

# Central Indiana

## January 2026 Weather Summary

**49<sup>th</sup> Coldest January on record at Indianapolis (Tied)**

**20<sup>th</sup> Driest January on record at Indianapolis (Tied)**

**21<sup>st</sup> Snowiest January on record at Indianapolis**

## Temperatures

| Station                 | January 2026<br>Avg Temp | January 2026<br>Dep from Nml | Highest<br>Temperature                  | Lowest<br>Temperature                     |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Indianapolis Int'l Arpt | 25.0                     | -3.5                         | 65 on 9 <sup>th</sup>                   | -4 on 28 <sup>th</sup>                    |
| Lafayette               | 23.8                     | -2.0                         | 65 on 8 <sup>th</sup>                   | -10 on 30 <sup>th</sup>                   |
| Muncie                  | 24.5                     | -4.1                         | 63 on 8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> | -8 on 30 <sup>th</sup>                    |
| Terre Haute             | 26.2                     | -2.5                         | 67 on 8 <sup>th</sup>                   | -10 on 28 <sup>th</sup>                   |
| Bloomington             | 24.9INC                  | M                            | 66 on 8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> | -13 on 28 <sup>th</sup>                   |
| Shelbyville             | 23.9                     | -5.8                         | 63 on 9 <sup>th</sup>                   | -13 on 29 <sup>th</sup>                   |
| Eagle Creek Airpark     | 24.3                     | -4.5                         | 65 on 9 <sup>th</sup>                   | -5 on 29 <sup>th</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup> |

Indianapolis' daily averages were above/below/at normal on 11/18/2 days, but 13+ degrees from normal on 15 days. Mild conditions on the 5-9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, with 60s on the 8-9<sup>th</sup> were followed by a frigid 18-20<sup>th</sup> and bitter cold from the 23<sup>rd</sup> onward: Indianapolis was held to 21°F or lower for 9 consecutive days which was a once-in-26-year occurrence.

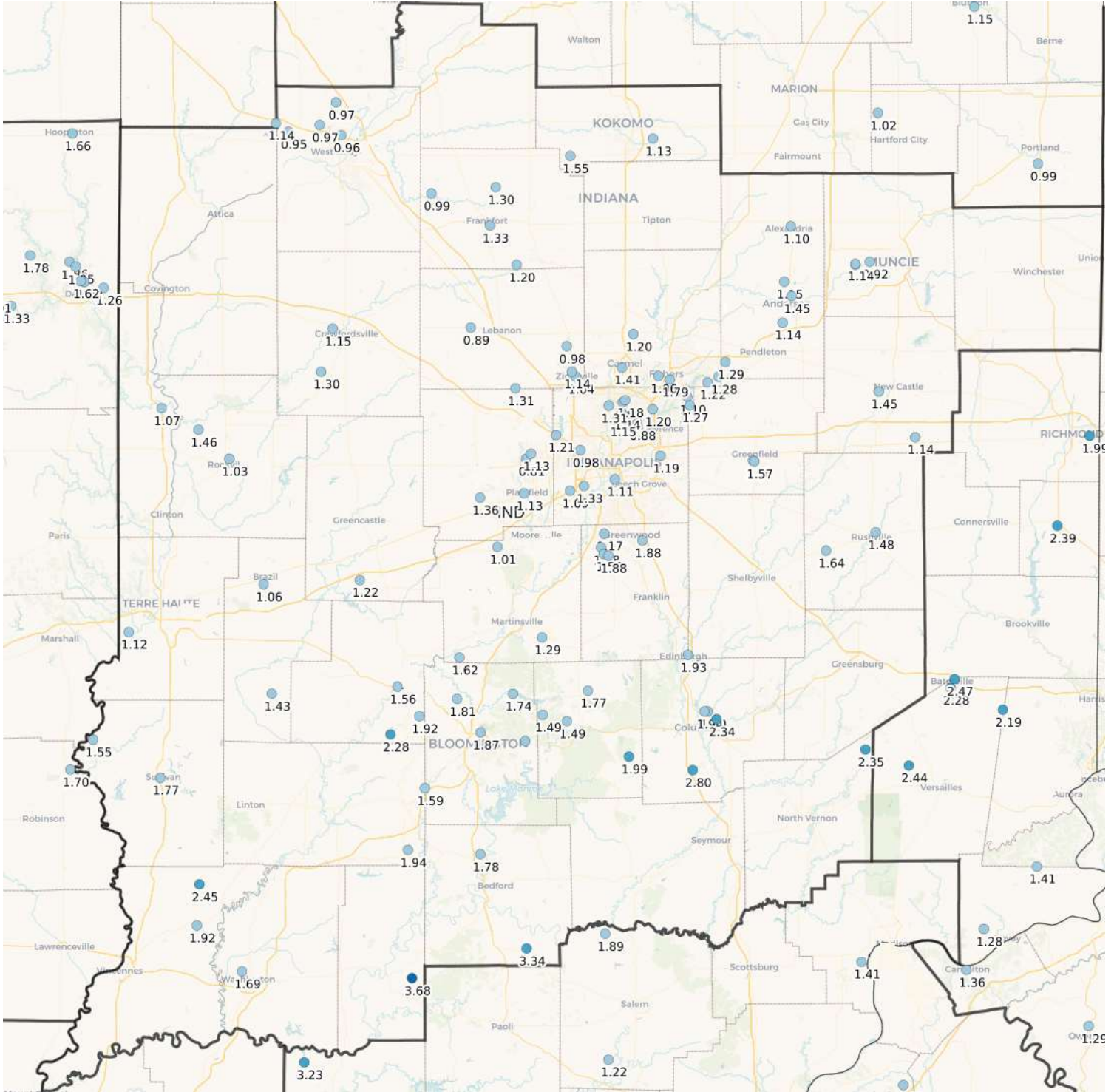
Temperature data was missing at Bloomington on the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

