

# December 2014 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

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## Overview

December 2014 was a relatively quiet month. Above normal temperatures, below normal precipitation, and well below normal snowfall was the story across the area.

December started out on the cool side of normal but gradually warmed up to well above normal by mid-month. A few episodes of precipitation and minor snow accumulations occurred in the first half of the month. After several days with temperatures in the 40s, more seasonable air returned on the 17th and stayed through the 22nd. Occasional light snow and freezing drizzle accompanied the cooler air. A large storm system affected the area from the 23rd into the 25th. This system had too much warm air to produce significant snow accumulations across the area, though it did produce three quarters to one inch of rain and up to a half inch of snow. Temperatures were again well above normal from the 23rd through the 27th. The month ended with a sharp cool down and light accumulating lake effect snow.

This was generally among the top 5 least snowy Decembers across the area, due to a lack of significant lake-effect snow and a lack of snow-producing storm systems. In Muskegon, this was the least snowy December on record. Remarkably, this largely uneventful month followed the snowiest November on record in Grand Rapids and the second snowiest November in Muskegon.

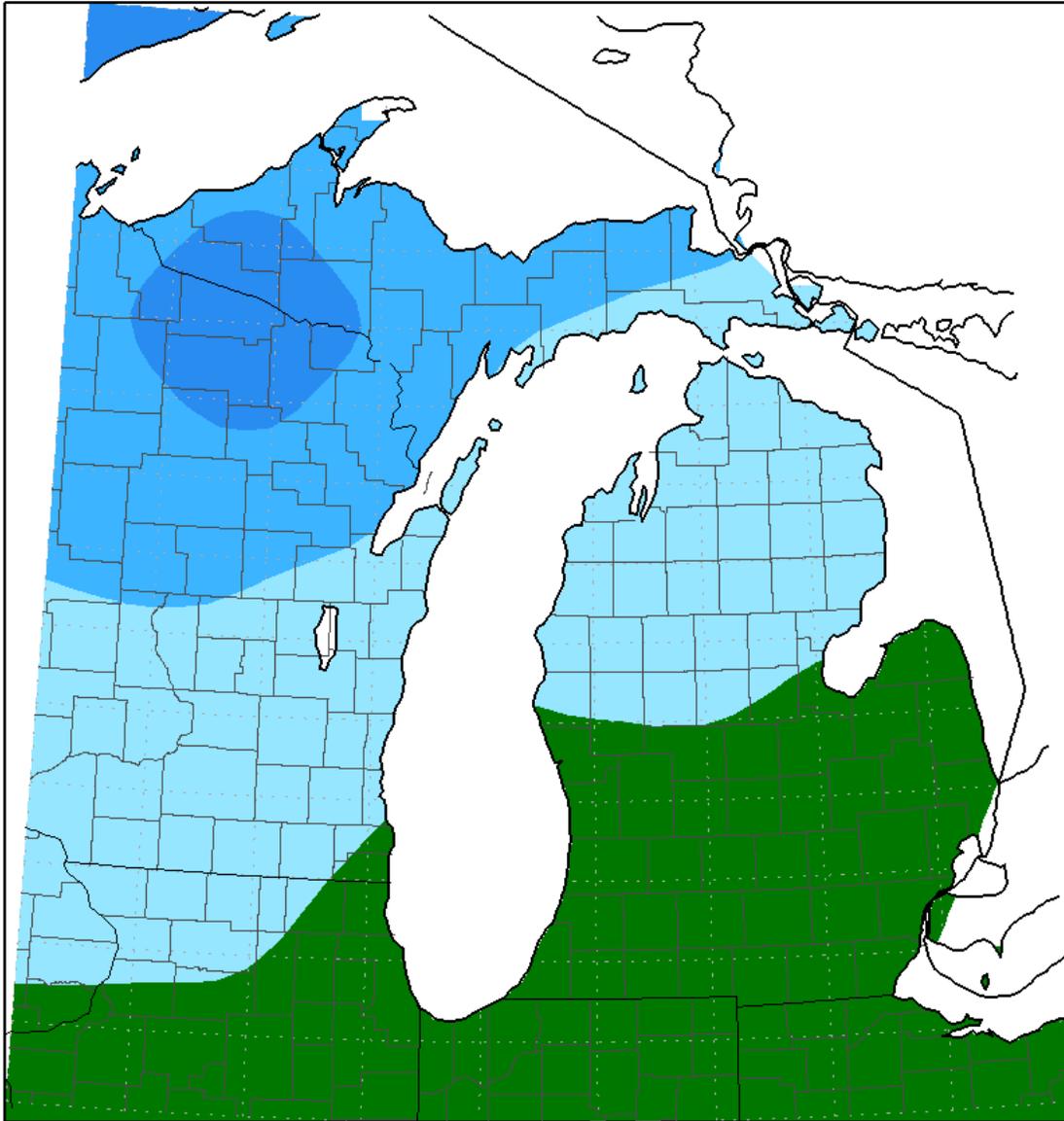
## December 2014 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Table 1. Reported temperature, precipitation and snowfall amounts for December 2014 at the primary climate stations in Southwest Lower Michigan and departures from normal.

