

## IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – JANUARY 2008

General Summary. January temperatures averaged 16.3° or 1.5° below normal while precipitation totaled 0.70 inches or 0.25 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 44<sup>th</sup> coldest and 42<sup>nd</sup> driest January among 136 years of records. This was the coldest January since 1997. February 2007 and December 2000 are the only colder months recorded in Iowa over the past 11 years.

Temperatures. January's temperatures were highly variable. Temperatures soared into the 60's in parts of southern Iowa on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Keokuk and Keosauqua were the hot spots with 67° maximums on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile, minimum temperatures of -20° or lower were recorded on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Stanley, in Buchanan County, was the cold spot at -30° on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup>. This was Iowa's lowest official temperature since Elkader recorded -34° on Christmas Day 2000. Only once in the past 11 years has a wider range in temperatures been recorded in one month (102° from -21° to +81° in March 2003). A final example of the highly variable weather were daily temperatures averaging 30 degrees above normal at Burlington on the 7<sup>th</sup> to 30 degrees below normal at Waterloo on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Heating Degree Day Totals. Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 12% greater than last January and 3% greater than normal. Thus far this heating season (since July 1, 2007), heating requirements are averaging 7% more than last season at this time and 3% less than normal.

Precipitation. Precipitation was frequent during January but lacked the major winter storm events seen in December. Measurable precipitation was reported somewhere in Iowa on all but 8 days during the month. Rain, along with some thunderstorms, dampened the eastern one-half of Iowa on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> with a maximum total of 0.79 inches reported at Keokuk. Monthly precipitation amounts varied from 0.19 inches at Logan and Underwood to 1.63 inches at Waukon. Snow fell over most of the state on the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> with 4 to 5 inch amounts common from southwest, through central, into northeast Iowa. Similar amounts of snow were reported on the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> with greatest amounts over the northern two-thirds of the state. However, the most disruptive storm came on the 29<sup>th</sup> when wind gusts over 50 mph produced white out conditions from west central into northeast Iowa despite snow amounts of only 1 to 3 inches in most areas. There was an average of 9.9 inches of snow statewide, or 1.7 inches more than normal. This was the 26<sup>th</sup> snowiest January among 121 years of record. Monthly snowfall totals varied from 3.1 inches at Logan to 19.0 inches at Waukon. At month's end snow cover of 3 to 12 inches remained over most of the northern one-half of Iowa with plenty of bare ground over southwest and south central Iowa.

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