

November 2023 Northern Michigan Climate Summary

Alpena

Avg Temp	Avg Temp Departure	Precip	Precip Departure	Snowfall	Snowfall Departure
36.3°F	-0.3°F	1.46"	-0.61"	3.9"	-2.7"

Houghton Lake

Avg Temp	Avg Temp Departure	Precip	Precip Departure	Snowfall	Snowfall Departure
35.4°F	-0.1°F	1.28"	-0.92"	2.2"	-5.3"

Sault Ste. Marie

Avg Temp	Avg Temp Departure	Precip	Precip Departure	Snowfall	Snowfall Departure
34.5°F	-0.3°F	3.43"	-0.01"	22.1"	+6.1"

Gaylord

Avg Temp	Avg Temp Departure	Precip	Precip Departure	Snowfall	Snowfall Departure
35.8°F	+3.6°F	1.99"	-1.37"	18.4"	-0.8"

Traverse City

Avg Temp	Avg Temp Departure	Precip	Precip Departure	Snowfall	Snowfall Departure
39.1°F	+0.4°F	2.55"	-0.64"	11.2"	+5.6"

The first three weeks of the month were predominantly near normal in temperatures with high pressure overhead, also leading to generally dry conditions through this time. There were some brief intrusions of well above normal warmth, particularly on November 15th and 16th, where temperatures spiked into the 60s, some 20-25 degrees above normal for mid November. Traverse City recorded a high of 69 degrees on November 15th, while much of northern lower Michigan was in the mid 60s and the eastern U.P. held in the lower 60s. This warmth was unique in that it carried into the early morning hours of November 16th before a strong cold front passed through the region, bringing a round of light precipitation and a sharply colder airmass. So while highs on the 16th were in the 60s, these were actually observed at the midnight hour, with temperatures through the remainder of the day falling into the 30s and 40s. This gave way to a colder finish to the month, with highs in the 20s and 30s dominating. The brief intrusion of warmth was offset by near normal temperatures and the cold finish to the month, leading to most places observing near to slightly below normal temperatures for the month.

Precipitation was sparse through the month, generally limited to lighter rounds of rain for the first three weeks. The heaviest rain from these systems favored the eastern U.P., and even had enough cold air for a brief accumulating snow event of 1-2" there as well. The end of the month features more widespread precipitation, this time with the lake effect machine cranking up for the first impactful lake effect snow event of the season closing out the final four days of the month. This was preceded by a wetter snow that was more widespread, with most spots seeing 1-4" of accumulation. Several snowbelt locales across northern lower Michigan observed 12"+ over the four day period from residual lake effect snows. This snowy outburst led to some snowbelt areas finishing near or just above normal for monthly snowfall, while more inland areas observed below normal snowfall. In addition to this snowfall event being the dominant precipitation event for the month, liquid equivalent precipitation was generally below normal across the board, with the exception of the eastern U.P.