

# The Pennsylvania Observer

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## **May 2008 - Pennsylvania Weather Recap**

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Even though the saying suggests that 'April showers bring May flowers', the 'April showers' lingered on through much of May for this year. A strong low pressure system sliding up from the central plains brought precipitation over the Commonwealth for the first week of May. As the low pressure moved off the coast, a high pressure system followed in its wake. This high pressure system brought mostly sunny skies, caused temperatures to climb above average, and provided much of the state with relief from the rain, but this trend did not last long. Wet and cooler weather returned to the region by the end of the second week of May and persisted into the first few days of the third week. This storm system brought about the most exciting and unique weather for this time of the year. Minimum temperatures across the state dived down into the mid to upper 30's F, and daily liquid precipitation levels exceeded an inch in some areas. Most interestingly, some scattered regions across the state even saw a hint of snow.

High pressure returned to the area on May 13<sup>th</sup> which allowed temperatures to return to seasonal averages, but this system was quickly replaced by a cold frontal boundary that crossed the state on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Rain returned to the region and intermittent showers continued throughout the duration of the fourth week of May. Maximum temperatures throughout this week stayed about 10 F below normal for this time of year, firmly establishing May as a cool month. A gradual warm up came just in time for the Memorial Day weekend. An upper level ridge slid into the region and statewide temperatures rose to the 80 F threshold. Above average temperatures, sunny skies, and pleasant weather persisted for much of the final week, but the month came to a close with a cold front accompanied by showers and thunderstorms that pushed through the region on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during May 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	Altoona	<b>86°F</b>	May 26 <sup>th</sup>	Blair
Lowest Temperature	Bradford	<b>25°F</b>	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	McKean
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Johnstown	<b>5.74"</b>	-	Cambria