

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. Approximately 1 million acres of inland lakes make up almost 3% of Wisconsin's total surface area. The largest county in the state is Marathon with 988,848 acres; the smallest is Ozaukee with 148,456 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) in Winnebago County; the deepest natural lake is Green Lake in Green Lake County at a depth of 236 feet. Most of Wisconsin's 30 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.

Altitude — The state's four highest recorded elevations are Timms Hill, Pearson Hill, Sugarbush Hill and Rib Mountain, but none exceeds 2,000 feet in altitude. These sites are concentrated in the north central portion of the state.

Temperature — In 1997, the average temperatures varied from 40.2° Fahrenheit in the north central area to 46.2° in the southeast. The average statewide temperature was 43.2°. The coldest year for 1978-1997 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 1997, the total rainfall in the state varied from a high of 32.58 inches in the southeast to a low of 30.53 inches in the east central. The average precipitation for the state was 31.79 inches. The driest year in the 1978-1997 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 LAKES

Name	Principal Location	Area in Acres
Lake Winnebago	Winnebago County	137,708
Lake Pepin	Mississippi Boundary	27,813
Petenwell Lake	Juneau County	23,040
Lake Chippewa	Sawyer County	15,300
Lake Poygan	Winnebago County	14,102
Castle Rock Lake	Juneau County	13,955
Turtle-Flambeau Flowage	Iron County	13,545
Lake Koshkonong	Jefferson County	10,460
Lake Mendota	Dane County	9,842
Lake Wisconsin	Columbia County	9,000
Lake Butte des Morts	Winnebago County	8,857
Lake Onalaska	La Crosse County	7,688
Big Green Lake	Green Lake County	7,346
Big Eau Pleine Reservoir	Marathon County	6,830
Lake Du Bay	Marathon and Portage Counties	6,700
Beaver Dam Lake	Dodge County	6,542
Willow Flowage	Oneida County	6,306
Lake Wissota	Chippewa County	6,300
Shawano Lake	Shawano County	6,063
Lake Geneva	Walworth County	5,262
Lake Puckaway	Green Lake County	5,039
Lac Court Oreilles	Sawyer County	5,039
Lake St. Croix	St. Croix County	4,668
Lake Winneconne	Winnebago County	4,507
Holcombe Flowage	Chippewa County	3,890
Trout Lake	Vilas County	3,816
Pelican Lake	Oneida County	3,585
Fence Lake	Vilas County	3,555
Tomahawk Lake	Oneida County	3,392
Gile Flowage	Iron County	3,384

Note: Big Green Lake is Wisconsin's deepest lake, maximum depth 236 feet.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, *Wisconsin Lakes*, 1995; departmental data, February 1999.

