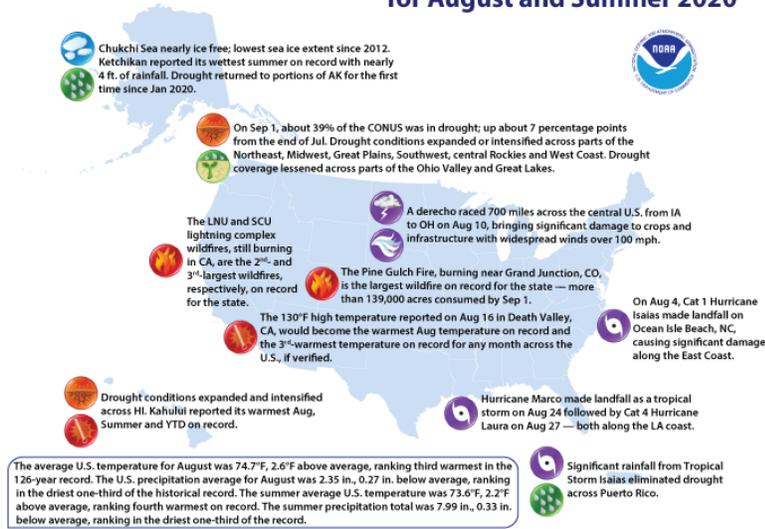




National — Significant Events for August and Summer, 2020

U.S. Selected Significant Climate Anomalies and Events for August and Summer 2020



The average U.S. temperature for August was 74.7°F, 2.6°F above average, ranking third warmest in the 126-year record. The U.S. precipitation average for August was 2.35 in., 0.27 in. below average, ranking in the driest one-third of the historical record. The summer average U.S. temperature was 73.6°F, 2.2°F above average, ranking fourth warmest on record. The summer precipitation total was 7.99 in., 0.33 in. below average, ranking in the driest one-third of the record.

Highlights for the Region

Temperatures hovered between slightly below normal to slightly above normal for much of the region, with the West experiencing above-normal temperatures.

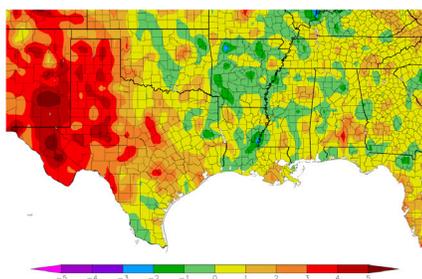
Precipitation varied spatially, with normal to above-normal precipitation in the East and Deep South and below-normal precipitation in the West.

The main impacts this summer were those associated with two hurricanes and one tropical storm making landfall along the Gulf Coast.

Regional — Climate Overview for June 2020 to August 2020

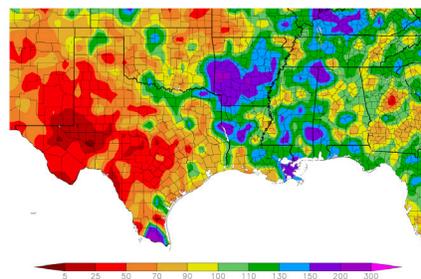
Temperature and Precipitation Anomalies

Departure from Normal (°F)
6/01/2020–8/31/2020



Summer temperatures ranged between 2° F below normal to 2° F above normal across a broad portion of the region. However, western, central, and northern Texas experienced temperatures 3° or more above normal, with far western Texas experiencing temperatures 4°–5°F above normal.

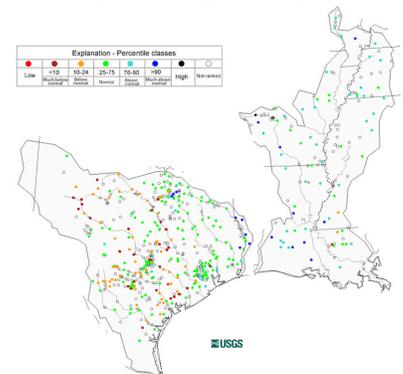
Percent of Normal (%)
6/01/2020–8/31/2020



Summer precipitation varied spatially across the Southern Region. Parts of western Texas received precipitation 25 percent or less of normal while parts of southern Texas, southeastern Louisiana, and a broad portion of Arkansas received precipitation 150 percent or more of normal.

