Historical Climatology: South Central Lower Michigan

Michigan Climatic Division 9
South Central Lower

***Included counties**: Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Hillsdale, Ionia, Ingham, Jackson, Shiawassee, St. Joseph*

Geography

The South Central Lower Michigan Climatic Division is bounded by the Indiana and Ohio borders to the south and reaches north to include Lansing, St. Johns, and Owosso. The terrain is mostly flat and, especially in the southern areas, is dominated by agriculture.

Overview

The climate of the South Central Lower Climatic division is predominantly continental, characterized by larger temperature ranges than in areas at the same latitude near the Great Lakes which have moderated temperatures. As a result of prevailing westerly winds, the division does experience some lake effect. This is usually minimal, however, and essentially limited to increased cloudiness during the late fall and early winter. Diminished wind speeds or winds which do not traverse large unfrozen lakes often produce clearing skies and the colder temperatures expected at continental locations. Because the day-to-day weather is controlled by the movement of pressure systems across the nation, this area seldom experiences prolonged periods of hot, humid weather in the summer or extreme cold during the winter.

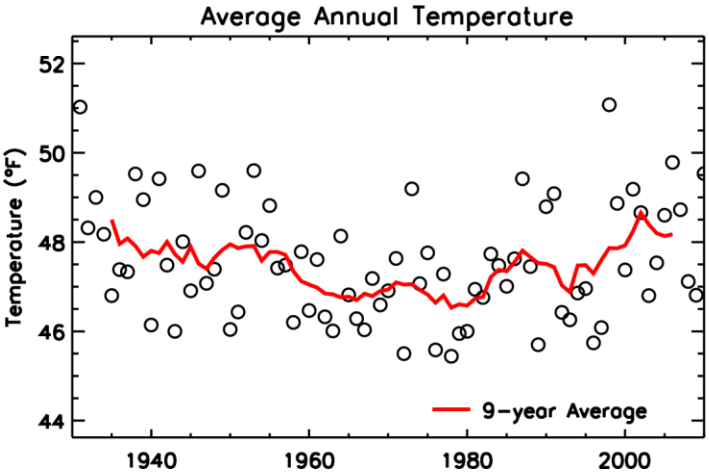
Mean Annual Temperature, 1981-2010	47.8°F	8.8°C
Mean Annual Total Precipitation, 1981-2010	34.5 in	87.9 cm

Changes in Mean Temperature (°F) from 1951-1980 to 1981-2010

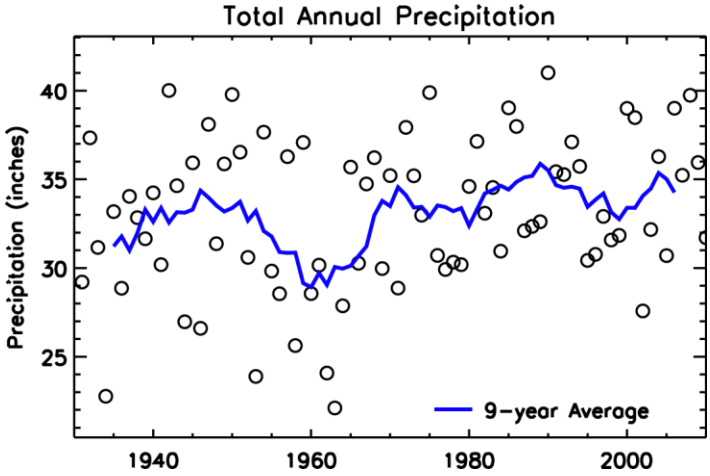
Annual	0.7
Winter, December-February	1.8
Spring, March-May	0.9
Summer, June-August	0.1
Fall, September-November	-0.1

