

MONTHLY CLIMATE SUMMARY DECEMBER 2000
NIU WEATHER SERVICE, DE KALB, IL

Day	Record Hi (F)	Record Lo (F)	Average Hi [1896-1995] (F)	Average Lo [1896-1995] (F)	Observed Hi (F)	Observed LO (F)	Observed Avg. Daily (F)	CDD	HDD	Precip. (inches)	Snowfall (inches)
1	63	4	37	23	36	29	32.5		32.5	0.05	1
2	64	-5	37	23	36	26	31		34	0.04	0.5
3	66	-14	37	22	31	19	25		40	T	T
4	60	-4	37	22	33	19	26		39	0	0
5	61	-4	37	22	37	10	23.5		41.5	0	0
6	60	-7	36	22	16	8	12		53	0	0
7	66	-9	36	21	22	10	16		49	0.04	0.6
8	63	-8	35	21	30	18	24		41	0.1	1.1
9	59	-18	35	20	20	4	12		53	0	0
10	56	-18	35	20	29	12	20.5		44.5	0.02	0.3
11	60	-15	34	19	33	11	22		43	0.15	2.3
12	55	-10	35	20	25	-2	11.5		53.5	0.26	7.3
13	60	-19	34	20	5	-8	-1.5		66.5	0	0
14	58	-12	34	20	15	-1	7		58	0.23	3.5
15	59	-14	33	19	18	2	10		55	0	0
16	58	-17	33	19	32	5	18.5		46.5	0.07	0.2
17	57	-13	32	19	32	5	18.5		46.5	T	T
18	56	-12	32	18	5	-5	0		65	T	0.1
19	53	-17	32	18	12	2	7		58	0.14	2
20	57	-19	32	18	20	-6	7		58	0	0
21	57	-18	33	18	16	-5	5.5		59.5	0.23	4.7
22	55	-11	32	17	6	-12	-3		68	0	0
23	58	-17	31	16	4	-10	-3		68	0.08	1
24	55	-22	30	16	19	-9	5		60	T	T
25	60	-13	30	15	3	-11	-4		69	0	0
26	56	-22	30	14	10	-11	-0.5		65.5	0	0
27	55	-20	30	15	18	9	13.5		51.5	T	T
28	64	-24	31	16	15	-2	8.5		58.5	0	0
29	63	-12	31	15	18	1	9.5		55.5	0.18	3.1
30	59	-13	31	15	23	13	18		47	0.19	4.4
31	51	-14	30	15	29	12	20.5		44.5	0.02	0.4

TEMP 1896-1995 HI: 33.3 (F) 1896-1995 LO: 18.6 (F) 1896-1995 MONTH: 24.6 (F) DECEMBER 2000 AVG. HI: 20.9 (F) DECEMBER 2000 AVG. LO: 4.3 (F) DECEMBER 2000 AVG.: 12.6 (F)	PRECIPITATION DECEMBER TOTAL: 1.8 inches DECEMBER AVG.: 2.22 inches YEAR TO DATE : 37.11 inches YEAR TO DATE AVG.: 36.74 inches DECEMBER SNOW: 32.5 inches/ AVG.= 8.7 inches YEAR TO DATE SNOW: 33.6 inches	DEGREE DAYS COOLING: 0 1/00- Now: 652.5 HEATING: 1624.5 7/00 - Now: 3003
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This December, to say the least, has been one for the books! Historically speaking, since 1896, this has been the second coldest and snowiest December on record. The coldest December occurred in 1963, and the snowiest occurred in 1978. Whereas these reigning records occurred in two separate years, we almost broke both of them in one, with this December's average temperature missing the mark by only 0.4° (F) and the total snow only falling two inches short! As for temperatures, we spent 24 days of this December below freezing with the December 22nd low temperature of -12° (F) breaking the record of -11° (F) [note the bold temperature in the above chart]. According to Mr. Tom Skilling, WGN's chief meteorologist, these extremely cold temperatures were due to an upper-level pattern that allowed cold air from the North Atlantic to spill down over much of the central United States. These frigid temperatures, when combined with post cold-front winds, led to several days with dangerously cold wind chills.

As mentioned earlier, the snow was also a big story this month. The De Kalb station measured a total of 32.5 inches, while 17 inches still remained on the ground at the end of the month. Although the monthly liquid precip. totals were below average, the extremely cold temperatures allowed for the greater amount of snowfall. As the temperature departs downward from freezing, the ratio of snow to liquid water inversely increases from the standard 10:1. For this month, the average ratio of snow to liquid water was 18.05:1, another indicator that this was indeed a cold December. However, the upshot was that the snow was lighter and less dense making for easier shoveling. So what good has all of this snow and persistent freezing temperatures brought to De Kalb? Well, with the aid of the city plows we now have topography! Have a pleasant January.

Jason Starke, Senior Weather Director NIU

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