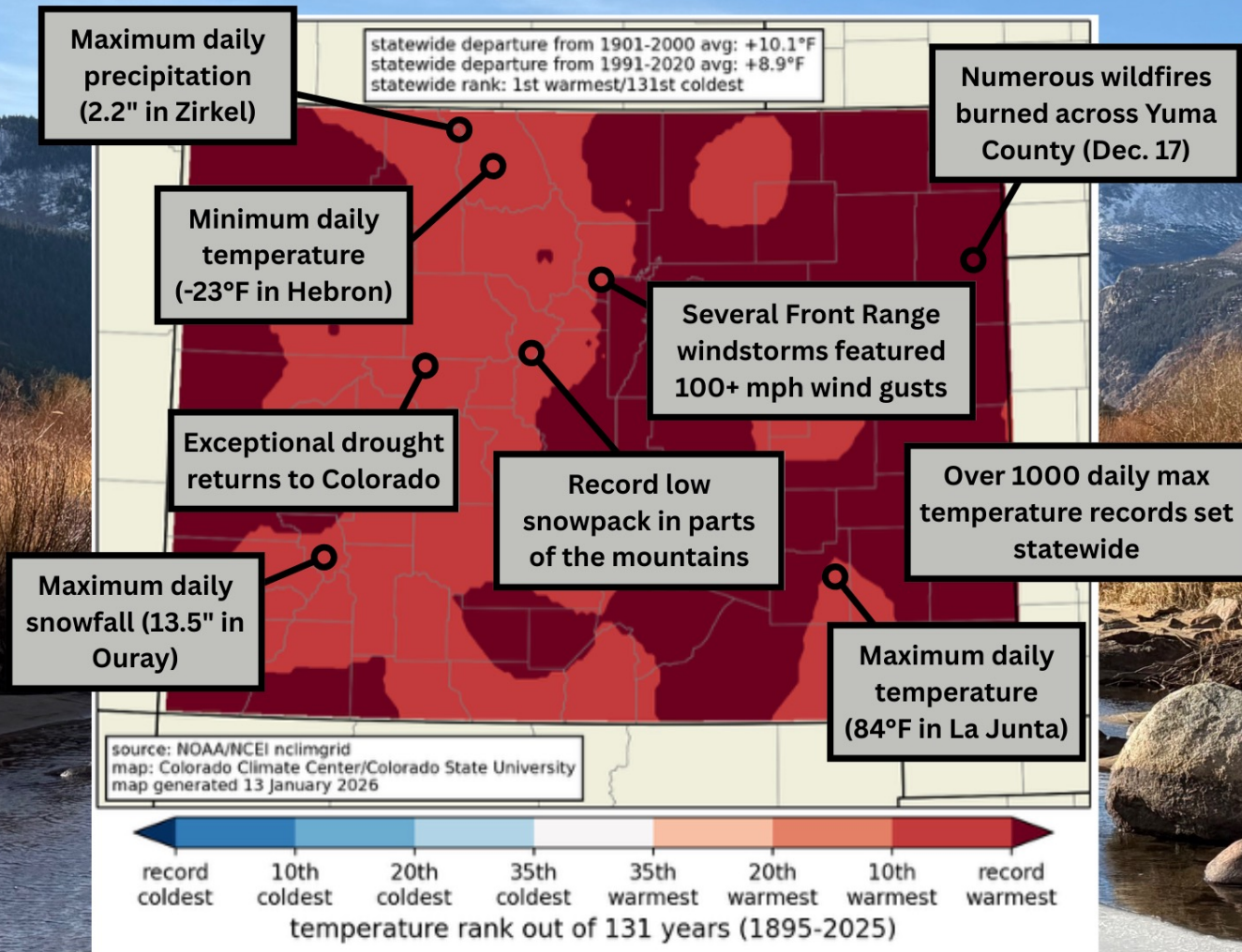


# December 2025

## Colorado Monthly Climate Summary



December 2025 Temperature Rank (from NCEI nclimgrid)

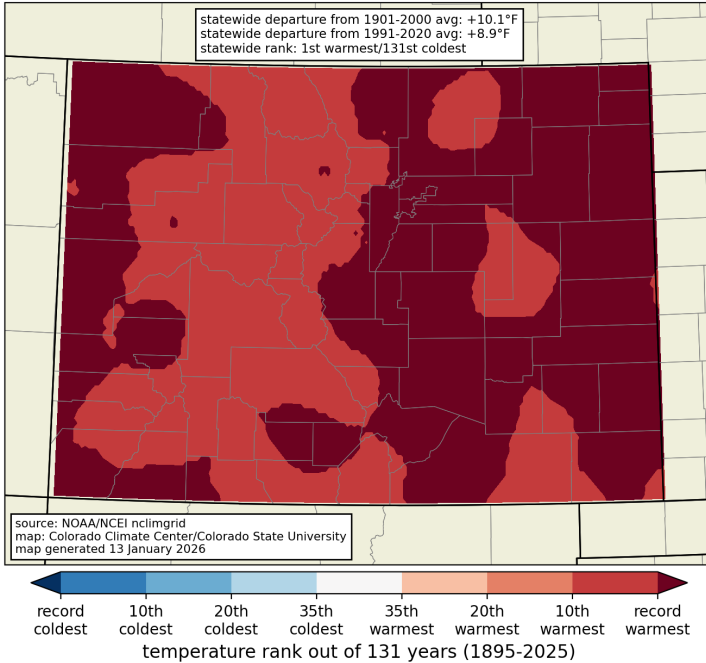
Statewide Temperature and Precipitation Ranks for December 2025  
(based on 1895-2025 data)

**1st warmest (record warmest)** ■ **34th driest (below average)**

# temperature

average temperature rank  
December 2025

statewide departure from 1901-2000 avg: +10.1°F  
statewide departure from 1991-2020 avg: +8.9°F  
statewide rank: 1st warmest/131st coldest

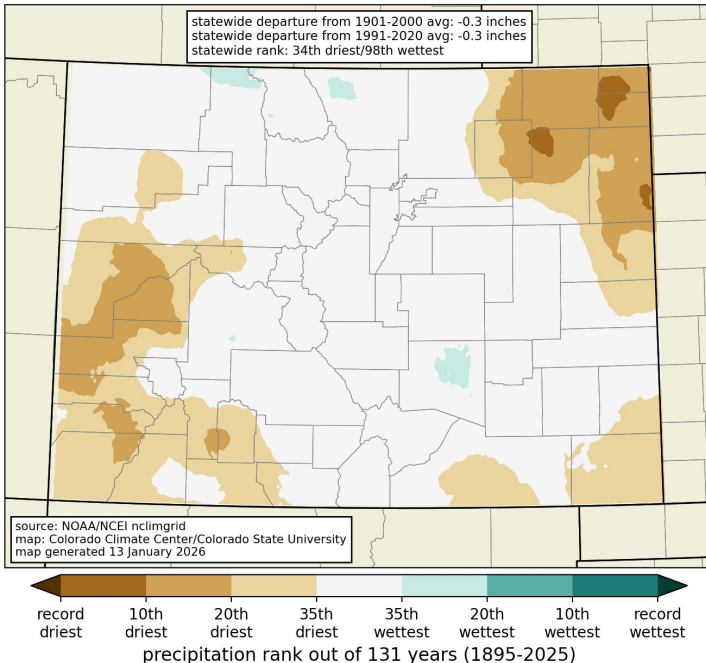


**December was exceptionally warm in Colorado: averaged across the state, it was the warmest December on record.** The previous record for warmest December was in 1980. All parts of the state were much warmer than average, with many locations breaking numerous daily record high temperatures during the month.

