

# 2019 Year in Review for Central and Southeast Illinois

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Despite a brutal Arctic air mass at the end of January, temperatures overall were near normal across central and southeast Illinois during the course of the year. The main highlight was an excessively wet late winter and spring, which resulted in near record river flooding on the Illinois River and a spring planting season far behind normal. The most active severe weather period was in late May, when tornadoes occurred on several consecutive days.

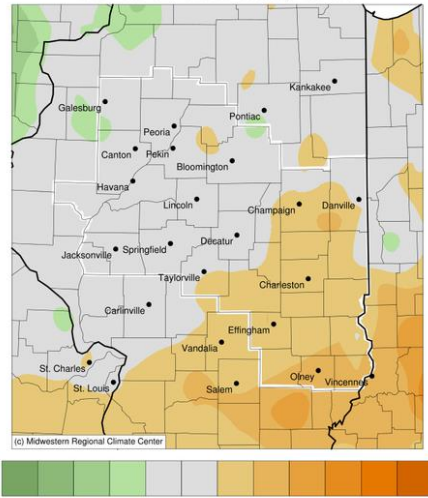
## Winter Season

(December 1, 2018 to February 28, 2019)

**Temperatures:** Near normal, except above normal near and east of I-57

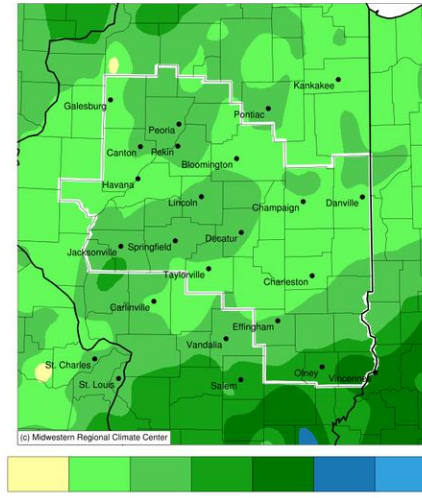
**Precipitation:** Above normal

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals  
December 01, 2018 to February 28, 2019

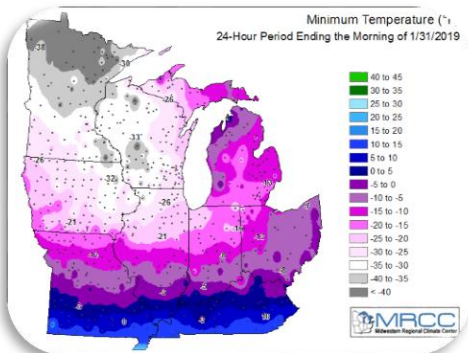


Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI, Missouri FSA, Missouri Mesonet, Midwestern Regional Climate Center  
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment  
Generated at: 12/16/2019 10:18:17 PM CST

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals  
December 01, 2018 to February 28, 2019



Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI, Midwestern Regional Climate Center  
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment  
Generated at: 12/16/2019 10:19:25 PM CST



Low temperatures on January 30-31 were colder than 20 below zero in a large part of central Illinois, with wind chills ranging from 40 below to 55 below zero.

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## Temperature Review:

January started off with much above normal temperatures (highs even in the 60<sup>th</sup>), but the month closed out with some of the [coldest weather in a number of years](#) (even surpassing the Arctic blast that ushered in 2018). The morning of the 30<sup>th</sup> saw wind chills as cold as 53 below zero at Bloomington and 40 below as far south as I-72; actual air temperatures were in the 20s below zero from Macomb to Bloomington to Hoopeston. The low of -14 in Springfield was its coldest temperature in 20 years, and Peoria spent 41 consecutive hours at or below zero from the 29<sup>th</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>. While February saw 50s only a few days after the earlier Arctic blast, it was below normal on average west of I-55, though most areas did not get below zero during the month.

## Weather Review:

A significant winter storm struck central Illinois on [January 11-12](#); total snowfall of 10-12" was common from about I-55 west, with the highest amounts of 15-16" around Jacksonville and 13" in parts of the Peoria metro. Peoria saw its 5<sup>th</sup> snowiest January record with 17.9".

