

The Pennsylvania Observer

April 1, 2015



March 2015 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap

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After a snowy and frigid February, March was welcomed with opened arms at the thought of a warm up and the onset of spring. However, March started off cold and wet as a series of lows and cold fronts moved across the state. Maximum temperatures during the first week of March averaged only in the mid to lower 20s. Temperatures rebounded briefly on the 9th and 10th as temperatures rose into the mid to upper 50s. The warm air stayed for a few more days and some areas in the southeast even reached the 60 degree mark on the 11th. However, low pressure brought patches of heavy rain to the region and some areas in the southeast saw totals approaching 1 inch. Later, on the 14th, more rain moved into the region bringing another half an inch of rain to many southern locations in the state. Temperatures for Pennsylvania remained near to above seasonal levels during the third week of March and transient storms helped to bring some showers. With the onset of spring on the 21st temperatures dropped into the lower 30s and snow blanketed most of the northern half of the state. But, the snow melted rather quickly as temperatures returned to the 50's again the following day. During the last few days of the month, there was a temperature roller coaster as readings dropped back into the 30s once again but later rose into the 60s and even in the low 70s in the southeastern portion of the state. March went out like a lion with a clipper low that impacted the region on the 31st with rain and snow in many areas along with a wide range of temperatures.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during March 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	Wolfsburg	77°F	March 27 th	Bedford
Lowest Temperature	Chandlers Valley 1 Mi. SE	-25°F	March 1 st	Warren
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Donegal 2 Mi. NW	7.43"	March 1 st -31 st	Westmoreland
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Covington 2 Mi. WSW	1.17"	March 1 st -31 st	Tioga
Greatest Cumulative Snowfall	Hidden Valley 0.3 Mi. ENE	27.9"	March 1 st -31 st	Somerset

Links to Pennsylvania Weather Stories during March, 2015

First volley of flooding with snow-melt and spring rains

<http://www.wtae.com/weather/evacuations-underway-in-ligonier-due-to-flooding/31605912?absolute=true>

The unsung heroes of winter weather

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2015/03/plowers_pizza_deliverers_among.html

Barges on the loose near Pittsburgh due to river rise and ice jamming

<http://www.wtae.com/news/barges-loose-on-monongahela-river/31616136?absolute=true>

Business not as usual with cold weather for dairy farmers

<http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/view/story/4739bd0bc83f49d694960f4aa1442129/PA--Member-Exchange-Business>