

The Pennsylvania Observer

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January 2012 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap

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January can best be summarized with one word: mild. Most regions across the state experienced above normal highs for much of the month, with one wintry exception in the middle of the month. Other than for one storm that dumped moderate to heavy snowfall totals across the state, January will also be remembered for having less than average snow.

The first two days of January were warmer than normal. However, as the 3rd rolled around a cold front passed through the area leaving below-normal temperatures in its wake. By the 6th, a warm front associated with a low pressure over Minnesota moved across the state bringing much warmer temperatures. The southeastern part of the state reached the low to mid 60s, and western Pennsylvania rose to the mid 50s. A cold front passed through on the 8th, bringing cooler, but still above normal temperatures in the 40s and a moderate rainfall.

A storm that originated over the Gulf of Mexico moved across Pennsylvania on the 12th, causing strong winds and light snow. Most of the heavier snowfall totals were along Interstate 80 north of Pittsburgh, where some mountainous areas received 3-4" of snowfall. Temperatures remained a few degrees above normal and some ridges receiving lake effect snow during the next week.

On the 21st, a disturbance associated with a low over central Canada gave Pennsylvania its one and only significant snowstorm of the month. The heaviest snowfall totals were in Cambria, Beaver, and Allegheny counties, where 7.5 inches, 7 inches, and 6.5 inches of snow fell, respectively. Most areas of eastern and central Pennsylvania saw on the order of 4 inches of snow.

Two days following the snowstorm, temperatures rose back into the 60s across the western and central portions of the state, which helped to melt much of the snow. Temperatures fell back into the 50s and 40s the next day and continued to remain above normal for much of the remainder of the month.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during January 2012 from the NWS Cooperative & ASOS Networks of which our office receives routine observations. The extremes occurred in the 24-hour period prior to the date listed.

Parameter	Location	Value	Date (8 AM EDT)	County
Highest Temperature	Point Marion Lock 8	66°F	January 24 th	Greene
Lowest Temperature	Chandlers Valley 1 Mi. SE	-13°F	January 16 th	Warren
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Cooperstown 1.3 Mi. E	5.67"	January 1 st -January 31 st	Venango
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Quarryville 2.8 Mi. S	2.18"	January 1 st -January 31 st	Lancaster
Greatest Snowfall Depth	Springboro 3 Mi. WNW	46.5"	January 1 st -January 31 st	Crawford

Links to Pennsylvania Weather Stories during January, 2012

Four months after the flood, dollars begin to help victims....

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2012/01/four_months_after_flood_harris.html

At least one coal-fired power plant to be retired in PA....

<http://www.enevospf.com/latest-news/science-a-environmental/30426-major-victory-for-clean-air-first-energy-to-retire-six-coal-plants.html>

The mild winter weather has its effects...

<http://www.thiscantbehappening.net/node/1018>

<http://standardspeaker.com/hunter-sees-decline-of-snowshoe-hare-1.1257737#axzz1kxpROYZz>