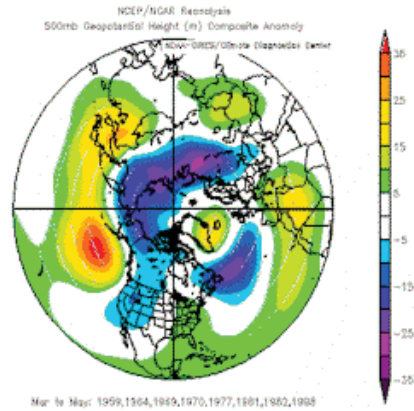


The Pennsylvania Observer

The Pennsylvania State Climatologist



March Climate Highlight:

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The March Climate Highlight compares the amount of liquid precipitation that fell in the Eastern half of Pennsylvania over the last three months to the norms. Four sites were selected from the Federal Aviation Administration network and another four sites were chosen from the National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Program network.

February Highlight: Comparing the Amount of Liquid Precipitation that Fell in the Eastern half of Pennsylvania Over the Last Three Months to the Norms

Across the eastern half of Pennsylvania, four Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) stations and four National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) stations were chosen at random. Each station's December, January, and February liquid precipitation, measured in inches, was tallied and compared with normal.

For December, all of the stations measured above average precipitation.

Philadelphia experienced its 13th wettest month and Allentown had its 8th wettest month for the period of record of 1969-2008.

To the contrary, it was the 32nd lowest, wettest month in Allentown this January for the same period of record. January 2009 in Pleasant Mount ranked to be the 43rd wettest month for the period of record (1925-2009). All of the selected stations showed the liquid precipitation for January 2009 to be below normal.

Liquid precipitation for February followed the same trend that was seen in January. All selected stations in the eastern half of Pennsylvania reported significant below normal precipitation.

FAA Location	December 2008	December Average	January 2009	January Average	February 2009	February Average
Philadelphia	5.58	3.20	2.70	3.52	0.84	2.85
Scranton	3.63	2.46	1.85	2.46	0.88	2.16
Allentown	4.35	3.27	2.00	3.50	0.78	2.85
Reading	6.22	3.31	1.82	3.72	0.47	2.77

Table 1: Lists the liquid precipitation (inches) that fell over the past three months and compares these values to the normal for each month.

Coop Location	December 2008	December Average	January 2009	January Average	February 2009	February Average
West Chester	6.20	3.66	2.73	3.95	0.52	3.17
Pleasant Mount	5.53	3.51	3.17	3.41	1.81	2.95
Shippensburg	5.12	2.90	1.78	3.17	0.91	2.79
Selinsgrove	5.99	2.89	2.17	3.06	0.91	2.58

Table 2: Lists the liquid precipitation (inches) that fell over the past three months and compares these values to the normal for each month.