Streamflows

August Average Streamflow vs. Historical Streamflow



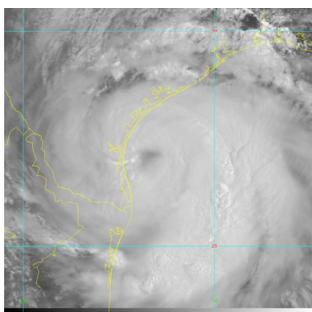
The above figure illustrates August average streamflows in the Texas Gulf and Lower Mississippi Basins as compared to historical streamflows. Streamflows in the Lower Mississippi Basin were normal to above normal. Streamflows in the Texas Gulf basin were normal or above normal in the east, but were below normal to the south and inland.



Regional Impacts — for June 2020 to August 2020

Tropical Cyclones

The Southern Region experienced its fair share of tropical weather this summer, with one tropical storm and two hurricanes making landfall along the Gulf Coast. Hurricane Hanna, the first hurricane of the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season and the earliest 'H'-named storm on record, made landfall in southern Texas on July 25 at Padre Island. Hurricane Laura, the first major hurricane (Category 3+ on the Saffir-Simpson scale) of 2020 and the earliest 'L'-named storm on record, made landfall in Cameron Parish in southwestern Louisiana as a strong Category 4 on August 27. Hurricane Marco, the earliest 'M'-named storm on record, made landfall as a weak tropical storm at the mouth of the Mississippi River in Louisiana on August 24, three days prior to Hurricane Laura. Of the three, Marco's impact on the region was minimal, with wind shear displacing the rainfall well to the east. However, Hanna brought torrential rainfall to southern Texas, with one station reporting over 15 inches of rain. Additionally, a peak storm surge value of 5.48 feet mean higher high water (MHHW) was reported along the middle Texas coast. Laura's impacts were devastating across southwestern Louisiana, with a preliminary storm surge report of 17 feet near Mermentau River and a peak wind gust of 133 mph at Lake Charles. Preliminary reports indicate Laura was the second-strongest hurricane landfall in Louisiana on record by central pressure and tied for the fifth-strongest landfall in the continental United States by wind speed.



Above: Satellite images of Hurricanes Hanna (left), Laura (middle), and Marco (right). (Credit: NESDIS, NASA)

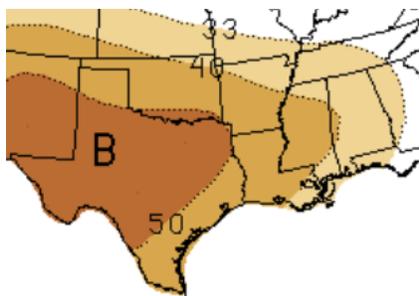
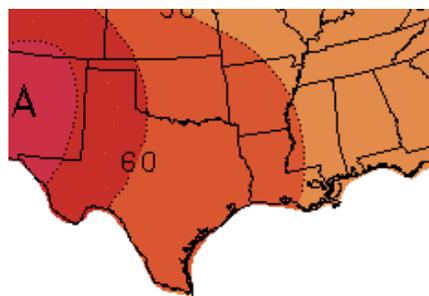
CPC — Three-Month Outlook

2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season

Temperature

Precipitation

Outlook for October to December



A = Above-normal temperatures EC = Equal chances
B = Below-normal rainfall N = Normal

According to the Climate Prediction Center, October through December temperatures have a greater chance to be above normal across the entire region, with the greatest chances across far western Texas.

Precipitation has a greater chance to be below normal across most of the region, with chances increasing from east-to-west. The greatest chances for below-normal temperatures are located across parts of southern Oklahoma as well as parts of northern, central, eastern, and western Texas.

As of September 17, there have been 20 named storms, 8 hurricanes, and 2 major hurricanes. NOAA's updated mid-season forecast, released in early August, calls for 19–25 named storms, 7–11 hurricanes, and 3–6 major hurricanes.

Gulf Regional Partners

Earth Scan Laboratory at Louisiana State University (esl.lsu.edu)

NOAA/NWS Climate Prediction Center (cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

NOAA Gulf of Mexico Collaboration Team (regions.noaa.gov)

NOAA/NESDIS National Centers for Environmental Information (ncei.noaa.gov)

NOAA/NWS Southern Region (weather.gov/srh)

Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (southernclimate.org)

Southern Regional Climate Center (srcc.lsu.edu)