



North Dakota Monthly Climate Summary

December 2025

Volume 19. No. 12

NORTH DAKOTA STATE CLIMATE OFFICE



December 2025



An early December sunrise in southern North Dakota at the Jud NDAWN station

December is the beginning of climatological winter and it certainly started off cold and for some snowy. The first 10 days of the month were well below average for temperature, but the second half of the month recorded mostly above average temperatures. The month as a whole finish below average for temperatures.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the month was the wind, which in all cases was caused by numerous Alberta Clippers that past through the state bringing gusts to over 60 mph. It also allowed warm air to frequently move into southwestern North Dakota which allowed that part of the state to record a warm December.



Figure 1: An iced covered road after freezing rain fell across much of western North Dakota in mid -December

Precipitation

Rain, freezing rain, and snow all fell in western North Dakota where precipitation for the month was above average. Western North Dakota averages well below one-inch of liquid-equivalency of precipitation in December, so often it doesn't take much to finish well above average in the winter months. Northeastern North Dakota, mainly snow, made for a wet month in that part of the state. Much of the snow melted with the warmer temperatures in the second half of December.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

12-01-2025 - 12-31-2025

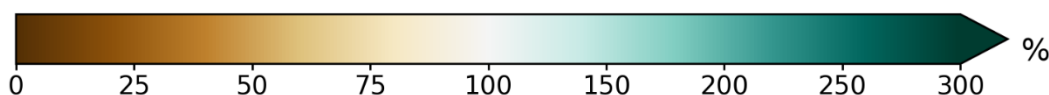
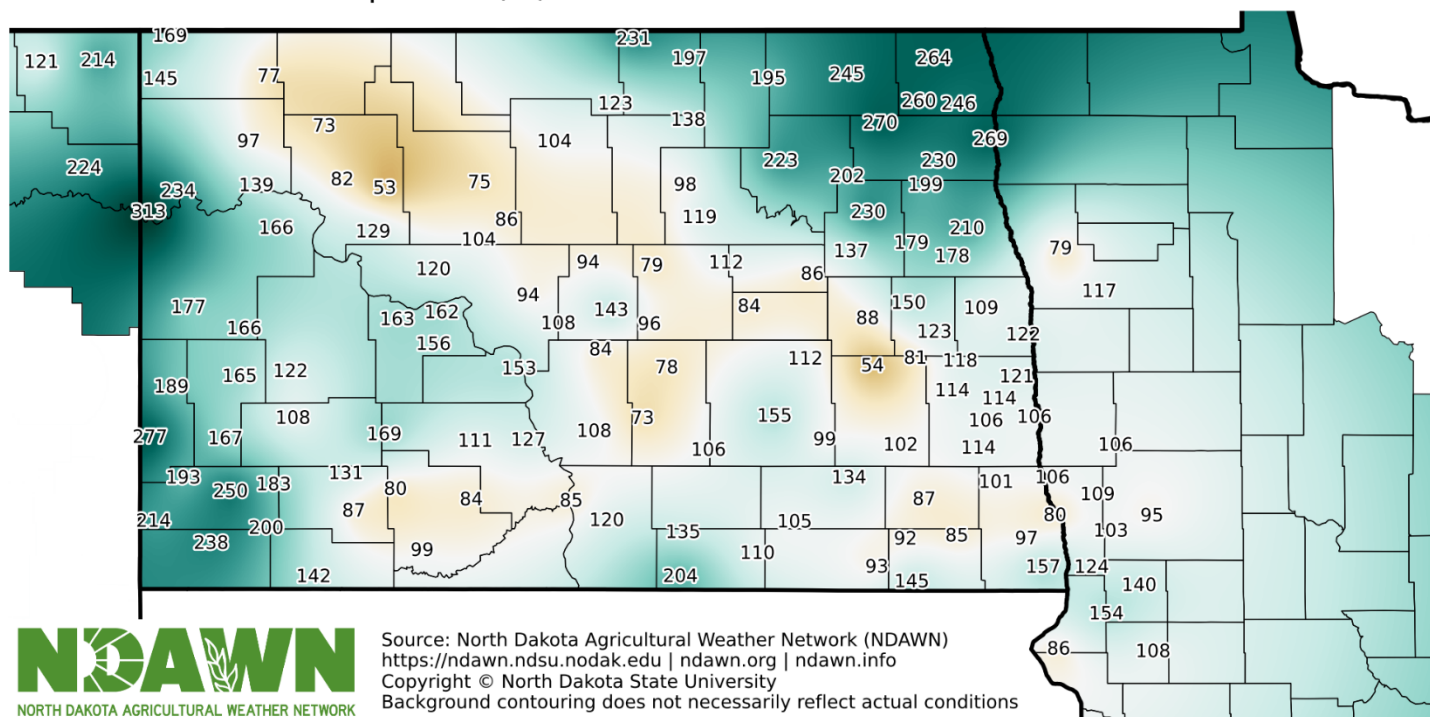
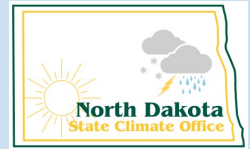


