

Central Indiana

August 2020

Climate Summary

Tied for 75th Coolest on Record at Indianapolis

Tied for 40th Driest on Record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

August started out cool as high pressure and northerly flow brought comfortable weather to the Ohio Valley with highs in the upper 70s and lower 80s and lows in the 50s and 60s. Many locations across central Indiana experienced their coolest morning of the entire month on the 5th as lows fell into the lower and middle 50s. Temperatures would begin to warm on the 7th and eventually return to early August normal levels by the 9th and 10th as highs rose into the middle and upper 80s. With the exception of the impacts of the derecho that tracked across the Midwest and into the region on the evening of the 10th, conditions would remain generally dry across the area with seasonable temperatures through the middle of the month.

A frontal boundary would track through the area on the 18th producing showers and thunderstorms and triggering a brief cooldown that would last through the 20th. Highs in the upper 70s and lower 80s were common. Beginning on the 21st, temperatures would rise, peaking on the 24th through the 26th in the lower and middle 90s as a hot and humid airmass settled across the Ohio Valley. The combination of the remnants of Hurricane Laura passing to the south of the region and a cold front passing through would sweep the heat and humidity away from central Indiana during the last weekend of August.

Overall, the combination of the cooler first part of the month with the warmer temperatures later in the month would produce average temperatures largely within a degree of normal for August.

Site	August 2020 Avg Temp	August 2020 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
Indianapolis	74.1	-0.1	92 on 25	54 on 5
Lafayette	74.1	+0.9	95 on 24 and 25	51 on 5
Muncie	72.8	+0.3	91 on 25	51 on 5
Terre Haute	73.3	+0.5	93 on 24 and 25	52 on 5 and 20
Bloomington	73.7	+0.7	91 on 24 and 25	53 on 20
Shelbyville	74.2	+1.8	92 on 25	54 on 5
Indy – Eagle Crk.	73.8	-0.3	91 on 25	54 on 5

At Indianapolis, there were 17 days with above normal average temperatures and 13 days with below normal average temperatures.

August 2020 was tied for the 75th coolest in the Indianapolis area since 1871.

Precipitation

Precipitation varied widely across central Indiana during the month of August. An area from western Indiana through northeastern parts of the state saw the greatest precipitation deficits at one to three inches below normal, as only one to two inches of total rainfall fell in most spots. The heaviest rainfall for the month occurred in a swath from the eastern Indianapolis metro area southeast into southeastern Indiana. Many locations received 4 to 6 inches with locally higher amounts in these areas.

Rain fell the first few days of the month, followed by one of the biggest rain producing systems of the month on the 10th. Rainfall amounts across the forecast area with this system ranged from just over half an inch in some northwestern counties and southern counties, to two to three inches over central parts of the state. This also produced the only flash flooding of the month, which occurred over Jackson County. The rainfall was associated with the derecho that produced a path of widespread wind damage from Iowa through Illinois and across Indiana, with reports in Iowa of winds of over 120 mph.

On August 18th, a storm system brought half an inch to two inches to central portions of the state, with little falling elsewhere. Scattered showers wet a few spots from the 24th through the end of the month.

While the month began with an area of D0 drought across northeastern parts of the state stretching back to northern parts of central Indiana and a small patch of D0 in the southwest, the month ended with D1 over the northeast and D0 extending back through northern parts of central Indiana and no drought over the southwest.

Site	August 2020 Precipitation	August 2020 Difference from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis	2.09	-1.04	1.01 on 10	7 days 11-17
Lafayette	2.08	-1.38	0.93 on 1	6 days 4-9 and 11-16
Muncie	2.76	-0.54	1.10 on 10	6 days 4-9 and 11-16
Terre Haute	1.81	-1.80	0.61 on 3	8 days 19-26
Bloomington	3.39	-0.13	1.92 on 10	6 days 12-17
Shelbyville	7.00	+3.61	1.88 on 3	6 days 11-16
Indy – Eagle Crk.	3.39	+0.20	1.91 on 10	8 days 19-26

August 2020 was tied for the 40th driest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Severe Weather

Severe weather was primarily confined to one event in August, occurring during the evening of the 10th as the destructive derecho over Iowa and northern Illinois tracked southeast into central Indiana before weakening. While the derecho had produced multiple wind gusts in excess of 100 mph and some as high as 120 to 140 mph over eastern Iowa, the storm complex had weakened by the time it impacted the area. Most of the gusts recorded were still at 60 to 70 mph, which caused widespread wind damage to structures, trees downed and power outages across central Indiana. For more information on this event, please visit this link:

<http://www.weather.gov/ind/august102020severe>

The only other occurrence of severe weather during the month occurred on the early morning of the 29th as scattered thunderstorms knocked a few tree limbs down in southwestern Tippecanoe County.

For information on severe weather in other areas during August, visit the Storm Prediction Center “Severe Weather Event Summaries” website at

<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/online/>.

Miscellaneous

The maximum wind gust at Indianapolis International Airport was 61 mph out of the northwest on the evening of the 10th as a severe line of thunderstorms impacted the Indianapolis metro area. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 9 days during the month. Thunder was reported on just 2 days in August.

September 2020 Outlook

The official outlook for September 2020 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates a greater chance for below normal temperatures for the month. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is 66.9 degrees. The outlook also indicates equal chances for near, above or below normal precipitation. The average precipitation for September at Indianapolis is 3.12".

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.