NWS FORM E-5	NATIONIAL COE AND			HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA	(HSA)
(11-88) (PRES. by NWS Instructi		C AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINIS NATIONAL WEATHER	-	Tulsa, Oklahoma	(TSA)
,	,	R AND FLOOD CONDITI		REPORT FOR: MONTH December	YEAR 2022
TO:	Hydrometeorologica NOAA / National Wea 1325 East West Highw Silver Spring, MD 209	vay, Room 7230	2	SIGNATURE Steven F. Piltz (Meteorologist-in-Ch	arge)

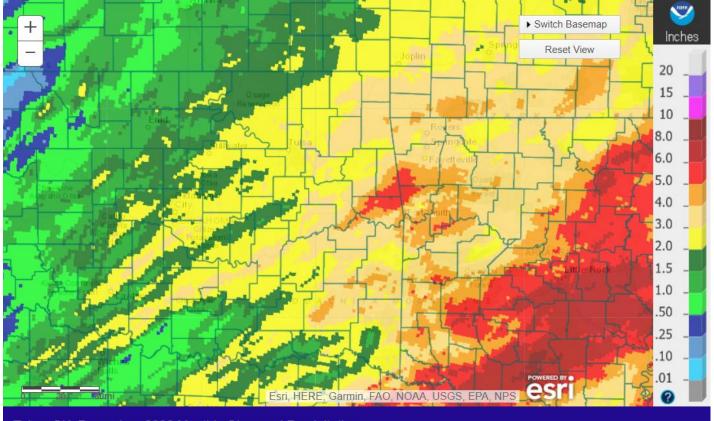
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924)

X An "X" in the box indicates no flood stages were reached in this Hydrologic Service Area (HSA) during the month above.

While some portions of the HSA received above normal precipitation this month, most of the area remained below normal. Rises occurred along the Illinois River, but no flooding occurred. Exceptional drought continued for part of the region this month. Normal precipitation for December ranges from 1.5 inches in Pawnee County to 3.2 inches in Haskell County. Normal precipitation for the Ozark region of northwest Arkansas averages 3.2 inches for the month. This report, past E-5 reports, and monthly hydrology and climatology summaries can be found at https://www.weather.gov/tsa/climo_summary_e5list.

Monthly Summary

Using the radar-derived estimated observed precipitation from the RFCs (Fig. 1a), rainfall totals for December 2022 ranged from 1.5" to 6" across eastern OK and northwest AR, with much of the area receiving 2"-4". These rainfall totals correspond to 25% to 200% of the normal December rainfall, with east central OK into west central AR receiving highest percentage, and southeast OK receiving the lowest percentage (Fig. 1b).



Tulsa, OK: December, 2022 Monthly Observed Precipitation Valid on: January 01, 2023 12:00 UTC

Fig. 1a. Estimated Observed Rainfall for December 2022

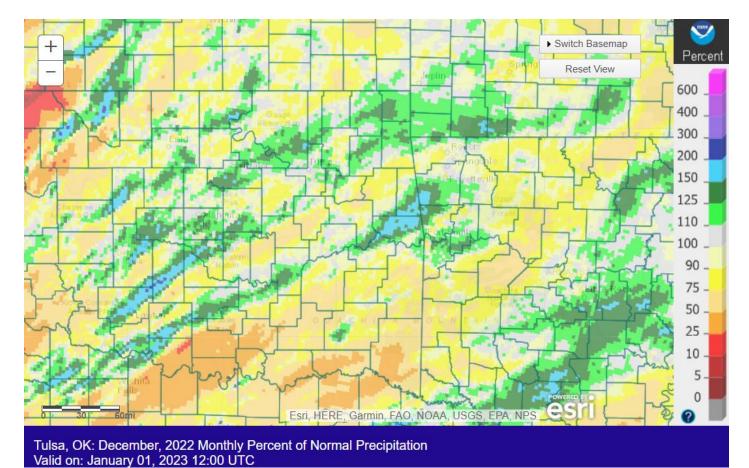


Fig. 1b. Estimated % of Normal Rainfall for December 2022

In Tulsa, OK, December 2022 ranked as the 57th coldest December (40.4°F; since records began in 1905), the 37th wettest December (2.55"; since records began in 1888), and the 43rd snowiest December (1.2"; since records began in 1900). Fort Smith, AR had the 47th warmest December (43.7°F; since records began in 1882), the 42nd wettest December (3.96"; since records began in 1882), and the 53rd snowiest December (Trace, tied 27 other years; since records began in 1883). Fayetteville, AR had the 18th warmest (41.4°F), the 24th wettest (3.44"), and the 25th snowiest (0.8", tied 1967) December since records began in 1950.

Some of the larger precipitation reports (in inches) for December 2022 included:

			-		
Bella Vista 2.2E, AR (coco)	5.13	Bella Vista 2.5SSE, AR (coco)	5.04	Vian 5.3ENE, OK (coco)	4.97
Busch 0.4E, AR (coco)	4.79	Kingston 2S, AR (coop)	4.76	Sallisaw 1.0SE, OK (coco)	4.61
Sallisaw OK (meso)	4 52	Cookson OK (meso)	4 51	Holiday Island 1 3SSW AR (coco	\ 443

Some of the lowest precipitation reports (in inches) for December 2022 included:

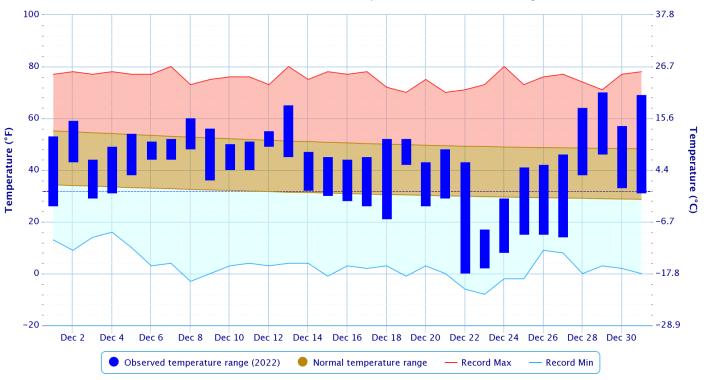
Copan, OK (meso)	1.70	Bartlesville, OK (ASOS)	1.73	Foraker, OK (meso)	1.77
Okemah, OK (meso)	1.78	Burbank, OK (meso)	1.87	Hugo, OK (meso)	1.88
Okmulgee, OK (meso)	1.93	Oilton, OK (meso)	2.11	Nowata, OK (meso)	2.15

