

February 2026

Colorado Monthly Climate Summary

statewide departure from 1901-2000 avg: +9.2°F
 statewide departure from 1991-2020 avg: +7.6°F
 statewide rank: 1st warmest/132nd coldest

Several locations, including Denver, Fort Collins, Akron, and Colorado Springs shatter records for most 60°F+ days

Warmest February on record statewide

Snowpack remains lowest in over 40 years

Multiple grass fires, including ones near Boulder, Thornton, Matheson, and Wiggins

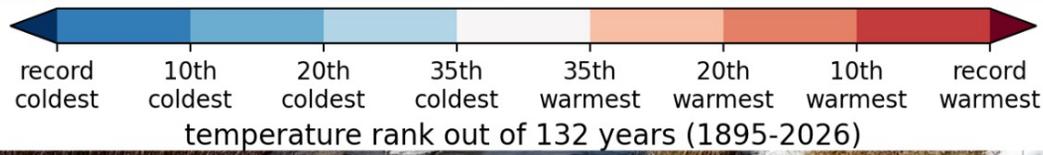
Maximum daily precipitation (1.8" at Spud Mountain)

Minimum daily temperature (-27°F in Taylor Park)

Maximum daily temperature (85°F in Pueblo and Campo)

Maximum daily snowfall (12.5" near Bayfield)

source: NOAA/NCEI nclimgrid
 map: Colorado Climate Center/Colorado State University
 map generated 09 March 2026



February 2026 Temperature Rank (from NCEI nclimgrid)

Statewide Temperature and Precipitation Ranks for February 2026

(based on 1895-2026 data)

1st warmest (record warmest) ■ **37th driest (below average)**



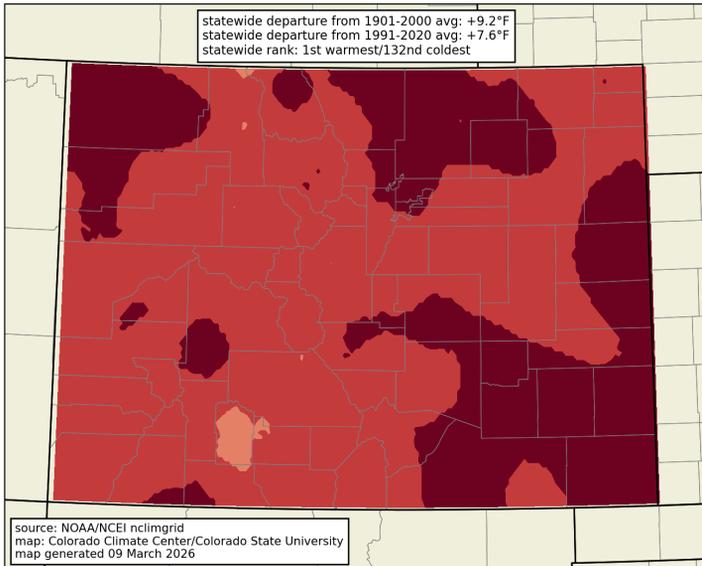
Rocky Mountain National Park
 February 22, 2026
 Photo by Henry Reges



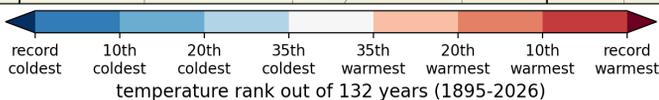
temperature

average temperature rank
February 2026

statewide departure from 1901-2000 avg: +9.2°F
statewide departure from 1991-2020 avg: +7.6°F
statewide rank: 1st warmest/132nd coldest



source: NOAA/NCEI nclimgrid
map: Colorado Climate Center/Colorado State University
map generated 09 March 2026

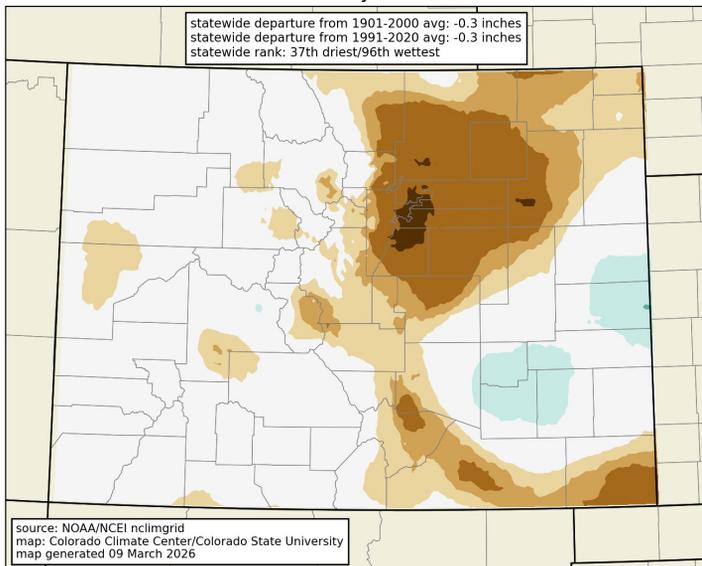


February was very warm across Colorado, with the entire state experiencing above-average temperatures. The northern Front Range, southeastern plains, and northwest corner of the state all had the warmest February on record, and statewide it also ranked as the warmest February on record, edging out February 1954.

