

Decorah Weather - January 2025 Summary

by Richard Bernatz

Weather data available online at <http://faculty.luther.edu/~bernatzr/DecWx/>

1. JANUARY 2025 TEMPERATURES

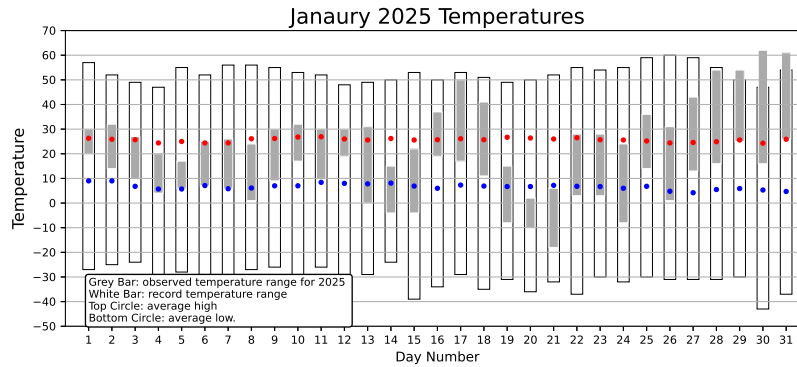


Figure 1: **Grey Bar:** Observed temperature range for 2025, **White Bar:** Record temperature range, **Red Circle:** average high, **Blue Circle:** average low.

Temperature (° F)	January 2025	Historical	Deviation
Average High	31.1	25.8	+5.3
Average Low	7.7	7.0	+0.7
Daily Average	19.3	16.4	+2.9

Table 1: January 2025 average temperatures compared to January historical averages.

- JANUARY 2025
 - Daily Records: maximum of 54° F on the 29th (old record was 50° F in 1914), maximum of 62° F on the 30th (old record was 47° F in 2024), maximum of 61° F on the 31st (old record was 54° F in 2019)
 - Monthly average temperature : 19.3° F (2.9° F warmer than average)
 - Warmest temperature : 62° F on the 30th is the warmest recorded January temperature
 - Coldest temperature : -18° F on the 21st
 - Heating Degree Days : 1416.0, 89.8 less than the average of 1506.8
- ALL JANUARIES SINCE 1894 (132 years)
 - Compared with January 2025, 44 Januaries were warmer and 87 Januaries were colder
 - Warmest January average : 31.3° F in 2006
 - Coldest January average : -2.1° F in 1912
 - Warmest January temperature : 62° F on the 30th of 2025
 - Coldest January temperature : -43° F on the 30th of 1951

2. JANUARY 2025 PRECIPITATION

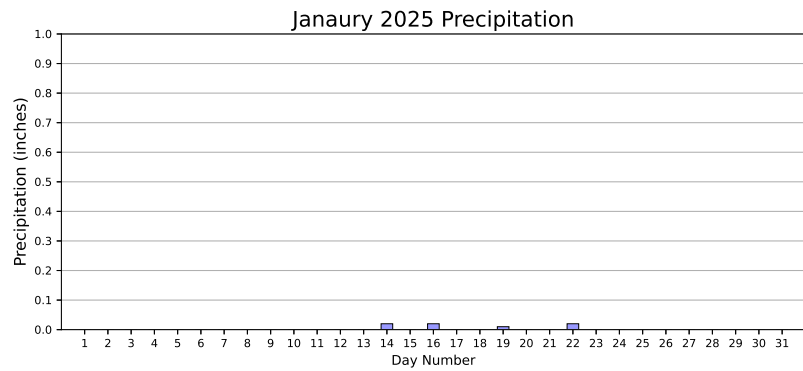


Figure 2: January precipitation for Decorah.

- JANUARY 2025
 - Total precipitation for January 2025: 0.07 inches, 0.96 inches less than the average of 1.03 inches
 - Four days with measurable precipitation. Maximum of 0.02 inches on the 14th, 16th, and the 22nd.
 - Three days with measurable snowfall. Maximum of 0.2 inches of the 14th, 16th, and the 22nd.
 - Total snowfall of 0.6 inches, 8.4 inches less than average of 9.0 inches
- ALL JANUARIES SINCE 1894 (132 years)
 - Compared with January 2025, no Januaries were drier, and 131 were wetter.
 - Wettest January : 3.74 inches in 1996
 - Driest January : 0.07 inches in 2024
 - Snowiest January : 34.7 inches in 1996

3. TWELVE-MONTH SUMMARY

Month	Year	Ave Temp (°F)	Deviation (°F)	Rank [†] (#/Total)	Precip (inches)	Deviation (inches)	Rank [‡] (#/Total)
February	2024	38.1	+17.9	1/131	0.37	-0.59	107/130
March	2024	42.4	+9.5	3/132	2.18	+0.28	49/132
April	2024	50.5	+3.1	26/131	3.97	+0.85	31/131
May	2024	62.7	+3.8	20/129	9.11	+4.85	6/129
June	2024	71.9	+3.6	18/130	7.38	+2.60	22/130
July	2024	73.8	+1.2	45/130	3.13	-0.94	79/131
August	2024	73.8	+3.4	16/132	1.87	-2.16	108/132
September	2024	67.5	+5.2	9/131	0.39	-3.29	130/131
October	2024	57.3	+6.9	4/131	1.61	-0.71	89/131
November	2024	40.4	+4.1	15/132	3.70	+1.85	12/132
December	2024	26.7	+5.6	24/132	1.62	+0.41	36/132
January	2025	19.3	+2.9	44/132	0.06	-0.96	132/132

Table 2: A summary of the last twelve months. [†]- The smaller the number (#), the warmer the month. [‡]- The smaller the number (#), the wetter the month. Boxed entries are within the historical top or bottom ten.

- The average monthly temperature for the past twelve months were all above average.
- Six of the past 12 months were drier than average.
- Precipitation deviations from average (in inches) - last 3 months : +1.31, last 6 months : -4.08, last 9 months : +1.65, last 12 months : +2.20

January 2025 in Decorah began with near-normal 24-hour high and low temperature readings. Several days did bring a chill as expected for the middle month of the three-month meteorological winter. The month wasn't without its dramatic moments, however. Three days at the end of the month saw temperatures soar, breaking daily records. The 29th peaked at 54°F, the 30th reached an astounding 62°F (the warmest January temperature ever recorded in Decorah), and the 31st hit 61°F. These late-month warm spells pushed the overall average upward, even though the rest of the month was more typical for January. The coldest dip reached -18°F, a reminder that winter's bite wasn't entirely absent. Overall, while not record-shattering, the average temperature of 19.3°F was a noticeable 2.9°F above the historical average. The lack of prolonged intense cold meant that heating degree days were slightly lower than average.

While the January temperature story had its memorable moments, and a near-normal average temperature, January's precipitation was a different tale. Rainfall was scarce, with only four days registering measurable precipitation. A mere 0.07 inches was recorded, a significant 0.96 inches below the January average. Snowfall was understandably anemic as well. A paltry 0.6 inches of snow fell, 8.4 inches less than the average. Overall, this January is the driest of the 132 Januaries for which precipitation records exist for the city of Decorah.

Zooming out to a wider time-frame perspective, the past twelve months paint a picture of consistent warmth. Every single month had above-average temperatures. Precipitation, however, was more of a mixed bag. While the past year had slightly more precipitation overall (1.65 inch surplus), six of the last twelve months were drier than average. Looking at shorter time-frames, the last three months saw a bit of a precipitation surplus (1.31 inch surplus), but the last six months were significantly dry (4.08 inch deficit). This twelve-month snapshot reveals a trend of warmth coupled with fluctuating precipitation.