



# RINKWATCH REPORT

2024-2025





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## A NOTE FROM THE TEAM

Thank you to all RinkWatchers for your consistent dedication and support throughout the year.



The 2024-2025 skating season was a successful one for most sentinels, and we witnessed an increase in the number of skateable days across many regions, surpassing the totals recorded during the previous season. Eastern Canada experienced a great skating season, highlighted by Ottawa's Rideau Canal Skateway, which remained open for 52 days—a big improvement over the previous two years, which recorded the shortest seasons in the skateway's 54-year history.

January was once again the best month for skating across most regions, with consistently cold temperatures throughout the month. February saw some brief warm temperatures in eastern North America, though less pronounced as in previous years. Most outdoor rinks were closed by mid-March, although a few higher-elevation or shaded rinks in the west and more northerly parts of the east lasted into April.

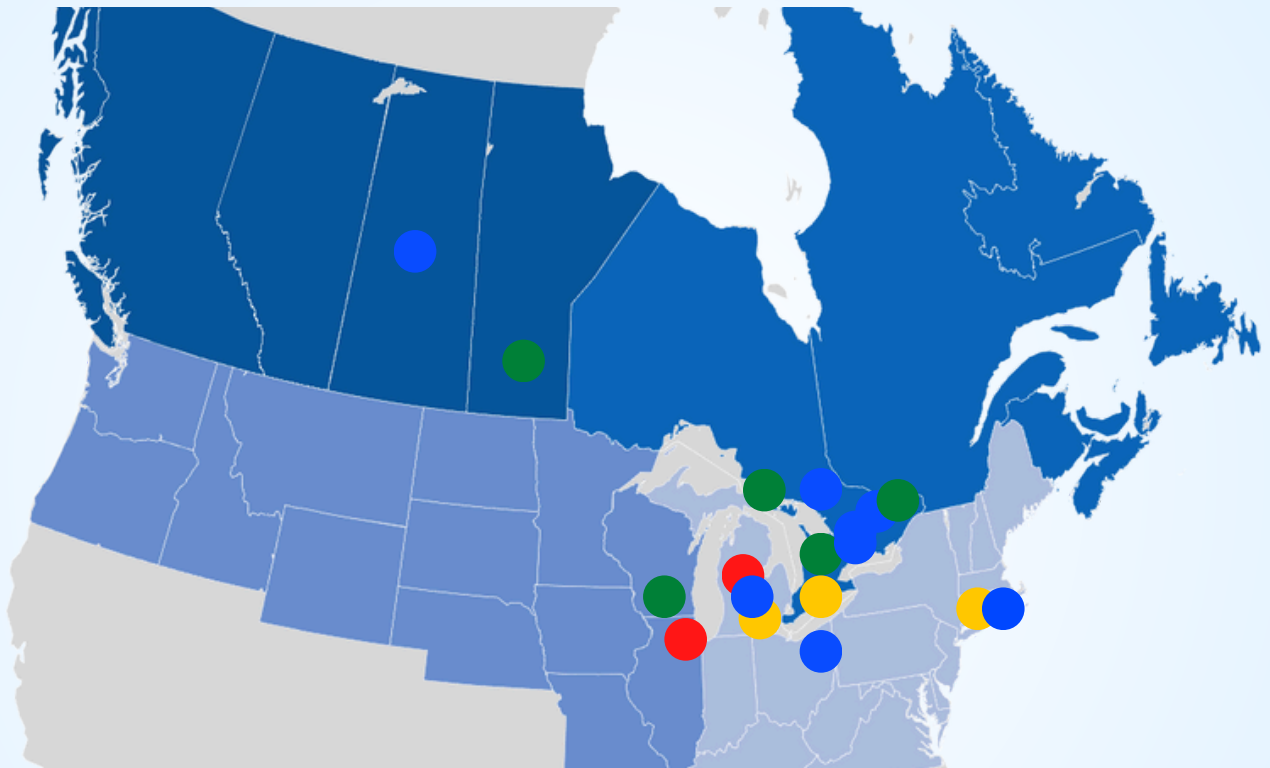
RinkWatch is cautiously optimistic for the 2025-2026 season, although we worry about a return to warmer-than-average in many regions, consistent with the larger trend in northern hemisphere temperatures that have in recent years made it challenging to maintain consistent ice quality on outdoor rinks. Even though the winter of 2024-25 seemed especially cold and ideal for rink-making, in many regions the temperatures we experienced were not much colder than an average winter of the 1980s or 1990s. In other words, we have become so used to warmer-than-average temperatures in recent years, we are starting to forget what an “average” North American winter used to be like.

For the winter of 2025-26, visit the newly updated RinkWatch website to access our new real-time rink-making temperature forecast map, which can help you plan when to start flooding your rink and know what to expect throughout the season. And if you haven't seen it already, please be sure to check out the latest RinkWatch contribution to the NHL Green blog. Most importantly, we want to thank all our participants, and hope to see you back next winter!