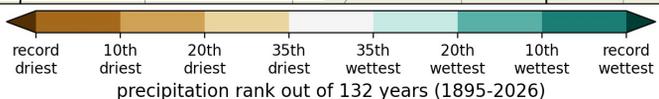
precipitation

precipitation rank
February 2026

statewide departure from 1901-2000 avg: -0.3 inches
statewide departure from 1991-2020 avg: -0.3 inches
statewide rank: 37th driest/96th wettest



source: NOAA/NCEI nclimgrid
map: Colorado Climate Center/Colorado State University
map generated 09 March 2026

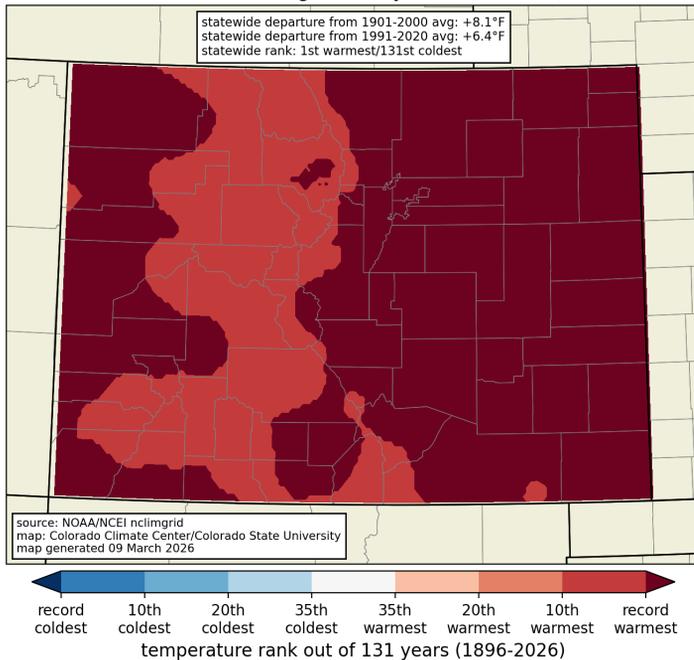


Many areas along the Front Range saw no measurable precipitation in February, and thus it was among the driest Februaries on record. In the mountains and on the western slope, precipitation was only slightly below average, and pockets of southeastern Colorado had above-average precipitation for February.



temperature: winter 2025-26

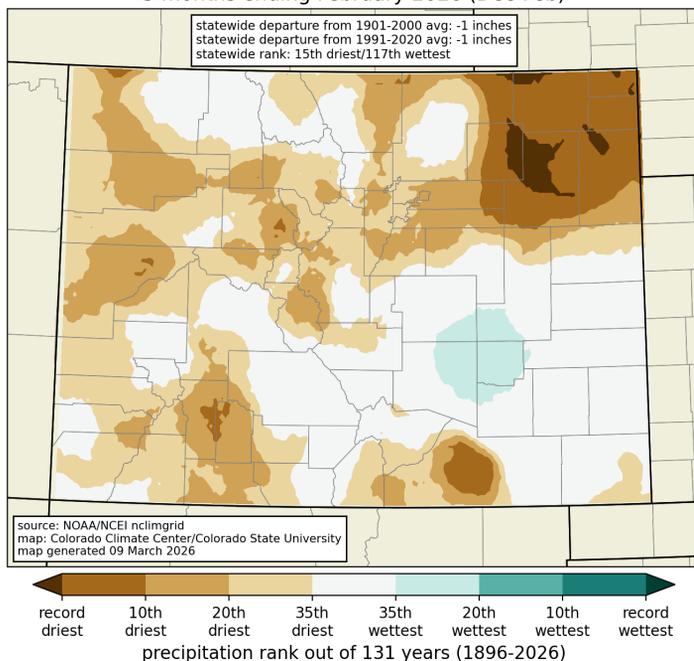
average temperature rank
3 months ending February 2026 (Dec-Feb)



Climatological winter (December-January-February) was the warmest on record for Colorado, standing 1.6°F above the previous warmest winter of 1980-81. Two brief cold blasts in late January and mid-February were the only breaks from the persistent winter warmth.

precipitation: winter 2025-26

precipitation rank
3 months ending February 2026 (Dec-Feb)



Most of the state was drier than average during climatological winter. Although northeastern Colorado is typically quite dry during winter, this year was even drier than usual. The mountains received below-average snowfall and the western slope remained dry as well. Only a small portion of southeastern Colorado had above-average winter precipitation.



