

HIGHLIGHTS OF GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE IN WISCONSIN

Land and Water Area — Wisconsin encompasses 34.8 million acres, not including those parts of the Mississippi River and Great Lakes located within the boundaries of the state. Its inland lakes, covering more than 982,000 acres, make up almost 3% of the state's total surface area. The largest county in the state is Marathon with 988,744 acres; the smallest is Ozaukee with 148,448 acres. The geographic center of the state is located in Wood County about 9 miles southeast of Marshfield.

Lakes — The largest lake in Wisconsin is Lake Winnebago (137,708 acres), which covers parts of three counties; the deepest natural lake is Green Lake in Green Lake County at a maximum depth of 236 feet. Most of Wisconsin's largest lakes are concentrated in the northern two-thirds of the state, and they include artificial bodies of water created by dams. Wisconsin has 15,057 lakes (6,040 named, the rest unnamed). Green County has only five lakes while Vilas County has 1,318.

High Points — The state's highest recorded elevation is Timms Hill in Price County, at 1,952 feet. There are also other recorded elevations of at least 1,900 feet in Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, and Price Counties.

Temperature — In 2001, the annual statewide average temperature was 45.4° Fahrenheit. Across the state, normal regional temperatures vary from 42.7° in the north central area to 48.5° in the southeast. The coldest year for 1981-2001 was 1993 at an average of 42.2°. The warmest in that 20-year period was 1987 with an average of 47.5°.

Precipitation — In 2001, the total statewide average rainfall was 35.42 inches. Regional precipitation averages varied from a high of 40.26 inches in the south central to a low of 30.30 inches in the northeast. The driest year in the 1981-2001 period was 1989 at 24.62 inches and the wettest year was 1991 at 38.67 inches.

The following tables present selected data. Consult footnoted sources for more detailed information about geography and climate.

WISCONSIN'S LARGEST WATER AREAS

Name	County ¹	Area in Acres
Lake Winnebago	Winnebago (also Calumet and Fond du Lac)	137,708
Lake Pepin ²	Pepin	23,040
Lake Petenwell	Juneau (also Adams and Wood)	15,300
Lake Chippewa (Chippewa Flowage)	Sawyer	14,102
Poygan Lake	Winnebago (also Waushara)	13,955
Castle Rock Lake	Juneau (also Adams)	13,545
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage	Iron	10,460
Lake Koshkonong	Rock (also Dane and Jefferson)	9,842
Lake Mendota	Dane	9,000
Lake Wisconsin	Sauk (also Columbia)	8,857
Lake Butte des Morts	Winnebago	7,688
Lake Onalaska	La Crosse	7,346
Green Lake (Big Green Lake) ³	Green Lake	6,830
Big Eau Pleine Reservoir	Marathon	6,700
Lake Du Bay	Portage (also Marathon)	6,542
Beaver Dam Lake	Dodge	6,306
Willow Flowage	Oneida	6,300
Lake Wissota	Chippewa	6,063
Shawano Lake	Shawano	5,262
Geneva Lake	Walworth	5,250
Lake Winneskiek	Crawford	5,039
Puckaway Lake	Green Lake (also Marquette)	5,039
Lac Courte Oeilles	Sawyer	4,668
Lake St. Croix	St. Croix	4,507
Lake Winneconne	Winnebago	3,890
Holcombe Flowage	Chippewa (also Rusk)	3,816
Trout Lake	Vilas	3,585
Pelican Lake	Oneida	3,555
Fence Lake	Vilas	3,392
Tomahawk Lake	Oneida	3,384
Gile Flowage	Iron	3,290
Long Lake	Washburn	3,274
Lake Monona	Dane	3,227
Namekagon Lake	Bayfield	3,209
Lake Kegonsa	Dane	

¹County listed first contains the water's source of origin. Other counties covered by the water area are shown in parentheses.

²Lake Pepin is part of Mississippi River backwaters. Definite area cannot be determined because of fluctuations, but past DNR estimates have ranged over 27,000 acres.

³Green Lake, at a maximum depth of 236 feet, is Wisconsin's deepest natural lake.

Sources: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, *Wisconsin Lakes*, 1999, and DNR department data at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us> [February 2003].

