WINTER 2025–2026 Review

of Weather Conditions Experienced in Central Indiana

77th Coldest / 78th Mildest on record at Indianapolis

23rd Driest on record at Indianapolis

30th Snowiest on record at Indianapolis

WINTER 2025-2026 Temperature Data for Central Indiana Sites

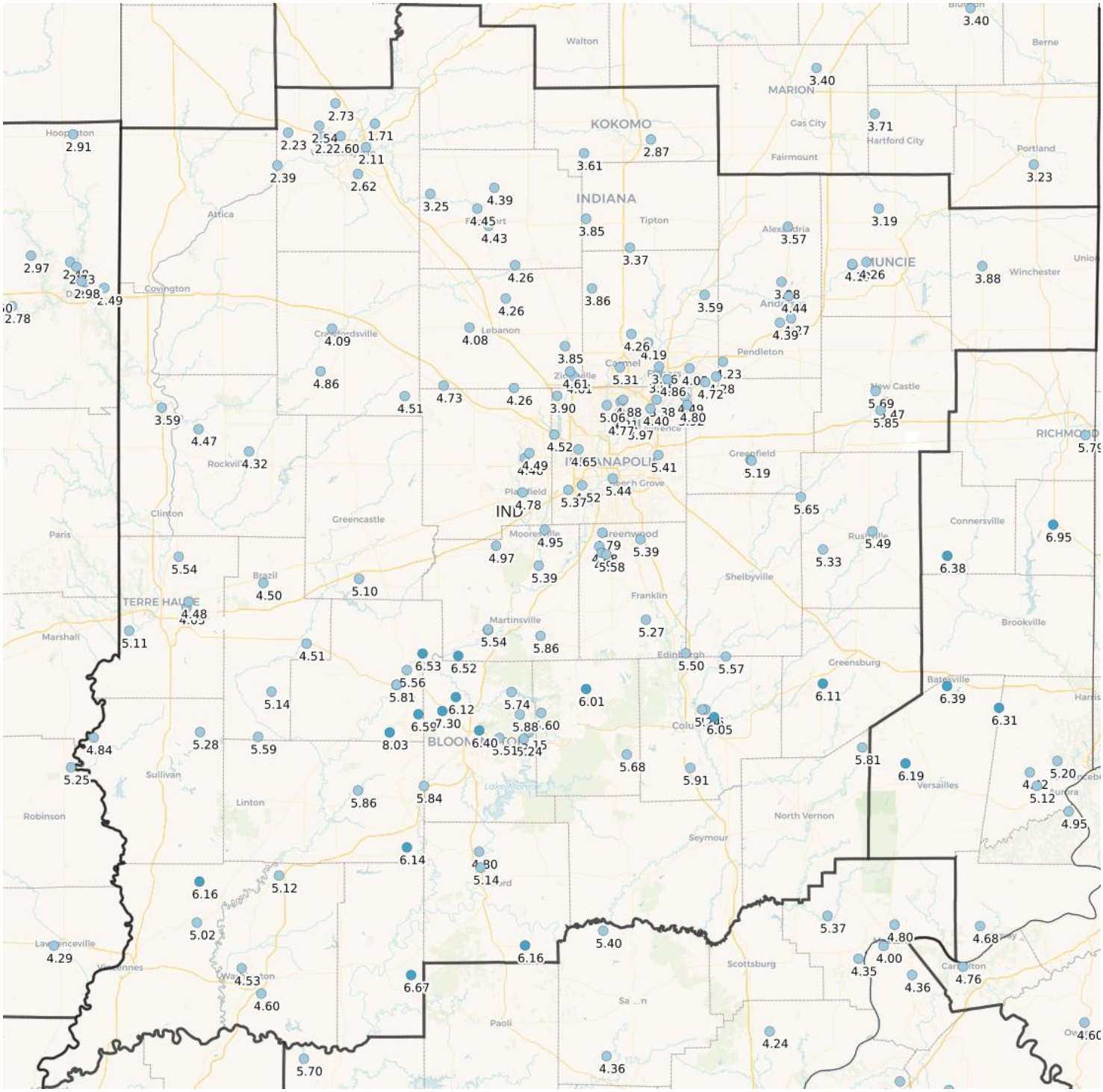
Station	**WINTER 2025 Average Temperature**	WINTER Season Normal Temp	**Difference From Normal**
Indianapolis Int'l Airport	**30.7**	31.5	–0.8
Lafayette	**28.8**	28.8	0.0
Bloomington	**31.4**	32.8	–1.4
Muncie	**29.9**	31.5	–1.6
Terre Haute	**30.3**	31.7	–1.4
Shelbyville	**29.1**	32.6	**–3.5**
Eagle Creek Airpark	**29.8**	31.6	–1.8