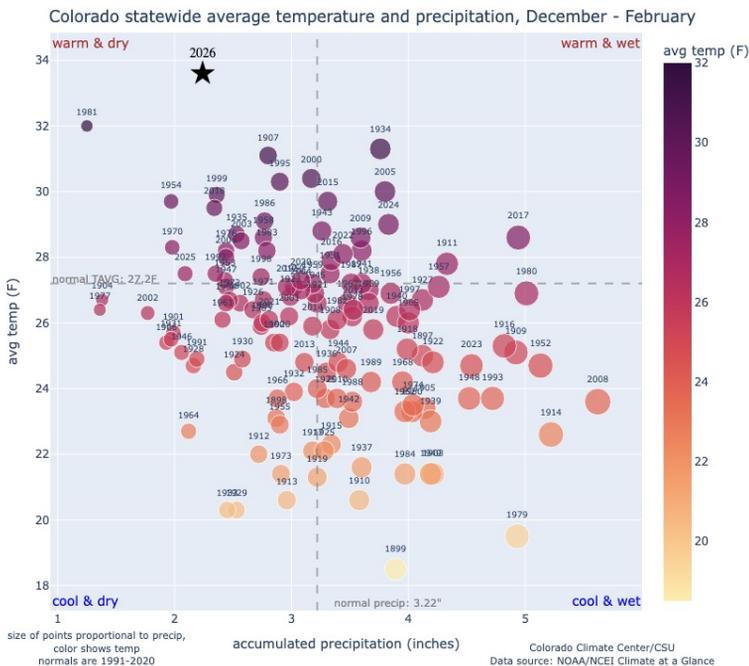
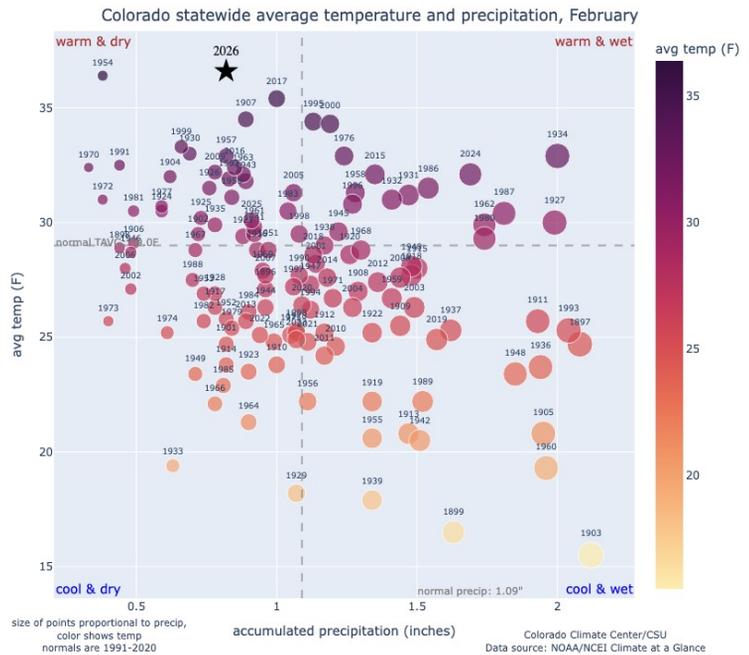
quadrant charts

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.

February 2026 was once again in the warm and dry quadrant for Colorado. Averaged across the state, **It was the warmest February in 132 years of records for Colorado**, at 9.2° F warmer than the 20th-century average, and 7.6° F above the 1991-2020 average. Statewide precipitation was 0.27" below the 30-year mean of 1.09" and was tied for the 33rd-driest February on record.

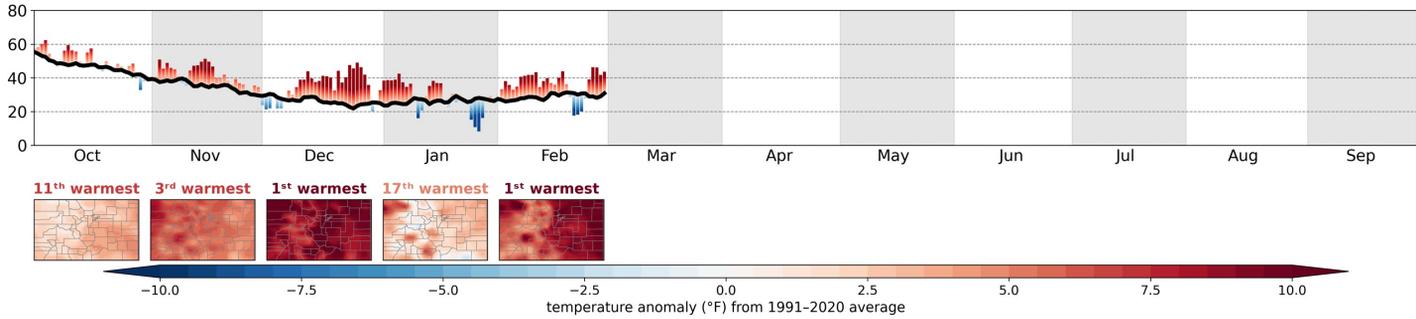
It was the warmest climatological winter in 131 years of records for Colorado, at 8.1° F warmer than the 20th-century average, and 6.4° F above the 1991-2020 average. It was the 15th driest winter, 0.98" below average for precipitation statewide.

[view all quadrant charts](#)

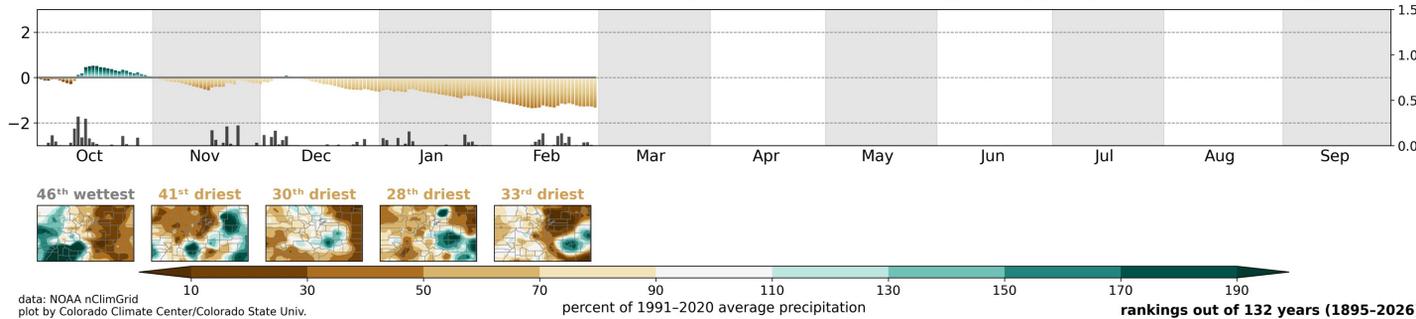


Water Year 2026 temperature and precipitation summary

Colorado Water Year 2026 temperatures (°F) compared to 1991–2020 average

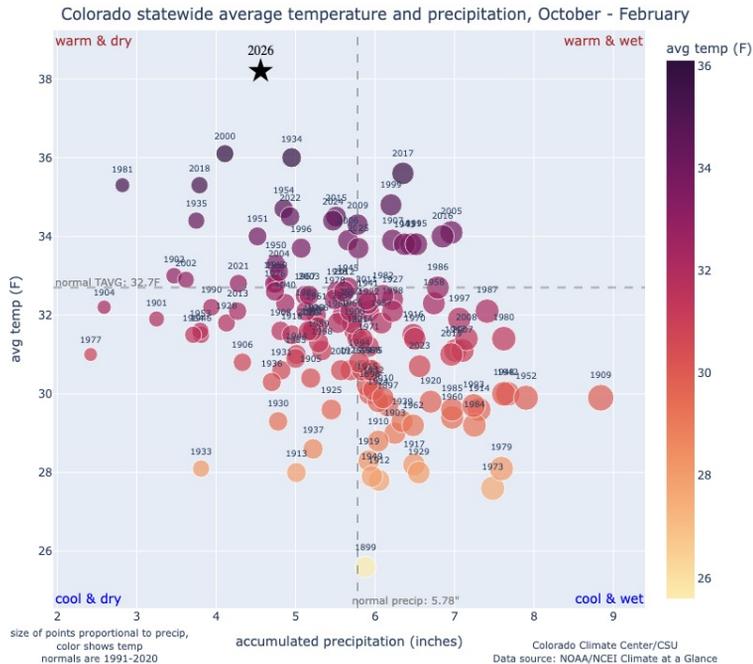


Colorado Water Year 2026 accumulated precipitation (inches) compared to 1991–2020 average; daily precipitation (black bars, right axis)



October through February was the warmest first five months of a water year on record, by a large margin. The previous warmest October through February period was 1999–2000 (statewide average temperature of 36.1 °F) and this year was 2.1 °F warmer (38.2 °F).

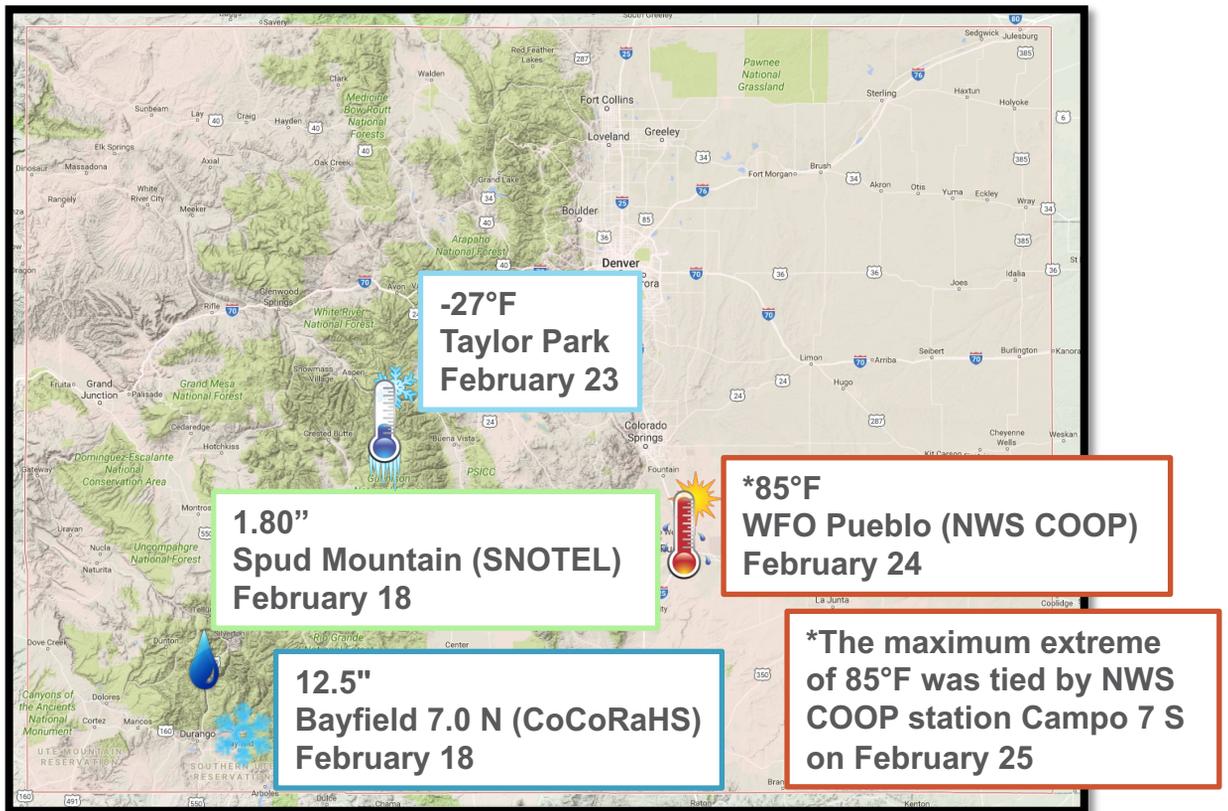
Statewide precipitation has been 1.07” below average for the water year thus far, ranking as the 20th driest October through February.



	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	77/226	1/101	57/383	4/16	29/52	1/8
Monthly	5/6	0/1	7/11	0/0	0/1	0/0
All-time	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0

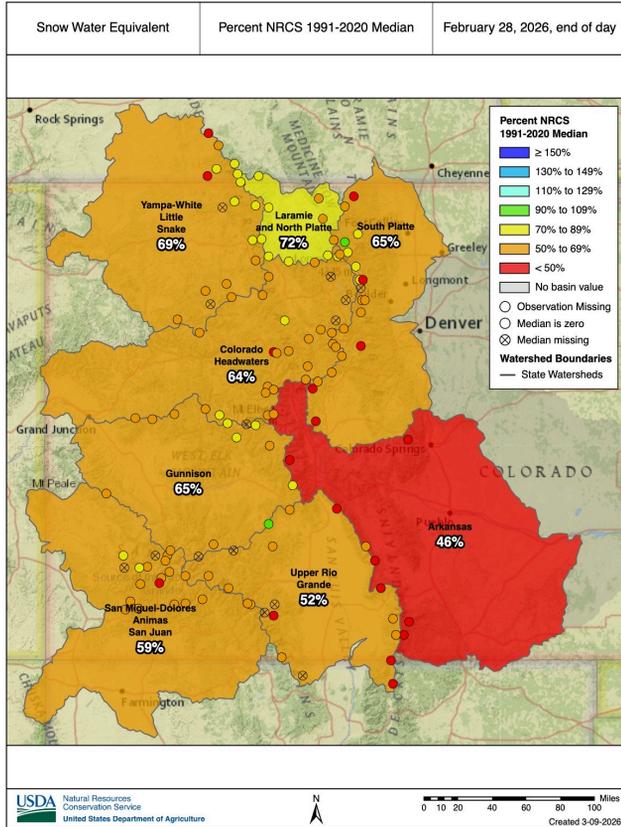
Tied/Broken, from NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

state extremes



drought & snowpack

February's statewide snowpack continued to be at its lowest in over 40 years. Though a few storm systems delivered snowfall to the mountains, major deficits from the warm, dry winter persist. Since the end of January, the overall snowpack picture has not changed much, as all Colorado basins continues to run well below-normal. At the end of February, snowpack in the Colorado Headwaters, Yampa-White-Little Snake, and Arkansas basins all remained at their lowest on record. Statewide snowpack was 63% of the 1991-2020 median on February 28, a small increase from 57% of median at the end of January.