Figure 2: Percent of Average Precipitation measured at NDAWN stations in December 2025

Precipitation



The maximum monthly precipitation recorded by NDAWN in North Dakota during the month of December was 1.78 inches at the Webster station in Ramsey County. That was 223% of average. On the dry side of things, the Shell Lake station recorded only 0.32 inches of precipitation, 53% of normal (Figure 3).

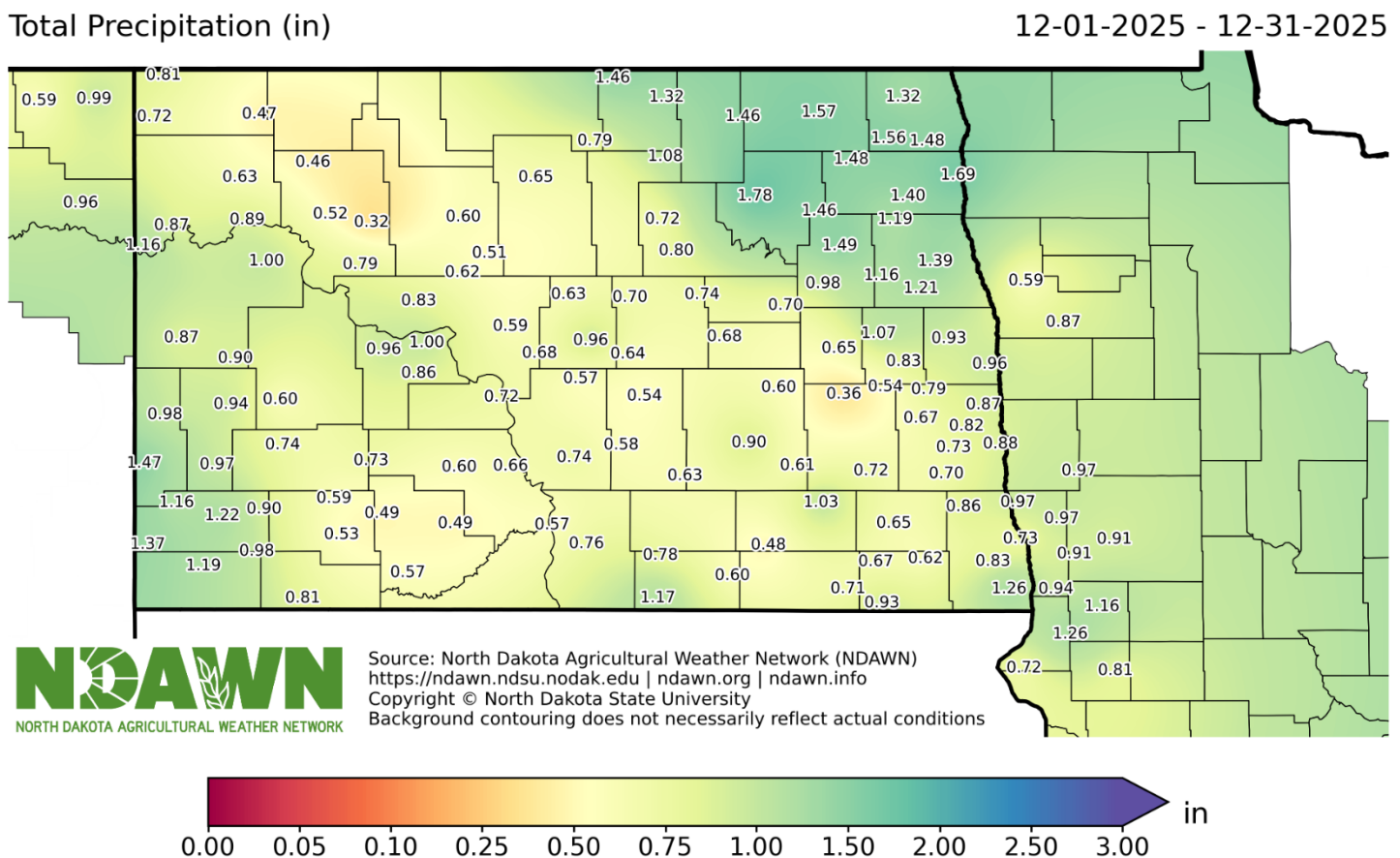
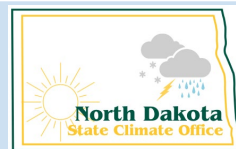