According to statistics from the Oklahoma Climatological Survey (OCS) Mesonet:

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Rank since	December	Cool Growing	Last 60	Last 180	Water Year-	2022
1921	2022	Season	Days	Days	to-Date	
		(Sep 1 – Dec	(Nov 2 –	(Jul 5 –	(Oct 1 –	
		31)	Dec 31)	Dec 31)	Dec 31)	
Northeast	27 th	20 th	29 th	15 th	46 th	20 th
OK	wettest	driest	wettest	driest	driest	driest
East	29 th	45 th	20 th	35 th	32 nd	45 th
Central OK	wettest	driest	wettest	driest	wettest	wettest
Southeast	45 th	42 nd	37 th	33 rd	31 st	33 rd
OK	driest	driest	wettest	driest	wettest	driest
Statowida	41 st	28 th	32 nd	17 th	44 th	22 nd
Statewide	wettest	driest	wettest	driest	wettest	driest

Daily Temperature Data - Tulsa Area, OK (ThreadEx)

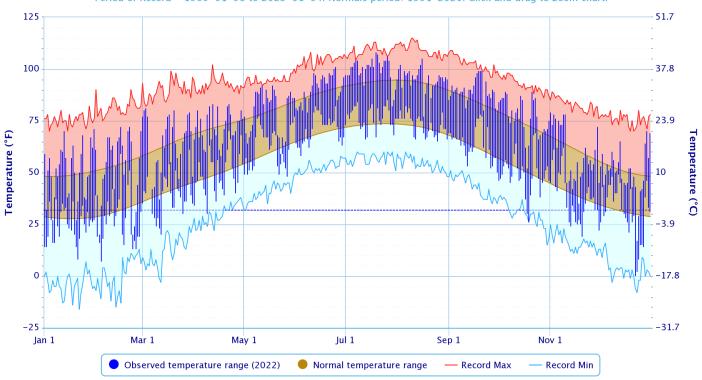
Period of Record - 1905-01-06 to 2023-01-04. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Powered by ACIS

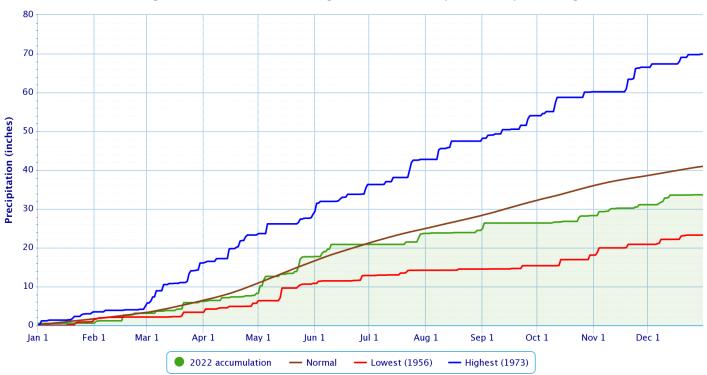
Daily Temperature Data - Tulsa Area, OK (ThreadEx)

Period of Record - 1905-01-06 to 2023-01-04. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Accumulated Precipitation - Tulsa Area, OK (ThreadEx)

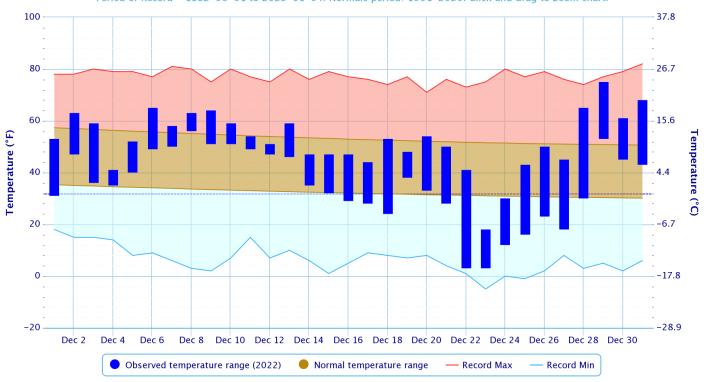
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



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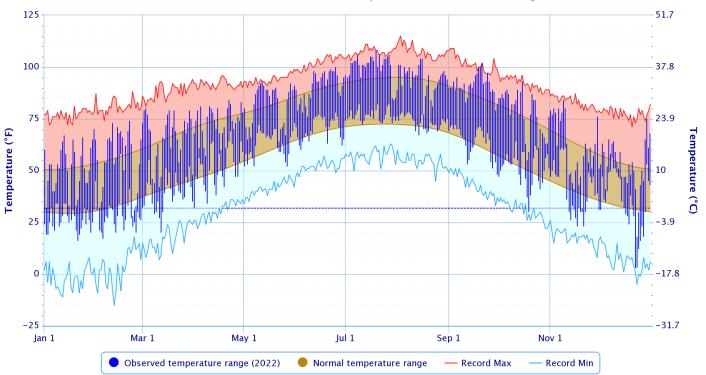
Daily Temperature Data - Fort Smith Area, AR (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – 1882-06-01 to 2023-01-04. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Daily Temperature Data - Fort Smith Area, AR (ThreadEx)

