Wisconsin Climate Summary – January 2016

National Weather Service Milwaukee/Sullivan, WI

Summary

January was a near to above average month for temperatures and a near to below average month for precipitation. Snowfall was well below normal statewide. The heaviest precipitation and snowfall occurred in many areas on the 26th in association with low pressure tracking through eastern portions of the state. The warmest temperatures measured during the month were on the 31st as warm air spread into the state ahead of a cold front, while the coldest readings occurred on the 11th with cold high pressure over the upper Midwest.

Temperatures

Temperatures were near to above average statewide with departures ranging from 3 to 4 degrees above normal in the north to generally within one degree of normal south. In Milwaukee, the monthly average temperature was 22.8 degrees (0.5 degrees below normal); in Madison it was 19.9 (1.1 above normal); in Green Bay it was 19.2 (2.6 above normal); in La Crosse it was 19.4 (2.0 above normal); in Rhinelander it was 14.8 (2.6 above normal); in Wausau it was 17.2 (2.6 above normal), and in Eau Claire it was 15.8 (1.4 above normal). No daily temperature records were set at any of these locations during the month of October.

The warmest monthly mean temperature was 24.3 degrees at the cooperative observing site in Kenosha, while the coolest monthly mean was 10.3 degrees at the cooperative observing site near Clam Lake.

The warmest daily maximum temperature reported during the month was 49 degrees at Mount Mary University in Milwaukee on the 31st, while the coolest daily minimum was 29 degrees below at the cooperative observing site in Baldwin on the 11th.

Precipitation

Precipitation was near to below normal across much of the state. Departures ranged from around one inch below normal in the south to within an inch of normal elsewhere. Milwaukee received 0.69 inches during the month (1.07 inches below normal); Madison received 0.98 inches (0.25 below normal); Green Bay received 1.33 inches (0.20 above normal); La Crosse received 0.87 inches (0.25 above normal); Rhinelander received 0.76 inches (0.35 below normal); Wausau received 0.84 inches (0.18 below normal), and Eau Claire received 0.42 inches (0.47 below normal). No daily precipitation records were set at any of these locations during the month of January.

The greatest 24 hour precipitation total occurred on the 25th at Pattison State Park, where the cooperative observer reported 1.01 inches. The second greatest 24 hour total during the month was reported by the cooperative observer in Merrill with 0.80 inches on the 26th.

The greatest monthly precipitation total for January was reported by the cooperative observer in Hurley with 3.27 inches. The cooperative observer in Merrill reported 2.04 inches, which was the second greatest reported total for the month.

Snowfall was well below normal statewide. Departures ranged from 2 to 3 inches below normal in the northwest to 5 to 9 inches below normal elsewhere. Milwaukee received 4.9 inches during the month (9.8 inches below normal); Madison received 6.9 inches (6.0 below normal); Green Bay received 7.7 inches (5.3 below normal); La Crosse received 4.1 inches (6.6 below normal); Rhinelander received 7.7 inches (30 year average not available for comparison); Wausau received 5.8 inches (7.7 below normal), and Eau Claire received 5.2 inches (8.2 below normal).

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The greatest 24 hour snowfall total occurred on the 29th near Superior, where the CoCoRaHS observer reported 11.4 inches. The second greatest 24 hour total during the month was reported by the cooperative observer in Berlin with 7.5 inches on the 26th.

The greatest monthly snowfall total for January was reported by the cooperative observer in Hurley with 35 inches. The CoCoRaHS observer near Bayfield reported 33.1 inches, which was the second greatest reported total for the month.

Please see the following pages for plots of statewide average temperatures, total precipitation, and departures for each variable.

