

IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JANUARY 2021

General Summary: Temperatures averaged 23.8 degrees or 4.4 degrees above normal, tying 1981 as the 29th warmest January on record. Precipitation averaged 1.02 inches or 0.10 inch more than normal, ranking it as the 63rd wettest (ties 1905 and 2018). A warmer January occurred in 2017 while a wetter was reported just last year.

Temperatures: Northwestern Iowa experienced the warmest conditions where positive departures of up to seven degrees were reported in the monthly averages. Stations in eastern Iowa reported average temperatures one to three degrees warmer than normal. January's statewide average maximum temperature was 31.1 degrees, 2.5 degrees above normal while the average minimum temperature was 16.5 degrees, 6.2 degrees above normal. Clarinda (Page County), Shenandoah (Page County) and Sioux City Airport (Woodbury County) reported the month's high temperature of 52 degrees on the 20th, on average 20 degrees above normal. Elkader 6 SSW (Clayton County) reported the month's low temperature of -14 degrees on the 29th, 20 degrees below normal.

Heating Degree Day Totals: Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, were identical to last January and 8% less than normal. Thus far this heating season, heating degree day totals are running 3% less than last year at this time and 6% less than normal.

Precipitation: A majority of the state's National Weather Service co-op stations reported near normal to slightly above average precipitation during January. Several winter systems moved through Iowa leaving behind measurable snow statewide. Over the month, a band of 15 to 20 inch total accumulation ran from Omaha northeast through Waterloo.

The first notable winter storm of 2021 occurred over the 14th and 15th with blizzard conditions observed in western Iowa. A blizzard means that the following conditions are expected to prevail for a period of 3 hours or longer: Sustained wind or frequent gusts to 35 miles an hour or greater and considerable falling and/or blowing snow (i.e., reducing visibility frequently to less than ¼ mile). Measurable snow fell statewide with the highest totals over central and southwest Iowa; a Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow (CoCoRaHS) network observer in Atlantic (Cass County) measured 8.0 inches of snow while the statewide average was 3.5 inches.

Over the next 10 days, a few fast moving systems propagated across the state leaving behind a few inches of snow. The strongest winter storm of the season so far pushed into Iowa on the 25th and 26th. Many locations across the southern 2/3rds of Iowa reported snow totals above six inches (over 140 NWS and CoCoRaHS stations). The highest snow totals of 14 inches were reported in Clarinda (Page County) and Des Moines (Polk County) with a band of eight to 12 inch accumulations from southwest Iowa northeast through Waterloo (Black Hawk County). The statewide average total was 6.2 inches.

Monthly precipitation (melted snow and sleet plus rain) totals ranged from 0.25 inch in Algona (Kossuth County) to 4.00 inches in Marengo (Iowa County). Above average snowfall also blanketed much of Iowa

with the preliminary average snowfall of 12.6 inches, 4.9 inches above average. January 2021 ties 1949 as the 13th snowiest on record.

US Drought Monitor: Abnormally dry (D0) and drought conditions remained generally unchanged through January with 59% D0-D3 coverage at the start of the month. A more active storm track brought multiple winter systems through Iowa leading to above average precipitation, including heavy snow across west-central and eastern Iowa. D0 retreated from central Iowa while a small section of Severe Drought (D2) in western Iowa was upgraded to Moderate Drought (D1). As of this writing, D0-D3 covers 53% of Iowa.

Justin Glisan, Ph.D.
State Climatologist of Iowa
Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
Wallace State Office Bldg.
Des Moines, IA 50319
Telephone: (515) 281-8981
E-mail: Justin.Glisan@IowaAgriculture.gov

January 2021

WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

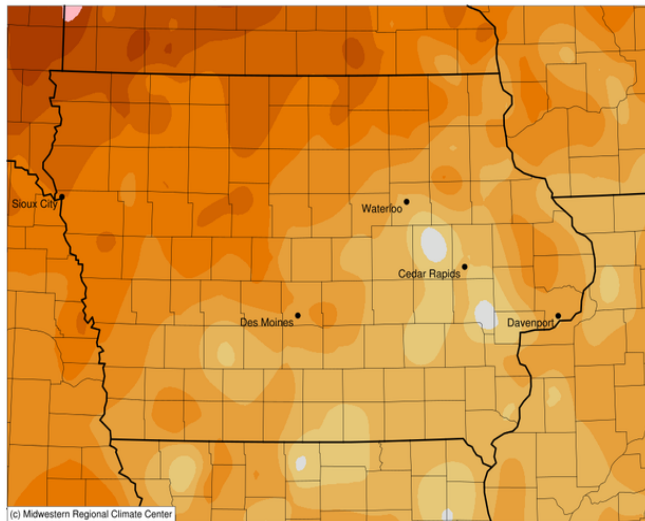
DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL Jan 2021 Average
	January 2021		January 2021		Since Jul., 1, 2020		January 2021		Since Nov.1, 2020		
	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	
Northwest	23.1	6.7	1299	-191	4146	-370	0.78	+0.11	2.69	-1.08	7.0
North Central	21.8	6.2	1339	-173	4183	-353	0.64	-0.19	3.09	-1.67	9.2
Northeast	21.0	4.0	1364	-125	4148	-299	0.92	-0.10	3.53	-2.28	14.6
West Central	25.2	5.9	1234	-163	3835	-344	0.83	+0.05	3.57	-0.71	11.6
Central	23.0	3.9	1302	-107	3896	-258	0.62	-0.30	3.61	-1.69	15.9
East Central	23.1	2.5	1299	-85	3797	-232	1.44	+0.29	5.39	-1.07	13.2
Southwest	26.6	4.2	1190	-120	3620	-241	1.14	+0.33	4.09	-0.71	14.4
South Central	25.6	3.3	1221	-87	3623	-197	1.11	+0.22	5.59	+0.16	12.3
Southeast	25.6	2.1	1221	-77	3579	-155	2.03	+0.76	7.03	+0.10	10.4
STATE	23.8	4.4	1289	-114	3876	-264	1.02	+0.10	4.18	-1.05	12.6

* 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

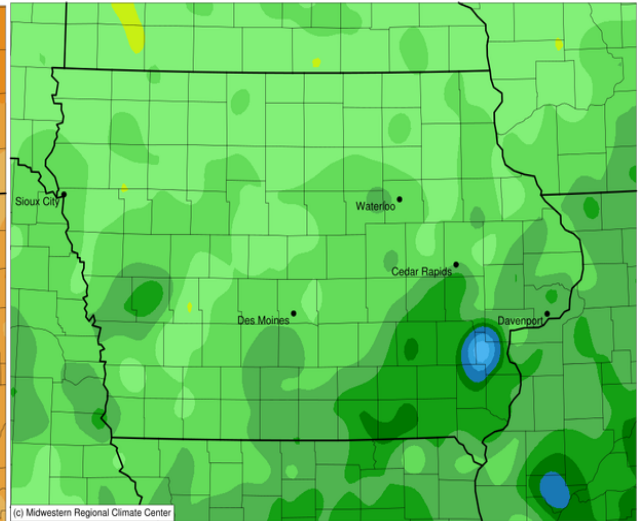
January 01, 2021 to January 31, 2021



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center

Accumulated Precipitation (in)

January 01, 2021 to January 31, 2021



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center

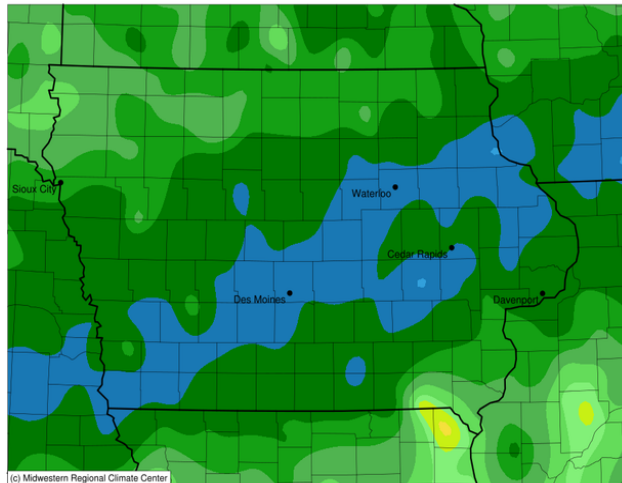


Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI, Midwestern Regional Climate Center cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment Generated at: 2/8/2021 1:58:53 PM CST

Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI, Midwestern Regional Climate Center cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment Generated at: 2/8/2021 2:00:08 PM CST

Accumulated Snowfall (in)

January 01, 2021 to January 31, 2021



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center