**Cheers to the 2024-2025 skating season!**



# Locations of Sentinel Rinks



**Red = 30 days or less | Yellow = 31-60 days | Blue = 61-90 days | Green = 90+ days**

Saskatoon, SK

Petersfield, MB

Ottawa, ON

Holland Centre, ON

Sturgeon Falls, ON

London, ON

Richards Landing, ON

Waterloo, ON

Mono, ON

Navan, ON

Canton, MI

Midland, MI

East Lansing, MI

Verona, WI

La Grange Park, IL

Berea, OH

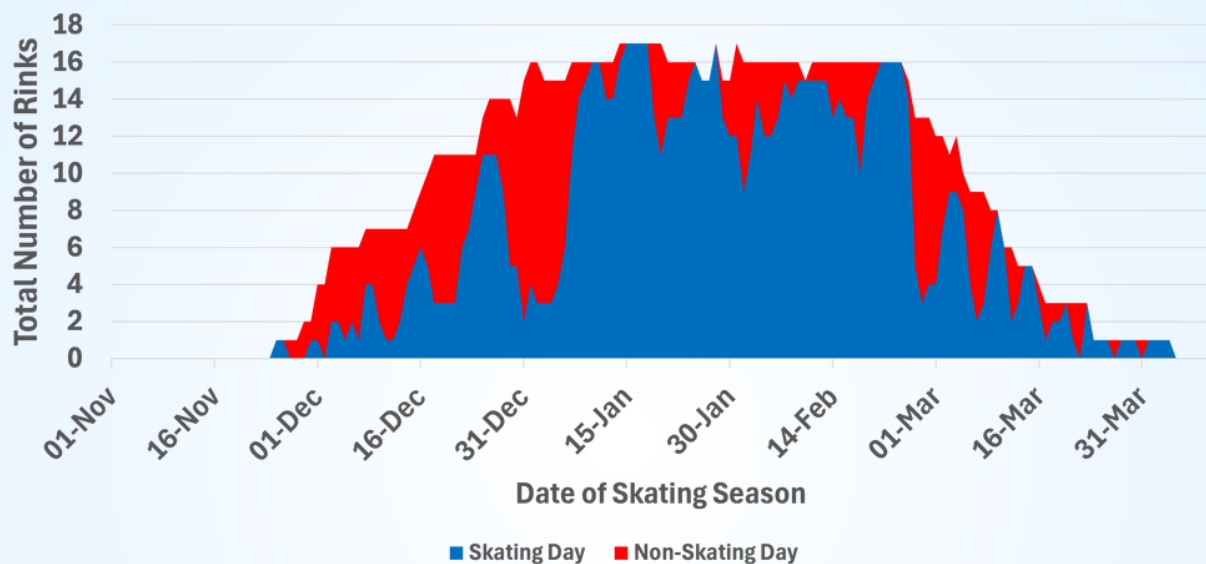
Wrentham, MA

Nesconset, NY

Stow, MA

# SKATING SEASON DATA

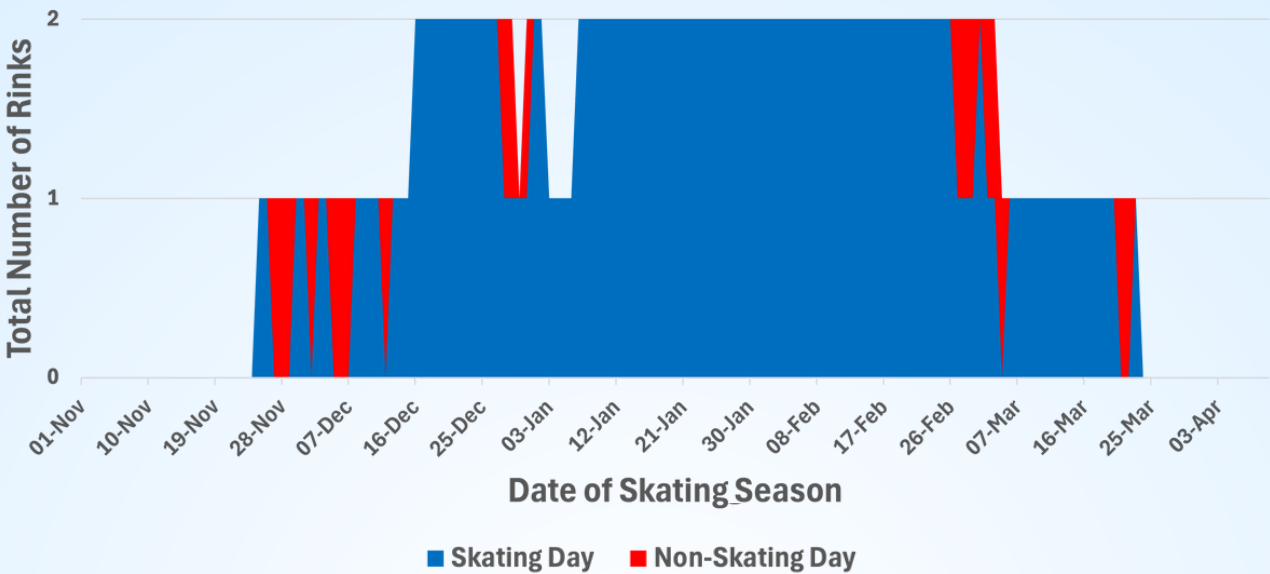
FIGURE 1: SKATING SEASON DATA - ALL RINKS



Figures 1-5 compare the number of skating days and non-skating days for all sentinel rinks and for sentinel rinks in specific regions in the winter of 2024-2025. The dates listed on the horizontal axis begin with the earliest reported skating day from our sentinel network (November 23, 2024) through to the final reported skating day (April 2, 2025). The number of sentinel rinks operating is seen on the vertical axis. The blue area of the chart reflects the total number of rinks reporting skatable conditions on a given date, and the red area reflects the number of rinks reporting unskatable conditions on that same date.

