

ILLINOIS WEATHER & CROPS



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Annual climate summary for Illinois--1995

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Summary Statement: Mean annual temperatures in Illinois during 1995 varied from 50°F in the north to 60°F in the south. These were about 1°F below average in the northwest and average in the southeast. Precipitation during the year varied from about 34" in the north, to 40" in west central Illinois, increasing again to 45" in the south. These totals were 1 to 2" short of average in the northwest and the east southeast sectors, about 4" short in the far south, and 2 to 4" greater than average elsewhere.

Key characteristics of 1995 Illinois climate

- *Only light snow over the state during 1994-95 winter
- *Cool spring: Spring severe weather begins later than average
- *Frost on April 5: Destroyed blossoms on much of southern Illinois fruit crop
- *Twice average statewide precipitation in May: Substantial flooding along the Mississippi
- *Extremely hot and humid late July and August: Some 500 persons in Chicago die from heat stress
- *Cold September: First fall frost 4-6 weeks earlier than average
- *Mean annual statewide temperature and precipitation: Near average

Precipitation: Statewide mean precipitation for the year was somewhat greater than average in January, and substantially above average in May (wettest May in Illinois since 1895). Of the remaining months, only September was substantially drier than average (6th driest since 1895).

Temperature: December 1994, January and February were warmer than average. Indeed, there were only two storms with 6" or more snow during the entire 1994-95 winter in Illinois. Snowcover in Illinois during the winter was uncommonly low. Heating degree days in the state for the 1994-95 winter averaged 8-12% fewer than average.

Mean monthly temperatures in Illinois were decidedly cooler than average in April, May, September (12th coldest since 1895) and particularly November (7.1°F below average, and 6th coldest since 1895, statewide), and above average in August (5th warmest since 1895). High temperatures for several days in July, coupled with high humidities, particularly in the Chicago area, led to several hundred deaths due to heat exhaustion. Those for January and March were somewhat warmer than average, but those of August were substantially above average.

Severe Weather

Winter storms: From January 18-22 snow fell over all but southern Illinois, dropping as much as 6" or more in the northwestern half and 12-14" in northwestern counties.

The first snow storm of the 1995-96 winter for Illinois occurred November 27-28, impacting extreme northern and northwestern counties of the state, where 2 to 7" fell. Snow fell as far south as Ottawa. A second storm of the 1995-96 winter entered Illinois on the morning of December 8. This storm dropped up to 6" in a 300 mile wide band from

Missouri across Illinois and Indiana into Ohio. Eight to 10" fell in eastern Missouri, and 6-8" in central Indiana and northeastern Ohio. Yet another snowstorm hit central Illinois on December 18-19 along and about 60 miles either side of a line from St. Louis to Paris, where from 4 to 10" fell.

Tornadoes: Tornadoes were relatively few during 1995 due to the cooler than average temperatures in the spring. One was reported near Baileyville on April 18, and another in Morgan County on May 16. Several tornadoes were reported on May 18: one in Jo Daviess County, and several in Fulton and surrounding counties. Several were reported on May 27, one in Lawrence County, one or more in Knox and surrounding counties, and at least one in Morgan County and environs. Only one tornado was reported in June, in Woodford County on the 26th. Six tornadoes were reported in July, one in Greene County on the 25th, and four more on the 27th in northwestern Illinois. One was recorded in August. Some 24 tornadoes were preliminarily reported in the state during 1995 (long term average is 28).

Precipitation, Illinois totals by districts, months, average (1961-90) and 1994-95

