth brought northwesterly winds gusting to 40 mph, but high temperatures still rose into the 60s and 70s that afternoon. The front moved back to the north on the ninth as a warm front, bringing south winds and moisture from the Gulf of Mexico with it. Showers and storms kicked up along the frontal boundary that evening with a few becoming severe. Hail to the size of golf balls fell in central Oklahoma near El Reno, and wind gusts of 60 mph were scattered across northwestern sections of the state. A strong cold front passed through the state the following two days, bringing temperatures well below seasonal normals. A very cold rain fell across most portions of the state on the 11th, with heavier showers in the extreme southeast. That rain

turned to snow in the northwest on the 12th as an upper-level system moved closer to the state. Freezing drizzle occurred further to the south, with a cold rain in southern Oklahoma. High temperatures rose into the 30s and 40s, but wind chill values were in the 20s and 30s. The weather became a bit more seasonable during the 13th and 14th, but still a bit on the chilly side. Highs on the 14th rose into the 40s and 50s across the state as the low clouds eventually began to dissipate.

March 15-22: The next eight days were mostly on the warm side, but very windy. A few showers struck here and there, but very little rain fell across the state, with no severe weather. Moisture began streaming back into the state on the 22nd with strong southerly winds and highs in the 70s.

March 23-24: An upper-level storm moving towards the state kicked winds up from the south, gusting to 45 mph at times. Moisture from the Gulf streamed northward into the state. A dry line in western Oklahoma kicked off a round of storms on the 23rd that quickly became severe. Lots of large hail reports filtered in from across the state, including a 2.75-inch report near Stillwater. A tornado was confirmed by NWS survey near Pawnee early on the 24th. The EF-0 twister destroyed a barn and significantly damaged a nursery and trees. The storms eventually moved out of the state and cold front moved through, whipping winds around from the northwest with gusts of 50 mph. Highs climbed into the 60s and 70s following the front.

March 25-28: The 25th and 26th set the scene for possibly the greatest springtime snowstorm the state has ever seen. Some rain did fall on those two days, mostly in southern sections as the moisture began to stream back into the state. A few of the storms in south central Oklahoma exceeded severe levels the evening of the 26th. Thunder snow began about that same time in the Oklahoma Panhandle along a very strong cold front. The precipitation for the body of the state on the 27th began early in southern Oklahoma with a few heavy thunderstorms firing up. The snow then began in the northwest around 5 a.m. and started spreading to the east. Freezing rain and sleet occurred out ahead of the snow. Parts of north central Oklahoma eventually lost power due to ice accumulating on lines being blown by strong winds. By the afternoon, temperatures ranged from the 20s in the northwest to the 60s in the southeast. A blizzard warning issued earlier for the northwest verified quite easily as the heavy snow and strong winds gusting to over 40 mph caused white-out conditions across the area. The heavy snow and strong winds continued for much of the 28th before exiting the state to the northeast later that day. The storm totals reported by the various NWS offices, while preliminary, indicate more than 2 feet of snow fell in the Panhandle and northwestern Oklahoma, with drifts at times higher than 5 feet. The snow totals decreased to the south and east. Northeastern Oklahoma was hit by wrap-around precipitation with some areas recording up to 10 inches of snow. High temperatures ranged from the 20s in the areas with snowpack to the 50s in the southeast. The storm brought travel to a standstill over much of northwestern Oklahoma, stranding many along the very roads they were travelling.

March 29-31: A surface low pressure system began moving towards the state, bringing with it warm southerly winds for the next couple of days. The temperatures warmed into the 70s and 80s over parts of the state, but areas still bound by snow were 20-30 degrees cooler. A cold front late on the 30th kicked off rain showers in the southeast and cooled temperatures down to below seasonable territory. High temperatures on the 31st were in the 50s and 60s with a northwesterly wind of 20-30 mph making it feel much cooler.

March 2009 Statewide Statistics

Temperature

	Average	Depart.	Rank (1895-2009)
Month (March)	52.0ºF	1.8ºF	32nd Warmest
Year-to-Date (Jan-Mar)	45.1ºF	2.4ºF	19th Warmest

Precipitation

	Total	Depart.	Rank (1895-2009)
Month (March)	2.36 in.	-0.75 in.	58th Driest
Year-to-Date (Jan-Mar)	4.23 in.	-2.09 in.	33rd Driest

Depart. = Departure from 30-year normal

Record Event Reports

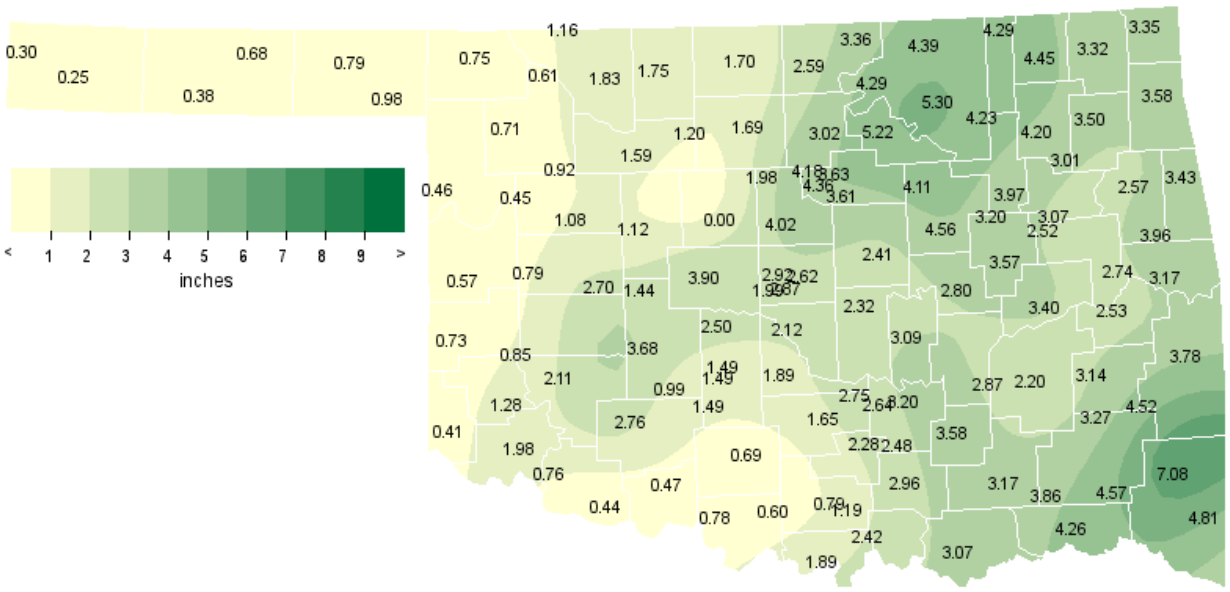
Description	Day	Location	Record	Previous Record	Year
Highest Minimum Temperature (tied)	5	Oklahoma City	59	59	1921
Highest Minimum Temperature (tied)	7	Oklahoma City	61	61	1974
Daily Maximum Snowfall	29	Tulsa	9.9 inches	1 inch	1931
Lowest Minimum Temperature (tied)	29	McAlester	28	28	1975

