

Photo credit:
Kristie Davis



Fort Collins Weather Station Monthly Summary

March 2026

<- We had a noteworthy windstorm this month, but there is very little about it in this summary because it was overshadowed by unseasonal heat

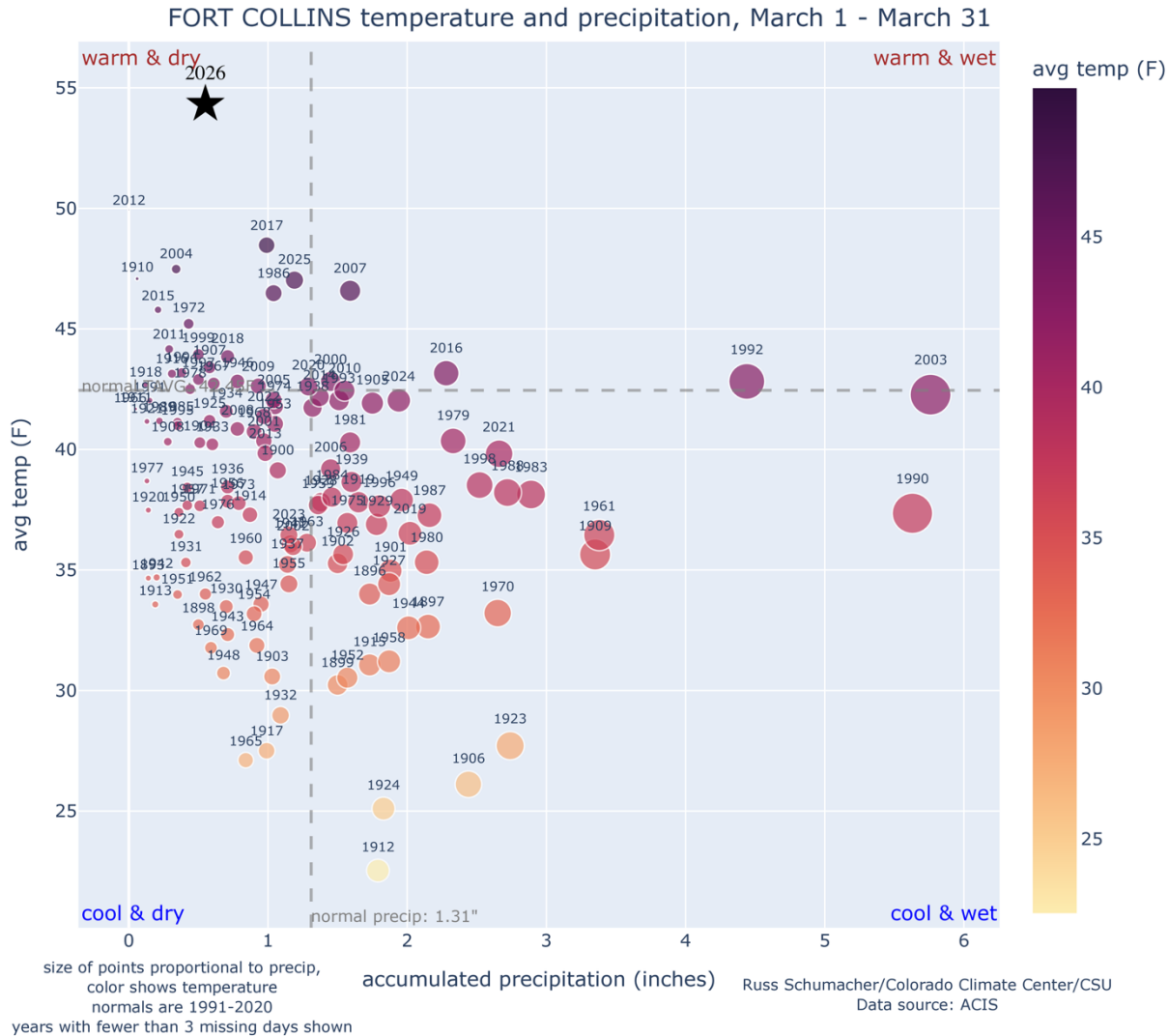


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Average March Temperature and Precipitation



The average air temperature for March 2026 was 53.7 °F, 11.3 °F above our 1991-2020 March normal (42.4 °F) and 15.4 °F above our period of record average (since 1889) of 38.3 °F