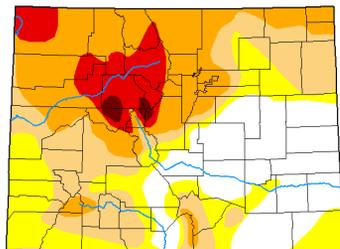


Colorado Drought Update Page

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

February 24, 2026
(Released Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)				
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4
Current	24.66	75.34	55.02	33.87	8.20
Last Week 02-17-2026	27.24	72.76	55.70	31.98	9.20
3 Month Ago 01-23-2026	44.01	55.99	30.35	14.20	1.20
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2026	25.95	74.04	45.22	15.77	4.35
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	45.82	54.18	45.19	35.88	14.34
One Year Ago 02-24-2025	54.98	45.02	20.81	3.83	1.10



Intensity

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

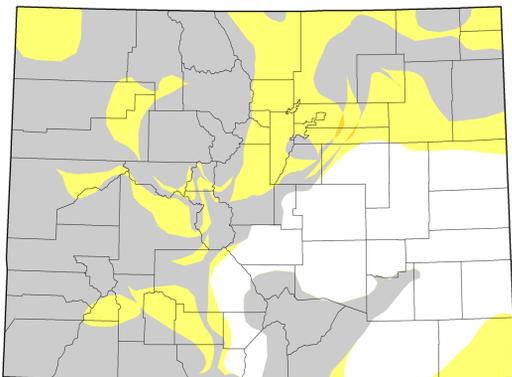
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Colorado 4 Week



February 24, 2026 compared to January 27, 2026

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought expanded across many parts of Colorado in February. In northeast Colorado, severe (D2) drought expanded across portions of the Plains and Front Range Urban Corridor. Moderate (D1) drought expanded in southwest Colorado, and an area of severe drought was added to portions of the San Juans. Additional drought degradations were added over the mountain areas, including the Flat Tops, Front Range, and Elk Mountains. Severe (D3) drought expanded in northwest Colorado, including across Moffat, Rio Blanco, Garfield, and Routt counties. 75% of Colorado is currently seeing abnormally dry or drought conditions. And over 1/3 of the state (~34%) is classified as experiencing severe drought or worse, up from ~23% at the end of January.



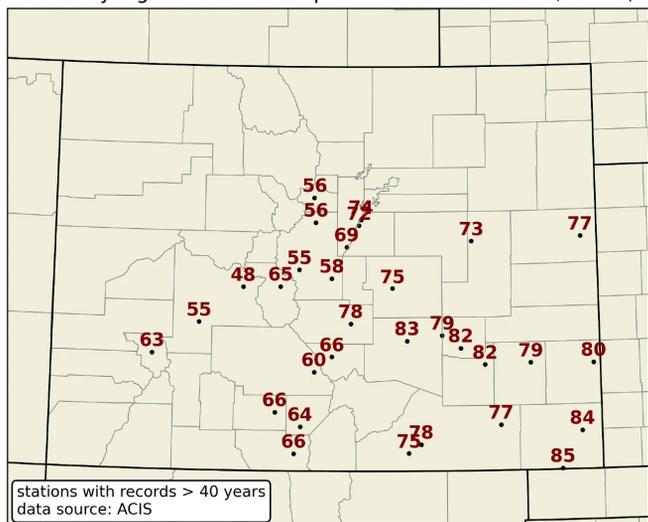
significant events

Coldest	Much Below Average	Below Average	Near Average	Above Average	Much Above Average	Warmest
Period	Value	1901-2000 Mean	Anomaly	Rank (1895-2026)	Coldest/Warmest Since	Record
February 2026 1-Month	36.6°F (2.6°C)	27.4°F (-3.6°C)	9.2°F (5.1°C)	132nd Coldest 1st Warmest	Coldest since: 2025 Warmest since: 2026	1903 2026
Jan-Feb 2026 2-Month	32.6°F (0.3°C)	25.6°F (-3.6°C)	7.0°F (3.9°C)	132nd Coldest 1st Warmest	Coldest since: 2025 Warmest since: 2026	1899 2026
Dec 2025-Feb 2026 3-Month	33.6°F (0.9°C)	25.5°F (-3.6°C)	8.1°F (4.5°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest	Coldest since: 2025 Warmest since: 2026	1899 2026
Nov-Feb 2026 4-Month	35.4°F (1.9°C)	27.5°F (-2.5°C)	7.9°F (4.4°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest	Coldest since: 2025 Warmest since: 2026	1899 2026
Oct 2025-Feb 2026 5-Month	38.2°F (3.4°C)	31.3°F (-0.4°C)	6.9°F (3.8°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest	Coldest since: 2025 Warmest since: 2026	1899 2026
Sep-Feb 2026 6-Month	41.8°F (5.4°C)	35.6°F (2.0°C)	6.2°F (3.4°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest	Coldest since: 2025 Warmest since: 2026	1899 2026
Aug-Feb 2026 7-Month	45.4°F (7.4°C)	39.8°F (4.3°C)	5.6°F (3.1°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest	Coldest since: 2025 Warmest since: 2026	1899 2026
Jul 2025-Feb 2026 8-Month	48.4°F (9.1°C)	43.2°F (6.2°C)	5.2°F (2.9°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest	Coldest since: 2025 Warmest since: 2026	1899 2026
Jun 2025-Feb 2026 9-Month	50.2°F (10.1°C)	45.2°F (7.3°C)	5.0°F (2.8°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest	Coldest since: 2025 Warmest since: 2026	1913 2026
May 2025-Feb 2026 10-Month	50.4°F (10.2°C)	45.9°F (7.7°C)	4.5°F (2.5°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest	Coldest since: 2025 Warmest since: 2026	1899, 1913 2026
Apr 2025-Feb 2026 11-Month	49.9°F (9.9°C)	45.6°F (7.6°C)	4.3°F (2.4°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest	Coldest since: 2025 Warmest since: 2026	1913 2026
Mar 2025-Feb 2026 12-Month	49.0°F (9.4°C)	44.6°F (7.0°C)	4.4°F (2.4°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest	Coldest since: 2025 Warmest since: 2026	1913 2026
Sep 2024-Feb 2026 18-Month	45.4°F (7.4°C)	41.6°F (5.3°C)	3.8°F (2.1°C)	130th Coldest 1st Warmest	Coldest since: 2025 Warmest since: 2026	1913 2026
Mar 2024-Feb 2026 24-Month	48.1°F (8.9°C)	44.6°F (7.0°C)	3.5°F (1.9°C)	130th Coldest 1st Warmest	Coldest since: 2025 Warmest since: 2026	1914 2026
Mar 2023-Feb 2026 36-Month	47.5°F (8.6°C)	44.6°F (7.0°C)	2.9°F (1.6°C)	129th Coldest* 1st Warmest*	Coldest since: 2025 Warmest since: 2018	1914 2018, 2026
Ties: 2018						
Mar 2022-Feb 2026 48-Month	47.1°F (8.4°C)	44.6°F (7.0°C)	2.5°F (1.4°C)	126th Coldest 3rd Warmest	Coldest since: 2025 Warmest since: 2019	1916 2018
Mar 2021-Feb 2026 60-Month	47.2°F (8.4°C)	44.5°F (6.9°C)	2.7°F (1.5°C)	127th Coldest 1st Warmest	Coldest since: 2025 Warmest since: 2026	1917 2026

