

## IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JANUARY 2019

General Summary: Iowa temperatures averaged 18.7 degrees or 0.7 degrees below normal while precipitation totaled 1.28 inches or 0.36 inches above average. Along with 1885, this ranks as the 43<sup>rd</sup> wettest January in 147 years of statewide observational records. It was also the 71<sup>st</sup> coldest January. A colder January last occurred in 2018; a wetter January was last recorded in 2017.

Temperatures: The unseasonable warmth observed in December continued through the first half of the month with the first week of January experiencing the warmest conditions statewide. January's warmest days occurred from the 5<sup>th</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup>. Average temperatures were between 18 to 25 degrees above normal across much of Iowa; daytime highs across the southern half of Iowa were between 55 and 60 degrees. Overall, 15 days were unseasonably warm statewide; 14 days were unseasonably cool. January was trending warmer than average for much of Iowa until a destabilization in the Polar Vortex led to an extreme cold outbreak across much of the upper Midwest. The last three days of the month were bitterly cold statewide as a result of an Arctic air intrusion. Daytime highs, overnight lows and wind chill values were the lowest observed since 1996. Multiple overnight lows and record low daytime highs were also broken. The coldest conditions were reported near sunrise on the 30<sup>th</sup> with temperatures ranging from the -20s in southern Iowa to -30s in northern Iowa. Wind chill readings plummeted into the -50s in northern Iowa; Estherville Municipal Airport (Emmet County) reported a wind chill temperature of -59 degrees. In terms of monthly temperature extremes, a high of 64 degrees was observed on the 7<sup>th</sup> in Keokuk (Lee County), 30 degrees above average. The coldest overnight low of -35 degrees was reported at Manchester (Delaware County), Maquoketa (Jackson County) and Vinton (Benton County) on the 31<sup>st</sup>; this reading was around 45 degrees below average. A new all-time record low of -30 degrees was set in Cedar Rapids (County) on the 30<sup>th</sup>. This reading broke the previous record of -29 degrees set on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Heating Degree Day Totals: Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 2% less than last January and 2% more than normal. Degree day totals for the winter season thus far have averaged 5% greater than last season at this time and 2% more than normal.

Precipitation: January was an active month in terms of winter systems moving through the state. A strong winter storm moved through the southern two-thirds of Iowa with snow totals ranging from 8 – 12 inches January 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Stations in Davis, Des Moines and Page counties reported snow totals above 10 inches. Another winter system moved through the following weekend (22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>) with northeastern Iowa reporting snow totals approaching 12 inches. Cresco (Howard County) observed 11.3 inches, 11.0 inches above average. One final storm system moved through Iowa on January 27<sup>th</sup> into the morning hours of the 28<sup>th</sup>. Most of the northeastern two-thirds of Iowa saw measurable snowfall, ranging from 2 – 4 inches in central and southeastern Iowa to near ten inches in the northeast. Bellevue (Jackson County) reported 10.5 inches, 9.6 inches above average; New Hampton (Chickasaw County) and Muscatine (Muscatine County) observed 9.0 inch totals, 8.4 and 8.7 inches above normal, respectively. This winter storm was the precursor to the Arctic air intrusion that brought dangerously cold air into the state beginning on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Monthly precipitation totals (rain plus liquid equivalent of snow) varied from only 0.10 inches at Sioux City (Woodbury), 0.61 inches below average to 3.67 inches at Burlington (Des Moines County), 2.27 inches

above average. The statewide average snowfall was 13.5 inches or 5.8 inches above normal. Lowden (Cedar County) reported 30.2 inches of snow, 18.7 inches above average. This ranks as the 9<sup>th</sup> highest January total in 132 years of statewide observational records. Through the end of January, the season-to-date total snow accumulation is 21.3 inches, slightly above the normal total of 19.0 inches.

