

2025 Year in Review

Central and Southeast Illinois
Chris Geelhart, Lead Forecaster



U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service, Lincoln IL

About This Review

Coverage Area

This review addresses weather in the 35 counties covered by the Lincoln NWS, highlighted to the right.

Observation Sources

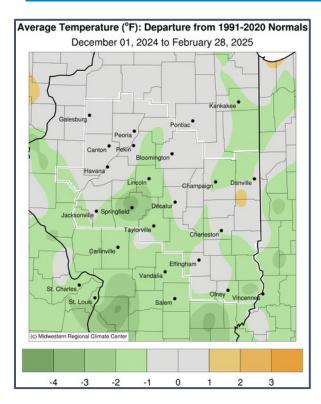
Official cooperative weather observers, plus the CoCoRaHS and the Significant Weather Observer Networks, are used for statistics.

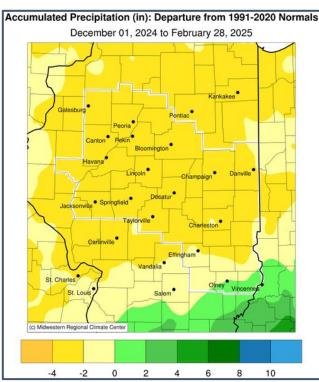
Caveats

Some statistics toward the end of the year are preliminary. Certified data is generally available from the National Centers for Environmental Prediction several weeks after the end of the months in question.



Winter Season (Dec. 1 - Feb. 28)





Climatological Summary

Temperatures: Near to slightly below normal

Precipitation: Below normal



Winter Season (Dec. 1 - Feb. 28)

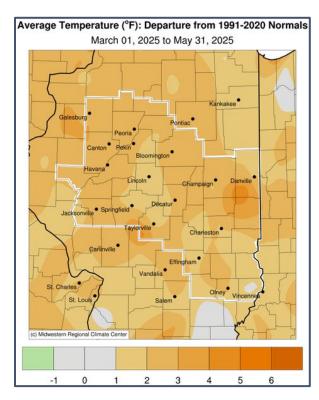
Weather Highlights:

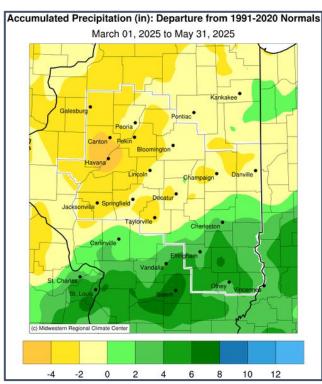
- Seasonal snowfall well below normal north of I-74 (accumulations generally near or less than 10")
- January 5-6th winter storm
 - 6-10" of snow south of a Rushville to Lincoln to Peoria line
 - A 40-50 vehicle crash closed eastbound I-70 near Effingham
- Bitter cold January 21st
 - Temperatures of 10-15° below zero near and northwest of I-55
 - Wind chills of 25-35° below zero north of a Rushville-Champaign line 0



Lake Shelbyville, January 9th Photo by Paul Hadfield

Spring Season (Mar. 1 - May 31)





Climatological Summary

Temperatures: Above normal

Precipitation: Above normal near/south of I-70, below normal north



Spring Season (Mar. 1 - May 31)

Weather Highlights:

- Several tornado outbreaks
 - Severe storms March 14-15th producing 8 tornadoes near the I-57 corridor
 - Five tornadoes on April 2nd, including an EF-2 tracking nearly 50 miles along the I-70 corridor from Effingham to near Terre Haute, IN
 - Ten tornadoes in west central Illinois on April 20th, including as far east as Tazewell County
 - Six tornadoes in east central Illinois on May 20th, and hail up to tennis ball size in parts of Morgan and Sangamon Counties

