

Decorah Weather - December 2008 Summary

by Richard Bernatz

Weather data available online at <http://faculty.luther.edu/~bernatzr/DecWx/>

1. DECEMBER 2008 TEMPERATURES

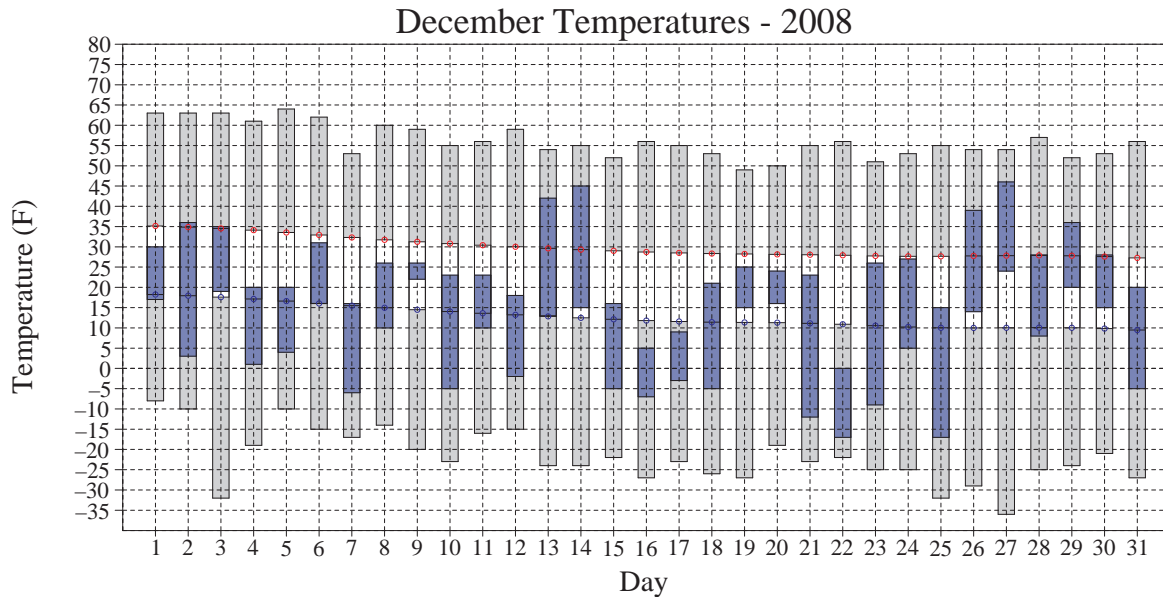


Figure 1: **Blue Bar:** Observed temperature range for 2008, **Grey Bar:** Record temperature range, **White Bar:** Average temperature range, red circle for average high, blue circle for average low.

Temperature (° F)	December 2008	Historical	Deviation
Average High	25.1	29.9	-4.8
Average Low	5.0	12.8	-7.8
Daily Average	15.0	21.4	-6.4

Table 1: December 2008 average temperatures compared to Historical averages.

- DECEMBER 2008
 - Record temperatures: none
 - Average temperature : 15.0° F, 6.4° F cooler than average
 - Twenty-one days with below average high temperature
 - Twenty days with below average low temperature
 - Heating Degree Days : 1548.5, the average for December is 1352.6
 - Warmest temperature : 46° F on the 27th
 - Coldest temperature : -17° F on the 22nd and 25th
- ALL DECEMBERS SINCE 1893 (113 years - data missing for 1899,1921,1923)
 - Compared with December 2008, 94 Decembers were warmer and 18 Decembers were cooler
 - Warmest average : 32.6° F in 1913
 - Coldest average : 8.5° F in 1983 and 1985
 - Warmest temperature : 64° F on the 5th of 2001
 - Coldest temperature : -36° F on the 27th of 1950

