Great Autumn Heatwave of 2024 Continues to Sear Southwest

By Don Sutherland

An autumn heatwave without precedent continued to scorch parts of Arizona, California, and Nevada this weekend. In 13 blazing days, Palm Springs tied the national October record high temperature of 117°, Indio, CA was among three locations reaching 116° on Sunday (the hottest temperature ever recorded so late in the season in the United States), and three cities topped the nation's highest average high temperature for the September 24-October 6 period.

Phoenix, with nearly 1.7 million people, was experiencing its worst heat so late in the season. On September 28th, it recorded a 117° high temperature, which broke the September monthly record and tied the August monthly record. On October 1st, it saw a 113° high temperature, which decimated the previous October monthly record of 107°. Then, on October 6th, it reached 113° again.

Rank	City	°F	°C	Year
1	Phoenix	111.0	43.9	2024
2	Mohawk	109.8	43.2	1944
3	East Mesa	109.7	43.2	2024
4	Buckeye 5N	109.2	42.9	2024
5	Yuma	108.8	42.7	2024
6	Gila Bend 2 SE	108.6	42.6	1980
7	Casa Grande	108.5	42.5	2024
8	Picacho 8 SE	108.4	42.4	2024
9	Robson Ranch	108.1	42.3	2024
10	Sentinel	107.4	41.9	1917

Arizona's Highest Temperatures: September 24-October 6

Highest	°F	°C
2024	111.0	43.9
Pre-2024	109.8	43.2
Difference	1.2	0.7

Average Low Temperature:

Rank	City	°F	°C	Year
1	Phoenix	82.5	28.1	2024
2	Mesa	80.2	26.8	2024
3	Florence	79.9	26.6	2008
4	Yuma	79.6	26.4	2022
5	Kofa Mine	79.5	26.4	1980
6	Mormon Flat	79.0	26.1	1933
7	Pinnacle Peak	78.6	25.9	2024
8	Ajo	78.5	25.8	1979
9	Phoenix South Mountain	78.3	25.7	1979
1515.0	Buckeye 5N	78.2	25.7	2024
10	Scottsdale	78.2	25.7	2024
	South Phoenix	78.2	25.7	1999

Highest	°F	°C 28.1	
2024	82.5		
Pre-2024	79.9	26.6	
Difference	2.6	1.4	

Average Temperature:

Rank	City	°F	°C	Year
1	Phoenix	96.7	35.9	2024
2	Buckeye 5N	93.7	34.3	2024
3	Mesa	93.6	34.2	2024
4	Scottsdale	92.7	33.7	2024
5	Kofa Mine	92.5	33.6	1980
6	Yuma	92.4	33.6	2024
7	7 Phoenix-Deer Valley Airport		33.4	2024
8	8 Picacho 8 SE		33.3	2024
9	East Mesa	91.9	33.3	2024
10	Carefree	91.6	33.1	2024
10	Pinnacle Peak	91.6	33.1	2024

Highest	°F	°C	
2024	96.7	35.9	
Pre-2024	92.5	33.6	
Difference	4.2	2.3	