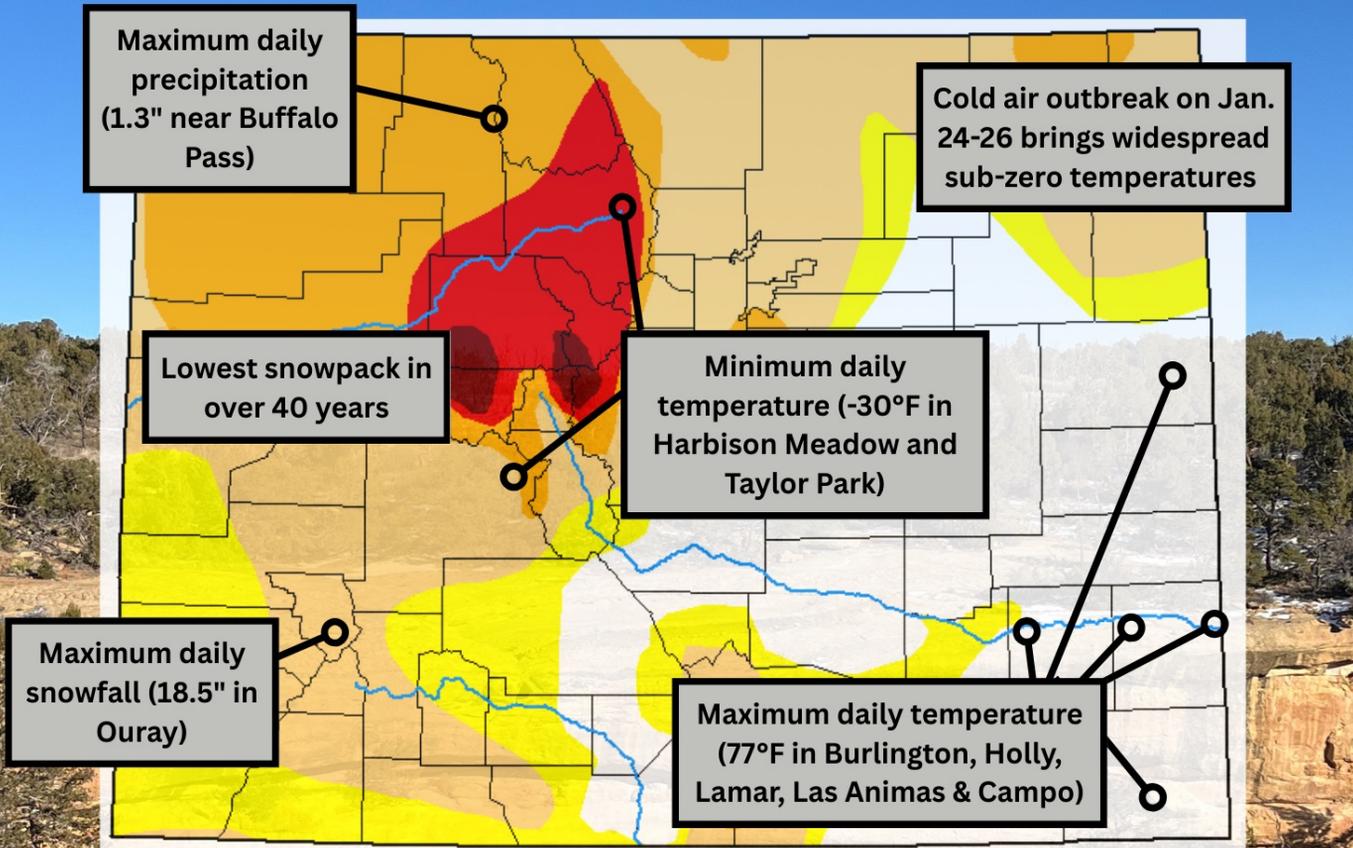


January 2026

Colorado Monthly Climate Summary



US Drought Monitor, valid 27 January 2026

Statewide Temperature and Precipitation Ranks for January 2026

(based on 1895-2026 data)

