Historical Climatology: Southeastern Wisconsin

Wisconsin Climatic Division 9
Southeast

***Included counties**: Washington, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Racine, Walworth, Kenosha*

Geography

Wisconsin Climate Division 9 is bordered by Illinois to the south and Lake Michigan to the east. The land cover is a mixture of urban development, forests, and agriculture. The terrain is mostly flat.

Overview

The climate of Wisconsin's Southeastern Climatic Division is strongly influenced by Lake Michigan when winds are out of the east. Under these conditions, cooler air from Lake Michigan brings the division mild summer temperatures, while increased precipitation may accompany the warmer fall and early winter temperatures. In the late winter as ice builds up on the lakes, temperature variations are usually similar to those at inland locations. Because the day-to-day weather is controlled by the movement of pressure systems across the continent, this area seldom experiences prolonged periods of hot, humid weather in the summer or extreme cold during the winter. Precipitation is well-distributed throughout the growing season, but more precipitation tends to fall during the spring and summer months during afternoon thunderstorms.

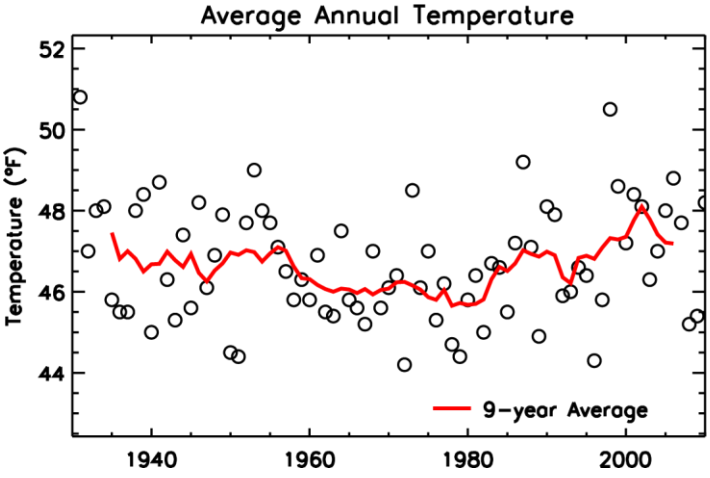
Mean Annual Temperature, 1981-2010	47°F	8.3°C
Mean Annual Total Precipitation, 1981-2010	34.6 in	87.9 cm

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

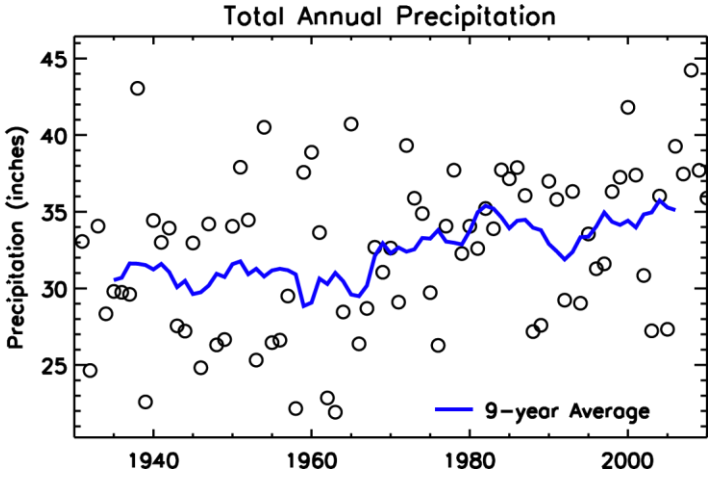
Annual	0.7
Winter, December-February	2.0
Spring, March-May	0.9
Summer, June-August	0.1
Fall, September-November	-0.1

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

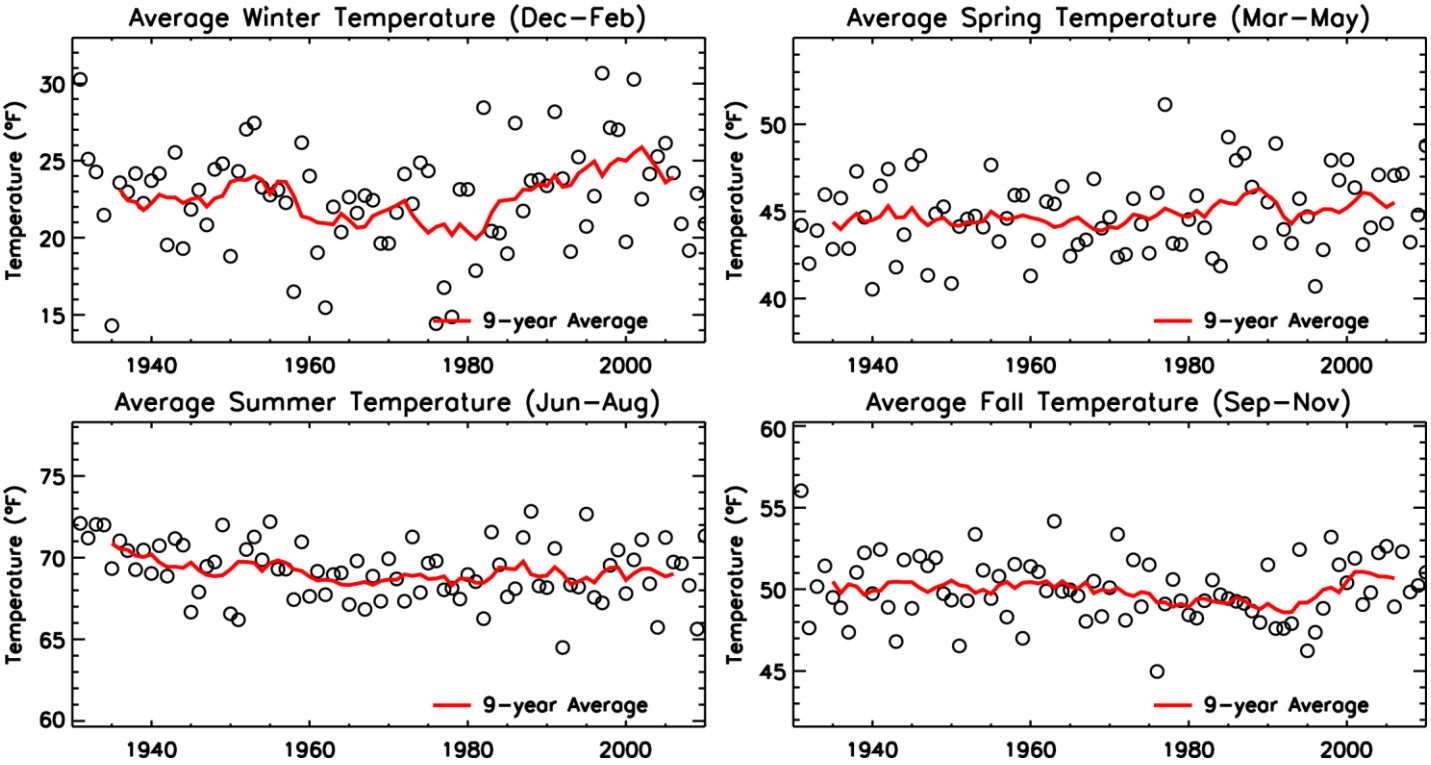
Annual	9.1
Winter, December-February	16.7
Spring, March-May	6.8
Summer, June-August	5.3
Fall, September-November	13.0



