

# Decorah Weather - January 2026 Summary

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

## 1. JANUARY 2026 TEMPERATURES

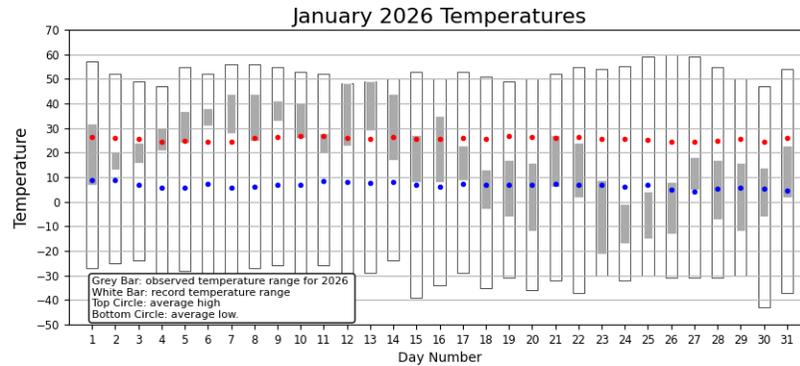


Figure 1: **Grey Bar:** Observed temperature range for 2026, **White Bar:** Record temperature range, **Red Circle:** average high, **Blue Circle:** average low.

Temperature (°F)	January 2026	Historical	Deviation
Average High	26.1	25.8	+0.3
Average Low	7.7	7.0	+0.7
Daily Average	16.9	16.4	+0.5

Table 1: January 2026 average temperatures compared to January historical averages.

- JANUARY 2026
  - Daily Records: maximum of 48°F on the 12th (ties with the same date in 2013), maximum of 49°F on the 13th (ties with the same date in 1996)
  - Monthly average temperature : 16.9°F (0.5°F warmer than average)
  - Warmest temperature : 49°F on the 13th
  - Coldest temperature : -21°F on the 23rd
  - Heating Degree Days : 1490, 15.7 less than the average of 1505.7
- ALL JANUARIES SINCE 1894 (133 years)
  - Compared with January 2026, 66 Januaries were warmer and 66 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 2026 PRECIPITATION

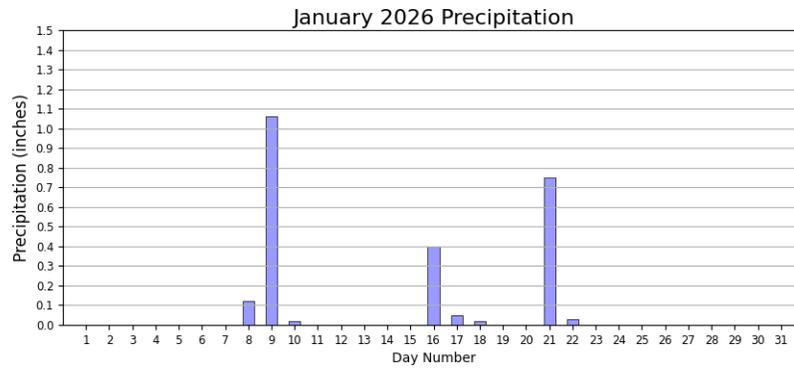


Figure 2: January precipitation for Decorah.

- JANUARY 2026
  - Total precipitation for January 2026: 2.54 inches, 1.40 inches more than the average of 1.04 inches
  - Maximum of 1.06 inches on the 9th.
  - Eight days with measurable precipitation. Average number of days with measurable precipitation is between 7 and 8.
  - Total snowfall of 7.0 inches, 2.0 inches less than average of 9.0 inches
  - Six days with measurable snowfall. Maximum of 2.5 on the 21st.
- ALL JANUARIES SINCE 1894 (133 years)
  - Compared with January 2026, 8 Januaries were wetter, and 124 were wetter.
  - Wettest January : 3.74 inches in 1996
  - Driest January : 0.07 inches in 2025
  - 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	2025	19.7	-0.5	67/132	0.30	-0.65	114/131
March	2025	43.0	+10.0	3/133	3.08	+1.16	14/133
April	2025	49.3	+2.0	26/132	5.90	+2.76	12/132
May	2025	59.7	+0.7	55/130	2.46	-1.79	107/130
June	2025	72.9	+4.6	8/131	6.26	+1.47	34/131
July	2025	75.2	+2.6	26/131	5.21	+1.13	35/132
August	2025	71.4	+1.0	41/133	13.61	+9.50	2/133
September	2025	67.1	+4.8	10/132	2.27	-1.39	86/132
October	2025	56.0	+5.6	9/132	2.31	-0.51	78/131
November	2025	39.5	+4.2	23/132	1.34	-0.50	84/133
December	2025	21.8	-0.2	70/133	0.73	-0.48	91/133
January	2026	16.9	+0.5	67/133	2.45	+1.40	9/132

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.

- Ten of the last 12 months were warmer than average.
- Six of the past 12 months were wetter than average.
- Precipitation deviations from average (in inches) - last 3 months : +0.44, last 6 months : +8.02, last 9 months : +8.83, last 12 months : 12.10

#### 4. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

January 2026 in Decorah was characterized by a balance of typical seasonal temperatures and a significant surplus of moisture. According to the data compiled by The National Weather Service, the month was a statistical median in terms of temperature but stood out as one of the wettest Januaries in the region's 133-year recorded history.

Thermally, January was remarkably close to historical norms, ranking exactly in the middle of the records as the 67th warmest out of 133 years. The monthly average temperature was 16.9°F, which is just 0.5°F warmer than the long-term average. This stability was reflected in both the average high of 26.1°F and the average low of 7.7°F. Despite the overall average, the month was punctuated by record-tying warmth in the second week; the high reached 48°F on the 12th and peaked at 49°F on the 13th, matching records set in 2013 and 1996 respectively. These mild days were countered by a sharp arctic plunge on the 23rd, when the temperature dropped to a monthly low of -21°F. Heating Degree Days for the month totaled 1490, which was 15.7 fewer than the average, suggesting a slightly reduced demand for home heating compared to a typical January.

While temperatures were moderate, precipitation was exceptionally high. Decorah received 2.54 inches of total moisture, a substantial surplus of 1.40 inches over the average of 1.04 inches. This pushed January 2026 into the top ten wettest on record, ranking 9th overall. A large portion of this moisture arrived during a single event on the 9th, which saw a 24-hour maximum of 1.06 inches. Interestingly, despite the high liquid-equivalent precipitation, snowfall was actually below average. The total snowfall of 7.0 inches was 2.0 inches shy of the typical 9.0-inch average. Measurable snow fell on six days throughout the month, with the most significant single-day accumulation of 2.5 inches occurring on the 21st.

Looking at the broader twelve-month trend, January 2026 reinforces a pattern of persistent warmth and excessive moisture for the Decorah area. Ten of the last twelve months have been warmer than average, with March 2025 remaining a major standout at 10.0°F above normal. The region's precipitation surplus is even more striking; despite several months being drier than average, the cumulative surplus for the past twelve months has reached a significant 12.10 inches.