



TWIN CITIES DAILY TEMPERATURES FOR 2016

A WARMER, WETTER MINNESOTA

Minnesotans weren't able to use one of their favorite phrases – “We could use some rain!” – in 2016. The Twin Cities broke the record for annual rainfall – with 40.3 inches. The year also was consistently warm, with every month being warmer than the 30-year average. In fact, no year on record has been both as warm and as wet. “That’s the face of climate change,” said DNR Climatologist Kenny Blumenfeld. The upside was a record growing season (219 days, eight weeks longer than normal) in the Twin Cities, no extreme heat and record crops, some for the second year in a row. The downside? More than 50 thunderstorm days in the Twin Cities (37 is average) and widespread, extreme rainfalls; numerous damaging (some fatal) thunderstorms across central and northern Minnesota and a warm (2015-16, winter) which hurt the recreation industry. But by some measures, we got lucky. There were only a few strong tornadoes and comparatively little flash-flood-related damage. That means we can use one of our other favorite phrases when talking about 2016: “It could have been worse.”

— Graphic by RAY GRUMNEY, BILL MCAULIFFE

MONTHLY PRECIPITATION AND SNOWFALL TOTALS Ten months in 2016 had higher-than-normal precipitation levels

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Precipitation	0.31	1.09	2.26	2.84	2.42	4.49	5.09	7.82	5.47	3.41	2.98	2.14	40.32
30-year avg. *	0.90	0.77	1.89	2.66	3.36	4.25	4.04	4.30	3.08	2.43	1.77	1.16	30.61

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Snowfall	4.1	12.1	5.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.3	15.8	40.2
30-year avg. *	12.2	7.7	10.3	2.4	0	0	0	0	0	0.6	9.3	11.9	54.4

MONTHLY HIGH/AVERAGE TEMPERATURES Every month in 2016 was warmer on average than the 30-year average (added to 2015 that's 16 straight months)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Avg. high	24.1	31.8	49.4	56.9	71.2	80.5	84	81.9	74.0	61.2	52	27	57.9
30-year avg. *	11	18.1	33.2	39.2	51.5	62.1	66.4	64.8	58.2	44.7	36.2	14.8	41.7

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Monthly avg.	17.6	24.9	41.3	48.0	61.3	71.3	75.2	73.4	66.1	52.9	44.1	20.9	49.8
30-year avg. *	15.6	20.9	32.8	47.5	59.2	68.8	73.8	71.2	62.1	48.9	33.7	19.7	46.2

Sources: National Centers for Environmental Information, Northeast Regional Climate Center, National Weather Service, State Climatology Office-DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources, Mark Seeley's WeatherTalk

*Normals for temperatures and precipitation are based on 1981-2010, 30-year average (measured in inches and degrees Fahrenheit)