

The Pennsylvania Observer

February 2, 2011



January 2011– Pennsylvania Weather Recap

Written by: Steven Boyer

The month of January, like December, saw temperatures that were below normal. The eastern part of the state was affected by several coastal storms that produced significant snowfall. Philadelphia's January snowfall has already surpassed its annual average amount. The central part of the Commonwealth did experience some snow this month, but there were no large snowfalls.

The month began with its mildest weather ahead of an approaching cold front which moved into western Pennsylvania later in the evening on January 1st. Behind this cold front, it turned windy with bands of Lake effect snow in the northwest, near Erie. Some places had a significant snowfall. January 3-6 was quiet with little precipitation and temperatures near normal. A minor disturbance moved through the state on January 7-8th bringing some snow mostly to western portions of the state. However, temperatures did not change much until the 9th when an Arctic air mass slowly moved its way into the area bringing well below average readings to the Commonwealth. The weather during the next few days remained quiet until a storm formed off the coast of the Carolinas on January 11th. This low brought widespread snow to the state with the bulk of the snow in the east. Even colder air accompanied the departure of this storm.

A weak cold front moved through the Commonwealth on January 16th bringing with it a few snow showers. Another coastal storm affected many areas on January 18th-19th. On January 21st another potent storm tracked up through the Mid-Atlantic region dropping very heavy snow along the New Jersey border. The lowest readings in about a decade followed in many places. On January 26th another coastal storm developed dumping even more snow on Pennsylvania, particularly the eastern third. On January 29th-January 30th a pair of Alberta clipper disturbances moved through the Commonwealth bringing light accumulations to many spots. The month ended with very cold air seeping in from the north.

Most of the precipitation during January fell as snow throughout the Commonwealth. Below is a table showing the percentage of January precipitation at the major reporting stations that fell as snow:

Cities	Percent of January Precipitation that Fell as Snow
Allentown	81%
Philadelphia	82%
Scranton	97%
Harrisburg	92%
Williamsport	98%
Pittsburgh	67%
Erie	76%

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (observations taken at 8AM EST) during January 2011 from the NWS Cooperative & ASOS Networks. The extremes occurred in the 24-hour period prior to the date listed.

Parameter	Location	Value	Date (8 AM EST)	County
Highest Temperature	Waynesburg	61°F	January 1 st	Greene
Lowest Temperature	Oswayo	-24°F	January 24 th	Potter
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Washington	5.42"	-	Washington
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Dover	0.94"	-	York
Greatest Cumulative Snowfall	Laurel Summit	62"	-	Somerset

Weather Stories

Traffic havoc in a half-foot of snow

http://www.publicopiniononline.com/localnews/ci_17223852

Snow and then 'thundersnow' hits Philly and region

http://articles.philly.com/2011-01-27/news/27051572_1_snow-emergencies-morning-snow-snow-blitz

Weather keeping blood donors away

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/news_details/article/262/2011/january/27/weather-keeping-blood-donors-away.html