LAND AND INLAND LAKE AREA OF WISCONSIN COUNTIES

County	Total Land Area ¹		Inland Lakes ²		County	Total Land Area ¹		Inland Lakes ²	
	(Acres)	Number	Size (Acres)			(Acres)	Number	Size (Acres)	
Adams	414,589	47	2,309		Marinette ...	897,262	442	13,735	
Ashland	668,103	157	5,936		Marquette ...	291,541	93	5,736	
Barron	552,248	369	17,748		Menominee ...	229,117	128	4,044	
Bayfield	944,902	962	22,629		Milwaukee ...	154,601	41	197	
Brown	338,375	22	170		Monroe	576,596	120	3,437	
Buffalo	438,092	8	196		Oconto	638,777	378	11,053	
Burnett	525,790	509	31,258		Oneida	719,826	1,129	68,447	
Calumet	204,714	8	98		Outagamie ...	409,849	33	213	
Chippewa	646,703	449	20,027		Ozaukee	148,456	39	709	
Clark	778,048	32	1,076		Pepin	148,683	29	278	
Columbia	495,274	56	3,095		Pierce	368,971	38	6,016	
Crawford	366,561	77	6,243		Polk	587,088	437	20,900	
Dane	769,392	36	21,520		Portage	516,076	136	12,203	
Dodge	564,734	29	13,246		Price	801,721	389	15,129	
Door	308,959	25	3,254		Racine	213,204	21	3,919	
Douglas	837,924	431	14,113		Richland	375,209	9	251	
Dunn	545,329	21	3,963		Rock	461,148	76	11,174	
Eau Claire	408,104	20	2,838		Rusk	584,439	250	7,854	
Florence	312,373	259	7,259		St. Croix	462,054	64	3,667	
Fond du Lac	462,704	42	1,655		Sauk	536,138	28	11,004	
Forest	649,053	824	22,531		Sawyer	804,180	496	56,183	
Grant	734,656	33	1,569		Shawano	571,244	134	8,912	
Green	373,790	5	350		Sheboygan ...	328,739	72	2,111	
Green Lake	226,755	36	17,120		Taylor	623,973	284	6,183	
Iowa	488,157	15	685		Trempealeau ..	469,855	26	409	
Iron	484,660	494	29,368		Vernon	508,770	57	256	
Jackson	631,862	135	5,004		Vilas	558,593	1,318	93,889	
Jefferson	356,521	35	3,770		Walworth	355,458	37	12,798	
Juneau	491,325	57	45,950		Washington ...	518,236	964	31,265	
Kenosha	174,605	33	3,674		Washington ...	275,743	54	3,080	
Kewaunee	219,299	15	251		Waukesha	355,587	118	15,156	
La Crosse	289,777	19	8,568		Waupaca	480,729	240	7,169	
Lafayette	405,510	8	565		Waushara	400,695	138	4,623	
Langlade	558,558	841	9,122		Winnebago ...	280,723	30	169,755	
Lincoln	565,147	727	15,741		Wood	507,428	78	6,245	
Manitowoc	378,600	101	1,492		STATE	34,760,751	15,057	982,155	
Marathon	988,848	194	19,762						

¹Land area from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

²Lake statistics from *Wisconsin Lakes*, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 1995. Lake Superior and Lake Michigan are not "inland lakes".

Sources: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, *Wisconsin Lakes*, 1995; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census Population and Housing, *Summary Population and Housing Characteristics, Wisconsin*, Table 16.

