

## IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JANUARY 2004

General Summary. Iowa temperatures averaged 17.5° or 0.3° below normal while precipitation totaled 1.00 inches or 0.05 inches more than normal. This ranks as the 51<sup>st</sup> coldest and 59<sup>th</sup> wettest January among 132 years of Iowa records.

Temperatures. Temperatures fluctuated frequently throughout the month. January began with very mild weather as temperatures peaked at 67° at Burlington and Keokuk on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Much colder weather followed a January 4<sup>th</sup> snow storm with afternoon highs mainly in the single digits on the 5<sup>th</sup> while Allerton reported a -15° minimum on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup>. Warmer than normal weather prevailed from the 10<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> with Sioux City reaching 54° on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There were some more subzero temperatures registered on the mornings of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> prior to the final mild day of the month when Shenandoah and Sidney reached 60° on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Very cold weather was the rule late in the month with a -22° reading at Sibley on the 27<sup>th</sup>, Iowa's lowest temperature since January 2, 2001. Daytime high temperatures failed to climb above zero in parts of Iowa on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. These were the state's first subzero daytime highs since February 1, 2001. Wind chill readings bottomed out at -41° at Estherville and Mason City on the night of the 29<sup>th</sup> (these would be -55° under the old wind chill formula in use prior to 2002). Lower wind chill readings have not been recorded since December 2000.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged exactly normal for the month and 3% greater than last January. Thus far this heating season degree day totals are running 6% less than normal and 2% less than last season at this time.

Precipitation. Three storm events accounted for most of the month's precipitation total. The first storm arrived on the 4<sup>th</sup> and deposited 5 to 9 inches of snow across most of the southern one-third of Iowa while northern portions of the state received little or no snow. Lamoni reported the most snow during this event with 11.5 inches. The second storm system brought one-third to two-thirds of an inch of rain to most of the southeastern three-fourths of Iowa on the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. Indianola reported the most rain from this event with 1.10 inches. Finally, snow fell statewide between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> with 6 to 10 inch accumulations common over the western one-third of Iowa. Heaviest snow was reported from Glenwood with 14.0 inches. Monthly snowfall totals varied from 4.0 inches at Tipton up to 21.6 inches at Oakland. This was Iowa's snowiest month since the record snowfall of December 2000. January precipitation totals varied from 0.31 inches at Dorchester to 2.12 inches at Harlan. This was the state's third consecutive month of above normal precipitation. This is in major contrast to the previous November-January period of 2002-2003 which was the driest three months ever in Iowa. The last time Iowa recorded more than two back-to-back wet months was from November 2000 through February 2001.

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