March 2009 Severe Weather

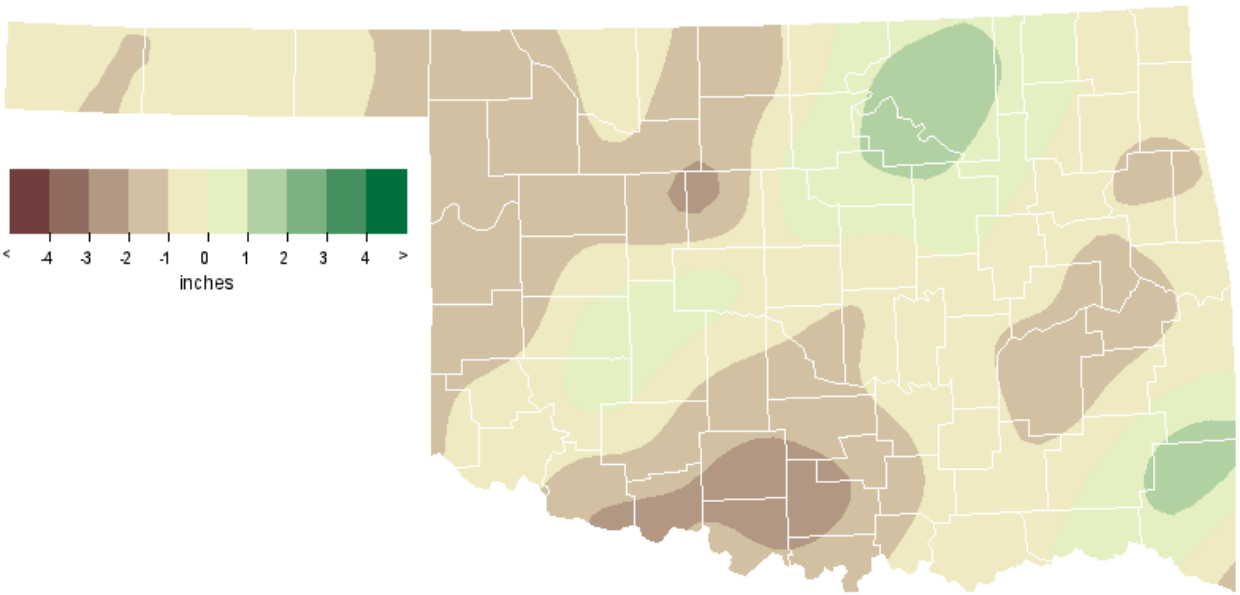
Hail (2 inches in diameter or greater)

Size (in.)	Location	County	Day
2.19	3 S Watonga	Blaine	9
2.75	Stillwater	Payne	23

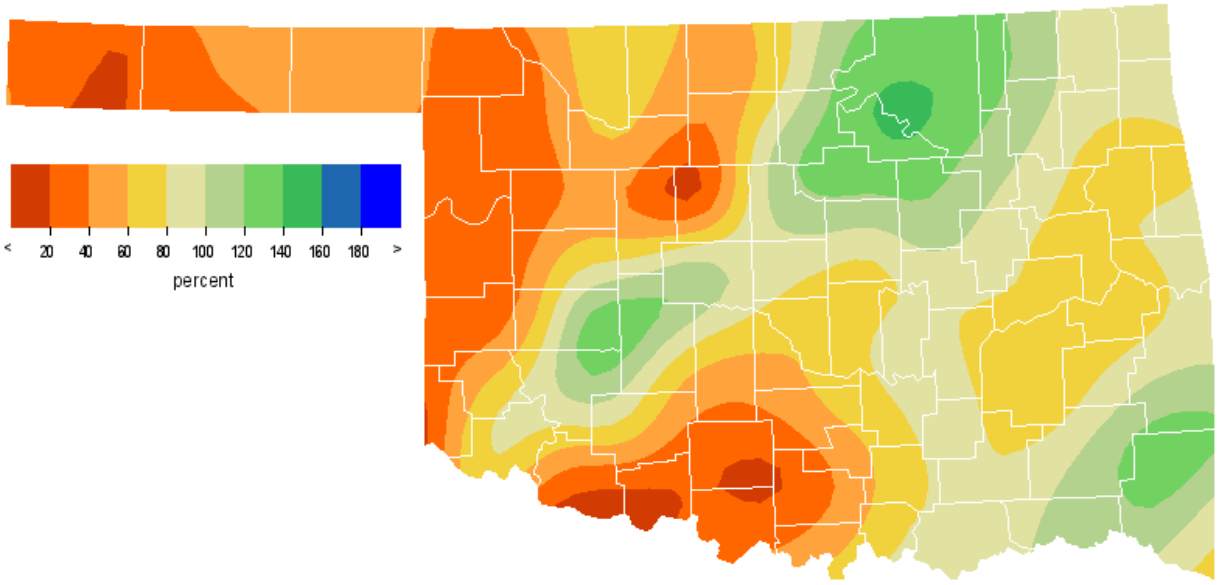
March 2009 Observed Precipitation



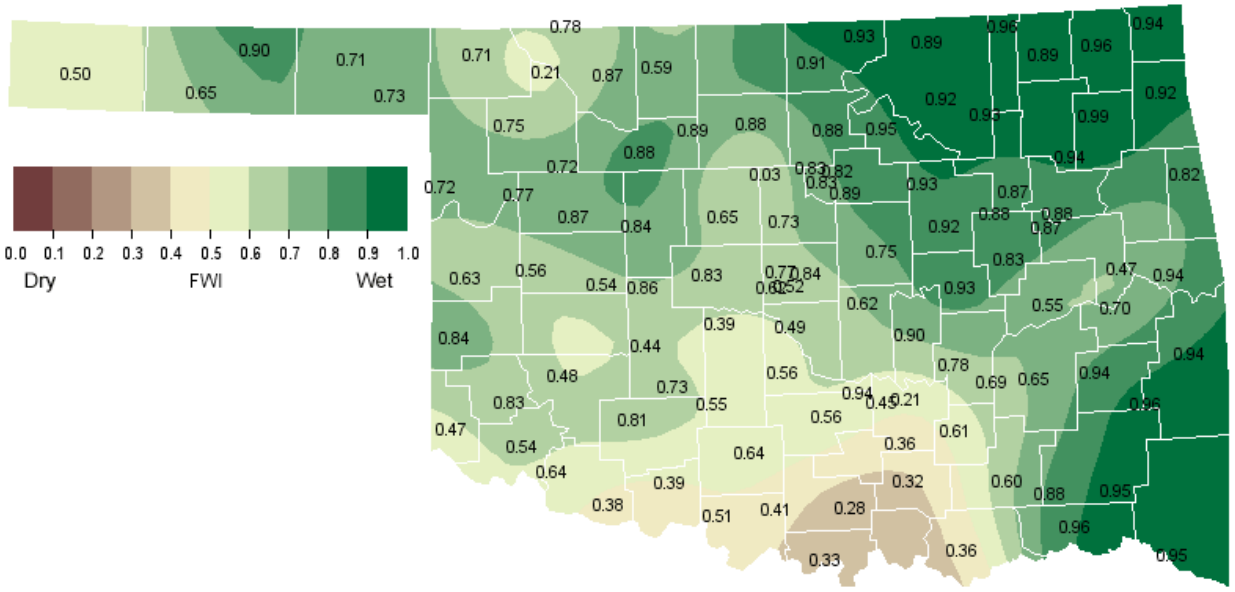
March 2009 Departure from Normal Precipitation