WINTER 2025-2026 Temperature Extremes Across Central Indiana

Station	**Highest Temperature**	**Lowest Temperature**
Indianapolis Int'l Airport	71 on 2/18	–4 on 12/14, 12/15, 1/28, 2/1
Lafayette	70 on 2/18	–10 on 1/30
Bloomington	70 on 2/18, 2/19	–13 on 1/28, 2/1
Muncie	71 on 2/18	–8 on 1/30
Terre Haute	71 on 2/18	–11 on 12/15
Shelbyville	69 on 2/18	**–16 on 2/1**
Eagle Creek Airpark	70 on 2/18	–8 on 2/1

December 2025 – February 2026 Total Precipitation, Through the Morning of 3/1/26

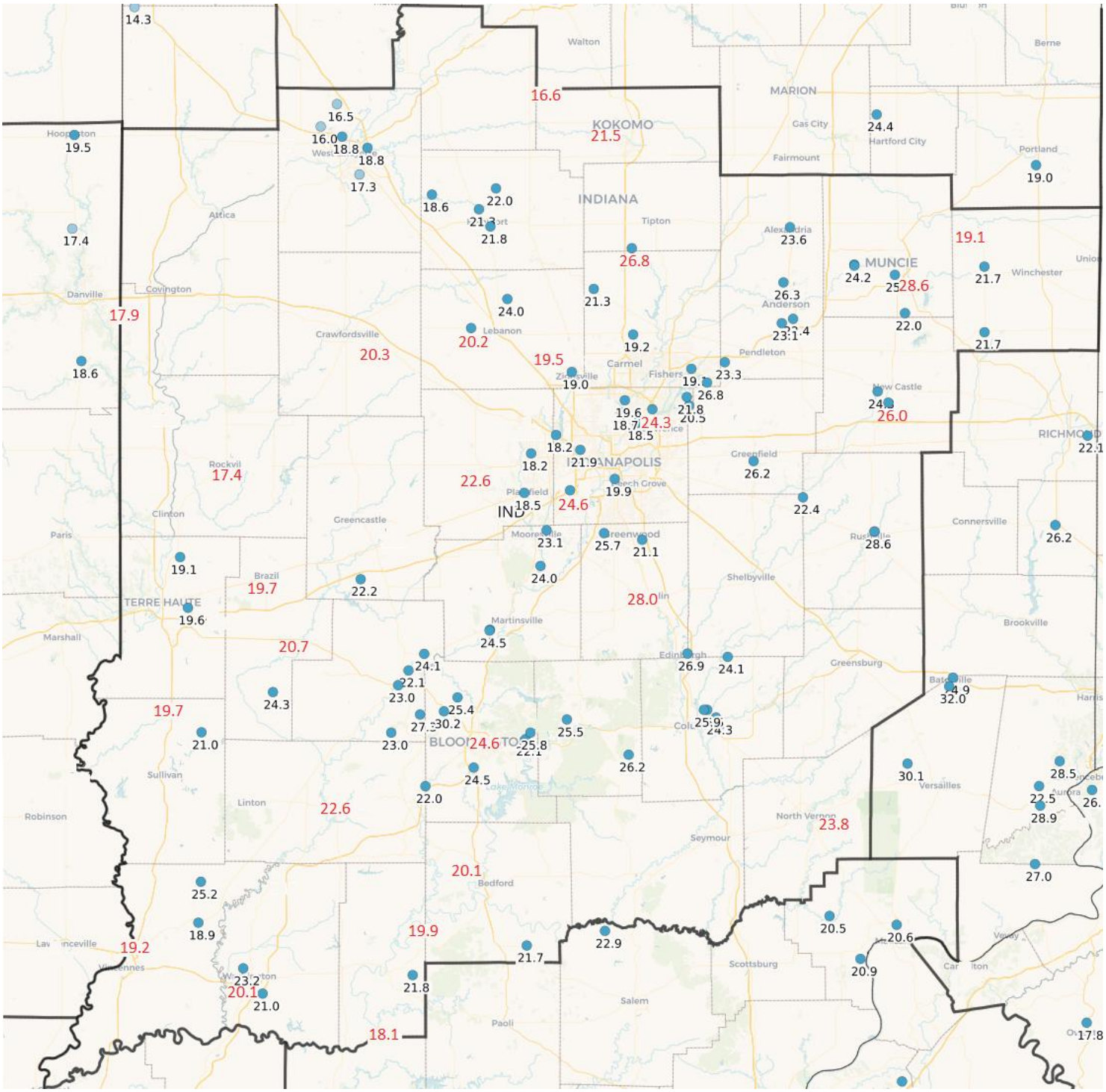
As Reported By Central Indiana CoCoRaHS Observers