Figure 3: Total Precipitation measured at NDAWN stations in December 2025

Precipitation



For the current water year (October 1 – December 31), southeast North Dakota is overall dry, with most of the rest of the state well above average precipitation (Figure 4).

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

10-01-2025 - 12-31-2025

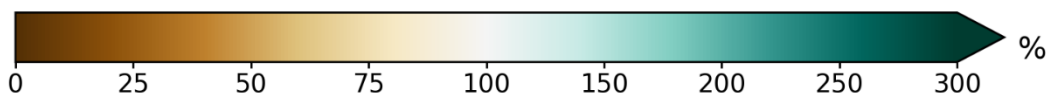
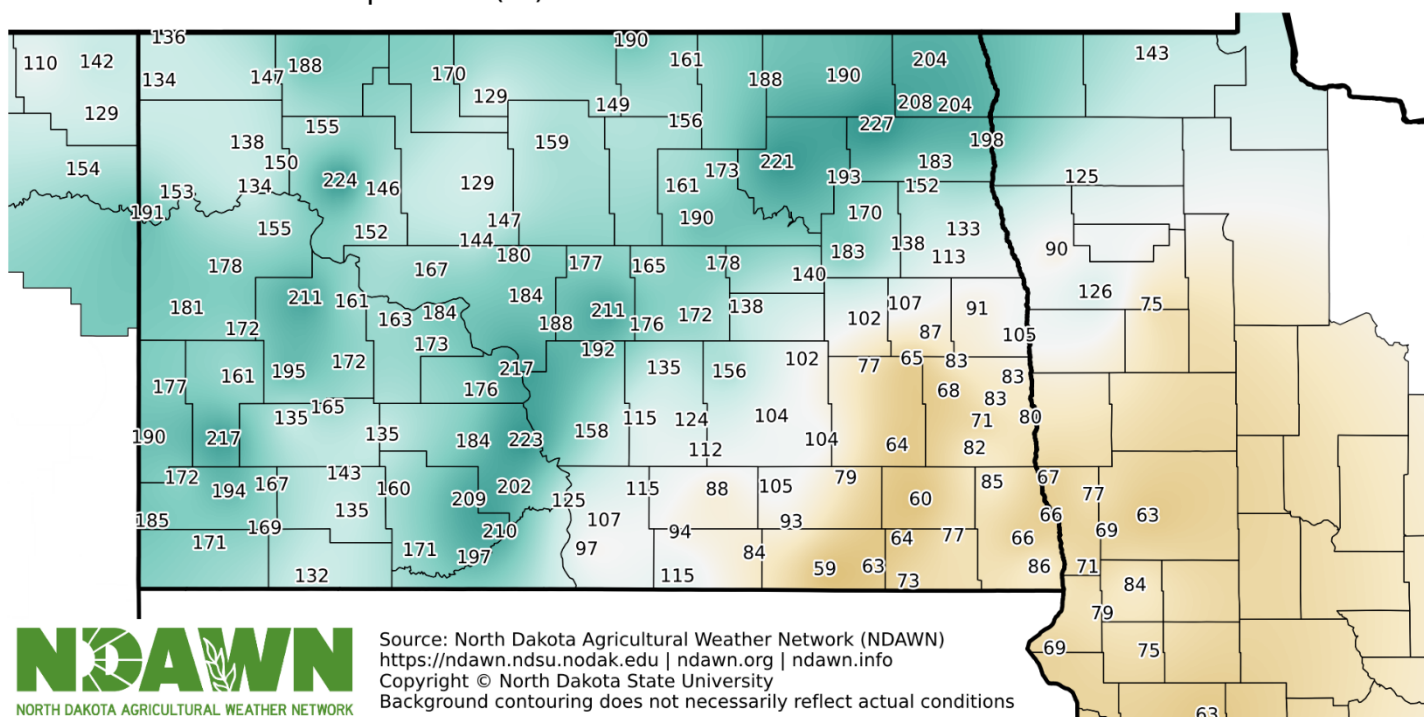


Figure 4: Percent of Average Precipitation measured at NDAWN stations with all-season gauges from October through December

Precipitation

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Frozen soils have kept the drought monitor unchanged throughout December. (Figure 5).