# SKATING SEASON DATA

FIGURE 2: WESTERN CANADA

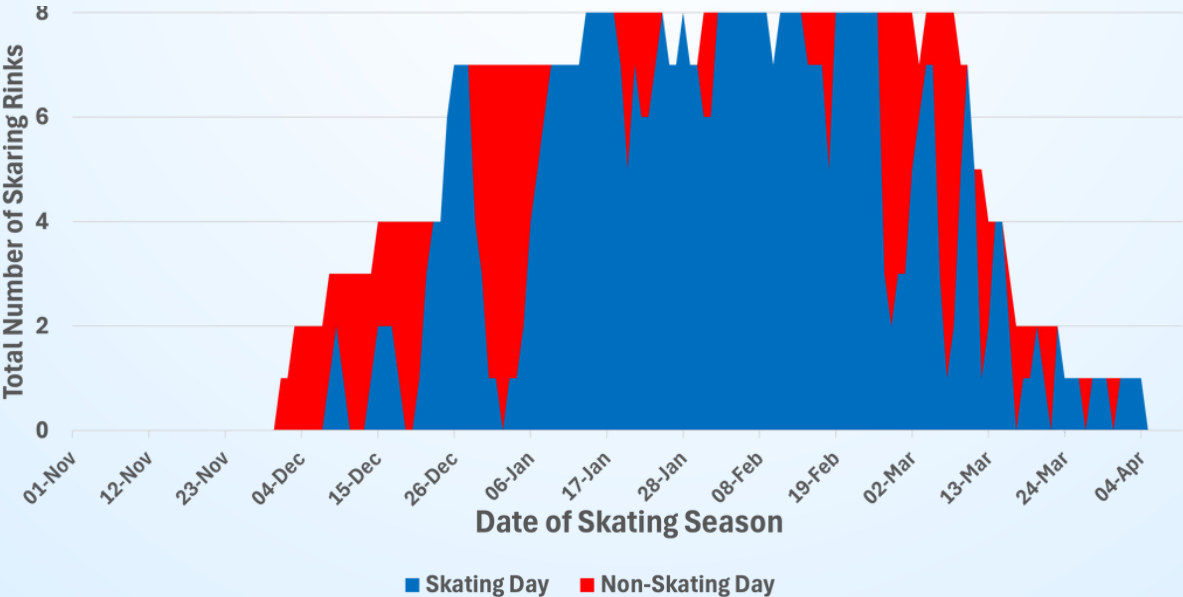


Locations Include: Saskatoon, SK, Petersfield, MB

First Skating Day Reported: November 23, 2024

Last Skating Day Reported: March 21, 2025

FIGURE 3: EASTERN CANADA

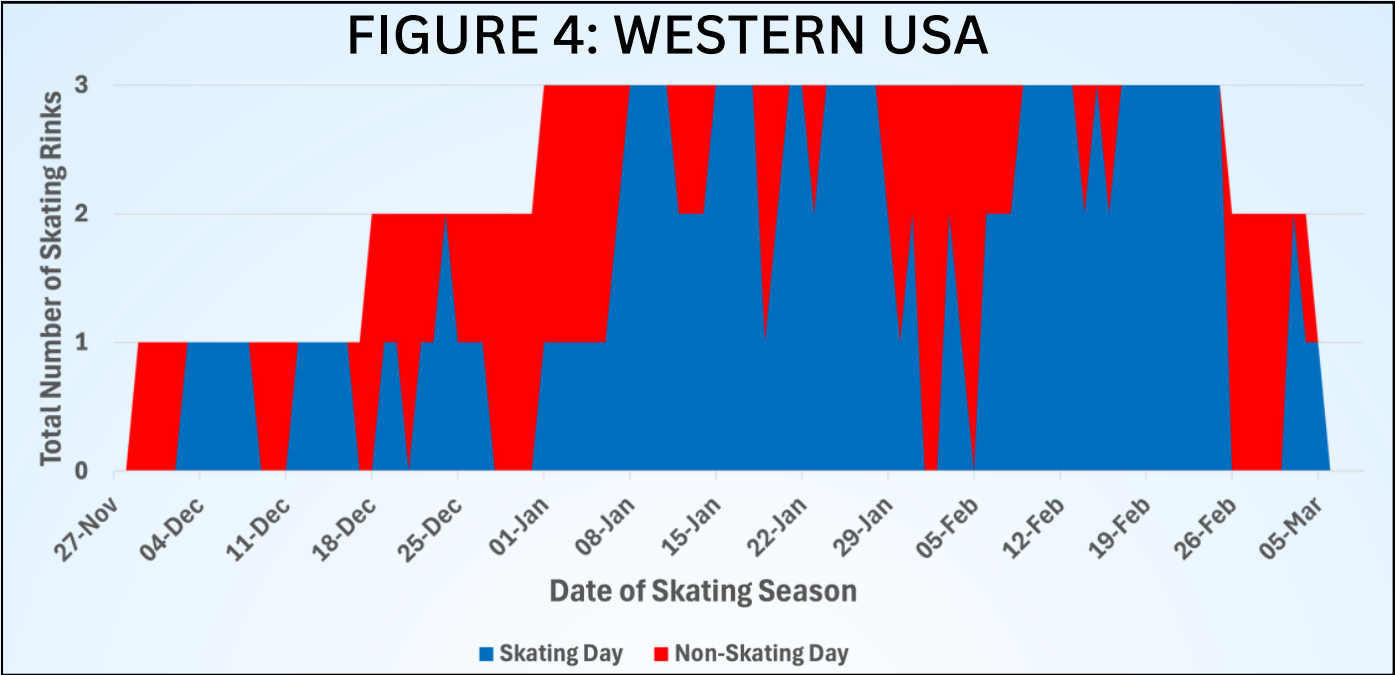


Locations Include: London, ON, Richards Landing, ON, Waterloo, ON, Mono, ON, Navan, ON, Ottawa, ON, Holland Centre, ON, Sturgeon Falls, ON

First Skating Day Reported: November 29, 2024

Last Skating Day Reported: April 2, 2025

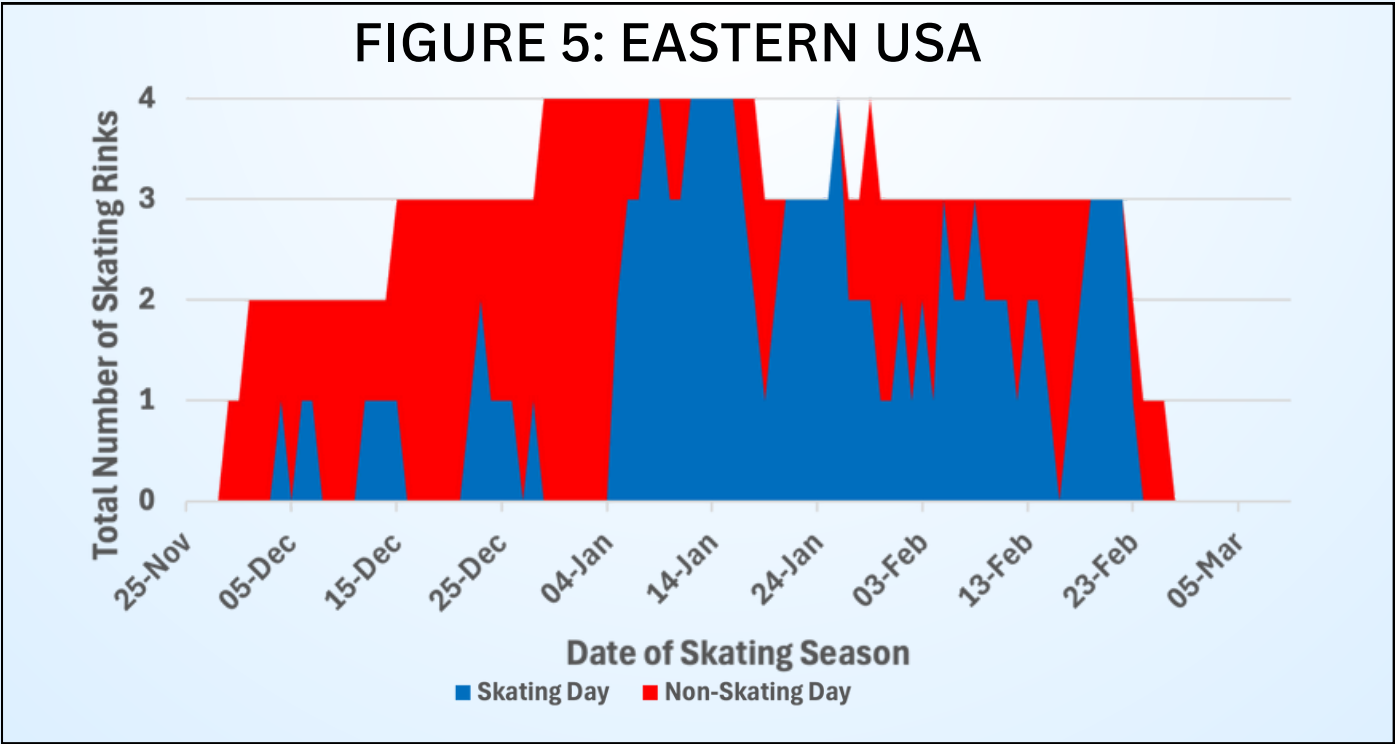
# SKATING SEASON DATA



Locations Include: Canton, MI, East Lansing, MI, Verona, WI

First Skating Day Reported: November 27, 2024

Last Skating Day Reported: March 3, 2025



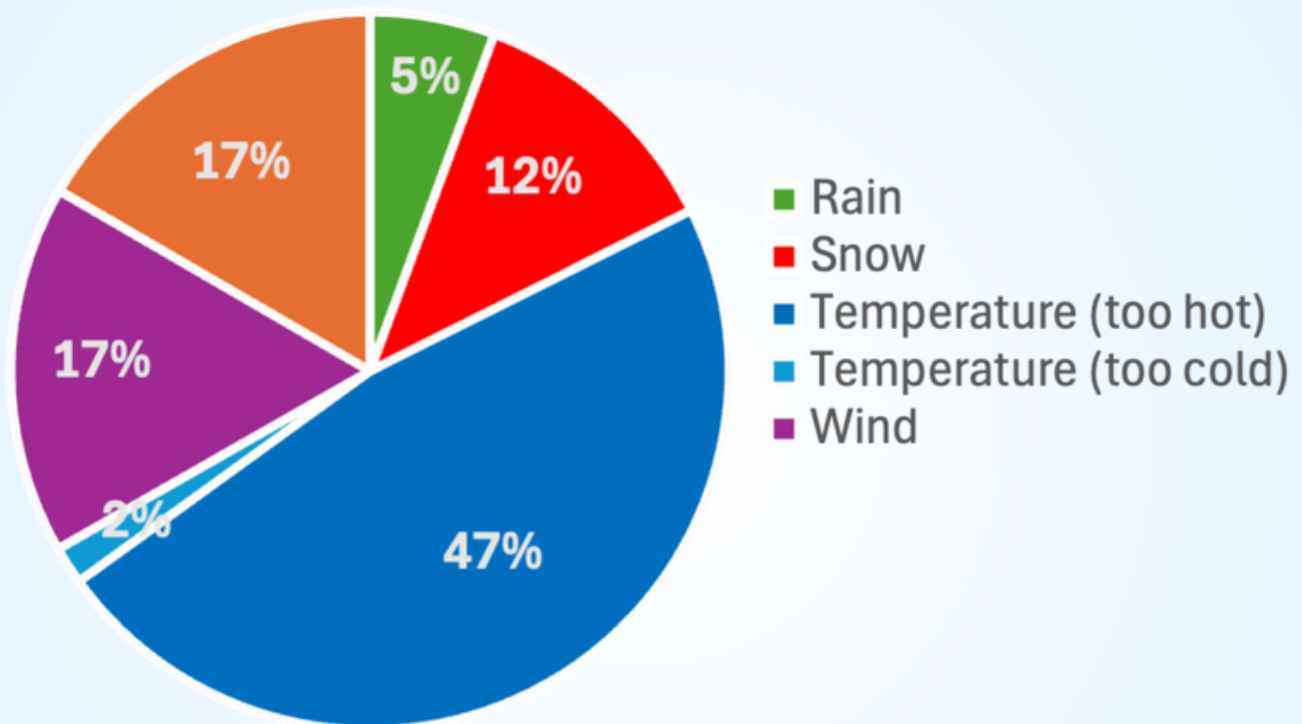
Locations Include: Berea, OH, Wrentham, MA, Nesconset, NY, Stow, MA

