

December 2014 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap

By: Paul Knight

Compared to the previous month, December brought a mellow start to winter in the Commonwealth. The majority of the days averaged above normal temperatures and most of the precipitation fell as liquid, occasionally freezing rain, and tallied below normal amounts in the northwest half and above average in the southeast portion of the state for the entire month. There were no record maximum or minimum and only a few record precipitation centered around the wettest spell on December 5-6. Only one day had severe weather, Christmas Eve, when a half dozen wind damage reports were noted on counties bordering Ohio. The month was bookended by chilly conditions, with the coldest weather coming just before New Year's, it was also a dry month near the Great Lakes. This month was quite mild with readings between 2.4 and 5.0 degrees above the long-term average, much like 2012. Precipitation was above average in two distinct corridors; one stretching along and south of the PA Turnpike and the other from eastern Centre County to the north side of the Poconos. Somerset and Susquehanna counties recorded the most (around 5 inches), while the least fell in Erie and Warren counties as less than 2 inches was tallied which was 1.30" below average. Snowfall was below average everywhere in the state with virtually no snow along the Mason-Dixon Line from Adams to Chester counties and only 10 inches falling the Crawford County. There was a siege of mostly cloudy skies from December 10-25 for the majority of the state with some sections reporting less than 10 hours of broken or scattered clouds during the daylight hours. Overall, it was a tranquil and rather mild month.