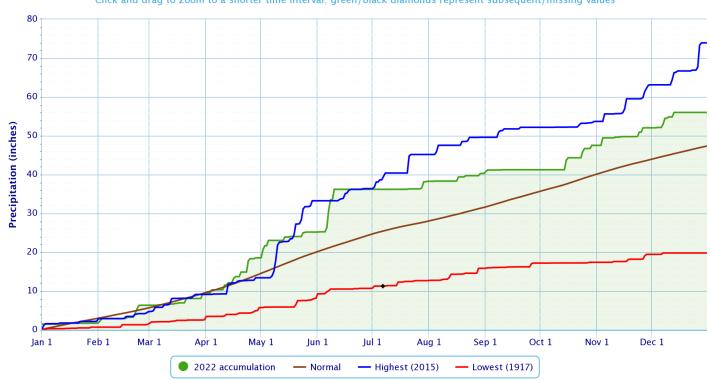
Period of Record - 1882-06-01 to 2023-01-04. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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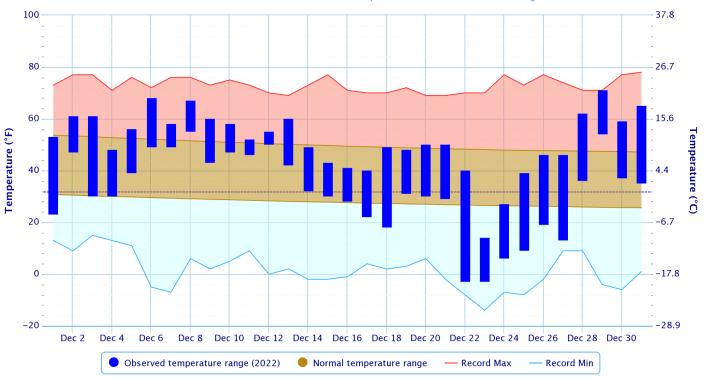
Accumulated Precipitation - Fort Smith Area, AR (ThreadEx)

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



Daily Temperature Data - FAYETTEVILLE DRAKE FIELD, AR

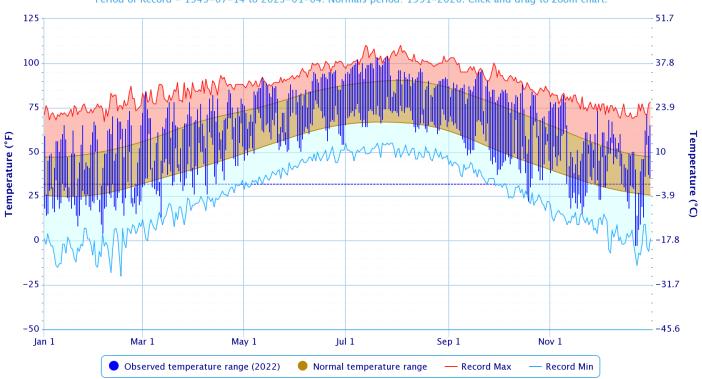
Period of Record - 1949-07-14 to 2023-01-04. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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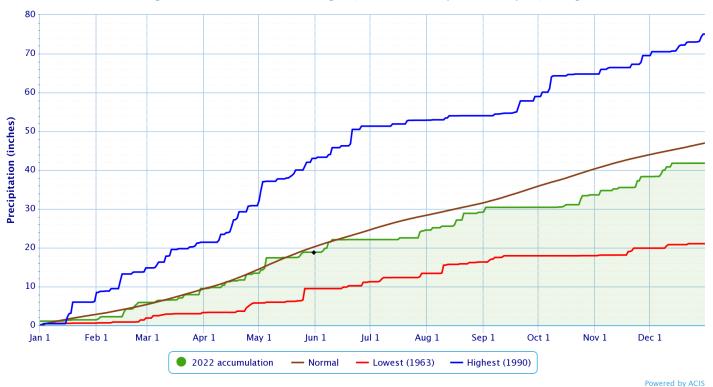
Daily Temperature Data - FAYETTEVILLE DRAKE FIELD, AR

Period of Record - 1949-07-14 to 2023-01-04. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Accumulated Precipitation - FAYETTEVILLE DRAKE FIELD, AR

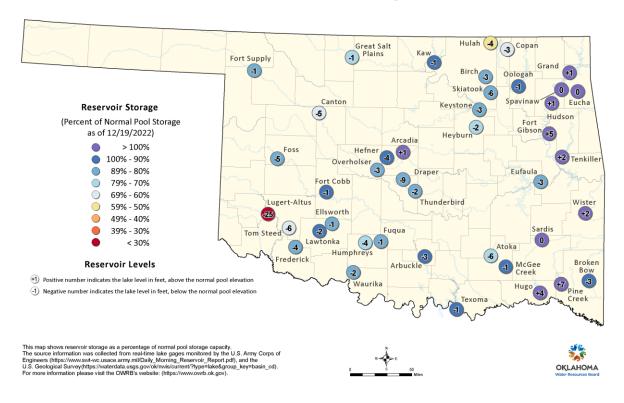
Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



Reservoirs

According to the USACE, several of the lakes in the HSA were below 3% of top of their conservation pools as of 1/06/2023: Hulah Lake 54%, Heyburn Lake 57%, Copan Lake 67%, Eufaula Lake 76%, Keystone Lake 77%, Birch Lake 78%, Skiatook Lake 80%, Oologah Lake 92%, and Beaver Lake 94%. One lake was above 3% of the top of its conservation pool: Hudson Lake 5%.

