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Indiana State Climate Office

Monthly Weather Report

Apr 3, 2008



<http://www.iclimat.org>

March 2008 Climate Summary

Summary

Cold and wet. *Very* cold and wet. That was March 2008. The state-wide average temperature was a mere 38.4°F, which is more than 2°F below normal. All of Indiana's nine climate divisions were more than 1.7°F below normal. The northeast and northwest were each 2.9°F below normal, with average temperatures of 34.4°F and 35.7°F respectively. That is a cold month. Besides the abnormal cold spell the month was also abnormally wet. Eight of the nine climate divisions received more precipitation than usual (the northwest was the only division below normal). In fact, the southern divisions all received more than 10 inches of precipitation. That's over 6 inches above normal! Storm tracks seemed to bring the same conditions during each system. They skimmed the northwest and dropped their moisture over the south. The south central was hit the hardest with over 11 inches of precipitation. This is a strong contrast to what the state was experiencing during the late summer and early fall of 2007. The north was the region being pelted with rain where as the south couldn't buy enough.

March 1st – 7th

Some lingering moisture from the last February system brought snow showers to the northeast and rain showers to the south on the first day of the month. Since a system had just passed the day prior, temperatures remained cool. High pressure moved across the region and settle in the Ohio Valley on the 2nd, raising temperatures by as much as 15°F. Highs on the second ranged from the low-50's in the north to the high-60's in the south. The first front of the month entered the state on the 3rd resulting in moist conditions for the next three days. Heaviest rains fell in the south, a theme that will present itself more than once in March 2008. Rainfall totals of up to 3 inches were reported from Crawford County north to Bartholomew County and east to Dearborn County. High temperatures started above normal on the 3rd but dropped steadily throughout the next day and a half, bottoming out at in the high-30's on the 4th. They would rise a bit on the 5th but, with the storm still lingering, would not break normal. Unfortunately another front, albeit smaller, was waiting to bring even more precipitation immediately following this wet period. The small temperature rebound reversed course when this second front passed on the 6th. Daily highs fell back into the mid-30's. With cooler temperatures throughout the state, the precipitation that fell along the Indiana-Michigan border was in the form of snow, although accumulations were limited. A majority of the rain and snow from this small

system bypassed the northern and central areas of Indiana and fell in the south on the 7th. Because of the system's weak nature totals were again small.

March 8th – 16th

The system was a slow moving one and lingered through the 8th. On this day some other regions of the state experienced wet weather, in the form of snow, though the northwest remained dry. The three-day (6th-8th) storm total did not reach more than one inch of liquid precipitation anywhere in the state. However, snowfall totals reached 6 inches in the southeast. High temperatures state-wide remained bitterly cold, barely reaching 30°F on the 8th. As the system pushed to the northeast on the 9th, more snow fell in the eastern half of Indiana. Counties bordering Ohio received upwards of 2.5 inches on this day, with a two-day total above 8 inches. Fortunately the system was leaving allowing warmer temperatures to infiltrate the state. Highs warmed into the low-40's, which was still 10°F below normal. Temperatures continued their upward trend on the 10th, reaching normal in east central counties (high-40's). They fell a bit on the 11th as a cold front narrowly missed (precipitation wise) Indiana. Temperatures warmed again on the 12th and 13th, peaking in the low-60's. This four day dry spell would come to an end on the 14th. The third disturbance of the month entered the state early on the 14th from the north and progressed through over the next three days. Temperatures fell more each day, with high's reaching only the mid-40's. The system had little punch, as shown by the three day rainfall totals not even breaking 0.6 inches.

