

Each state's high temperature record

As you would expect, the highest statewide records are from desert locations in California, Arizona and Nevada.

The coolest two statewide high records, shown here, aren't as obvious. Alaska in the far north and Rhode Island, with no part of the state far from the cool Atlantic, are no surprises.

But tropical Hawaii, with the same high record as Alaska, isn't as obvious. Credit the ocean. Even in the tropics, ocean waters stay cooler than land. Almost all of Hawaii is cooled to some extent by ocean breezes.

The complete list of state records below shows that the Plains states, far away from the ocean, can be hotter than the humid Southeast.

The USA's highest temperature, 134° on July 10, 1913 in Death Valley, Calif., is also the world's highest official temperature.

Ordinary summer heat makes much of the Southwest, including Death Valley, sizzle from June through August. But, Death Valley's unique geography turns this hot weather into extreme heat.

Winds off the higher surrounding land, known as the Great Basin, often blow hot, dry air thousands of feet down into the long, narrow valley, which is 282 feet below sea level.

As the air moves downhill it encounters increasing atmospheric pressure, which squeezes the air, warming it at a rate of 5.5° for every 1,000-foot drop in elevation. Some of the mountain ranges around Death Valley are 7,000 - 9,000 feet high, and the surrounding land between the ranges is 4,000 - 5,000 feet above sea level, which means the air can warm at least 20-25° by the time it reaches the bottom of the valley.

In addition, the steep walls of the valley heat up and radiate that heat back into the valley, causing the already hot air to grow even hotter. July's average high in Death Valley is 115°, but nearly every year the temperature reaches 125°, or higher.

USATODAY.com has been reporting each day's high and low temperature in the USA since we began in April 1995. Our extremes archive will let you follow the ups and downs of each season's highs and lows. (Related item: [Temperature extremes archive](#))

State high temperature records

State	Temp	Date	Station	Elevation (feet)
Ala.	112	Sept. 5, 1925	Centerville	345
Alaska	100	June 27, 1915	Ft. Yukon	420*
Ariz.	128	June 29, 1994	Lake Havasu	505
Ark.	120	Aug. 10, 1936	Ozark	396
Calif.	134	July 10, 1913	Death Valley	N/A
Colo.	118	July 11, 1888	Bennett	5,484
Conn.	106	July 15, 1995	Danbury	450
Del.	110	July 21, 1930	Millsboro	20
Fla.	109	June 29, 1931	Monticello	207
Ga.	112	July 24, 1952	Louisville	132
Hawaii	100	April 27, 1931	Pahala	850
Idaho	118	July 28, 1934	Orofino	1,027
Ill.	117	July 14, 1954	E. St Louis	410
Ind.	116	July 14, 1936	Collegeville	672
Iowa	118	July 20, 1934	Keokuk	614
Kansas	121	July 24, 1936	Alton	1,651
Ky.	114	July 28, 1930	Greensburg	581
La.	114	Aug. 10, 1936	Plain Dealing	268
Maine	105	July 10, 1911	N. Bridgton	450
Md.	109	July 10, 1936	Cumberland & Frederick	623, 325
Mass.	107	Aug. 2, 1975	New Bedford & Chester	120, 640
Mich.	112	July 13, 1936	Mio	963
Minn.	114	July 6, 1936	Moorhead	904
Miss.	115	July 29, 1930	Holly Springs	600
Mo	118	July 14, 1954	Warsaw and Union	705, 560
Mont.	117	July 5, 1937	Medicine Lake	1,950
Neb.	118	July 24, 1936	Minden	2,169
Nev.	125	June 29, 1994	Laughlin	605
N.H.	106	July 4, 1911	Nashua	125
N.J.	110	July 10, 1936	Runyon	18
N.M.	122	June 27, 1994	Lakewood	N/A
N.Y.	108	July 22, 1926	Troy	35
N.C.	110	Aug. 21, 1983	Fayetteville	213
N.D.	121	July 6, 1936	Steele	1,857
Ohio	113	July 21, 1934	Gallipolis	673
Okla.	120	June 27, 1994	Tipton	1,350
Ore.	119	Aug. 10, 1898	Pendleton	1,074
Pa.	111	July 10, 1936	Phoenixville	100
R.I.	104	Aug. 2, 1975	Providence	51
S.C.	111	June 28, 1954	Camden	170
S.D.	120	July 15, 2006	Kelly Ranch/Usta	2,339
Tenn.	113	Aug. 9, 1930	Perryville	377
Texas	120	Aug. 12, 1936	Seymour	1,291
Utah	117	July 5, 1985	Saint George	2,880
Vt.	105	July 4, 1911	Vernon	310

Va.	110	July 15, 1954	Balcony Falls	725
Wash.	118	Aug. 5, 1961	Ice Harbor Dam 475	475
W. Va.	112	July 10, 1936	Martinsburg	435
Wis.	114	July 13, 1936	Wisconsin Dells	900
Wyo.	116	Aug. 8, 1983	Basin	3,500

*Elevation estimated.

Source: U.S. National Climatic Data Center (last updated August 2006)