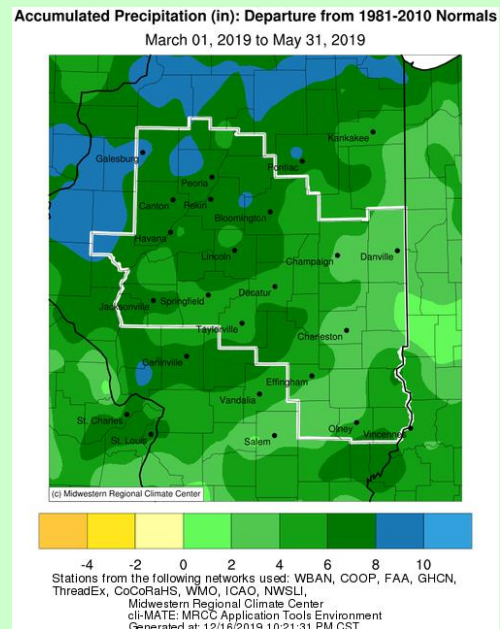
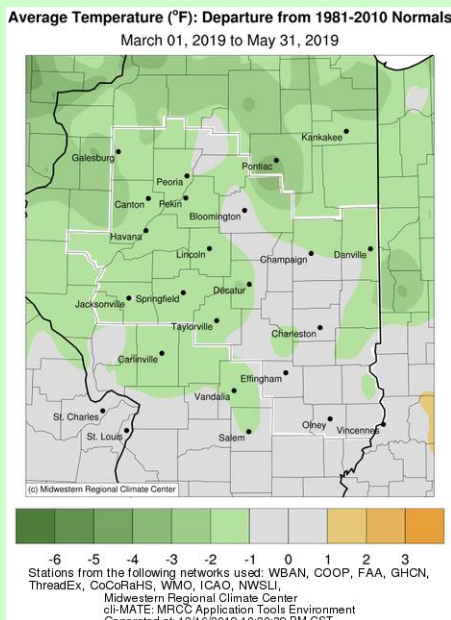
An active storm track continued through the Midwest, and brought above normal precipitation to much of the area in February. Unlike mid to late January, most of the weather systems brought rain instead of snow, so snowfall amounts were generally below normal by a few inches during February.

## Spring Season

(March 1 through May 31)

**Temperatures:** Below normal west of I-57, near normal east

**Precipitation:** Above normal



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*This tornado northeast of Rushville on May 22<sup>nd</sup> was one of 19 that occurred across central and southeast Illinois between May 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 29<sup>th</sup>. Photo by Ethan Schisler.*

### **Temperature Review:**

March averaged 3 to 5 degrees below normal across the area, with the coldest stretch on the 3-7<sup>th</sup> (averaging 10 to 30 degrees below normal). Highs on the 4<sup>th</sup> were only in the lower teens, but recovered to the 60s and 70s by the 13<sup>th</sup>. While April saw fairly typical large temperature swings, overall the month averaged near normal. A chilly period in May saw highs only reach the 30s and 40s on the 14<sup>th</sup>, but highs near 90 were observed in southeast Illinois by the 24-28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Weather Review:**

An active storm track continued into March. Between 4-6" of precipitation fell during March over much of the area, with the heaviest amounts along and south of I-74. This abundant rainfall brought a fair amount of river flooding, including a frozen ground with the heavy rainfall on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Areas along and north of I-74 had below normal snowfall by 1-2", while areas south of I-74 were near or a few inches above normal for snowfall.

Unfortunately, the above normal precipitation pattern continued the remainder of the spring. During May, rainfall amounts were commonly 5-8" west of I-57, with as much as 13" at Galesburg. Aside from causing significant river flooding, wet ground resulted in spring planting far behind schedule, with some areas only seeing the spring planting just starting as May was coming to an end.

An active period from [May 22-29<sup>th</sup>](#) resulted in several severe weather episodes, with tornadoes reported each day during the period (a total of 19). All were on the weaker side (EF-0 and EF-1), mainly causing damage to trees and outbuildings.