This is the warmest March on record, and the greatest single month temperature anomaly in our weather station's record. The previous record for the single greatest temperature anomaly was set just a few months ago, December 2025, at +11.0 °F

We received 0.55" of precipitation for March 2026, 42% of our 1991-2020 normal (1.31")

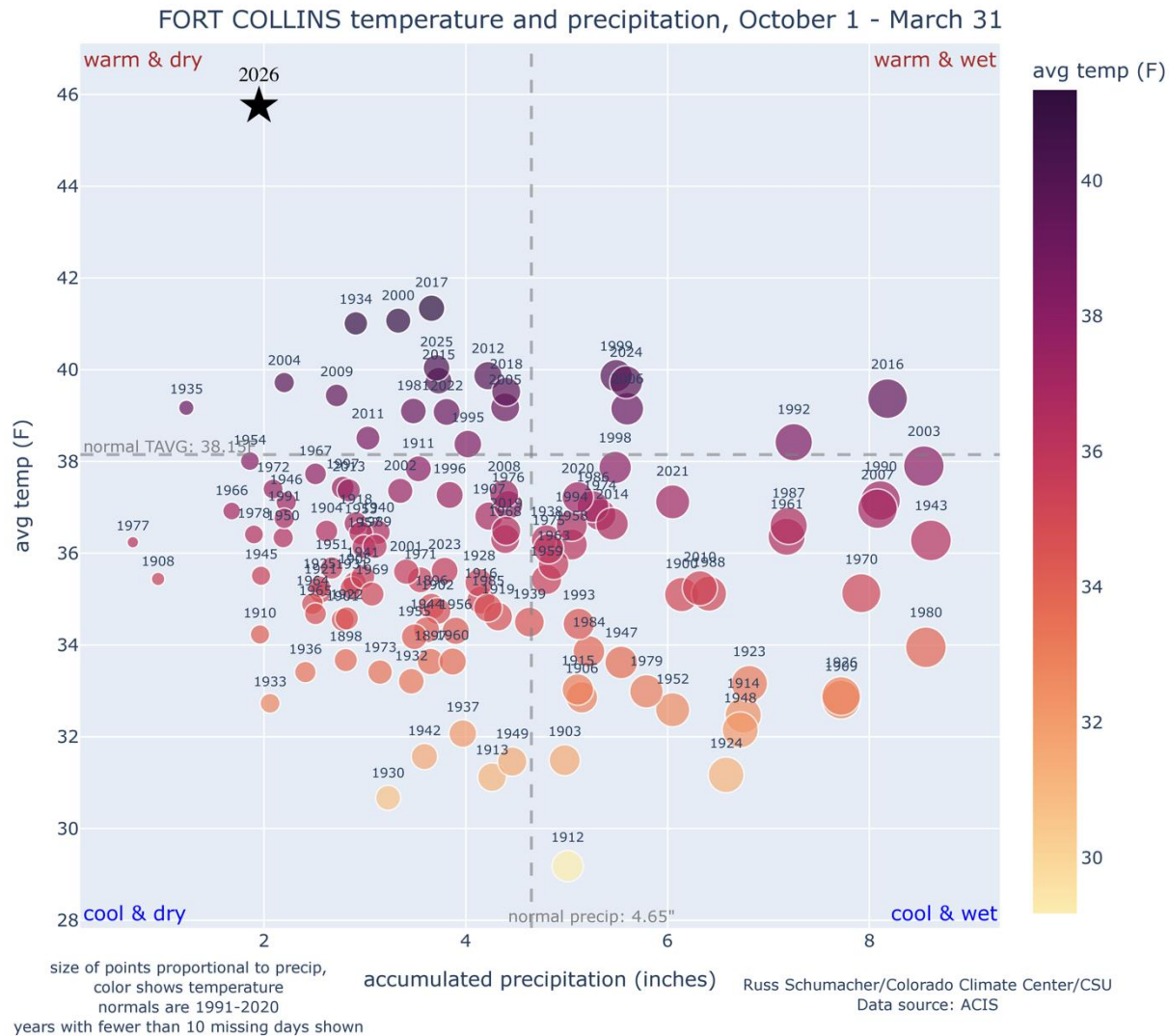
The last drier March was 2015 (0.21")

We received 3.7" of snowfall in March 2026, 39% of our normal (9.4"). March is our snowiest month on average