# precipitation

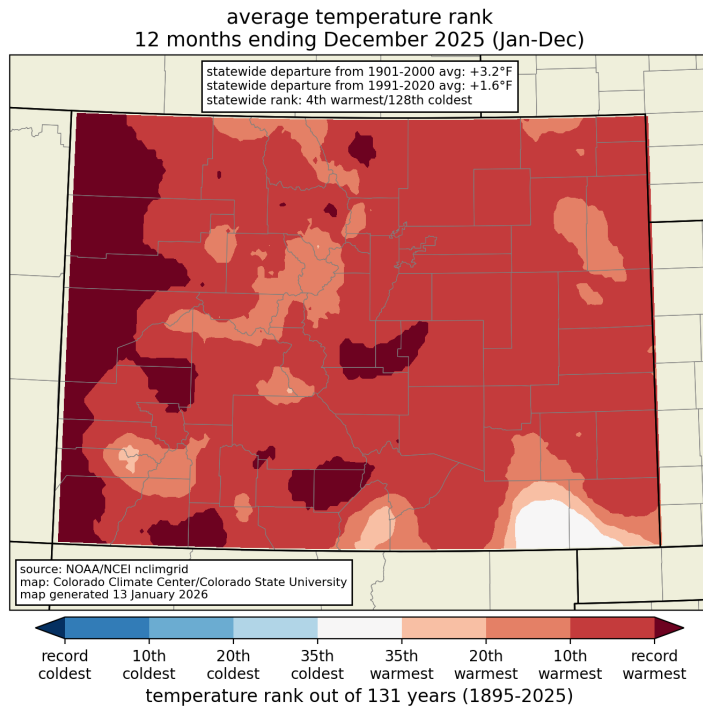
precipitation rank  
December 2025

statewide departure from 1901-2000 avg: -0.3 inches  
statewide departure from 1991-2020 avg: -0.3 inches  
statewide rank: 34th driest/98th wettest



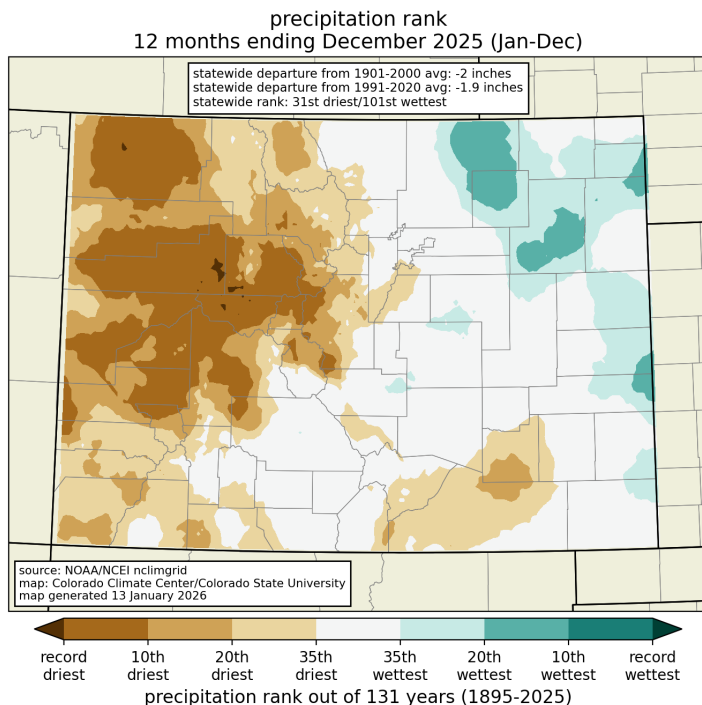
December was much drier than average in the northeastern and northwestern parts of the state. Portions of the northeastern plains had a top-10 dry December. Most of the rest of the state was closer to average, with a substantial snowstorm early in December but relatively little precipitation the rest of the month.

# temperature: calendar year 2025



Calendar year 2025 was another very warm one across Colorado, **ranking as the 4<sup>th</sup>-warmest on record statewide.** Parts of the western slope, and a few other pockets throughout the state, experienced their warmest year on record. Only a small area in southeastern Colorado had temperatures close to the historical average.

# precipitation: calendar year 2025



Western Colorado was dry in calendar year 2025; among the top 10 driest years on record in many locations. In contrast, the northeastern Plains were a bit wetter than average in 2025. Other areas, such as the Front Range and San Luis Valley, were near the middle of the historical pack for annual precipitation.



