

# *The Pennsylvania Observer*

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## **October 2008 – Pennsylvania Weather Recap**

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This October, the atmosphere in Pennsylvania had tricks for the World Series players and treats for winter weather lovers.

At the beginning of the month, an upper level low dominated the weather across the Commonwealth and led to some scattered showers and cooler than normal temperatures. Toward the end of the first workweek, this upper level low pushed to the northeast and high pressure began to settle into the region. Because of this, the average winds throughout Pennsylvania on Thursday, the second, were about ten miles per hour with gusts around twenty miles per hour. As weak high pressure began to build across the state on Friday, a cold front passed through bringing temperatures to around freezing for the overnight low in the northern sections.

A crisp, cool autumn morning marked the first Saturday in October. High pressure continued to build for the rest of the weekend and eventually became an area of strong high pressure over Pennsylvania from the sixth through eighth. With high pressure dominating, those days were fair and sunny while the nights were clear and cool. Even though this high pressure moved to the east of Pennsylvania off the Atlantic coast on the ninth, the high was strong enough to split the moisture associated with a weak front moving west from Ohio into two branches. One branch of precipitation headed to New England, the second to the south and in between, Pennsylvania stayed dry. The Keystone State turned warmer on the ninth.

Starting on the ninth, temperatures transitioned to above average as the state headed for a week of highs in the seventies. This was also a week where high pressure dominated the state. A cold front moved through on the fifteenth and sixteenth, bringing rain to western Pennsylvania. Following the cold front, not only did temperatures dip below average as highs ranged in the fifties for the weekend of the seventeenth through the nineteenth, but also high pressure soon settled in again across the area until the passing of a cold front on Tuesday, the twenty-first. That Tuesday was a windy day for the Commonwealth as gusts ranged from about twenty-five to thirty miles per hour. High pressure returned for the rest of the workweek until a frontal system, which spawned much rain, moved through on Saturday, the twenty-fifth. That day the eastern half of the state had twenty-four hour rain totals in the inch and a half range and the western half had rain totals around a half of an inch. On Sunday and Monday, developing disturbances and northwest flow aloft helped bring colder air and some lake effect snow to the northwest part of the state.

On Monday night the 27<sup>th</sup>, an area of low pressure developed near the New Jersey and produced enough rain that the World Series was suspended at the bottom of sixth inning. This low pressure system moved inland, rapidly

intensified, and pulled in much colder air so that the conditions were favorable for snow on Tuesday. Bucks County received a few inches of wet snow and the Poconos measured more than a foot of snow. More than 100,000 homes lost power during the early season snowstorm. Snow squalls and flurries in the wake of the power storm brought the first measurable snow to much of western and northern Pennsylvania on the 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. By Halloween, high pressure was over the region allowing for fair weather and an above average high temperature. Much of the state averaged below normal temperatures (between 0.2 and 1.0F) and only a dozen northeast counties had above average rainfall. The driest region was in the Laurel Highlands where parts of Somerset and Bedford counties had less than 25% normal October rainfall.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during October 2008 from the NWS Cooperative & ASOS Networks. The extremes occurred in the 24-hour period prior to the date listed.

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Date (8 AM EDT)</b>	<b>County</b>
Highest Temperature	New Castle	<b>88°F</b>	October 13 <sup>th</sup>	Lawrence
Lowest Temperature	Coudersport	<b>19°F</b>	October 21 <sup>st</sup>	Potter
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Matamoras	<b>4.48"</b>	-	Pike
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Wolfsburg	<b>0.65"</b>	-	Bedford