

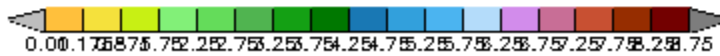
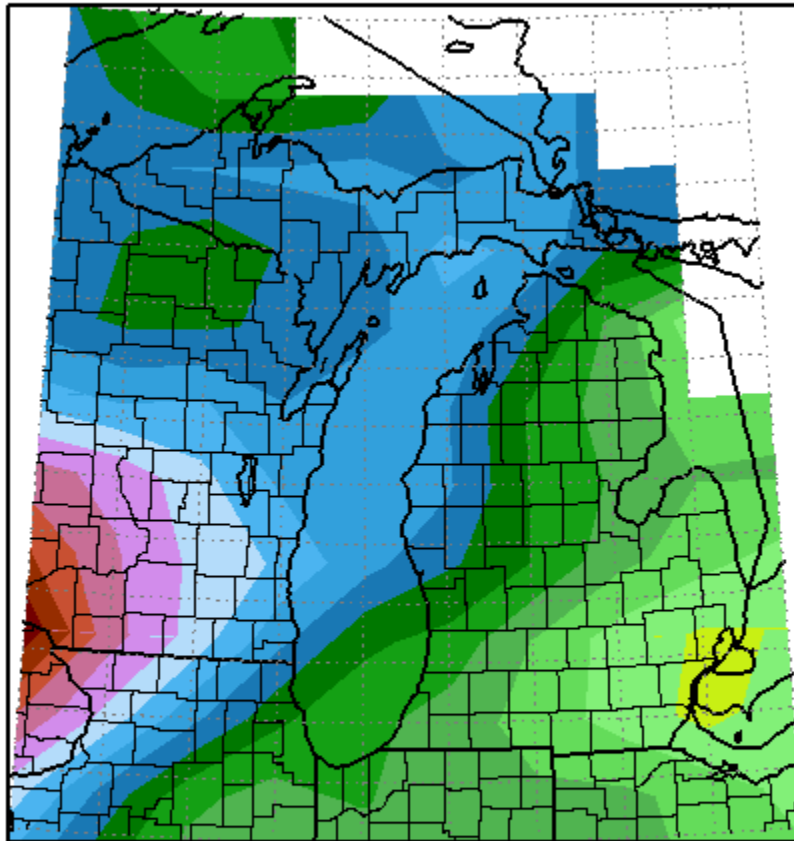
April 2008 Climate Narrative For Southwest Lower Michigan

By Wayne Hoepner

April of 2008 will be remembered in southwest Lower Michigan for large temperature swings with only a few severe weather events.

Precipitation was near normal overall, but varied widely across the region.

