



North Dakota

Monthly Climate Summary

January 2009

Precipitation:

Heavy snow fell across the State during the first half of January setting National Weather Service (NWS) daily precipitation records at Williston, Bismarck, Fargo, and Grand Forks. The second half of January was dryer with a few light snow showers. The monthly total percent of normal precipitation was 150% to 300% of normal in the northwest, central, and parts of the south central regions. (Figure 1, High Plains Regional Climate Center) The southwest corner and the eastern third of the State was 25% to 70% of normal precipitation. The majority of the monthly total precipitation ranged from 0.1 to 1.5 inches with amounts less than 0.25 inches falling in the southwest and the northeast corners of the State. The northwest, central, and southeast parts of the State had precipitation amounts primarily between 1.0 and 1.5 inches.

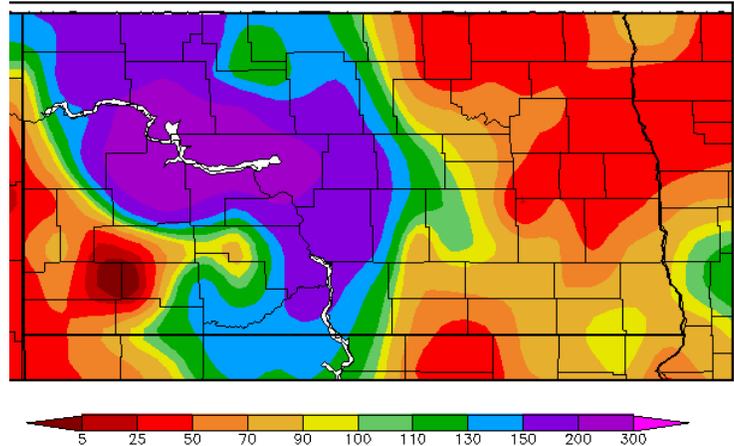


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in January 2009 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)

Temperature:

Average air temperatures for the first half of January were near or below normal. The middle of January saw extreme arctic cold temperatures. The National Weather Service (NWS) recorded a record -44°F on January 15th at Bismarck. The cold temperatures were followed by a brief warm up to above normal temperatures before temperatures fell to below normal again. The last couple of days in January saw well above normal temperatures with NWS setting a record 44°F at both Grand Forks and Fargo on the 31st. The monthly average air temperatures ranged from 16°F in the southwest corner to -3°F in the northeast corner. The departure from normal air temperatures ranged from 3°F along the far west edge of the State to -7°F along the eastern edge of the State (Figure 2, North Dakota State Climate Office). Over three-fourths of the State had below normal air temperatures with departures from normal of -2°F to -5°F .

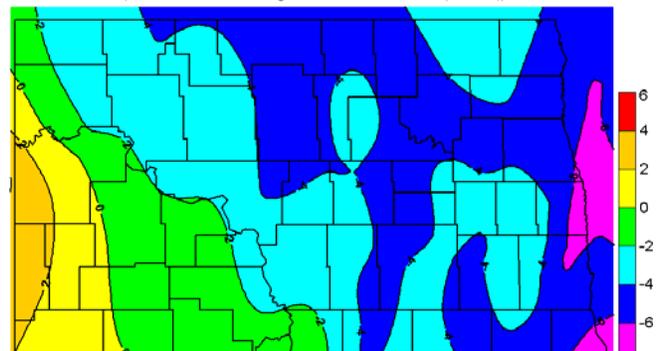


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in January 2009 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)