Historical Climatology: Northeastern Illinois

Illinois Climatic Division 2 Northeast

***Included counties**: Boone, McHenry, Lake, DeKalb, Kane, DuPage, Cook, La Salle, Kendall, Grundy, Will*

Geography

Illinois Climatic Division 2 is bounded to the northeast by the southern tip of Lake Michigan. It includes the Greater Chicago area and stretches into the agricultural heartland to the south and west. Moving away from Lake Michigan and the Chicago area, the terrain is increasingly dedicated to agriculture.

Overview

The northern areas of the Northeastern Climatic Division of Illinois can see strong lake effect from Lake Michigan, while the southern areas are characteristically more continental. Near Chicago, Lake Michigan moderates temperatures year-round, and can generate intense lake-effect snowfall during periods of northwesterly and westerly wind. Farther inland and overall, large daily variations in temperature are more common than in climatic divisions nearer the Great Lakes. But as with the surrounding region, the division does not usually experience prolonged periods of extreme heat and humidity in the summer or prolonged, extreme cold during the winter. Summers are generally hot and humid, and winters, while not as severe as in more northern locations, can be cold with moderate to heavy snowfall.

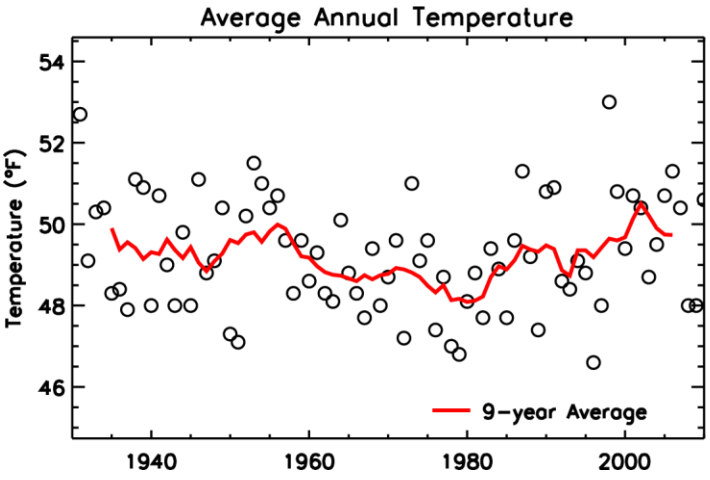
Mean Annual Temperature, 1981-2010	49.4°F	9.7°C
Mean Annual Total Precipitation, 1981-2010	37.3 in	94.8 cm

Changes in Mean Temperature (°F) from 1951-1980 to 1981-2010

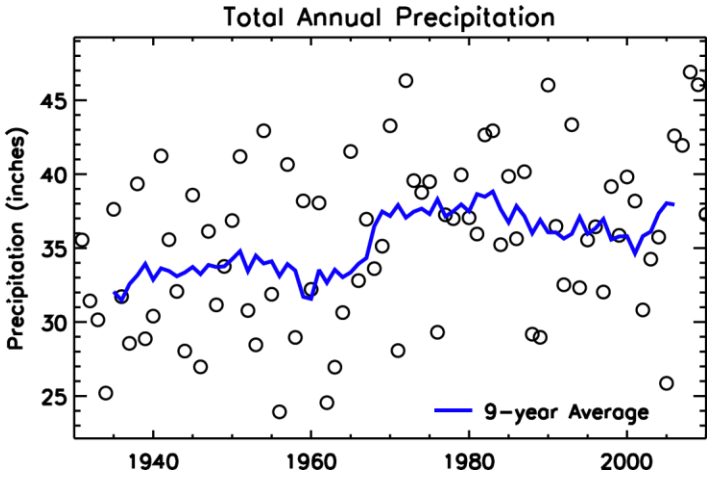
Annual	0.5
Winter, December-February	1.6
Spring, March-May	0.8
Summer, June-August	0.0
Fall, September-November	-0.2

