March 2021 Monthly Climate Summary

The statewide average temperature for March 2021 was 35.8°F, which is 0.3°F colder than the 1981-2010 normal of 36.1°F. Average temperature for the year to date is 29.1°F, which is 1.1°F below the 1981-2010 normal of 30.2°F. March 2021 is the 42nd warmest March on record. So far, 2021 is the 53rd warmest year on record. Throughout the month the community of Gateway once again experienced the warmest weather with an average temperature of 48.3°F and 18 days reached temperatures greater than 60°F. Taylor Park was the coldest known area for the month with an average temperature of 19.2°F and 14 days where temperatures dropped below 0°F.

The statewide average precipitation for March 2021 was 1.97", which is 0.43" above the 1981-2010 normal of 1.54". Average accumulated precipitation for the year to date is 3.80", 0.18" below the 1981-2010 normal of 3.62". March 2021 is the 27th wettest March on record and so far, 2021 is the 48th wettest year on record. Berthoud Pass was the wettest area of the state in March. A SNOTEL station in the area reported 7.40" of total precipitation by the end of the month. However, many places in the San Luis and Lower Arkansas Valleys experienced less than 0.2" inches of precipitation throughout the month.

Daily Records (Tied | Broken) Total

High Max T
(11 | 52) 63
Highest Temp: 89°F, Walsh, March 7th

Low Max T
(6 | 18) 24

High Min T
(21 | 64) 85

Low Min T
(5 | 15) 20
Lowest Temp: -25°F, Taylor Park, March 1st

Precipitation
(23 | 117) 140
Greatest Daily Precip: 2.87", Wray, March 14th

Snowfall
(4 | 60) 64
Greatest Daily Snowfall: 28.5", Bellvue, March 14th
March 2021 Monthly Climate Summary

Temp/Precip Plots (left): Each dot plots the March average temperature and precipitation statewide in Colorado since 1895. From left to right, accumulated precipitation is shown, where the wettest years are plotted furthest to the right. Dot sizes are proportional to precipitation amounts. From bottom to top, average temperature is shown, where the warmest years are plotted towards the top. The dots are also color coded with darker colors indicating higher temperatures. The horizontal and vertical dotted lines indicate the 1981-2010 normals.

The star indicates March 2021 — wetter than average but near normal for temperature.

These plots for March 2021 depict the Colorado basin (left) and the Kansas basin (right). For western CO (Colorado basin), both precipitation and temperature were near-average. The Kansas drainage basin in eastern Colorado was slightly warmer than average and precipitation was the fourth highest on record.
March 2021 Monthly Climate Summary

March 2021 Epic Snowstorm

From March 13-15 widespread snow fell across most of the state, with the largest amounts in the northern Front Range mountains and the urban corridor. The state’s largest total was at Buckhorn Mountain, which reported 48 inches of snowfall!

- Denverite – March 9: How much should you be freaking out about the weekend’s snowstorm? We asked an expert who says things like “operational weather forecasting models.”
- CPR News – March 15: All That Snow Should Help With Colorado’s Drought, But It’s Still Not Enough For Some Parts Of The State
- KUNC – March 15: With Weekend Snowstorm, Significant Drought Relief Arrives For Front Range And Plains

March Snowpack

Snowpack at the end of March was still below the 30-year median in most of the western watersheds. The Upper Rio Grande, Arkansas and South Platte basins were just above the median. The San Juan Basin is still the driest at 83% of average.

Drought Update

The March snowstorm brought some nice relief to the eastern part of the state with some areas seeing a 2-category improvement in one week. D3-D4 conditions were decreased from covering 57% of the state to 32% of the state. Drought conditions still cover 92% of the state.

Mar 30, 2021
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https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/