March 17th – 23rd

Warmer air was slowly pulled northward on the 17th and the entire state was engulfed in above normal temperatures (finally) on the 18th. High temperatures sat around 60°F. Regrettably this was due to the advancing warm pool in front of the 4th disturbance of March. Rain fell all across Indiana on the 18th. Particularly strong storms were focused over Gibson, Posey, and Vanderburgh counties. There rainfall totals reached 2 inches. The rain continued on the 19th and was very heavy across the entire south. Another 4 inches fell in Posey County and all southern counties received more than 2.5 inches on the 19th. The back end of the system brought more rain on the 20th though totals were reduced to less than 1 inch. Three-day storm totals throughout southern counties were more than 4 inches with a peak of 7 inches. Elsewhere in the state totals were more modest. Temperatures during this period fell after the warm pool passed on the 18th. Luckily high temperatures were in the high-40's, only a few degrees below normal for this time of year. Once again a warm pool entered the state. On the 21st temperatures climbed into the high-50's in advance of yet another system, the fifth of the month. The moisture from this disturbance stayed in the northern half of the state. Precipitation totals were highest along the Michigan-Indiana border though they didn't breach 0.5 inch over the 21st and 22nd. Temperatures fell quickly on the 22nd as the cold front overtook the warm pool. High's fell into mid-30's on the 22nd, more than 10°F below normal. They remained there on the 23rd...but the day was dry!

March 24th – 31st

High pressure settled into the region on the 24th, extending the dry period experienced on the 23rd through the 25th. Temperatures rose above normal on the 25th. A cold front pushed down from the north on the 26th but the bulk of the moisture associated with the system fell on the 27th and 28th. This would be the sixth system of March 2008. Up to 1 inch of rain fell the north but heavier showers brought over 2 inches of rain in southern counties. Knox and Daviess counties received almost 3 inches over the two day period. During the passage of the front temperatures fell more each day. Temperatures warmed a bit on the 29th after the front was gone. High temperatures hovered in the high-40's and continued to climb on the 30th and 31st. Again, this warming was as a result of a warm pool entering the state in advance of the seventh disturbance of the month. Highs were above 60°F across the entire state. Rain was all over that state too. The rain was more of a nuisance than anything. Two day totals did not rise higher than 0.7 inches. But once again, the largest totals were reported in the south.

March Summary

Temperature

Region	Temperature	Normal	Deviation
Northwest	35.7	38.6	-2.9
North Central	35.2	37.9	-2.7
Northeast	34.4	37.3	-2.9
West Central	38.7	40.6	-1.9
Central	38.3	40.1	-1.7
East Central	37.2	39.1	-1.9
Southwest	42.8	44.8	-1.9
South Central	41.7	44.2	-2.6
Southeast	40.4	43.1	-2.7
State	38.4	40.7	-2.3

Precipitation

Region	Precipitation	Normal	Deviation	Percent of Normal
Northwest	2.55	2.92	-0.37	87
North Central	2.92	2.78	0.14	105
Northeast	3.38	2.71	0.68	125
West Central	5.02	3.36	1.66	150
Central	6.40	3.28	3.12	195

East Central	6.03	3.08	2.95	196
Southwest	10.42	4.23	6.19	246
South Central	11.11	4.17	6.94	267
Southeast	10.12	3.95	6.18	257
State	6.46	3.40	3.06	190

Spring-to-Date

(same as March)

Temperature

Region	Temperature	Normal	Deviation
Northwest	35.7	38.6	-2.9
North Central	35.2	37.9	-2.7
Northeast	34.4	37.3	-2.9
West Central	38.7	40.6	-1.9
Central	38.3	40.1	-1.7
East Central	37.2	39.1	-1.9
Southwest	42.8	44.8	-1.9
South Central	41.7	44.2	-2.6
Southeast	40.4	43.1	-2.7
State	38.4	40.7	-2.3

Precipitation

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Southeast	10.12	3.95	6.18	257
State	6.46	3.40	3.06	190