Oklahoma Reservoir Levels and Storage as of 12/19/2022



Drought

According to the <u>U.S. Drought Monitor</u> (USDM) from December 27, 2022 (Figs. 2, 3), drought conditions were no longer impacting the entire HSA. However, Exceptional (D4) Drought conditions continued across portions of eastern Kay, Osage, Okfuskee, and Okmulgee Counties in eastern OK. Extreme (D3) Drought conditions were occurring in portions of eastern Kay, Osage, Pawnee, Washington, Nowata, Craig, Ottawa, Rogers, Mayes, Wagoner, Tulsa, Creek, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Muskogee, McIntosh, and Pittsburg Counties in eastern Oklahoma. Severe (D2) Drought conditions existed in portions of Muskogee, Wagoner, Rogers, Mayes, Cherokee, Delaware, Ottawa, McIntosh, and Pittsburg Counties in eastern Oklahoma. Moderate (D1) Drought conditions were present in portions of Ottawa, Delaware, Mayes, Cherokee, Muskogee, McIntosh, Haskell, Latimer, Pittsburg, Pushmataha, and Le Flore Counties in eastern Oklahoma and Sebastian County in northwest Arkansas. Abnormally Dry (D0, but not in drought) conditions were present in Delaware, Cherokee, Sequoyah, Haskell, Le Flore, Pushmataha, and Choctaw Counties in eastern Oklahoma, and Benton and Sebastian Counties in northwest Arkansas.

U.S. Drought Monitor Oklahoma

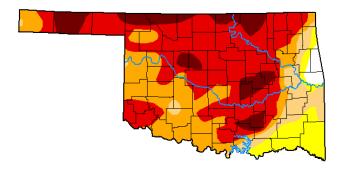


Fig. 2. Drought Monitor for Oklahoma

December 27, 2022

(Released Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022) Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Droi	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)						
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4		
Сиптепт	1.82	98.18	89.73	80.92	56.13	11.65		
Last Week 12-20-2022	1.82	98.18	89.73	80.92	56.13	11.65		
3 Month s Ago 09-27-2022	0.00	100.00	99.88	94.44	64.44	17.25		
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2022	5.02	94.98	88.14	72.26	40.44	0.00		
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	0.00	100.00	99.88	94.44	64.44	17.25		
One Year Ago 12-28-2021	4.92	95.08	90.17	72.51	22.62	0.00		

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

Author: Richard Heim NCEI/NOAA



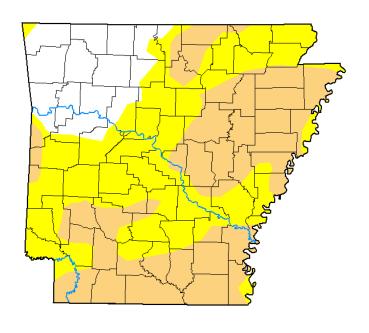


droughtmonitor.unl.edu



U.S. Drought Monitor

Arkansas



December 27, 2022

(Released Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022) Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	17.03	82.97	41.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 12-20-2022	17.03	82.97	41.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Month s Ago 09-27-2022	4.99	95.01	69.68	39.30	2.96	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2022	39.91	60.09	28.99	14.24	0.41	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	4.99	95.01	69.68	39.30	2.96	0.00
One Year Ago 12-28-2021	23.76	76.24	29.83	2.67	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.
Local conditions may vary. For more information on the
Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

Author:
Richard Heim
NCEI/NOAA

USDA (





droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Fig. 3. Drought Monitor for Arkansas

Annual Summary

Using the radar-derived estimated observed precipitation from the RFCs (Fig. 4a), rainfall totals for 2022 ranged from 25" to 60" across eastern OK and northwest AR, with much of the area receiving 30"-50". These rainfall totals correspond to 110% to around 125% of the normal annual rainfall across east central OK and far northwest/far west central Arkansas, and 50% to 90% for the remainder of eastern OK and Carroll County in northwest AR (Fig. 4b).

In Tulsa, OK, 2022 ranked as the 29th warmest Year (61.8°F, tied 2015; since records began in 1905), the 43rd driest Year (33.63"; since records began in 1888), and the 30th snowiest Year (13.5"; since records began in 1900). Fort Smith, AR had the 16th warmest Year (63.2°F, tied 2021, 2005, 1999, 1896; since records began in 1883), the 16th wettest Year (56.01"; since records began in 1882), and the 42nd snowiest Year (6.5", tied 1930; since records began in 1884). Fayetteville, AR had the 6th warmest (59.3°F), the 24th driest (41.76"), and 5th snowiest Year since records began in 1950.

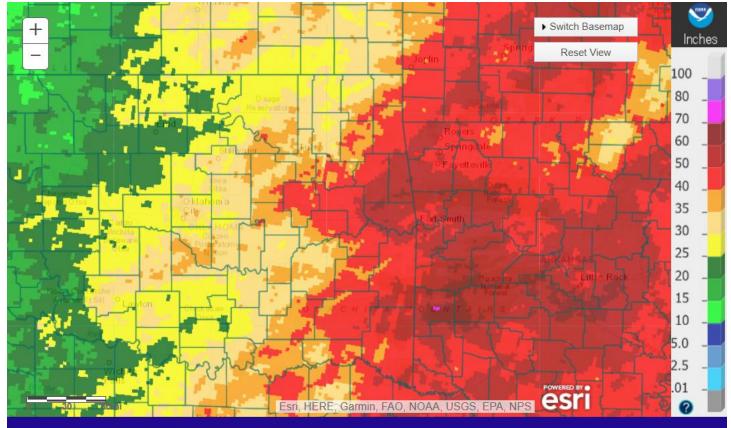
There were 21 tornadoes in the NWS Tulsa area of eastern OK and northwest AR in 2022, consisting of 1 EF-3, 1 EF-2, 15 EF-1, 3 EF-0, and 1 EF-Unknown tornadoes. More information about these tornadoes can be found at https://arcg.is/1eT4580.