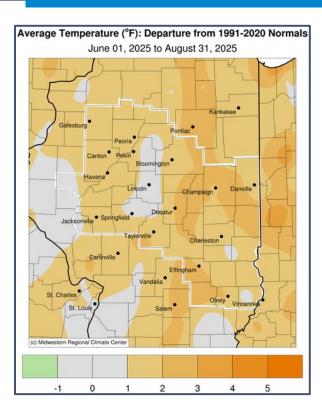
Dust storm May 16th

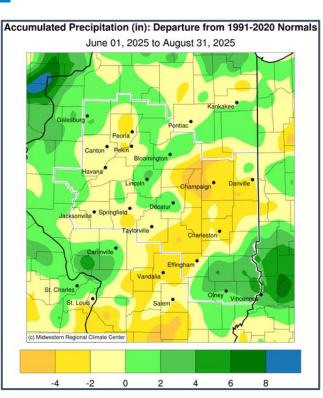
- Developed near Bloomington and Champaign, raced northeast through the Chicago metro into southwest Michigan
- Visibility reduced to near zero with wind gusts 60+ mph in some areas, closing several area roads, including portions of I-74 between Bloomington and Farmer City
- Four injuries in a car accident in northwest Champaign County 0



Dust storm moving into Bloomington on May 16th Photo by Jason Borchardt

Summer Season (June 1 - Aug. 31)





Climatological Summary

Temperatures: Above normal

Precipitation: Above normal south of I-70, mostly below normal north



Summer Season (June 1 - Aug. 31)

Weather Highlights:

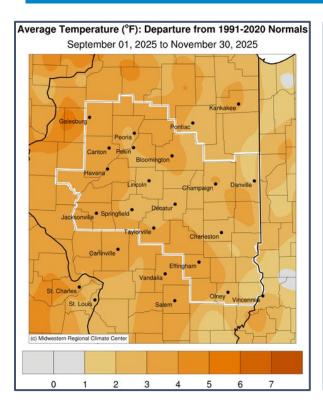
- <u>15 tornadoes on June 18th</u>, late morning and early afternoon, mostly west of I-55
- Flash flooding in Bloomington/Normal on July 8th due to 3-5" of rain
- 6-8" of rain in southern Clay County on July 19th causing flash flooding from Xenia to Flora
- Heat index readings of 105-110° on July 23rd, with one death in Peoria due to hyperthermia
- 6.75" of rain near Mahomet in only a couple hours on July 26th
- Cluster of thunderstorms over Logan and Macon Counties on August 19th produced a downburst with 80-100 mph winds in Maroa, destroying a solar farm and blowing down around 100 trees

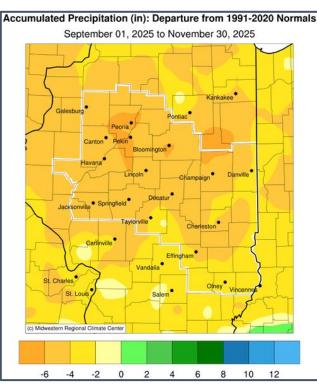


Tornado near Ashland on June 18th

Photo by Dan Grant

Autumn Season (Sep. 1 - Nov. 30)





Climatological Summary

Temperatures: Above normal

Precipitation: Much below

normal



Autumn Season (Sep. 1 - Nov. 30)

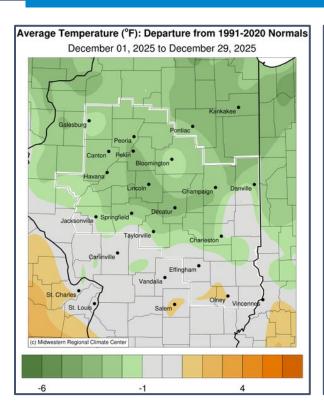
Weather Highlights:

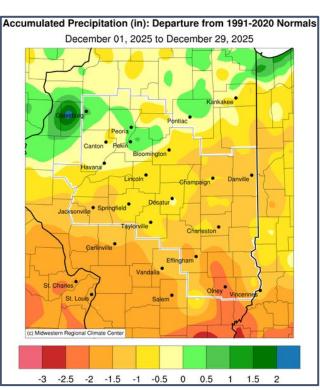
- Unusually mild September-October due to La Niña conditions
- Drought expands
 - 0.09" of rain in September in Peoria, 2nd driest September on record
 - Severe drought conditions over a large area by the end of September, and extreme drought in east central Illinois by November
 - Numerous burn bans in place by late September
- Solar storm November 11th produced widespread Northern Lights display as far south as Mexico
- Severe storms with large hail November 18th, mainly near and south of I-70
 - Reports of hail up to 2.5" in diameter in Clark and Jasper Counties
- Major Thanksgiving weekend winter storm producing up to a foot of snow south of I-74 to near I-70
 - New 24-hour November snowfall record at Springfield (8.9")



