

# Ohio Quarterly Climate Summary: Dec-Feb 2018

## Temperature Summary:

- The winter season (December – February) ranked as the 44<sup>th</sup> warmest in Ohio since 1895\*.
- Temperatures averaged 25-35°F (Fig. 1) for the three-month period.
- This was close to average across much of Ohio, but this is a bit deceiving. The early part of the season was well below average, but a warm February erased much of the negative anomalies. In fact, February 2018 was the 4<sup>th</sup> warmest February on record.

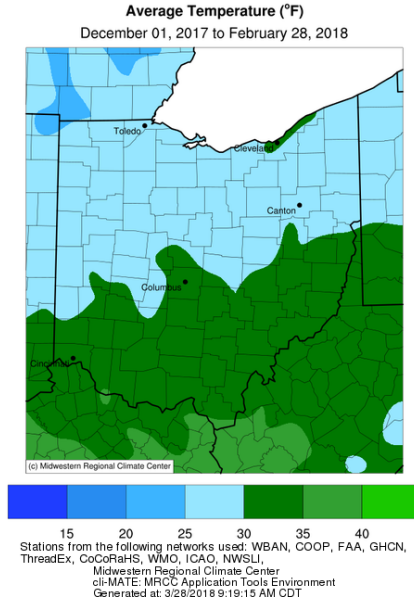


Figure 1

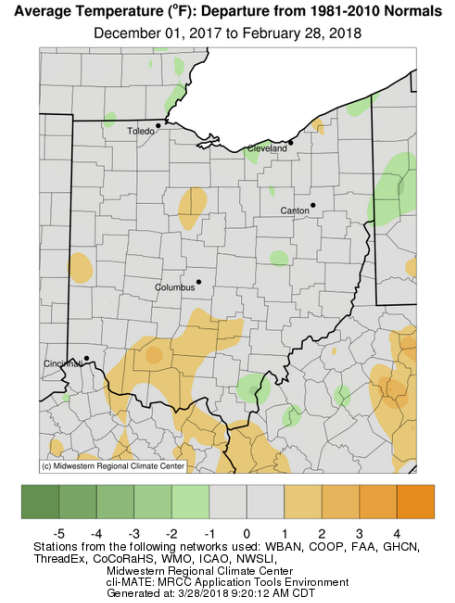


Figure 2

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Percent of 1981-2010 Normals  
December 01, 2017 to February 28, 2018

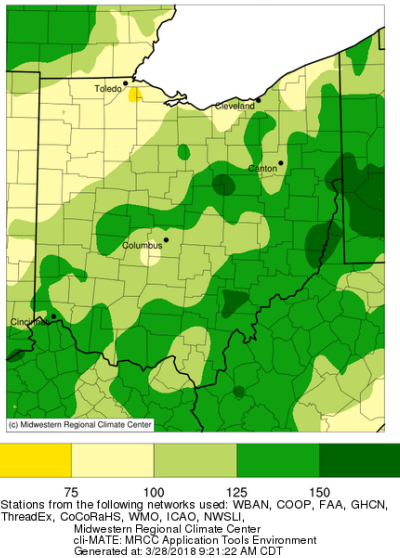


Figure 3

Accumulated Snowfall (in): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals  
December 01, 2017 to February 28, 2018

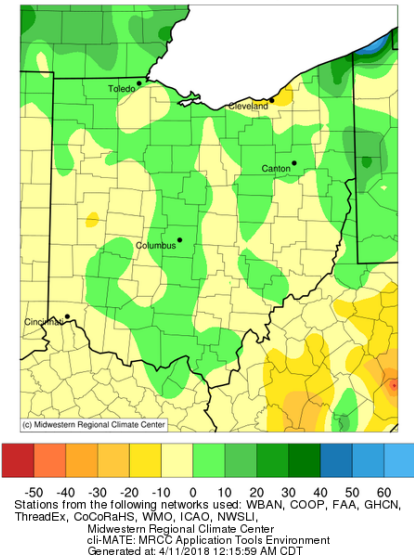


Figure 4

## Precipitation Summary:

- The winter season (December – February) ranked as the 28<sup>th</sup> wettest in Ohio since 1895\*.
- Compared to the long-term mean, most of the state was near to above average (Fig. 3). Conditions were a bit dry across NW Ohio.
- Snowfall was close to the long-term average, within a few inches above and below normal (Fig. 4).

\*Regional summary provided by NOAA: <https://www.drought.gov/drought/documents/quarterly-climate-impacts-and-outlook-midwest-region-june-2017>.

\*Maps provided by cli-MATE, Midwestern Regional Climate Center, Illinois State Water Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, <http://mrcc.illinois.edu/CLIMATE>.

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## Hot Topic Corner:

- The season began on the cool and dry side, unlike the past two winters in Ohio.
- Temperatures across the Ohio Valley at the end of the first week of January averaged 20-30°F below normal.
- Temperatures and precipitation turned around in February. By the end of the month, temperatures averaged 3-7°F above the long-term mean, especially across the southeastern two-thirds of the state.
- Similar to last February, and not unlike the long-term trend, the end of the month featured very warm temperatures across the southern part of the state. Cincinnati eclipsed its daily and all-time February record temperature on the 20<sup>th</sup> at 79°F.
- Unfortunately, the warmth also brought Ohio its 2<sup>nd</sup> wettest February on record.
- The Ohio River at Cincinnati crested at 60.53 ft. on February 26, 2018 – the highest since 1997 (Fig. 5).



Figure 5: Coney Island flooding in Cincinnati on February 24, 2018. - Brian Lewis

## Outlook:

- The Climate Prediction Center depicts an **elevated chance (>40%) of above normal temperatures** for April through June (AMJ; Fig. 6).
- Though La Niña conditions continue to weaken, there is confidence (>33%) in **above normal precipitation** for the state for AMJ (Fig. 7).

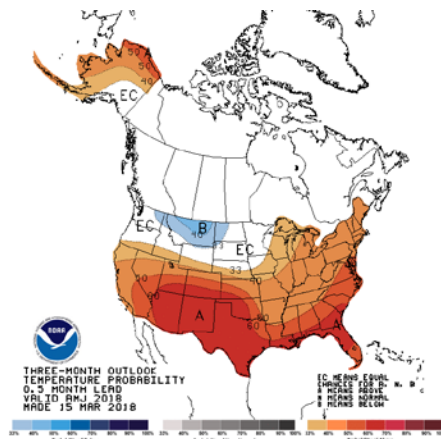


Figure 6

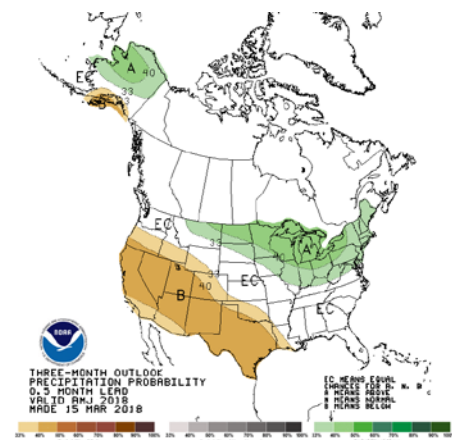


Figure 7