Total Precipitation in Inches
April 1, 2008 to April 30, 2008

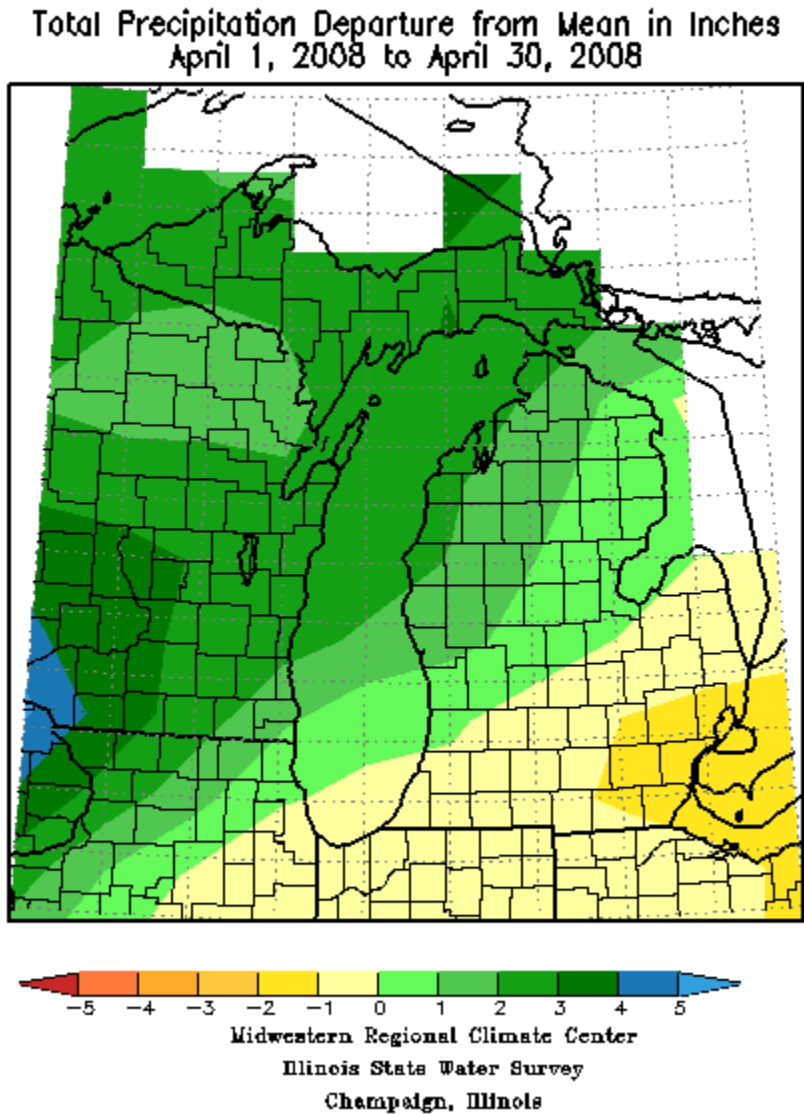


Midwestern Regional Climate Center

Illinois State Water Survey

Champaign, Illinois

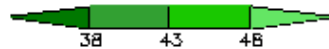
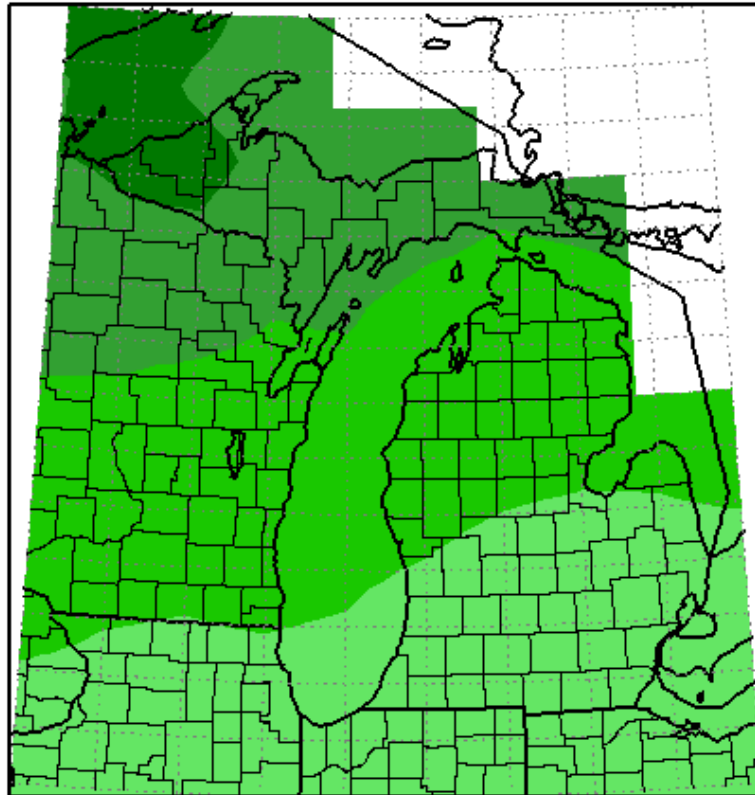
Values ranged from an inch below normal near Jackson in south central Lower Michigan to two inches above normal near Ludington in west central Lower Michigan.



Snowfall was below normal for most locations in April.