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# January 2019

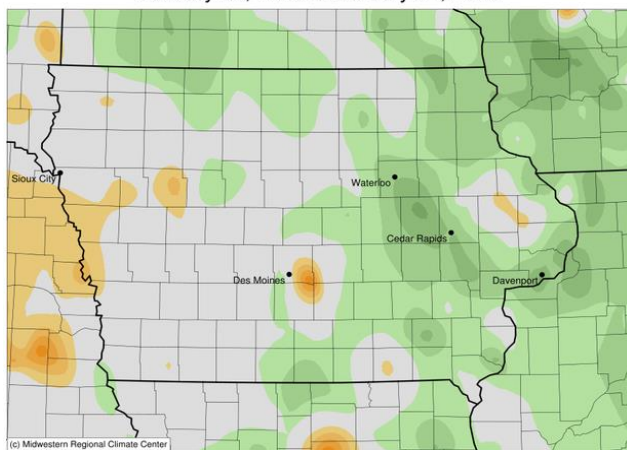
## WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL Jan 2019 Average
	January 2019 Average	Departure*	January 2019 Average	Departure*	Since Jul., 1, 2018 Average	Departure*	January 2019 Average	Departure*	Since Nov.1, 2018 Average	Departure*	
Northwest	16.5	+0.1	1504	+14	4603	+87	0.24	-0.43	3.30	+0.20	3.0
North Central	15.3	-0.3	1541	+29	4609	+74	0.79	-0.04	4.36	+0.44	13.2
Northeast	15.2	-1.8	1544	+55	4511	+63	1.79	+0.77	6.14	+1.35	18.7
West Central	20.4	+1.1	1383	-14	4248	+69	0.23	-0.55	3.47	-0.03	2.4
Central	18.5	-0.6	1442	+33	4205	+50	1.10	+0.18	5.16	+0.78	12.5
East Central	18.2	-2.4	1451	+67	4134	+104	2.19	+1.04	6.84	+1.54	22.3
Southwest	22.7	+0.3	1311	+1	3989	+127	1.00	+0.19	4.58	+0.59	12.1
South Central	21.8	-0.5	1339	+31	3947	+126	2.07	+1.18	6.34	+1.80	18.8
Southeast	21.2	-2.3	1358	+60	3931	+196	2.61	+1.34	7.30	+1.64	17.1
STATE	18.7	-0.7	1442	+38	4230	+90	1.28	+0.36	5.19	+0.88	13.5

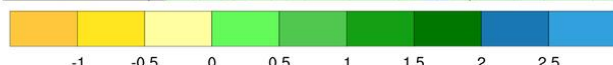
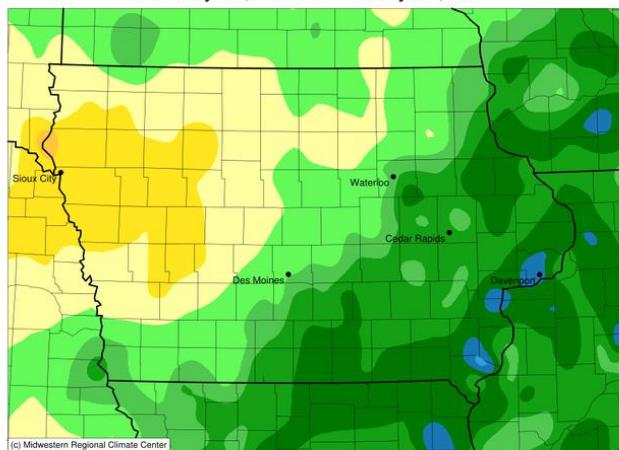
\* Departures are computed from 1981-2010 normals.

The weather data in this report are based upon information collected by the U. S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA National Weather Service.

**Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals**      **Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1981-2010 Normals**  
 January 01, 2019 to January 31, 2019      January 01, 2019 to January 31, 2019



Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI, Midwest Regional Climate Center  
 cli-MATE: MIRC Application Tools Environment  
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Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI, Midwest Regional Climate Center  
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### Accumulated Snowfall (in)

January 01, 2019 to January 31, 2019

