

Nevada State Climate Office

Photo by A. Csank

Quarterly Report & Outlook July - September 2020

Notable Weather & Climate in Nevada

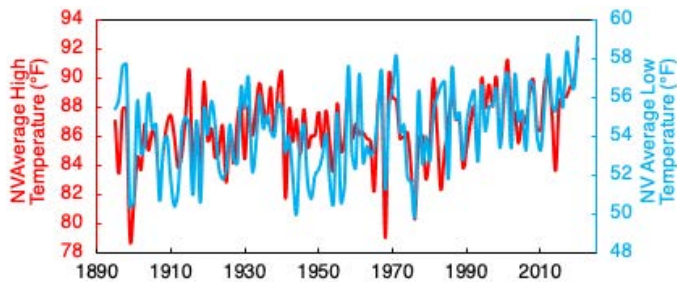
It was a hot, dry summer. Consequently, drought expanded and deepened across the state, with D3, Extreme Drought, first reported on the July 28 Drought Monitor and D4, Exceptional Drought, reported by September 15.

The WestWideDroughtTracker shows temperatures 4°F to more than 5°F above the 1981 - 2010 average in parts of Nevada and the Sierra Nevada. According to [NOAA's Climate at a Glance](#), it was Nevada's warmest summer since records began in 1895. Daytime highs and nighttime lows were both above average, but high temperatures were exceptionally warm. Northeastern, central, and southern Nevada experienced their highest average high temperatures on record. In northwestern Nevada, it was the second warmest summer. Nighttime temperatures were, statewide, only the third warmest on record.

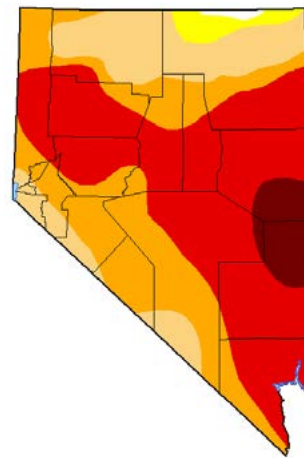
August was particularly warm. Statewide, it was the warmest August on record, whether you consider minimum, maximum, or average temperatures.

The high temperatures impacted the day-to-day experience, as well. McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas recorded temperatures at or over 100°F for 61 consecutive days, besting their previous run of 46 days back in 1988. There was also a stretch of eight consecutive days where temperatures hit at least 110°F.

It was dry, as well, with much of the state receiving less than 20% of the usual precipitation. Scattered pockets of the state were lucky enough to get a few storms that brought summer precipitation near or even a little above average.



Statewide average August temperature, 1895 - 2020. Climate at a Glance.



September 29, 2020
Drought Monitor

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

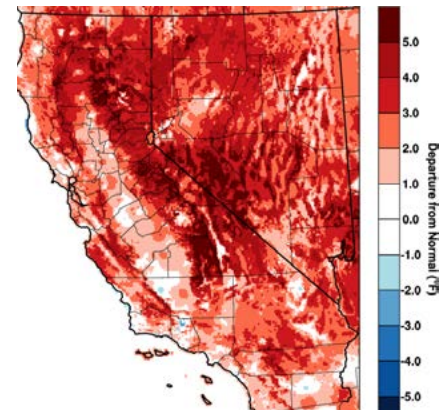
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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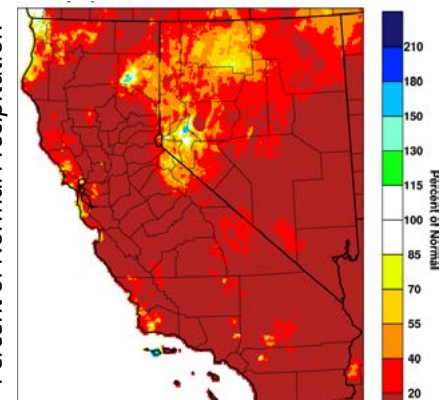
Summer
recap

Departure from Normal Temperature



July -
September

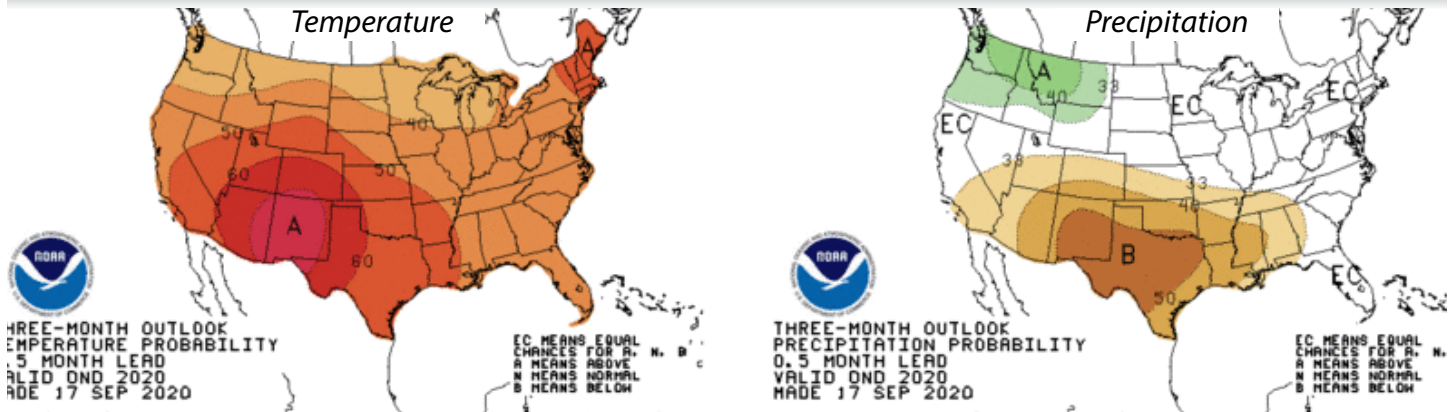
Percent of Normal Precipitation



WestWideDroughtTracker, <https://wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/archive.php>

Outlook for October - November

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>



Those of you hoping for a cooler than normal autumn might be out of luck. While the shorter days of fall do bring more moderate temperatures, the Climate Prediction Center outlook for October - December indicates that most of Nevada has a 40 - 60% chance of being warmer than usual. In fact, the odds are favoring a warmer than normal fall over all of the contiguous United States. With La Niña conditions in place in the tropical Pacific, southern Nevada may be facing a drier than normal cool-season. That is reflected in the slightly elevated odds of a drier than normal winter over that part of the state. With drought already in place after a dry summer -- of late September, Las Vegas had not had any rain at the airport since April -- a seasonal forecast for warmer than normal and potentially drier than usual conditions is not good news.

- If you want to stay on top of El Niño-Southern Oscillation conditions, you can check out the monthly updates provided by the Climate Prediction Center at https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensodisc.shtml.
- To look at some of the longer lead seasonal forecasts, visit <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/>.

In-depth: Check out our new (online) digs!

It's official -- the Nevada State Climate Office has a web presence once again!

You can visit us at <https://extension.unr.edu/climate/>.

On the webpage, you can

- ☀ Meet the people who provide you with weather and climate information,
- ☀ Read about the differences between weather and climate,
- ☀ Learn about Nevada's climate, and
- ☀ Find links to great weather and climate resources.

If you're looking for weather or climate information that's not on our site, just email climate@unr.edu, and we'll do our best to help. As always, we're open to questions, comments, and corrections!

