



# 2024 Year in Review for Central and Southeast Illinois

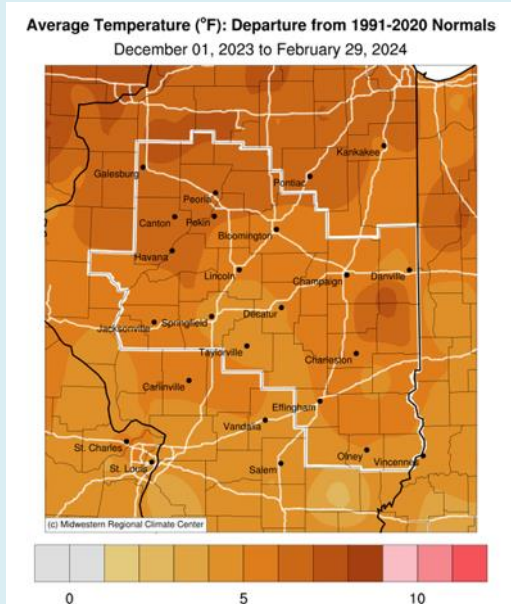
By: *Chris Geelhart, Lead Meteorologist*  
*National Weather Service, Lincoln IL*

The influence of El Niño during the first part of the year, coupled with a trend toward La Niña conditions in the fall, led to 2024 being warmer than normal. Consequently, snowfall was way below normal. A wet first half of the year was balanced out by a trend toward drought conditions in the fall, which eased up in November and December.

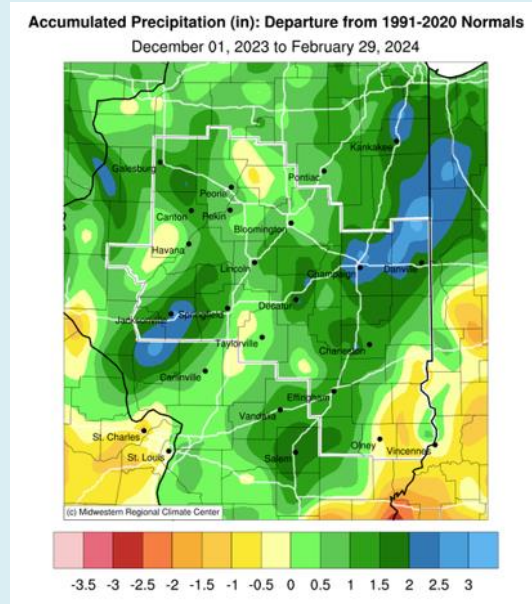
## Winter Season

(December 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024)

**Temperatures:** Above normal



**Precipitation:** Mostly above normal



*A rare bitterly cold day on January 14<sup>th</sup> yielded the appearance of sun dogs, a 22 degree halo, sun pillar, and parhelic circle outside of Knoxville. Photo by Cory Marshall.*

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## Temperature Highlights:

Collectively, the winter season was characterized by well above normal temperatures. On Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup>, the high temperature in many locations along and west of I-55 was less than 5 below zero during an Arctic outbreak which sent morning wind chills into the 35-45 below zero range. By contrast, all-time monthly records were set on February 27<sup>th</sup> when highs reached 80 degrees in Springfield, and 78 in both Lincoln and Peoria.

## Weather Highlights:

On the whole, precipitation was near normal across central and southeast Illinois for the winter season, though this is the average of the extremes with January featuring well above normal values and February much drier than normal. Widespread river flooding was an issue during the latter half of January, as warmer temperatures and rainfall melted the upstate snowpack and, along some river banks ice jams formed to obstruct the flow of water and inundate nearby communities.

The warmer than normal temperatures in December and February led to a greater proportion of precipitation than normal falling as rain rather than snow, leaving the area in a several inch seasonal snowfall deficit. This is not to say the region was without snow, though. In fact, a couple back-to-back systems dumped upwards of 9 inches along and west of the Illinois River during the January 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> snowstorms over northwest Illinois, and a clipper system brought widespread 3-5 inch snow totals to central Illinois on Friday February 16<sup>th</sup>.

