Daily values of the winter-severity index (WSI) are composited as a function of calendar day for the 60-day interval following the onset of strong and weak vortex conditions at 10-hPa (bars; Solid parabolic line indicate climatology). The WSI characterizes the severity of winter temperatures at major cities across the Northern Hemisphere. Tickmarks at 0.5.

*Thompson, Baldwin, and Wallace, J. Climate 2001*