First Skating Day Reported: November 29, 2025

Last Skating Day Reported: February 26, 2025

# SKATING SEASON DATA

FIGURE 6: WEATHER FACTORS - ALL RINKS

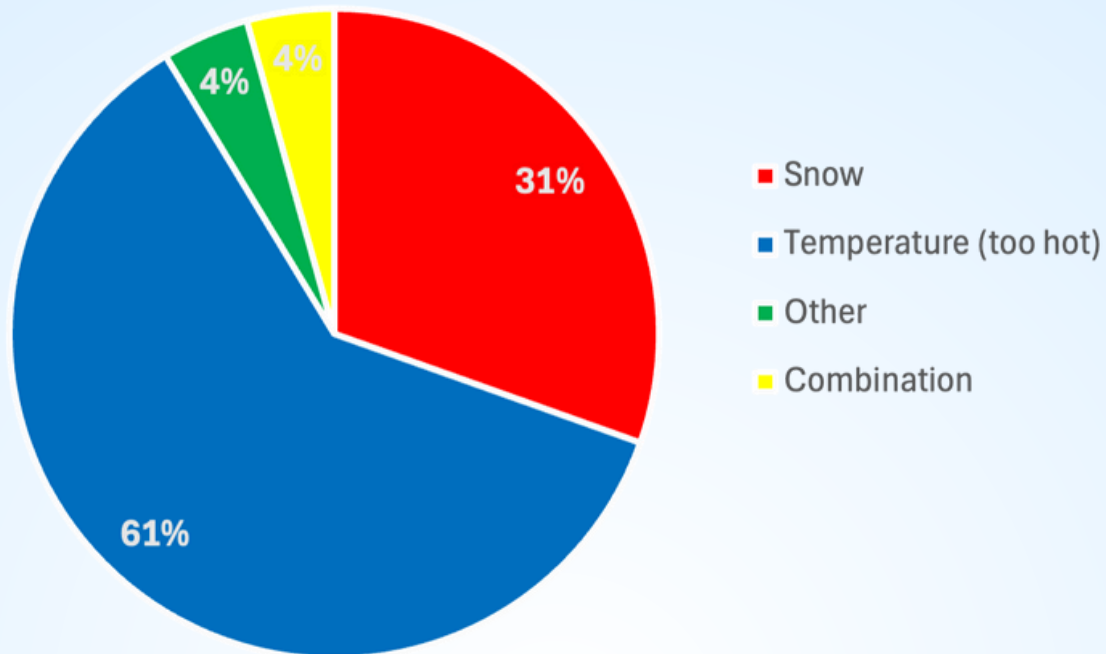


Figures 6 through 10 summarize the reasons given by Sentinels for days during the winter when their rink was not skatable or was less-than-optimal.



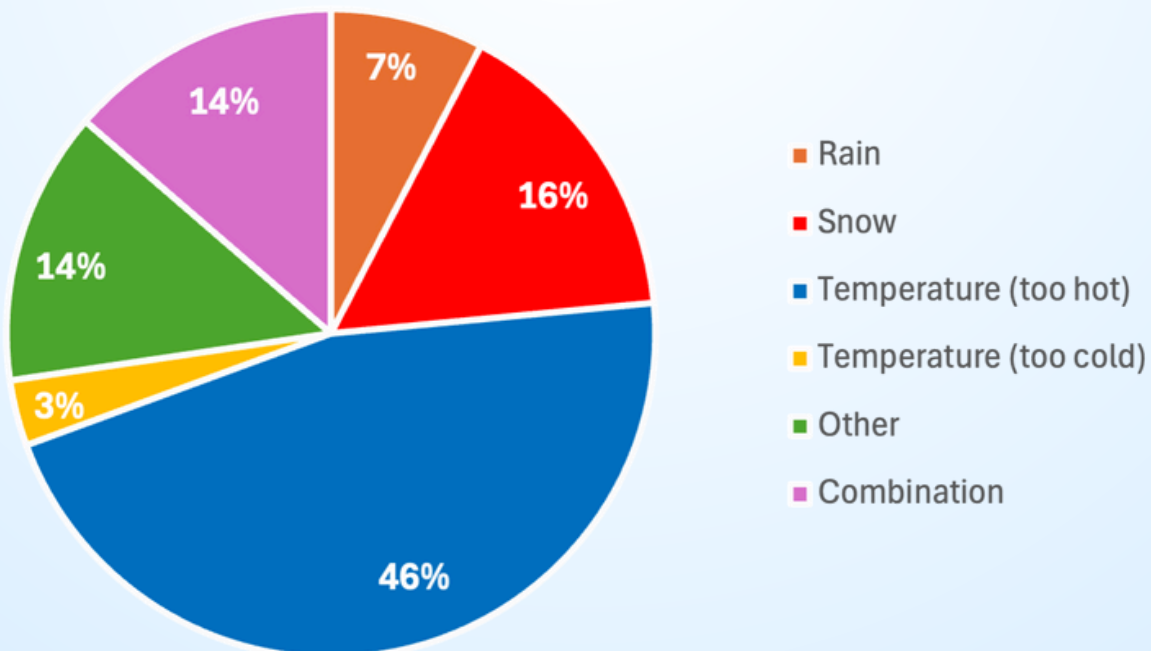
# SKATING SEASON DATA

**FIGURE 7: WEATHER FACTORS - WESTERN CANADA**



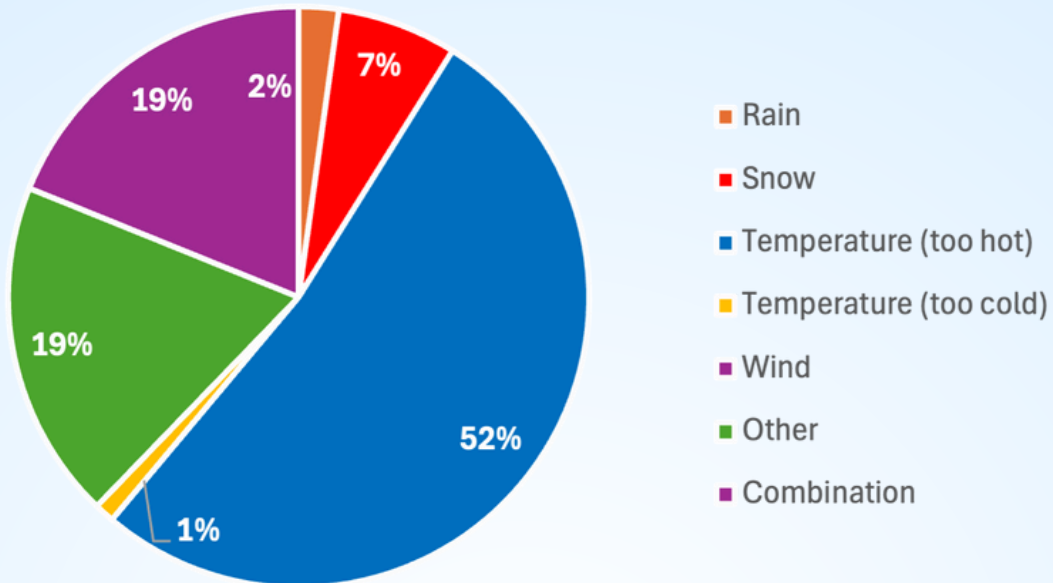
Locations Include: Saskatoon, SK, Petersfield, MB