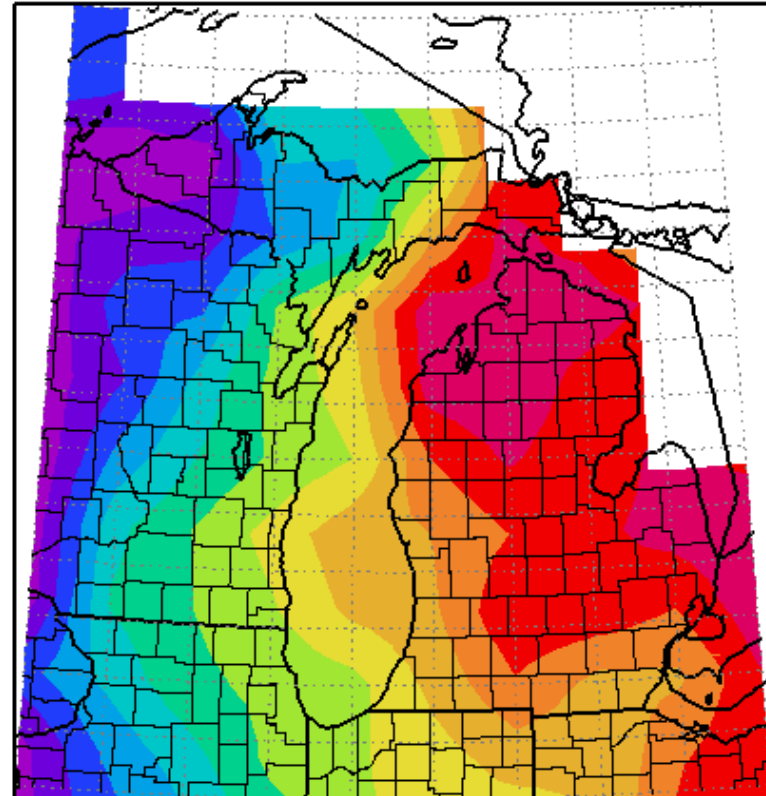
The mean daily temperatures for April ranged from two to four degrees above normal. The largest departures from normal were over central Lower Michigan from Eaton County north to Clare County.

Average Temperature in Degrees F
April 1, 2008 to April 30, 2008



Midwestern Regional Climate Center
Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois

Average Temperature Departure from Mean in Degrees F
April 1, 2008 to April 30, 2008



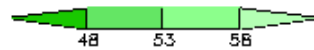
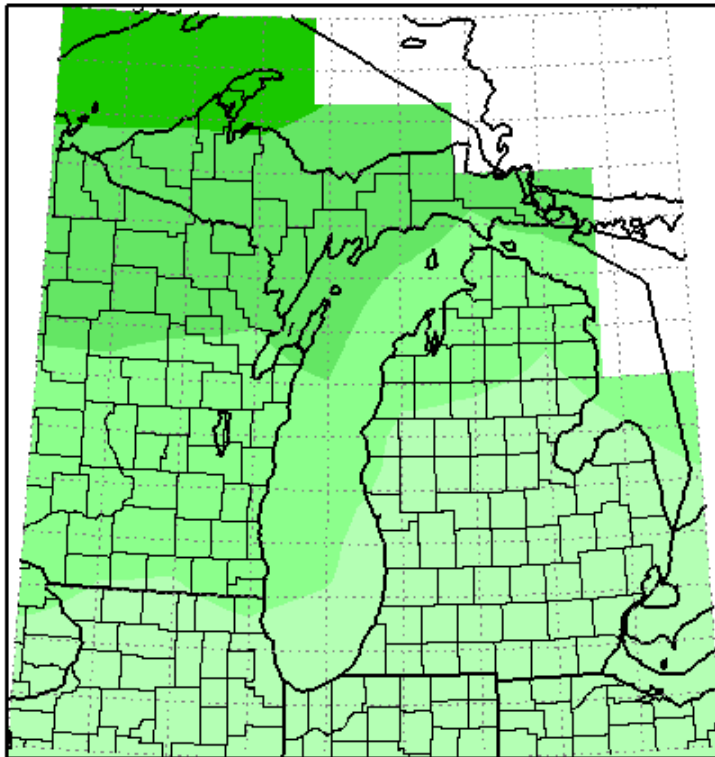
Midwestern Regional Climate Center
Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois

Following are data for the climate sites for April.

