



Natural Resources

Climate

The climate of Rice County, Minnesota, is classified as cool, subhumid, and continental. Wide variations in temperature from summer to winter characterize this climate. Annually, total precipitation in Rice County averages 29.85 inches (75.82 cm) according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center. During the growing season of May through September, average precipitation is 19.41 inches (49.30 cm). Annual precipitation has ranged from a low of 10.81 inches (27.46 cm) in 1910 to a high of 47.22 inches (119.94 cm) in 2016. Precipitation in Rice County varies from month to month. Snowfall averages 40.9 inches (103.89 cm) per year.

Throughout Rice County, the climate is essentially uniform; variations in microclimate may occur as a result of differences in vegetation, soil, and relief.

Table 1: Average Precipitation/Snowfall in Rice County, Minnesota (Based on Data from Faribault Station 212721 from 1981 to 2016)

Month	Precipitation in Inches	Snowfall in Inches
January	0.87	8.4
February	0.88	8.4
March	1.95	7.5
April	3.07	2.2
May	4.01	0.1
June	4.78	0.0
July	4.56	0.0
August	4.69	0.0
September	3.36	0.0
October	2.37	0.0
November	1.83	4.7
December	1.21	9.8

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Average daily temperatures in Rice County range from 14.0° F in January to 72.2° F in July. In the winter months, the average daily minimum temperature is 7.7° F. The average daily maximum temperature in the summer is 81.4° F. In Faribault on January 9, 1977, the lowest temperature on record in the county was recorded at -40° F. The highest temperature on record, 110° F, was recorded in Faribault on July 14, 1936.

**Table 2: Average Temperature in Rice County, Minnesota
(Based on Data from Faribault Station 212721 from 1981 to 2016)**

Month	Average Daily Temperature
January	14.0 ° F
February	18.1 ° F
March	30.8 ° F
April	46.0 ° F
May	58.0 ° F
June	67.5 ° F
July	72.2 ° F
August	70.1 ° F
September	61.5 ° F
October	49.5 ° F
November	33.7 ° F
December	19.6 ° F

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