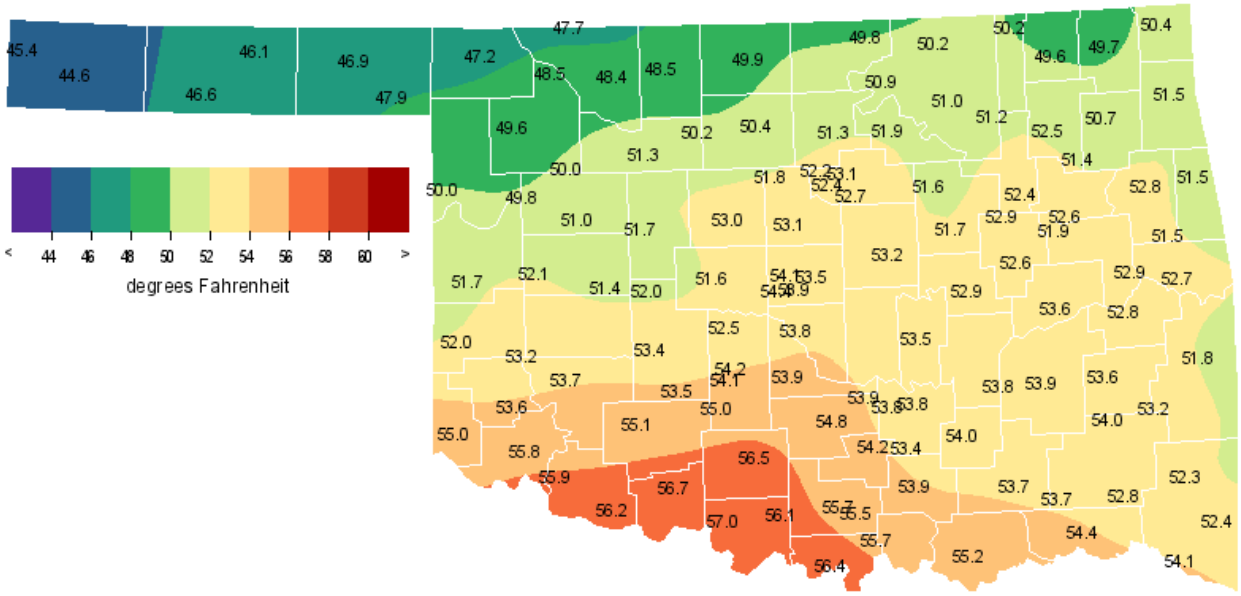
March 2009 Percent of Normal Precipitation



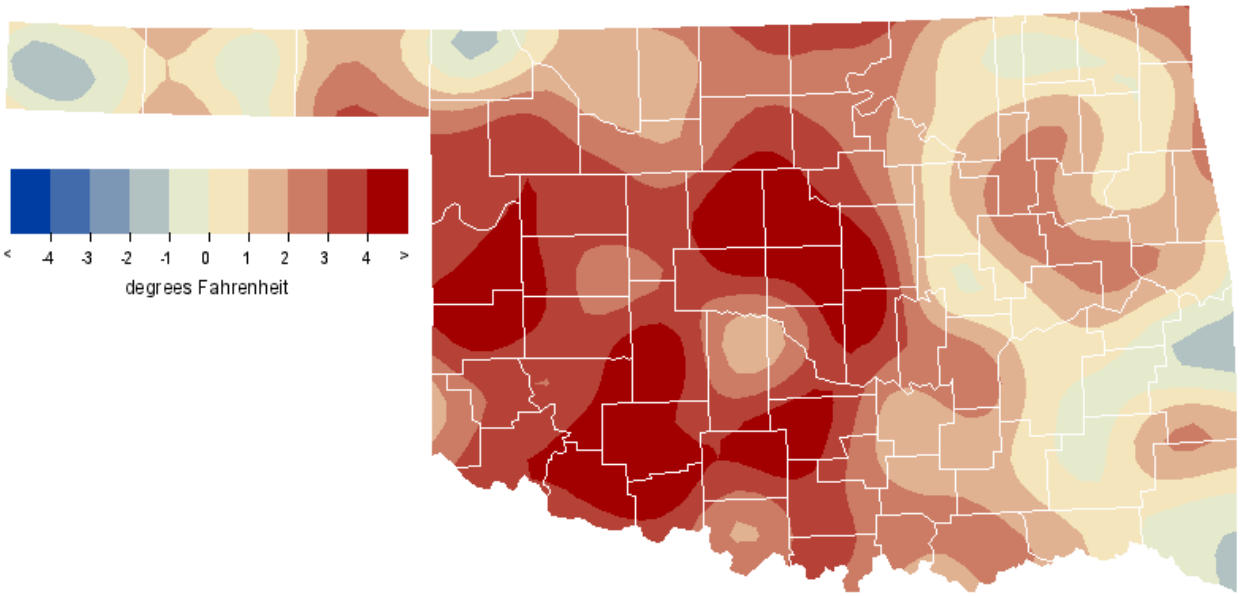
March 2009 Average Soil Moisture at 25cm



