

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. Based on land 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 with 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). 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, and Marathon Counties.

Temperature — In 2003, the annual statewide average temperature was 43.2° Fahrenheit. Across the state, normal regional temperatures vary from 40.4° in the north central area to 46.5° in the southeast. Normal temperatures are the averages for the period 1971-2000, based on computations by the Wisconsin Climatology Office.

Precipitation — In 2003, the total statewide average rainfall was 28.39 inches. Regional precipitation averages varied from a high of 30.75 inches in the south central to a low of 25.55 inches in the west central. Normal precipitation correspond to the averages for the period 1971-2000, according to the State Climatology Office.

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

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, 2001*, and DNR department data at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us> [October 22, 2004].

LAND AND INLAND LAKE AREA OF WISCONSIN COUNTIES

County	Total Land Area		Inland Lakes		County	Total Land Area		Inland Lakes	
	Acres	Number	Number	Acres		Acres	Number	Number	Acres
Adams	414,554	47	47	2,309	Marinette	897,126	442	442	13,735
Ashland	668,045	157	157	5,936	Marquette	291,514	93	93	5,736
Barron	552,218	369	369	17,748	Menominee	229,094	128	128	4,044
Bayfield	944,800	962	962	22,629	Milwaukee	154,598	41	41	197
Brown	338,355	22	22	170	Monroe	576,493	120	120	3,437
Buffalo	438,061	8	8	196	Oconto	638,701	378	378	11,053
Burnett	525,773	509	509	31,258	Oneida	719,680	1,129	1,129	68,447
Calumet	204,698	8	8	98	Outagamie	409,818	33	33	213
Chippewa	646,675	449	449	20,027	Ozaukee	148,448	39	39	709
Clark	778,010	32	32	1,076	Pepin	148,659	29	29	278
Columbia	495,226	56	56	3,095	Pierce	368,954	38	38	6,016
Crawford	366,522	77	77	6,243	Polk	587,053	437	437	20,900
Dane	769,210	36	36	21,520	Portage	516,038	136	136	12,203
Dodge	564,659	29	29	13,246	Price	801,638	389	389	15,129
Door	308,941	25	25	3,254	Racine	213,184	21	21	3,919
Douglas	837,843	431	431	14,113	Richland	375,168	9	9	251
Dunn	545,299	21	21	3,963	Rock	461,101	76	76	11,174
Eau Claire	408,090	20	20	2,838	Rusk	584,403	250	250	7,854
Florence	312,339	259	259	7,259	St. Croix	461,965	64	64	3,667
Fond du Lac	462,662	42	42	1,655	Sauk	536,083	28	28	11,004
Forest	648,992	824	824	22,531	Sawyer	804,109	496	496	56,183
Grant	734,624	33	33	1,569	Shawano	571,206	134	134	8,912
Green	373,754	5	5	350	Sheboygan	328,723	72	72	2,111
Green Lake	226,739	36	36	17,120	Taylor	623,910	284	284	6,183
Iowa	488,109	15	15	685	Trempealeau	469,811	26	26	409
Iron	484,627	494	494	29,368	Vernon	508,717	57	57	256
Jackson	631,885	135	135	5,004	Vilas	559,181	1,318	1,318	93,889
Jefferson	356,486	35	35	3,770	Walworth	355,398	37	37	12,798
Juneau	491,270	57	57	45,950	Washburn	518,195	964	964	31,265
Kenosha	174,611	33	33	3,674	Washington	275,725	54	54	3,080
Kewaunee	219,290	15	15	251	Waukesha	355,571	118	118	15,156
La Crosse	289,754	19	19	8,568	Waupeca	480,698	240	240	7,169
Lafayette	405,485	8	8	565	Waushara	400,659	138	138	4,623
Langlade	558,509	841	841	9,122	Winnebago	280,691	30	30	169,755
Lincoln	565,312	727	727	15,741	Wood	507,379	78	78	6,245
Manitowoc	378,579	101	101	1,492	STATE	34,758,464	15,057	15,057	982,155
Marathon	988,774	194	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, 2001*; 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. Whittlesley	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
McCasin 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. 10W.	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
Morrisson Hill	Brown	NW. 24, T. 21 N., R. 20E.	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.sco.wisc.edu/maps/cnty_elevation.php [October 22, 2004].

WISCONSIN TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION, By Region and Month, 2003