For the period 1200 AM EDT 12/1/2025 -to- 700 AM EST 3/1/2026, data is unofficial**

The **January 24-25** snow's maximum 1.00-1.80" crossed central Indiana's southern third, while **February 19-20** t-storms dropped scattered 1.00-1.50" bands over the region's middle two-thirds. The season's narrow maximum (southern) band (**~6.00-8.00"**) was greatest near Bloomington; drought intensified under very low northern tier totals (1.70-4.00"). Indianapolis saw 64% of normal.

December 2025 – February 2026 Total Snowfall
As Reported By Central Indiana CoCoRaHS & COOP Observers



For the period 1200 AM EDT 12/1/2025 -to- 1159 PM EST 2/28/2026, data is unofficial**

Winter snowfall was led by a combination of mainly **3-6"** on **December 13** and widespread **6-16"** on **January 24-25**, although scattered moderate/significant snowfall also fell on **December 1-2** (east-central counties), and **December 11-12** (southwest zones) This was the snowiest winter (December-February) at Indianapolis of the last 12 seasons, but only the 9th-snowiest of the last 41.

WINTER 2025-2026 Precipitation Data for Central IN Sites

Site	WINTER 2025 Precipitation	WINTER Season Normal Precip	Difference From Normal	Greatest Daily Precipitation
Indianapolis Int'l Airport	**5.40**	8.47	−3.07	1.00 on 2/19
Lafayette	**1.55INC**	6.26	M	0.36 on 12/28
Bloomington	**3.73INC**	9.34	M	M on 1/25
Muncie	**2.43INC**	7.36	M	M on 1/25
Terre Haute	**2.30INC**	7.11	M	0.57 on 12/18
Shelbyville	**3.99INC**	8.36	M	0.86 on 2/15
Eagle Creek Airpark	**3.75INC**	7.33	M	1.03 on 12/18

Winter 2025-26 Severe & Impactful Weather

DECEMBER 2025 Following two daily snowfall records at Indianapolis in November, the active early start to the 2025-2026 winter season continued. Several more snowfall events each produced locally heavy snowfall amid mainly light to moderate accumulations; followed by a brief mid-month period of dangerous wind chills and **record cold**. The December **1st-2nd** event quickly overspread the region through the late afternoon, impacting the late day commute; overnight bands of locally heavy snow led to **5.0-6.0"** by dawn from Morgan County to Delaware County and points east. Next, the **11-12th**'s clipper brought a mainly nocturnal snow, producing an evening burst of warning criteria snowfall in Sullivan, and a second overnight burst, with scattered storm totals of **5.0-6.0"** by daybreak from Sullivan County to Lawrence County and points southwest. The month's last impactful snow on the **13th** was a more classic set-up, where increasingly-fluffy snow fell for at least 12 daytime/evening hours within a plunging arctic frontal zone; moderate accumulations were most common across all but far southwestern areas, with isolated/scattered **5.0"+** reports verifying warning criteria for 29 of the region's 39 counties; more consistent west-east bands brought generally **5.0-7.0"** storm totals from both Fountain County to Delaware County (including several **~6.0"** measurements near Brownsburg and across southern Hamilton County), and north of Columbus into east-central counties; increasing wind gusts led to drifting and settling of snow.

The December 14-15th arctic outbreak brought bitter cold in widespread negative single digits early on the **14th**, with readings rebounding to mainly 3-13°F during the day, before a second subzero night where readings fell as low as **−15°F** in northwestern counties. Corresponding wind chills were lowest early on the **14th** per higher winds, with widespread **−30 to −15** values; the overnight of the **14-15th** kept a smaller area of **−27 to −20** wind chills across northwest zones. Indianapolis observed both **minimum and maximum record lows** on December **14th**, tying the minimum at **−4°** and setting the maximum at **7°**, for the first such single-day tandem since 11/12/2019; the airport's lowest wind chills were **−24** early on the **14th**, and **−17** the following overnight.

