

# Central Indiana

## January 2019

### Climate Summary

*Tied for 65<sup>th</sup> Coolest on Record at Indianapolis*

*57<sup>th</sup> Wettest on Record at Indianapolis*

*23<sup>rd</sup> Snowiest on Record at Indianapolis*

## Temperatures

The warm weather enjoyed throughout December continued into the first week of January as daytime temperatures routinely rose into the 50s from the 4<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>. The passage of a cold front on the 8<sup>th</sup> brought a shift back to a colder and more unsettled weather pattern that would remain across central Indiana and the Ohio Valley for the rest of the month. High temperatures in many locations would not make it to 50° again in January after the 8<sup>th</sup>.

The next ten days or so would see largely typical mid-January temperatures with highs in the 30s and lows in the teens and 20s. A progressively colder airmass would build into the region in spurts beginning in the wake of the large winter storm that impacted the region with snow and freezing rain on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The first of these blasts of cold arctic air would arrive for the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> with highs only in the teens across much of central Indiana. A rapid recovery in warmth on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> as a storm system passed through the region was followed by a second blast of colder air in the days to follow with highs in the 20s and 30s.

The last few days of the month brought the coldest temperatures much of central Indiana had seen since January 2014 as bitterly cold polar air overspread the region beginning on the 29<sup>th</sup> and lasting through the end of the month. Highs on the 30<sup>th</sup> remained below zero across much of the northern half of central Indiana with single

digits further south. Lows on both the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> were below zero and across parts of the area, as low as -10° to -20°. Wind chill values were even lower through this period, bottoming out from -30° to -50° across central Indiana.

The surge of bitterly cold air late month enabled much of the region to finish January up to a degree below normal on temperatures. Indianapolis tied the record low for the 30<sup>th</sup> at -11°, set in 1966. In addition, the capital city missed experiencing by just a few degrees the first full day with subzero temperatures to occur in 25 years, on January 18, 1994 when the high was only -4°.

Site	January 2019 Avg Temp	January 2019 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
Indianapolis	27.4	-0.7	56 on 8	-11 on 30
Lafayette	23.7	-2.8	56 on 7	-17 on 30
Muncie (*)	27.0	+0.5	59 on 8	-11 on 30
Terre Haute	28.2	0.0	57 on 7 and 8	-10 on 30
Bloomington (**)	29.2	-0.2	58 on 7 and 8	-9 on 30 and 31
Shelbyville	28.3	-0.4	59 on 8	-9 on 30
Indy – Eagle Crk. (***)	27.3	-0.8	56 on 8	-11 on 30

(\*) – Temperature data missing at Muncie on 1/28.

(\*\*) – Temperature data missing on 1/20, 1/27 and 1/28.

(\*\*\*) – Temperature data missing at Eagle Creek Airpark on 1/28.

At Indianapolis, there were 16 days with above normal average temperatures, 14 days with below normal average temperatures and 1 day with normal average temperatures.

***January 2019 was tied for the 65<sup>th</sup> coolest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.***

## Precipitation and Snowfall

Overall most of the state received between 110 and 150 percent of normal precipitation for the month, with a couple swaths of 150 to 200 percent in the middle of the state. Northern parts of the state received 2 to 4 inches of total precipitation, while central and southern parts of the state received 3 to 5 inches.

January 2019 saw several minor to moderate precipitation events. On January 12<sup>th</sup> the first big snowstorm of the season came to central Indiana, bringing a swath of 7 to 9 inches of snow along a path from northwest Indiana through southeast Indiana, with

amounts of 4 to 6 inches north and south of the swath. Further south toward the Ohio River received around 1 to 3 inches of snow with this system.

Another large mixed precipitation event occurred on January 19. Snow amounts of 3 to 6 inches were common across most of Indiana, with lower amounts of 1 to 2 inches just along the I-70 corridor, and swaths of 6 to over 8 inches across parts of northeast as well as south central Indiana. Ice amounts of around a quarter inch were seen north and northeast of Indianapolis. Much of the area saw rain starting Friday night and continuing through much of the day on Saturday, with total precipitation amounts from this system of 1.5-2 inches across southeast Indiana to a quarter inch in northwest Indiana. More rain January 22nd and 23rd brought around an inch to 1.5 inches to central and northwest Indiana, with around a quarter inch to the northeast and around 0.75 inches along the Ohio River.

A record cold outbreak arrived the last week of January produced ideal conditions for ice jams to begin in early February.

Site	January 2019 Precipitation	January 2019 Difference from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis	2.82	<b>+0.16</b>	1.15 on 23	4 days 3-6
Lafayette	2.46	<b>+0.60</b>	1.18 on 23	3 days 3-5
Muncie	1.69	<b>-0.54</b>	0.81 on 23	4 days 3-6
Terre Haute	2.88	<b>+0.52</b>	1.14 on 23	3 days 1-3
Bloomington (*)	3.08	<b>-0.23</b>	0.95 on 23	3 days 1-3 and 8-10
Shelbyville	2.97	<b>+0.58</b>	0.90 on 4	2 days 5-6 and 14-15
Indy – Eagle Crk.	2.62	<b>+0.41</b>	1.23 on 23	4 days 3-6

(\*) – Precipitation data missing at Bloomington on 1/27 and 1/28.

***January 2019 was the 57<sup>th</sup> wettest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.***

## Severe Weather

No severe weather occurred across central Indiana throughout 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 46 mph out of the west during the afternoon and evening of the 8<sup>th</sup>. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 19 days during the month, with dense fog occurring on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Freezing rain or drizzle was recorded on 6 days, ice pellets on 2 days and blowing snow on the 19<sup>th</sup>. No thunder occurred in Indianapolis during the month.

## February 2019 Outlook

The official outlook for February 2019 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates an equal chance of near, above or below normal temperatures across much of central Indiana. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is 32.1 degrees. There is a much greater chance for above normal precipitation for central Indiana as well. The average precipitation for February at Indianapolis is 2.32 inches, with 6.5 inches of snowfall.

***Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.***