March2009 Average Temperature



March 2009 Departure from Normal Temperature



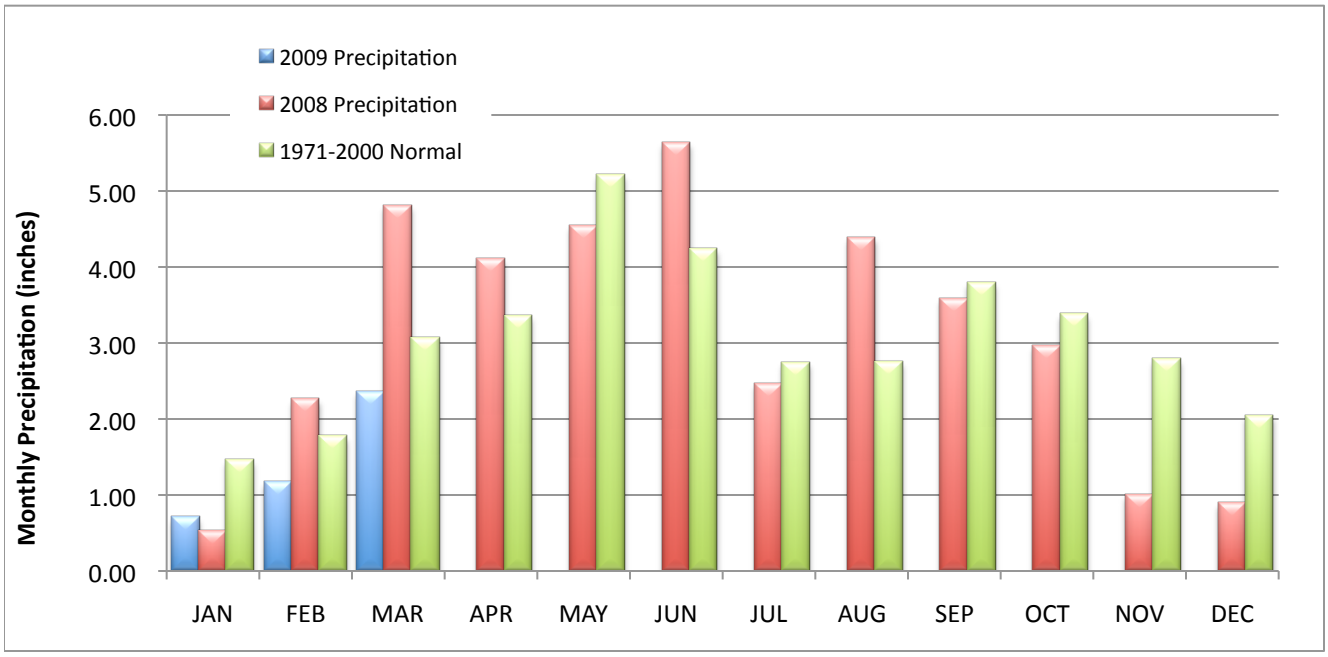
Mesonet Monthly Summary for March 2009

NAME	MEAN TEMP	HIGH TEMP	HIGH DAY	LOW TEMP	LOW DAY	HDD	CDD	TOT PPT	HIGH 24-HR	HIGH DAY
PANHANDLE										
Arnett	49.9	89	4	15	1	470	2	.46	.28	28
Beaver	46.9	88	4	7	1	560	0	.79	.41	29
Boise City	44.6	80	4	11	28	632	0	.25	.09	26
Buffalo	47.2	90	4	9	1	555	5	.75	.45	29
Goodwell	46.6	82	4	13	1	571	0	.38	.26	28
Hooker	46.1	85	17	12	1	586	0	.68	.32	21
Kenton	45.4	80	4	14	1	607	0	.30	.23	13
Slapout	47.9	88	4	13	1	533	3	.98	.91	29
NORTH CENTRAL										
Alva	48.3	89	5	11	1	525	8	1.83	1.10	29
Blackwell	50.2	86	5	16	1	****	****	2.59	1.47	27
Breckinridge	50.4	88	5	15	1	467	15	1.69	.75	27
Cherokee	48.5	90	5	12	1	520	9	1.75	1.40	29
Fairview	51.4	92	5	15	1	445	23	1.59	.90	29
Freedom	48.5	87	5	10	1	516	4	.61	.55	29
Lahoma	50.2	89	5	15	1	470	11	1.20	.48	28
May Ranch	47.7	87	5	12	1	543	6	1.16	.49	29
Medford	49.9	90	5	12	1	486	16	1.70	.64	29
Newkirk	49.7	85	5	13	1	484	12	3.36	2.05	27
Red Rock	51.3	86	5	14	1	446	21	3.02	1.57	27
Seiling	50.0	89	5	12	1	473	7	.92	.40	28
Woodward	49.7	91	4	14	1	484	8	.71	.41	28
NORTHEAST										
Bixby	52.4	84	17	19	2	416	25	3.97	1.48	27
Burbank	50.9	85	5	15	2	455	17	4.29	2.00	27
Claremore	52.5	84	18	17	1	409	21	4.20	1.07	28
Copan	50.1	83	6	15	1	470	9	4.29	1.46	24
Foraker	50.1	85	5	14	1	474	11	4.39	1.47	27
Inola	51.4	83	6	16	2	435	14	3.01	.98	28
Jay	51.5	81	18	15	1	435	16	3.58	.74	24
Miami	50.5	81	17	13	1	460	10	3.35	.67	24
Nowata	49.6	83	6	15	1	486	10	4.45	1.15	24
Pawnee	51.8	86	5	17	1	429	20	5.22	1.73	24
Porter	52.6	83	18	17	1	403	17	3.07	.82	27
Pryor	50.8	82	17	15	1	458	16	3.50	1.42	28
Skiatook	51.1	84	6	16	1	445	15	4.23	1.33	27
Vinita	49.7	82	6	13	1	483	9	3.32	.98	24
Wynona	51.0	85	6	16	2	453	18	5.30	2.36	24
WEST CENTRAL										
Bessie	*****	***	***	***	***	****	****	*****	*****	***
Butler	52.1	91	5	14	1	414	15	.79	.27	28
Camargo	49.9	89	5	14	1	471	2	.45	.28	28
Cheyenne	51.7	87	5	17	1	420	7	.57	.17	13
Erick	52.1	88	5	14	1	410	10	.73	.20	27
Putnam	51.1	90	5	18	1	444	12	1.08	.40	29
Retrop	53.2	89	5	16	1	384	19	.85	.31	23
Watonga	51.6	85	5	18	1	427	13	1.12	.30	28
Weatherford	51.4	84	5	18	1	429	7	2.70	1.99	23
CENTRAL										
Acme	55.0	86	5	21	1	346	35	1.49	.41	23
Bowlegs	53.5	83	5	19	2	381	25	3.09	1.20	27
Bristow	51.8	83	18	15	2	430	20	4.56	2.09	27
Lake Carl Blac	52.2	86	17	16	1	419	22	4.18	1.64	23
Chandler	53.2	84	17	18	1	392	26	2.41	1.46	27
Chickasha	54.2	86	5	19	2	358	24	1.49	.45	23
El Reno	51.6	86	5	18	1	428	13	3.90	1.49	23
Guthrie	53.2	85	5	16	1	391	25	4.02	1.31	23
Kingfisher	*****	***	***	***	***	****	****	*****	*****	***
Marena	52.5	86	17	17	1	408	19	4.36	1.46	23
Minco	52.6	85	5	19	1	397	12	2.50	1.29	23
Marshall	51.8	86	5	13	1	428	18	1.98	1.10	27
Ninnekah	54.1	86	5	21	1	364	25	1.49	.56	23
Norman	53.8	84	5	20	1	371	25	2.12	.64	23
Oilton	51.6	84	17	14	2	436	21	4.11	1.35	27
OKC East	53.9	84	5	20	1	373	29	2.87	1.34	27
OKC North	54.1	85	5	19	1	366	29	2.92	.93	27
OKC West	54.3	85	17	21	1	358	28	1.99	.64	27
Okemah	52.9	81	18	19	1	395	19	2.80	1.28	27
Perkins	52.7	86	5	17	1	406	25	3.61	1.26	27
Shawnee	53.3	83	17	19	1	****	****	2.32	.96	27
Spencer	53.5	84	17	18	1	380	23	2.62	1.34	27
Stillwater	53.1	86	17	18	1	395	26	3.63	1.20	27
Washington	54.0	85	17	20	1	366	24	1.89	.73	27
EAST CENTRAL										
Calvin	*****	***	***	***	***	****	****	*****	*****	***
Cookson	51.5	80	18	14	2	428	10	3.96	1.06	27
Eufaula	53.7	81	6	20	1	372	20	3.40	1.34	27
Haskell	51.9	82	6	17	2	422	15	2.52	.91	27
Hectorville	52.9	83	18	19	1	402	26	3.20	1.47	27
McAlester	53.9	81	6	17	2	366	22	2.20	.49	30
Okmulgee	52.6	83	18	18	2	411	26	3.57	1.87	27
Sallisaw	52.7	82	6	19	2	393	13	3.17	.70	26
Stigler	52.8	81	18	16	2	396	17	2.53	.53	24
Stuart	53.8	82	6	20	1	368	20	2.87	.82	27
Tahlequah	52.8	82	18	15	1	392	14	2.57	.62	30
Webbers Falls	52.9	81	6	20	1	386	12	2.74	.77	27
Westville	51.5	79	6	15	1	426	6	3.43	.92	24
SOUTHWEST										
Altus	55.8	92	5	19	1	316	30	1.98	1.17	23
Apache	53.5	87	5	19	1	376	19	.99	.56	23
Fort Cobb	53.4	87	5	17	1	378	17	3.68	2.90	23
Grandfield	56.2	90	5	18	1	304	32	.44	.14	14
Hinton	52.0	84	5	18	1	409	7	1.44	.57	23
Hobart	53.7	90	5	17	1	373	22	2.11	.84	9
Hollis	54.9	91	4	19	1	336	23	.41	.15	14
Mangum	53.6	91	5	16	1	371	19	1.28	.52	23
Medicine Park	55.1	89	5	21	1	339	31	2.76	1.91	23
Tipton	56.0	90	5	15	1	310	30	.76	.24	27
Walters	56.7	89	5	21	1	296	39	.47	.21	14
SOUTH CENTRAL										
Ada	53.8	83	5	18	2	371	24	3.20	1.14	27
Ardmore	55.5	86	5	23	2	322	29	1.19	.58	27
Burneyville	56.4	88	5	19	2	309	41	1.89	.43	11
Byars	53.8	83	18	21	1	372	26	2.75	1.27	27
Centrahoma	53.9	82	5	17	2	366	24	3.58	1.54	27
Durant	55.2	82	5	21	2	329	26	3.07	.83	27
Fittstown	53.4	82	5	21	1	376	16	2.48	.85	27
Ketchum Ranch	56.4	90	5	22	1	312	46	.69	.26	27
Lane	53.7	80	5	18	2	368	18	3.17	.72	19
Madill	55.8	85	5	20	2	317	31	2.42	.53	10
Newport	55.7	87	5	23	1	319	31	.79	.37	27
Pauls Valley	54.8	86	5	22	1	345	30	1.65	.51	30
Ringling	56.1	89	5	20	1	307	31	.60	.20	27
Sulphur	54.1	83	5	21	1	362	25	2.28	.81	27
Tishomingo	53.9	83	5	21	1	363	19	2.96	1.09	27
Vanoss	53.8	84	18	17	2	372	25	2.64	.81	27
Waurika	57.0	89	5	23	1	288	40	.78	.35	27
SOUTHEAST										
Antlers	53.7	81	6	17	2	371	20	3.86	.86	24
Broken Bow	52.4	79	5	19	2	393	4	4.81	1.13	11
Clayton	54.0	81	6	18	2	361	20	3.27	.90	27
Cloudy	52.8	78	18	20	2	389	10	4.57	1.00	11
Hugo	54.3	78	5	23	1	349	18	4.26	1.30	11
Idabel	54.1	79	5	21	2	351	14	*****	*****	***
Mt Herman	*****	***	***	***	***	****	****	7.08	1.81	11
Talihina	53.1	79	6	17	2	385	17	4.52	1.41	27
Wilburton	53.7	81	6	16	2	372	21	3.14	.66	24
Wister	51.8	81	18	16	2	427	19	3.78	.97	24