The last March with less snowfall was 2025 (0.1")



Water Year 2026 Temperature and Precipitation



The average air temperature for water year 2026 to date (Oct 2025 – Mar 2026) is 45.8 °F. This is 7.7 °F warmer than the 1991-2020 normal (38.1 °F), and 10.2 °F warmer than our period of record average (35.6 °F)

This is the warmest October-March on record by a wide margin. The next closest is 2017 (41.3 °F)

We have received 1.95” of precipitation for water year 2026 to date (Oct 2025 – Mar 2026). This is 42% of our 1991-2020 normal (4.65”)

The last drier beginning six months of a water year was 1978 (1.90”)

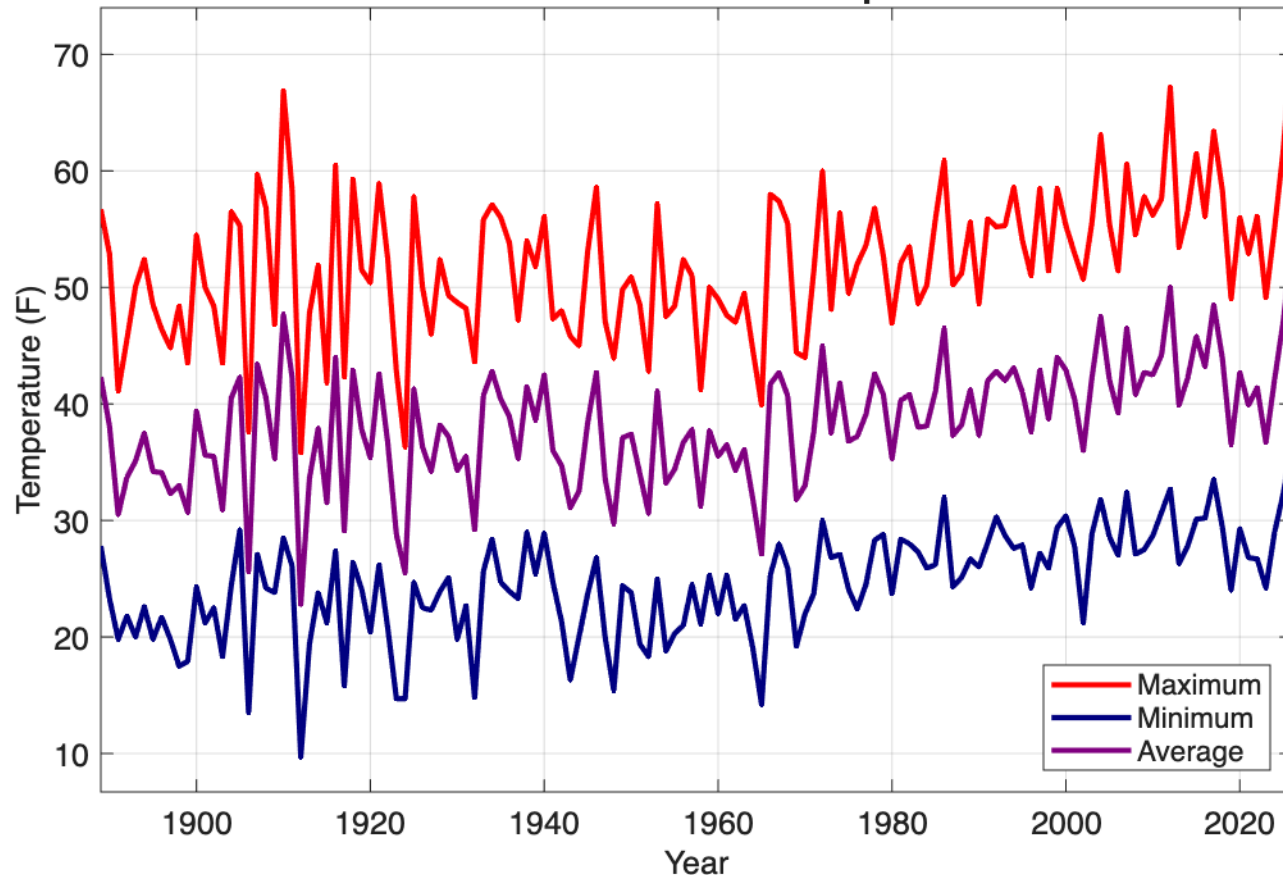
We have received 15.8” of snowfall for the snow season to date. This is 37% of our 1991-2020 normal snow season to date (43.0”)