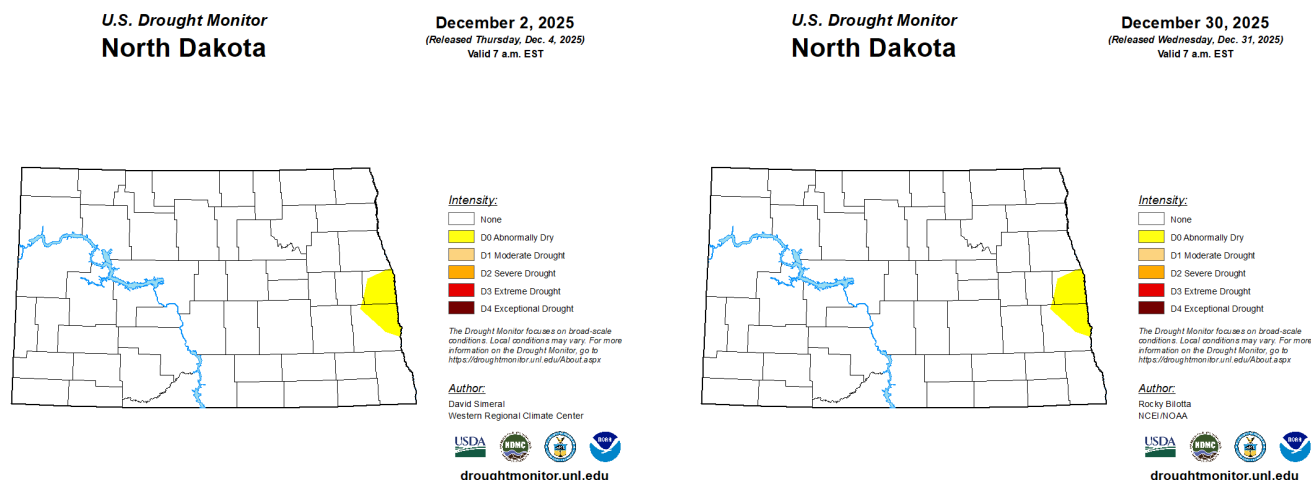


Figure 5: U.S. Drought Monitor conditions change between December 2, 2025 (left) to December 30, 2025 (right)

North Dakota Precipitation December

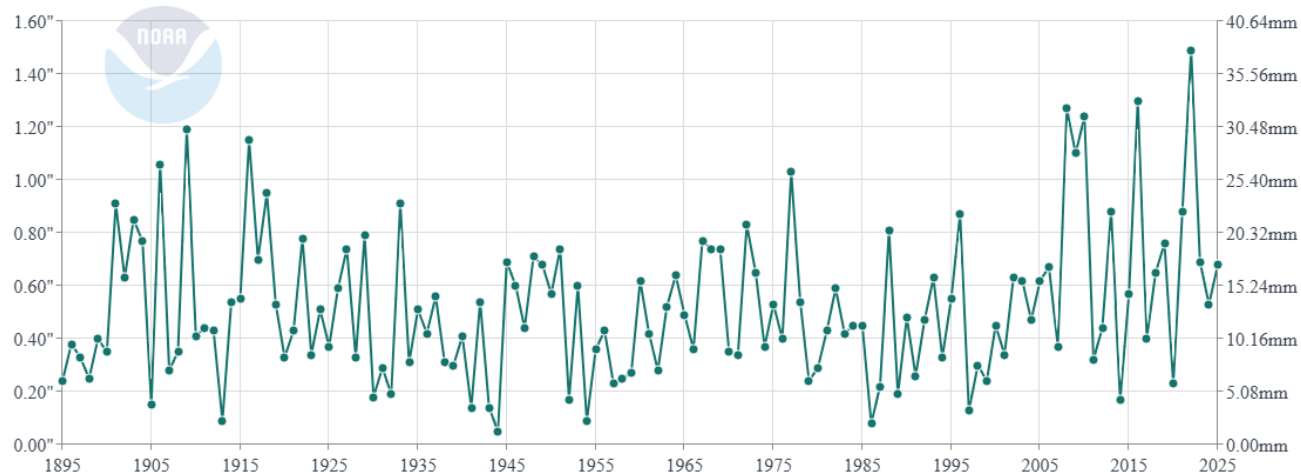


Figure 6: Average Precipitation in North Dakota for the month of December (via NCEI)

