



# Des Moines Climate



## 1878-2019: December

Compiled by: Craig Cogil – Updated 3/24/2020

### Temperature

Highest Daily Maximum:	69	December 4, 2017 and five previous years
Lowest Daily Maximum:	-12	December 24, 1983
Highest Daily Minimum:	54	December 4, 2001
Lowest Daily Minimum:	-22	December 23, 1989
Highest Daily Average:	61	December 8, 1946
Lowest Daily Average:	-15	December 24, 1983

#### Top Ten Warmest

1.	39.5	1889
2.	36.2	2015
3.	35.8	1923
	35.8	1931
5.	35.2	1965
6.	34.9	1881
7.	34.7	2006
8.	34.6	1891
9.	34.3	1918
10.	34.0	1896 & 1913

#### Top Ten Coldest

1.	9.8	1983
2.	11.5	2000
3.	13.4	1985
4.	15.1	1963
5.	16.5	1919
6.	16.7	1917
7.	16.8	1989
8.	16.9	1909
9.	17.7	1924
10.	18.0	1945

Number of Years with Max of 60 degrees or Higher:	43	(30% of the years)
Number of Years with Max of 50 degrees or Higher:	121	(85% of the years)
Number of Years with Max of 40 degrees or Higher:	140	(99% of the years)

All Decembers have had at least 1 day with a high above freezing. 1983 had the fewest with 4.

Number of Years with Min of 10 degrees or Lower:	135	(95% of the years)
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Number of Years with Min of 0 degrees or Lower: 99 (70% of the years)

Number of Years with Min of -10 degrees or Lower: 37 (26% of the years)

## Precipitation

Wettest Day: 1.79" December 13, 2015

Highest 3-day total: 3.78" 12 – 14, 2015

Highest 7-day total: 3.78" 8 – 14, 2015

Highest 14 - day total: 4.81" 11 – 24, 2015

### Top Ten Wettest

1.	5.44	2015
2.	3.72	1931
3.	3.43	1982
4.	3.18	1911
5.	2.90	1941
	2.90	2007
	2.90	2018
8.	2.87	1945
9.	2.83	2009
10.	2.65	1973

### Top Ten Driest

1.	0.01	2002
2.	0.09	1903
3.	0.11	1890
4.	0.12	1976
5.	0.20	1910
	0.20	1979
7.	0.22	1946
8.	0.25	1922
	0.25	1958
10.	0.27	1950

Average Number of Days with at least 0.01" of precipitation: 8

Average Number of Days with at least 0.10" of precipitation: 3

Average Number of Days with at least 0.50" of precipitation: 1

Number of Years with at least one day where 0.50" of Precipitation fell: 65 (46% of the years)

Number of Years with at least one day where 1.00" of Precipitation fell: 15 (11% of the years)

Number of Years with at least one day where 2.00" of Precipitation fell: 0 (0% of the years)

# Snowfall

Snowiest Day: 17.0" December 26, 1888

Highest 3-day total: 17.0" 24 – 26, 1888

Most Snow on Ground: 18" December 23, 1961

## Top Ten Snowiest

1. 30.3" 2000
2. 28.2" 2009
3. 23.9" 1961
4. 22.4" 1904
5. 22.0" 1977
6. 19.6" 1897
- 19.6" 1983
8. 19.0" 1911
9. 17.8" 1925
10. 17.0" 1888

## Top Ten Least Snowiest

1. Trace 2002
2. 0.1" 1889
3. 0.4" 1979
4. 0.5" 1975
5. 0.6" 1906
- 0.6" 1912
7. 0.8" 1933
8. 0.9" 1896
9. 1.0" 5 different years most recently 2001

# Monthly Normals

Average Maximum Temperature 34.0

Average Minimum Temperature 18.0

Average Daily Temperature 26.0

Average Precipitation 1.42"

Average Snowfall 9.0"

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

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