



*A significant feature of the Southern Region is its remarkable east-to-west precipitation gradient. Annual rainfall exceeds 60" per year along the Louisiana-Mississippi Gulf Coast and the eastern Tennessee mountains, while falling below 15" per year over the Texas desert.*

*(PRISM modeling of the 1961-1990 Precipitation Normals courtesy of the Oregon Climate Service).*

Extended droughts, flooding rains, tropical systems, summer humidity and Arctic outbreaks --- these are but some of the weather and climate features that impact the six-state area served by the Southern Regional Climate Center (SRCC). The region includes the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas. Weather is a critical aspect of the success of the New South, which continues to experience population growth and regional economic development. Mainstay industries such as agriculture, aquaculture and petrochemicals continue to thrive, while the region's economy is further strengthened by new enterprises such as the developing-technology arena and a renewed focus on tourism built around the region's unique environments and rich and diverse cultural heritage.

The mission of the SRCC is two-fold: climate monitoring of the six-state region coupled with timely delivery of climatic information. The center's staff includes meteorologists and climatologists, computer-systems professionals and support personnel trained to provide a full range of climate services, analyses and technical consultations. SRCC services include the delivery of a suite of contemporary climate products developed from historical and near realtime data, local and regional scale climatic evaluations, and graphical analyses. In addition, products can be tailored to meet the specific needs of the climate-data user.

SRCC clients include federal, state and local governmental agencies, the educational community, legal and insurance industries, utility companies and environmental consultants. Users are provided with data from NOAA standard networks as well as observational data from unique automated networks within the region.

In addition to weather data management and delivery, the SRCC's monitoring aspects include the development of specialized regional climatic summaries (i.e., Freeze-Frost Analyses, Windroses, Rainfall Frequency/Magnitude Evaluations) and severe-weather assessments, including round-the-clock monitoring of activity in the Gulf of Mexico during tropical weather events.

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