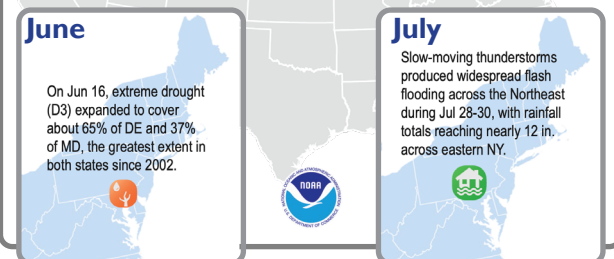


National Significant Events – June–August 2026

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

Severe storms on Aug 20 spawned five tornadoes across PA, including an EF-2 in York County and a single-day record of three tornadoes in Lancaster County.



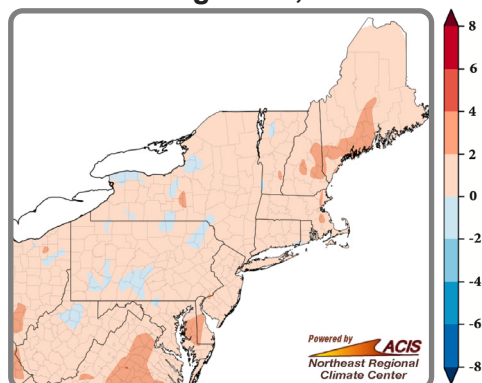
The contiguous U.S. had its hottest summer on record at 3.0°F above the 20th-century average. Average temperatures for June, July, and August were 2.2°F above average, 3.3°F above average (record hot), and 3.5°F above average (record hot), respectively. Globally, it was the second-hottest June, the hottest July, the hottest August, and the hottest summer. The contiguous U.S. summer precipitation was 0.21 inches below average. During June, July, and August, precipitation was 0.31 inches above average, 0.23 inches below average, and 0.32 inches below average, respectively.

Highlights for the Northeast

- Summer was **hotter than normal** for most areas. An early July **heat wave set/tied records** like all-time hottest temperature, hottest low temperature, and longest streak of 100°F days. There were **dozens of deaths** and hundreds of people seeking heat-related medical care.
- Precipitation amounts varied greatly during summer. In late July, parts of southeastern New York saw up to 12 inches of rain, a **1,000-year storm event**, with Albany having its wettest July day. Charleston, WV, had its wettest August day and **wettest August**. Bridgeport, CT, had its **wettest summer**. The wet weather **eased drought** in many areas. However, **drought intensified** in Maine, and Portland had its second-driest August.
- There were (preliminarily) **85 tornadoes** in the Northeast during summer (average is 24), tying as its **fifth-highest annual total since records began in 1950**. Forty-four of those were in Pennsylvania (average is eight), tying as its **second-highest annual total**. The state also had **one of its most active Junes for tornadoes** with 21. West Virginia had 11 tornadoes this summer (average is one), its **third-highest annual total**, and likely had its **most active July for tornadoes** with nine. A few counties set/tied records for **greatest number of tornadoes** for any day, month, and/or year.
- In mid-July, **smoke from wildfires** burning in Canada and Minnesota was transported into the Northeast, creating **poor air quality**, reducing visibility, lowering high temperatures, and causing event cancellations and facility closures. "Hazardous" and "Very Unhealthy" air quality, EPA's worst and second worst air quality categories, were reported in parts of New York and the Mid-Atlantic, in some spots for at least 24 consecutive hours.

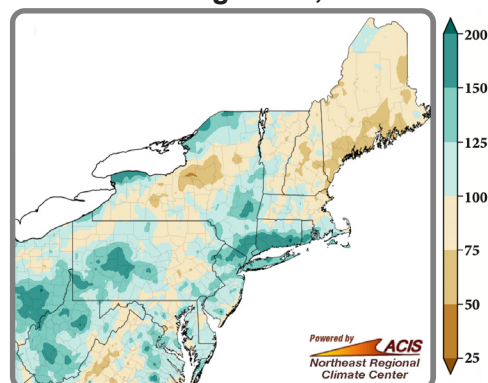
Regional Climate Overview – June–August 2026