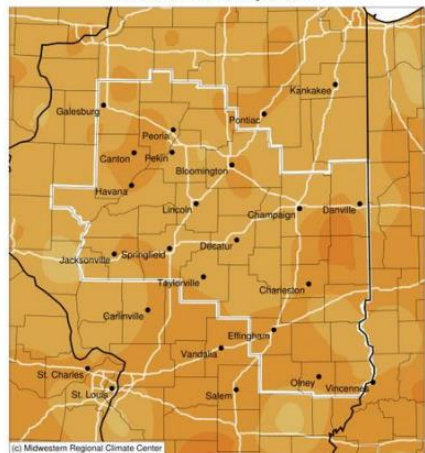
The [first tornado of the season](#) was observed on February 8<sup>th</sup>, tracking from south of Henry northeast into Putnam County.

## Spring Season

(March 1 through May 31)

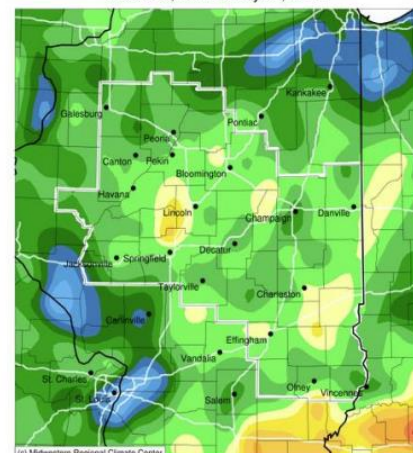
**Temperatures:** Above normal

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals  
March 01, 2024 to May 31, 2024



**Precipitation:** Above normal

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals  
March 01, 2024 to May 31, 2024



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*A total solar eclipse was visible across southeast Illinois on April 8<sup>th</sup>. This photo was taken in Flora by Bret White.*

### Temperature Highlights:

Temperatures were well above normal across the region, with Peoria observing its second warmest spring on record. The last spring freeze occurred around April 21<sup>st</sup> over central Illinois, and earlier in the month south of I-70.

### Weather Highlights:

Precipitation amounts varied across the area, though generally more areas had a wetter than normal spring. Drought conditions faded over southern and west central Illinois. Snowfall was sparse, with just a few days of light snowfall in March and early April north of I-72.

Two dust storms occurred over portions of central Illinois, on April 16<sup>th</sup> and May 21<sup>st</sup>, with parts of I-55 and I-74 closed for a time.

After strong thunderstorms the morning of [May 26<sup>th</sup>](#), the remnant outflow boundary helped fire more severe weather in the afternoon and evening, focused on areas near and south of I-70. An EF2 tornado touched down in Marion County and moved east to near Xenia, while an EF1 tornado tracked south of US-50 in Lawrence County.

Weather conditions were favorable for observing the [total solar eclipse](#) on April 8<sup>th</sup>. During the height of the eclipse, temperatures in Champaign fell by 10 degrees, with an 8 degree drop observed at Bloomington, Effingham, Peoria, and Taylorville.

A series of solar flares on May 10-13<sup>th</sup> produced the most powerful geomagnetic storm to impact Earth since March 1989, and produced [Northern Lights](#) as far south as the Florida Keys and Hawaii.

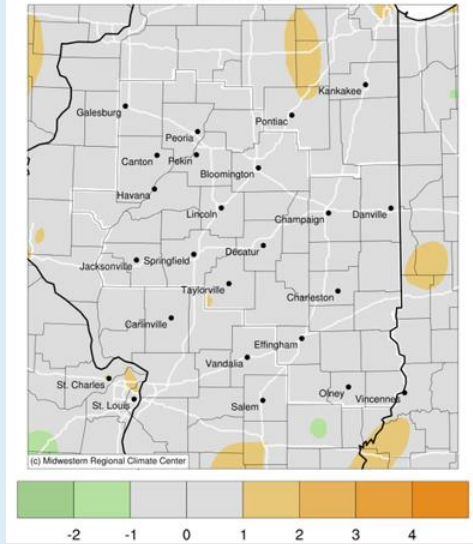
# 2024 Year in Review for Central and Southeast Illinois

