



# Des Moines Climate

## 1879-2026: January

Updated 2/2/2026

### Temperature

|                        |     |                  |
|------------------------|-----|------------------|
| Highest Daily Maximum: | 67  | January 8, 2003  |
| Lowest Daily Maximum:  | -14 | January 12, 1912 |
| Highest Daily Minimum: | 50  | January 25, 1944 |
| Lowest Daily Minimum:  | -30 | January 5, 1884  |
| Highest Daily Average: | 56  | January 25, 1944 |
| Lowest Daily Average:  | -21 | January 12, 1912 |

#### Top Ten Warmest

|     |      |      |
|-----|------|------|
| 1.  | 36.3 | 1880 |
| 2.  | 35.6 | 2006 |
| 3.  | 34.2 | 1933 |
| 4.  | 32.4 | 1989 |
| 5.  | 31.7 | 1990 |
| 6.  | 31.0 | 1944 |
|     | 31.0 | 2002 |
| 8.  | 30.8 | 1939 |
| 9.  | 30.7 | 1992 |
| 10. | 30.5 | 2012 |

#### Top Ten Coldest

|     |      |      |
|-----|------|------|
| 1.  | 6.1  | 1912 |
| 2.  | 7.1  | 1888 |
| 3.  | 7.5  | 1979 |
| 4.  | 8.5  | 1963 |
| 5.  | 8.8  | 1883 |
| 6.  | 9.0  | 1940 |
| 7.  | 9.6  | 1982 |
| 8.  | 10.0 | 1977 |
| 9.  | 10.2 | 1893 |
| 10. | 10.7 | 1885 |

Number of Years with Max of 60 degrees or Higher: 19 (13% of the years)

Number of Years with Max of 50 degrees or Higher: 98 (66% of the years)

Number of Years with Max of 40 degrees or Higher: 141 (95% of the years)

All January's have had at least 1 day with a high above freezing. 1940 had the fewest with 1.

|                                                   |     |                    |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Number of Years with Min of 10 degrees or Lower:  | 146 | (99% of the years) |
| Number of Years with Min of 0 degrees or Lower:   | 135 | (91% of the years) |
| Number of Years with Min of -10 degrees or Lower: | 83  | (56% of the years) |
| Number of Years with Min of -20 degrees or Lower: | 25  | (17% of the years) |

## Precipitation

|                         |       |                  |
|-------------------------|-------|------------------|
| Wettest Day:            | 2.13" | January 12, 1960 |
| Highest 3-day total:    | 3.03" | 10 - 12, 1960    |
| Highest 7-day total:    | 4.11" | 11 – 17, 1960    |
| Highest 14 - day total: | 4.31" | 11 - 24, 1960    |

### Top Ten Wettest

|     |      |      |
|-----|------|------|
| 1.  | 4.38 | 1960 |
| 2.  | 3.47 | 1886 |
| 3.  | 3.12 | 1949 |
| 4.  | 2.86 | 1996 |
| 5.  | 2.70 | 1929 |
| 6.  | 2.66 | 1916 |
| 7.  | 2.63 | 1982 |
| 8.  | 2.62 | 1890 |
| 9.  | 2.51 | 1941 |
| 10. | 2.31 | 1946 |

### Top Ten Driest

|    |      |               |
|----|------|---------------|
| 1. | 0.07 | 1954          |
| 2. | 0.08 | 1919          |
| 3. | 0.11 | 1928          |
| 4. | 0.12 | 1986          |
| 5. | 0.18 | 1948          |
| 6. | 0.20 | 1900          |
|    | 0.20 | 1903          |
| 8. | 0.21 | 2025          |
| 9. | 0.23 | 1925 and 1976 |

|                                                                          |    |                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------|
| Number of Years with at least one day where 0.50" of Precipitation fell: | 49 | (33% of the years)  |
| Number of Years with at least one day where 1.00" of Precipitation fell: | 12 | (8% of the years)   |
| Number of Years with at least one day where 2.00" of Precipitation fell: | 1  | (0.7% of the years) |

# Snowfall

Snowiest Day: 19.8" January 1, 1942

Highest 3-day total: 19.8" 1 -3, 1942

Most Snow on Ground: 22" January 1, 1942

## Top Ten Snowiest

1. 37.0" 1886
2. 27.2" 2024
3. 23.4" 1996
4. 21.4" 1929
5. 21.1" 1936
6. 20.3" 2021
7. 19.8" 1942
8. 18.8" 1947
9. 18.7" 2019
- 18.7" 2022

## Top Ten Least Snowiest

1. Trace 1928
2. 0.1" 1989
3. 0.4" 1935
- 0.4" 1954
5. 0.6" 1900
6. 1.2" 1889
- 1.2" 1988
8. 1.3" 1986
- 1.3" 2006
10. 1.4" 1903, 1944, and 2026

## Monthly Normals (1991-2020)

Average Maximum Temperature 30.9

Average Minimum Temperature 13.8

Average Daily Temperature 22.3

Average Precipitation 1.08"

Average Snowfall 9.4"

If you have any questions or comments, please send them to [jim.w.lee@noaa.gov](mailto:jim.w.lee@noaa.gov).

Temperature and precipitation records for Des Moines began in August of 1878. Snowfall records didn't begin until December 1884.