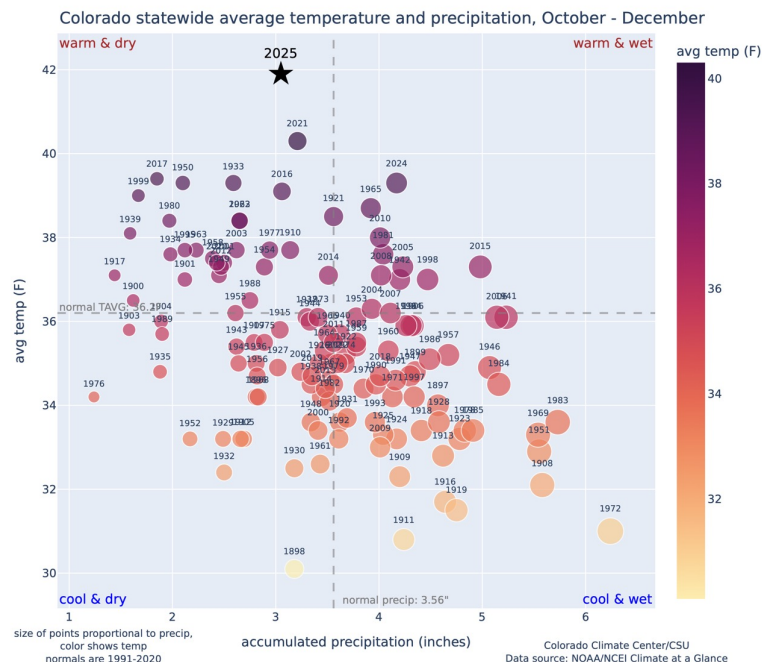
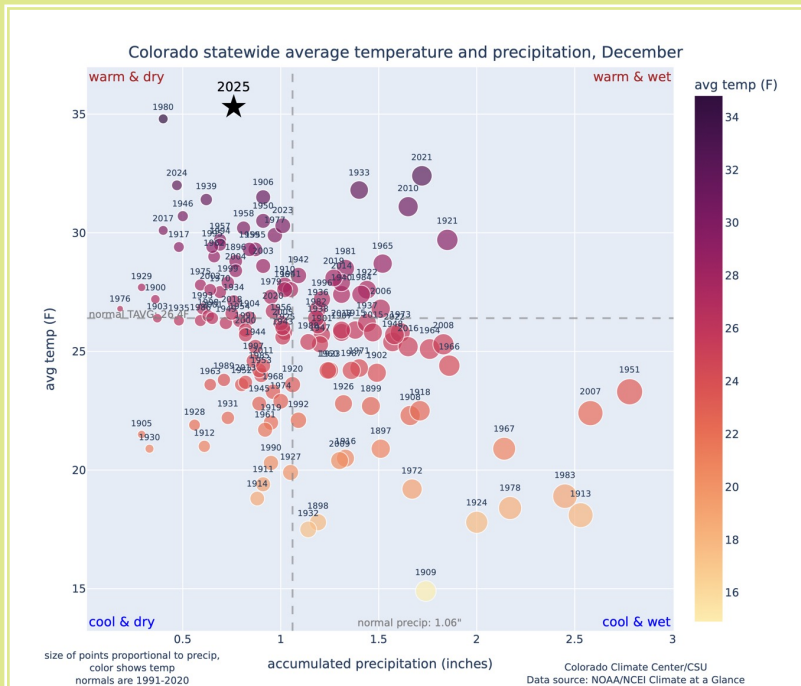
# quadrant charts

Each dot plots the precipitation on the horizontal axis and the temperature on the vertical axis. Dots are colored based on temperature and size is based on precipitation. The current year is denoted with a star. The 1991-2020 averages are denoted by the dashed lines.

As noted above, it was the warmest December on record for Colorado. **The statewide average temperature was an astounding  $10.1^{\circ}\text{F}$  warmer than the 20<sup>th</sup>-century average**, and  $8.9^{\circ}\text{F}$  warmer than the 1991-2020 average. It beat out December 1980---already an impressive outlier---by  $0.5^{\circ}\text{F}$ . Statewide precipitation was  $0.30''$  below the 30-year mean of  $1.06''$  and was tied for the 33<sup>rd</sup>-driest December in 131 years of records.

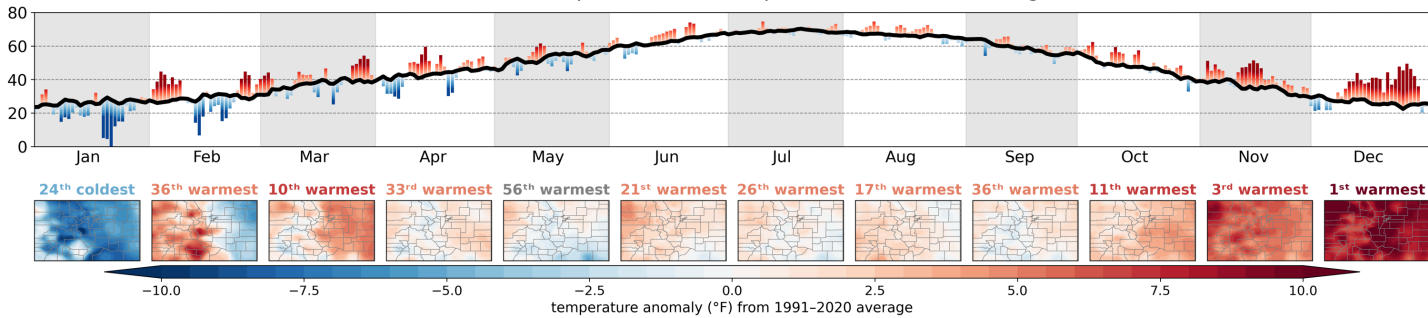
The warmth over October-December was even more unusual. It was  $5.7^{\circ}\text{F}$  warmer than the 1991-2020 average for these three months, and  $1.6^{\circ}\text{F}$  warmer than any other October through December period on record. Statewide precipitation over these three months was less anomalous, at  $0.5''$  below average.

