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### Snow report

**Updated: 1.50pm Thursday 8 January 2015**

For the vast majority of ski resorts in the Alps, snow depths are below where they should be for the time of year – only in a few parts of eastern Austria (e.g. **Obertauern**) are they anywhere near normal.

That's not to say that you can't find some decent skiing, but it certainly helps if a large proportion of your slopes are above 2200m, particularly in France, Italy and western Switzerland.

There is a little snow due across the northern Alps over the next few days, but the situation will become more complicated towards the weekend with the arrival of some freakishly mild air (freezing levels 3000m on Saturday), high winds, and (in places) some rain.

Across the pond, **Jackson Hole** is still the stand-out resort with 140cm of new snow in the last week.

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#### Austria

All things considered, Austria is the most convincing of the four main Alpine countries right now.

The best conditions are in the east, where resorts such as **Obertauern** (100/140cm) and **Bad Gastein** (80/150cm) are still benefiting from the recent heavy snowfalls. Even low-lying villages such as **Söll** (50/90cm) and **Saalbach** (45/80cm) have ample top to bottom cover.

Further west, the likes of **Sölden** (10/240cm) and **Ischgl** (10/65cm) can also offer some decent piste skiing, but more snow would be welcome, especially lower down.



Still looking like winter in most of Austria's low-lying resorts. This is Kitzbühel - Photo: kitz.net

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#### France

Conditions in the French Alps are pretty mediocre for early January, especially below 2000m where cover is often wafer thin - 20/55cm in **Les Gets**, for example, which has only really seen one major dump this season.

There is some decent piste skiing around, particularly at altitude, but even here much more snow is needed to get even close to being back on track. **Tignes**, for example, has 40/90cm of settled snow depending on altitude, while **Chamonix** has 5/100cm.

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Skiing in June? Yep, there are plenty of good options in the Alps! [tinyurl.com/llt6xzy](http://tinyurl.com/llt6xzy)



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Got a burning question about weather or snow conditions in the Alps? [Contact us](#) and we'll do our best to answer it...

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Nice wintry looking scene in Méribel this morning, but note the wafer-thin cover - Photo: meribel.net

### Italy

Italian resorts have only seen bits and pieces of fresh snow for some weeks now. There is still some reasonable piste skiing around but, at lower altitudes at least, it is with considerable artificial help. **Selva** in the Dolomites has just 5/50cm bedded down depending on altitude, while **Courmayeur** has 10/70cm.

Higher resorts such as **Cervinia** (20/145cm) and **Passo Tonale** (40/350cm) offer more convincing snow depths, but off-piste is still limited and/or dangerous.



Good skiing still available at altitude in the Monterosa region, but snow is now patchy lower down (see background) - Photo: monterosa-ski.com

### Switzerland

On the whole, snow cover in the Swiss Alps remains very modest for the time of year, particularly below 2000m and in the west where resorts such as **Gstaad** (5/60cm) and **Champéry** (0/30cm) are looking threadbare low down.

In the east of the country, conditions are a little better in the likes of **Davos** (15/125cm) and **St Moritz** (15/90cm), but even here nearly all the action remains on-piste and more snow would be very welcome.



Still some reasonable piste skiing at altitude in Villars, but note the absence of snow in the valley below - Photo: villars.ch

### Rest of Europe

There is some reasonable skiing on offer in the higher Pyrenean resorts, but more snow would be welcome lower down. **Pas de La Casa** in Andorra has 30/100cm of settled snow depending on altitude, while **Formigal** in Spain has

25/70cm.

Bulgaria hasn't seen much snow in the last few days, but the recent cold spell has helped preserve the pistes in **Bansko** (30/100cm).

Many Norwegian resorts have seen some fresh snow, including **Hemsedal** (64/80cm) which is in pretty good shape. Over in Sweden snow depths are generally modest, but **Åre** (38/40cm) can still offer some decent piste skiing even if the off-piste is limited.

A series of severe storms is about to blow through Scotland making skiing all but impossible over the next few days - we will update you on the situation there early next week, but right now snow cover is very patchy.



Patchy cover in Scotland. This is Cairngorm - Photo: winterhighland.com

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## USA

**Jackson Hole** in Wyoming is skiing as well as any of the big-name resorts with 140cm of new snow over the last week and an upper base of 244cm.

Most Colorado and Utah resorts have only seen a sprinkling by comparison but, on-piste at least, conditions are still good with a 160cm upper base for **Snowbird** and 107cm for **Vail**.

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## Canada

Snow quality has been variable in **Whistler** (123cm mid-mountain base) with freezing levels yo-yoing all over the place, a theme that will continue over the next few days.

Conditions are generally more consistent inland, where the **Banff/Lake Louise** area has had some recent snow and the mid-mountain base is 110cm deep.



Lake Louise - Photo: skilouise.com

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**Next full snow report will be on Monday 12 January 2015, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates**