

Central Indiana

January 2015

Climate Summary

53rd Coldest on Record at Indianapolis

Tied for 53rd Driest on Record at Indianapolis

Tied for the 42nd Least Snowiest on Record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

Generally mild conditions started off January, but the colder air that would prevail for most of the month moved in at the end of the first week.

Most of the period of January 5th through the 15th saw well below normal temperatures across central Indiana. The coldest air of the month was seen during that period, with average temperatures around 25 degrees below normal around the 7th. Low temperatures across the area were below zero a few days, with high temperatures in the teens and 20s common.

The pattern flipped and above normal average temperatures ruled the period from the 16th to the 25th across most of the area. Highs even reached the 50s on a couple of days in some areas. However, cold returned for most of the last week of the month.

The warmest day of the month across much of central Indiana was on the 3rd, when Indianapolis topped out at 52 degrees. Some locations saw their warmest temperature around the 20th when readings also reached the 50s. The coldest day of the month at Indianapolis was on the 8th, when temperatures fell to -7 degrees.

Site	January 2015 Avg Temp	January 2015 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
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Indianapolis	25.3	-2.8	52 on 3	-7 on 8
Lafayette	23.0	-3.5	46 on 17	-10 on 8
Muncie	24.4	-2.1	54 on 3	-8 on 8
Terre Haute	27.5	-0.7	50 on 20 and 19	-4 on 8
Bloomington	28.2	-1.2	58 on 3	-4 on 8
Shelbyville	28.2	-0.5	54 on 3	-4 on 8
Indy – Eagle Crk.	25.9	-2.2	52 on 17	-7 on 8

At Indianapolis, there were 16 days with below normal average temperatures, 13 days with below normal average temperatures, and 2 days with normal average temperatures.

January 2015 was the 53rd coldest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Precipitation

January liquid precipitation ranged from below normal in extreme south central Indiana to above normal in portions of east central and southern Indiana. Monthly totals measured from 1 inch in south central and northern Indiana to slightly over 4 inches in southern and east central Indiana. Almost all of the state received between 1 and 4 inches of liquid precipitation.

Precipitation was not evenly distributed in January. Central and southern Indiana received normal to above normal liquid precipitation from a combination of rain, snow, sleet and freezing rain in the first half of the month. Liquid totals ranged from 0.50 inches to 3.5 inches. Precipitation during the second half of was below normal across the entire state. Liquid amounts ranged from only a tenth to possibly an inch.

Rainfall of 1 to 2.5 inches on the 3rd in southern Indiana caused lowland flooding along portions of the East Fork White, White and Muscatatuck Rivers. A prolonged cold spell from the 5th through the 15th allowed rivers to return to normal and river ice to form.

As temperatures moderated after the 15th, the accumulated snow and ice in central and northern Indiana melted. This produced ice jam flooding along portions of the Wabash River in western Indiana during the week of 18th. Ice jam flooding ended by the 25th.

Site	January 2015 Precipitation	January 2015 Difference from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis	1.81	-0.85	0.79 on 3	2 days 1-2, 15-16, and 23-24

Lafayette	1.30*	-0.56	0.90 on 3	3 days 22-24 and 27-29
Muncie	1.93	-0.30	0.79 on 3	3 days 15-17 and 22-24
Terre Haute	1.73**	-0.63	0.73 on 3	7 days 18-24
Bloomington	2.21	-1.10	1.60 on 3	6 days 19-24
Shelbyville	1.92	-0.47	1.02 on 3	3 days 15-17 and 19-21
Indy – Eagle Crk.	1.75	-0.46	0.81 on 3	2 days 1-2, 15-16, 19-20, and 23-24

*precipitation data missing for Lafayette on January 5-7

**precipitation data missing for Terre Haute on January 5

January 2015 was tied for the 53rd driest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Snowfall

Monthly snowfall during January was below normal for central and southern portions of the state and normal to above normal for northern areas. Snowfall totals ranged from less than an inch in southern Indiana to more than 20 inches in the South Bend area of northern Indiana.

At Indianapolis, the snowiest day was January 6th when 1.4 inches of snow fell. For the winter season so far (December 1- January 31), the total of 3.2 inches is the lowest since 1983.

Severe Weather

No severe weather occurred across central Indiana during the month of January.

For information on severe weather in other areas during January, visit the Storm Prediction Center “Severe Weather Event Summaries” website at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/online/>.

Miscellaneous

The maximum wind gust at Indianapolis International Airport was 40 mph out of the southwest on the 17th. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 25 days during the month. Freezing rain or drizzle occurred on three days during the month, with no thunder reported. Ice pellets were reported on three days during the month.

February 2015 Outlook

The official outlook for February 2015 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates an equal chance of near, above, or below normal temperatures across central Indiana. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is 32.1 degrees. There is also an equal chance of near, above, or below normal precipitation for central Indiana. The average precipitation for February at Indianapolis is 2.32 inches, with 6.5 inches of snowfall.

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.