[view all quadrant charts](#)

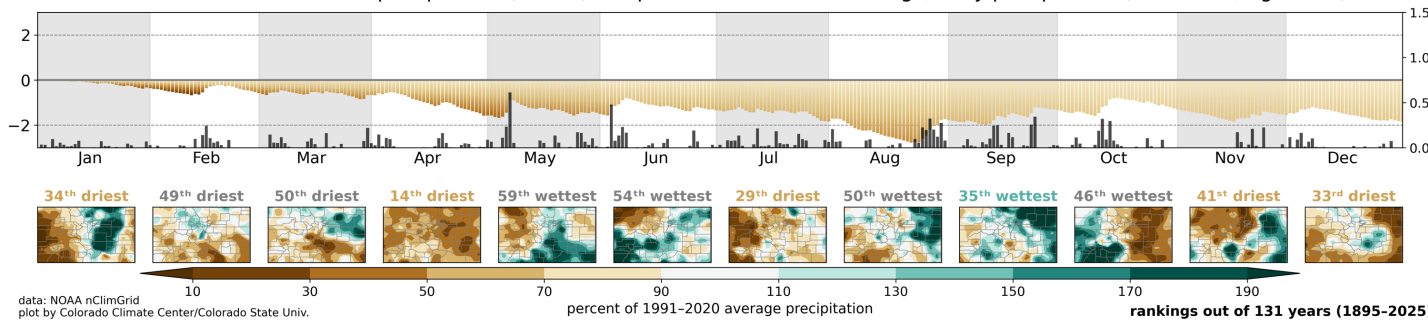


# Calendar Year 2025 temperature and precipitation

Colorado 2025 temperatures (°F) compared to 1991–2020 average



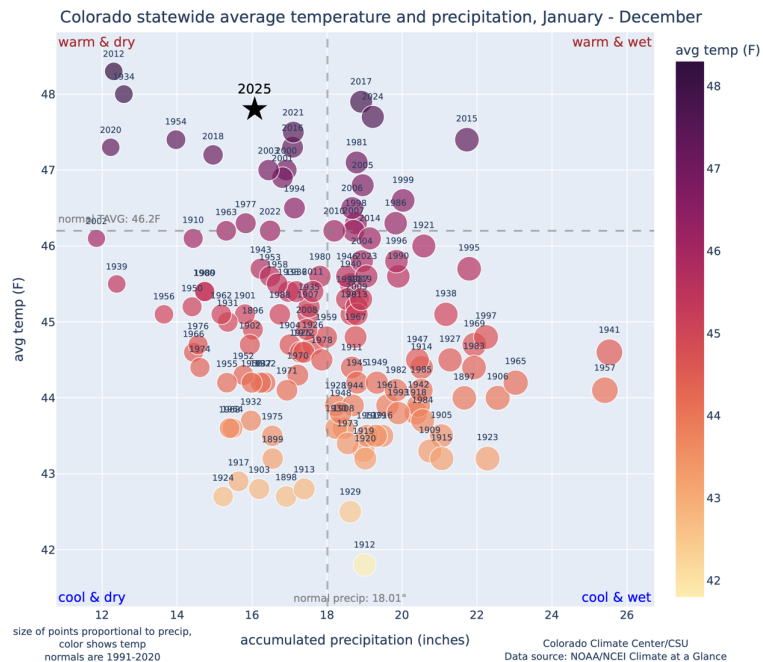
Colorado 2025 accumulated precipitation (inches) compared to 1991–2020 average; daily precipitation (black bars, right axis)



data: NOAA nClimGrid  
plot by Colorado Climate Center/Colorado State Univ.