LAND AND INLAND LAKE AREA OF WISCONSIN COUNTIES

County	Total Land Area		Inland Lakes		County	Total Land Area		Inland Lakes	
	Acres	Number	Acres	Number		Acres	Number	Acres	Number
Adams	414,554	47	2,309		Marinette	897,126	442	13,735	
Ashland	668,045	157	5,936		Marquette	291,514	93	5,736	
Barron	552,218	369	17,748		Menominee	229,094	128	4,044	
Bayfield	944,800	962	22,629		Milwaukee	154,598	41	197	
Brown	338,355	22	170		Monroe	576,493	120	3,437	
Buffalo	438,061	8	196		Oconto	638,701	378	11,053	
Burnett	525,773	509	31,258		Oneida	719,680	1,129	68,447	
Calumet	204,698	8	98		Outagamie	409,818	33	213	
Chippewa	646,675	449	20,027		Ozaukee	148,448	39	709	
Clark	778,010	32	1,076		Pepin	148,659	29	278	
Columbia	495,226	56	3,095		Pierce	368,954	38	6,016	
Crawford	366,522	77	6,243		Polk	587,053	437	20,900	
Dane	769,210	36	21,520		Portage	516,038	136	12,203	
Dodge	564,659	29	13,246		Price	801,638	389	15,129	
Door	308,941	25	3,254		Racine	213,184	21	3,919	
Douglas	837,843	431	14,113		Richland	375,168	9	251	
Dunn	545,299	21	3,963		Rock	461,101	76	11,174	
Eau Claire	408,090	20	2,838		Rusk	584,403	250	7,854	
Florence	312,339	259	7,259		St. Croix	461,965	64	3,667	
Fond du Lac	462,662	42	1,655		Sauk	536,083	28	11,004	
Forest	648,992	824	22,531		Sawyer	804,109	496	56,183	
Grant	734,624	33	1,569		Shawano	571,206	134	8,912	
Green	373,754	5	350		Sheboygan	328,723	72	2,111	
Green Lake	226,739	36	17,120		Taylor	623,910	284	6,183	
Iowa	488,109	15	685		Trempealeau	469,811	26	409	
Iron	484,627	494	29,368		Vernon	508,717	57	256	
Jackson	631,885	135	5,004		Vilas	559,181	1,318	93,889	
Jefferson	356,486	35	3,770		Walworth	355,398	37	12,798	
Juneau	491,270	57	45,950		Washburn	518,195	964	31,265	
Kenosha	174,611	33	3,674		Washington	275,725	54	3,080	
Kewaunee	219,290	15	251		Waukesha	355,571	118	15,156	
La Crosse	289,754	19	8,568		Waupaca	480,698	240	7,169	
Lafayette	405,485	8	565		Waushara	400,659	138	4,623	
Langlade	558,509	841	9,122		Winnebago	280,691	30	169,755	
Lincoln	565,312	727	15,741		Wood	507,379	78	6,245	
Manitowoc	378,579	101	1,492		STATE	34,758,464	15,057	982,155	
Marathon	988,774	194	19,762						

Note: Land area statistics from the U.S. Bureau of the Census; lake statistics from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Lake Superior and Lake Michigan are not included in totals.

Sources: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, *Wisconsin Lakes, 1999*; U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing, *Summary Population and Housing Characteristics, Wisconsin*, Table 16.

SELECTED HIGH POINTS IN WISCONSIN*

Site	County	Location by Section, Township, Range	Elevation in Feet
Timms Hill	Price	N. 11, T. 34N., R. 2E.	1,952
Sugarbush Hill	Forest	SW. 36, T. 36N., R. 13E.	1,939
Rib Mountain	Marathon	SE. 8, T. 28N., R. 7E.	1,924
Lookout Mountain	Lincoln	SW. 27, T. 34N., R. 8E.	1,920
Kent Tower Hill	Langlade	NW. 21, T. 32N., R. 13E.	1,903
Mt. Whittlesey	Ashland	SE. 9, T. 44N., R. 2W.	1,872
Penokee Range	Iron	NE. 6, T. 44N., R. 1W.	1,860
Meteor Hill	Sawyer	SW. 17, T. 37N., R. 8W.	1,801
Carter Hills	Oconto	NW. 6, T. 33N., R. 15E.	1,781
Blue Hills	Rusk	27, T. 35N., R. 9W.	1,750
West Blue Mound	Iowa	NW. 1, T. 6N., R. 5E.	1,719
Mount Telemark	Bayfield	NW. 28, T. 43N., R. 7W.	1,700
McCaslin Mountain	Marinette	S. 29, T. 34N., R. 17E.	1,650
Blue Hills	Barron	W. 25, T. 35N., R. 10W.	1,630
Sauk Point	Sauk	SW. 15, T. 11N., R. 7E.	1,593
Flambeau Ridge	Chippewa	SE. 3, T. 32N., R. 7W.	1,530
East Blue Mound	Dane	5,6, T. 6N., R. 6E.	1,489
Powers Bluff	Wood	SE. 30, T. 24N., R. 4E.	1,481
Baraboo Range	Columbia	SE. 6, T. 11N., R. 8E.	1,480
Greenfield Hill	Monroe	SW. 9, T. 18N., R. 2W.	1,450
North Platte Mound	Lafayette	SE. 31, T. 4N., R. 1E.	1,440
Frederic Tower Hill	Polk	NW. 1, T. 36N., R. 17W.	1,410
Saddle Mound	Jackson	NE. 33, T. 22N., R. 1W.	1,409
Wadels Hill	La Crosse	NE. 24, SE. 14, T. 18N., R. 5W.	1,400
Johnson Hill	Juneau	NW. 11, T. 15N., R. 2E.	1,380
Summit Hill	Douglas	21, T. 45N., R. 14W.	1,369
Montana Ridge	Buffalo	2,3,11, T. 22 N., R. 10 W.	1,360
Irish Ridge	Vernon	2-4, 11-12, T. 14N., R. 3W.	1,360
Dunnewa Hill	Dunn	NE. 24, T. 30N., R. 11W.	1,354
Holy Hill	Washington	SW. 14, T. 9N., R. 18E.	1,332
Rising Sun Ridge	Crawford	NW. 22, T. 11N., R. 5W.	1,322
Parnell Hill	Sheboygan	NE. 10, T. 14N., R. 20E.	1,312
Rohrscheib Hill	Pepin	SW. 22, T. 25N., R. 11W.	1,300
Pleasant Ridge	Richland	NE. 19, T. 12N., R. 1W.	1,300
Friendship Mound	Adams	SW. 32, T. 18N., R. 6E.	1,290
Kettle Moraine	Fond du Lac	SE. 2, T. 14N., R. 18E.	1,270
Military Ridge	Grant	31, T. 7N., R. 2W.	1,240
Lapham Peak	Waukesha	SE. 29, T. 7N., R. 18E.	1,230
Kettle Moraine	Jefferson	NE. 26, T. 5N., R. 16E.	1,062
Morrison Hill	Brown	NW. 24, T. 21 N., R20E.	1,020
Cherneyville Hill	Kewaunee	NE. 32, T. 23N., R. 23E.	1,020