HIGH POINTS IN WISCONSIN

Site	County	Location by Section, Township, Range	Elevation in Feet
Four Highest Elevations			
Timms Hill	Price	S. 11, T. 34N., R. 2E.	1,952
Pearson Hill	Price	S. 12, T. 34N., R. 2E.	1,951
Sugarbush Hill	Forest	S. 36, T. 36N., R. 13E.	1,938
Rib Mountain	Marathon	S. 8, T. 28N., R. 7E.	1,924
Other High Points			
Part of East Hill	Forest	S. 4, T. 35N., R. 13E.	1,875
Mt. Whittlesey	Ashland	S. 9, T. 44N., R. 2W.	1,872
Monahan Lake Fire Tower	Vilas	S. 33, T. 42N., R. 9E.	1,869
Hill northwest of Iron Belt	Iron	S. 27, T. 46N., R. 1E.	1,860
Muskellunge Hill	Vilas	S. 34, T. 41N., R. 7E.	1,845
Upson Lookout Tower Hill	Iron	S. 32, T. 46N., R. 1E.	1,819
Meteor Hill	Sawyer	S. 17, T. 37N., R. 8W.	1,801
Hill west of Elcho	Langlade	S. 15, T. 34N., R. 10E.	1,785
Trimble Hill	Iron	S. 33, T. 46N., R. 2E.	1,777
Hill south of Weber Lake	Iron	S. 6, T. 45N., R. 1E.	1,774
Squirrel Hill	Oneida	S. 32, T. 39N., R. 5E.	1,735
Blue Mound	Iowa	S. 1, T. 6N., R. 5E.	1,719
McCaslin Mountain	Marinette	S. 29, T. 34N., R. 17E.	1,650
Upper Mosinee Hill	Marathon	S. 22, T. 38N., R. 7E.	1,605
Point Sauk	Sauk	S. 15, T. 11N., R. 7E.	1,593
Flambeau Ridge	Chippewa	S. 3, T. 32N., R. 7W.	1,535
Powers Bluff	Wood	S. 30, T. 23N., R. 4E.	1,481
Platte Mound	Lafayette	S. 31, T. 4N., R. 1E.	1,445
Neillsville Mounds	Clark	S. 4, T. 24N., R. 2W.	1,412
Wadels Hill	Monroe	S. 19, T. 18N., R. 4W.	1,410
Thunder Mountain	Marinette	S. 30, T. 33N., R. 18E.	1,410
Ridge south of Fairchild	Jackson	S. 16, T. 24N., R. 5W.	1,405
West Saddle Mound	Jackson	S. 28 and 33, T. 22N., R. 1W.	1,404
Bayfield Lookout Tower	Bayfield	S. 3, T. 50N., R. 4W.	1,368
Bruce Mound	Clark	S. 30, T. 23N., R. 3W.	1,365
Castle Rock	Monroe	S. 33, T. 18N., R. 4W.	1,360
Holy Hill	Washington	S. 14, T. 9N., R. 18E.	1,335
Ridge north of North Bend	Jackson	S. 9, T. 19N., R. 6W.	1,330
Friendship Mound	Adams	S. 32, T. 18N., R. 6E.	1,285
Silver Mound	Jackson	S. 35, T. 23N., R. 5W.	1,255
Gibraltar Rock	Columbia	S. 18, T. 10N., R. 8E.	1,247
Lapham Hill	Waukesha	S. 29, T. 7N., R. 18E.	1,235
Granddad Bluff	La Crosse	S. 34, T. 16N., R. 7W.	1,210
Sinsinawa Mound	Grant	S. 30, T. 1N., R. 1W.	1,170
Mt. Morris	Waushara	S. 15, T. 19N., R. 11E.	1,137
Liberty Pole Hill	Green	S. 10, T. 4N., R. 9E.	1,115
Petenwell Rock	Juneau	S. 9, T. 18N., R. 4E.	1,110
Observatory Hill	Marquette	S. 8, T. 14N., R. 10E.	1,100
Necedah Bluff	Juneau	S. 24, T. 18N., R. 3E.	1,099

Note: This listing should not be construed as a ranking of the highest points in the state, because there may be others of comparable height that are unrecorded. Many elevations are only approximations.

Source: Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, departmental data, January 1999.

**WISCONSIN NORMAL TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION
By Month and Region**

Region ¹	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual ²
Northwest													
Temperature (°F)	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
Precipitation (inches)	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													
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
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													
Temperature	12.0	15.8	27.4	41.4	53.4	62.3	67.5	64.7	56.0	45.5	31.6	17.7	41.3
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													
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
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													
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
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													
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
Precipitation	1.26	1.10	2.10	2.69	3.03	3.40	3.17	3.61	3.73	2.47	2.26	1.71	30.53
Southwest													
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
Precipitation	0.95	1.03	2.07	3.08	3.44	3.84	3.90	4.09	3.95	2.35	2.06	1.44	32.20
South Central													
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
Precipitation	1.09	1.07	2.21	3.09	3.20	3.78	3.80	3.99	3.96	2.46	2.21	1.71	32.57
Southeast													
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
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
State													
Normal ³													
Temperature	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
Precipitation	1.09	0.95	1.97	2.72	3.39	3.83	3.75	4.06	4.01	2.51	2.03	1.48	31.79
1997													
Temperature	11.9	21.5	30.1	42.0	50.2	66.5	68.0	64.0	59.7	48.1	30.0	26.4	43.2
Precipitation	2.05	0.94	1.91	1.01	3.07	4.05	5.00	4.28	2.86	2.19	0.73	0.65	28.74

Note: "Normal" is the average for the period 1961-1990.

¹The 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, Manitowoc, 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

²Annual average for temperature; annual total for precipitation.

³Based on data computed by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Climatic Data Center.

Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service, *Wisconsin 1998 Agricultural Statistics*, July 1998.