Annual-to-Date

Temperature

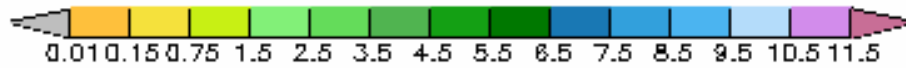
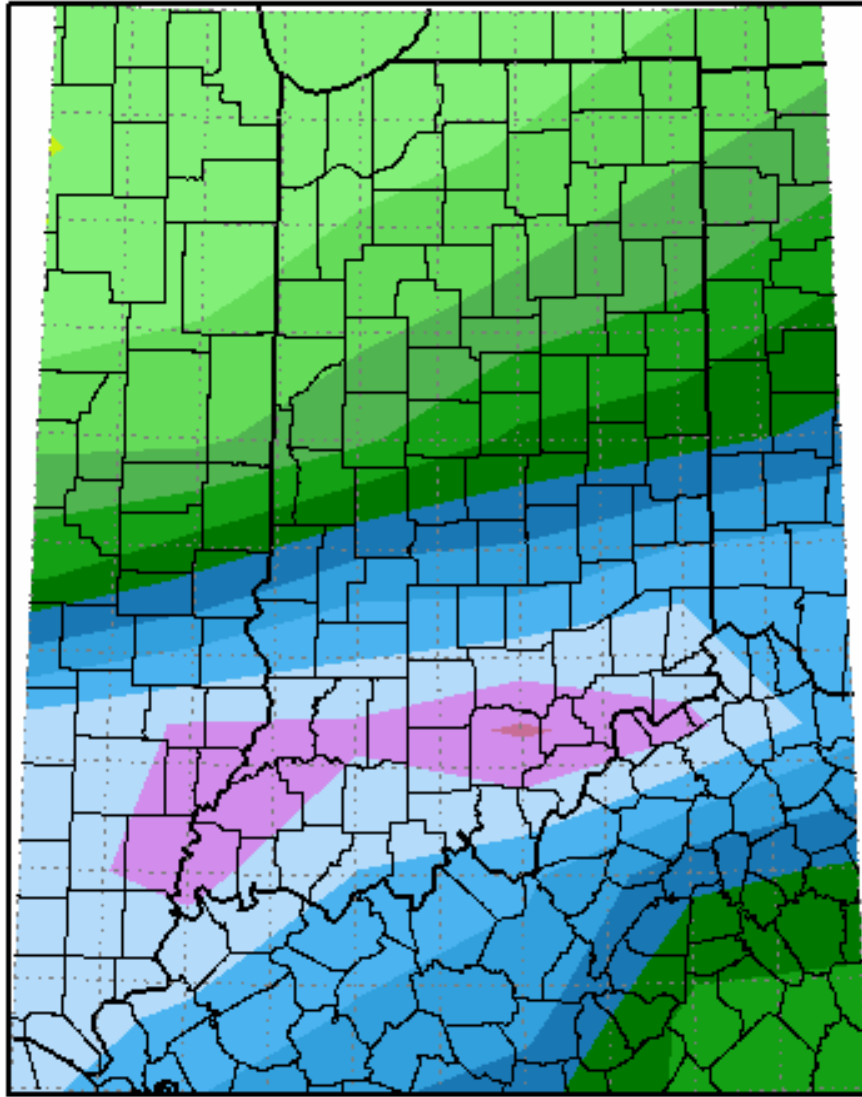
Region	Temperature	Normal	Deviation
Northwest	28.0	29.9	-1.9
North Central	28.0	29.6	-1.5
Northeast	28.1	29.2	-1.1

West Central	30.5	32.0	-1.5
Central	31.0	31.8	-0.8
East Central	30.1	30.9	-0.9
Southwest	35.3	36.6	-1.3
South Central	34.5	36.3	-1.8
Southeast	33.7	35.3	-1.7
State	31.1	32.5	-1.4

Precipitation

Region	Precipitation	Normal	Deviation	Percent of Normal
Northwest	11.63	6.50	5.12	179
North Central	12.70	6.65	6.05	191
Northeast	12.14	6.48	5.65	187
West Central	12.36	7.81	4.55	158
Central	14.41	7.90	6.51	182
East Central	14.04	7.52	6.52	187
Southwest	18.55	10.11	8.45	184
South Central	19.68	10.20	9.48	193
Southeast	17.76	9.76	8.00	182
State	14.83	8.13	6.70	182