March 2009 Mesonet Precipitation Comparison

Climate Division	Precipitation (inches)	Departure from Normal (inches)	Rank since 1895	Wettest on Record (Year)	Driest on Record (Year)	Mar-08
Panhandle	0.57	-1.06	40th Driest	5.84 (1973)	0.00 (1895)	0.13
North Central	1.70	-0.98	58th Driest	8.18 (1973)	0.00 (1936)	2.24
Northeast	4.01	0.34	30th Wettest	9.79 (1973)	0.00 (1900)	5.60
West Central	1.04	-1.36	39th Driest	7.24 (1973)	0.00 (1895)	2.31
Central	2.76	-0.48	44th Wettest	7.88 (1990)	0.00 (1900)	3.50
East Central	3.01	-1.08	56th Driest	10.63 (1945)	0.46 (1911)	8.88
Southwest	1.48	-0.78	51st Driest	5.52 (1973)	0.00 (1940)	1.82
South Central	2.13	-1.42	39th Driest	8.46 (1945)	0.20 (1950)	6.50
Southeast	4.37	-0.11	44th Wettest	12.38 (1945)	1.01 (1954)	9.80
Statewide	2.36	-0.75	58th Driest	7.46 (1973)	0.38 (1971)	4.44

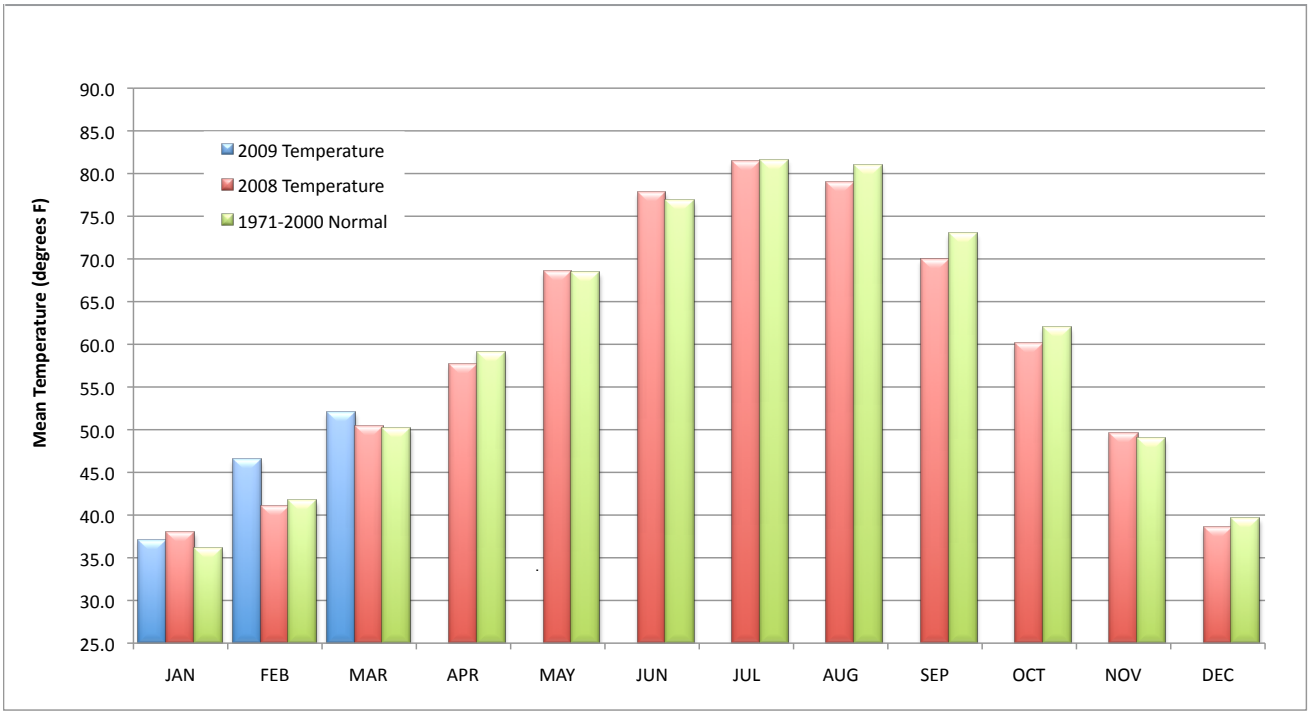
2008 and 2009 Statewide Precipitation Monthly Totals vs. Normal



March 2009 Mesonet Temperature Comparison

Climate Division	Average Temp (F)	Departure from Normal (F)	Rank since 1895	Hottest on Record (Year)	Coldest on Record (Year)	Mar-08 (F)
Panhandle	46.8	0.5	38th Warmest	54.3 (1910)	32.9 (1915)	46.8
North Central	49.6	1.4	37th Warmest	57.6 (1910)	35.3 (1915)	48.1
Northeast	51.1	1.5	34th Warmest	58.6 (2007)	37.3 (1960)	49.6
West Central	51.6	2.7	23rd Warmest	57.3 (2007)	35.8 (1915)	50.1
Central	53.1	2.6	25th Warmest	59.1 (2007)	37.7 (1915)	51.3
East Central	52.7	1.2	35th Warmest	60.2 (2007)	39.2 (1915)	52.6
Southwest	54.6	3.1	18th Warmest	58.8 (2007)	38.2 (1915)	52.2
South Central	54.9	1.9	30th Warmest	61.1 (1907)	40.4 (1915)	53.1
Southeast	53.2	0.4	43rd Warmest	61.5 (1907)	42.0 (1915)	52.4
Statewide	52.0	1.8	32nd Warmest	58.3 (2007)	37.6 (1915)	50.6

2008 and 2009 Statewide Temperature Monthly Averages vs. Normal



Mesonet Extremes for March 2009

Climate Division	High Temp (F)	Day	Station	Low Temp (F)	Day	Station	High Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Station	High Daily Rainfall (inches)	Day	Station
Panhandle	90	4th	Buffalo	7	1st	Beaver	0.98	Slapout	0.91	29th	Slapout
North Central	92	5th	Fairview	10	1st	Freedom	3.36	Newkirk	2.05	27th	Newkirk
Northeast	86	5th	Pawnee	13	1st	Vinita	5.30	Wynona	2.36	24th	Wynona
West Central	91	5th	Butler	14	1st	Butler	2.70	Weatherford	1.99	23rd	Weatherford
Central	86	17th	Stillwater	13	1st	Marshall	4.56	Bristow	2.09	27th	Bristow
East Central	83	18th	Hectorville	14	2nd	Cookson	3.96	Cookson	1.87	27th	Okmulgee
Southwest	92	5th	Altus	15	1st	Tipton	3.68	Fort Cobb	2.90	23rd	Fort Cobb
South Central	90	5th	Ketchum Ranch	17	2nd	Centrahoma	3.58	Centrahoma	1.54	27th	Centrahoma
Southeast	81	6th	Antlers	16	2nd	Wister	7.08	Mt Herman	1.81	11th	Mt Herman
Statewide	92	5th	Altus	7	1st	Beaver	7.08	Mt Herman	2.90	23rd	Fort Cobb

April Climatological Outlook

April is the first full month of spring- the season of newly green trees and grass, redbud trees in bloom, and wildflowers aplenty. Baseball, romance, and pollen permeate the air, creating the dizzying mixture of joy and misery that marks the season. Most of April features exceedingly pleasant weather, much like that on April 22, 1889. According to the weather report submitted by the observer at Fort Reno, the day of the first great land run featured a high temperature of 80 degrees Fahrenheit, sandwiched between overnight lows of 46 and 54 degrees. Winds were northeasterly and light. Clouds were few.