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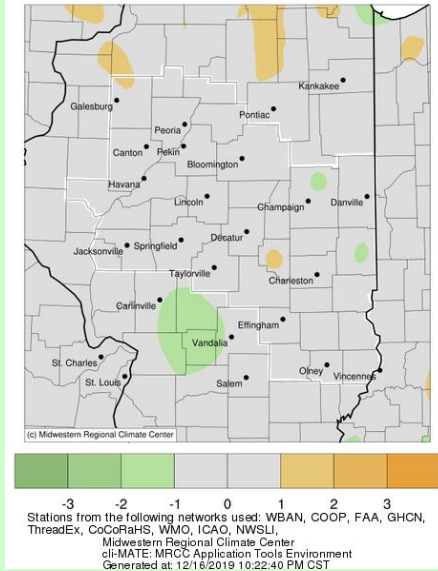
## Summer Season

(June 1 through August 31)

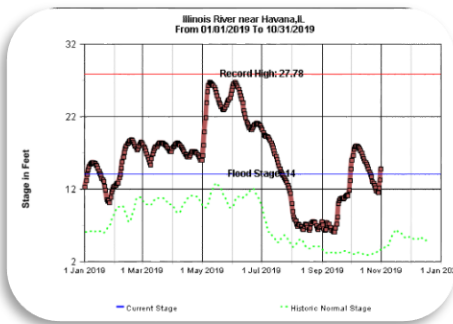
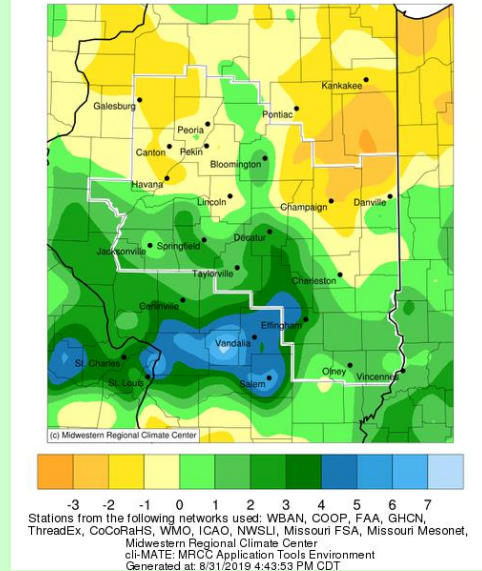
**Temperatures:** Near normal

**Precipitation:** Below normal north,  
above normal south

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals  
June 01, 2019 to August 31, 2019



Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals  
August 01, 2019 to August 31, 2019



*Illinois River levels were very high as summer began, with the river at Havana not too far from record levels.*

## Temperature Review:

While June averaged a couple degrees below normal, the abnormally late start to the planting season meant that the typical excessive heat and humidity held off until late in the month. Widespread highs in the 90s were reported on the 29-30<sup>th</sup>. July averaged well above normal, with the hottest conditions on the 18-20<sup>th</sup>. During this period, highs were in the mid to upper 90s, and high dew points of 75-80 degrees resulted in heat index values of 110 to 115 degrees. On the 19<sup>th</sup> low temperatures were only in the upper 70s. August was noted for its lack of typical heat, with only a few days with highs in the 90s.



# 2019 Year in Review for Central and Southeast Illinois

## Weather Review:

The wet pattern continued into June, with rainfall totals over 5 inches common south of a Macomb to Paris line. However, well below normal rainfall occurred in July, with Springfield seeing its 5<sup>th</sup> driest July on record with only 0.52". Despite the excessively wet period immediately beforehand, the streak of hot weather resulted in drought conditions developing. Some areas near Galesburg, Champaign and Danville were classified as being in moderate drought in August, though excessive rainfall did occur further south toward Springfield and Effingham.

[Two tornadoes occurred across Christian and Shelby Counties](#) on August 12<sup>th</sup>, as a line of strong to severe storms moved across the area. The stronger of the two caused EF-1 damage near Edinburg.