## Summer Season

(June 1 through August 31)

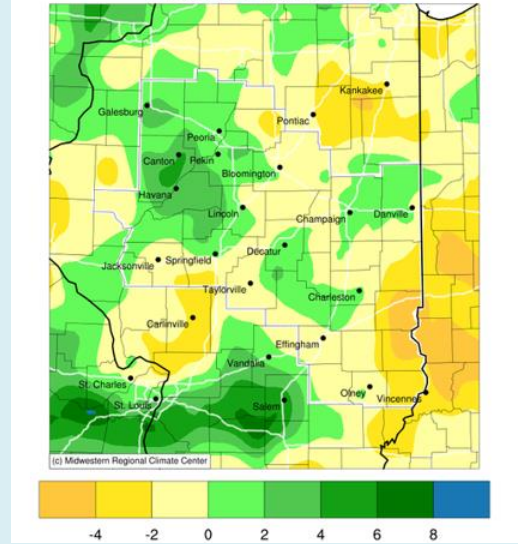
**Temperatures:** Near normal

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals  
June 01, 2024 to August 31, 2024



**Precipitation:** Above normal west of I-55, near normal east of I-55

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals  
June 01, 2024 to August 31, 2024



*High-tension power lines were damaged on June 13<sup>th</sup> as a widespread area of wind damage occurred across portions of McLean and Ford Counties. NWS storm survey photo.*

### Temperature Highlights:

Temperatures were near normal for the season, although the only near normal month was August. June was hotter than normal, and featured the 10<sup>th</sup> warmest month on record for Peoria. July featured below normal temperatures, and a few new record lows in Springfield. August ended up with near normal temperatures, although with periods of considerably above and below normal temperatures during the month, and a few new high and low temperature records.

### Weather Highlights:

Most of the area received close to normal precipitation for the summer, although a few locations strayed a few inches below (east-central Illinois, Springfield-Taylorville area) or above (Illinois River Valley near Havana & Canton) normal. This was the sum of dry the generally dry month of June (1 to 3 inches below normal), the wet month of July (generally 2 to 4 inches and locally as much as 5 inches above normal), and the near normal month of August.

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Clusters of severe thunderstorms moved across portions of central Illinois on June 13<sup>th</sup>, focused along and north of a Beardstown-Champaign line. [Significant wind damage](#) occurred across northeast McLean County, from Chenoa and Lexington south to Cropsey and Anchor. A damage survey determined widespread wind gusts of 80-110 mph, as well as 5 tornado touchdowns. A total of 33 high-tension electrical transmission towers were severely damaged.

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, the [remnants of Hurricane Beryl](#) moved across southeast Illinois, producing rainfall amounts of 2 to 5 inches over east central and southeast Illinois, along with wind gusts as high as 45 mph.

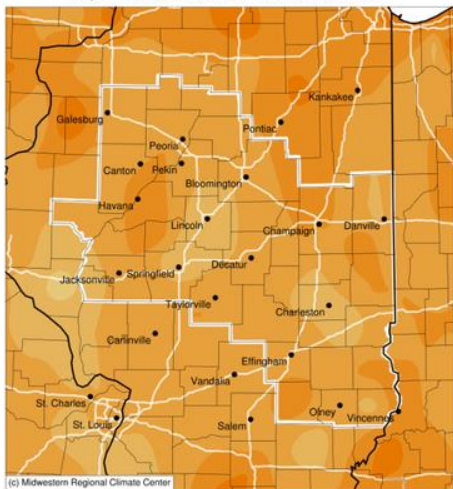
A large cluster of thunderstorms tracked from Iowa to Ohio on [July 14-15<sup>th</sup>](#), causing an extensive area of wind damage in areas mainly north of I-74. Five tornadoes also occurred in Marshall County, bringing the yearly total up to 6; only 12 had previously been observed in the county in the entire period between 1950-2023. Later on July 15<sup>th</sup>, [a derecho swept across central Illinois](#) during the evening, producing wind gusts of 80 to 105 mph, as well as 10 more tornadoes.