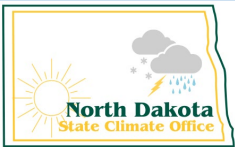


Figure 7: A view via the Webster NDAWN station during the December 18 blizzard

North Dakota December Precipitation Summary

	Precipitation	Normal	Anomaly	Rank	Record Year
December 2025	0.84"	0.63"	+0.21"	17th Wettest	1.49" (2022)
				115th Driest	0.05" (1944)

Table 1: December precipitation summary for North Dakota. 2025 statistics from NDAWN station data. Ranking and records based on NCEI climate data (1895-2025) (NOAA).

Temperature

December saw mostly below average temperatures, except the southwestern corner which was well above average (Figure 8). North Dakotan NDAWN stations averaged an air temperature of 13.9°F, which is 1.8°F below normal.

Departure from Normal Average Air Temperature (°F)

12-01-2025 - 12-31-2025

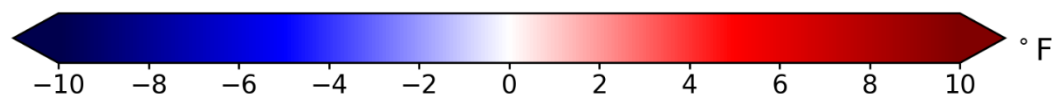
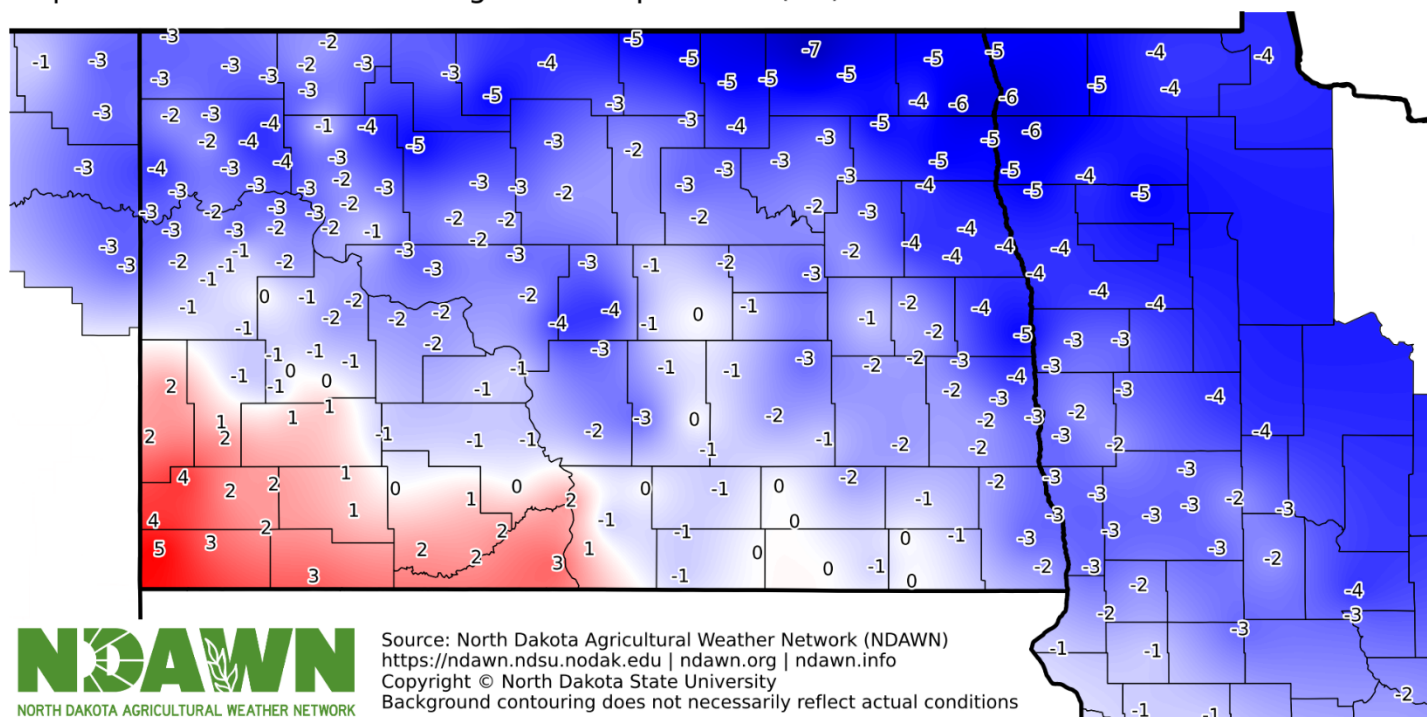


Figure 8: Departure from Normal Average Air Temperature measured at NDAWN stations in December 2025

Temperature

The Sunny Slope NDAWN station recorded a maximum temperature of 57°F on December 19 (Figure 9).