If you read our monthly summary in January, then the chart to the left may look familiar to you. Now with the additional record-setting temperatures from February included, the statistics are even more staggering. *Colorado's average temperatures have now set records at timescales from one month to 60-months (Mar. 2021-Feb. 2026).* At the timescales tracked by NECI's Climate at a Glance on the left, every single period has been record-warm except for the 48-month period (Mar. 2022-Feb. 2026), which still ranked as the 3rd warmest on record statewide. Temperatures across each of these timescales have been at least 2.5°F above the 20th century average. Since January 2021, there have been more months that have ranked as top-10 warmest than there have been months that have ranked as below-average.

Left: February 2026 statewide average temperature rankings and temperature anomalies across different timescales. From [NOAA's Climate at a Glance](#)

record daily high maximum temperatures for Feb. 24-25, 2026 (°F)



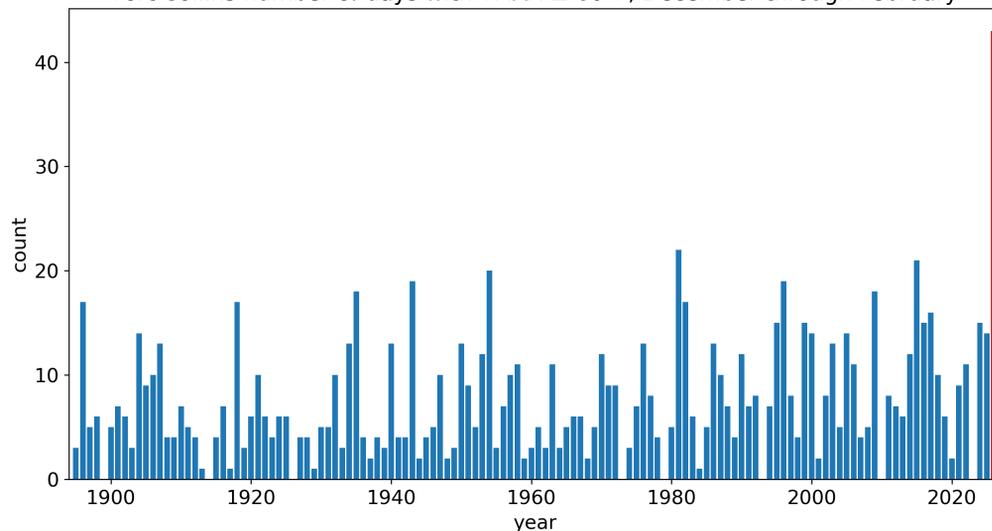
February 24th was one of the warmest days of the month, setting multiple daily and monthly records throughout the state, as temperatures climbed into the mid-80s across portions of Colorado. Stations with at least 40-year record lengths that set new monthly records for February include: Pueblo Memorial Airport (83°F, prev. record 82°F), Monte Vista (66°F, prev. record 65°F), Ordway (82°F, prev. record 81°F), and Blue Mesa Lake (55°F, prev. record 54°F).

Record low temperatures set on January 26 for stations with at least 40 years of data.