*This list is based on data compiled by the State Cartographer's Office and includes the highest named point in each county having an elevation of at least 1,020 feet. The listing should not be construed as a ranking of all of the highest points in the state because 1) it includes only named features; 2) it includes only one high point per county; and 3) there may be others of comparable height that are unrecorded. Many elevations are approximations.

Source: Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office, *Individual High Points for WI Counties*, at: http://www.geography.wisc.edu/sco/maps/cnty_elevation.html [February 25, 2003].

**WISCONSIN TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION,
By Region and Month, 2001**

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual ¹
Statewide													
2001 Temperature (°F) . . .	19.5	15.0	28.1	46.6	56.7	64.3	69.9	69.8	57.2	46.0	43.5	27.7	45.4
Normal Temperature ² . . .	12.4	17.2	29.4	43.4	55.2	64.3	69.4	66.8	58.1	47.2	33.0	18.3	42.9
2001 Precipitation (inches) . . .	1.21	1.69	0.67	4.93	4.86	4.84	2.67	4.59	4.05	2.44	2.28	1.19	35.42
Normal Precipitation ² . . .	1.08	0.95	1.95	2.71	3.38	3.82	3.74	4.04	4.00	2.52	2.01	1.48	31.68
Regions³													
Northwest													
2001 Temperature	17.3	9.9	25.9	43.4	55.5	63.5	68.6	68.9	56.2	44.6	42.1	24.8	43.4
Normal Temperature	8.7	14.1	27.2	41.8	53.7	62.8	68.5	65.7	56.4	45.6	30.4	14.6	40.8
2001 Precipitation	1.36	1.71	0.75	7.69	4.03	4.59	3.45	4.42	1.88	2.46	2.86	1.13	36.33
Normal Precipitation	1.05	0.79	1.77	2.40	3.39	4.02	3.91	4.36	4.00	2.60	1.78	1.26	31.33
North Central													
2001 Temperature	17.5	11.2	25.3	43.4	54.7	62.6	66.8	67.3	55.1	43.2	40.8	25.0	42.7
Normal Temperature	9.7	14.1	26.3	40.7	53.0	61.7	66.9	64.1	55.3	44.7	30.4	15.3	40.2
2001 Precipitation	1.20	1.54	0.76	5.33	4.27	4.01	3.35	3.47	3.62	2.93	2.64	1.38	34.50
Normal Precipitation	1.11	0.90	1.77	2.44	3.45	3.90	3.74	4.25	4.21	2.64	2.04	1.46	31.91
Northeast													
2001 Temperature	19.6	14.5	27.3	44.9	55.4	62.8	67.1	68.2	55.8	44.4	41.2	26.8	44.0
Normal Temperature	12.0	15.8	27.4	41.4	53.4	62.3	67.5	64.7	56.0	45.3	31.6	17.7	41.3
2001 Precipitation	1.12	1.21	0.49	3.27	4.59	3.90	2.65	4.07	3.58	2.24	2.13	1.05	30.30
Normal Precipitation	1.19	1.00	1.95	2.60	3.41	3.69	3.38	3.74	3.98	2.53	2.19	1.60	31.26
West Central													
2001 Temperature	19.4	13.9	27.9	48.4	58.1	66.3	72.0	71.1	58.2	47.0	45.4	27.5	46.3
Normal Temperature	11.9	17.4	30.5	45.3	57.2	66.4	71.2	68.3	59.2	48.1	33.1	17.8	43.9
2001 Precipitation	1.27	1.07	0.96	5.23	5.25	5.54	2.76	4.34	4.47	1.72	2.31	1.05	35.97
Normal Precipitation	0.96	0.83	1.94	2.88	3.65	4.14	4.11	4.17	4.07	2.46	1.78	1.25	32.24
Central													
2001 Temperature	21.0	17.1	29.5	48.7	57.8	65.0	71.4	71.1	57.6	46.7	44.3	28.8	46.6
Normal Temperature	13.4	18.1	30.2	44.5	56.2	65.4	70.2	67.3	58.7	47.8	33.6	19.1	43.7
2001 Precipitation	0.97	1.41	0.53	4.02	5.92	6.28	2.36	4.02	4.43	1.82	2.04	0.95	34.75