Drought intensities were essentially maintained throughout December, ranging from a rather thin band of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions along Interstate 70, to a larger area of **Severe Drought** (**D2**) and **Extreme Drought** (**D3**) north/northeast of a line from Frankfort to New Castle, where monthly

precipitation totals were only 1.00-1.50". **D2** also continued northwest of Terre Haute into Illinois. A broad area of Moderate Drought (**D1**) that spanned most of the remaining areas north of I-70, expanded into Crawfordsville and areas northwest on **December 9th**.

Following a record high temperature of **67°F** at Indianapolis, along with anomalous, moderate humidity on the **28th**, a strong to severe early evening squall line produced isolated damaging winds over southwestern to central areas and an **EF1 tornado** in Greene County. Multiple trees were reported downed near Vincennes, and several reporting stations measured severe wind gusts, up to **70 mph** in Marion County. The EF1 tracked for just over a mile into the town of Linton, with peak winds of **100 mph**, causing one minor injury. This final event and two others along the Ohio Valley closed the book on the 2025 tornado season's **62 events** from 14 tornado days across Indiana, including a whopping **28 tornadoes over the local central Indiana region**, second only to 31 in both 1990 and 1973.

JANUARY 2026 first maintained **Severe** (**D2**) to **Extreme** (**D3**) **Drought** over most north-central and northeastern zones, with Moderate Drought (D1) otherwise prevailing north of the I-70 corridor. Drought intensified with the **January 6th** update: **D3** advanced southward into all of Howard County, most of Carroll and Delaware Counties, and all other points north of Frankfort, Tipton, Anderson and Farmland; **D2** broadened over the rest of northern central Indiana and down the Wabash Valley to northwestern Vigo County. This distribution of drought intensity continued through the end of the month, following monthly rainfall totaling only 0.70-1.40" across the impacted area. Late December's shift to anomalously mild conditions continued through much of early January; a tied record high on the **8th** (63°F) brought Indianapolis the most days in the modern era, during 12/25-1/13 at or above 63, with 3. A few strong thunderstorms on the evening of **January 8th** produced isolated wind damage over the region's western third.

Consistent very cold conditions returned for January's second half, where only two of the month's last 14 days exceeded 26°F at Indianapolis, while seven other days fell to −4°F to 1°F; aided by a thick snow pack, Indianapolis was held to 20°F or lower during six consecutive days (**24-29th**) − only the city's eighth such occurrence since 1936, and the first time since 2018. The region's lowest reported temperature was **−20°F** at Farmland 5 NNW (Randolph Co.) on the morning of the **30th**. Criteria **wind chills** (at or below −20 degrees) were recorded over several northwest counties through morning to midday hours on both the **19th** and **23rd**; with more widespread distribution north of I-70 on both the **26th** and **26-27th** overnight; criteria wind chills continued in several northern counties through the **28th** AM; and finally in isolated northern locations on both the **30th** AM and **31st** overnight.

A major winter storm amid the arctic outbreak brought widespread heavy to record snowfall through the weekend of **January 24-25th**, with a broad gradient from **6.0-9.0"** over the region's northwestern quarter to isolated **16.0"+** observations along the US-50 corridor. Despite dewpoints originally near −10 and temperatures in the low teens at Indianapolis throughout, the city still accumulated a **1.00"** liquid equivalent. Three-quarters of the region was under a travel warning, with **17.1"** reported in Seymour, **13.0"** as far north as the Shelbyville area, and **11.1"** officially at Indianapolis. The snowstorm tied for the city's 12th-greatest (tied 5th-greatest in January) 2-day snowfall since complete records began in 1885; the **25th**'s total of **9.1"** was a daily record, surpassing what had been the first portion of the Blizzard of 1978. The greatest Indy snowstorm since January 2014, this was only the second 11"+ storm that maintained a 17-day average temperature during/following the storm as low as **16.0°F**. The storm also bumped Indianapolis' seasonal snowfall total to 27.1": for the first above-normal season since 2014-15; yielding only the ninth season with 27.0" by January 25, and only the fourth season to have recorded above normal snowfall in November, December, and January (a once in 35-year occurrence).

FEBRUARY 2026 saw an overall quieter weather pattern as only 0.4" of snowfall (7 percent of normal) at Indianapolis brought a staunch end to the late fall-winter's streak of three consecutive snowy months (November 2025-January 2026, which had totaled 27.7", or 173% of normal) - the first such period for the city since December 2013-February 2014's 52.2", at 246% of normal. The month instead featured a few scattered light snows, led by **February 6th**'s coating north and east of Indianapolis, as great as **1.6"** in Alexandria (Madison Co.) and **February 26th**'s surprise pre-dawn burst that focused over the Spencer (Owen Co.) area and points east-southeast, with multiple **3.0-4.0"** reports in eastern Jennings County.

