

Louisiana's Climate

THE COCORAHS 'STATE CLIMATES' SERIES

Louisiana – the Wettest State in the Contiguous United States!

By Barry Keim, State Climatologist

Louisiana receives more rain on the average, than any other State, including Mississippi, Washington, and Florida. So, to our CoCoRaHS observers, this simply means more rain for you to measure. Surely there are regions Oregon and Washington that are wetter than any region in the Bayou State, but when the entire State's rains are averaged, Louisiana takes the cake with an annual average of 59.3 inches. Mississippi is a distant second at 57.8 inches, Florida comes in at 55.1 inches, and Washington receives 38.2 inches. Since climate division and statewide rainfall data for Hawaii were unavailable, it was not included in this comparison.

Louisiana's rainfall shows little no seasonality, though the southern half of the State does receive more afternoon convective showers in summer than the northern half of the State. The 24-hour rainfall record for Louisiana is 22 inches recorded on 29 August 1962, apparently from a weak tropical wave. Coincidentally, this is same day of the year that Hurricane Katrina made landfall in 2005. The record snowfall for Louisiana is 24 inches, recorded at Rayne on 14-15 February 1895!