Northern Lights near Towanda, November 11th Photo by Clinton Brown

Winter Season to Date (Dec. 1-29)





Climatological Summary

Temperatures: Below normal near/north of I-72, near normal south

Precipitation: Mostly below normal



Winter Season to Date (Dec. 1-29)

Weather Highlights:

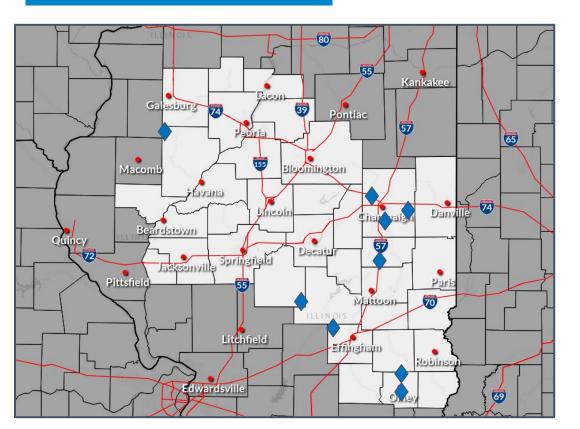
- Unusually cold first half of December, averaging 10-15° below normal
 - High temperatures only in the single digits on the 14th in many areas, lows 10-15° below zero in east central Illinois
- 8-12" of snow fell during the first half of December in areas from Macomb to Paris, bringing seasonal totals to 20-30" (surpassing all of last winter, and the snowiest start to the season in decades)
 - All of it melted before Christmas
- Unseasonably warm and humid around Christmas, peaking with highs in the lower 70s near Springfield on the 28th
 - Strong cold front plunged temperatures 30° in a few hours, and into the teens by the morning of the 29th, with wind chills well below zero
 - Strong wind gusts of 40-55 mph persisted into the following morning behind the front
- The sharp cold front also resulted in a couple bouts of <u>severe weather on the 28th</u>, producing 3 tornadoes, including an EF2 that impacted Mt. Zion (Macon County)



Tornado damage in Mt. Zion

Photo from NWS storm survey

Preliminary Statistics



Highest Temperature:

100° in Ogden on August 16

Lowest Temperature:

-13° in Avon on January 21, and in Champaign, Lincoln, Ogden and Tuscola on December 15

Most Rain in 24 Hours:

4.84" at Pana 6NE on September 22

Most Snow in 24 Hours:

12.3" in Pana on November 29

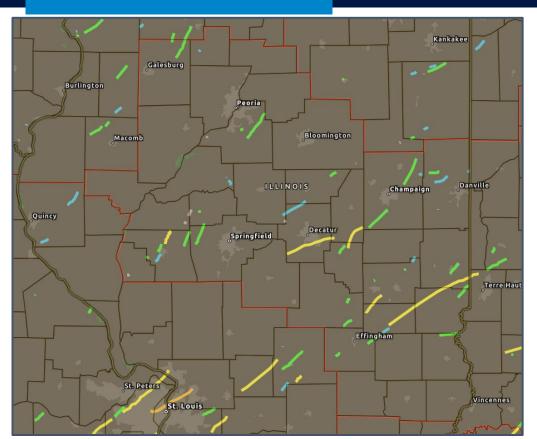
Most Rain in 1 Month:

11.77" in Dundas in April

Most Snow in 1 Month:

14.0" in Beecher City and Olney in January

Tornado Statistics (NWS Lincoln coverage area)



Reported Tornadoes: 52

Breakdown by Strength:

EF-0: 11 **EF-1**: 23

EF-1: 23

EF-3: 0

EF-U: 13 (unknown strength)

Breakdown by County:

Cass (2), Champaign (3), Christian (1), Clark (3), Coles (5), Crawford (1), Cumberland (3), De Witt (2), Douglas (1), Edgar (4), Effingham (3), Jasper (1), Knox (2), Logan (1), Macon (2), Menard (3), Morgan (5), Moultrie (2), Piatt (2), Sangamon (2), Scott (2), Shelby (2), Tazewell (2).

Total >52 due to border crossers