<b>Location</b>		<b>Average Temperature (°F)</b>	<b>Precipitation (inches)</b>	<b>Snowfall (inches)</b>
<b>Grand Rapids</b>	<b>Observed</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>1.57</b>	<b>1.0</b>
	<b>Departure from Normal</b>	<b>+2.7</b>	<b>-0.93</b>	<b>-20.9</b>
	<b>Normal</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>21.9</b>
<b>Lansing</b>	<b>Observed</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>1.56</b>	<b>1.5</b>
	<b>Departure from Normal</b>	<b>+3.3</b>	<b>-0.31</b>	<b>-11.5</b>
	<b>Normal</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>1.87</b>	<b>13.0</b>
<b>Muskegon</b>	<b>Observed</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>1.72</b>	<b>1.4</b>
	<b>Departure from Normal</b>	<b>+2.5</b>	<b>-0.83</b>	<b>-27.5</b>
	<b>Normal</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>2.55</b>	<b>28.9</b>

# December 2014 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Average Temperature (°F)  
December 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

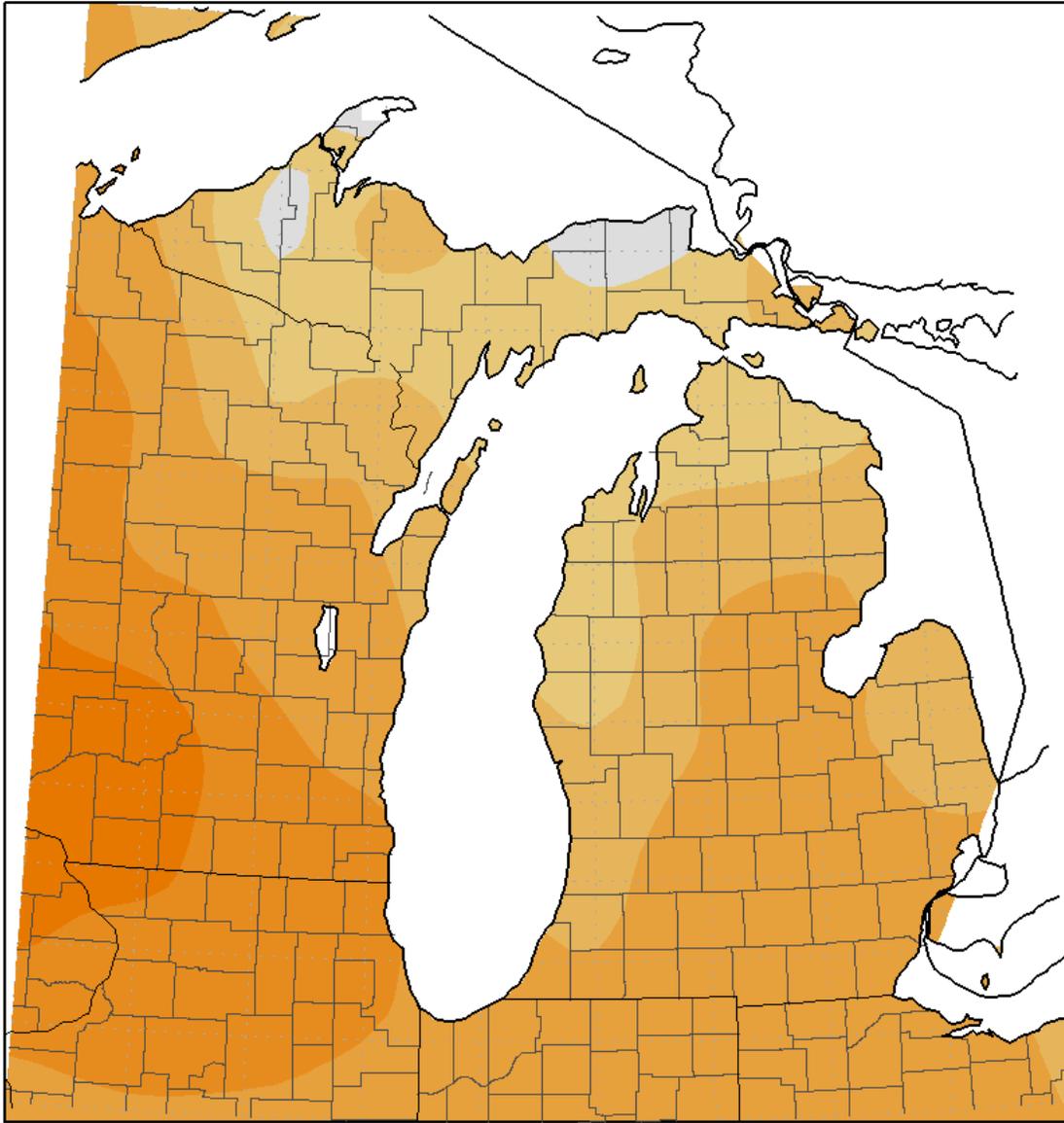


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Figure 1. Average temperature (°F) for December 2014.

# December 2014 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean  
December 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014



Mean period is 1981–2010.

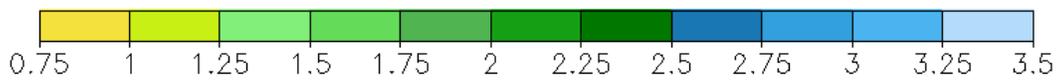
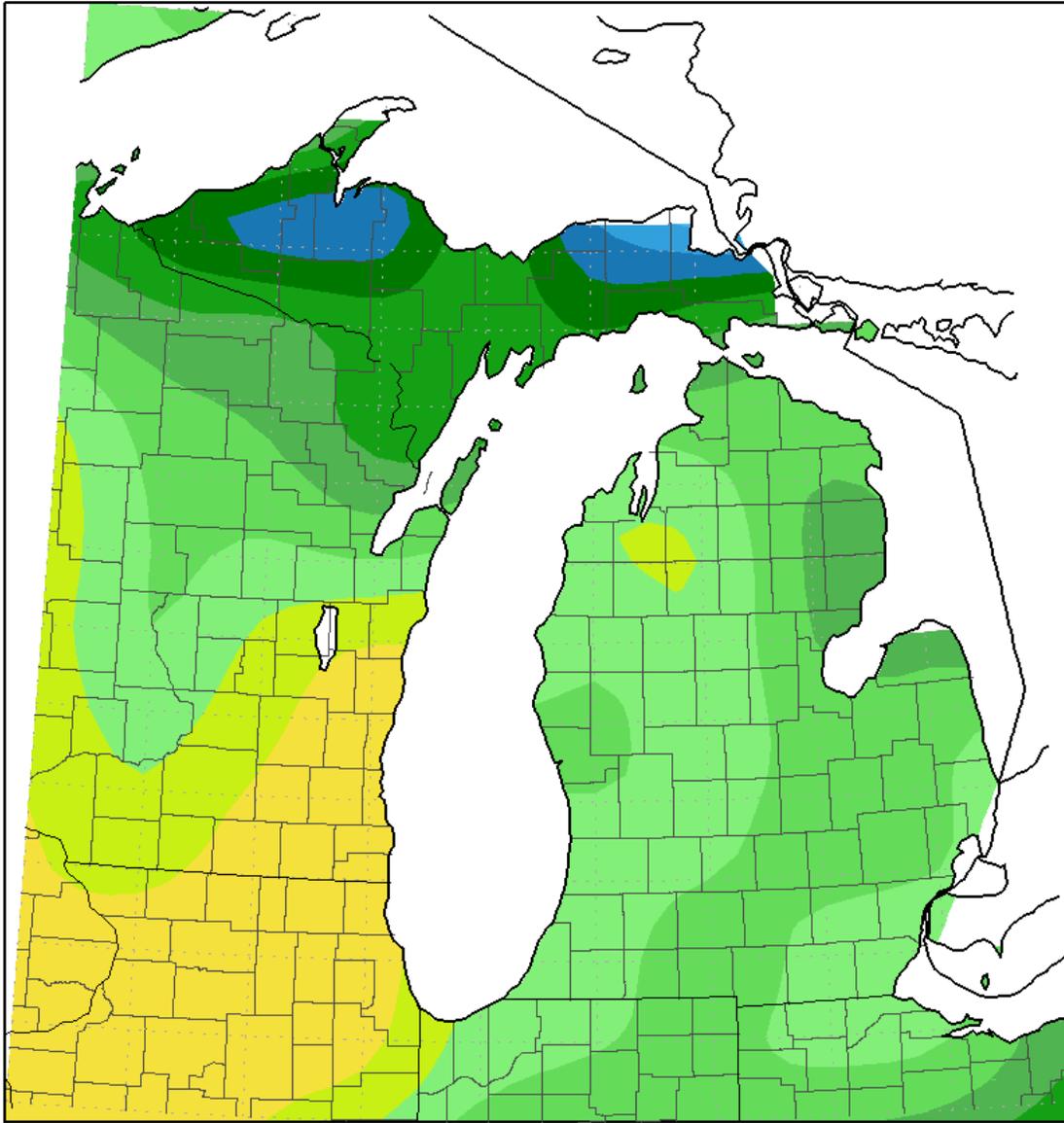


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Figure 2. Average temperature departure from normal (°F) for December 2014.

# December 2014 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Accumulated Precipitation (in)  
December 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