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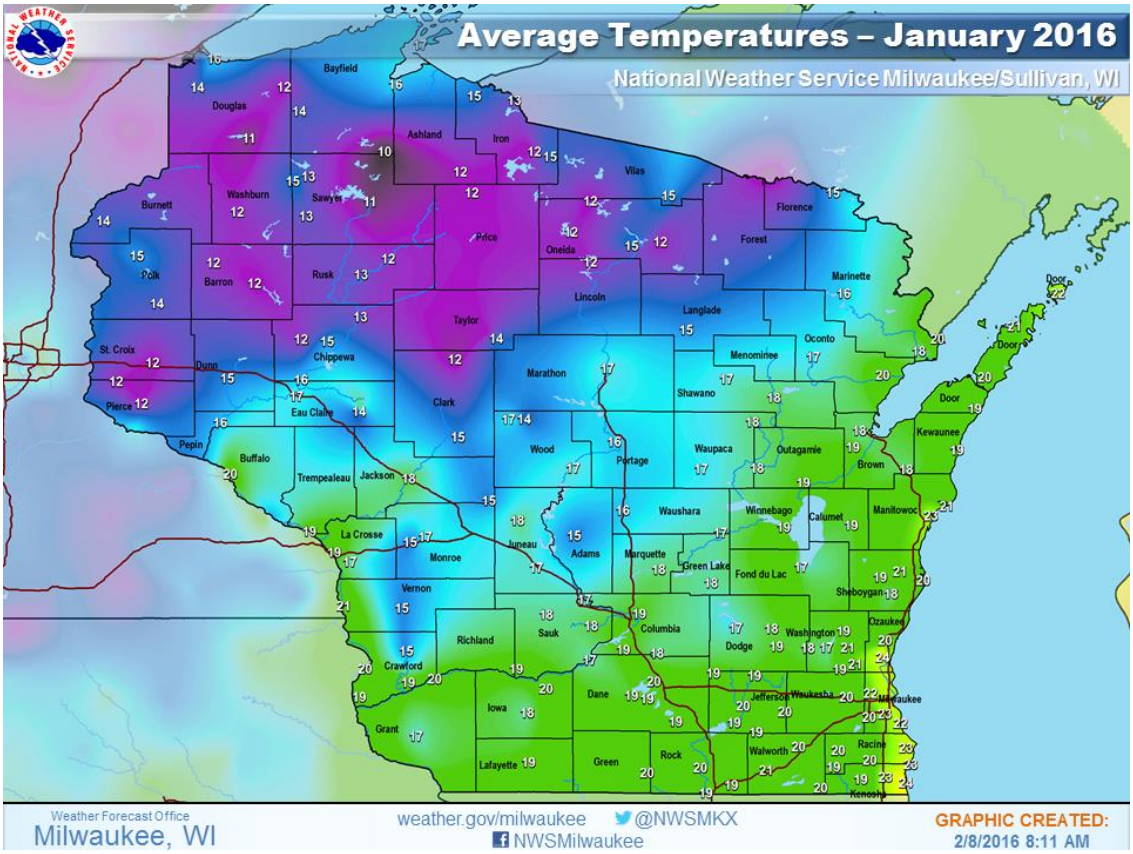