District and year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Inches													
Northwest													
Average	1.33	1.14	2.60	3.68	3.88	4.18	3.99	4.08	3.87	2.75	2.49	2.04	36.03
1994	1.20	2.41	0.84	1.91	1.54	6.90	2.93	4.62	2.89	1.57	5.12	1.65	30.53
1995	2.28	0.52	1.52	5.55	6.38	2.25	3.69	3.24	2.08	2.76	2.97	0.41	33.79
Northeast													
Average	1.57	1.33	2.68	3.73	3.64	4.05	3.98	3.96	3.79	2.50	2.83	2.38	36.44
1994	1.75	2.59	0.91	2.29	1.27	5.02	3.08	4.60	1.73	1.67	5.46	1.89	32.68
1995	3.08	0.59	1.73	5.33	5.01	2.15	3.51	3.66	1.65	4.18	3.99	0.63	35.95
West													
Average	1.45	1.41	3.09	3.76	4.10	3.98	4.39	3.74	4.28	2.93	2.63	2.28	38.04
1994	1.01	2.64	0.79	4.38	2.89	3.27	3.10	3.31	1.20	2.43	4.94	2.29	32.41
1995	2.88	0.86	1.11	5.43	10.76	3.00	4.00	4.89	3.45	2.47	2.40	0.52	41.58
Central													
Average	1.57	1.51	3.08	3.75	3.98	3.82	3.95	4.11	3.75	2.72	2.77	2.68	37.69
1994	1.33	1.58	1.03	4.53	2.41	2.91	2.42	3.78	2.07	2.37	4.62	2.36	31.40
1995	3.17	0.56	2.36	5.03	9.94	3.06	2.83	4.30	1.74	3.80	2.45	0.78	38.55
East													
Average	1.65	1.63	2.99	3.78	4.00	3.85	4.21	3.64	3.41	2.64	2.91	2.78	37.49
1994	1.43	0.96	1.27	6.89	2.41	2.20	3.82	3.67	2.63	1.99	5.30	2.08	33.39
1995	2.92	0.47	2.89	4.55	8.18	3.51	2.29	4.66	1.09	3.85	2.56	0.96	37.31
West Southwest													
Average	1.67	1.87	3.38	3.70	4.28	3.72	3.91	3.37	3.50	2.82	3.06	2.95	38.23
1994	1.87	1.06	1.45	9.95	2.44	4.12	2.09	2.97	2.33	2.23	5.65	1.70	36.25
1995	3.66	0.93	2.93	3.62	9.33	3.74	2.87	4.02	1.43	3.07	1.91	2.02	37.61
East Southeast													
Average	2.03	2.21	3.74	3.83	4.23	3.81	4.23	3.36	3.15	2.86	3.50	3.42	40.37
1994	2.60	1.17	1.27	8.80	2.07	4.19	2.71	2.44	2.74	1.84	5.49	1.43	35.62
1995	3.09	1.17	3.22	3.64	10.10	4.58	3.53	4.18	0.73	2.65	2.14	2.63	39.87
Southwest													
Average	2.36	2.79	4.33	3.93	4.44	3.74	3.85	3.51	3.28	2.96	3.84	3.77	42.80
1994	3.26	1.89	2.00	8.77	1.72	4.40	1.98	2.91	2.62	2.62	6.96	2.10	41.02
1995	3.94	2.13	3.27	3.55	11.12	6.10	3.05	3.07	1.17	2.25	2.74	3.65	43.74
Southeast													
Average	2.69	3.05	4.75	4.39	4.89	3.86	4.05	3.37	3.08	3.01	4.01	4.05	45.20
1994	3.70	1.86	2.82	6.79	1.89	4.36	1.92	2.97	2.77	2.65	6.27	2.40	39.33
1995	4.09	2.73	2.86	4.07	10.39	5.58	2.93	3.67	1.01	2.23	2.74	3.39	43.44
Illinois													
Average	1.81	1.88	3.40	3.84	4.16	3.84	3.73	3.68	3.57	2.80	3.12	2.92	38.7
1994	1.87	1.73	1.19	6.39	2.12	4.06	2.72	3.48	2.18	2.66	4.79	1.98	34.1
1995	3.23	1.11	2.43	4.53	8.90	3.68	3.21	3.96	1.58	3.06	2.64	1.61	38.7.

Prominent weather-related impacts for 1995: The high frequency of tornadoes and heavy precipitation in May resulted in substantial impact to the state. There were no tornado related deaths, but at least a score of tornadoes were recorded on May 9, 13, 16, 17, 18 and 27 with several injuries. Cantral and Elkhart were heavily impacted on the 9th, Raritan and Green Valley on the 13th. Several tens of houses, barns etc. were severely damaged or destroyed. Damage was estimated at several tens of million dollars. Heavy rains beginning in mid May led to flooding, particularly devastating along the Illinois (downstream of Peoria), the Mississippi (south of Quincy), Wabash, Ohio and Big Muddy Rivers. There were several flood related deaths. Hundreds of homes and businesses were flooded. The flooding persisted into June. Heat stress, the result of high temperatures, coupled with high humidities and low wind speeds for several consecutive days in July led to more than 500 deaths in Chicago, primarily elderly folks living in non air conditioned, poorly ventilated houses. Dew point temperatures were 70°F or greater for more than 48 hours, uncharacteristic of Chicago summers! An exceptionally early frost in southern Illinois in late September (about 6 weeks earlier than the mean date) damaged 20 to 40% of the apple crop. All the state experienced frost on October 24.