Change in Mean Total Precipitation (%) from 1951-1980 to 1981-2010

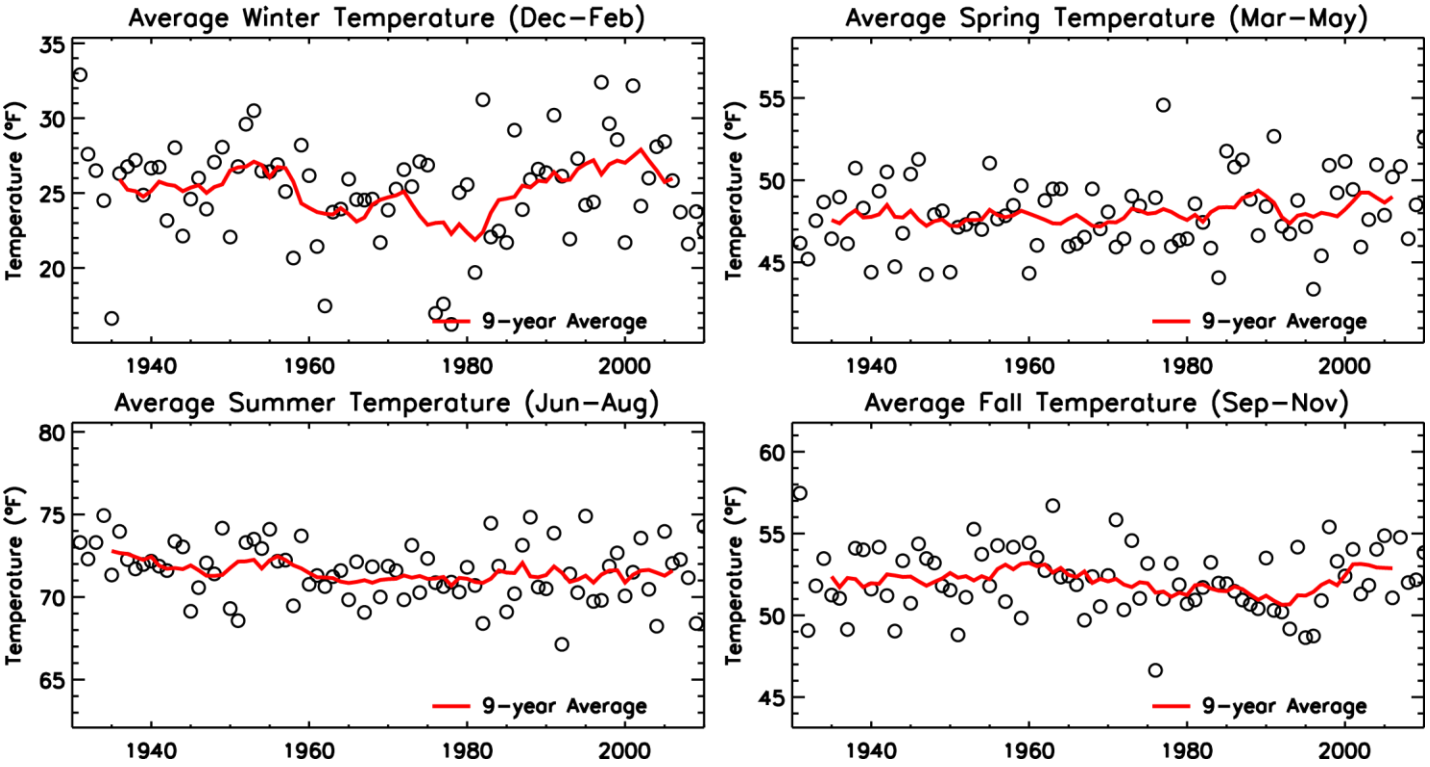
Annual	6.1
Winter, December-February	10.7
Spring, March-May	-0.4
Summer, June-August	2.5
Fall, September-November	16.9



