



IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JANUARY 2015

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 21.3° or 1.9° above normal while precipitation totaled 0.56 inches or 0.36 inches below normal. This ranks as the 51st warmest and 33rd driest January among 143 years of records.

Temperatures. The month had a split personality for temperatures with most of the first two weeks of January averaging below normal while the month finished with 17 consecutive warmer than normal days. Wind chill readings dipped below -30° on the 4th, 6th, 7th and 8th with lowest readings of -35° at Clarion, Spencer and Storm Lake on the morning of the 6th and again at Clarion and Mason City on the morning of the 7th. Actual temperatures bottomed out at -25° at Cherokee on the morning of the 13th. Temperatures dipped below zero somewhere in the state every day from the 4th through the 14th. However, the lowest temperature for the remainder of the month was 6° above zero at Cresco on the 30th. Daytime highs reached into the sixties on the 16th (62° at Clarinda, Red Oak and Shenandoah) and 28th (67° at Shenandoah) over southwestern Iowa. The Shenandoah reading on the 28th was a record high for that date and location (old record 61° in 2013).

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 15% less than last January and 5% less than normal. Heating degree day totals so far this heating season are running 9% less than last year at this time and 1% less than normal.

Precipitation. The relatively dry weather pattern that has prevailed in Iowa since mid-October persisted until January 31st when Iowa's heaviest snow storm in five years arrived. This late month storm began with rain on the morning of the 31st with the rain gradually changing to snow during the afternoon and evening hours. Snow fell statewide before ending during the afternoon and evening of February 1st. Storm totals varied from 2.2 inches near Spirit Lake to 16.0 inches at Le Claire. Greatest amounts fell along and just north of the Interstate 80 corridor from Des Moines to the Quad Cities. A statewide average of 8.5 inches of snow fell across Iowa, the highest storm total since December 23-27, 2009. However, the vast majority of Iowa's weather stations make their once-daily observations at 7 a.m., prior to the arrival of the storm on the 31st. Thus, most of the precipitation and snowfall from this storm will go into the record books for February. The month's greatest precipitation total was 1.64 inches at Burlington with Lowden reporting the most snow with 15.1 inches (both of these locations measure at midnight). However, for the month ending at 7 a.m. January 31, only 0.02 inches of precipitation fell at Hastings while New Market recorded only 0.4 inches of snow for the same period. The largest precipitation event occurring entirely within January came on the 5th with widespread snowfall of four to six inches from northwest to east central Iowa. High winds combined with dry powdery snow to result in blizzard warnings being issued for parts of northern Iowa on the night of the 3rd and again on the 8th. The statewide average snowfall for the month was 6.3 inches. This is 1.4 inches below normal and ranks as the 53rd lowest January total among 128 years of record.

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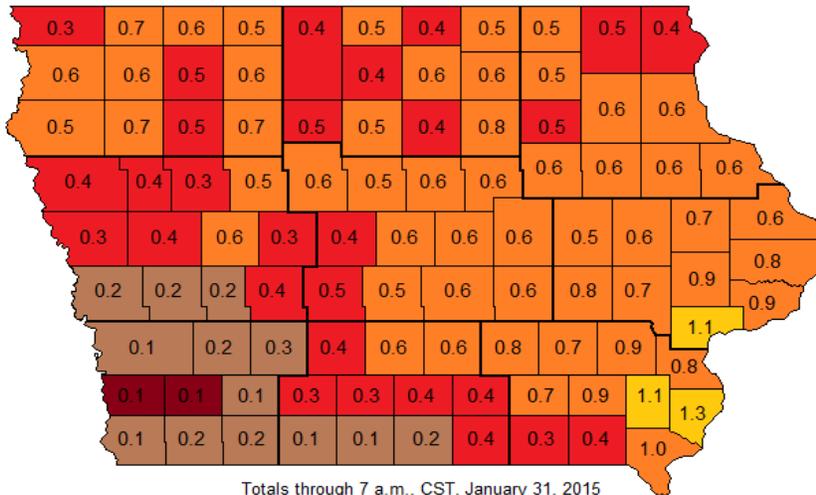
WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL Jan 2015 Average
	January 2015 Average	Departure*	January 2015 Average	Departure*	Since Jul., 1, 2014 Average	Departure*	January 2015 Average	Departure*	Since Nov.1, 2014 Average	Departure*	
Northwest	19.6	+3.2	1404	-102	4414	-129	0.58	-0.09	2.24	-0.86	7.4
North Central	18.2	+2.6	1447	-86	4531	-51	0.50	-0.33	2.42	-1.50	6.9
Northeast	18.4	+1.4	1438	-49	4404	+14	0.67	-0.35	2.68	-2.11	8.3
West Central	22.2	+2.8	1321	-94	4097	-131	0.35	-0.43	2.03	-1.47	4.6
Central	21.4	+2.3	1346	-78	4131	-61	0.67	-0.25	2.67	-1.71	7.7
East Central	20.9	+0.3	1361	-15	4063	+72	0.75	-0.41	3.32	-1.98	9.5
Southwest	25.0	+2.6	1232	-89	3757	-108	0.14	-0.67	1.88	-2.11	1.4
South Central	24.2	+1.9	1260	-63	3856	-7	0.38	-0.51	2.00	-2.54	3.2
Southeast	23.6	+0.1	1277	-10	3785	+107	0.92	-0.35	3.47	-2.19	6.4
STATE	21.3	+1.9	1348	-67	4135	-39	0.56	-0.36	2.52	-1.79	6.3

* 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, JANUARY 2015 (inches)



State Climatologist, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
 COUNTY SNOWFALL ESTIMATES, JANUARY 2015 (inches)

