

Oklahoma Monthly Temperature Extremes
By Howard Johnson
Associate State Climatologist for Service
Oklahoma Climatological Survey
5/28/02

Volunteer observers, recruited and supported by the National Weather Service offices that serve their areas, provide daily reports of precipitation and temperature extremes. They forward those reports to the appropriate Weather Service office, from which they are sent to the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina, for inclusion in the nation's climatic records. This network of volunteers, known collectively as the Cooperative Observers Network, has monitored the climate within the current boundaries of Oklahoma since 1892. It is from the records provided by this group of dedicated volunteers that detailed records of Oklahoma's climate over the past 111 years are known.

The U.S. Weather Bureau (which has evolved into the present-day National Weather Service) established an office in Oklahoma City to provide meteorological services to residents of the Oklahoma and Indian territories and other associated lands. Prior to that time, weather observations were taken and records kept at the various forts and a few other locations under the auspices of the United States Army. The oldest known sequence of daily weather observations in Oklahoma was recorded by the post surgeon at Fort Towson, from September 1824 through December 1855. For many years, the Federal Aviation Administration and its predecessor organizations took hourly weather observations at several state airports. Automated observations under the auspices of the National Weather Service have largely replaced manual observations at airports. The various military bases in Oklahoma provide their own weather observations in support of military aviation activities. Reports from the Oklahoma Mesonet have supplemented the National Weather Service data and provided detailed, continuous measurements of other meteorological data since 1994. Monthly extreme temperatures in Oklahoma, according to available records, are as follows:

Oklahoma Monthly Temperature Extremes

January	92 Cloud Chief 1-31-1911	-27 Watts	1-18-1930
February	99 Arapaho 2-24-1918	-27 Vinita	2-13-1905
March	104 Frederick 3-27-1971	-18 Kenton -18 Hooker	3-6-1948 3-7-1920
April	106 Mangum 4-12-1972	6 Boise City	4-2-1936
May	114 Weatherford 5-25-2000	19 Hooker	5-1-1909
June	120 Tipton 6-27-1994	34 Kenton	6-13-1919

July	120 Tishomingo 7-26-1943 120 Altus 7-19-1936 120 Alva 7-18-1936	41 Goodwell 7-5-1915
August	120 Altus 8-12-1936 120 Poteau 8-10-1936	38 Bartlesville 8-31-1915
September	115 Alva 9-3-1947 115 Alva 9-3-1939	25 Boise City 9-30-1985
October	110 Waukomis 10-2-1898	6 Kenton 10-30-1993
November	95 Coalgate 11-1-1937 95 Mutual 11-1-1914	-15 Kenton 11-28-1976
December	92 Ardmore 12-30-1951	-19 Goodwell 12-12-1932

Media Contact:

Cerry Leffler
 Administrative Manager
 Oklahoma Climatological Survey
 100 E. Boyd, Suite 1210
 Norman, OK 73019-1012
 (405) 325-2541 Phone
 (405) 325-2550 Fax
cerry@ou.edu

For Additional Information:

Howard Johnson
 Associate State Climatologist for Service
 Oklahoma Climatological Survey
 100 E. Boyd, Suite 1210
 Norman, OK 73019-1012
 (405) 325-2541 Phone
 (405) 325-2550 Fax
hjohnson@ou.edu