

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE CHICAGO AREA, ILLINOIS

LOCATION: The metropolitan area of Chicago is located in northeastern Illinois. The city is situated on the southwestern shore of Lake Michigan, originally at the mouth of the Chicago River. Elevations are about 800 feet above sea level.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	9:31	10:34	11:55	13:20	14:32	15:11	14:55	13:53	12:32	11:08	9:53	9:12
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	4:14	5:09	6:17	7:20	9:02	10:26	10:42	9:34	8:02	6:40	4:31	3:49
AREA OF BLUE SKY	31%	32%	29%	33%	38%	41%	45%	45%	44%	43%	28%	28%
LOW FOR MONTH	-7°	-2°	11°	26°	36°	46°	55°	54°	42°	30°	15°	0°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	17°	20°	29°	40°	49°	60°	65°	65°	57°	46°	33°	22°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	31°	34°	44°	56°	67°	77°	82°	80°	74°	62°	47°	35°
HIGH FOR MONTH	51°	54°	68°	80°	86°	92°	95°	93°	90°	80°	67°	55°
FROSTY MORNINGS	84%	86%	68%	22%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	13%	52%	83%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	13%	21%	15%	5%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	66%	64%	60%	54%	53%	53%	55%	56%	56%	55%	63%	69%
NEARBY WATERS	39°	38°	37°	38°	40°	50°	64°	75°	65°	55°	46°	47°
DRY DAYS	70%	68%	64%	62%	62%	64%	73%	73%	70%	73%	71%	69%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	86%	86%	81%	76%	79%	78%	81%	81%	81%	85%	81%	84%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.31	0.31	0.44	0.55	0.56	0.63	0.57	0.53	0.53	0.41	0.40	0.36
LIKELY SNOWFALL	10.9"	8.4"	7.1"	1.5"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.4"	2.5"	9.9"
SNOWY DAYS	24%	22%	16%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	8%	21%
THUNDER DAYS	1%	3%	8%	15%	16%	24%	21%	19%	14%	6%	3%	3%
FOGGY DAYS	6%	5%	5%	3%	4%	1%	1%	3%	1%	3%	4%	6%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is probable on 58% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 41% in December, to a high of 72% in July. The year's lowest temperature should be close to -10°, and the highest might well be near 96°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you actually feel) will be essentially the same as actual ones most of the year. When the winds are off the lake, there is a pronounced lake effect. This tends to moderate temperatures, making the high temperatures cooler and the low temperatures warmer. It also tends to increase both rainfall and snowfall somewhat. The closer you get to the lakeshore, the more noticeable this lake effect is. This effect disappears, of course, when the winds are from the land to the lake. The ground is usually frozen from November through March, and snowfalls can remain on the ground for days or weeks at a time. Depending upon how "wet" the snow is, it can take from ten to fifteen inches of snow to melt down to one inch of precipitation.

