January 2025 Rochester Area Weather Summary

by Richard Bernatz

Weather data available online at http://faculty.luther.edu/~bernatzr/RocWx/

1. January 2025 Temperatures

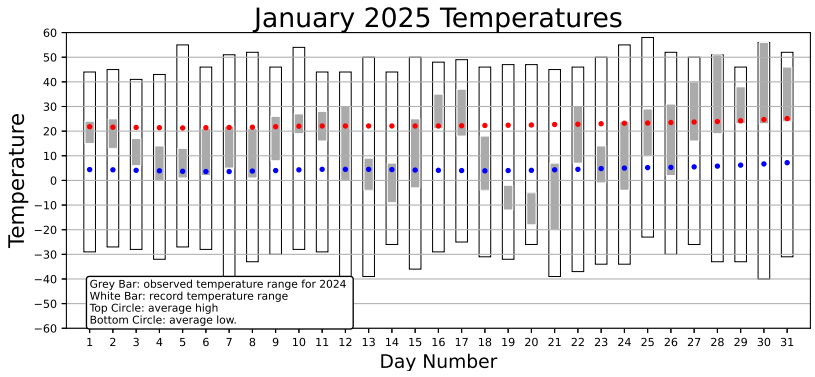

Figure 1: **Grey Bar**: Observed temperature range for 2025, **White Bar**: Record temperature range, **Red Circle:** average high, **Blue Circle:** average low.

Temperature (° F)	January 2025	Historical	Deviation
Average High	24.4	21.8	+2.6
Average Low	5.6	4.3	+1.3
Daily Average	15.0	13.0	+2.0

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

- January 2025
  - Daily Records: maximum of 51° F on the 28th (old record was 46° F 2024), maximum of 56° F on the 30th (old record was 48° F in 1919)
  - Monthly average temperature : 15.0° F (2.0° F warmer than average)
  - Warmest temperature : 56° F on the 30th
  - Coldest temperature : -20° F on the 21st
  - Heating Degree Days : 1549.0, 41.4 less than the average of 1590.4
- All Januaries Since 1886 (114 years of complete data)
  - Compared with January 2025, 44 Januaries were warmer and 69 Januaries were colder
  - Warmest January average : 28.1° F in 2006
  - Coldest January average : -3.8° F in 1912
  - Warmest January temperature : 58° F on the 25th of 1944
  - Coldest January temperature : -42° F on the 7th of 1887

2. JANUARY 2025 PRECIPITATION

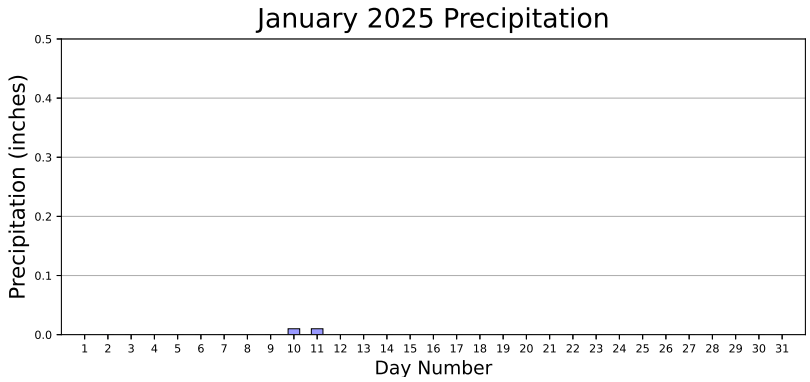

Figure 2: January precipitation for Rochester.