Change in Mean Total Precipitation (%) from 1951-1980 to 1981-2010

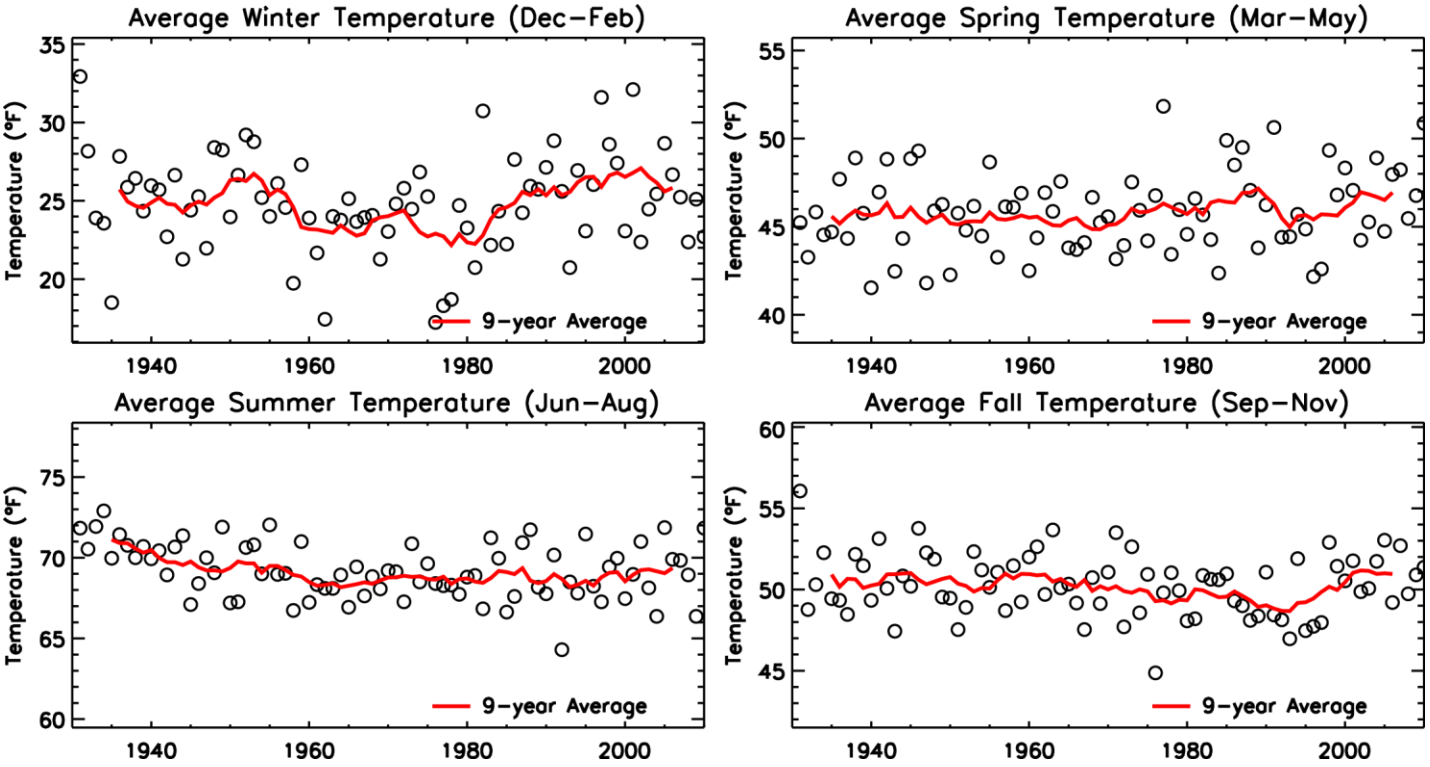
Annual	9.1
Winter, December-February	4.9
Spring, March-May	5.9
Summer, June-August	2.9
Fall, September-November	24.9



