

January 2015 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap

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A front passing through on January 3-4 brought warmer conditions to the Commonwealth, with many locations such as Bradford and Uniontown hitting maximum temperatures in the 50s and 60s, respectively. The month of January was a relatively dry one, with the exception of a few late snow events.

January dealt with several bouts of low pressure and Arctic air. A large portion of the month was several degrees below average. Mean temperatures in Pennsylvania ranged from the upper teens to the lower thirties, giving an overall “below average” title for the month. The lowest minimum temperature during the month was an icy -20F in Oswayo, just south of the Pennsylvania-New York border, which occurred on the 28th, not long after the month’s heaviest snowfall.

The first snowfall of the year occurred early in the month, but wasn’t as widespread as the snow events weeks later. A few clippers moved into Pennsylvania, providing the state with significant snowfall. Two of the main events occurred during the week of January 25-30th and dropped over 12” of snow on some locations. The New England states experienced much more significant accumulations, some getting hit with over 20”. A weaker disturbance in the middle of the week only led to more snow accumulations – much less than earlier in the week – and was followed by frigid winds diffusing more Arctic air into the state from the north. Laurel Summit was reported to have had the greatest amount of snow this month with a total over 42” and Springboro came in for a close second with over 40”. January ended with cold and blustery conditions, with wind chills below zero and snow showers reported up until the very last day of the month.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (observations taken at 8AM EDT) during January 2015 from the NWS Cooperative, ASOS, and CoCoRaHS 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	Uniontown 1 Mi. NE	65°F	January 4 th	Fayette
Lowest Temperature	Oswayo 1 Mi. ENE	-20°F	January 28 th	Potter
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Kulpsville 2.6 Mi. SSW	6.48"	January 1 st – 31 st	Montgomery
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Tunkhannock 4.0 Mi. NW	0.58"	January 1 st – 31 st	Wyoming
Greatest Cumulative Snowfall	Hidden Valley 0.3 Mi. ENE	43.1"	January 1 st – 31 st	Somerset

Links to Pennsylvania Weather Stories during January, 2015

Frigid weather leads to warming centers opening in Pittsburgh

<http://www.wtae.com/news/city-of-pittsburgh-opens-warming-centers-due-to-frigidtemperatures/30595286>

Deflated footballs caused by the weather

<http://www.wtae.com/news/people-are-talking-about-deflategate-in-pittsburgh/30867638?absolute=true>

Price tag on Northeast Blizzard

<http://www.wtae.com/money/what-did-the-northeast-snowstorm-cost/30963462>

Climate change should produce more black-outs for Philadelphia

<http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2015/01/10/study-philadelphia-could-face-more-power-outages/>