**FIGURE 8: WEATHER FACTORS - EASTERN CANADA**



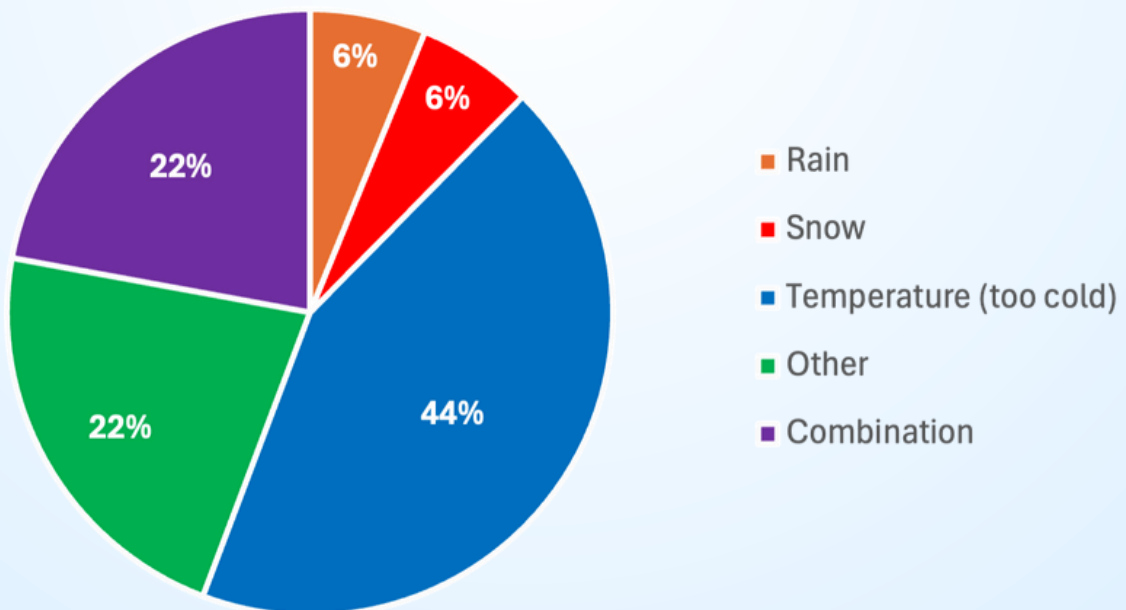
Locations Include: London, ON, Richards Landing, ON, Waterloo, ON, Mono, ON, Navan, ON, Ottawa, ON, Holland Centre, ON, Sturgeon Falls, ON

## FIGURE 9: WEATHER FACTORS - WESTERN USA



Locations Include: Canton, MI, East Lansing, MI, Verona, WI

## FIGURE 10: WEATHER FACTORS - EASTERN USA

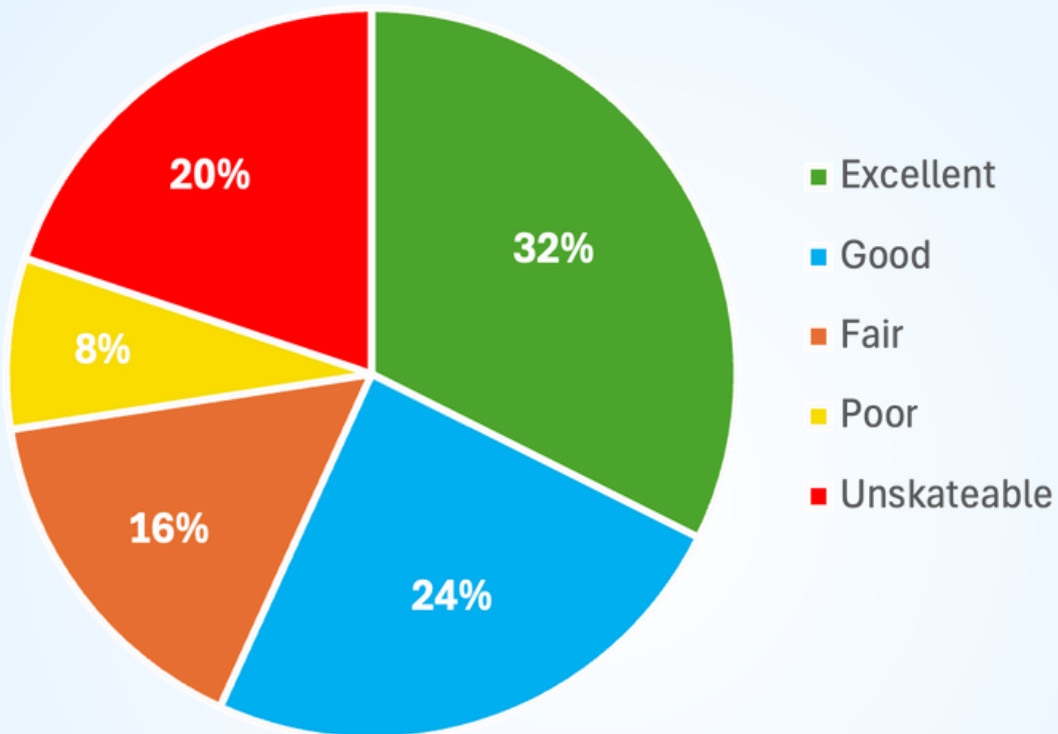


Locations Include: Berea, OH, Wrentham, MA, Nesconset, NY, Stow, MA



# SKATING SEASON DATA

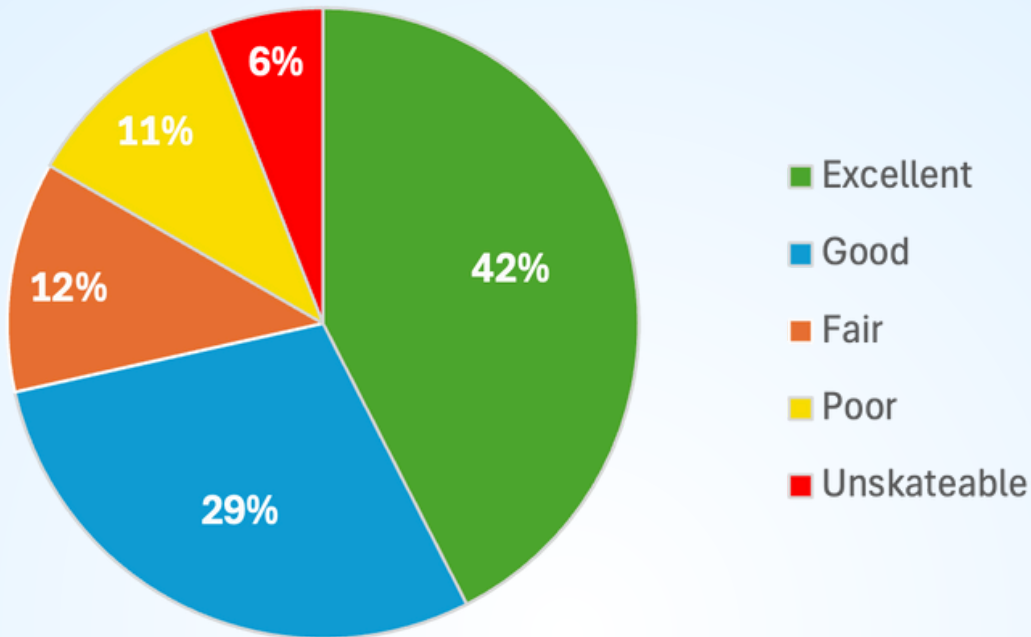
FIGURE 11: ICE CONDITIONS - ALL RINKS



Figures 11 through 15 summarize the relative skating conditions reported by sentinels during the season.