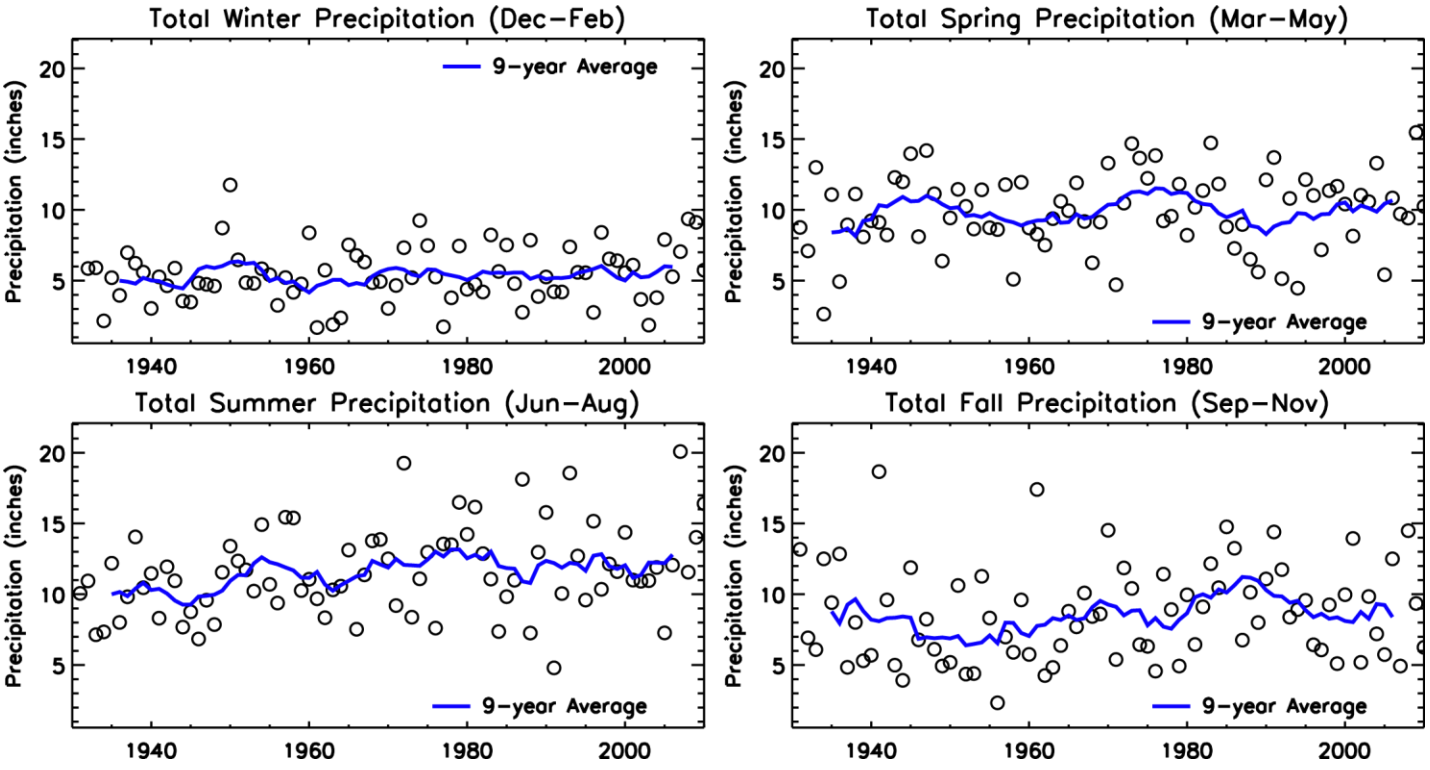
Mean annual temperatures from 1931 to 2011. An open circle represents the average temperature of a single year. The solid line represents the 9-year running mean.



Annual precipitation totals from 1931 to 2011. An open circle represents the total precipitation for a single year. The solid line represents the 9-year running mean.



Mean seasonal temperatures from 1931 to 2011. An open circle represents the average seasonal temperature of a single year. The solid line is the 9-year running mean. Winter values include data from the December of the previous year.



Total seasonal precipitation from 1931 to 2011. An open circle represents the total seasonal precipitation for a single year. The solid line represents the 9-year running mean of the total seasonal precipitation. Winter values include data from the December of the previous year.