Temperature

Mean: 59.8 degrees
Warmest Location: 63.9 degrees, Waurika
Coolest Location: 54.0 degrees, Boise City
Warmest April: 1954, 65.4 degrees
Coolest April: 1983, 54.0 degrees
Hottest recorded: 106 degrees, Mangum, April 12, 1972
Coldest recorded: 7 degrees, Hooker, April 4, 1979

April is the state's 5th wettest and 7th warmest month, establishing it clearly as part of the spring transition season. The statewide-averaged normal precipitation, based on the 30-year record compiled from 1971 through 2000, is 3.32 inches. The average monthly temperature, compiled from observations over the same period, is 59.8 degrees.

Precipitation

Mean: 3.32 inches
Wettest April: 1942, 8.50 inches
Driest April: 1989, 0.58 inches
Wettest location: Daisy, 5.19 inches
Driest location: Regnier, 1.36 inches
Most recorded: 17.78 inches, Okemah, 1945

Precipitation generally increases from southeast to northwest. Monthly normal precipitation for individual stations ranges from 1.36 inches at Oklahoma's driest observing station, Regnier (in the northwestern panhandle), to 5.19 inches at Daisy, on the western edge of southeastern Oklahoma's Ouachita Mountains. A statewide–averaged precipitation of 8.50 inches rates 1942 as the wettest April in the state's annals. The driest April, statewide, was in 1989 when the state's reporting stations received an average of just 0.58 inch for the month. The greatest April precipitation at any reporting station was 17.78 inches recorded at Okemah in 1945. Snowfall is rare in April, except in the panhandle. Boise City averages 2.5 inches of snow during April. Goodwell reported 17 inches of snow during April 1988, and Fargo received 14 inches during that month in 1973.

Normal monthly temperatures decrease from south to north. Waurika is the state's warmest location during April with a normal temperature of 63.9 degrees. Boise City ranks as the coolest site with a monthly average temperature of 54 degrees. Normal daily maximum temperatures range from 77 degrees at Waurika to 67.8 degrees at Newkirk. Normal daily minimum temperatures range from Waurika's 50.7 degrees to Boise City's 37.3. Temperatures drop below the freezing mark an average of nearly 8 times during April at Kenton, but freezes are uncommon across most of the main body of the state. Exce pt in the panhandle, any sub-freezing temperatures after mid-April would constitute a late freeze and would be harmful to plants, especially fruit or pecan trees. Southwestern Oklahoma experiences temperatures in the 90s an average of three times each April. Hot and cold do manage to creep in, however. On April 12, 1972, Mangum recorded a high temperature of 106 degrees, the highest of the 15 temperature reports of 102 degrees or more across the state that day. Conversely, Hooker's daily minimum temperature on April 4, 1979 was 7 degrees, thereby establishing the other extreme temperature for the month.

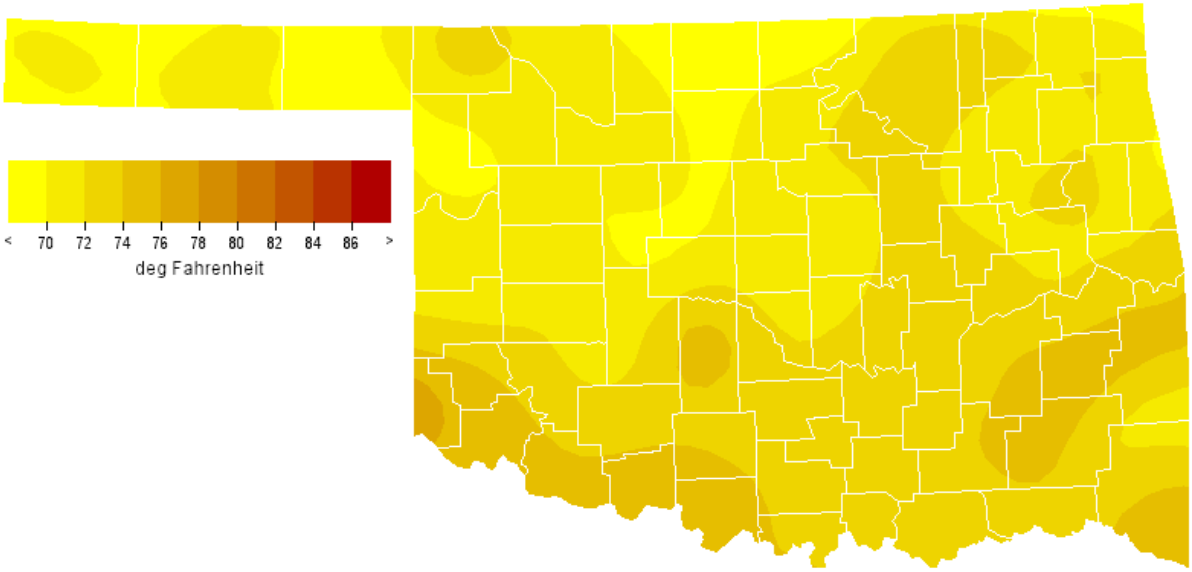
Tornadoes

Average April Tornadoes: 10.7
Most: 40 (1957)

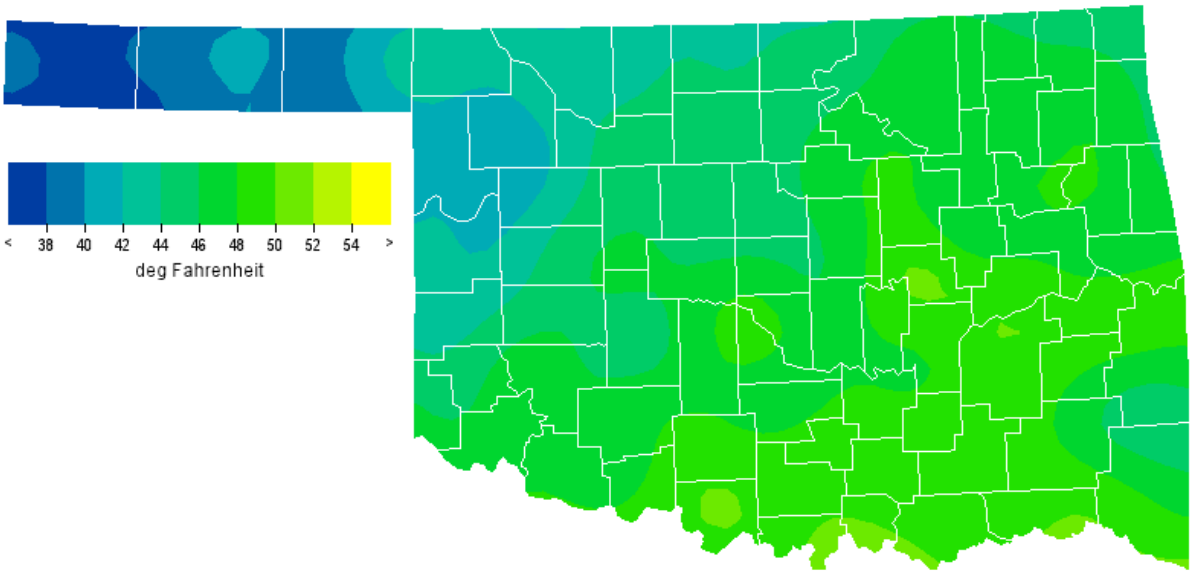
Spring brings with it Oklahoma's noted severe weather season. April is Oklahoma's windiest month and ranks second among the 12 months in the number of tornadoes observed across the state. The state has averaged 10.7 tornadoes each April since 1950, a monthly average exceeded only by May. Eight years of wind observations from the statewide Oklahoma Mesonet have revealed an average April wind speed, statewide, of 10.6 miles per hour, which barely edges March for windiest month honors. South winds prevail in most areas, although passing cold fronts are still capable of turning winds to northerly for a day or so at a time.