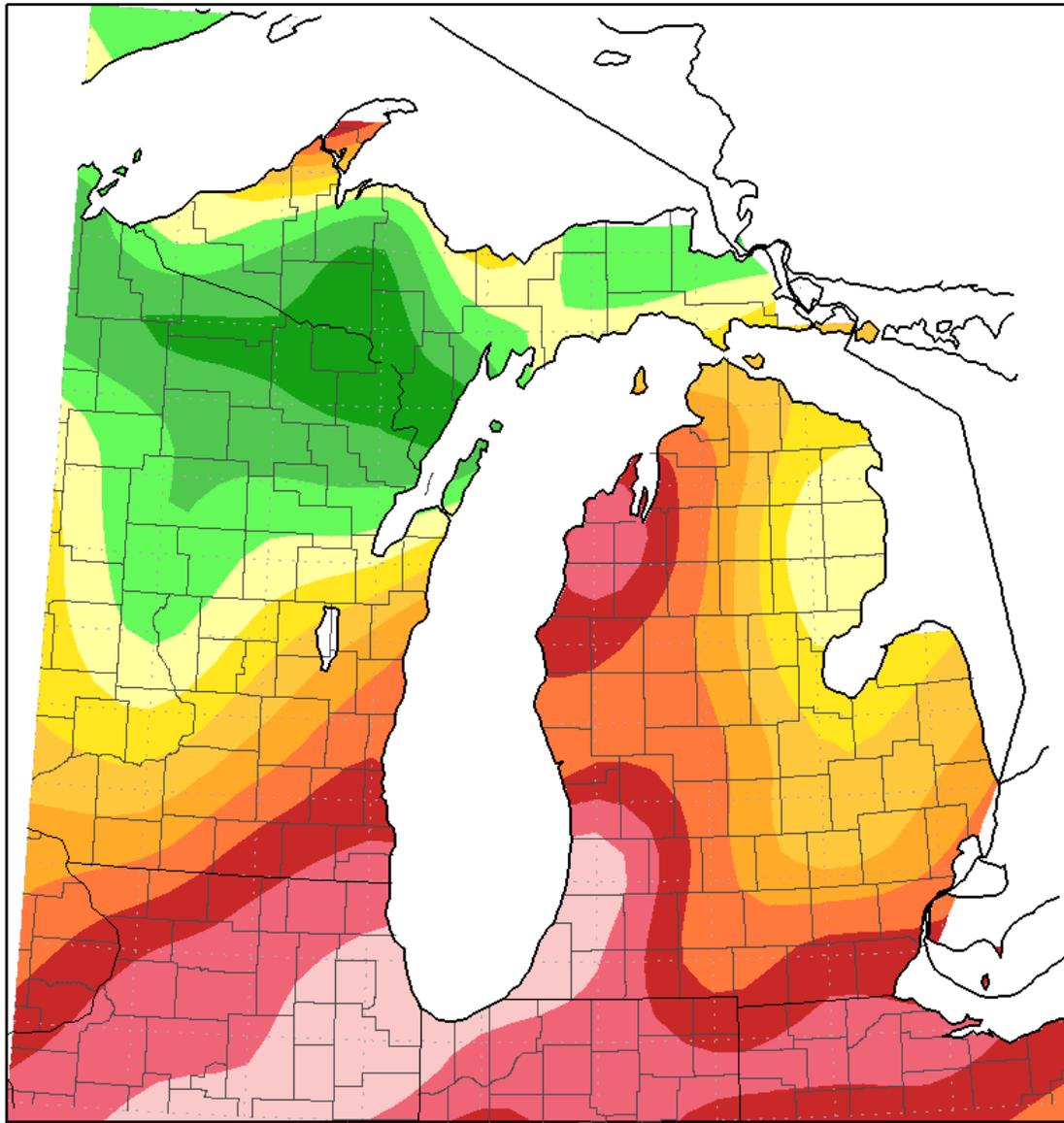


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Figure 3. Total precipitation (in inches) for December 2014.

# December 2014 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from Mean  
December 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014



Mean period is 1981-2010.