Normal Precipitation	1.04	1.01	2.14	2.80	3.57	3.71	3.74	3.86	4.12	2.43	2.07	1.46	31.95
East Central													
2001 Temperature	22.1	19.6	29.9	46.9	56.1	64.0	70.5	71.2	58.7	48.0	44.2	31.4	46.9
Normal Temperature	16.2	19.8	30.6	42.9	54.3	63.9	69.7	67.7	59.7	48.8	35.6	22.0	44.3
2001 Precipitation	1.02	1.76	0.37	3.74	4.81	4.37	1.47	5.02	3.28	2.24	1.74	1.35	31.17
Normal Precipitation	1.26	1.10	2.10	2.69	3.03	3.40	3.31	3.61	3.73	2.47	2.26	1.71	30.53
Southwest													
2001 Temperature	20.2	18.0	30.2	50.1	58.9	65.5	72.1	70.9	58.2	47.6	46.0	30.0	47.3
Normal Temperature	15.0	20.3	32.8	46.4	58.0	67.2	71.8	69.1	60.6	49.5	35.3	20.9	45.6
2001 Precipitation	1.21	1.90	0.81	4.52	6.07	5.17	1.97	6.59	6.10	1.93	1.95	1.27	39.49
Normal Precipitation	0.95	1.03	2.07	3.08	3.44	3.84	3.90	4.09	3.85	2.35	2.06	1.44	32.10
South Central													
2001 Temperature	21.0	20.5	31.3	50.9	59.7	66.1	72.8	71.6	59.3	48.2	45.9	30.6	48.2
Normal Temperature	16.1	20.7	32.9	46.2	57.7	67.1	71.5	68.8	60.7	49.5	35.9	21.8	45.7
2001 Precipitation	1.38	2.63	0.49	3.61	4.97	5.84	2.11	6.07	6.37	3.36	2.03	1.40	40.26
Normal Precipitation	1.09	1.07	2.21	3.09	3.20	3.78	3.80	3.99	3.98	2.46	2.21	1.71	32.59
Southeast													
2001 Temperature	22.6	22.5	32.0	49.5	57.6	65.1	72.6	71.9	59.8	49.4	46.5	32.4	48.5
Normal Temperature	18.1	22.4	33.3	45.1	56.1	65.9	71.2	69.3	61.5	50.2	37.4	23.8	46.2
2001 Precipitation	1.21	3.19	0.55	3.67	4.84	4.66	2.32	4.73	5.62	3.90	1.63	1.12	37.44
Normal Precipitation	1.32	1.11	2.24	3.20	2.94	3.54	3.77	3.84	3.80	2.49	2.40	1.93	32.58

¹Annual temperature reflects the average of the monthly figures; annual precipitation is the total for the year.
²Normal temperatures and normal precipitation are the averages for the period 1961-1990, based on data computed by the U.S. Department of Commerce National Climatic Data Center.

³The counties in each region are:
Northwest — Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn.
North Central — Ashland, Clark, Iron, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Price, Taylor, and Vilas.
Northeast — Florence, Forest, Langlade, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, and Shawano.
West Central — Buffalo, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, St. Croix, and Trempealeau.
Central — Adams, Green Lake, Juneau, Marquette, Portage, Waupaca, Waushara, and Wood.
East Central — Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Kewaunee, Manitowish, Outagamie, Sheboygan, and Winnebago.
Southwest — Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland, Sauk, and Vernon.
South Central — Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Jefferson, and Rock.
Southeast — Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha.

Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service, *Wisconsin 2002 Agricultural Statistics*, at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/r1stoc.htm> [December 12, 2002].