



## IOWA WEATHER SUMMARY 6 DECEMBER 2013

**General Summary.** Iowa temperatures averaged 17.3° or 5.6° below normal while precipitation totaled 0.65 inches or 0.69 inches below normal. This ranks as the 17<sup>th</sup> coolest and 32<sup>nd</sup> driest December among 141 years of records. A colder December was last recorded in 2000 and a drier one in 2004.

**Temperatures.** December began with mild weather as temperatures averaged above normal for the first four days of the month with Shenandoah reaching 62° on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. However, cold weather was the rule for most of the month with temperatures averaging more than twenty degrees below normal on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Osceola reported the lowest official temperature in the state with a -27° reading on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> while Sheldon had the lowest wind chill with a -38° reading on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>. Daytime high temperatures remained below zero in some areas on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Much warmer air briefly edged into far western Iowa late in the month with daily record highs set on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. A strong cold front, with northwest winds gusting to 61 mph, barreled into northwest Iowa during the afternoon of the 28<sup>th</sup> with the temperature at Sioux City falling from 62° at 3:07 p.m. to -3° at 8:43 the next morning (a 65° drop in less than 18 hours). The combination of cold weather and dry ground allowed soils to freeze to a depth of from 7 to 15 inches by month's end. Snow cover at month's end varied from little, if any, in the far southwest to 8 to 10 inches across the northeast. However, the mostly dry, fluffy snow has a low water content of under an inch liquid equivalent.

**Heating Degree Day Totals.** Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 27% greater than last December and 13% greater than normal. Thus far this heating season (since July 1), heating requirements are up 14% from last season and 8% from normal. This has been the coldest start to the heating season in 13 years.

**Precipitation.** Precipitation was relatively frequent across the state but amounts were mostly light. Monthly totals were below normal at all reporting points varying from 0.06 inches at Logan (their third lowest December total among 145 years of record) to 1.29 inches at Clinton and Wapello. The month's largest precipitation event came on the 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> with snow falling across the southeast two-thirds of Iowa. Greatest snow totals with this storm occurred in south central Iowa with nine inch totals at Blockton and Lamoni. Other notable events came on the 8<sup>th</sup> when snow fell statewide with a maximum total of 5.3 inches at Des Moines. Finally, a large winter storm just clipped the far southeast corner of Iowa on the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> with seven inches of snow at Keokuk. Monthly snow totals varied from only 0.9 inches at Holly Springs to 18.0 inches at Belle Plaine. The statewide average snowfall was 9.3 inches or one inch above normal. This ranks as the 33<sup>rd</sup> greatest December total among 127 years of records.

**Annual Summary.** The statewide average temperature for 2013 was 46.5° or 1.6° below normal while precipitation totaled 35.38 inches or 0.11 inches above normal. This ranks as the 25<sup>th</sup> coolest and 37<sup>th</sup> wettest year among 141 years of records. The year was noteworthy for a record wet April and May, as well as a very dry July through September period. Precipitation totals varied from 21.12 inches at Spirit Lake to 49.58 inches at Saint Ansgar.

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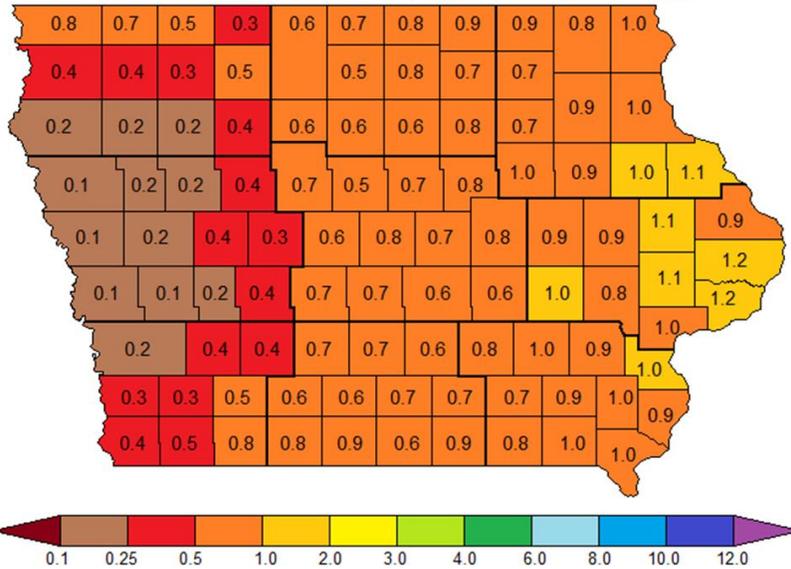
## WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL Dec 2013 Average
	December 2013		December 2013		Since Jul., 1, 2013		December 2013		Since Jan. 1, 2013		
	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	Average	Departure*	
Northwest	13.7	-6.0	1586	+182	3200	+163	0.37	-0.53	28.79	-1.61	5.6
North Central	14.1	-5.4	1574	+164	3208	+159	0.69	-0.55	38.62	+4.33	9.8
Northeast	15.0	-6.3	1545	+192	3157	+254	0.91	-0.58	42.11	+5.85	14.0
West Central	17.5	-4.8	1466	+142	2977	+164	0.21	-0.88	29.54	-3.43	3.5
Central	16.9	-5.9	1487	+178	2987	+219	0.63	-0.69	36.54	+0.19	11.0
East Central	18.4	-6.1	1441	+187	2878	+263	1.02	-0.72	38.88	+2.22	14.5
Southwest	20.2	-5.2	1383	+156	2760	+216	0.41	-0.83	31.80	-3.83	6.6
South Central	20.4	-5.3	1378	+159	2766	+226	0.73	-0.65	35.53	-2.19	9.7
Southeast	21.8	-5.2	1334	+157	2643	+252	0.95	-0.86	37.35	-1.30	9.8
STATE	17.3	-5.6	1473	+169	2969	+210	0.65	-0.69	35.38	+0.11	9.3

\* 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

State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship  
COUNTY PRECIPITATION ESTIMATES, DECEMBER 2013 (inches)



State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship  
COUNTY SNOWFALL ESTIMATES, DECEMBER 2013 (inches)