## Precipitation

| Station               | Jan 2026<br>Precipitation | Jan 2026<br>Dep from Nml | Wettest Day              | Longest Dry Stretch                                                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Indianapolis Int'l AP | 1.30                      | -1.82                    | 0.84 on 25 <sup>th</sup> | 4 days: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Lafayette             | 0.35INC                   | M                        | M on 25 <sup>th</sup>    | 6 days: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>                                      |
| Muncie                | 0.26INC                   | M                        | M on UNK                 | 4 days: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Terre Haute           | 0.16INC                   | M                        | 0.57 on 18 <sup>th</sup> | 7 days: 1 <sup>st</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>                                      |
| Bloomington           | 0.65INC                   | M                        | M on UNK                 | 7 days: 1 <sup>st</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>                                      |
| Shelbyville           | 0.67INC                   | M                        | M on UNK                 | 4 days: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> |
| Eagle Creek Arpk      | 0.30INC                   | M                        | M on 25 <sup>th</sup>    | 6 days: 2 <sup>nd</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>                                      |

Another dry January, that echoed lower totals from 2022 and 2025, was the third driest at Indianapolis in 16 years. Record snow on 24-25<sup>th</sup> (that was unfortunately under caught at most 1<sup>st</sup>-order stations) guided totals.

**January 2026 Total Liquid Precipitation**  
As Reported by Central Indiana CoCoRaHS Observers

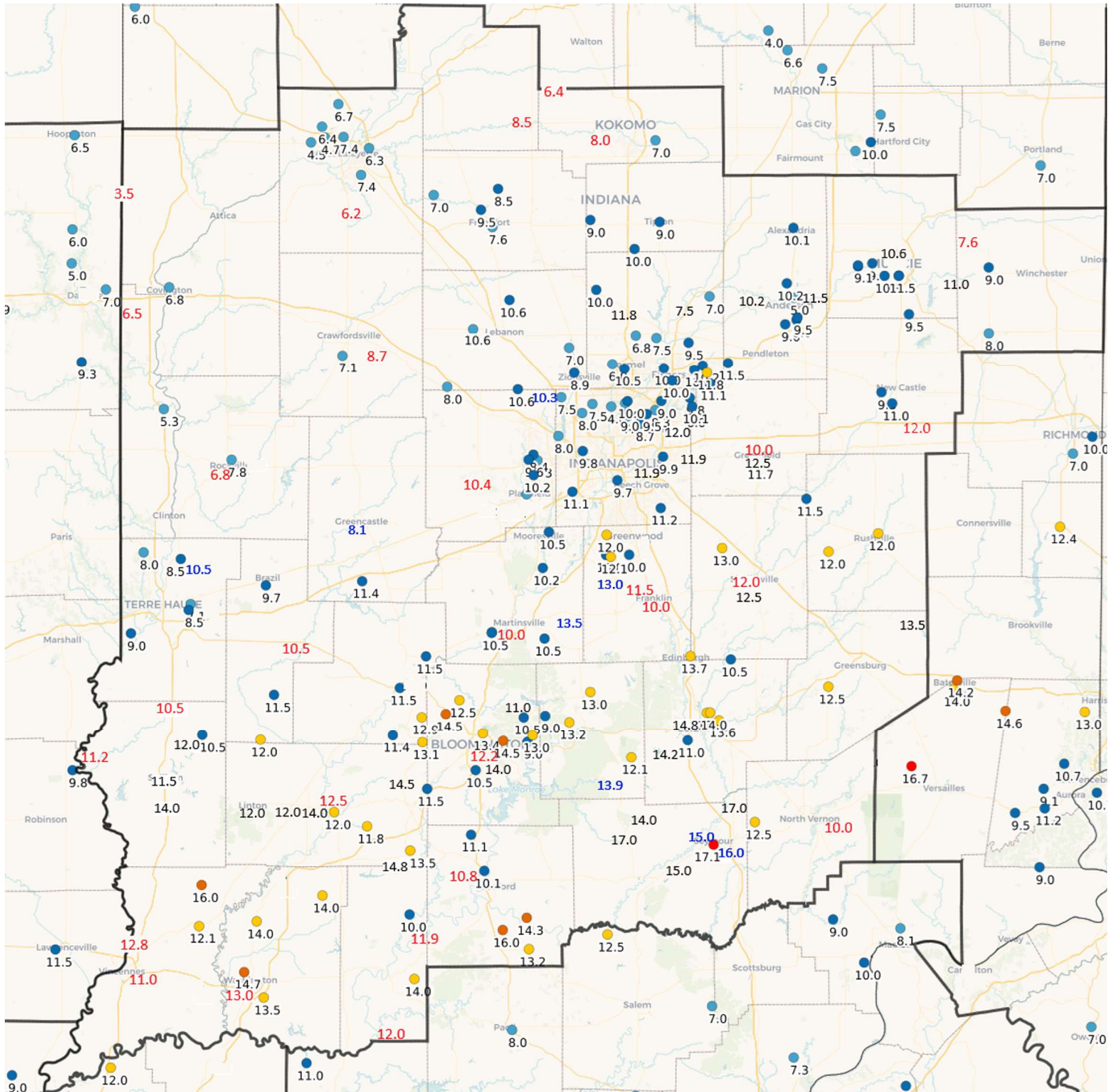


For the period 200 AM EST 1/1/2026 -to- 1159 PM EST 1/31/2026, data is unofficial\*\*

A very dry month brought only ~0.25-1.00" through the **23<sup>rd</sup>**, although south-central/southeast counties saw up to **2.60"** in thunderstorms early on the **9<sup>th</sup>**. The record **24-25<sup>th</sup>** snowstorm provided a liquid equivalent of 0.75-1.80" for most locations, and a gradient from 0.25 to 0.75" over north-northwest zones. Indianapolis' 1.00" was the most from a snowstorm since 2014.

## January 24-25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Snowfall

As Reported by Central Indiana CoCoRaHS, **COOP**, **Spotter** & Public Observers

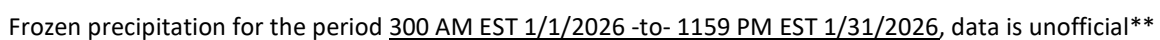


Frozen precipitation for the period 1200 PM EST 1/24/2026 -to- 800 PM EST 1/25/2026, data is unofficial\*\*

Significant heavy snowfall fell along the I-70 corridor (**8-13"**) with an axis of major snowfall piling up along the region's southern third (**10-17"**). Several bands of heavier snow occurred – with reports ranging, over small distances, from ~7" to 12" in Hamilton County, and ~10" to 16" near Bedford. Mixed precipitation halved totals along the Ohio Valley. Indy officially measured **11.1"**.