Temperature Departure from Normal (°F) June 1–August 31, 2026



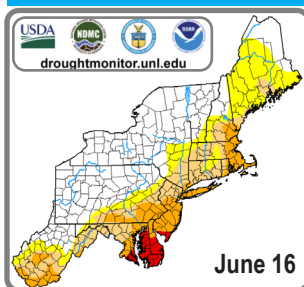
The Northeast had its **17th-hottest summer** at 1.0°F above normal. It was among the 20 hottest summers for 10 of the 12 states. **June** was 0.9°F above normal, in the **hottest third** of all years. It was among the 20 hottest Junes for nine states. **July** was 1.0°F above normal, in the **hottest third** of all years. It was among the 20 hottest Julys for three states. **August** was 0.9°F above normal, in the **hottest third** of all years. It was among the 20 hottest Augusts for eight states.

Precipitation Percent of Normal (%) June 1–August 31, 2026

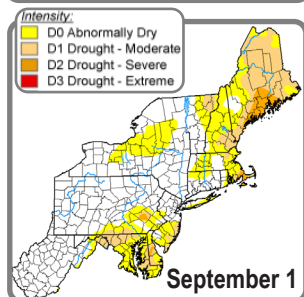


Summer precipitation was 102% of normal in the Northeast, in the **middle third** of all years. It was West Virginia's 11th-wettest summer. **June** rainfall was 88% of normal, in the **middle third** of all years. It was New Jersey's 19th-driest June but Vermont's 20th wettest. **July** rainfall was 105% of normal, in the **wettest third** of all years. It was the fourth-driest July for Maine but among the 20 wettest for three states. **August** rainfall was 113% of normal, in the **wettest third** of all years. It was among the 20 wettest Augusts for three states.

Regional Climate Overview – June–August 2026



June 16



September 1

Drought in the Northeast

As of [June 2](#), the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) showed 34% of the Northeast in drought and 16% as abnormally dry. During June, beneficial rainfall led to **improvements** in West Virginia and northern New England, but **conditions deteriorated** in eastern portions of the Mid-Atlantic, southeastern New York, and southern New England. For example, in mid-June, Delaware and Maryland reached their **highest coverage of extreme drought since 2002**. During July, drought **contracted** along a path from West Virginia to Massachusetts but **expanded** in Maine. In August, conditions **continued to improve** in the Mid-Atlantic, southeastern New York, and southern New England but **deteriorated further** in northern New England and central New York. The [September 1](#) U.S. Drought Monitor showed 18% of the Northeast in drought and 25% as abnormally dry. For current conditions, see the [Northeast DEWS Dashboard](#).

Record- to near-record low streamflow and/or groundwater levels were seen in some areas, especially closer to the coast in early summer, with mandatory **water restrictions** in [several locations](#). Baltimore, MD, [tested its backup water system](#) for the **first time in 20 years**. In early summer, [impacts in West Virginia](#) included low water levels and hauling water, limited germination and crop growth, **hay yield reductions** of up to 80%, and poor pasture conditions leading to supplemental feed use and thinning of herds. Growers in Delaware reported poor pasture conditions, [corn crop losses](#), reduced hay growth, and [heavy use of irrigation](#) which **increased costs**. Eastern Maryland growers noted drought-stressed corn, [delayed replanting of soybeans](#), and reduced honey production. In late summer, reports from northern

New England noted **slow pasture growth**, [stressed crops](#), and premature leaf drop from trees. **Burn bans** were issued for [parts of central Pennsylvania](#) in early July. In late August, **low water levels** in coastal Maine affected [rural firefighting operations](#).