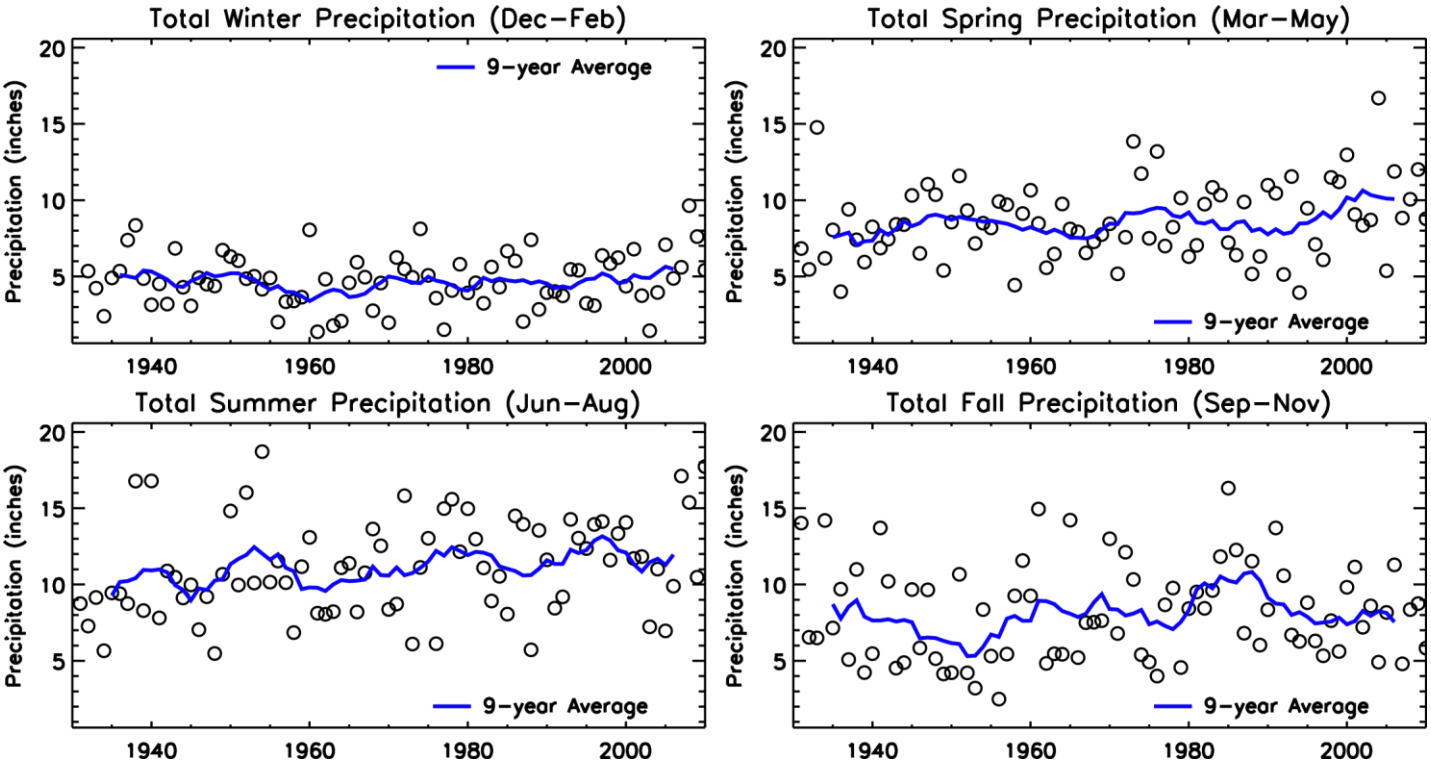
Mean annual temperatures from 1931 to 2011. An open circle represents the average temperature of a single year. The solid line represents the 9-year running mean.



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.