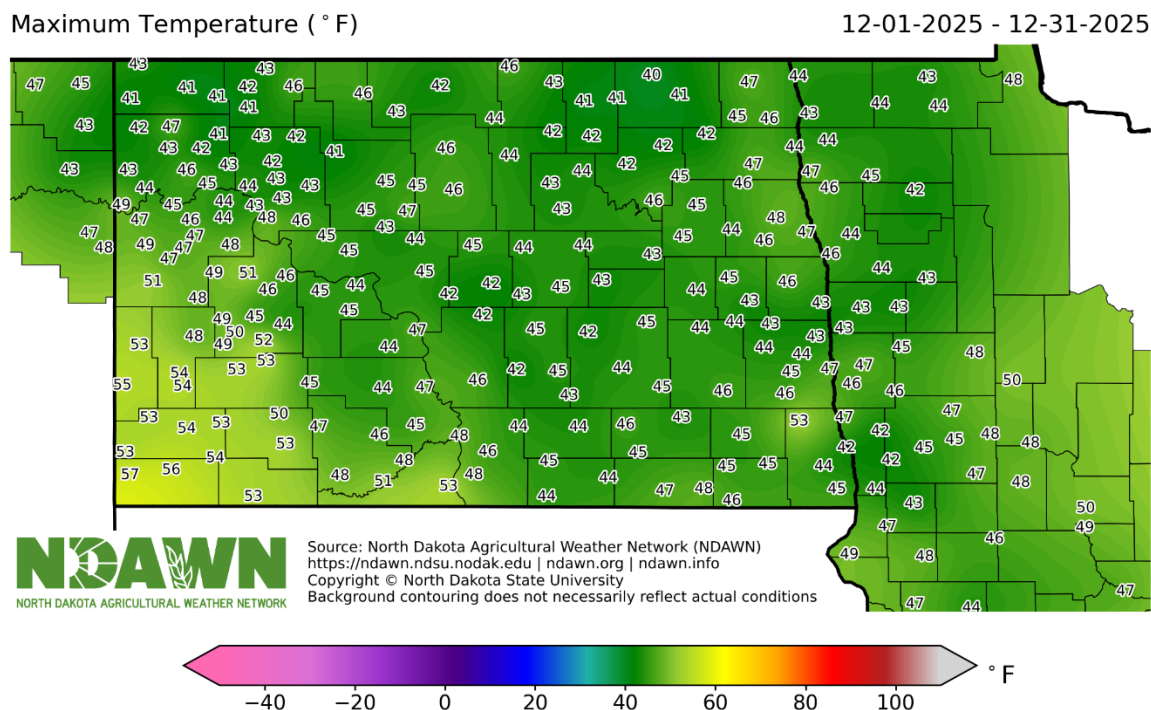


Figure 9: Maximum Air Temperature measured at NDAWN stations in December 2025

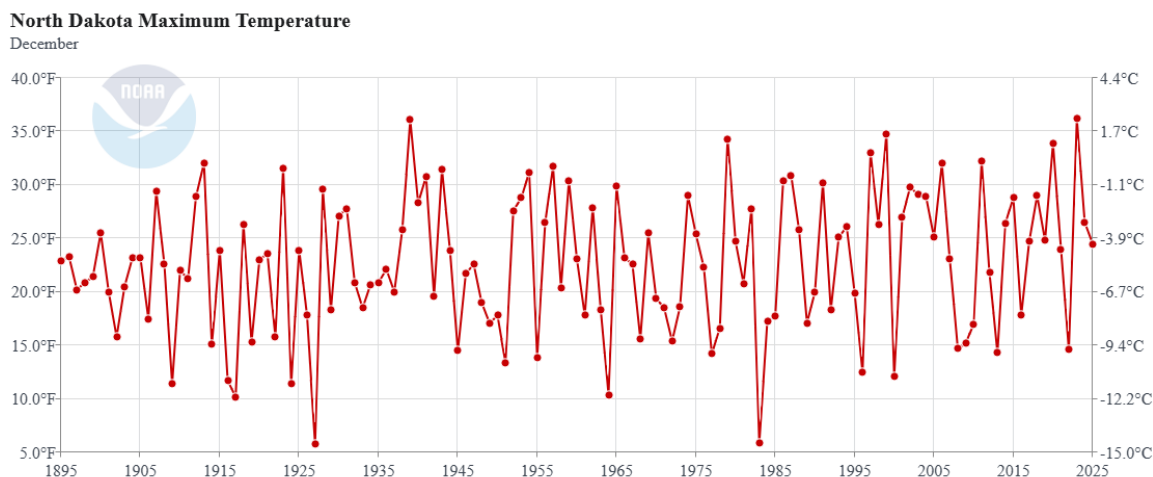


Figure 10: Average Maximum Temperature in North Dakota for the month of December (via NCEI)

Temperature

The lowest temperature recorded during December at NDAWN stations was -28°F at the Wales station on December 14 (Figure 11).