Regional Impacts and Updates – June–August 2026

Summer Conditions

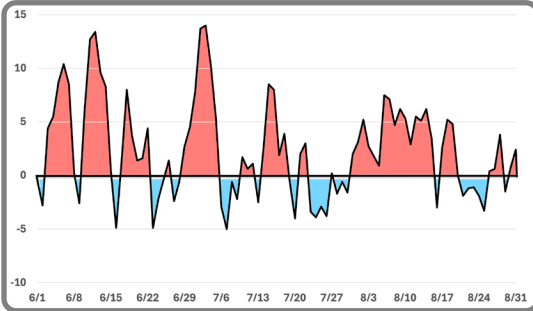
The summer severe weather season was **unusually active** with dozens of tornadoes, hundreds of non-tornadic wind damage reports, and record- to near-record large hail. [Storm reports](#) noted thousands of downed trees and damage (sometimes significant) to buildings and other property. **Flash flooding** resulted in evacuations, road closures, water rescues, flooded buildings, school closures, and disruptions to cell phone, internet, and 911 services. There were at least 12 deaths and at least 18 injuries related to storms and flooding. A few of the events are highlighted below.

- **June 14:** [Pennsylvania](#) saw **14 tornadoes**, ranking among the state's greatest number on a June day and 10 greatest in a day [for any month](#). There were also areas of damage from straight-line winds of up to 100 mph.
- **July 1–6:** Along with a heat wave, each day brought damaging thunderstorm winds. Pennsylvania had [intense damage](#), with **widespread, prolonged power outages**. It was [one of the 10 most significant events](#) in PPL Electric's history, requiring its ["largest restoration workforce...since Hurricane Sandy in 2012."](#) A 3-inch hailstone in Connecticut could be [the state's largest on record](#).
- **July 18:** **Nine tornadoes** hit Pennsylvania, including two EF-2s on the same day for the **first time in five years**. Straight-line winds of up to 105 mph and [flash flooding](#) also [struck the Northeast](#). Rochester, NY, had its **fifth-highest hourly rainfall total** of 1.91 inches. The storm system **helped clear wildfire smoke** out of the Northeast.
- **July 21:** There were **21 tornadoes** [in the Northeast](#), a few with miles-long path lengths and one as wide as three-quarters of a mile. Nine of the tornadoes hit West Virginia, **among its greatest number for any day**. Up to 8 inches of rain caused [significant flash flooding in central West Virginia](#) where **record- to near-record high water levels** were reached.
- **July 28–29:** Up to 12 inches of rain fell in an area from eastern Pennsylvania to southern New England, resulting in flash flooding. Two southeastern New York sites had [over 11 inches of rain](#), qualifying as **1,000-year storm events**. Albany, NY, and Worcester, MA, had their **wettest July day** with 5.45 inches of rain and 4.56 inches, respectively. It was also Albany's second all-time wettest day.
- **August 20:** There were **11 tornadoes** [in the Northeast](#). Pennsylvania had five, including York County's **strongest tornado since 2011**, an [EF-2 that ripped part of a school's roof off](#). For the **first time on record**, Lancaster County, PA, had three tornadoes in a day. Nassau County, NY, had an EF-1 tornado, its **strongest tornado since at least 2006**. Delaware also had three tornadoes.
- **August 27:** Saratoga County, NY, had two tornadoes on the same day for the **first time since July 5, 1992**. Several areas across the Northeast including [eastern West Virginia](#), central Pennsylvania, central New York, [New Jersey](#), and the New York City metro area experienced **notable flash flooding** when as much as 7 inches of rain fell, in some places on already saturated ground.



Damage from an EF-2 tornado in West Virginia on July 21. Credit: NWS RLX

Regional Impacts and Updates – June–August 2026



Daily average temperature departure from normal during summer at Philadelphia, PA. Warmer-than-normal days are shaded red and colder-than-normal days are shaded blue.

Summer Temperatures

Several records were set/tied during a heat wave from July 1 to 5. Atlantic City Airport, NJ, tied its **all-time hottest temperature** of 106°F, while Wilmington, DE, tied its **hottest July temperature** of 103°F. Sites including Kennedy Airport, NY; Harrisburg, PA; and Boston, MA, had their **longest streak of days** with a high of at least 100°F. Other records were set/tied such as longest streak of days with a high of at least 103°F or 101°F, only July to have three consecutive days with a high of at least 102°F, and greatest number of 100°F days for either July or all months. Low temperatures of 84°F at Washington, D.C.; 80°F at Providence, RI; and 71°F at Caribou, ME, tied as each site's **all-time hottest low temperatures** on record. In fact, it was the **first time on record** Providence had a low of at least 80°F. Harrisburg, PA, and Dulles Airport, VA, tied their hottest low temperatures for July at 81°F and 78°F, respectively.