Some of the larger precipitation reports (in inches) for 2022 included:

Kingston 2S, AR (coop)	61.57	Sallisaw 1.0SE, OK (coco)	60.35	Bunch 0.8N, OK (coco)	60.01
Winslow 7NE, AR (coop)	59.58	Sallisaw, OK (meso)	58.28	Vian 5.3ENE, OK (coco)	57.77
Cookson, OK (meso)	56.64	Bella Vista 2.5SSE, AR (coco)	56.59	Webbers Falls, OK (meso)	56.22

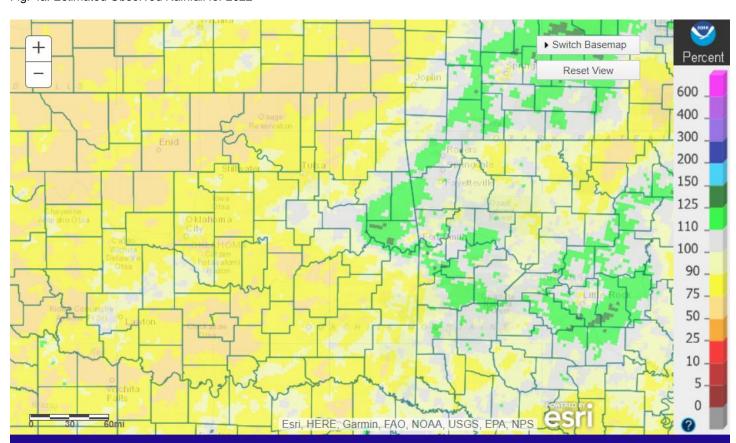
Some of the lowest precipitation reports (in inches) for 2022 included:

Foraker, OK (meso)	27.89	Bartlesville, OK (ASOS)	28.28	Burbank, OK (meso)	28.86
Pawnee, OK (meso)	29.05	Talala, OK (meso)	30.03	Copan, OK (meso)	30.20
Nowata, OK (meso)	30.31	Vinita, OK (meso)	31.26	Wynona, OK (meso)	32.47



Tulsa, OK: 2022 Annual Observed Precipitation Valid on: January 01, 2023 12:00 UTC

Fig. 4a. Estimated Observed Rainfall for 2022



Tulsa, OK: 2022 Annual Percent of Normal Precipitation Valid on: January 01, 2023 12:00 UTC

Fig. 4b. Estimated % of Normal Rainfall for 2022

Outlooks

The <u>Climate Prediction Center</u> (CPC) outlook for January 2023 (issued December 31, 2022) indicates an enhanced chance for above normal temperatures across all of eastern OK and northwest AR. This outlook also indicates a slightly enhanced chance for above median precipitation across most of northwest AR, with equal chances for above, near, and below median precipitation across eastern OK. This outlook was largely based on dynamical model output and La Niña and Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) influences. The first half of the month is expected to be warmer than normal for much of the Plains, though there is the possibility for some below normal temperatures late in the month due to the potential for a negative North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) pattern.

For the 3-month period January-February-March 2023, CPC is forecasting an equal chance for above, near, and below normal temperatures across all of eastern OK and northwest AR. This outlook also indicates an enhanced chance for below median precipitation from north central to southeast OK, with equal chances for above, near, and below median precipitation elsewhere across far eastern OK and northwest AR (outlook issued December 15, 2022). This outlook is based on long-term trends, La Niña impacts, and incorporates both statistical and dynamical forecast tools. According to CPC, the combined effect of the ocean-atmosphere system remains consistent with La Niña conditions. There is a 50%-50% chance for La Niña or ENSO-neutral conditions through the remainder of winter 2022-23, and a 71% chance of ENSO-neutral by early spring. CPC continues the La Niña Advisory.

<u>Summary of Heavy Precipitation Events</u> Daily quality-controlled rainfall maps can be found at: http://water.weather.gov/precip/index.php?location_type=wfo&location_name=tsa

An extensive plume of subtropical moisture extended from the Pacific into the southern Plains on the 7th. The moisture plume gradually shifted north across OK and AR as an upper-level trough axis moved into the southwest U.S. and a southern stream wave lifted northeast. Showers that developed within this moisture plume began to spread east into eastern OK from central OK during the afternoon of the 7th, and became more widespread across northeast OK and northwest AR during the afternoon and evening hours. Additional scattered showers and thunderstorms developed across southeast OK into west central AR near a surface boundary. As the upper-level trough ejected into the plains late on the 7th, even more significant moisture transport occurred. This resulted in heavier rainfall during the overnight through early morning hours. This activity began to shift east during the morning, coming to an end at mid-morning of the 8th. Rainfall totals ranged from 0.25" to around 3.5" (Figs. 5-8).

Widespread showers with embedded thunderstorms spread into northeast OK and northwest AR during the late evening hours of the 9th as a mid-level shortwave traversed the area. Low-level moisture surged north in the low-level jet and strong warm air advection regime, with precipitable water (PWAT) values climbing into the 1.25"-1.5" range (3 standard deviations above normal). The showers and thunderstorms continued through the overnight hours, finally ending from northwest to southeast across all but southeast OK through the morning of the 10th. A second wave approached the area and resulted in a continuation of showers and thunderstorms across far southeast OK near a lingering surface boundary during the afternoon through mid-evening hours of the 10th. Rainfall totals through 6 am on the 10th ranged from around 0.25" to near 2.5" in the affected locations (Figs. 9, 10), with 0.25" to 2" falling after 6 am (Fig. 11).

Scattered showers and thunderstorms developed over eastern OK around midnight on the 13th within a strengthening warm air advection pattern, spreading east into northwest AR during the overnight hours. A more significant line of showers and thunderstorms moving across OK made its way into eastern OK in the predawn hours of the 13th. This north-south line of storms marched eastward across eastern OK and western AR during the morning through early afternoon hours before shifting east of the area. Some severe weather occurred with these storms. The majority of the area received 0.50" to near 2" of rain (Figs. 12, 13). With the several recent rounds of rain over the Illinois River basin, the lower Illinois River rose above action stage (river too dangerous for floating), but did not exceed flood stage.

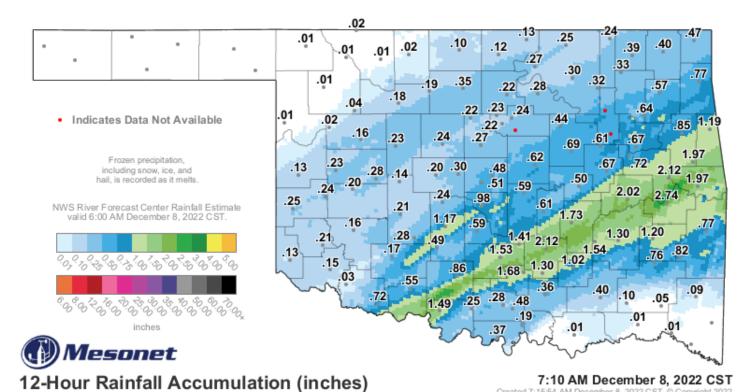


Fig. 5. OK Mesonet (values) and NWS RFC rainfall estimate (image) 12-hour rainfall ending at 7:10 am CST 12/08/2022.