## Autumn Season

(September 1 through November 30)

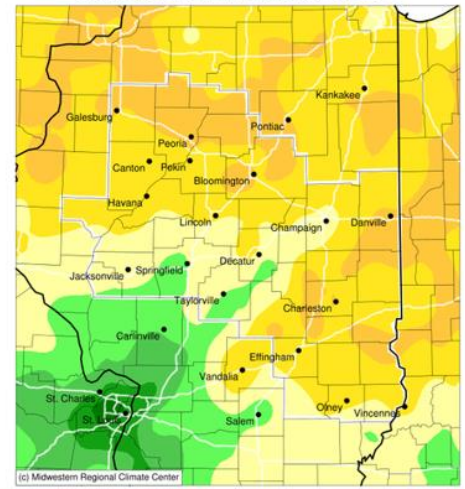
**Temperatures:** Above normal

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals  
September 01, 2024 to November 30, 2024



**Precipitation:** Below normal

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals  
September 01, 2024 to November 30, 2024



## 2024 Year in Review for Central and Southeast Illinois

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*Northern Lights observed at the NWS office near Lincoln shortly after midnight on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Photo by Mike Albano.*

### Temperature Highlights:

Overall, temperatures were 2-4 degrees above normal for the season. October 29-30 saw temperatures around 25 degrees above normal, with summer like temperatures with highs in the low to mid 80s and lows in the mid 60s. The coldest weather arrived at the end of November, with temperatures running 10-15 degrees below normal with lows getting into the teens.

### Weather Highlights:

Most of central and southeast Illinois saw below to near normal precipitation, due to a very dry September and October which caused drought conditions to develop. Heavy rainfall on November 3-5th of 2-4 inches helped the drought to start fading.

Another solar storm produced Northern Lights across Illinois on October 10-11.

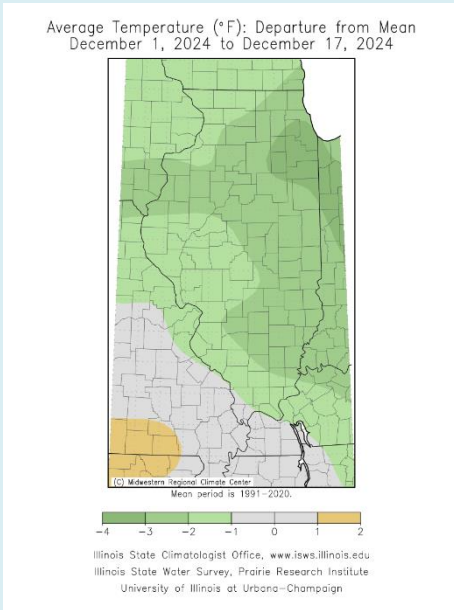
The 1<sup>st</sup> snowfall occurred on November 21<sup>st</sup>, giving 1 to 1.5 inches of snow from Danville northeast to Hoopston. More snowfall occurred on November 30<sup>th</sup> producing a band of 1 to 3 inch snow from Pittsfield to Effingham to Lawrenceville south, with Clay City getting 3.5 inches and 2 inches in Olney.

