

# *The Pennsylvania Observer*

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## **August 2009 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap**

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The last full month of summer began very wet as a cold front pushed its way through the Commonwealth. When the rain let up on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, rain gauges in portions of Bucks County collected over 4 inches (101.6 mm) through the 3 day period. Because of heavy cloud cover associated with the front, temperatures were below normal to start the month. Clearfield (KFIG) reported a maximum temperature of 76F (24.4C) on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4 degrees below normal. After another cold front moved through on the 5<sup>th</sup>, temperatures were lowered even farther. Low temperatures on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup> in Pittsburgh (KPIT) dipped down to 54F(12.2C).

A warm front moved through on the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup>, setting off a severe weather outbreak across the state including a reported tornado in Clearfield county (Storm Prediction Center). The rain did not stop in northeastern portions of the Commonwealth until the 14<sup>th</sup>. The Wilkes-Barre Scranton International Airport recorded 2.25 inches (57.15mm) over the five day period from August 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, while some localized areas in Chester County reported nearly 5 inches (127 mm) of rain during the same amount of time. The passage of the warm front also allowed temperatures to reach some of their highest values of the month. The maximum temperature of 88F(31.1C) on the 10<sup>th</sup> in State College (KUNV) was the University Park Airport's highest recorded temperature of the year.

Due to the circulation around surface high pressure in the middle of the month, portions of the Commonwealth saw their first 90F(32C) readings of the year including Altoona (KAOO) and Butler (KBTP) on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The rain returned on the 19<sup>th</sup> as a low pressure system that formed just east of the Rocky Mountains moved slowly to the Northeast before an attendant cold front extended down the Eastern Seaboard and brought more scattered showers through the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the end of move-in weekend for many college students across Pennsylvania. Heavy winds impacted the eastern half of the state on the 21<sup>st</sup>, resulting in many downed trees and power lines (Storm Prediction Center) while Philadelphia International Airport (KPHL) recorded 3.08 inches (78.2 mm) on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the highest single day precipitation total for the airport since April 15, 2007. This rain was indirectly associated with offshore Hurricane Bill moving parallel to the coast.

High pressure dominated the final full work week of the month, allowing temperatures to average as much as 5 degrees F (2.8C) above normal in Harrisburg (KMDT). However, the month nearly ended as wet as it began as a low pressure system sponsored scattered showers and thunderstorms on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> but clearing out for the final two days of the month as slightly below normal temperatures and mostly clear skies dominated.

# *Weather Stories*

## Summer of our discontent?

<http://pikecountypress.com/wordpress/2009/08/27/summer-of-our-discontent/>

## Heavy rains pound central Pennsylvania, close intersections, cut power to hundreds

[http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2009/08/heavy\\_rains\\_pound\\_midstate\\_clo.html](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2009/08/heavy_rains_pound_midstate_clo.html)

## Weather, disease making tomato, other crops late bloomers

[http://www.meadvilletribune.com/local/local\\_story\\_227225349.html](http://www.meadvilletribune.com/local/local_story_227225349.html)

## Not too hot, not too dry a great recipe for apples in Berks

<http://www.readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=152656>

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during August 2009 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	York Haven	<b>100°F</b>	August 17 <sup>th</sup>	York
Lowest Temperature	Warren	<b>39°F</b>	August 14 <sup>th</sup>	Warren
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Berne	<b>11.76"</b>	August 1 <sup>st</sup> – August 31 <sup>st</sup>	Berks
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Waynesburg	<b>0.85"</b>	August 1 <sup>st</sup> – August 31 <sup>st</sup>	Greene