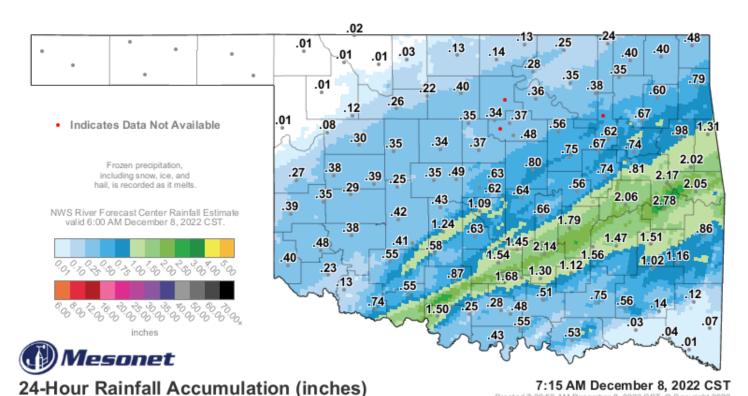


Fig. 6. OK Mesonet (values) and NWS RFC rainfall estimate (image) 24-hour rainfall ending at 7:15 am CST 12/08/2022.



Valid on: December 08, 2022 12:00 UTC

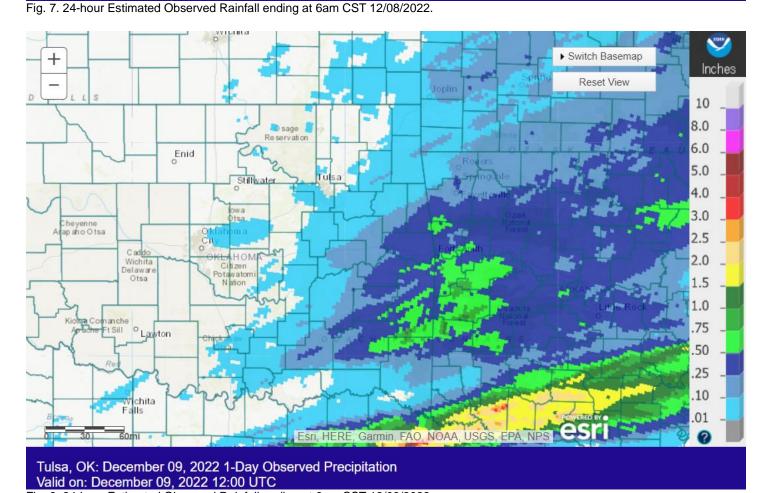


Fig. 8. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 6am CST 12/09/2022.

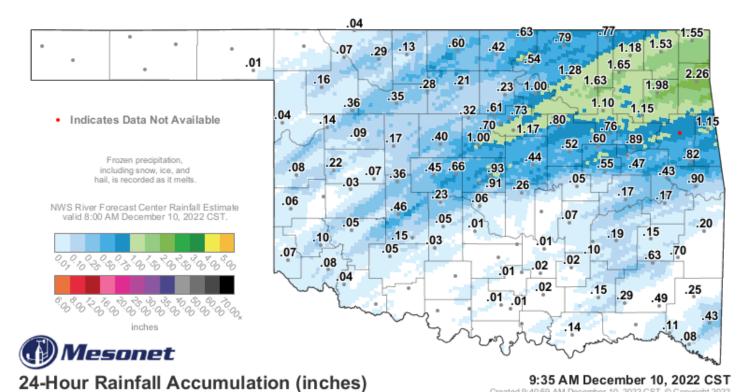


Fig. 9. OK Mesonet (values) and NWS RFC rainfall estimate (image) 24-hour rainfall ending at 9:35 am CST 12/10/2022.



Valid on: December 10, 2022 12:00 UTC
Fig. 10. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 6am CST 12/10/2022.

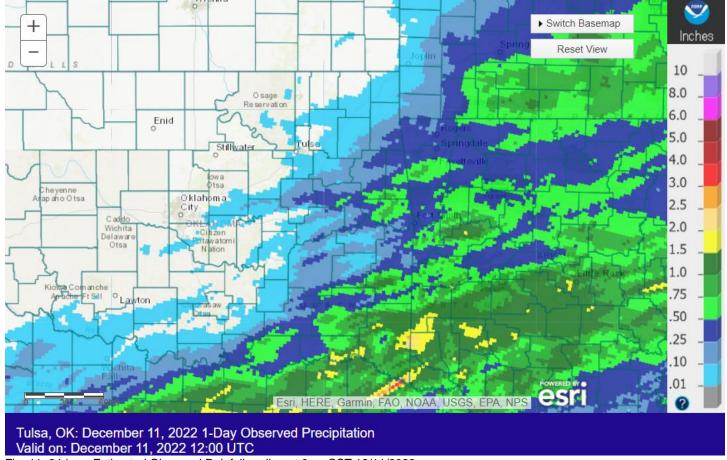


Fig. 11. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 6am CST 12/11/2022.

