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2020 Weather in Review: Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site

In all, 2020 was an extremely warm year with precipitation that was slightly less than average. The year ended as the 3rd warmest and 41st driest on record.

Weather data collected from surrounding areas indicate that annual average temperature and annual total precipitation have both increased over the last century (+0.20

°F per decade and +0.29 inches per decade, respectively).

This brief provides county-scale weather data for Adams County, PA, including data from 1895–2020 (i.e. period of record). Individual weather station data may vary from what is reported here.

Temperature

In total, 2020 was the 3rd warmest year at the parks since 1895 with a very warm winter and a very cold spring (Figure 1). Nine months had higher than normal temperatures with January, February, March, and November all being more than 5.0 °F above long-term averages (Table 1).

Table 1. Average monthly, average annual, and departures from long-term average temperatures. Departures from average are based on a comparison of 2020 average temperatures to relevant averages from 1895-2019. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/time-series>.

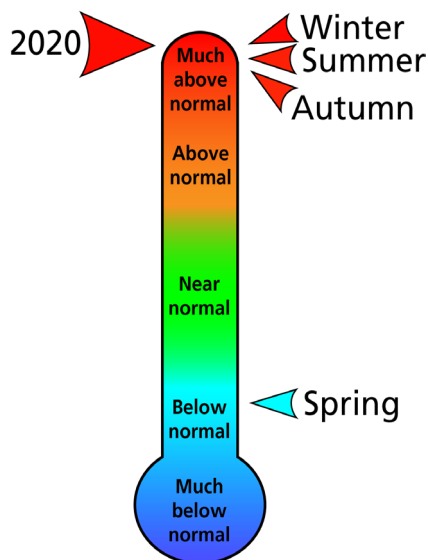


Figure 1. Seasonal and annual temperature rankings. An arrow at the top of the figure would represent the warmest year/season on record (since 1895); at the bottom, the coldest year/season on record. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/rankings>.

Month/ Year	Average temperature (°F)	Departure from average (°F)
January	35.2	+6.5
February	38.3	+8.0
March	46.0	+6.4
April	48.4	-1.9
May	58.6	-2.2
June	70.8	+1.7
July	78.6	+5.0
August	75.6	+4.1
September	64.6	-0.2
October	55.8	+2.3
November	47.9	+5.6
December	34.4	+2.1
2020	54.5	+3.1

Precipitation

It all, 2020 was the 41st driest year recorded in Adams County, PA (Figure 2). Nine months were drier than normal and, in total, the county received 3.4 inches less than the long-term average (Table 2).

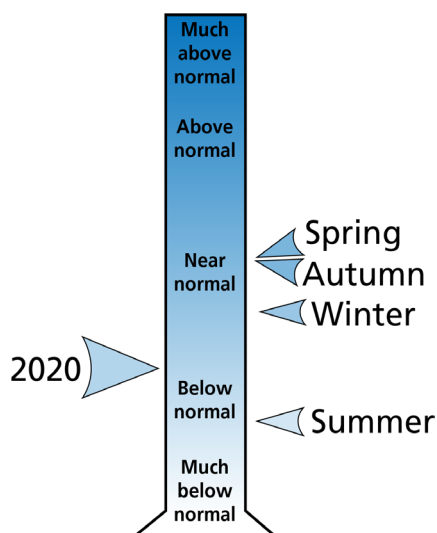


Figure 2. Seasonal and annual precipitation rankings. An arrow at the top of the figure would represent the wettest year/season on record (since 1895); at the bottom, the driest year/season on record. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/rankings>.

Table 2. Monthly and annual total precipitation and departure from long-term averages. Departures from average are based on a comparison of 2020 precipitation to relevant averages from 1895–2019. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/time-series>.

Month/ Year	Total precipitation (in.)	Departure from average (in.)
January	3.3	+0.2
February	2.3	-0.5
March	3.2	-0.4
April	4.5	+1.0
May	3.8	-0.2
June	3.1	-0.9
July	3.1	-0.9
August	3.7	-0.3
September	2.0	-1.8
October	3.2	-0.2
November	2.5	-0.7
December	4.6	+1.3
2020	39.3	-3.4

Temperature and Precipitation (1895–2020)

Data for Adams County, PA indicate that annual average temperature has increased approximately +0.20 °F per decade and annual total precipitation has increased approximately +0.29 inches per decade since 1895 (Figure 3).

National Park Service scientists have forecast future changes in climate too. Models estimate that by 2100, annual average temperature at the park will increase by 3.1–9.2 °F (from a best-case to worst-case scenario, respectively). Annual total precipitation is expected to increase by 7–14% (see Gonzalez et al., 2018 for details).

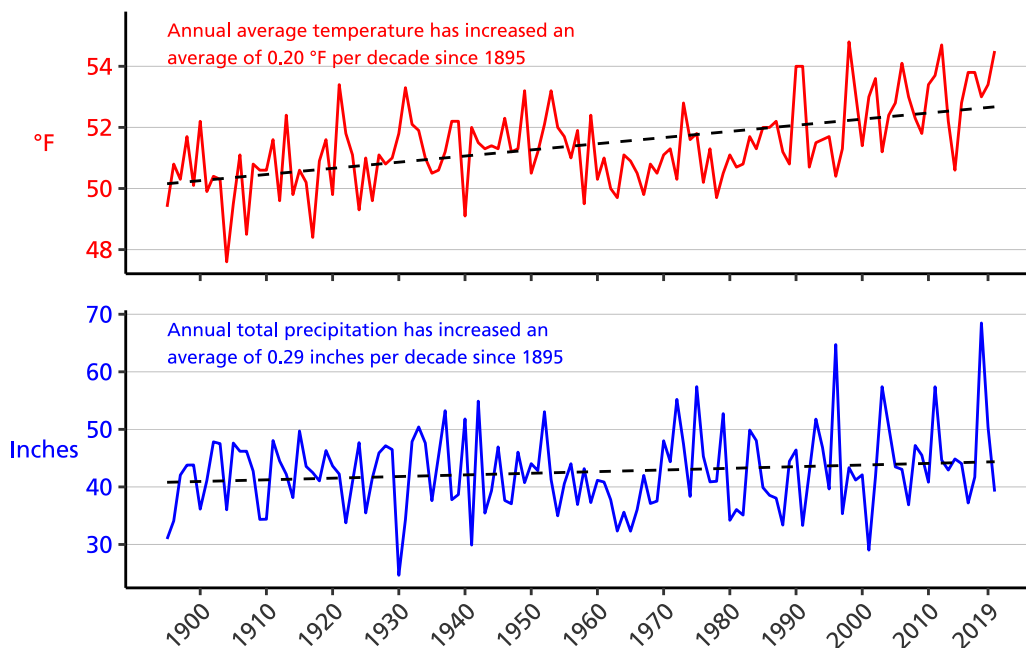


Figure 3. Annual average temperature (°F) and annual total precipitation (in.) from 1895–2020 for Adams County, PA. Dashed lines represent linear estimates of change. Data are available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/county/time-series>.

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