



® Weather Research Center



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!

**Houston** - It is hard to believe that last June was the driest June on record for the City of Houston. According to meteorologists at Houston based Weather Research Center last year the official rainfall for the month of June was .08 inches. Yesterday Houston broke a record at Bush Intercontinental Airport [IAH] with 4.43 inches in 24 hours and Houston Hobby Airport [HOU] having 9.29 inches in 24 hours. These values are 4 to 5 inches above normal.

The record 24 hour rainfall for Houston Hobby Airport in 24 hours was 14.58 inches on August 27, 1945 and 10.43 inches for Bush Intercontinental Airport on June 26, 1989.

It is too early to know how much rain will fall in Houston for the remaining six months. Normal rainfall for Houston is around 46 inches. So far through June 19<sup>th</sup>, Bush Intercontinental Airport has had 25.14 inches of rain.

There have only been 8 times since records have been kept that the total rainfall for Houston was over 70 inches in a year.

Over 70 inches of rain from 1900-2001:  
1900 72.86" Houston Downtown  
1919 72.38" Houston Downtown  
1949 71.19" Hobby Airport  
1973 70.16" Bush Intercontinental 80.02" Hobby Airport  
1979 83.02" Hobby Airport  
1981 82.14" Hobby Airport  
2001 71.17" Bush Intercontinental Airport – Hobby was 72.55"

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Mission: WRC advances the science of weather and the knowledge of the weather's impact on the global community through research, prediction, and education.

The wettest year on record was 1979 when 83.02 inches of rain fell at Hobby Airport. That was the year that Tropical Storm Claudette visited Houston and dumped a record 43 inches of rain at Alvin. The next wettest year was 1981 when 82.14 inches of rain fell at Hobby Airport. The record for Bush IAH is 70.16 inches set in 1973 which will be broken this year with the heavy rains which accompanied Tropical Storm Allison.

| YEAR | JAN  | FEB  | MAR  | APR  | MAY          | JUN          | JUL          | AUG          | SEP          | OCT          | NOV  | DEC  | ANNUAL |
|------|------|------|------|------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------|------|--------|
| 1900 | 7.26 | 4.66 | 4.22 | 6.57 | 3.07         | 3.75         | <b>14.80</b> | <b>10.74</b> | 5.36         | 1.75         | 4.96 | 5.72 | 72.86  |
| 1919 | 8.52 | 3.12 | 3.25 | 1.16 | 6.14         | <b>15.85</b> | 7.30         | 3.82         | 8.68         | 9.72         | 1.78 | 3.04 | 72.38  |
| 1949 | 4.76 | 5.24 | 4.43 | 6.17 | 1.18         | 2.55         | 9.39         | 3.87         | 1.31         | <b>22.31</b> | 0.18 | 9.80 | 71.19  |
| 1973 | 5.00 | 3.40 | 3.68 | 7.15 | 4.22         | <b>13.46</b> | 6.77         | 3.73         | 9.38         | 9.31         | 1.59 | 2.47 | 70.16  |
| 1979 | 5.54 | 4.53 | 7.93 | 5.87 | 4.99         | 6.75         | <b>17.26</b> | 5.49         | <b>15.00</b> | 5.87         | 1.41 | 2.38 | 83.02  |
| 1981 | 3.56 | 3.18 | 1.57 | 1.84 | <b>11.13</b> | <b>15.48</b> | 9.14         | <b>16.01</b> | 2.26         | <b>12.52</b> | 2.73 | 2.72 | 82.14  |
| 1997 | 6.52 | 6.75 | 6.06 | 9.01 | 8.61         | 6.29         | 2.52         | 1.97         | 9.26         | <b>10.38</b> | 2.17 | 7.25 | 78.41  |
| 2001 | 4.25 | 0.82 | 7.98 | 2.00 | 3.54         | <b>19.21</b> | 2.05         | 4.82         | 8.82         | 8.95         | 2.58 | 6.18 | 71.19  |

Notice four out of the eight years had more than 13 inches of rain in the month of June. Most of the heavy rainfall events were associated with tropical systems during the months of May through October.

Since 1900, there have been 18 years in Houston when over 60 inches of rain fell either downtown, Hobby Airport or Bush Intercontinental.

Since WRC inception in December 1987, WRC meteorologists have served over 650,000 people in the regional and national community . The Center’s activities are focused on: 1) education of newly graduated meteorologists in corporate, global marine and tropical weather forecasting, 2) outreach/community education programs for school children and adults, and 3) weather research. WRC just opened The John C. Freeman Weather Museum at 5104 Caroline St. in the Houston Museum District. To learn more about flooding and hurricanes visit the Museum. To find out more go to [www.wxresearch.org](http://www.wxresearch.org).

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