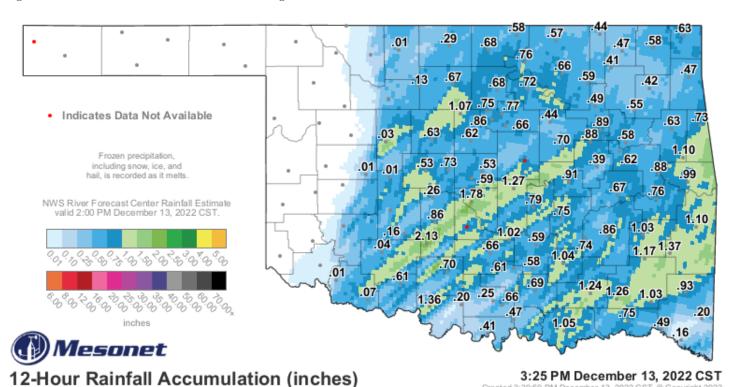


Fig. 12. OK Mesonet (values) and NWS RFC rainfall estimate (image) 12-hour rainfall ending at 3:25 pm CST 12/13/2022.

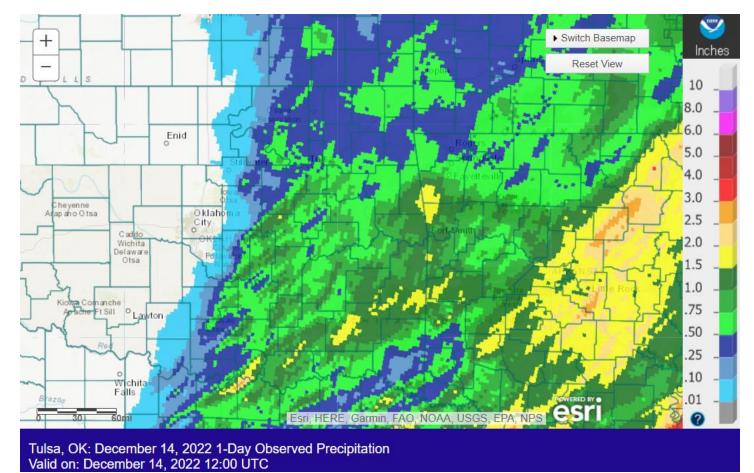


Fig. 13. 24-hour Estimated Observed Rainfall ending at 6am CST 12/14/2022.

A strong arctic cold front moved into northeast OK during the early morning hours of the 22nd, arriving near the I-44 corridor at 5 am CST as a vigorous upper-level trough dived out of the northern Rockies and into the central Plains. The front brought plunging temperatures, strong and gusty northerly winds of 30-45 mph, bitter wind chill values, and wintry precipitation. By noon, much of the region had temperatures in the single digits, which was around 40 degrees colder than 24 hours prior. Figures 14-19 show OK Mesonet measurements at 11:55 am CST 12/22/2022, illustrating the change in weather due to the cold front. Freezing rain/drizzle fell near the front, while the precipitation quickly transitioned to snow north of the front as it continued to move quickly southeast through eastern OK and northwest AR during the morning hours. The snowfall was heaviest across northeast OK and northwest AR from mid-morning through early afternoon, with all of the snow shifting east of the area by late afternoon. Much of eastern OK and northwest AR received some snow, with totals ranging from a trace to near 3" (Fig. 20). Rainfall and liquid equivalent totals were only around 0.10" or less.

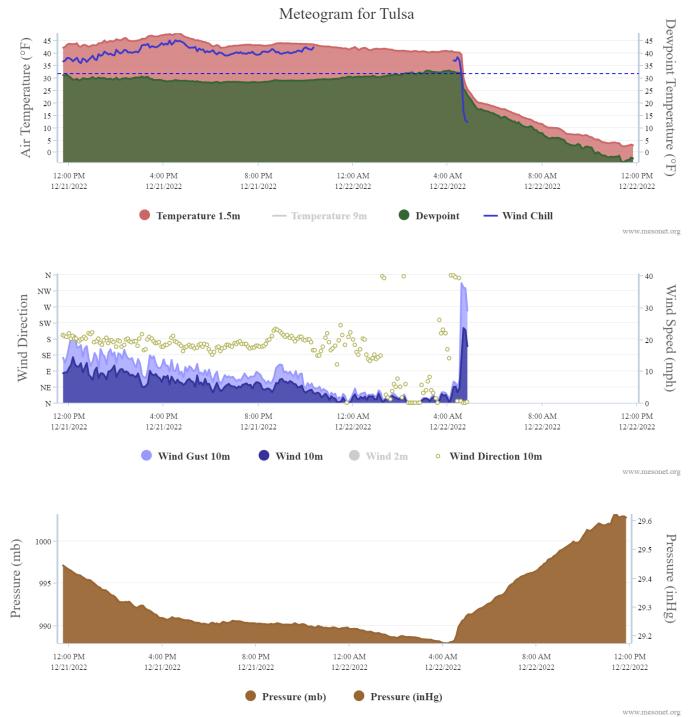


Fig. 14. OK Mesonet Tulsa station meteogram showing cold front passage on 12/22/2022 bringing a significant drop in temperatures and increase in winds (freezing rain caused the anemometer to freeze up).

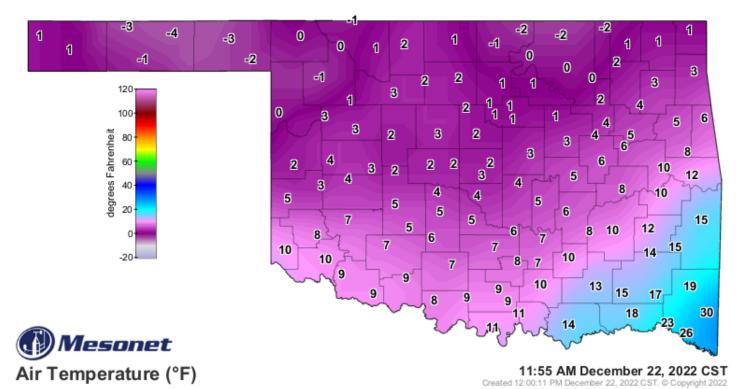


Fig. 15. OK Mesonet air temperature at 11:55 am CST 12/22/2022.