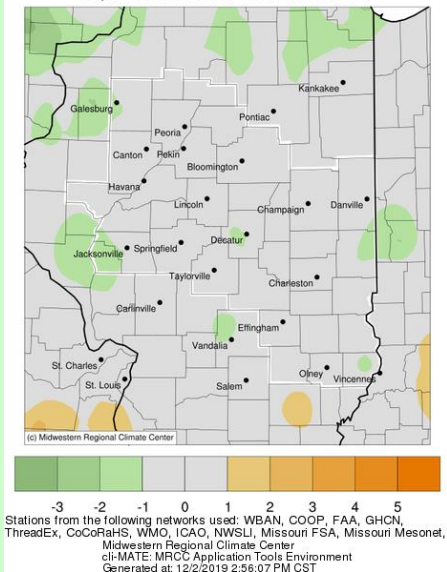
## Autumn Season

## (September 1 through November 30)

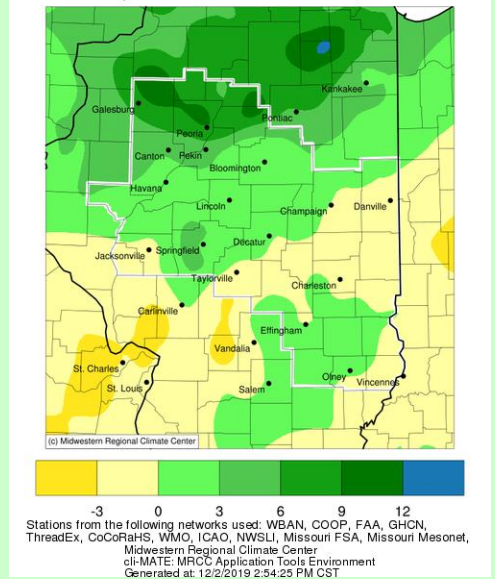
**Temperatures:** Near normal

**Precipitation:** Mostly above normal

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals  
September 01, 2019 to November 30, 2019



Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals  
September 01, 2019 to November 30, 2019



*Strong winds around 50 mph blew over this truck on I-57 near Rantoul on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Photo by Jeff Wilhelm.*

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### Temperature Review:

Much of September saw temperatures averaging 10 degrees or more above normal. This continued into the first part of October, when highs in the upper 80s and lower 90s occurred on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. However, by the 12<sup>th</sup>, the first freeze was occurring, and the month closed out unusually chilly. Halloween saw highs only in the lower to mid 30s. November also saw very cold conditions dominate the first half of the month, with lows only in the single digits and teens on the 11-13<sup>th</sup>, and highs in the teens and 20s. Temperatures moderated the second half of the month, but collectively, November was 6 to 7 degrees below normal, and several locations were within their top 10 coldest Novembers on record.

### Weather Review:

Well above normal rainfall returned in parts of central Illinois for September, with locations north of a Havana to Bloomington line as much as 8" above normal. Galesburg saw 11.39" in September, with nearby Altona with 16.45". In Minonk, 9.09" fell on the 27<sup>th</sup> with 3-6" in parts of the Peoria metro, resulting in significant flash flooding. However, south of a Shelbyville to Charleston line, rainfall was generally less than an inch for the month.

While the first 25 days of October were pretty dry and would normally favor harvest conditions, many crops were still drying out due to the late start in planting. Toward the end of the month, the remnants of Tropical Storm Olga brought a widespread 1-3" of rain on the 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. Another 1-2" fell over much of central Illinois from the 28-31<sup>st</sup>. Flora ended up with 8.3" of rain for the month.

Early season snow ushered in the end of October, with [snowfall of 1-5" on Halloween](#), highest over part of Knox and Peoria counties. November also saw snowfall well above normal, primarily due to 2-4" that fell on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Strong winds gusted from 40 to 65 mph on November 27<sup>th</sup>, including 62 mph at Springfield, 61 mph at Decatur, and 58 mph at Peoria. This caused damage to trees and power lines, and overturned trucks.

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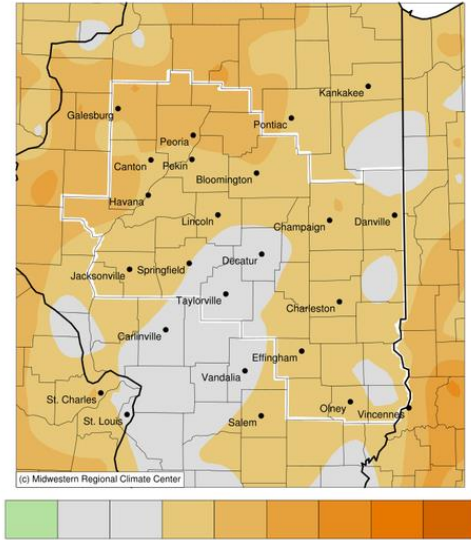
## Winter Season to date

(December 1-17)