As Reported by Central Indiana CoCoRaHS & COOP Observers



Snowfall ranged from seasonable (**7-12"**) across the northern tier to well above normal (**~11-18"**) along southern counties, with the **24-25<sup>th</sup>** snowstorm contributing generally 75-95% to these values; with other light snowfalls through the third week. It was the **snowiest January since 1996** at Shoals & S (Martin Co.); Indy's 12.4" was the snowiest month since February 2015.

# Severe & Impactful Weather

Overall dry conditions over central Indiana through fall 2025, that had lead to Severe Drought (**D2**) and eventually areas of Extreme Drought (**D3**) north and east of a line from Frankfort to Anderson through much of the October-December period, further intensified and expanded through January 2026. Meager monthly precipitation totals of ~1.00-1.50" across the region's northern half allowed, on the 6<sup>th</sup>, **D2** overtaking all locations north of the Indianapolis Metro and the Rockville area and west, while **D3** increased to all areas north-northeast of a line from Frankfort to Muncie. These areas of **D2** and **D3** were maintained over this one-third north-northwestern-most portion of the area into February, although a very thin stripe of Moderate Drought (D1) along the periphery, leaving the central to southern 60 percent of central Indiana either Abnormally Dry (D0) or amid no drought intensity.

A pattern change to much colder conditions through the month's second half included numerous periods of dangerously low wind chills, starting with the 19<sup>th</sup>'s [morning to midday](#) hours, where -15 to -20°F values over the region's northern third surrounded wind chills as low as -25°F in Montgomery County. [Prolonged bitter cold began](#) with generally single digit low temperatures on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup>; corresponding lowest wind chills through morning-midday hours were -15°F or lower north and northwest of Indianapolis, with -20 to -24°F wind chills reported in five northwest counties.

Following above normal snowfall for central Indiana in both November and December 2025, January 2026 featured only a few very light snows through most of the month, with totals through the 23<sup>rd</sup> not exceeding 2.0" except at scattered northern stations. A [major winter storm](#) on January 24-25<sup>th</sup> produced widespread **10-16" snowfall** near and south of I-70, and at least 5-10" for nearly all central Indiana points north; **16.0"** reports were received from Knox and Lawrence Counties, with multiple public reports of **~17.0"** across northern Jackson County. Indianapolis' official total was **11.1"**, making it the city's greatest snowstorm since January 2014 and 12<sup>th</sup> greatest since continuous records began in March 1884; a daily record of 9.1" was set on the 25<sup>th</sup>, surpassing the old record (4.9" from the first portion of the historic 1978 blizzard). Despite occurring over a weekend, very low temperatures from zero to 15°F, combined with blowing and drifting of snow, inhibited snow removal efforts; maintaining Travel Warnings for 29 of the region's 39 counties into the night of the 25<sup>th</sup>.

The [January 26-31<sup>st</sup> arctic outbreak](#) both amplified the impact of the heavy snowstorm while the thick snowpack further lowered temperatures and wind chills for a week. Temperatures most often ranged from **negative single digits** up to the teens to around 20°F, with isolated periods of -20°F minimum temperatures (30<sup>th</sup>), or maximum readings as low as negative single digits (26<sup>th</sup>). Corresponding sustained winds were most often under 10 mph, occasionally reaching 10-20 mph as on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Wind chills of -20°F and lower were most prevalent during both the 26<sup>th</sup> daytime and the 26-27<sup>th</sup> overnight, and to a lesser extent early on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Sixteen of the region's 39 counties experienced -20°F wind chills during 3+ periods; this extreme cold was most consistent into the latter part of the week north of Indianapolis.

*For info on severe weather in other areas during January, visit the Storm Prediction Center "Severe Weather Event Summaries" website at [spc.noaa.gov/climo/online](https://spc.noaa.gov/climo/online)*

## February 2026 Outlook

The official outlook for February 2026 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates slightly greater chances of below normal temperatures over Indiana. The normal February temperature at Indianapolis is **32.5** degrees.

The outlook also indicates equal chances of above, below, or near normal precipitation for the state. The normal Indianapolis February precipitation and snowfall are **2.43"** and **6.0"**, respectively.

*Data prepared by the Indianapolis Weather Forecast Office's State Climate Team  
Questions should be referred to [nws.indianapolis@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.indianapolis@noaa.gov)*