



# North Dakota

## Monthly Climate Summary

December 2008

### Precipitation:

The total liquid equivalent precipitation for December ranged from approximately 0.1 to 2.1 inches. The precipitation percent of normal ranged from about 50% to over 300% (Figure 1, High Plains Regional Climate Center). Fargo, Grand Forks, and Bismarck received record December snowfall. Grand Forks had a record December snowfall of 30.1 inches which broke the previous record of 27.6 inches set in 1918. Grand Forks December snowfall is the second highest monthly total with the highest monthly total being 31.5 inches in January 1989. Fargo recorded 33.5 inches of snow in December which broke the previous record of 29.2 inches set in 1927. Fargo December snowfall was also a record snowfall for any month by beating the previous 31.5 inches set in January 1989. Bismarck recorded 33.3 inches of snow in December breaking the previous record of 21.7 inches set in 1916. Bismarck December snowfall was also a record for any month by beating the previous record of 31.1 inches set in March 1975. In addition, Bismarck total seasonal snowfall through December 2008 is 45.7 inches breaking the previous record of 44.4 inches of measured seasonal snow through December 1993.

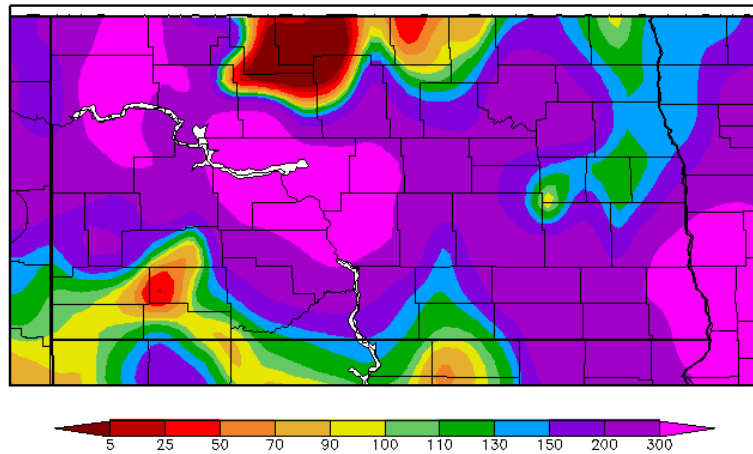


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in December 2008 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)

### Temperature:

December was a cold month with average air temperatures ranging from  $-1^{\circ}\text{F}$  in the northeast to  $11^{\circ}\text{F}$  in the southwest corner of the state. The average monthly temperatures were below normal across the State. The departure from normal temperature ranged from  $-10$  in the north central to  $-6$  in the south central part of the State. (Figure 2, North Dakota State Climate Office) The National Weather Service recorded record low maximum air temperatures on the 15<sup>th</sup> at Minot with  $-15^{\circ}\text{F}$ , Dickinson with  $-13^{\circ}\text{F}$ , and Bismarck with  $-10^{\circ}\text{F}$ . Jamestown had a record low temperature of  $-22^{\circ}\text{F}$  on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December. The

coldest daily minimum air temperatures from the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) were Mohall on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with -33.8°F, Bottineau on the 24<sup>th</sup> with -33.3°F and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with -32.9°F, Hofflund on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with -32.7°F and on the 21<sup>st</sup> with -32.1°F, Harvey on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with -31.1°F, Crosby on the 15<sup>th</sup> with -30.9°F, and Karlsruhe on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with -30.7°F.

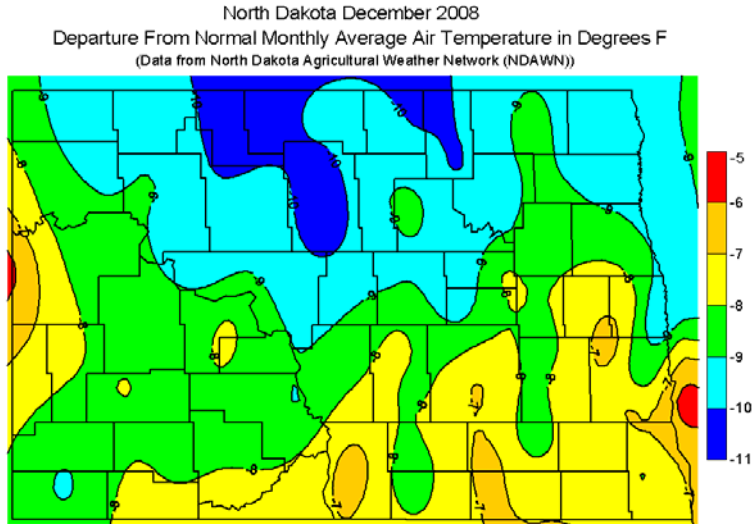


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in December 2008 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)