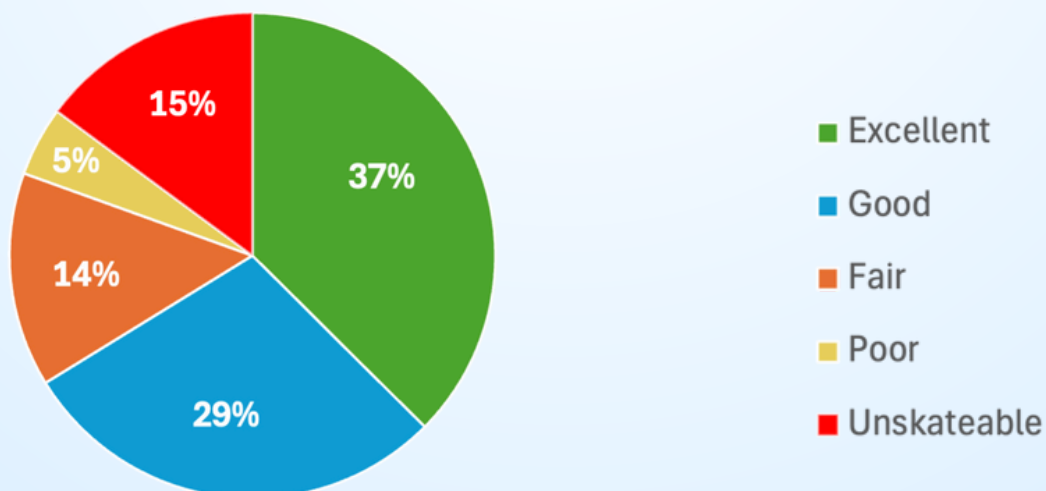
# SKATING SEASON DATA

**FIGURE 12: ICE CONDITIONS - WESTERN CANADA**



Locations Include: Saskatoon, SK, Petersfield, MB

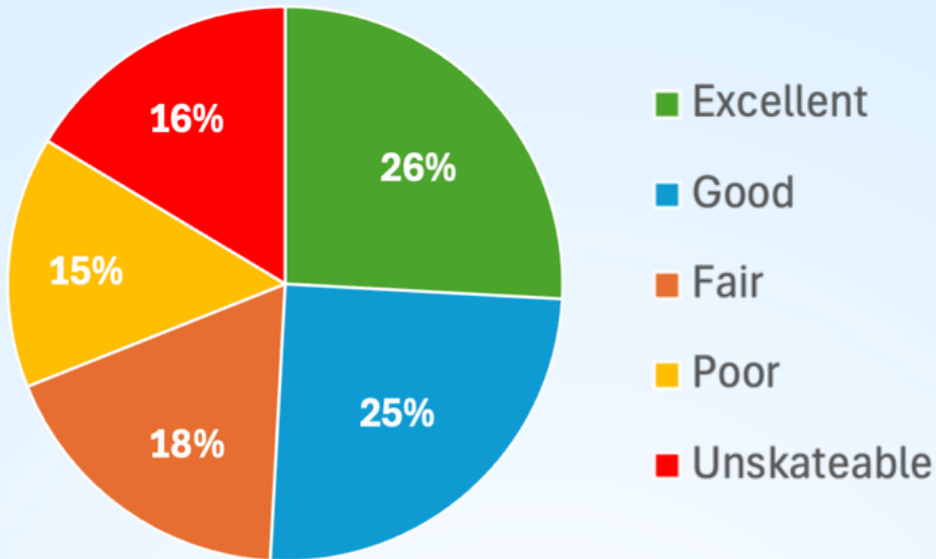
**FIGURE 13: ICE CONDITIONS - EASTERN CANADA**



Locations Include: London, ON, Richards Landing, ON, Waterloo, ON, Mono, ON, Navan, ON, Ottawa, ON, Holland Centre, ON, Sturgeon Falls, ON