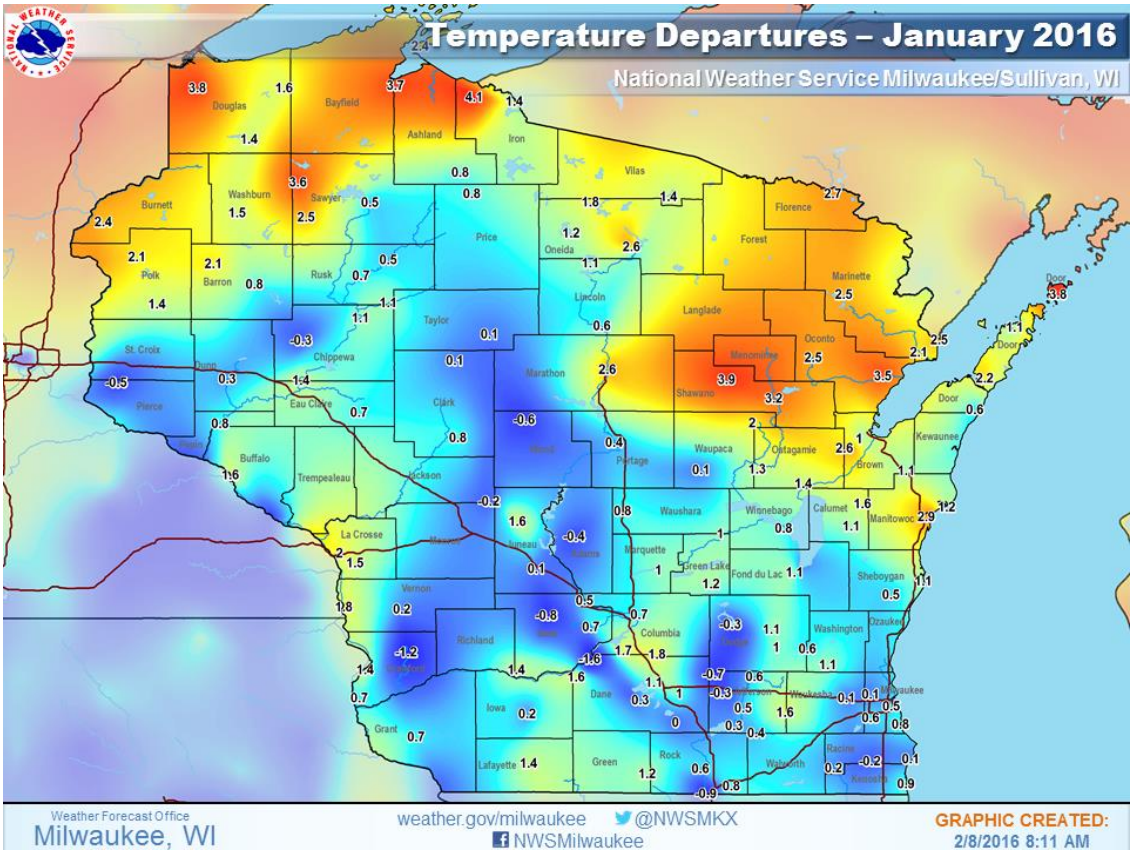

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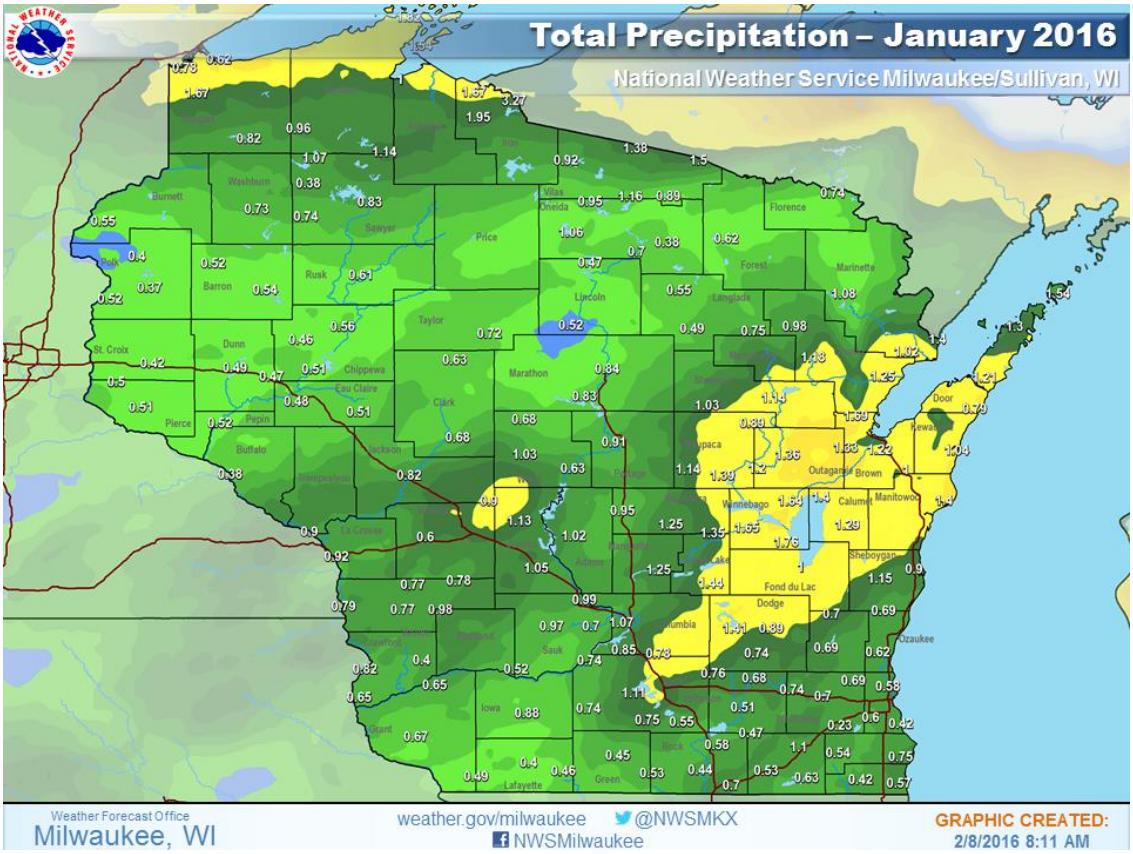