Location		Temperature (degrees F)	Precipitation (inches)	Snowfall (inches)
Grand Rapids	<i>Reported</i>	50.5°	3.56	Trace
	<i>Normal</i>	46.3°	3.48	2.8
	<i>Departure</i>	4.2°	0.08	-2.8
Lansing	<i>Reported</i>	50.2°	2.16	Trace
	<i>Normal</i>	45.5°	3.09	2.5
	<i>Departure</i>	4.7°	-0.93	-2.5
Muskegon	<i>Reported</i>	48.0°	2.62	Trace
	<i>Normal</i>	44.9°	2.91	3.1
	<i>Departure</i>	3.1°	-0.29	-3.1

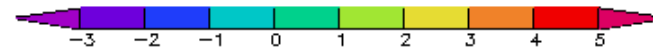
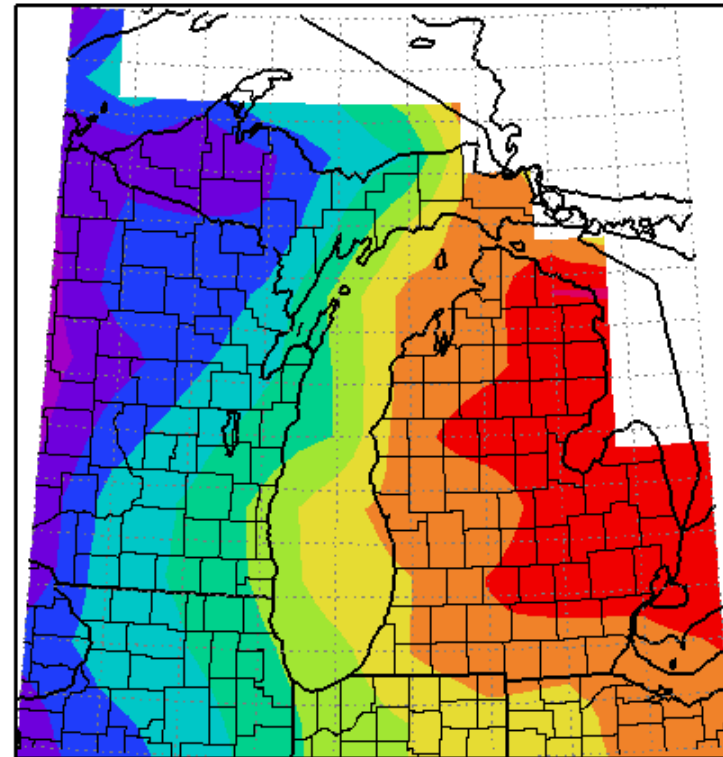
The following are images of average high temperature, departure from normal, average low temperature and departure from normal.

Average High Temperature in Degrees F
April 1, 2008 to April 30, 2008



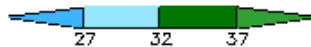
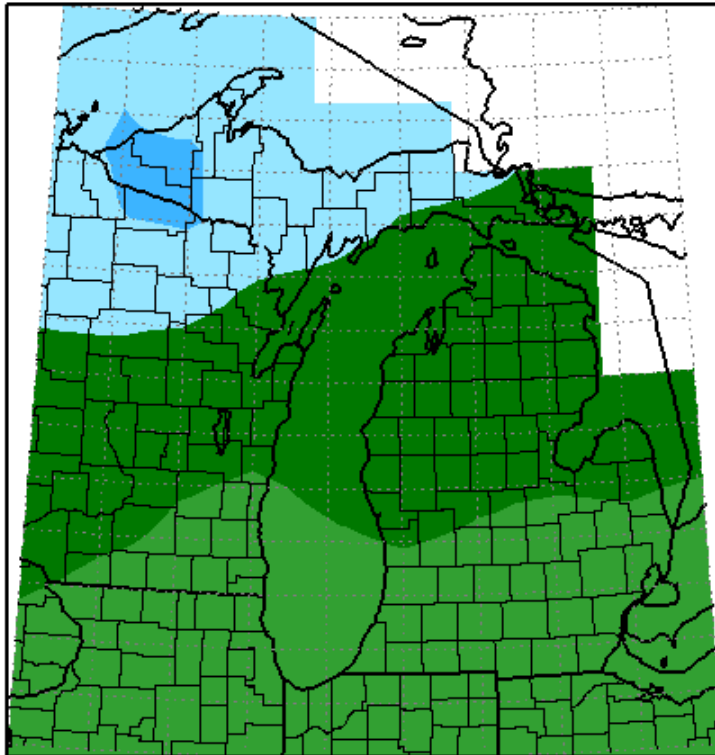
Midwestern Regional Climate Center
Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois

Average High Temp Departure from Mean in Degrees F
April 1, 2008 to April 30, 2008



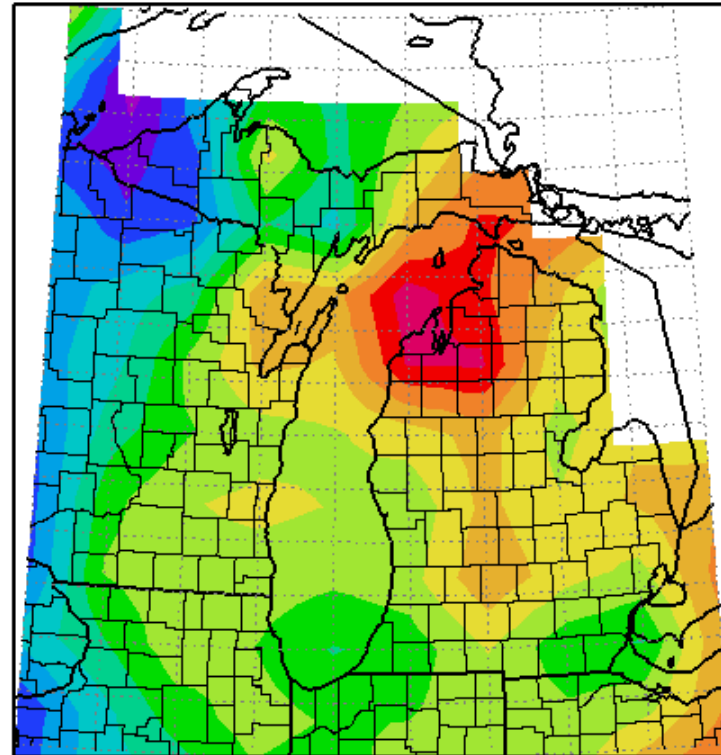
Midwestern Regional Climate Center
Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois

Average Low Temperature in Degrees F
April 1, 2008 to April 30, 2008



Midwestern Regional Climate Center
Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois

Average Low Temp Departure from Mean in Degrees F
April 1, 2008 to April 30, 2008



Midwestern Regional Climate Center
Illinois State Water Survey
Champaign, Illinois

A system was leaving the area as April began, depositing mostly trace amounts of snow across portions of central Lower Michigan on the 1st. The only other snow during the month happened on the 12th into the 13th. Only a few flurries were observed.

From the 1st through the 10th of April, a series of systems moved near and through the region. Temperatures were generally above normal by 5 to 10 degrees. Precipitation was also above normal in this time period. On the 8th, a tornado touched down east of Plainwell in Allegan County. Straight line winds were blamed for additional damage in the area. On the 11th, a few thunderstorms moved through the area with hail as a result. Hail of up to an inch and three quarters was reported. The only other severe weather in April was on the 25th. Hail up to an inch in diameter and winds up to 60 mph were reported with a line of thunderstorms ahead of a cold front.

A slow moving upper level low pressure system brought temperatures to around 5 degrees below normal from the 12th through the 15th of April. Behind this system, temperatures rebounded to average 10 to 15 degrees above normal as high pressure dominated.

Rain again entered the picture on the 23rd as an upper level trough of low pressure moved toward the area from the mountain west. Rain fell through the 26th as the trough moved through. The temperatures then fell to around ten degrees below normal through the end of the month. On the 30th, the low temperature in Grand Rapids tied the record low for the date at 26 degrees. The record was set in 1971. The only other record for the month was also in Grand Rapids. On the 10th, a new daily record rainfall of 1.61 inches fell. The old record was 1.15 inches from 1947. No monthly records were set in April.