

North Conway, NH (NCON3) Monthly Weather Summary

Meteorological Fall (September, October, November) and November 2023

Summary

November 2023 brought meteorological fall (September, October, and November) to a close with cooler and drier than average conditions, following an otherwise much warmer than normal September and October. When averaged, autumn at the cooperative weather station in North Conway Village witnessed warmer than normal temperatures, particularly overnight. North Conway wasn't the only location according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center. All of New England witnessed warmer than normal conditions, particularly Northern New England climate sites located in Burlington, Vermont, and Portland and Caribou, Maine. Similarly, the Mount Washington Observatory's summit weather station noted a temperature departure of +1.4°F even when factoring in a much cooler than average November.

October and November brought the first drier than normal months following one of the wettest summers on record for many locations in the region. North Conway saw a total of 10.44 inches of precipitation from September through November, landing 3.16 inches below normal for the season, but still 8.79 inches above for calendar year 2023. Perhaps most notably, the first measurable snowfall came to Mount Washington Valley this November to kick off the snowfall season of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. A pair of disturbances brought 1.4 inch and 5.6-inch snowfalls, with the latter coming one of the busiest travel days of the year (the Wednesday before Thanksgiving).

On the heels of four consecutive near or below normal winter snowfalls, a mixture of natural snow and ideal snow-making weather has been a boost to local ski areas looking to establish an opening-season base. At the same time, the talk of the winter weather community has been the shift in the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) from a rare three-winter La Niña pattern to a potentially strong El Niño pattern as of late November. The reason why forecasters turn their attention to ENSO is because both El Niño and La Niña can impact our weather patterns, particularly in the winter. In the case of El Niño, warmer than normal sea surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific typically shift the location of the jet stream, including the polar jet stream further north. A more northerly polar jet stream can lead to warmer temperatures across New England while leaving us straddling generally dry conditions across the Ohio River Valley and above normal precipitation on the Eastern Seaboard from storms that move up the coast. Finally, another variable to consider on the shorter time frame is North Atlantic Oscillation (or NAO, which I won't dive into here), which is another contributing factor that can drive bouts of cold and snow into New England on a week-to-week basis.

With all of this said, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) winter outlook points to El Niño-related influences. Winter temperatures in northern Maine fall within a 50-60% likelihood of being warmer than normal, while the rest of New England is "leaning above" with a 40-50% confidence in warmer than normal. Seasonal precipitation is forecasted to be "equal chances" for either below or above normal precipitation, including snowfall.

So, what does this mean for our winter ahead in Northern New Hampshire? It appears likely that seasonal temperatures will be warmer than normal and precipitation will vary depending on shifts in individual storms and patterns; however, it's important to keep several things in mind:

- Extreme cold can still happen in a warmer than normal winter!

- Periods of below average temperatures can still occur despite an overall warmer than normal winter.
- Nor'easters and large snowstorms can still occur in a warmer winter.
- Expect surprises with this year's El Niño.

November Temperature

Average Maximum Temperature: 44.4F [-1.8F]

Average Minimum Temperature: 25.6F [-1.7F]

Mean Temperature: 35.0F [-1.8F]

Maximum Temperature for the Month: 59F on the 16th-17th

Minimum Temperature for the Month: 16F on the 20th-21st and 29th-30th

November Precipitation

Total: 2.63 inches [-1.84 inches below normal]

Greatest in 24 hours: 0.86 inches on the 26th-27th

Total Year-to-Date: 54.35 inches [+8.79 inches above normal]

Snowfall: 7.1 inches [+2.6 above normal]

Snowfall this Season: 7.1 inches [+2.3 inches above normal]

November Wind

Average wind speed: 1.5 MPH

Peak Gust and Direction: 22.3 MPH from the N on the 29th

Fall 2023 Statistics

	September '23	October '23	November '23	Fall (SON) '23
Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	74.5 [+2.2]	63.2 [+4.5]	44.4 [-1.8]	60.7 [+1.6]
Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	54.5 [+6.8]	44.8 [+8.2]	25.6 [-1.7]	41.6 [+4.4]
Daily Mean Temperature (F)	64.5 [+4.5]	54.0 [+6.3]	35.0 [-1.8]	51.2 [+3.1]
Total Precipitation (in)	4.75 [+1.08]	3.06 [-2.40]	2.63 [-1.84]	10.44 [-3.16]
Total Snowfall (in)	0.0 [+/- 0.0]	0.0 [- 0.3]	7.1 [+2.6]	7.1 [+2.3]

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Pine Street, North Conway, New Hampshire

Period of Observation: 8:00 AM – 8: 00 AM

30 Year Climate Normals Based on Averages from 1991-2020. Access to climate normals for stations across the country available here: <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/us-climate-normals/>