



North Dakota

Monthly Climate Summary

January 2010

Precipitation:

January monthly precipitation ranged from 0.01 inches to 1.5 inches. Monthly precipitation totals of 0.1 and less were in the southwest. The northwest and eastern regions had monthly totals of between 0.3 and 0.7 inches. The greater monthly totals were along the central regions and south eastern edge. The percent of normal precipitation ranged from 5% to 300%. The areas with greater than 100% of normal precipitation were the central, southeast, northeast, and a small portion of the northwest. The remaining areas in the eastern, northwest, and southwest regions had less than 100% of normal precipitation (Figure 1. High Plains Regional Climate Center)

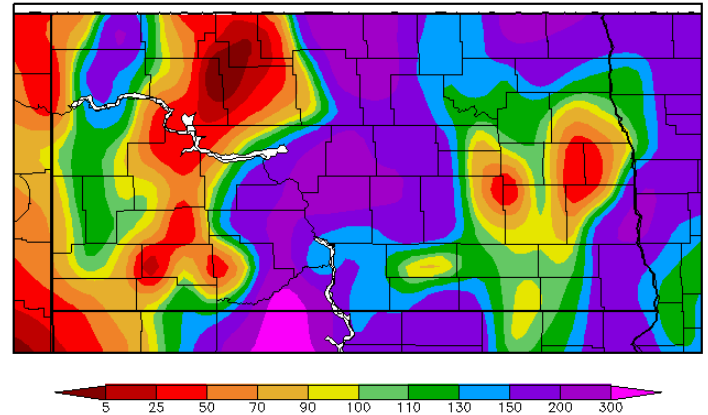


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in January 2010 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)

A major storm system of rain, freezing rain, and snow traveled across North Dakota from the 22nd through the 25th. The freezing rain caused power outages for thousands in the southern parts of the state. The high winds and snow on the 25th causes white out conditions in the eastern part of the state. This in turn prompted the closing of a number of roads, schools and businesses. Bismarck had record precipitation on the 22nd of 0.25 inches. Fargo and Grand Forks airport had record precipitation on the 23rd of 0.9 inches and 0.25 inches, respectively.

Temperature:

January average monthly temperatures ranged from 6°F to 16°F. The monthly temperatures were coolest in the northeast and gradually progressed to the warmer temperatures in the southwest. The January monthly departure from normal temperatures ranged from -2°F to 6°F (Figure 2. North Dakota State Climate Office). Daily minimum air temperatures frequently dipped to -20°F and even -35°F across North Dakota during the first 10 days of January. Jamestown and Grand Forks airport had record low temperatures on the 1st of -28°F and -33°F, respectively and record low temperatures on the 2nd of -30°F and -35°F, respectively. Fargo had a record low on the 2nd of -33°F. Grand Forks airport also had a record low maximum temperature of -17°F on the 2nd. Following the cold spell, an unseasonably warm stretch occurred from the 11th through the 24th in which average air temperatures were around 10 to 20 degrees above normal. From the 25th through the end of the month, daily average air temperatures were much colder at around 10 degrees below normal.

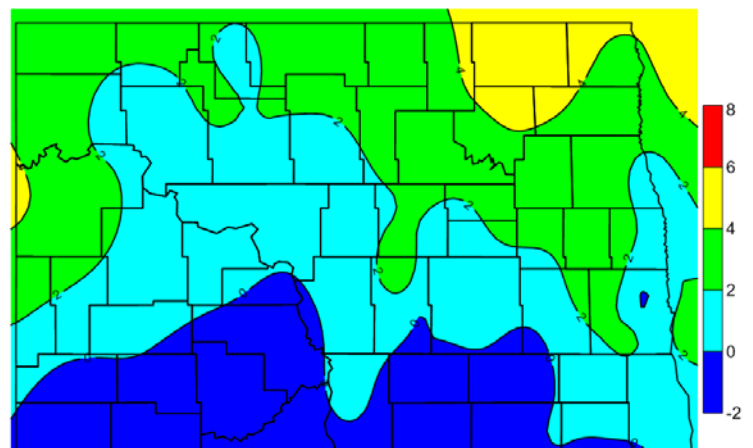


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in January 2010 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)