

The Weather Channel

USA National Forecast

Summer 2016 Outlook: Warm Temperatures For Much of the U.S

Summer 2016 may be a warm one over much of the U.S. as a transition into La Niña conditions are expected, according to a June-August outlook released by The Weather Company's Professional Division Friday.

Well-above average temperatures are expected this summer for the northern tier of states, from the Pacific Northwest into the northern Plains, Great Lakes and Northeast. Warmer than average temperatures will also extend from southern California into the central and southern Plains and Southeast. The only area where cooler than average temperatures are currently expected this summer is for portions of central and south Texas.

"The historically strong El Niño event is weakening rapidly and we should transition into La Niña conditions by summer and model guidance shows a rather dramatic reversal of the background tropical Pacific forcing signal that would favor a hot summer again, especially across the northern U.S.," said [Dr. Todd Crawford](#), chief meteorologist at The Weather Company's Energy division.

"There is a historically large amount of background global warmth around that will likely skew all temperatures towards the warmer side for the next few months, as the impact of the El Niño works its way through the system; thus it will be generally difficult to forecast widespread or significant below-normal temperatures through the summer at least."

(MORE: [Strong El Niño May Transition to La Niña](#))

One of the factors to consider regarding temperatures this summer are sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic, which are forecast to be warmer than over the past five years. This would help to lead to a hot summer, especially in the East.

As mentioned above many computer forecast models are suggesting that the strong El Niño will transition to La Niña this summer. Typically, La Niña summers feature hotter temperatures from the central U.S. into the Northeast, with the hottest month being July.

Dr. Crawford points out that during other years where rapid changes from El Niño to La Niña occurred, "the summer heat is centered in the northern Plains into the Great Lakes states."

Overall, computer forecast models are highlighting widespread warmth, with little hint of cooler than average temperatures in the U.S. There is the chance of cooler than average temperatures in the Southeast and West. However, above-average temperatures are expected to prevail across the West due to the influence of the strong El Niño we saw this past winter.