

terns. Low-index and blocking characterized the Eastern Hemisphere circulation, while in the Western Hemisphere the 5-day mean zonal index reached its highest December value in 14 years of record.

United States temperature anomalies reflected the high-index character of the Western Hemisphere circulation by warming at least one class from the previous month at 79 of 100 representative stations to break records for the month in 8 States and daily records in 27 States.

Intramonthly variability was a conspicuous circulation feature, as evidenced by fluctuations of the zonal index and a complete oscillation of the mean trough-ridge structure over the United States.

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