Comprehensive records of tornado occurrence are available from 1950 to the present. A total of 579 tornadoes are listed as having struck within Oklahoma during April from 1950 through 2003. Forty of those tornadoes were reported in 1957, easily the most of any April during the period.

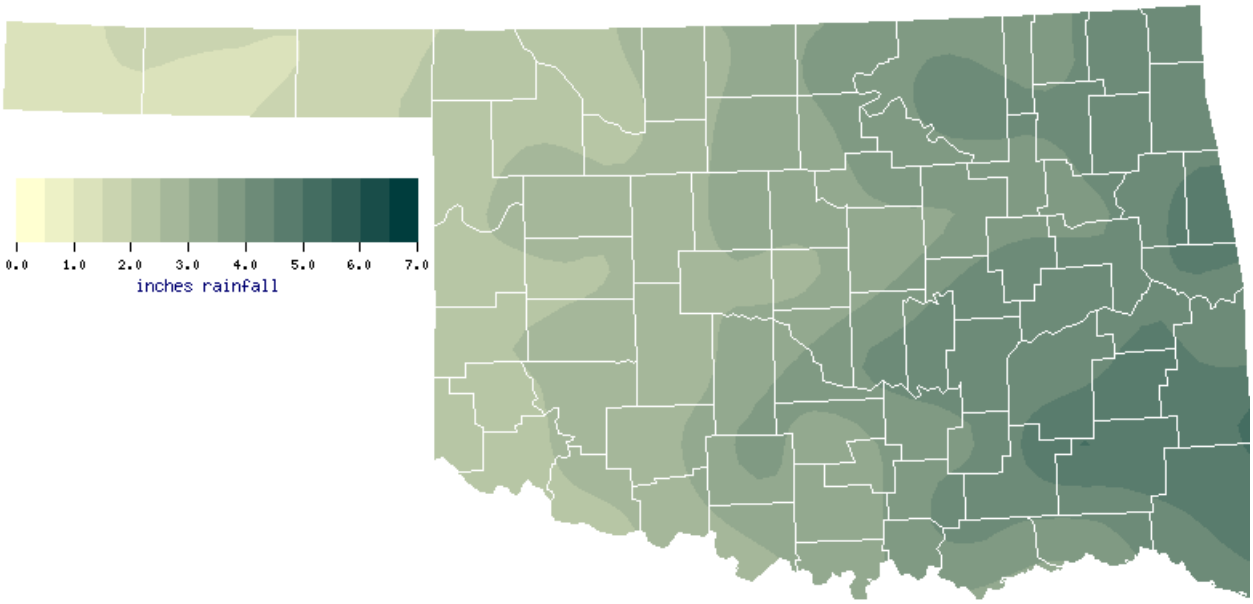
April Normal Daily Maximum Temperature (1971-2000)



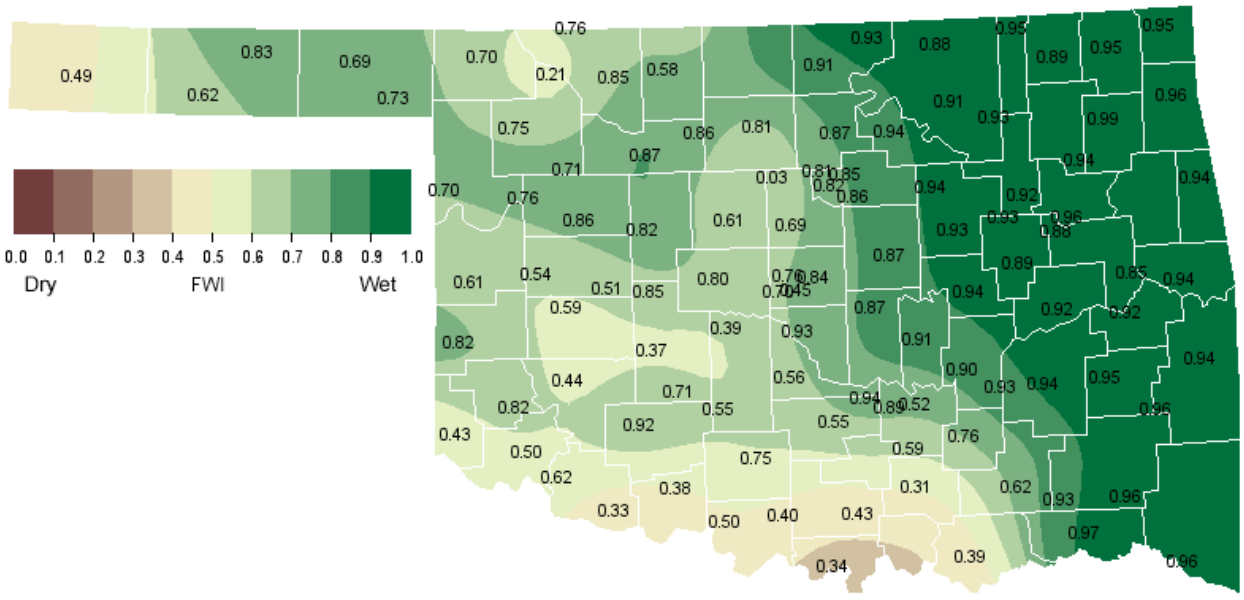
April Normal Daily Minimum Temperature (1971-2000)



April Normal Precipitation (1971-2000)



April 1, 2009 Soil Moisture Conditions at 25cm



February 2009 Drought Indices

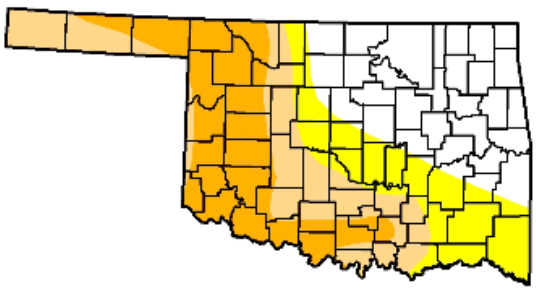
U.S. Drought Monitor

Oklahoma

March 31, 2009
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	33.2	66.8	47.3	26.3	0.0	0.0
Last Week (03/24/2009 map)	18.6	81.4	48.8	27.1	0.0	0.0
3 Months Ago (01/06/2009 map)	41.6	58.4	12.0	3.4	0.0	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/06/2009 map)	41.6	58.4	12.0	3.4	0.0	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/07/2008 map)	84.4	15.6	5.0	3.5	0.0	0.0
One Year Ago (04/01/2008 map)	81.7	18.3	10.9	0.0	0.0	0.0



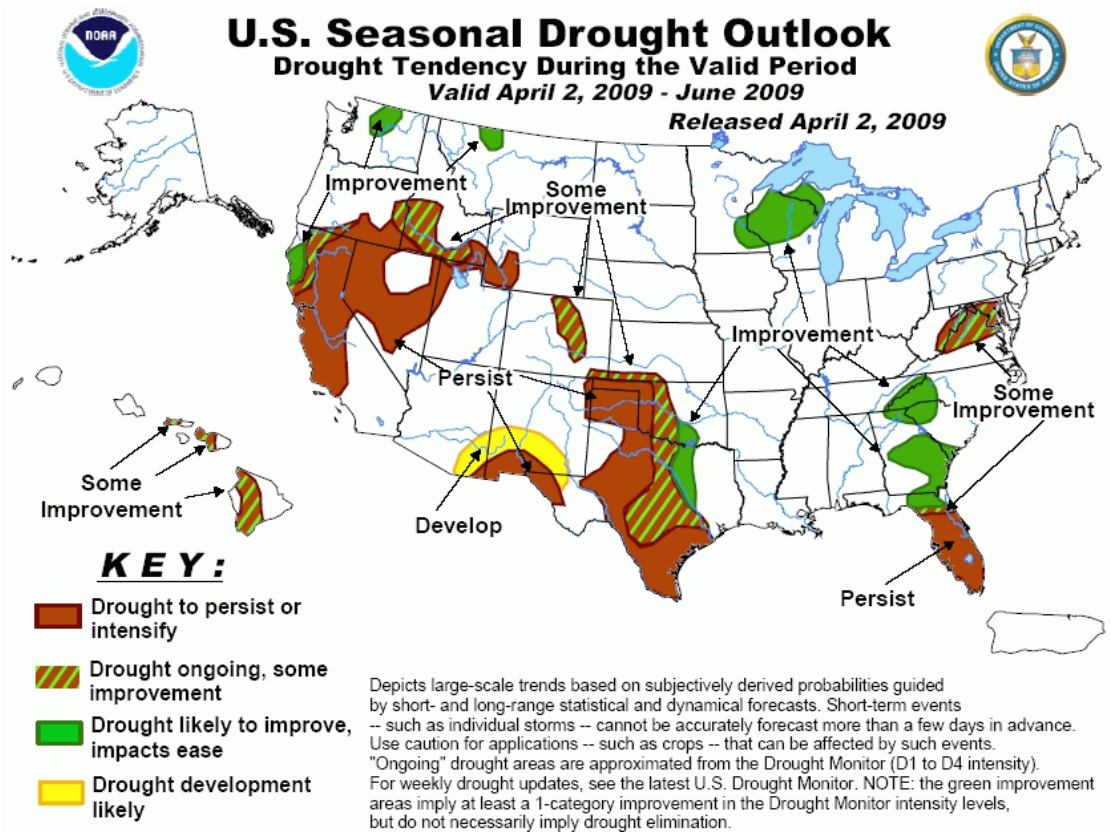
Intensity:

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

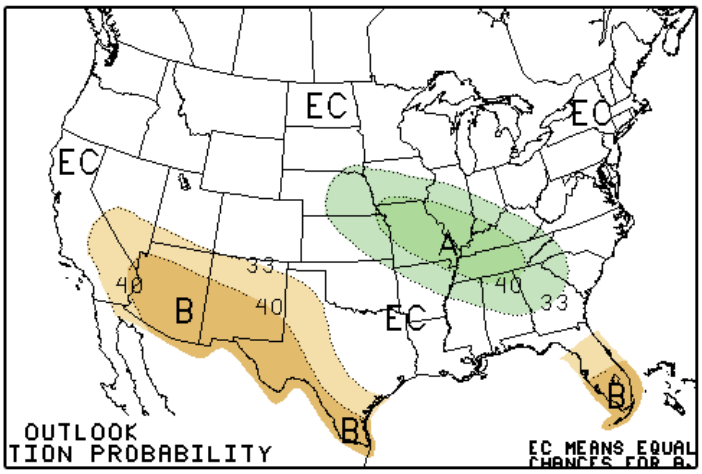
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements

http://drought.unl.edu/dm

Released Thursday, April 2, 2009
Author: Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center



April 2009 U.S. Precipitation Forecast



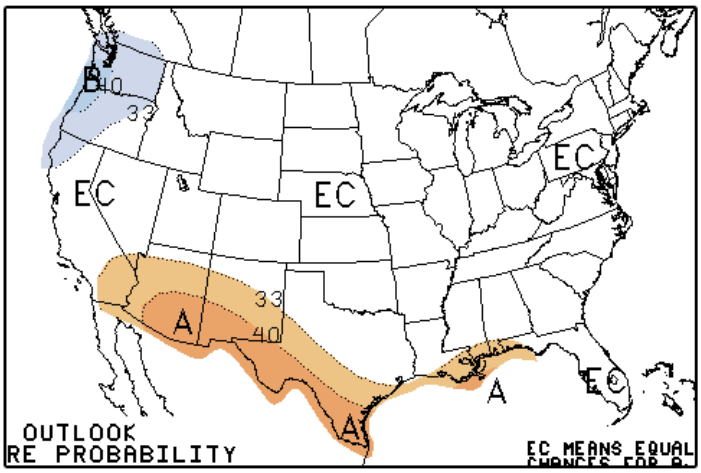
Percent Likelihood of Above or Below Average Precipitation*

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

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

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

April 2009 U.S. Temperature Forecast



Percent Likelihood of Above and Below Average Temperatures*

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

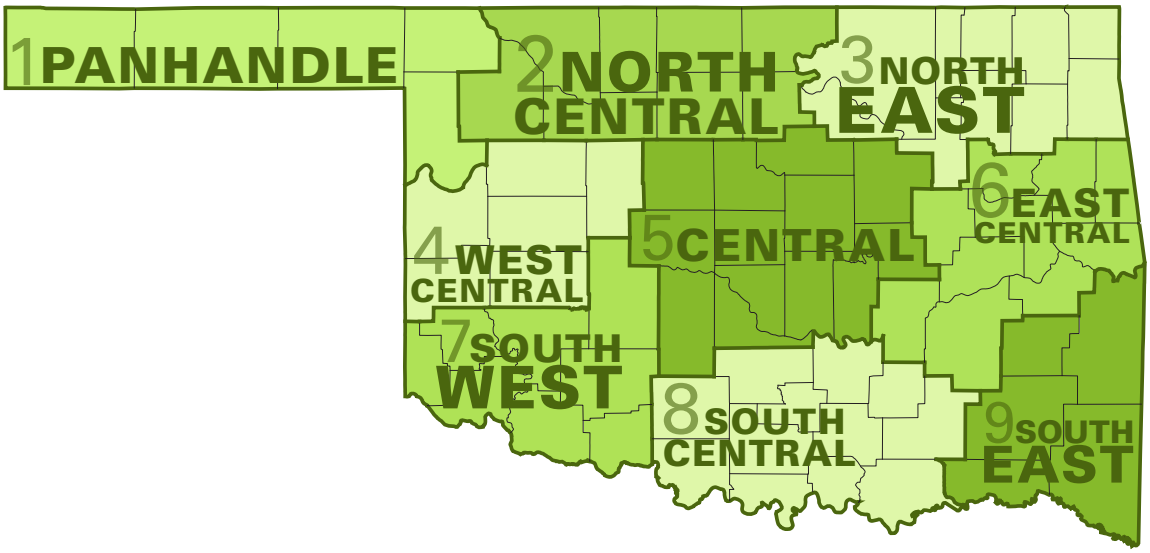
0% - 5%
5% - 10%
B = Below

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

April Climate Normals

Climate Division	Max. Temperature (°F)	Min. Temperature (°F)	Avg. Temperature (°F)	Precipitation (inches)
1	70.7	40.5	55.6	1.81
2	70.2	43.6	56.9	2.95
3	72.1	47.1	59.6	3.92
4	71.0	44.3	57.7	2.48
5	71.9	47.2	59.6	3.47
6	72.3	48.3	60.3	4.24
7	73.6	46.4	60.0	2.66
8	73.5	48.9	61.2	3.74
9	73.7	47.8	60.8	4.46
Statewide	72.1	46.2	59.2	3.41

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.mesonet.org or
http://climate.ok.gov/
E-mail (ocs@ou.edu) or telephone (405/325-2541)

OKLAHOMA CLIMATOLOGICAL SURVEY

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