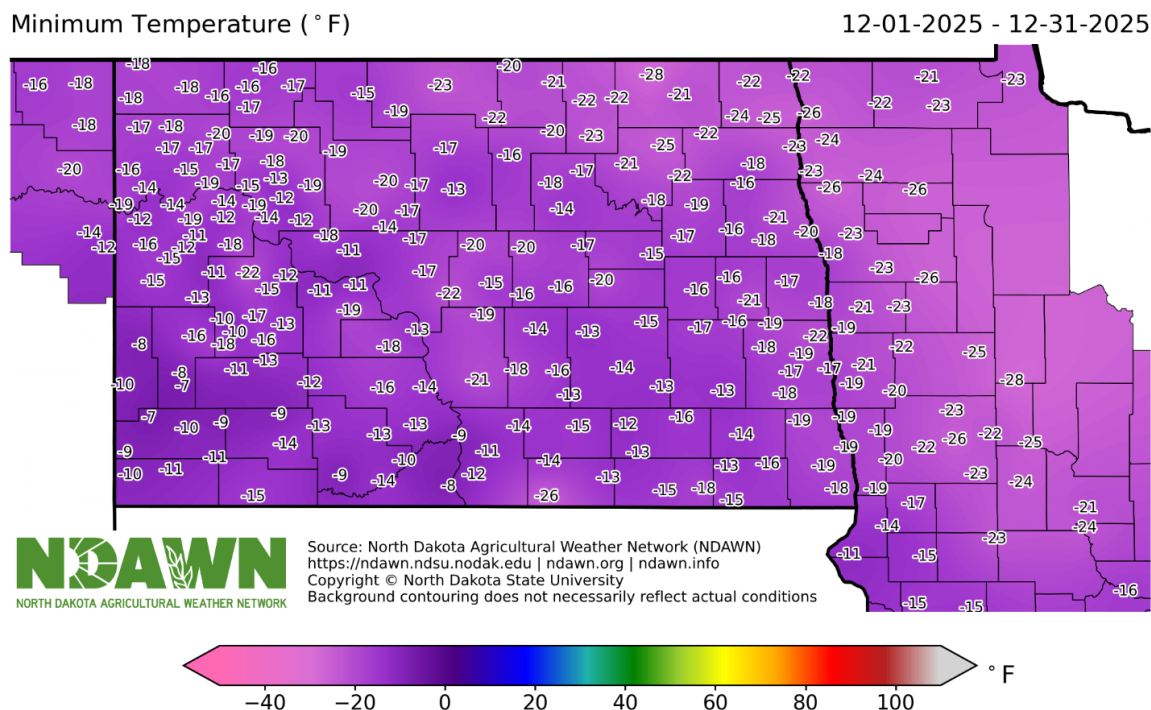


Figure 11: Minimum Air Temperature measured at NDAWN stations in December 2025

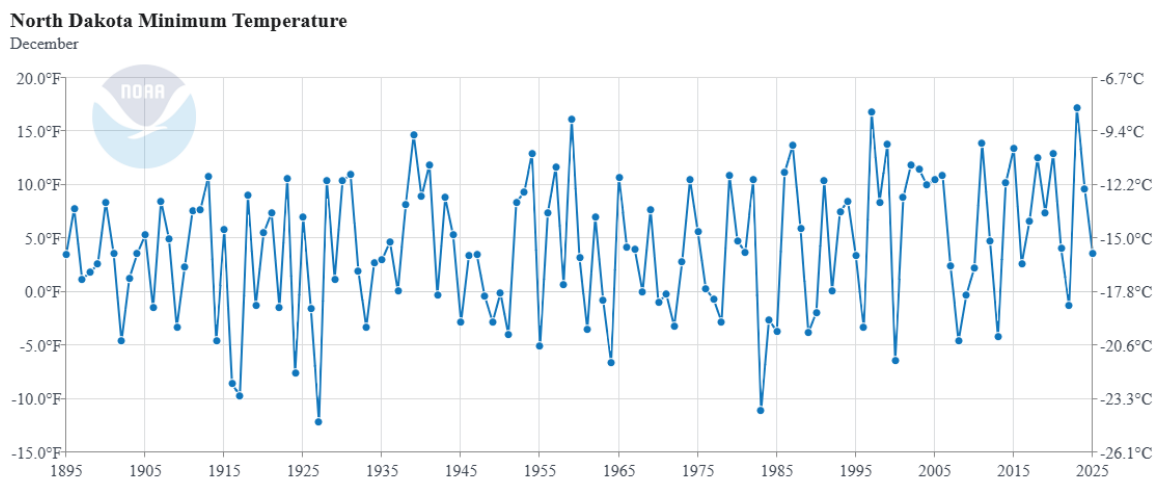


Figure 12: Average Minimum Temperature in North Dakota for the month of December (via NCEI)

North Dakota December Temperature Summary

December 2025	Average T	Avg max T	Avg min T	Maximum	Minimum
	13.9°F	24.8°F	2.9°F		
Anomaly	-1.8°F	0.0°F	-3.7°F	57°F	-28°F
Rank					
Warmest	62nd Warmest	51st Warmest	76th Warmest		