Calendar year 2025 was the 4<sup>th</sup>-warmest in 131 years of records for Colorado, behind only 2012, 1934, and 2017. The incredibly warm December moved 2025 up in the rankings, and January was the only colder-than-average month in 2025. Nine of the eleven warmest years in Colorado records have occurred since 2012.

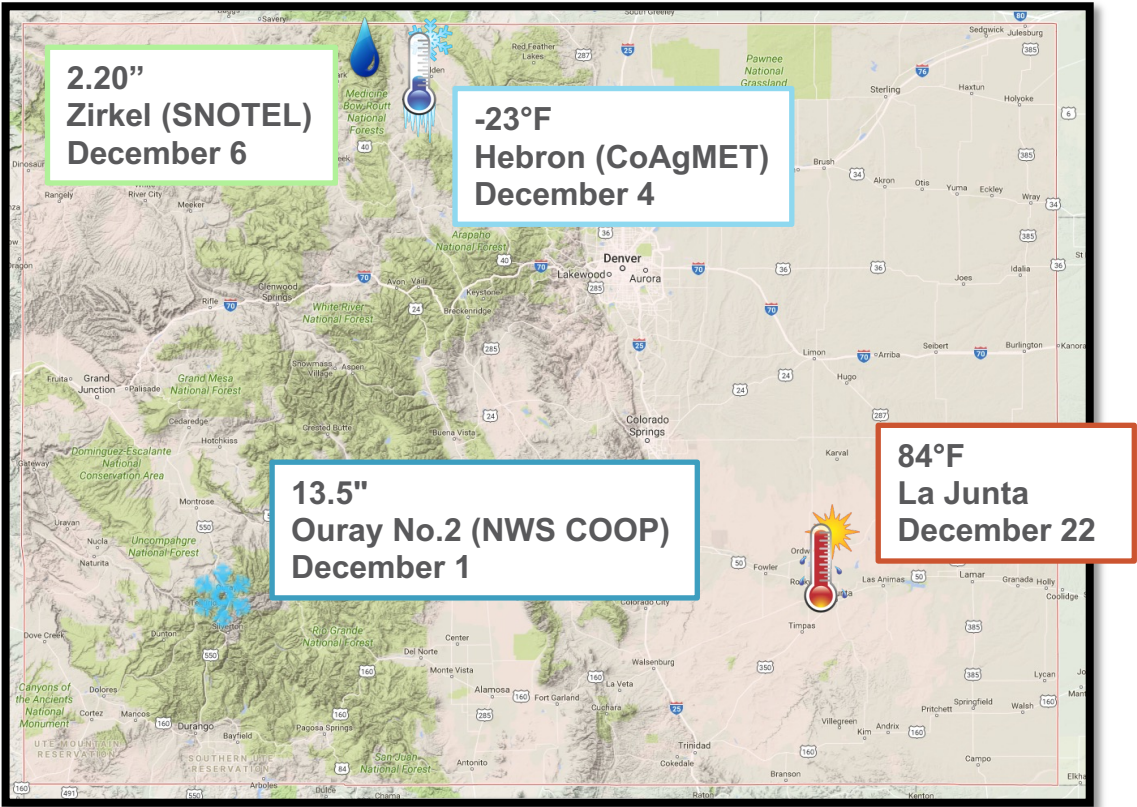
Statewide precipitation was 1.94" below average in 2025, ranking as the 31<sup>st</sup> driest year.



	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	125/913	3/9	97/1057	0/4	19/63	2/24
Monthly	29/25	0/0	32/146	0/0	0/1	0/0
All-time	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0