2. DECEMBER 2008 PRECIPITATION

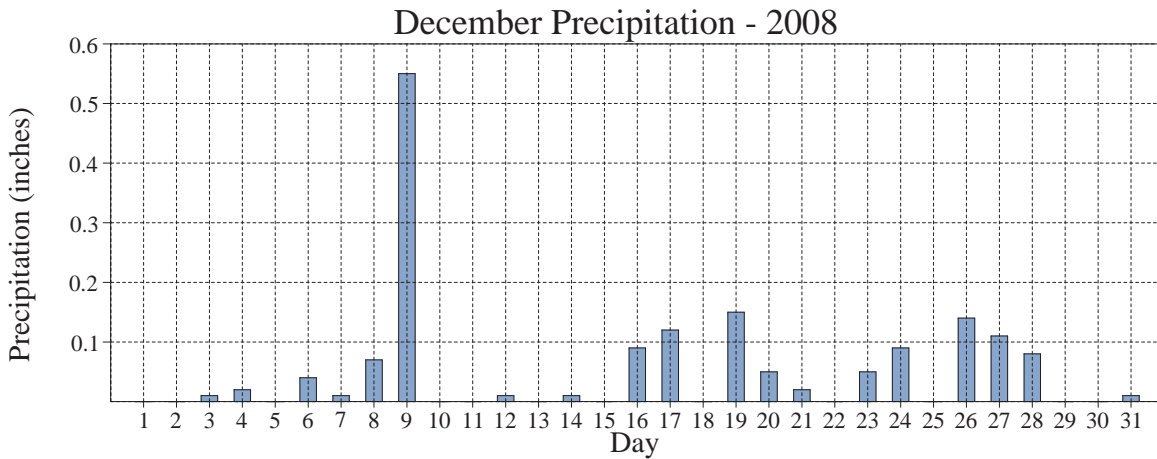


Figure 2: December precipitation for Decorah.

- DECEMBER 2008
 - Total precipitation for December 2008 : 1.63 inches
 - 0.5 inches more than the average of 1.13 inches
 - 19 days with measurable precipitation, 13 more than the average of 6 days
 - Total snowfall for December 2008 : 32.3 inches, 24.4 inches more than average of 7.9 inches
 - 12 days with measurable snowfall, the average is between 3 or 4 days
- ALL DECEMBERS SINCE 1893 (115 years - no missing data)
 - Compared with December 2008, 26 Decembers were wetter, one was the same, and 87 were drier
 - Wettest December : 2.98 inches in 1902
 - Driest December : 0.10 inches in 1998
 - Snowfall (1951-2008) Technically, December 2008 is the snowiest on record, but December 2000 was about as snowy, with 32 inches recorded. It should be noted that December 2000 had slightly more precipitation (1.67 inches) than December 2008 (1.63 inches).
 - The seasonal average snowfall (October-April) is 35.7 inches, the snowiest season is 1970-71 with 65 inches.

3. **2008 SUMMARY**

Month	Year	Ave Temp (°F)	Deviation (°F)	Precip (inches)	Deviation (inches)
January	2008	14.7	-1.4	0.82	-0.22
February	2008	15.3	-4.6	1.05	+0.11
March	2008	30.6	-1.7	1.47	-0.42
April	2008	46.8	-0.4	8.74	+5.71
May	2008	56.2	-2.5	3.20	-0.95
June	2008	67.3	-0.6	14.10	+9.54
July	2008	72.2	-0.3	3.22	-0.85
August	2008	69.1	-1.2	2.37	-1.60
September	2008	63.3	+1.3	1.81	-1.84
October	2008	50.2	-0.1	1.91	-0.32
November	2008	36.7	+1.8	1.98	+0.16
December	2008	15.0	-6.4	1.63	+0.50

Table 2: A summary of the year 2008.

- Eight of 12 months of 2008 were cooler than average.
- Average temperature for 2008 is 44.92° F, which is 1.26° F less than the average of 46.18° F
- Seventy-eight years were warmer than 2008, and 22 years were colder. Data is missing for portions of 17 years.
- Precipitation for 2008 totaled 42.3 inches, 9.64 inches more than average amount of 32.66 inches.
- This year was the 8th wettest on record. The wettest year on record is 1993 with a total of 49.11 inches
- However, seven of the twelve months were drier than average. The precipitation surplus 9.54 inches in June accounts for almost all of the annual surplus.