The last snow season through March lower than 2026 was 1977 with just 14.2” through March

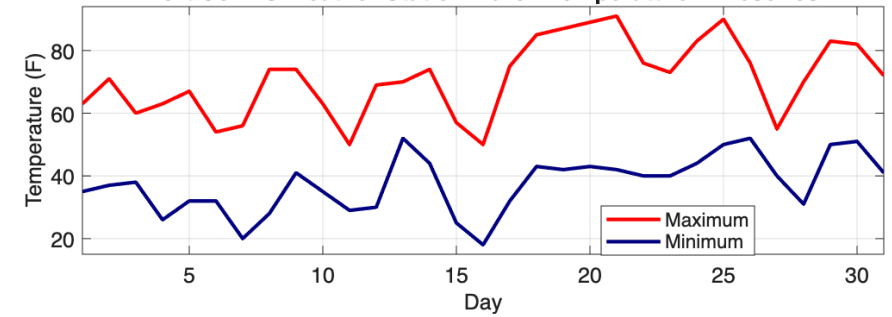


March 2026 Time Series Graphics

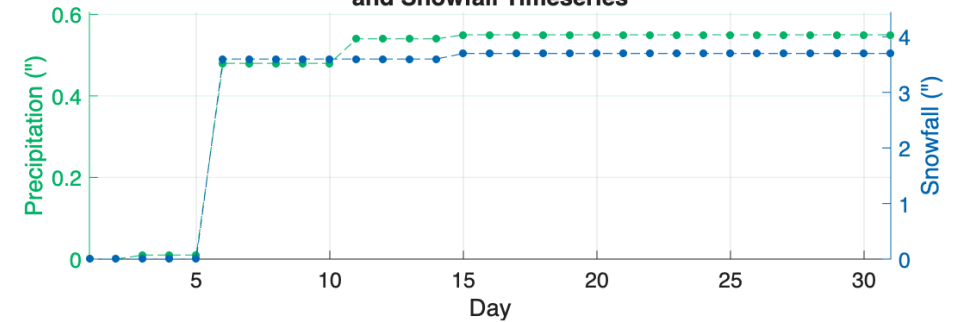
Fort Collins Weather Station March Temperature Timeseries



Fort Collins Weather Station March Temperature Timeseries



Fort Collins Weather Station March Precipitation and Snowfall Timeseries



Highest Daily T_{\max} : 91 °F on March 21st

Lowest Daily T_{\min} : 18 °F on March 16th

Highest Daily Precipitation: 0.47" on March 6th

Highest Daily Snowfall: 3.6" on March 6th



Additional March 2026 Statistics

	Observed	1991-2020 Normal	POR Average	Depart from Normal	Depart from POR Average	Last Above	Last Below
T_{mean} °F	53.7	42.4	38.3	11.3	15.4	N/A	2025
Mean(T_{max}) °F	71	56.4	52	14.6	19	N/A	2025
Mean(T_{min}) °F	36.5	28.5	24.5	8	12	N/A	2025
Precipitation "	0.55	1.31	1.18	-0.76	-0.63	2025	2015
Snowfall "	3.7	9.4	10.2	-5.7	-6.5	2024	2025
Oct-Mar Precipitation "	1.95	4.62	4.26	-2.67	-2.31	2025	1978
Oct-Mar Snowfall "	15.7	43	40.1	-27.3	-24.4	2025	1977

	Value	Date
Max(T_{max}) °F	91	5 th , 24 th
Min(T_{max}) °F	50	16 th
Max(T_{min}) °F	52	13 th , 26 th
Min(T_{min}) °F	18	16 th
Max(Daily Precip)"	0.47	6 th
Max(Daily Snowfall)"	3.6	6 th
Peak Wind Gust (mph)	51.6	12 th

Days Precip > 0	7
Days Snowfall > 0	5
Days Precip > Trace	4
Days Snowfall > Trace	2
Days Wind Gust > 20mph	10
Peak Wind Gust Direction	304
Peak Wind Gust Time (MST)	1047 MST

POR = period of record
(1889-2026)



Daily Records Broken

This month we broke a stunning 10 highest maximum daily temperature records and 6 highest daily minimum temperature records. Notably, the highest temperature ever recorded in March was 81 °F. We broke this record on eight separate days by a margin of up to 10 °F.

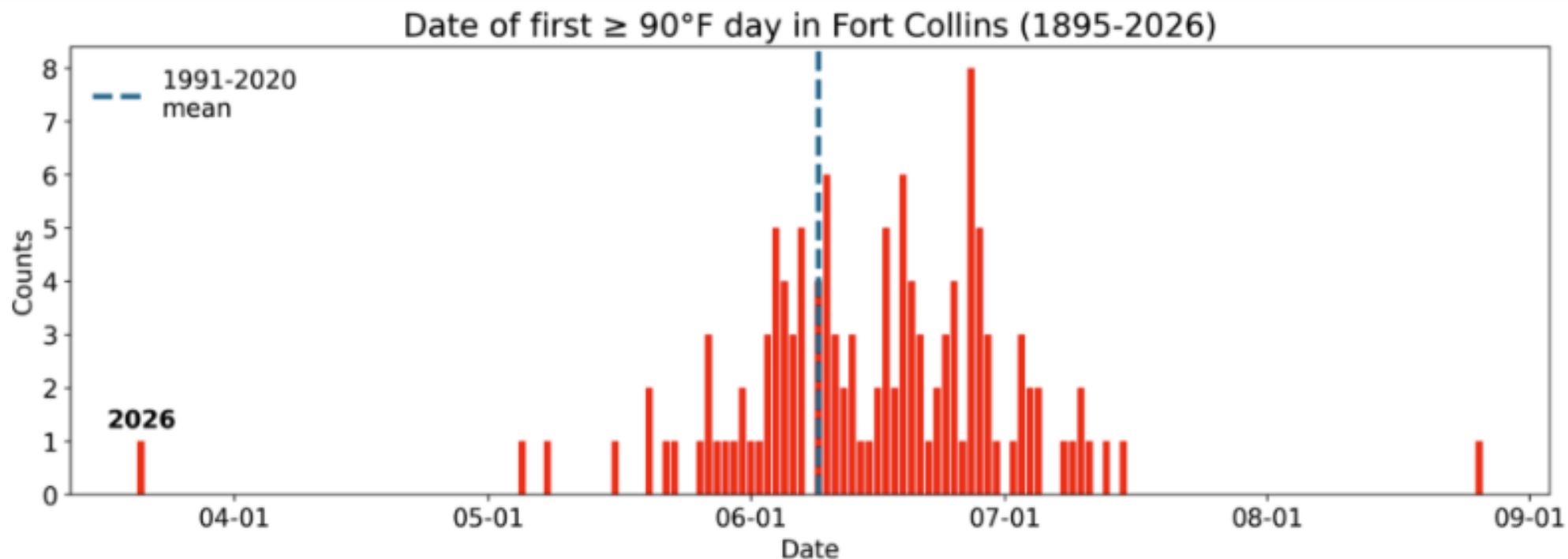
Record Highest Daily Maximum Temperatures				
Date	New Record °F	Previous Record °F	Year of Previous Record	Additional Tied Years
March 2nd	71	71	1901	
March 8th	74	72	1986	
March 18th	85	81	1921	
March 19th	87	79	1907	2004
March 20th	89	80	1907	
March 21st	91	79	1910	
March 24th	83	76	1896	1998
March 25th	90	76	1956	
March 29th	83	78	1967	
March 30th	82	80	1978	
Record Highest Daily Minimum Temperatures				
Date	New Record	Previous Record	Year of Previous Record	
March 13th	52	47	2015	
March 14th	44	42	1987	
March 18th	43	42	1976	
March 25th	50	48	2025	
March 26th	52	52	1998	
March 30th	51	51	1948	



Feature Story: Earliest 90 Degree Day

We reached 90 °F for the first time this season on March 21st. This is the earliest 90 degree day by over a month

The previous earliest 90 degree day was May 5th, and the average earliest 90 degree day is June 9th



Caption: Dates of first 90°F or warmer day in Fort Collins from 1895–present. The blue dashed line shows the 1991–2020 mean 90°F or warmer day, which is June 9. Data from ACIS.

Figure credit: Allie Mazurek.

More at <https://climate.colostate.edu/blog/index.php/2026/03/26/an-unprecedented-spring-heat-wave/>



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