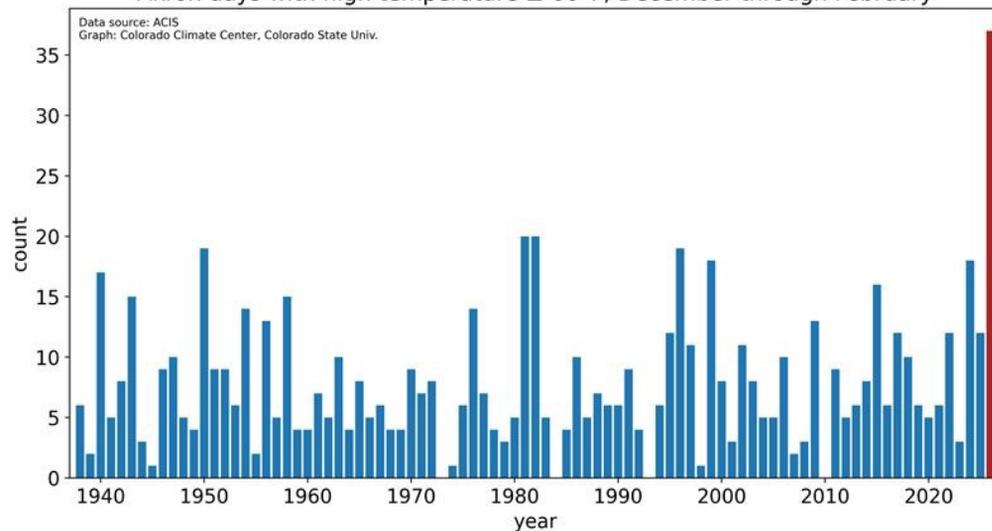
significant events

Fort Collins number of days with TMAX $\geq 60^{\circ}\text{F}$, December through February



Annual count of winter (Dec-Feb) 60°F days recorded in Fort Collins (top) and Akron (bottom).

Akron days with high temperature $\geq 60^{\circ}\text{F}$, December through February



One metric that underscores the impressiveness of the record-setting warmth in winter 2025-2026 is the number of recorded 60°F+ days at various stations throughout the state. Fort Collins and Akron, both with data histories that are at least 85 years long, saw nearly twice as many 60°F+ days this past winter than their previous wintertime records. At both these locations, most winters have historically featured fewer than ten days that are 60°F or warmer. Yet this past winter, Fort Collins and Akron saw 43 and 37 days (respectively) that hit that benchmark.

Those two locations were not alone in seeing record-setting counts of 60°F or warmer days. Other locations (with decades-long station records) that set new records for number of $\geq 60^{\circ}\text{F}$ include: Greeley (45 days, previously 25), Denver (41 days, previously 34), Holyoke (36 days, previously 27), Colorado Springs (32 days, previously 27), Cortez (21, previously 14), Alamosa (9 days, previously 8), and Maybell (8 days, previously 3). Pueblo tied their record of 43 days (which also occurred in 1981).



CCC in the news

- ❑ **February 2, 2026:** [Wondering about this mild winter? Third-graders get the answers from a meteorologist](#)
 - Featuring Allie Mazurek in CPR News
- ❑ **February 5, 2026:** [The snowpack this winter is 'pretty ugly' but still not the worst Colorado climatologists have ever seen](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Aspen Times
- ❑ **February 6, 2026:** [Slow going, so far, for Intermountain West snowpack](#)
 - Featuring Peter Goble in The Fence Post
- ❑ **February 10, 2026:** [Soil-moisture system will yield information for farmers, foresters and forecasters](#)
 - Featuring CoAgMET in the Colorado State University Source
- ❑ **February 10, 2026:** [Record snow drought in Western US raises concern for a spring of water shortages and wildfires](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in AP News
- ❑ **February 11, 2026:** [Colorado's state climatologist explains what needs to happen in the next few months to build up snowpack](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher on Denver 7 News
- ❑ **February 11, 2026:** [Snowpack Report: Record low reached in Arkansas River Basin, relief on the way](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in KOAA News Southern Colorado
- ❑ **February 12, 2026:** [All of the reasons Colorado's horrible snowpack is so problematic](#)
 - Featuring Peter Goble in the Colorado Sun



CCC in the news - continued

- ❑ **February 16, 2026:** [Low snow, big impact: What Colorado's shrinking snowpack means for future](#)
 - Featuring Allie Mazurek in the Rocky Mountain Collegian
- ❑ **February 18, 2026:** [The West's Winter Has Been a Slow-Moving Catastrophe](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher, Allie Mazurek and Nolan Doesken in The Atlantic
- ❑ **February 26, 2026:** [Peak to Peak Climate: The winter of no snow](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Mountain Ear
- ❑ **February 26, 2026:** [With no end in sight to dry days and high wildfire risk, Colorado eyes a task force](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in The Colorado Sun
- ❑ **February 26, 2026:** [Colorado considers earlier than normal activation of Drought Task Force as snowpack continues to lag behind](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in Vail Daily
- ❑ **February 27, 2026:** [Denver7's Colette Bordelon talks with the state climatologist on Colorado's warm, dry conditions](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher on Denver 7 ABC News YouTube Channel
- ❑ **February 27, 2026:** [Recent snow helped somewhat, but snow drought lingers](#)
 - Featuring Allie Mazurek in the Fence Post

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