

The Pennsylvania Observer

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December 2009 – Pennsylvania Weather Recap

The month began with very mild conditions as temperatures rose into the 50's and 60's from the 1st to the 5th. A soggy disturbance moving northeast from the Gulf States reached the eastern Great Lakes late on the 2nd while spreading rain across the Commonwealth. The eastern half of the state measured between 0.75-1.50 inches. The weather turned seasonably cold on the 6th as a fast moving disturbance brought a swath of wet snow from central Virginia to southeast New England. The suburbs of Washington, Philadelphia and New York received 3 to 6 inches of snow. The eastern half of Pennsylvania had between 2 and 4 inches of snow on December 6th. The start of the second full week of December was noticeably colder with snow showers in the northwest counties. A surge of milder air was accompanied by some showers at mid-month. More cold air returned for the second half of the month as several pushes of polar air moved into the Northeast. The event of the month was a nor'easter on December 19-20 that brought at least 6 inches of snow from Pittsburgh to Allentown and points southeast. The Capitol district tallied 6 to 10 inches and Philadelphia measured a December record of 22.5 inches. As milder air returned on Christmas morning, an icy rain and sleet caused slick roads in much of central and northern Pennsylvania. A heavy rain fell in eastern Pennsylvania causing local flooding on the 26th. The last few days of the month were rather cold with a few inches of snow falling on New Year's Eve.

Here are the weather extremes across Pennsylvania (**observations taken at 8AM EDT**) during December 2009 from the NWS Cooperative & ASOS Networks. The extremes occurred in the 24-hour period prior to the date listed.

Parameter	Location	Value	Date (8 AM EDT)	County
Highest Temperature	Philadelphia Franklin Institute	67°F	December 3 rd	Philadelphia
Lowest Temperature	York	1°F	December 23 rd	York
Greatest Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Unionville	8.70"	-	Montgomery
Least Cumulative Liquid Precipitation	Susquehanna	2.05"	-	Susquehanna
Greatest Cumulative Snowfall	Erie	42"	-	Erie

Weather Stories

Nature: Pennsylvania's mammals make the best of winter

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10003/1025085-358.stm>

Wet weather made 2009 tough year for Berks County farmers

<http://readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=182841>

Severe, mild weather means more potholes

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/news_details/article/92/2009/december/29/severe-mild-weather-means-more-potholes.html

A winter's worth of snow, before winter

<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/79784132.html>

U.S.'s East Coast Digs Out From December Snowstorm

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=aro.NEHSUmiE>