The outstanding climate features during the month of August include excessive heat in northeast Nevada and California. Unusual cooling occurred throughout the Great Plains and extended upward through Pennsylvania.
Dry conditions dominated both the Eastern and Western sectors of the United States during August 2008. With the aid of Tropical Storm Fay, the Southeastern states, especially Florida, saw precipitation amounts rise above the normal threshold.

By reviewing the anomalous regions of temperature and precipitation during August 2008 (see below), the following years were found to match this configuration:


Here are the composite temperatures for September and October in years following similar August conditions to 2008:
Composite Standardized Temperature Anomalies

Versus 1895–2000 Longterm Average

NOAA/ESRL PSD and CIRES–CDC

-0.75 -0.55 -0.35 -0.15 0.05 0.25 0.45 0.65
The composite temperature for September shows above average temperatures for the month of September in the northeastern part of the United States, while the western sector experiences unusual coolness. This cool trend lingers on into October.
The composite rainfall for September shows generally dry conditions along the spine of the Appalachian Mountains. During October, above average rainfall is expected for much of the Midwestern United States.
The years listed above were then used to average the daily departures from normal for temperature by regions of the state.
Eastern Pennsylvania Temperature Forecast
September-October 2008

Date

Mean Temperature Departure from Normal (F)
-8.0 -6.0 -4.0 -2.0 0.0 2.0 4.0 6.0 8.0

Legend:
- Forecast
- 5-Day Mean Forecast
- Verification
- 5-Day Mean Verification
- Normal