**Total Precipitation in Inches
March 1, 2008 to March 31, 2008**

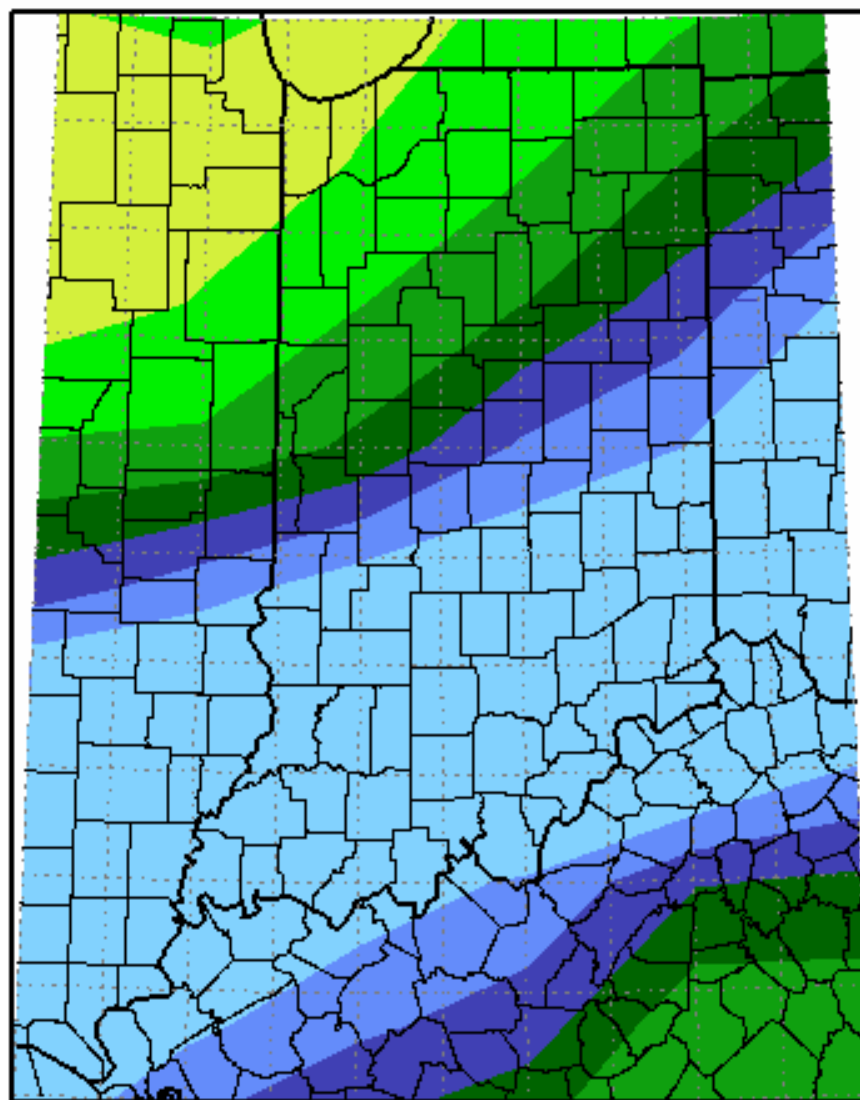


Midwestern Regional Climate Center

Illinois State Water Survey

Champaign, Illinois

**Total Precipitation Percent of Mean
March 1, 2008 to March 31, 2008**

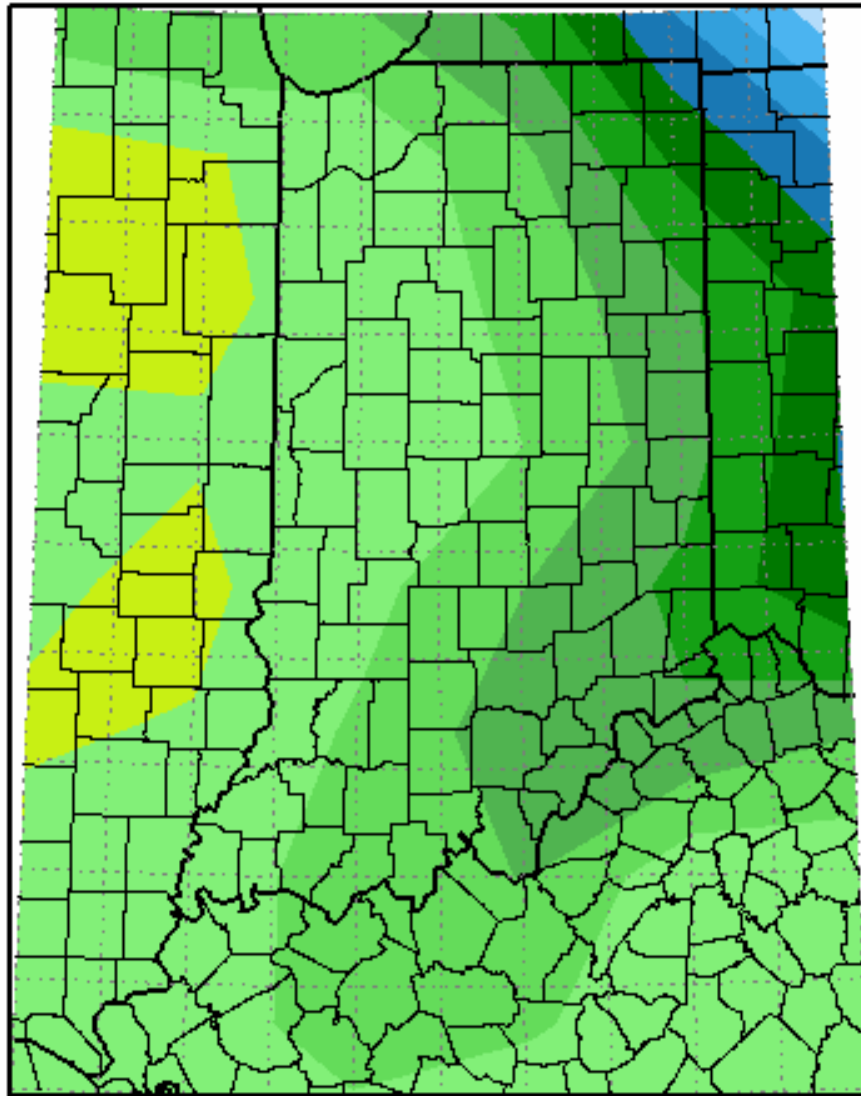


Midwestern Regional Climate Center

Illinois State Water Survey

Champaign, Illinois

Total Snowfall in Inches
March 1, 2008 to March 31, 2008

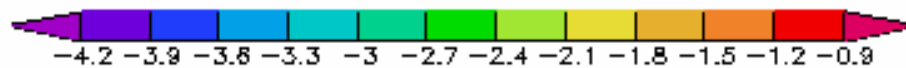
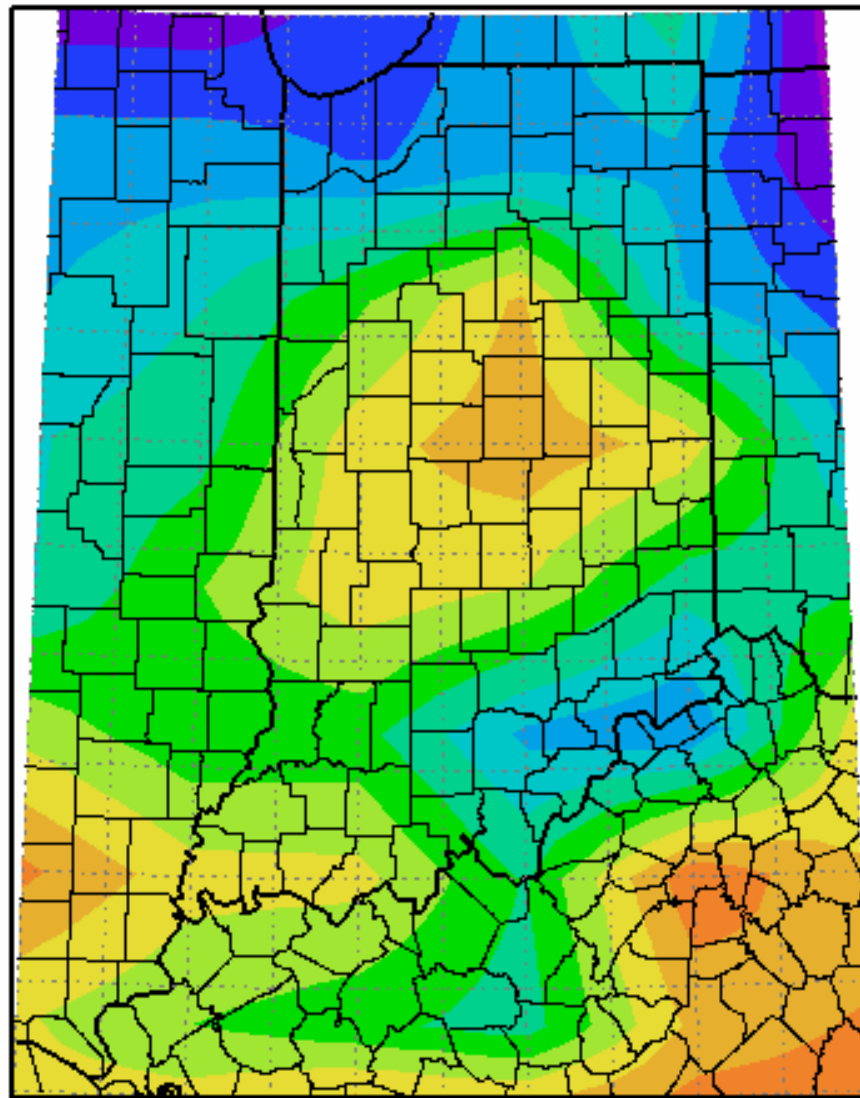


Midwestern Regional Climate Center

Illinois State Water Survey

Champaign, Illinois

Average Temperature Departure from Mean in Degrees F
March 1, 2008 to March 31, 2008



Midwestern Regional Climate Center

Illinois State Water Survey

Champaign, Illinois

Drought Summary from the U.S. Drought Monitor

Below is a drought summary for the state of Indiana from the U.S. drought monitor. Areas in white are not experiencing any drought. Yellow areas are abnormally dry, but not entirely considered a drought. Drought begins when the moisture levels become more severe, with beige, orange, red, and brown indicating increasing levels of drought (moderate, severe, extreme, and exceptional, respectively). The table below indicates how much of the state is not under drought conditions, and also how much of the state is under drought conditions from its respective column upwards.

For example, March 4th has 0.00% of Indiana under no drought, and 0.00% of Indiana under at *least* D0 through D4 drought status. This is followed by 0.00% as D1 through D4 status. To obtain the amount that is D0 status, simply subtract the D1-D4 column from the D0-D4 column, thus giving you the percentage of area with abnormally dry conditions. Please note, however, that these areas are not exact, and much of this drought map has been created from reports throughout the state and estimation, so use this information as a general view rather than for specifics.

D0 Abnormally Dry	D1 Drought - Moderate	D2 Drought - Severe	D3 Drought - Extreme	D4 Drought - Exceptional		
Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
03/04/08	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
03/11/08	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
03/18/08	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
03/25/08	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

March 4th Drought Summary



March 11th Drought Summary



March 18th Drought Summary



March 25th Drought Summary