Preliminary data indicated that PJM Interconnection, a power grid operator that services over 65 million customers and covers much of the Mid-Atlantic, set a **record for its highest peak load on July 2**. The heat caused several Fourth of July events to be [cancelled](#) and was linked to **dozens of deaths** (including [29 in New Jersey](#)) and [hundreds of people](#) seeking heat-related medical care (including [over 100](#) at an event in Pennsylvania). On July 16, Dulles Airport, Virginia, had a low of 81°F: its first time on record with a low of at least 80°F, the hottest low temperature for July beating the record set earlier in the month, and its **hottest low temperature for any month** on record.

Regional Outlook – Autumn 2026

ENSO

El Niño conditions continued to strengthen in the equatorial Pacific Ocean as of early September. According to NOAA's [Climate Prediction Center](#), there's "a greater than 90% chance of a very strong event" during fall and winter, with "a 75% chance of a historic event that would exceed the strength of previous El Niño events dating back to 1950." To learn more about this year's El Niño, see the [NRCC's July webinar](#) and [register for the November webinar](#).

Temperature and Precipitation

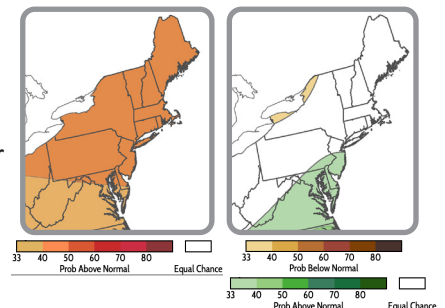
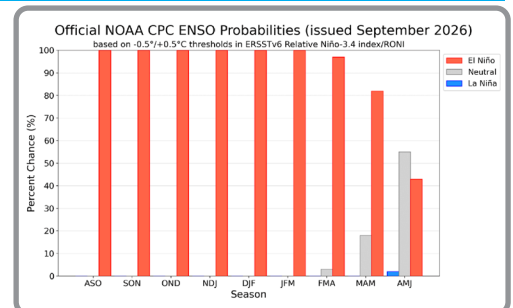
Normal October–December average temperatures range from the low 30s in far northern New England to the upper 40s in the region's southeastern corner. [NOAA's Climate Prediction Center](#) (CPC) favors **above-normal temperatures** for **October–December** for the Northeast. [CPC notes](#) that despite the strength of this El Niño, temperature impacts tend to be muted during the fall, with the greatest impacts emerging during winter. The temperature outlook was driven by long-term trends and current model forecasts. Normal October–December precipitation ranges from less than 9 inches in western New York and eastern West Virginia to over 15 inches in northern New York and coastal Maine. For **October–December**, CPC favors **below-normal precipitation** for parts of western and northern New York and **above-normal precipitation** for the region's southeastern corner and southeastern West Virginia, based on El Niño composites and other forecast tools. **Equal chances** of below-, near-, or above-normal precipitation were forecast for the rest of the Northeast.

Atlantic Hurricane Season

	Updated 2026 Atlantic Season Outlook	1991–2020 Average Season
Number of Named Storms	7–13	14
Number of Hurricanes	2–6	7
Number of Major Hurricanes	0–2	3

strengthening. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from **June 1 through November 30**, peaking from mid-August to late October. As of September 1, there had been five named storms, with none becoming hurricanes or major hurricanes, which is **below the long-term average** of [six named storms](#) and two hurricanes including one major hurricane. There were **no notable impacts** from the storms in the Northeast. The Northeast Regional Climate Center's [webinar in August 2026](#) focused on the updated hurricane outlook.

NOAA's [updated 2026 Atlantic hurricane season outlook](#) favors a **below-normal season**. This is tied to El Niño conditions, which increases wind shear and limits tropical storm formation and



CPC temperature outlook (above left) and precipitation outlook (above right) for October–December.

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