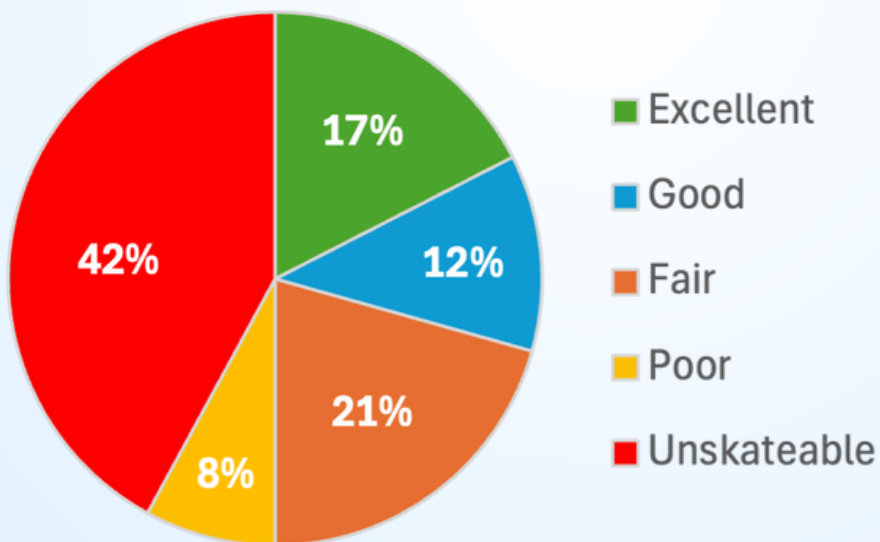


**FIGURE 14: ICE CONDITIONS - WESTERN USA**



Locations Include: Canton, MI, East Lansing, MI, Verona, WI

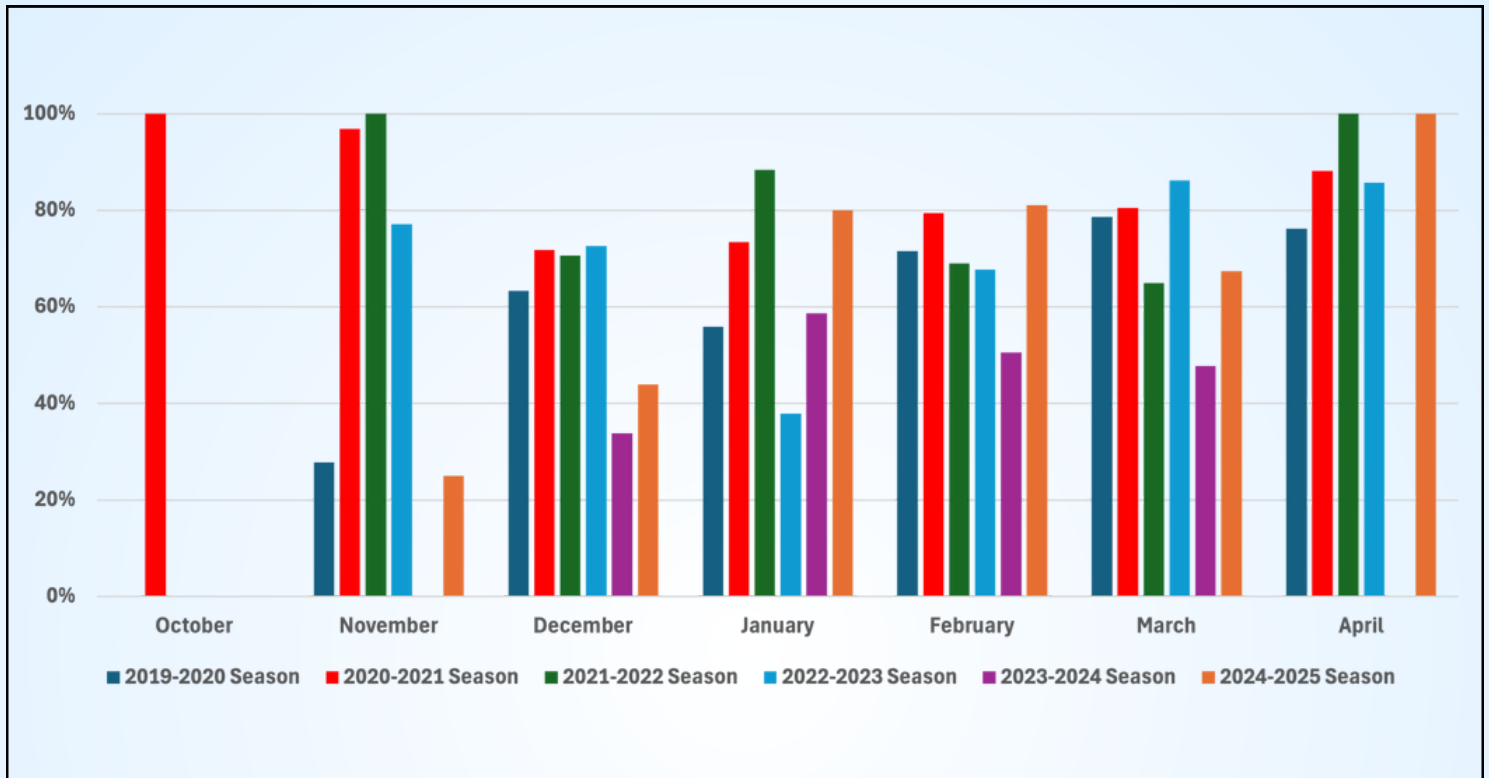
**FIGURE 15: ICE CONDITIONS - EASTERN USA**



Locations Include: Berea, OH, Wrentham, MA, Nesconset, NY, Stow, MA

# FIGURE 16: SKATING SEASON COMPARISON

## ALL RINKS

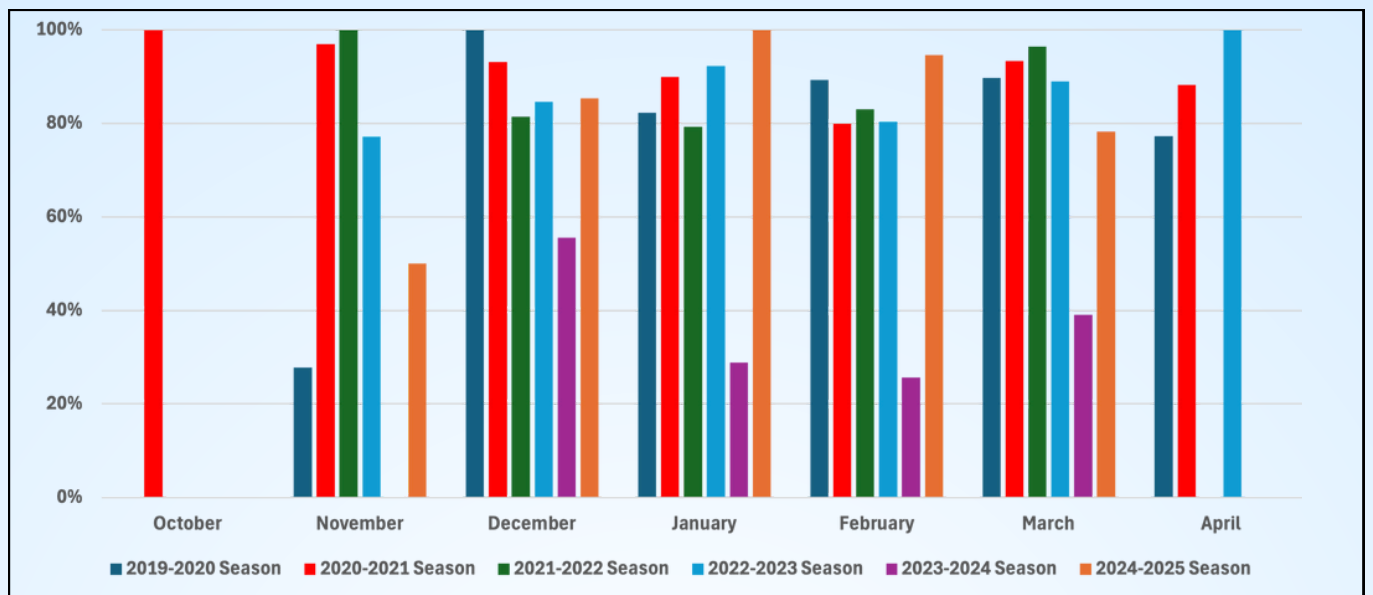


Figures 16-20 compare the percentage of skatable days per month between the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 skating seasons. Please note, the data displayed for the months between October and April only reflect the days included in the skating season in each respective month.