Temperatures, Illinois averages by districts, months, average (1961-90) and 1994-95

District and year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Districts													
Northwest													
Degrees													
Average	19.2	25.0	36.4	49.4	60.6	69.9	73.8	71.4	63.8	52.3	38.9	24.8	48.8
1994	13.0	18.9	37.2	50.2	59.5	71.4	71.3	67.9	64.1	54.1	41.7	31.3	48.7
1995	19.9	24.3	38.8	45.6	58.6	72.0	75.2	77.8	60.1	51.2	30.3	23.7	48.6
Northeast													
Average	20.7	25.2	36.7	48.7	59.6	69.3	73.5	71.6	64.4	52.7	40.1	26.5	49.1
1994	15.0	21.0	37.4	50.9	58.3	70.7	72.3	68.7	65.5	54.5	43.3	33.3	49.1
1995	22.3	25.4	38.9	45.4	57.9	71.5	75.9	77.8	61.3	52.2	31.3	24.3	49.1
West													
Average	23.2	28.0	40.0	52.6	62.8	72.0	76.1	73.4	66.3	54.9	41.8	28.2	51.6
1994	17.8	24.7	40.3	52.5	61.3	73.8	73.5	71.3	65.6	56.9	44.3	34.2	51.7
1995	22.2	28.0	42.0	48.8	59.2	71.9	76.5	78.7	62.1	54.1	35.1	28.0	51.1
Central													
Average	23.0	27.6	39.8	52.2	62.6	71.9	75.3	73.0	66.3	54.5	41.7	28.3	51.4
1994	18.9	25.2	40.2	52.4	60.8	73.8	73.7	70.5	65.2	56.3	45.2	34.7	51.2
1995	23.8	28.4	41.9	48.4	59.2	72.4	76.3	78.8	62.7	54.0	34.6	27.4	51.0
East													
Average	23.0	27.3	39.2	51.3	62.1	71.5	74.7	72.3	66.0	54.0	41.6	28.5	51.0
1994	17.8	24.0	38.8	51.7	59.6	73.4	73.1	69.3	64.9	55.4	45.0	35.5	50.8
1995	24.4	28.2	41.7	48.1	59.3	72.6	76.5	78.4	62.8	54.1	34.4	26.8	51.0
West Southwest													
Average	25.9	30.4	42.1	54.2	63.9	72.8	76.6	74.1	67.5	56.0	43.7	31.0	53.2
1994	22.5	29.8	43.1	54.3	61.4	75.3	75.0	72.6	64.0	57.8	48.0	37.1	53.6
1995	26.4	31.0	44.5	51.7	61.0	72.6	77.4	79.6	64.4	56.8	38.1	29.8	53.1
East Southeast													
Average	26.7	31.2	42.8	54.3	64.1	73.0	76.5	74.3	67.9	56.1	44.2	31.9	53.6
1994	23.1	30.8	42.7	54.6	61.2	75.4	75.3	72.3	65.8	57.8	49.0	38.6	53.9
1995	29.5	31.8	45.5	53.2	62.3	73.1	77.5	79.7	64.8	56.7	38.0	30.2	53.9
Southwest													
Average	30.3	34.7	45.7	56.7	65.7	74.3	78.1	76.0	69.3	58.0	46.5	34.9	55.9
1994	26.9	35.8	45.9	57.5	63.0	76.2	76.2	73.3	66.3	58.8	50.9	39.9	55.4
1995	31.9	35.5	48.0	55.6	63.5	72.9	77.7	80.5	65.6	58.8	41.1	34.2	55.6
Southeast													
Average	30.6	35.0	46.0	56.7	65.7	74.2	77.9	76.0	69.5	57.9	46.9	35.4	56.0
1994	26.7	35.5	44.7	57.4	61.7	76.0	76.7	73.4	66.0	58.6	50.8	40.1	55.7
1995	32.9	34.9	48.5	56.6	64.3	73.3	78.1	80.6	65.9	58.5	40.6	34.2	56.1
Illinois													
Average	24.7	29.3	41.0	49.6	63.0	72.1	75.8	73.6	66.8	55.2	42.8	29.9	52.1
1994	19.2	27.2	41.4	52.8	61.2	74.0	74.0	70.5	65.7	56.0	46.1	35.5	52.1
1995	25.9	29.7	43.3	50.1	60.4	72.5	76.7	79.1	63.2	55.0	35.7	28.5	52.0

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