- JANUARY 2025
  - Total precipitation for January 2025: 0.02 inches, 0.87 inches less than the average of 0.89 inches
  - Two days with measurable precipitation. The average number is eight.
  - Two days with measurable snowfall resulting in a sum of 0.40 inches, 9.4 inches less than the average of 9.8 inches.
- ALL JANUARIES SINCE 1886 (110 years of complete data)
  - Compared with January 2025, no Januaries were drier, and 109 were wetter.
  - Wettest January : 2.92 inches in 1888
  - Second Driest January : 0.07 inches in 1961
  - Snowiest January : 30.2 inches in 1996

3. TWELVE-MONTH SUMMARY

Month	Year	Ave Temp (^{o}F)	Deviation (^{o}F)	Rank† (#/Total)	Precip (inches)	Deviation (inches)	Rank‡ (#/Total)
February	2024	32.7	+15.4	1/112	0.34	-0.50	87/110
March	2024	37.3	+7.3	11/113	2.35	+0.57	33/111
April	2024	46.8	+1.9	34/112	3.92	+1.08	23/107
May	2024	59.5	+2.4	29/112	4.33	+0.48	40/111
June	2024	67.9	+0.9	44/112	9.86	+5.27	3/109
July	2024	70.6	-0.6	70/112	4.76	+0.90	38/112
August	2024	68.5	-0.2	64/113	4.92	+1.09	33/113
September	2024	65.4	+6.0	6/114	0.77	-2.48	104/114
October	2024	67.1	+8.0	5/114	1.22	-1.00	84/114
November	2024	37.2	+4.3	19/114	2.44	+0.84	22/113
December	2024	24.1	+4.1	25/112	1.27	+0.20	37/112
January	2025	15.0	+2.0	45/114	0.02	-0.87	110/110

Table 2: Monthly temperature and precipitation data for the last 12 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 past 12 months were warmer than average.
- Eight of the past 12 months were wetter than average.
- Precipitation deviations from average (in inches) - last 3 months : +0.19, last 6 months : -2.21, last 9 months : +4.4, last 12 months : -+5.60

4. A Narrative Summary

January 2025 in the Rochester area was a month of stark contrasts, a fitting continuation of the weather roller coaster that defines the last twelve months. While the overall temperature leaned towards the warmer side, it was the extreme lack of precipitation that truly defines the month of January 2025.

The temperature averaged a relatively mild 15.0°F, a departure of 2.0°F above the historical average. While not record-shattering, it continued the trend of warmer-than-usual monthly average temperatures. Two daily temperature records fell, with the mercury peaking at 51°F on the 28th and an impressive 56°F on the 30th, both surpassing previous records for those dates. The 56°F reading on the 30th was the warmest reading for this January month. The coldest January 2025 temperature, a frigid -20°F, was recorded on the 21st. Although cold, it was not enough to plunge the month into record-breaking cold. Heating degree days, a measure of how much heating is needed, were slightly below average, reflecting the milder temperatures.

However, the real story of January 2025 was the almost complete absence of precipitation. A mere 0.02 inches fell, 0.87 inches below the average precipitation for the month. This paltry amount made it the driest of the 110 Januaries for which complete monthly precipitation records exist. Only two days saw measurable precipitation, six less occurrences than the average of eight. Of course, snowfall was equally scarce, with only 0.40 inches accumulating, drastically less than the average 9.8 inches. Two measly snow days were recorded, compared to the typical seven. This dearth of snow and rain painted a picture of an unusually dry January landscape.

Looking back over the past twelve months, a temperature deviation pattern emerges. Ten of those months experienced above-average temperatures, a testament to the overall warming trend. Precipitation, however, has been more erratic. While eight months boasted above-average rainfall, the stark dryness of January 2025, along with other dry months such as September, significantly impacted the overall picture. Looking at precipitation deviations, the last three months showed a slight surplus, the last six a deficit, the last nine a substantial surplus, and the entire twelve months a net surplus. This highlights the year's variability and the dramatic shift from wetter months to the exceptionally dry January. The boxed entries in the twelve-month summary table – the record-breaking warm February, the incredibly wet June, the remarkably dry September, and now, the exceptionally dry January – underscore the year's volatile weather patterns and its tendency towards extremes.