

# Central Indiana

## July 2015

### Climate Summary

*Tied for 49<sup>th</sup> Coldest on record at Indianapolis*

*Wettest July on record at Indianapolis*

## Temperatures

Most locations across central Indiana experienced a below average month in regards to temperatures. The first third of the month had the most days with below average temperatures. During this period temperatures remained below 80 across much of the area, with highs only in the 60s on the 8<sup>th</sup> across northern sections of the area. The cooler temperatures were due in part to plenty of cloud cover during this time.

Readings trended warmer for the remainder of the month, with some cool days still interspersed. Temperatures topped the 90 degree mark on multiple days. Terre Haute recorded 5 days of 90 degrees or higher temperatures, while Indianapolis and Bloomington had 4 each. Northern areas saw fewer, as Lafayette had 2 and Muncie only 1 90 degree day.

The warmest high temperatures generally occurred on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

Site	July 2015 Avg Temp	July 2015 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
Indianapolis	74.6	-0.8	92 on 28	59 on 11 and 22
Lafayette	71.5	-3.1	90 on 18 and 28	51 on 8
Muncie	73.0	-1.4	91 on 18	56 on 11 and 22
Terre Haute	74.8	-0.2	93 on 28	56 on 22
Bloomington	74.2	+0.3	92 on 28	56 on 22

Shelbyville	74.8	+0.7	92 on 28 and 29	57 on 11 and 22
Indy – Eagle Crk.	73.9(*)	-1.3	91 on 18 and 28	56 on 11

At Indianapolis, there were 13 days with above normal average temperatures, 16 days with below normal average temperatures and 2 days with normal average temperatures.

July 2015 was tied for the 49<sup>th</sup> coldest in the Indianapolis area since 1871.

(\*) Temperature Missing at Indy-Eagle Creek on 7/15.

## Precipitation

For the second consecutive month, monthly rainfall totals reached historic levels in portions of Indiana. Monthly totals ranged from around an inch in parts of Vermillion County in west central Indiana to almost 18 inches in portions of Hendricks County in central Indiana. Monthly totals ranged from 10 to more than 15 inches in a 20 to 40 mile wide band that extended from Lebanon in Boone County of central Indiana to Charlestown in Clark County of southern Indiana. Rainfall during July varied widely over relatively short distances in several areas of the state.

For Indianapolis, the monthly total of 13.14 inches set a new all-time monthly rainfall record besting the previous July 1875 record of 13.12 inches. During a particularly stormy period from the 7<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>, the 11.54 inches of rainfall dumped on Indianapolis was the most ever for any eleven day period. The climatological summer of 2015 was already the second wettest of record by July 27<sup>th</sup>.

July began on a dry note for much of Indiana north of the Indianapolis area while locally heavy rains of 1 to more than 4 inches fell in southern Indiana from late on June 30<sup>th</sup> through July 3<sup>rd</sup>. A dry spell began for the entire state on the 4<sup>th</sup> and lasted only through the 6<sup>th</sup>. The seemingly never ending rains of the summer of 2015 returned on the 7<sup>th</sup> and continued through the 20<sup>th</sup>. A dry spell for almost the entire state began on the 21<sup>st</sup>, lasting 5 days through the 25<sup>th</sup>. Once again storms returned during the evening of the 26<sup>th</sup> and continued sporadically through the 29<sup>th</sup>. The last two days of July were dry and pleasant.

Heavy rains of 3 to 5 inches fell mostly during the evenings of the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, generally in central and southern Indiana. Severe local flooding affected homes, businesses and traffic. At times, water rescues were necessary.

Some areas were flooded more than once during the month. July rainfall pushed flood levels on the White River southwest of Indianapolis to levels not seen for the middle of summer since the July and early August floods of 1979. Flood levels on the East Fork

White were similar to that of early August 2009 in the Columbus, Seymour and Sparksville areas and the highest in Lawrence and Martin counties since late June 1960. Flooding on the White River in southwest Indiana and the lower portion of the Wabash River lasted more than five weeks while the Wabash River from Lafayette to Hutsonville in western Indiana remained above flood stage for eight weeks.

Site	July 2015 Precipitation	July 2015 Difference from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis	13.14	<b>+8.59</b>	4.43 on 7	5 days 20-25
Lafayette	6.67	<b>+2.70</b>	2.06 on 17	6 days 1-6
Muncie	6.86	<b>+2.48</b>	2.23 on 7	6 days 20-25
Terre Haute	2.46	<b>-2.33</b>	1.02 on 7	5 days 21-25
Bloomington	6.15	<b>+1.26</b>	1.04 on 7	5 days 21-25
Shelbyville	7.94	<b>+3.23</b>	2.20 on 26	5 days 21-25
Indy – Eagle Crk.	7.35(*)	<b>+3.09</b>	1.68 on 7	5 days 21-25 &

July 2015 was the wettest July in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

(\*) Precipitation missing at Indy-Eagle Creek on 7/15

## Severe Weather

The frequent weather systems that brought the heavy rains to central Indiana also brought severe weather at times. Five tornadoes touched down in the area in July, during the period from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>. In addition, severe storms brought down trees and power lines.

Details on these events can be found in the 2015 section of the severe weather archive page at <http://www.weather.gov/ind/archive>

For information on severe weather in other areas during July, visit the Storm Prediction Center “Severe Weather Event Summaries” website at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/online/>.

## Miscellaneous

The maximum wind gust at the Indianapolis International Airport was 52 mph from the northwest on the 13<sup>th</sup> as strong thunderstorms moved through the Indianapolis metro

area. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 21 days this month. Thunder was reported at Indianapolis on 9 days in July.

## August 2015 Outlook

The official outlook for August 2015 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates a greater chance of below normal temperatures across central Indiana. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is 74.2 degrees. Most of central Indiana has equal chances of above, below or near average precipitation, but far southwest sections have a greater chance for above average precipitation. The average precipitation for August at Indianapolis is 3.13".

***Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.***