

## IOWA MONTHLY WEATHER SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 2023

General Summary: Temperatures averaged 26.3 degrees or 2.2 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 2.04 inches, 0.87 inch above normal. February 2023 ranks as the 46<sup>th</sup> warmest and 7<sup>th</sup> wettest in 151 years of statewide observational records. A warmer February last occurred in 2017 while a wetter one occurred in 2019.

Temperatures: Warmer-than-average temperatures blanketed most of Iowa in February with the warmest conditions found across eastern Iowa; average temperature departures were up to five degrees above normal. Near-average to slightly cooler conditions were observed in northwestern Iowa, where existing snowpack through the month held temperatures down; snowpack reflects a certain percentage of incoming sunlight, depending on various factors such as age and optical characteristics.

February's statewide average maximum temperature was 36.9 degrees, 3.8 degrees above normal while the average minimum temperature was 15.7 degrees, 0.6 degree above normal. Lamoni Municipal Airport (Decatur County) reported the month's high temperature of 65 degrees on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 30 degrees above average. Elkader (Clayton County) reported the month's low temperature of -25 degrees on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 31 degrees below normal.

Heating Degree Day Totals: Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, were 13% less than last February and 7% less than normal. Thus far this heating season, heating degree day totals are running 1% more than last year at this time and 3% less than normal.

Precipitation: National Weather Service co-op stations across the state reported above-average precipitation in February, which is climatologically the third driest month for Iowa. Positive precipitation departures were generally in the 0.50 - 1.00 inch range. Monthly precipitation (melted snow and sleet plus rain) totals ranged from 1.03 inches in Sioux Center (Sioux County) to 4.53 inches in Iowa City (Johnson County). Statewide snowfall averaged of 4.3 inches, 2.5 inches below normal.

Winter Summary: Temperatures for the three winter months of December, January and February (DJF) averaged 23.9 degrees or 1.1 degrees above normal while precipitation totaled 5.63 inches, 2.12 inches above normal. Winter 2022-2023 ties 1927 and 1957 as the 52<sup>nd</sup> warmest with a warmer one occurring in 2019. In terms of precipitation, DJF ranks as the 4<sup>th</sup> wettest; 2018 was wetter and the 3<sup>rd</sup> wettest. The statewide average snowfall was 21.6 inches, 0.5 inch below normal, making it the 57<sup>th</sup> snowiest winter in 136 years of records with 2020-2021 experiencing more snow.

US Drought Monitor: The US Drought Monitor continued to show improvement across much of the state through February. While the area designated with Exceptional Drought (D4) remained unchanged at just under 1%, the remaining drought categories showed improvement. Moderate Drought (D1) conditions decreased from 25% to 17%, while Severe Drought (D2) conditions decreased from 20% to 14%. The area of Extreme Drought (D3) in northwestern Iowa experienced good improvement with the aerial coverage decreasing from 8% to 1%.

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# February 2023

## WEATHER BY DISTRICTS

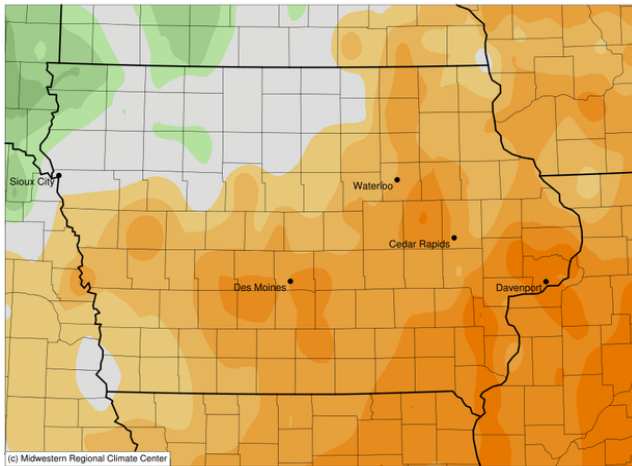
DISTRICT	TEMPERATURE (F)		HEATING DEGREE DAYS				PRECIPITATION (inches)				SNOWFALL
	February 2023		February 2023		Since Jul. 1, 2022		February 2023		Since Jan. 1, 2023		Feb 2023
	Average	Departure	Average	Departure	Average	Departure	Average	Departure	Average	Departure	
Northwest	20.4	-1.0	1249	+29	5710	+62	1.62	+0.77	3.74	+2.18	3.9
North Central	21.5	0.7	1218	-21	5623	-59	1.80	+0.76	3.87	+1.94	3.7
Northeast	24.3	2.8	1140	-77	5357	-213	2.16	+0.93	4.01	+1.65	3.3
West Central	26.0	1.7	1092	-46	5178	-63	1.63	+0.66	3.60	+1.86	2.5
Central	26.6	2.5	1075	-71	5092	-130	1.97	+0.85	4.05	+2.01	3.8
East Central	28.8	4.0	1014	-111	4801	-285	2.74	+1.29	4.62	+1.95	7.1
Southwest	29.2	1.9	1002	-55	4753	-92	2.18	+1.07	3.86	+1.92	5.9
South Central	30.5	3.2	966	-90	4645	-168	1.95	+0.61	3.52	+1.20	6.7
Southeast	31.8	4.3	930	-121	4509	-228	2.51	+0.89	4.35	+1.41	2.4
STATE	26.3	2.2	1068	-74	5043	-163	2.04	+0.87	3.95	+1.81	4.3

\* Departures are computed from 1991-2020 normals.

The weather data in this report are based upon information collected by the U. S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA National Weather Service.

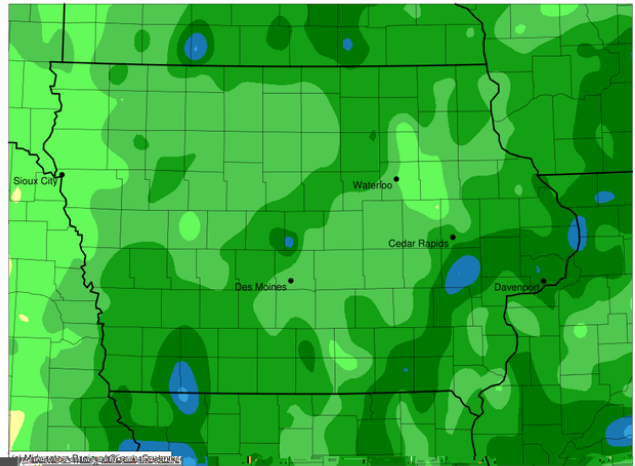
### Average Temperature (°F): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals

February 01, 2023 to February 28, 2023



Stations from the following networks used: WBAN, COOP, FAA, GHCN, ThreadEx, CoCoRaHS, WMO, ICAO, NWSLI, Midwestern Regional Climate Center, cli-MATE, MRCO Application Tools Environment  
 Date: 3/9/2023 11:57 AM CST

February 01, 2023 to February 28, 2023



### Accumulated Snowfall (in)

February 01, 2023 to February 28, 2023

