

PRISM Gridded Climate Data – Bulk Downloads

An anonymous FTP service is available for bulk downloads of zipped BIL files; other types of files must be downloaded manually using the prism.oregonstate.edu website. For more information on the formats, and for a complete explanation of the file naming conventions, see the [data formats](#) document. The files available via FTP are a subset of those available through web download. They are of the form:

```
PRISM_<var>_<stability>_<scale&version>_<time period>[_all|_annual]_bil.zip
```

Before downloading data, be sure to acquaint yourself with our [terms of use](#), which explain how to acknowledge any use of our data.

Use FTP to connect to **prism.nacse.org**. For username, type “anonymous” and give your email address as the password. Navigate the file tree to get the files, by using **cd** to change directories. You’ll need to choose:

- Which class of data you want: 4km normals, 800m normals, monthly data, or daily data
- Which climate variable you want:
 - ppt (precipitation), tmin, tmean, tmax (min/mean/max temperature) – these variables are available as both data grids and normals grids.
 - tdmean (mean dewpoint temperature), vpdmin, vpdmax (min/max vapor pressure deficit) – these variables are currently available ONLY as normals grids.

For **30-year normals**, all files will appear in the directory named for the variable. Each directory will include 14 files, one for each month (_01 through _12), one for the annual averages (_annual), and one containing all months (_all).

An additional level of directory occurs for **monthly data**, corresponding to one directory for each year available. If a given year has completed, it will include 14 files similar to those for the 30-year normals (except that the filenames for annual averages just show the year, and not the word _annual). For the year-in-progress, only completed months will be available.

Daily data are also grouped by year. In this case, there will be up to 366 files in a directory, one for each day in the year.

CAUTION: For monthly and daily data, the “stability” portion of the filename will change over time. As explained on the website, datasets are considered “early” for the first 6 months; these will be updated frequently, so you may need to re-download periodically. Datasets from 6-12 months ago are considered “provisional” because they are still likely to change; you will probably want to re-download the files once their names say “stable” (i.e., after 12 months have elapsed).