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual ¹
Statewide													
2003 Temperature (°F) . . .	14.0	13.9	29.1	42.4	53.4	62.8	68.5	70.1	59.3	46.4	33.1	25.7	43.2
Normal Temperature ² . . .	13.2	19.0	30.1	43.2	55.5	64.5	69.9	66.9	58.1	46.6	32.4	19.0	43.1
2003 Precipitation (inches)	0.38	0.66	1.89	2.77	4.78	3.32	3.31	2.07	3.18	1.39	3.18	1.38	28.39
Normal Precipitation ² . . .	1.22	1.00	1.96	2.86	3.37	4.02	4.07	4.27	3.74	2.50	2.29	1.35	32.64
Regions³													
Northwest													
2003 Temperature	11.2	10.7	25.9	40.8	52.4	61.5	67.4	69.0	58.3	45.1	29.5	22.8	41.2
Normal Temperature	9.5	16.2	28.0	41.7	54.4	63.1	68.1	65.9	56.6	45.1	29.8	15.4	41.2
2003 Precipitation	0.17	0.47	1.93	2.53	5.02	4.30	3.79	1.40	3.18	1.63	1.53	0.99	26.94
Normal Precipitation	1.12	0.83	1.78	2.39	3.29	4.19	4.29	4.44	3.89	2.57	2.16	1.09	32.04
North Central													
2003 Temperature	10.7	9.7	25.7	39.0	51.2	60.7	66.0	67.6	57.4	43.7	29.5	23.1	40.4
Normal Temperature	10.3	16.0	26.8	40.4	53.2	61.8	66.4	64.2	55.3	44.0	29.8	16.1	40.4
2003 Precipitation	0.45	0.92	2.10	3.77	4.73	3.14	2.95	2.17	2.87	1.62	2.13	1.36	28.21
Normal Precipitation	1.25	0.92	1.78	2.40	3.31	4.01	4.06	4.36	4.03	2.73	2.27	1.32	32.44
Northeast													
2003 Temperature	13.0	11.7	26.9	39.3	51.4	60.9	66.9	67.5	57.4	44.5	32.1	25.2	41.4
Normal Temperature	12.5	17.5	28.1	41.3	53.6	62.5	67.0	64.8	56.0	44.8	31.3	18.4	41.5
2003 Precipitation	0.38	1.09	2.27	3.76	3.16	3.10	3.31	3.49	4.50	1.19	2.50	1.52	30.27
Normal Precipitation	1.31	0.98	1.98	2.65	3.29	3.69	3.70	3.81	3.74	2.52	2.33	1.47	31.47
West Central													
2003 Temperature	14.7	15.1	30.9	45.5	55.7	65.3	70.2	72.1	60.8	48.1	33.6	25.4	44.8
Normal Temperature	12.7	19.3	31.2	45.2	57.4	66.4	70.8	68.3	59.3	47.6	32.3	18.5	44.1
2003 Precipitation	0.33	0.67	2.04	3.08	5.23	3.34	2.83	1.42	2.53	0.98	2.16	0.94	25.55
Normal Precipitation	1.06	0.87	1.93	3.05	3.69	4.24	4.45	4.54	3.82	2.36	2.19	1.14	33.34
Central													
2003 Temperature	15.0	14.8	31.0	43.8	55.0	64.2	69.3	70.9	60.1	46.9	34.3	26.7	44.3
Normal Temperature	14.5	20.2	31.2	44.5	56.7	65.8	70.2	67.7	59.0	47.5	33.2	20.1	44.2
2003 Precipitation	0.56	0.64	1.76	2.12	4.84	3.55	3.14	2.63	3.45	1.18	3.61	1.33	28.81
Normal Precipitation	1.15	1.01	2.07	3.02	3.52	3.88	4.13	4.22	3.72	2.36	2.29	1.31	32.68
East Central													
2003 Temperature	16.6	16.2	30.1	41.5	52.0	62.0	68.6	70.0	59.9	47.5	36.4	29.5	44.2
Normal Temperature	17.0	21.4	31.2	42.8	54.6	64.1	69.5	67.9	59.8	48.3	35.2	22.8	44.6
2003 Precipitation	0.45	0.66	1.89	2.38	4.08	3.00	4.29	2.84	3.13	1.40	4.72	1.52	30.36
Normal Precipitation	1.44	1.14	2.09	2.81	2.95	3.51	3.38	3.86	3.42	2.43	2.38	1.60	31.01
Southwest													
2003 Temperature	16.7	17.4	32.4	46.1	56.0	65.2	70.7	72.7	60.6	48.6	35.8	27.8	45.8
Normal Temperature	15.7	21.9	33.4	46.1	57.9	67.2	71.4	69.0	60.5	48.9	34.5	21.5	45.7
2003 Precipitation	0.55	0.47	1.44	2.08	5.19	3.32	3.31	1.78	3.40	1.24	4.99	1.42	29.19
Normal Precipitation	1.07	1.08	2.09	3.55	3.60	4.35	4.33	4.46	3.42	2.34	2.34	1.29	33.92
South Central													
2003 Temperature	17.3	19.0	32.9	45.6	55.5	65.0	71.1	72.7	61.5	48.9	37.3	28.3	46.3
Normal Temperature	16.8	22.3	33.5	45.8	57.8	67.2	71.3	68.9	60.6	49.0	35.4	22.5	45.9
2003 Precipitation	0.30	0.35	1.49	1.92	5.66	2.78	3.98	1.41	3.21	1.54	6.04	2.07	30.75
Normal Precipitation	1.28	1.25	2.20	3.47	3.40	4.19	4.07	4.24	3.51	2.48	2.41	1.61	34.11
Southeast													
2003 Temperature	18.6	20.7	33.8	44.6	53.8	63.4	69.9	71.9	61.5	49.0	38.9	30.2	46.4
Normal Temperature	18.9	24.0	34.0	45.0	56.3	66.0	71.2	69.4	61.4	49.9	37.0	24.7	46.5
2003 Precipitation	0.29	0.36	1.64	1.81	5.25	2.03	3.27	1.93	2.00	1.69	4.91	2.12	27.30
Normal Precipitation	1.56	1.32	2.19	3.48	3.13	3.76	3.82	4.22	3.48	2.51	2.55	1.91	33.93

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 1971-2000, based on data computed by the State Climatology Office.

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, 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.

Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service, *Wisconsin 2004 Agricultural Statistics*, at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wi/risetoc.htm>.