**Temperatures:** Mostly above normal

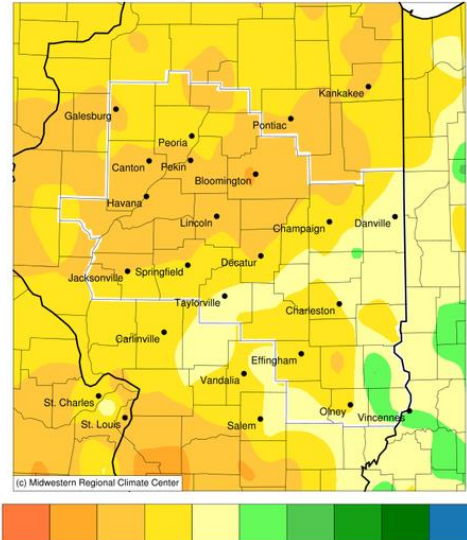
**Precipitation:** Below normal

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals  
December 01, 2019 to December 17, 2019

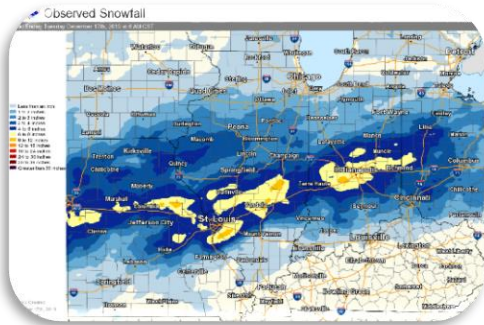


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cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment  
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Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals  
December 01, 2019 to December 17, 2019



Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI, Midwest Regional Climate Center  
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment  
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*Two periods of snow on December 15-16<sup>th</sup> resulted in 6 to 8 inches of snow falling just north of the I-70 corridor (yellow shaded areas).*

## Temperature Review:

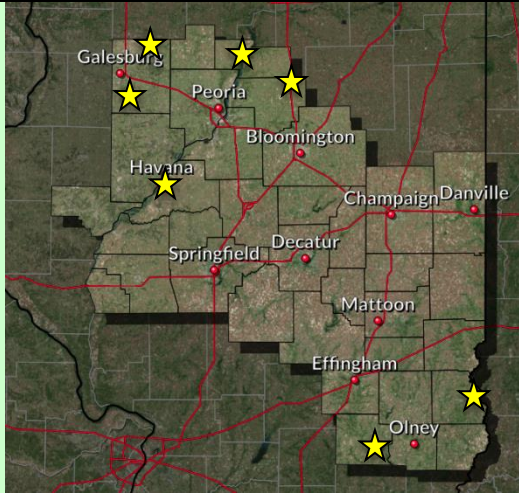
The first half of the month was warmer than normal on average. A colder period on the 17-18<sup>th</sup> followed a snowfall, but the period leading up to Christmas was expected to be increasingly warm.

## Weather Review:

Aside from some light snow on the 1<sup>st</sup>, much of the first half of the month was quiet. A storm system brought two periods of snow to central Illinois from the 15-16<sup>th</sup>, with some rain or freezing rain also occurring south of I-70. The heaviest snow was centered along and north of I-70, with 8" reported at Effingham and 7" at Pana.

# 2019 Year in Review for Central and Southeast Illinois

## Preliminary Statistics for the Lincoln NWS Coverage Area:



<b>Highest Temperature</b>	98°F at Flora (July 11) and Palestine (July 21)
<b>Lowest Temperature</b>	-27°F at Knoxville (January 31)
<b>Most Rain in 24 Hours</b>	9.09" at Minonk (September 28)
<b>Most Snow in 24 Hours</b>	12.9" at Havana (January 13)
<b>Most Rain in 1 Month</b>	16.45" at Altona (September)
<b>Most Snow in 1 Month</b>	23.1" at Lacon (January)
<b>Reported Tornadoes</b>	29 <i>By EF Strength:</i> EF0=17, EF1=12. <i>By County:</i> Christian 6, Champaign 3, Logan 3, Tazewell 3, Fulton 2, Macon 2, Vermilion 2. One each in Clay, Cumberland, Knox, McLean, Menard, Moultrie, Piatt, Sangamon, Schuyler, Shelby, and Woodford Counties. (Total is greater than 29 due to border crossers.)