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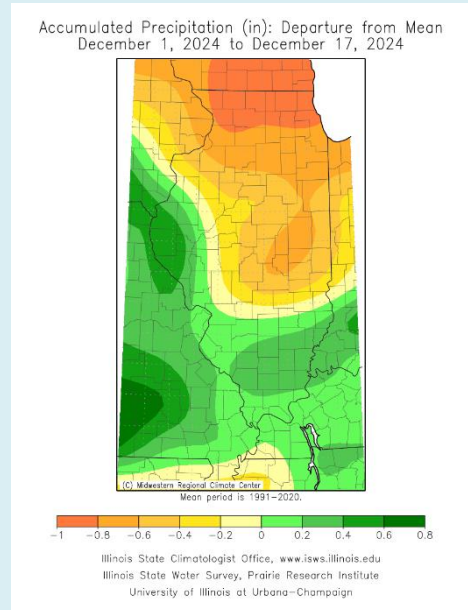
## Winter Season to date

(December 1-17)

**Temperatures: Below normal**



**Precipitation: Below normal**



## Temperature Highlights:

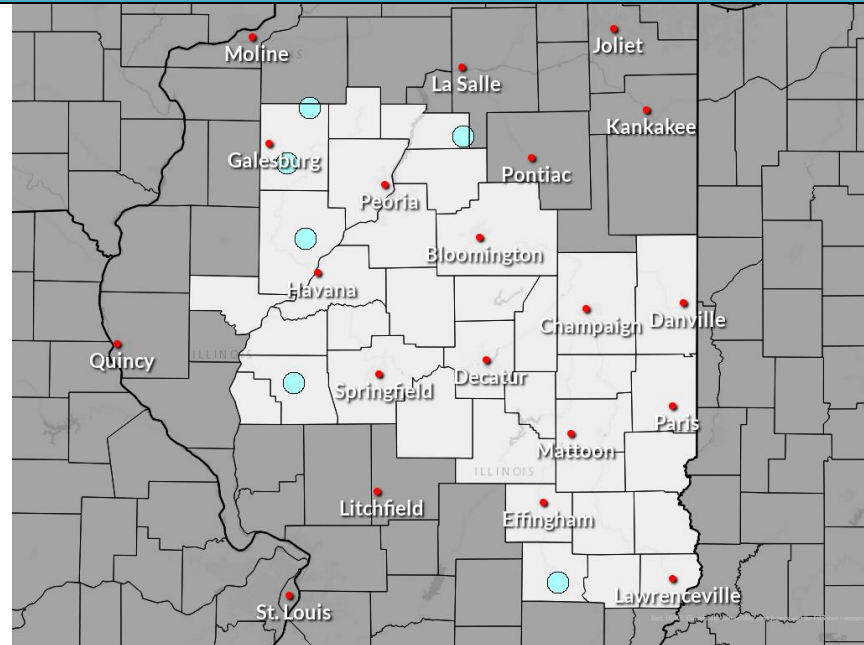
The cold spell that started in late November continued for several more days into December, with temperatures averaging 10 to 20 degrees below normal. A couple warm periods occurred around the 7-9<sup>th</sup> and 16-17<sup>th</sup>, with temperatures reaching into the 60s in some areas.

## Weather Highlights:

Snowfall was limited during the first half of the month, but light snows did occur on December 2-3<sup>rd</sup> and December 12-13<sup>th</sup>. The latter event saw a more widespread 1-3 inch total occur along the I-74 corridor, from near Galesburg to just north of Danville.

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## Preliminary Statistics for the Lincoln NWS Coverage Area:



### Highest Temperature:

100°F at Flora (June 25 and August 27)  
100°F at Jacksonville and Minonk (August 27)

### Lowest Temperature:

-25°F at Altona (January 14-15)

### Most Rain in 24 Hours:

6.86" at Lewistown (July 16)

### Most Snow in 24 Hours:

7.7" at Knoxville (January 13)

### Most Rain in 1 Month:

12.67" at Lewistown (July)

### Most Snow in 1 Month:

23.1" at Altona (January)

### Reported Tornadoes: 31

#### By EF Strength:

- EF0: 4
- EF1: 14
- EF2: 4
- EFU: 15 (unknown strength)

*By County:* Marshall 6, McLean 5, Woodford 4, Macon 3, Peoria 3, Tazewell 3, Logan 2, Vermilion 2. One each in Clay, Fulton, Knox, Lawrence, and Stark Counties.

**Total >31 due to border crossers.**