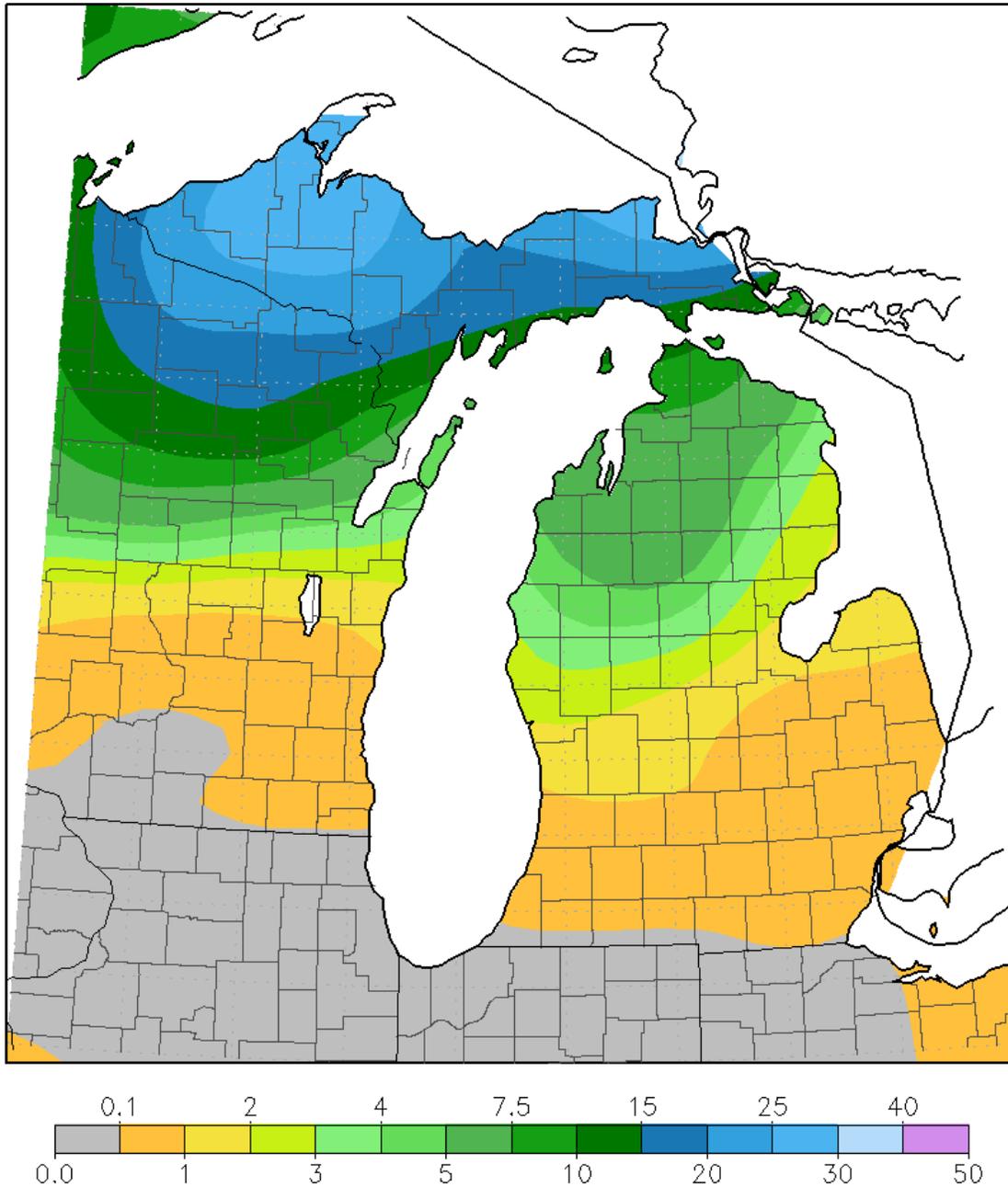


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Figure 4. Precipitation departure from normal (in inches) for December 2014.

# December 2014 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Accumulated Snowfall (in)  
December 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

