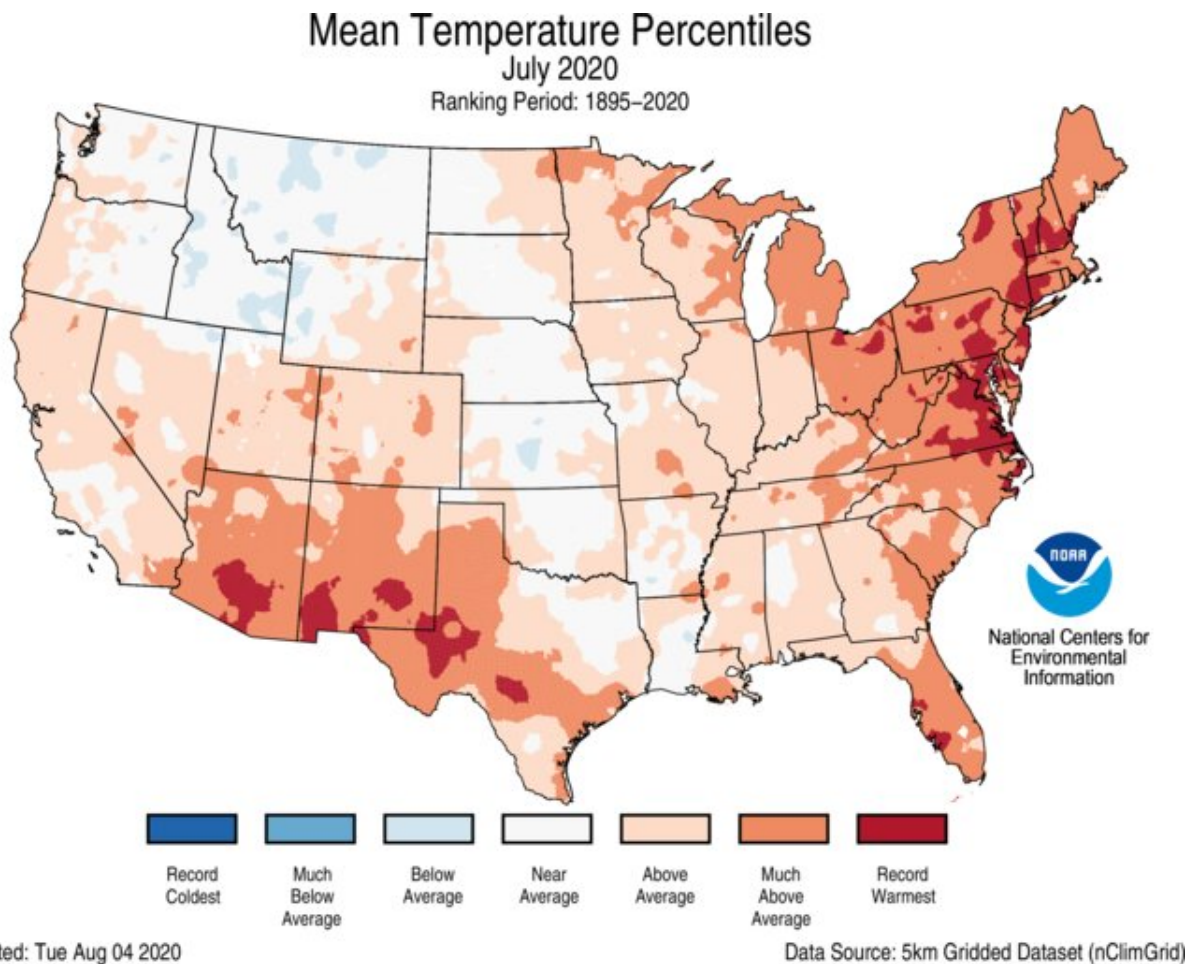


July 2020 set heat records for many U.S. states

August 10 2020, by John Bateman



Credit: NOAA Headquarters

It was an unusually steamy month for the country—even for July. Some

states recorded their hottest July ever as others tied with previous years.

The month's precipitation was also higher than average and ranked in the wettest third of the 126-year period of record, according to scientists from NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information.

Not to be outdone, tropical activity in the Atlantic revved up, producing three [tropical storms](#) and two hurricanes in just July alone. They were the earliest fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth named storms on record in the Atlantic Basin.

Here's a climate snapshot of the month of July and the year to date:

Climate by the numbers

July 2020

The average temperature last month across the contiguous U.S. was 75.7 degrees F (2.1 degrees above average), making July the 11th-warmest in the 126-year record.

Seven states—Connecticut (tie), Delaware, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania (tie), and Virginia (tie)—reported their hottest July on record. Fourteen more states across the South and East reported a top-10 hottest July.

The average precipitation for July was 2.93 inches (0.15 of an inch above average), which ranked in the wettest third of the record. Above-average precipitation fell across much of the northern and central Plains, as well as the Great Lakes, Mississippi Valley and Gulf Coast.

Year to date/January through July 2020

The year-to-date (YTD) average temperature for the contiguous U.S. was 53.6 degrees F, which is 2.4 degrees above the 20th-century average and the seventh warmest YTD on record.

In keeping with the warm trend noted in June's report, Florida saw its hottest YTD on record by July's end.

Precipitation was plentiful across the U.S. with a total of 19.29 inches—1.20 inches above average. The YTD ranked in the wettest third of the 126-year record, with both Tennessee and West Virginia marking their fifth-wettest.

More notable climate events

- **Hanna hit Texas:** The first hurricane of the season, Hurricane Hanna, struck Padre Island, Texas, on July 25, causing significant damage. Hanna was the earliest named "H storm" on [record](#) to form in the Atlantic.
- **Alaska was cool, with a few hot spots:** The state had its coolest July since 2014, with an average temperature of 53.3 degrees F. Meanwhile, Kodiak had its third-warmest July since 1915, and Sitka Airport tied its all-time high temperature of 88 degrees on July 31.
- **Drought intensified across the U.S.:** Approximately 33% of the contiguous U.S. was in drought by the end of July, up 7% from June, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor report. Drought expanded or intensified across parts of the parts of the West, South, central Plains, central Rockies, Great Lakes, Ohio Valley and Northeast.

More information: Assessing the U.S. Climate in July 2020.

www.ncei.noaa.gov/news/national-climate-202007

Provided by NOAA Headquarters

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