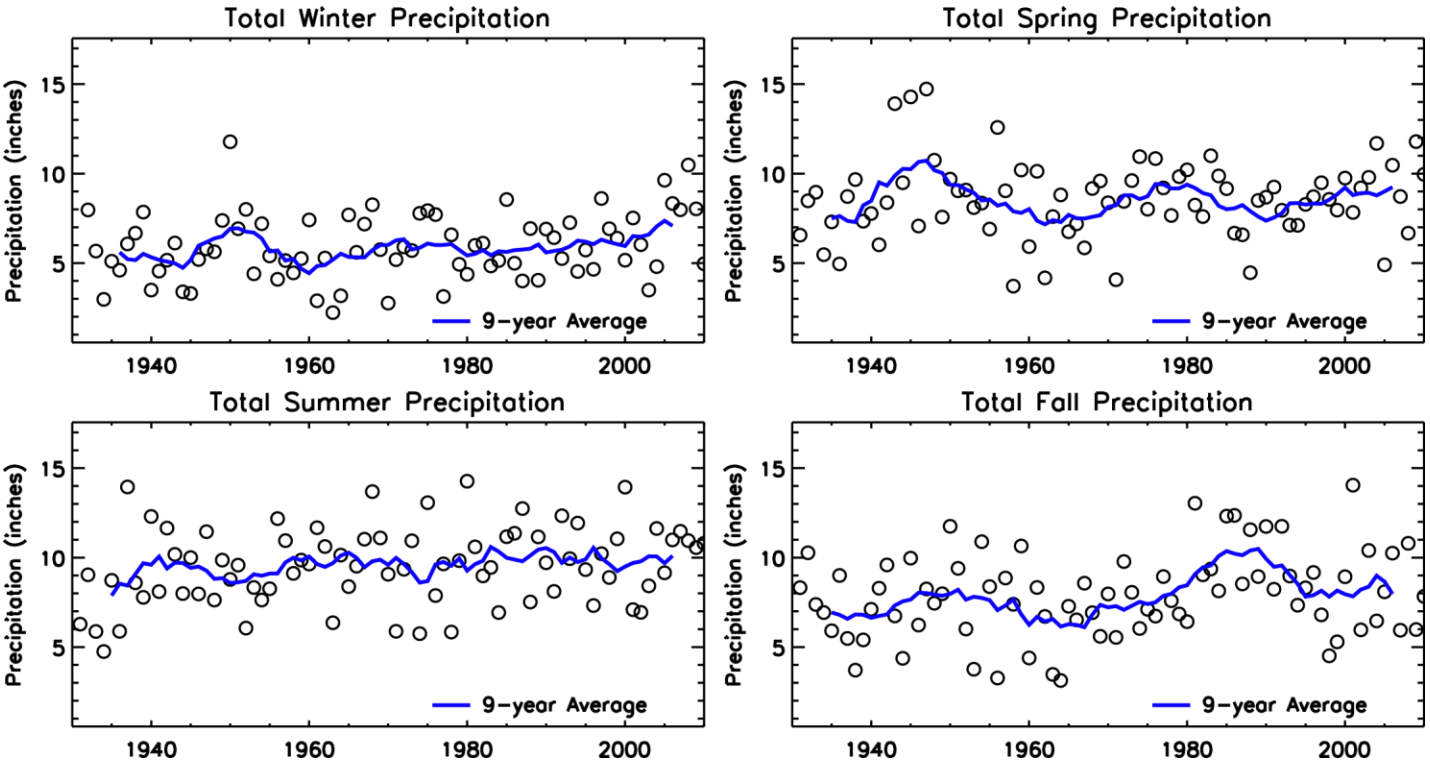
Mean annual temperatures from 1931 to 2011. An open circle represents the average temperature of a single year. The solid line represents the 9-year running mean.



Annual precipitation totals from 1931 to 2011. An open circle represents the total precipitation for a single year. The solid line represents the 9-year running mean.



Mean seasonal temperatures from 1931 to 2011. An open circle represents the average seasonal temperature of a single year. The solid line is the 9-year running mean. Winter values include data from the December of the previous year.



Total seasonal precipitation from 1931 to 2011. An open circle represents the total seasonal precipitation for a single year. The solid line represents the 9-year running mean of the total seasonal precipitation. Winter values include data from the December of the previous year.