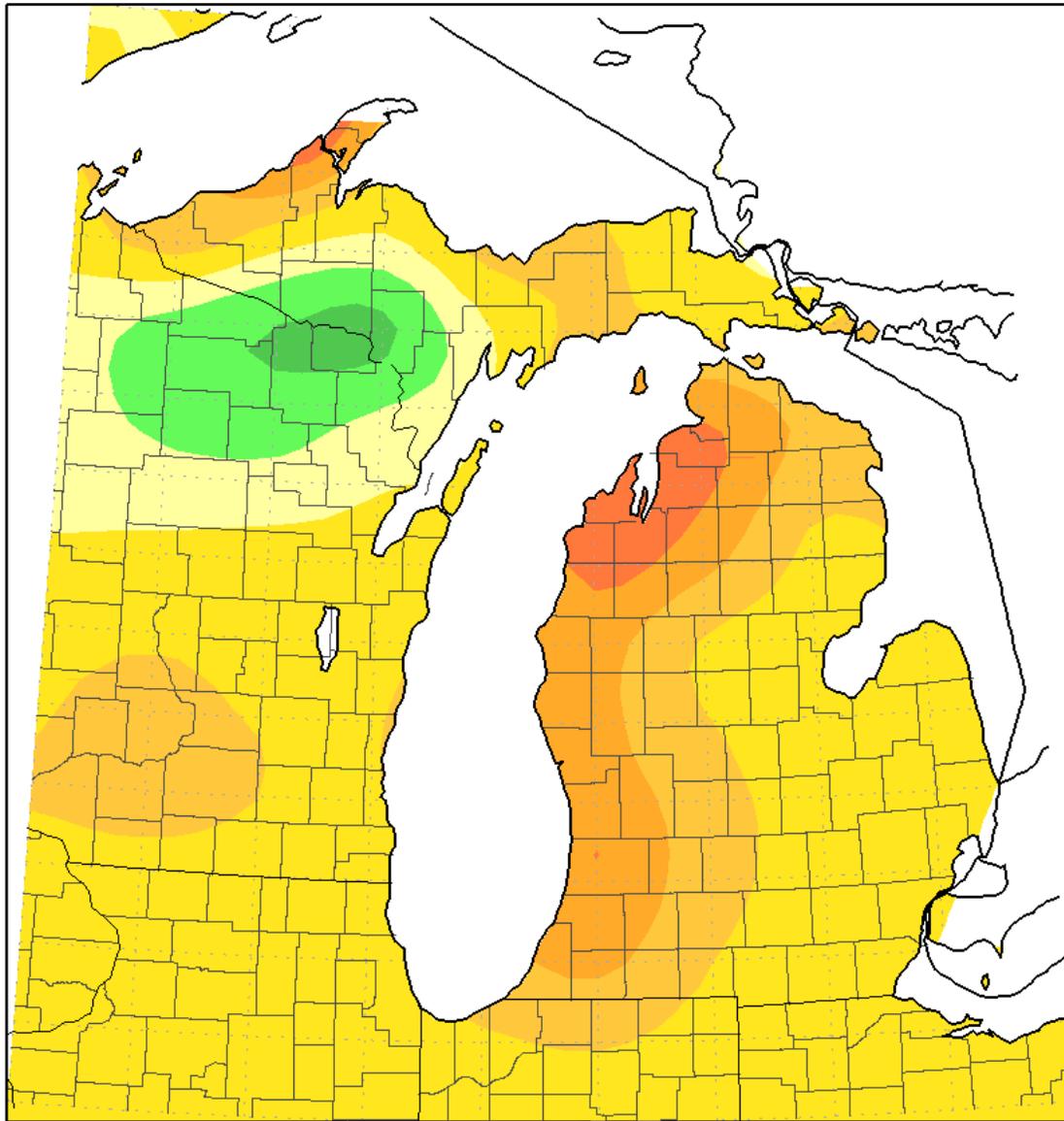


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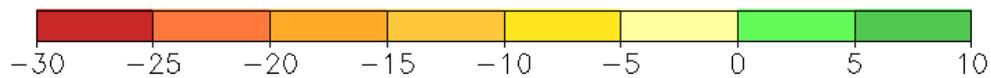
Figure 5. Accumulated snowfall (in inches) for December 2014.

## December 2014 Climate Summary for Southwest Lower Michigan

Accumulated Snowfall (in): Departure from Mean  
December 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014



Mean period is 1981-2010.



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Figure 6. Snowfall departure from normal (in inches) for December 2014.