Coolest	70th Coldest	82nd Coldest	56th Coldest		
Record					
Warmest	26.7°F (2023)	36.2°F (2023)	17.2°F (2023)		
Coolest	-3.2°F (1927)	5.8°F (1927)	-12.2°F (1927)		

Table 2: December temperature summary for North Dakota. 2025 statistics from NDAWN station data. Ranking and records based on NCEI climate data (1895-2025) (NOAA).

North Dakota Average Temperature

December

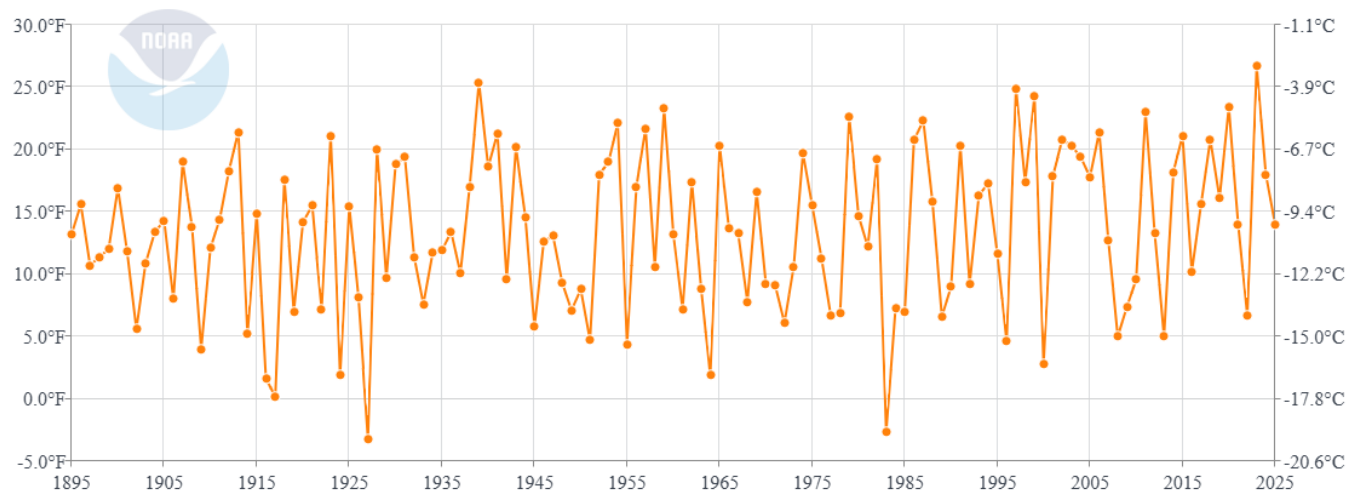


Figure 13: Average Temperature in North Dakota for the month of December (via NCEI)