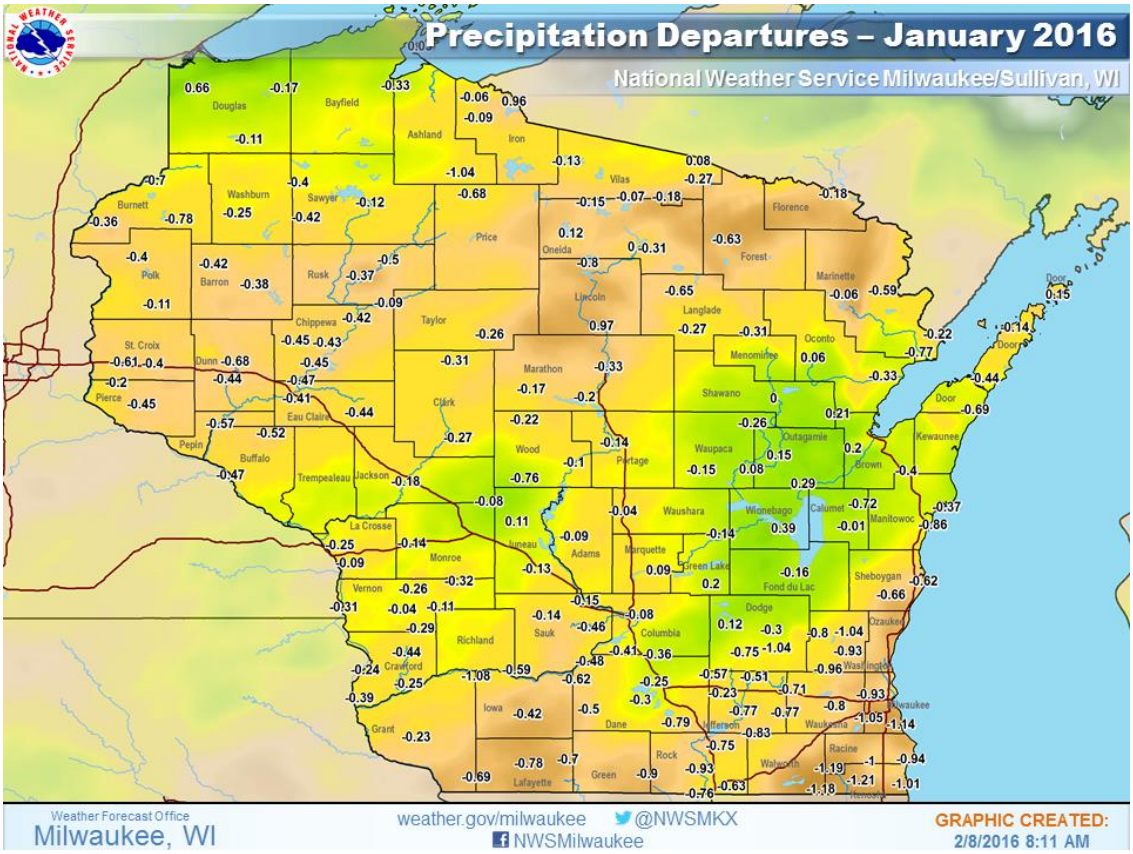

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