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Snow report

Updated: 3.15pm Monday 12 January 2015

After another eventful weekend of weather, this week's snow report is again very mixed.

The best conditions in the Alps right now are at altitude in Austria and eastern Switzerland where some 15-30cm of new snow fell above 1500m on Sunday (40cm locally).

Generally speaking though, snowfall totals from this storm were disappointing with just a few cm across the northern French and western Swiss Alps, far less than was originally forecast. What's more, it started as rain which means there has been no net improvement in snow depths at low altitude in the west.

The problem in the southern Alps, by contrast, has been the lack of any precipitation. In the Italian Alps, for example, there has been no serious dump for weeks now with many lower resorts heavily dependent on artificial help.

The good news for everyone is that significant snow is expected quite widely towards the end of this week and over the weekend affecting both the northern and the southern Alps.

Austria

Most Austrian resorts saw new snow on Sunday. For example, **Lech** had 10cm at resort level, and now has 40/90cm of snow depending on altitude. **Saalbach** (30/65cm) saw 20cm up top.

Right now there is therefore some decent skiing around, but generally speaking snow depths remain below par and further dumps are needed to get the season properly on track.

For the very best conditions you need to pick a resort with plenty of skiing above 1800m, such as **Obergurgl** (35/130cm) or **Obertauern** 100/140cm)



Some new snow in Kitzbühel on Sunday, but it's melting at low altitude again - Photo: kitz.net

France

Sunday's snowfall was disappointing with generally no more than 10cm above 2000m in the northern French Alps and nothing in the south.

Generally speaking, resorts with most of their skiing below 2000m remain in trouble. **Les Gets**, for example, only has 34 of its 69 pistes open with a very modest 45cm upper base.

Resorts with plenty of skiing above 2000m are better, but hardly great, with

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limited and/or dangerous off-piste. **Alpe d'Huez** claims 39/90cm of settled snow depending on altitude, while **Courchevel** has 32/86cm.



Beautiful weather but thin snow cover in Les Saisies today - Photo: lessaisies.com

Italy

Some Italian resorts saw a dusting of snow over the weekend but most again missed out. Indeed, there hasn't been a serious dump in the Italian Alps for some weeks now, with many resorts relying heavily on artificial help.

In the Dolomites, **Arabba** has 7/52cm depending on altitude, and further west **La Thuile** has 25/60cm.

For the best conditions you need to aim for resorts with plenty of skiing over 2200m and/or glaciers, such as **Cervinia** (20/145cm) and **Passo Tonale** (40/350cm).



Patchy snow cover even at 1600m in the Val Ferret near Courmayeur - Photo: regionavda.it

Switzerland

Most Swiss resorts saw a least a bit of snow on Sunday, but generally less than was forecast.

Verbier (7/90cm) is skiing quite nicely at altitude following 15cm of fresh, but still lacks a proper base low down. Off-piste opportunities are also limited by its standards.

Further south, **Zermatt** (7/192cm) has also seen a little fresh snow and offers some decent piste skiing. But with no serious dumps for some weeks now, snow depths are considerably below normal.



Fresh snow in eastern Switzerland over the weekend means good conditions today in Arosa - Photo: arosa.ch

Rest of Europe

The Pyrenees haven't seen much fresh snow in recent days with some lower slopes looking rather worn. Higher up though there is still some decent piste skiing, especially on-piste with 50/100cm of settled snow in **Soldeu**, Andorra and 65/140cm in **Baqueira Beret**, Spain.

Most resorts in Bulgaria are skiing quite well right now with 10cm of new snow in **Borovets** where the base is 85/95cm deep depending on altitude.

Up in Scandinavia, Norway has seen plenty of fresh snow recently - as much as 60cm in **Voss** where the upper base is now nearly 2m deep. Sweden has also seen new snow, albeit in more modest quantities, with 20cm falling in **Salen** (75/85cm).

Scotland's season is on hold though - not due to lack of snow, but as a result of relentless strong winds.

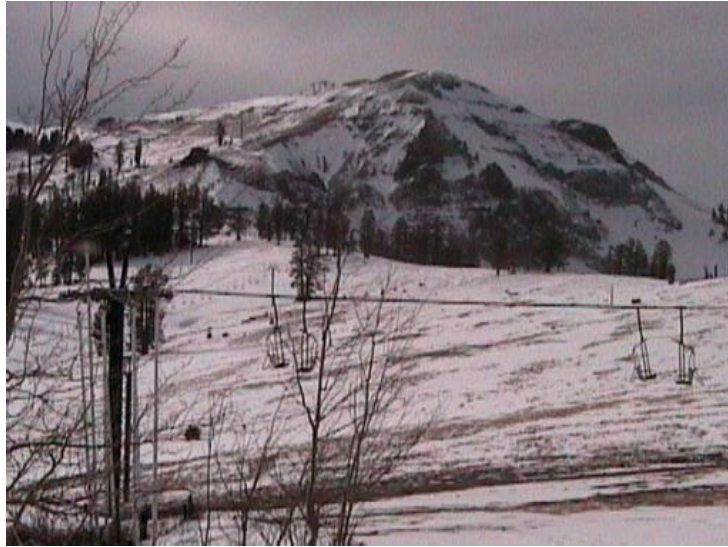


Snow cover is also a bit thin lower down in the Pyrenees. This is El Tarter - Photo: grandvalira.com

USA

Most Colorado resorts continue to offer good conditions with new snow in both **Winter Park** (104cm mid-mountain base) and **Breckenridge** (132cm).

Utah and Wyoming also have new snow and are skiing well, but California is again experiencing a frustrating season with just 81cm of settled snow up top in **Heavenly**, much of which is man-made.



Californian resorts are having another frustrating season. This is Squaw Valley - Photo: squawalpine.com

Canada

Fluctuating temperatures and little in the way of new snow means variable conditions in **Whistler** where the upper base is 124cm.

Generally speaking, conditions are more consistent right now further inland, with settled snow depths of 147cm up top in **Fernie** and 162cm in **Revelstoke**.

Next full snow report will be on Thursday 15 January 2015, but see [Today in the Alps](#) for daily updates