Tied/**Broken**, from NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

# state extremes

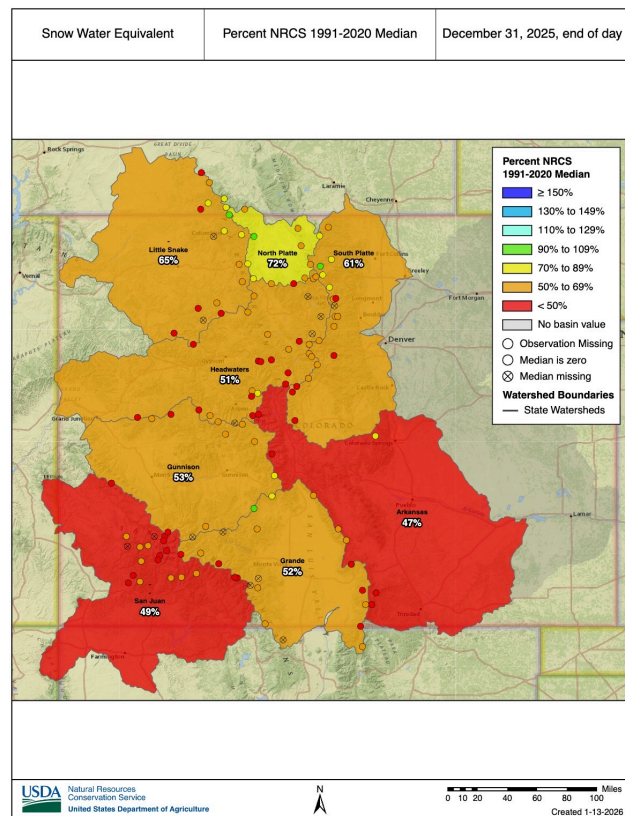




# drought & snowpack

December continued to be a poor month for snowpack, with snow water equivalent across all basins continuing to be well below normal. A solid snowstorm at the beginning of the month delivered a much-needed boost, but the remainder of the month was relatively dry, solidifying statewide deficits that have been in place nearly all winter. By the end of December, the Arkansas and San Juan basins had just 47% and 49% (respectively) of their normal snowpack. Statewide snowpack was 57% of normal (1991-2020) at the end of the month. The last time that end-of-December snowpack was this poor was water year 2000 (the record low for that time of year).

## Colorado Drought Update Page



### U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

**December 30, 2025**  
(Released Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	29.39	70.64	37.59	15.21	2.69	0.53
Last Week 10-29-2025	37.36	62.64	36.43	15.21	1.70	0.53
3 Months Ago 10-30-2022	45.82	54.18	45.19	35.88	14.34	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	71.40	28.60	10.78	4.08	0.98	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	45.82	54.18	45.19	35.88	14.34	0.00
One Year Ago 12-30-2024	75.05	24.95	10.15	4.08	0.88	0.00

**Intensity:**

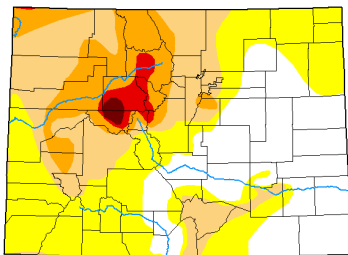
- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

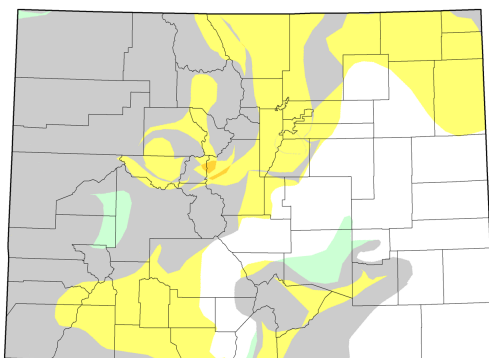
Author:  
Rocky Billots  
NCEI/NOAA



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



### U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Colorado 5 Week



December 30, 2025  
compared to  
November 25, 2025

[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

December primarily featured worsening drought conditions. Exceptional drought conditions (D4) were reintroduced after being eradicated in early September. Drought conditions expanded throughout the mountains and onto the adjacent Plains, including the Front Range Urban Corridor. In southwest Colorado, abnormally dry (D0) conditions returned after record-setting precipitation and flooding affected the area during the fall. By the end of December, ~38% of the state was experiencing some amount of drought (up from ~30% at the end of November), and ~71% of the state is at least classified as abnormally dry (up from 15% at the end of last month). Only a few localized areas, such as Pueblo County and parts of the West Slope, saw net drought improvements during December.



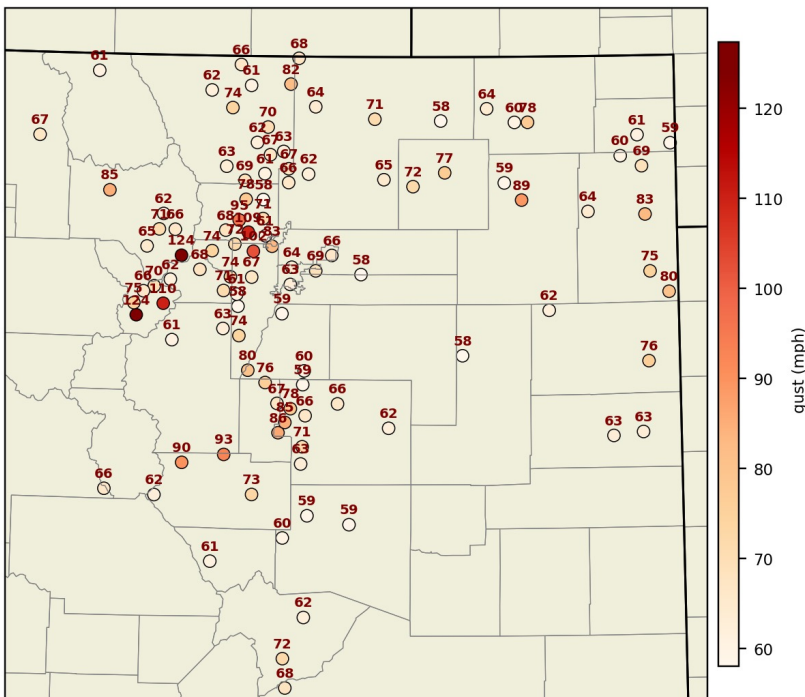
# significant events

Earlier pages of this summary show that the December 2025 warmth was extremely unusual across all of Colorado. One way to examine this extraordinary warmth further is to compare the number of days that exceeded 60°F to previous Decembers at stations with lengthy period-of-records. While it is not unusual to see a December day in the 60s across Colorado's lower elevations, the number of days with temperatures that were that warm was far from normal. For some places, including Denver and Fort Collins, more than half of the days in December 2025 featured maximum temperatures of 60°F or higher. Locations that rarely see 60°F December days (such as Grand Junction and Alamosa) reached those temperatures several times as well.

City	# days $\geq 60^{\circ}\text{F}$ in Dec 2025	Previous record (year)
Akron	14	12 (1980, 1939)
Alamosa	3	2 (2021)
Boulder	18	17 (1980)
Colorado Springs	15	13 (1939)
Cortez	11	8 (1939)
Denver	18	15 (1980)
Fort Collins	17	13 (1980)
Grand Junction	3	2 (several)
Greeley	18	17 (1980)
Trinidad	19	18 (1980)

*Cities that saw their greatest number of 60°F December days in 2025 compared to previous records.*

Colorado local storm reports for wind gusts (mph): 17-18 December 2025



Local storm reports showing reported wind gusts in excess of 58 mph on Dec. 17-18.

December featured several notable downslope windstorms that brought gusts in excess of 100 mph to parts of the Front Range and adjacent Plains. The high winds coupled with very dry conditions led to wildfire concerns, prompting two [Public Safety Power Shutoffs](#) as a preventative measure. While fires were largely avoided along the Front Range, strong winds flamed fires further east as a strong front passed through on one of the same downslope windstorm days (Dec. 17). In Yuma County, [at least 9 wildfires broke out](#) (presumably due to downed powerlines), burning several thousand acres.





# CCC in the news

- ❑ **December 1, 2025: [Colorado's 2025 'Water Year' was abnormally hot and dry](#)**
  - Featuring Allie Mazurek in CPR News
- ❑ **December 12, 2025: [Colorado Crossroads: Building Resilience from the Ground Up](#)**
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher, Peter Goble and Allie Mazurek in the National Academies – Science, Engineering, Math
- ❑ **December 17, 2025: [When will Xcel power come back? It could be days for some](#)**
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in the Coloradoan
- ❑ **December 21, 2025: [2025 was one of the warmest years on record for Colorado](#)**
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in CPR News
- ❑ **December 22, 2025: [Fort Collins to flirt with record-high temperature on Christmas Day](#)**
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in the Coloradoan
- ❑ **December 26, 2025: [A not-so-white Christmas: Colorado mountain towns saw rain, record-high temperatures and record-low snowpack](#)**
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher the Aspen Times



# CCC in the news - continued

- ❑ **December 26, 2025:** [Colorado cities set Christmas Day records, but snow is coming](#)
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in the Coloradoan
- ❑ **December 29, 2025:** [Colorado's snowpack remains well below normal, is climate change behind it?](#)
  - Featuring Russ Schumacher in CPR News

## Our December blog posts:

- ❑ [Where is the snow?](#) - summarizing the poor state of the snowpack as of mid-December, which has not improved.
- ❑ [A look back at the “big chill”](#) – if you want to revisit the record-breaking cold snap from December of 2022