Severe (**D2**) to **Extreme** (**D3**) **Drought**, that had originally established over most north-central and northeastern parts of central Indiana through late September into October 2025, with **D2** expanding in January 2026 across the rest of the region's northern tier and Upper-Middle Wabash Valley, was maintained through all of February. Specifically, **D3** prevailed from most of Carroll County, into Clinton County and east through the Muncie area and into northwest Randolph County, as well as immediately along the Illinois border northwest of Rockville; while **D2** ranged from just north of Terre Haute, through the Rockville, Crawfordsville, Noblesville and Anderson areas and north, and further east to northwest of Winchester. Monthly precipitation in these areas was only

Although most notable was yet another early start to the spring severe season on **February 19th** when an approaching storm system, that had brought anomalous humidity and record warmth on the **18th**, continued with an outbreak of scattered strong to severe cells in a broad swath along the I-70 corridor; numerous reports of large hail, as great as **1.50 inches** in both Greene and Monroe County, and damaging winds as great as **70 mph** in Monroe County and **64 mph** in Brown County were received; meanwhile tornadic cells crossed along a line from Sullivan County (**EF1**) to Monroe County (**EF2**) to Decatur County (**EFU**).

For info on severe weather in other areas during the WINTER season, visit the Storm Prediction Center "Severe Weather Event Summaries" website at spc.noaa.gov/climo/online

Spring 2026 Outlook for Central Indiana

The official outlook for the 2026 spring season (March–May) from the Climate Prediction Center, indicates equal chances of above, below, or near normal temperatures for central Indiana. The outlook also indicates slightly greater chances of above normal precipitation across Indiana.

At Indianapolis, the normal Spring temperature is **53.2°F**. The normal spring precipitation and snowfall are **12.78"** and **3.4"**, respectively.

Data prepared by the NWS Indianapolis Weather Forecast Office's Indiana State Climate Team
Questions should be referred to nws.indianapolis@noaa.gov

Indianapolis Winter 2025–26 Monthly Data

INDIANAPOLIS **DECEMBER 2025** SUMMARY

	Average Temp	Precipitation	Snowfall	Highs ≤ 32°	Lows < 20°
December 2025	**32.1**	**2.39**	**11.8**	**11**	**10**
Normal December	33.3	2.92	6.4	7	8
Diff from Normal	**–1.2**	**–0.53**	**+5.4**	**+4**	**+2**

DECEMBER 2025 All-Time Ranks...
Temperature: **69th Coldest**
Precipitation: **59th Driest** (Tied)
Snowfall: **13th Snowiest**

INDIANAPOLIS **JANUARY 2026** SUMMARY

	Average Temp	Precipitation	Snowfall	Highs ≤ 32°	Lows < 20°
January 2025	**25.0**	**1.30**	**12.4**	**15**	**18**
Normal January	28.5	3.12	8.8	12	13
Diff from Normal	**–3.5**	**–1.82**	**+3.6**	**+3**	**+5**

JANUARY 2026 All-Time Ranks...
Temperature: **49th Coldest** (Tied)
Precipitation: **29th Driest**
Snowfall: **21st Snowiest**

INDIANAPOLIS **FEBRUARY 2026** SUMMARY

	Average Temp	Precipitation	Snowfall	Highs ≤ 32°	Lows < 20°
February 2025	**35.1**	**1.71**	**0.4**	**8**	**9**
Normal February	32.5	2.43	6.0	7	9
Diff from Normal	**+2.6**	**–0.72**	**–5.6**	**+1**	**0**

FEBRUARY 2026 All-Time Ranks...
Temperature: **41st Warmest**
Precipitation: **56th Driest**
Snowfall: **9th Least Snowiest** (Tied)

INDIANAPOLIS **WINTER 2025–2026** SUMMARY

	Average Temp	Precipitation	Snowfall	Highs ≤ 32°	Lows < 20°
WINTER 2025–26	**30.7**	**5.40**	**24.6**	**34**	**37**
Normal WINTER	31.5	8.47	21.2	27	29
Diff from Normal	**–0.8**	**–3.07**	**+3.4**	**+7**	**+8**

WINTER 2025–26 All-Time Ranks...
Temperature: **77th Coldest** / **78th Mildest**
Precipitation: **23rd Driest**
Snowfall: **30th Snowiest**