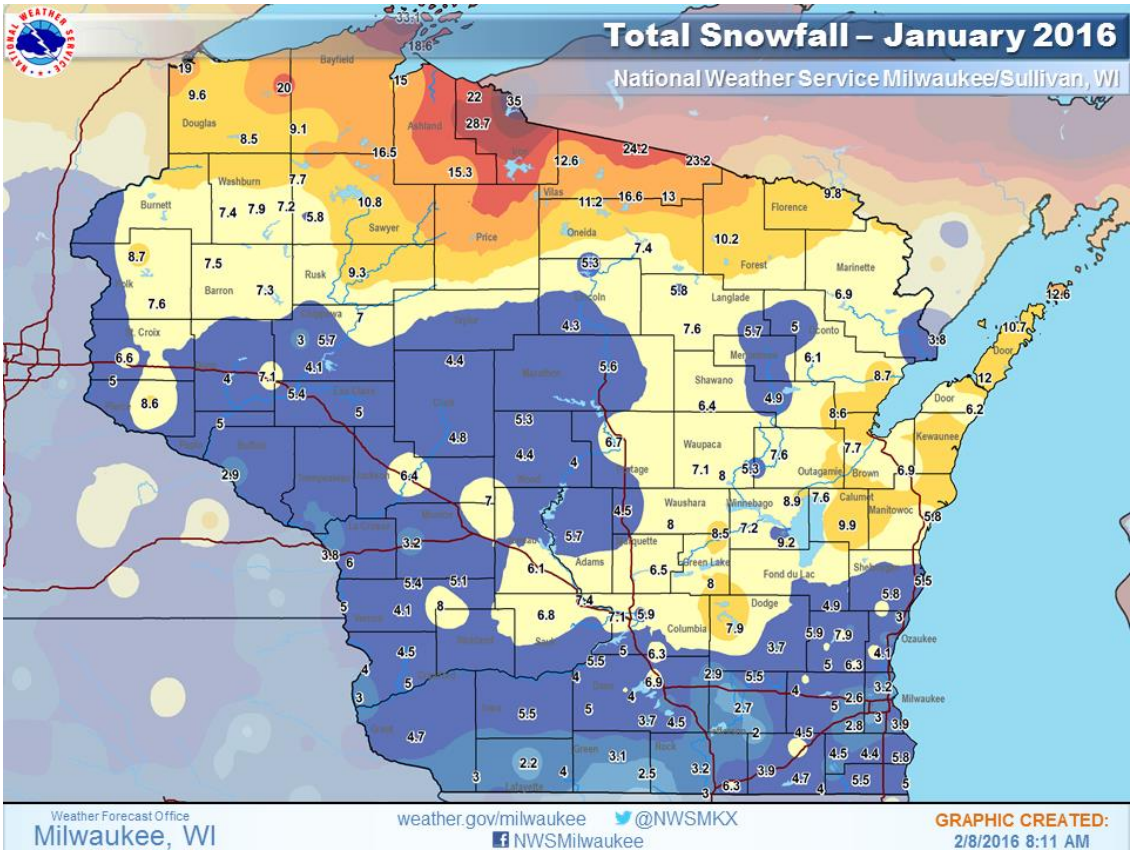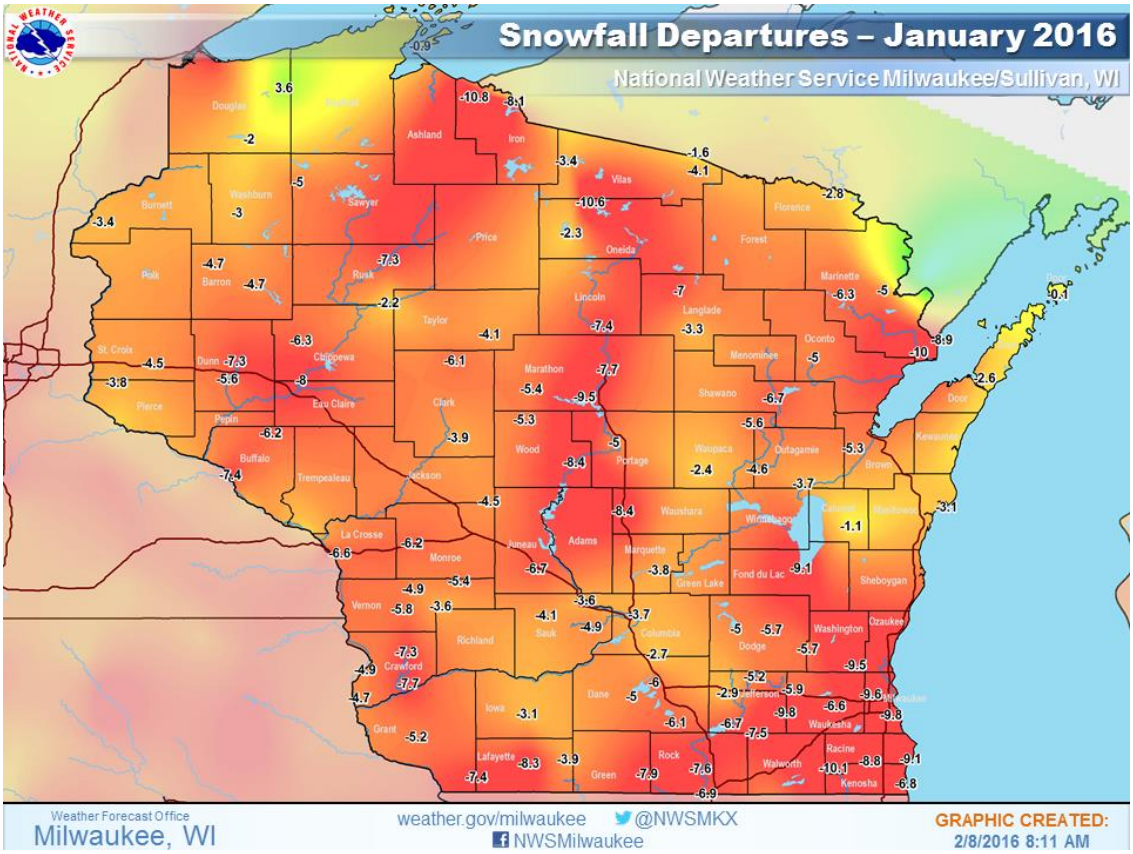
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