# SKATING SEASON COMPARISON

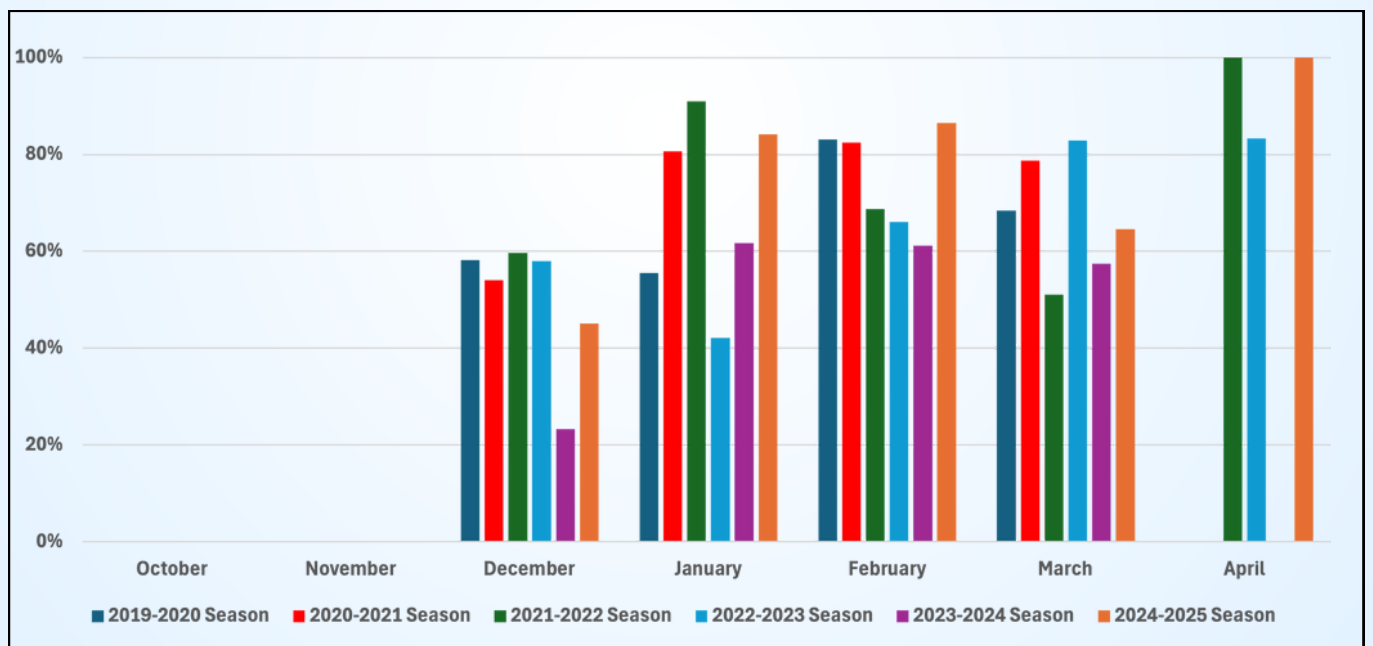


## FIGURE 17: WESTERN CANADA



Locations Include: Saskatoon, SK, Petersfield, MB

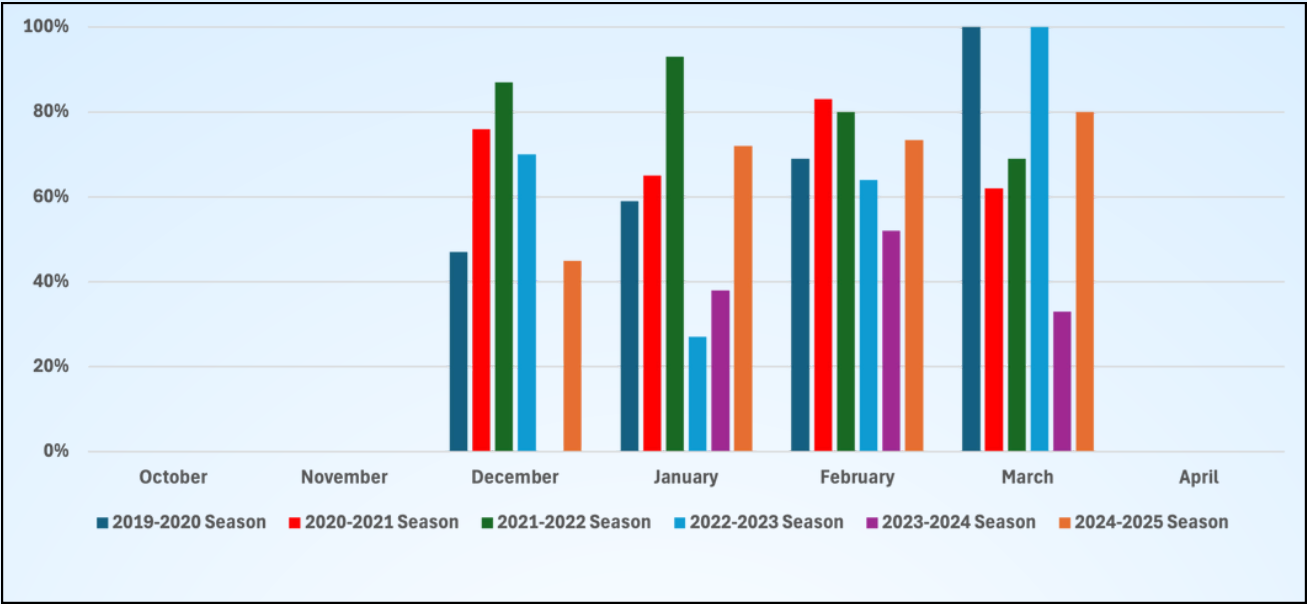
## FIGURE 18: EASTERN CANADA



Locations Include: London, ON, Richards Landing, ON, Waterloo, ON, Mono, ON, Navan, ON, Ottawa, ON, Holland Centre, ON, Sturgeon Falls, ON

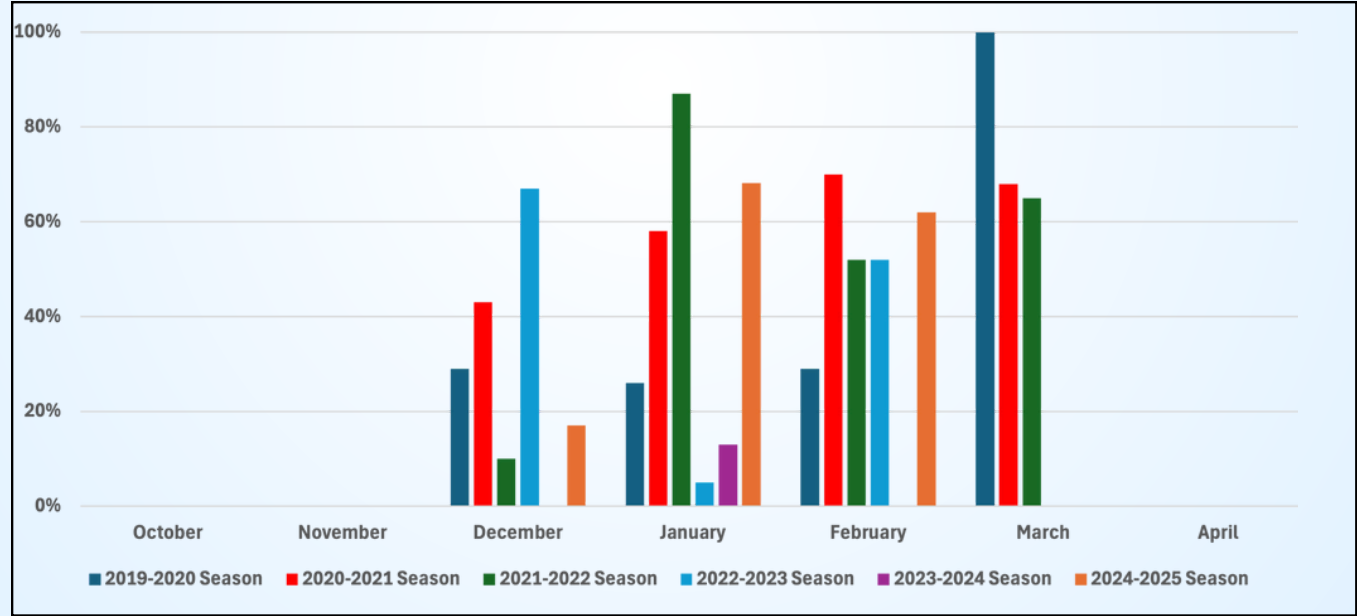
# SKATING SEASON COMPARISON

FIGURE 19: WESTERN USA



Locations Include: Canton, MI, East Lansing, MI, Verona, WI

FIGURE 20: EASTERN USA



Locations Include: Berea, OH, Wrentham, MA, Nesconset, NY, Stow, MA

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**SKATING SEASON  
COMPARISON**

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**THANK  
YOU**

**The 2024-25 RinkWatch Sentinel Program honour list of volunteers:**

Adam Chaisson, Andy and Dawn McGregor, Aric Dodd, Carole Hunt-Ford, Dan Sanborn, Eric Walker, Gregory Patterson, Jason Vlahos, Jim McKay, Kaija Hupila, Kevin Riley, Maurice Cormier, Michel Godbout, Pat Blake, Rick Nasta, Sean Gill, Shelley Jackson, Steve Paynter

Additionally, we'd like to thank Carole Hunt-Ford, Shelley Jackson, Aric Dodd, Kaija Hupila, Jason Vlahos, Michael Godbout and Sean Howard for sharing their incredible photos with us. Check out the Shelley Jackson Design Facebook page [here](#) to learn more about her work.