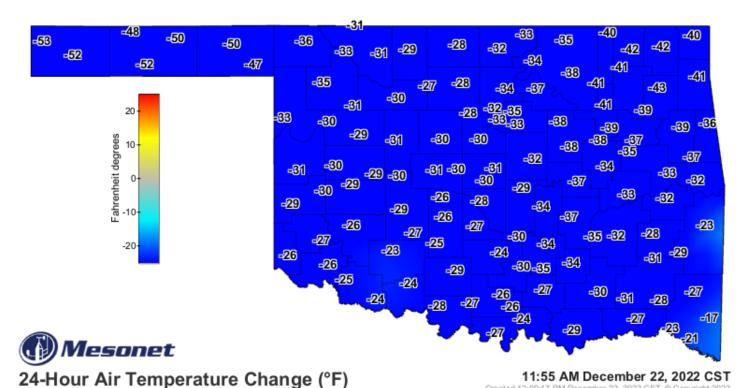


Fig. 16. OK Mesonet 24-hour change in air temperature at 11:55 am CST 12/22/2022.

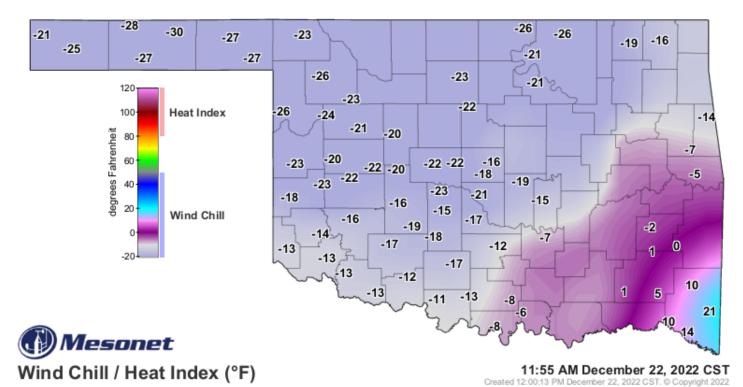


Fig. 17. OK Mesonet wind chill at 11:55 am CST 12/22/2022. Note: freezing rain caused the anemometers to freeze up, resulting in missing data for many stations.

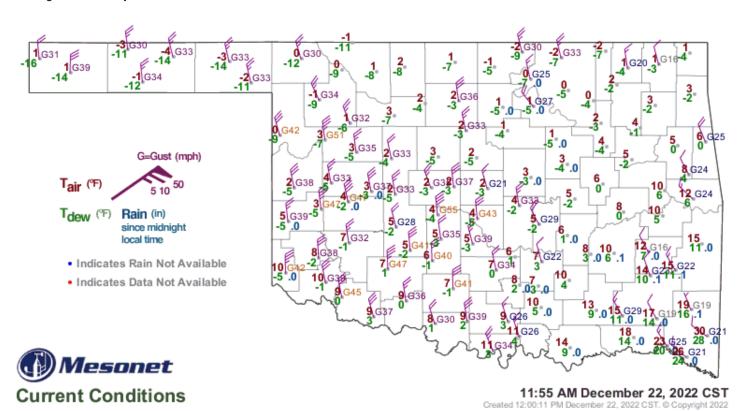


Fig. 18. OK Mesonet weather measurements at 11:55 am CST 12/22/2022. Note: freezing rain caused the anemometers to freeze up, resulting in missing wind data for many stations.

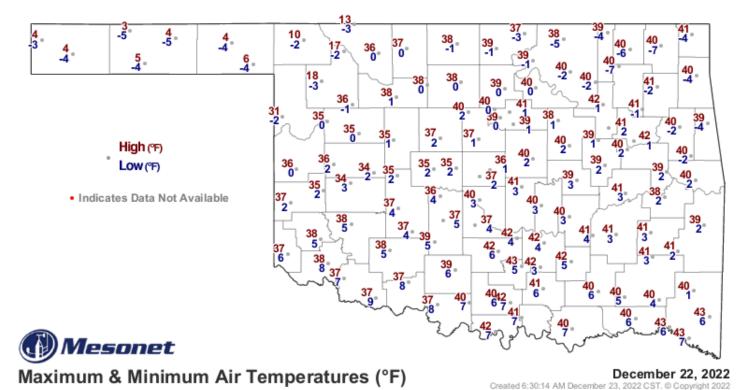


Fig. 19. OK Mesonet maximum and minimum temperatures for 12/22/2022.

Weather Forecast Office Estimated Snowfall From December 22nd Tulsa, OK **UPDATED Using YOUR Reports and Precipitation Estimates** Issued Dec 24, 2022 11:30 AM CST 2.5" 1.5 Miami 3.5" Bartlesville 44 49 Estimated Snow Accumulation (in) 0.9 35 2.5" Fayetteville Muskogee For 1.5" Smith 0.3" 35) 0.5" 0" **NWSTulsa** weather.gov/tsa

Fig. 20. Estimated snowfall for 12/22/2022.

Written by:

Nicole McGavock Service Hydrologist WFO Tulsa

Products issued in December 2022:

- *CWYO2 became a daily river forecast point September 7, 2016
- *MLBA4 and OZGA4 transferred to NWS Tulsa HSA February 5, 2014
- *Mixed case River Flood products began July 31, 2013
 - 0 Flash Flood Warnings (FFW)
 - 0 Flash Flood Statements (FFS)
 - 0 Flash/Areal Flood Watches (FFA) (0 Watch FFA CON/EXT/EXA/EXB/CAN)
 - 2 Urban and Small Stream Advisories (FLS)
 - 0 Areal Flood Warnings (FLW)
 - 0 Areal Flood Statements (FLS)
 - 0 River Flood Warnings (FLW) (includes category increases)
 - 0 River Flood Statements (FLS)
 - 5 River Flood Advisories (FLS) (10 Advisory FLS CON/EXT/CAN)
 - 0 River Flood Watches (FFA) (0 Watch FFA CON/EXT/CAN)
 - 0 River Statements (RVS)
 - 0 Hydrologic Outlooks (ESF)
 - 1 Drought Information Statements (DGT)

Preliminary Hydrographs:

