



IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – DECEMBER 2025

General Summary: Temperatures averaged 23.6 degrees, 1.4 degrees below normal while precipitation totaled 0.92 inch or 0.45 inch below normal. December 2025 ranks as the 65th coldest in 153 years of statewide records. It also ranks as the 54th driest December on record. December 2022 was colder while 2021 was drier.

Temperatures: Monthly average temperatures varied over Iowa with below-normal conditions across the state's northeastern half while slightly above-normal temperatures were reported along the Iowa-Nebraska border. December's statewide average maximum temperature was 33.0 degrees, 0.2 degree below normal while the average minimum temperature was 14.1 degrees, 2.7 degrees below normal. Clarinda (Page County) reported the month's high temperature of 62 degrees on the 23rd, 27 degrees above normal. Battle Creek (Ida County) and Pocahontas (Pocahontas County) reported the month's low temperature of -20 degrees on the 14th, on average 34 degrees below normal. Pocahontas reported the same overnight low on the 15th as well.

Heating Degree Day Totals: Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 14% more than last December and 5% more than normal. Thus far this heating season, heating degree day totals are running 8% more than last year at this time and 10% more than normal.

Precipitation: Much of the northeast and southwest quadrants of Iowa reported precipitation deficits in the 0.50 to 1.00 inch range. Pockets of stations along a northwest to southeast swath of Iowa observed slightly above normal precipitation with the wettest conditions in the southeast; this swath is collocated with a band of above-normal snow accumulation. The statewide average snowfall was 8.0 inches, 0.1 inch above normal. Monthly precipitation totals ranged from 0.18 inch in Clarinda to 3.85 inches in Muscatine (Muscatine County). An observer in Fort Dodge (Webster County) observed the highest monthly snowfall of 21.0 inches.

US Drought Monitor: As of the first week of December, Moderate Drought (D1) conditions covered 21% of Iowa with D0 (Abnormally Dry) conditions over 44% of the state. Overall drought and dryness in Iowa improved through the month as several winter systems brought snow and rain. A pocket of D1 was removed from northwest Iowa along with improvements in central to eastern Iowa. The first USDM map of 2026 showed the categorical breakdown as: D0 – 32% and D1 – 17%. According to the Iowa Drought Plan (IDP) trigger tables updated on January 8th, Drought Regions 3 and 5 are classified as in a “Drought Watch” while the remaining Drought Regions are classified as “Normal” with degrading conditions in Drought Region 2 and stable conditions in Drought Regions 1 and 4.

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December 2025

WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS			PRECIPITATION (inches)			SNOWFALL Average		
	December 2025 Average Departure*	December 2025 Average Departure*	December 2025 Average Departure*	Since Jul., 1, 2025 Average Departure*	December 2025 Average Departure*	December 2025 Average Departure*	Since Jan. 1, 2025 Average Departure*				
Northwest	21.4	-0.5	1352	+17	2603	-330	0.86	-0.13	30.34	-0.40	9.8
North Central	19.7	-2.5	1404	+75	2683	-244	0.89	-0.38	37.64	+2.42	7.2
Northeast	19.9	-3.3	1398	+103	2668	-198	0.84	-0.70	34.66	-3.35	6.8
West Central	25.2	+0.5	1234	-15	2345	-350	0.64	-0.52	34.17	+1.05	5.6
Central	23.1	-2.0	1299	+61	2400	-261	0.94	-0.42	38.07	+2.02	12.0
East Central	22.6	-3.5	1314	+107	2386	-191	1.14	-0.56	32.49	-5.07	9.7
Southwest	28.5	+1.1	1132	-34	2151	-322	0.38	-0.92	28.79	-6.71	0.9
South Central	27.6	-0.3	1159	+8	2142	-300	1.02	-0.41	32.34	-4.76	3.8
Southeast	26.2	-2.2	1203	+68	2169	-212	1.62	-0.05	31.85	-6.01	9.4
STATE	23.6	-1.4	1295	+62	2408	-247	0.92	-0.45	33.59	-1.96	8.0

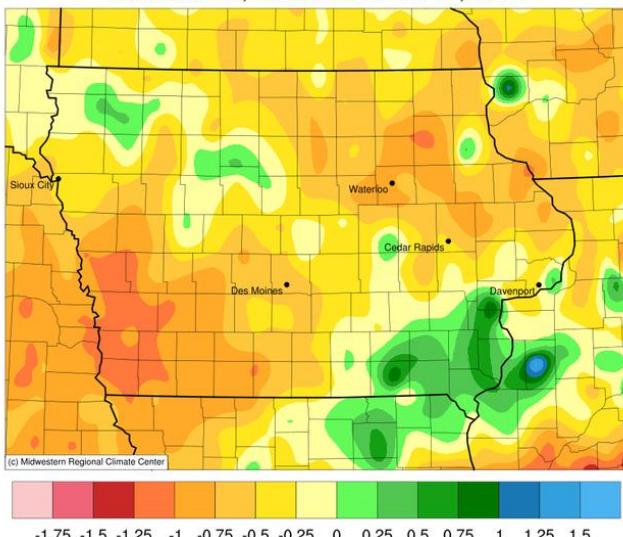
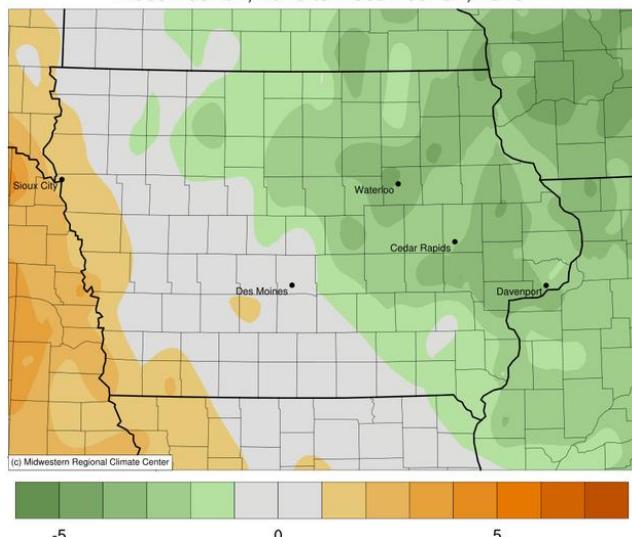
* Departures are computed from 1991-2020 normals.

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 1991-2020 Normals Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals

December 01, 2025 to December 31, 2025

December 01, 2025 to December 31, 2025



Accumulated Snowfall (in)

December 01, 2025 to December 31, 2025