17th warmest (above average) ■ **33rd driest (below average)**



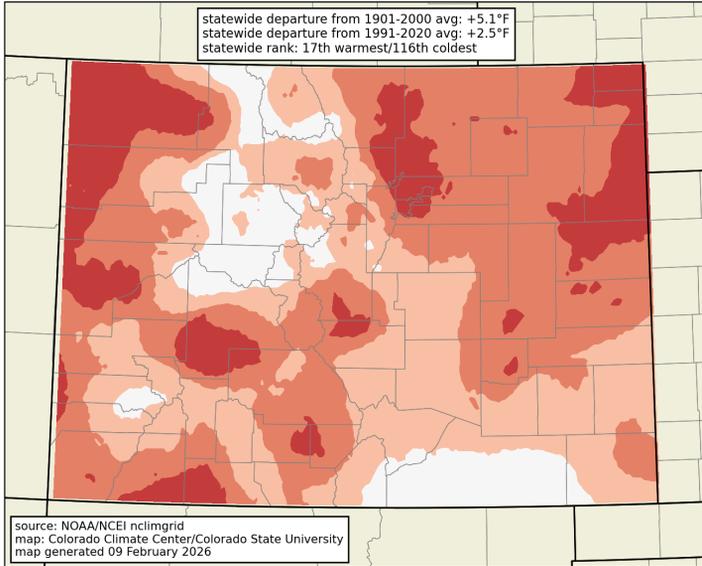
Mesa Verde National Park
January 29, 2026
Photo by Allie Mazurek



temperature

average temperature rank
January 2026

statewide departure from 1901-2000 avg: +5.1°F
statewide departure from 1991-2020 avg: +2.5°F
statewide rank: 17th warmest/116th coldest



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

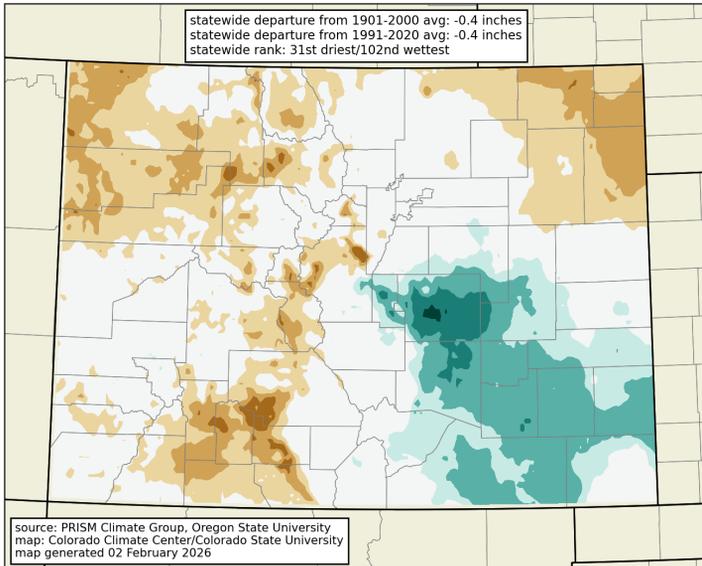
record coldest 10th coldest 20th coldest 35th coldest 35th warmest 20th warmest 10th warmest record warmest
temperature rank out of 132 years (1895-2026)

Although the warmth wasn't as extreme as in December, January was another warm month across the state. The Arctic blast from the 23rd-26th kept the average January temperatures from being even higher. Several pockets of the state including the northwest, southwest, Front Range, and northeast had top-20 warm Januarys, while parts of the high country and southeast Plains were closer to average.

precipitation

precipitation rank (preliminary PRISM data)
January 2026

statewide departure from 1901-2000 avg: -0.4 inches
statewide departure from 1991-2020 avg: -0.4 inches
statewide rank: 31st driest/102nd wettest



source: PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University
map: Colorado Climate Center/Colorado State University
map generated 02 February 2026

record driest 10th driest 20th driest 35th driest 35th wettest 20th wettest 10th wettest record wettest
precipitation rank out of 132 years (1895-2026)

Although the mountain snowpack was in very bad shape as of the end of January (more on that below), precipitation was not as low as it may have seemed. A few modest snowstorms hit the mountains in January, and a storm dropped over a foot of snow on El Paso County on the 8th and 9th of the month.



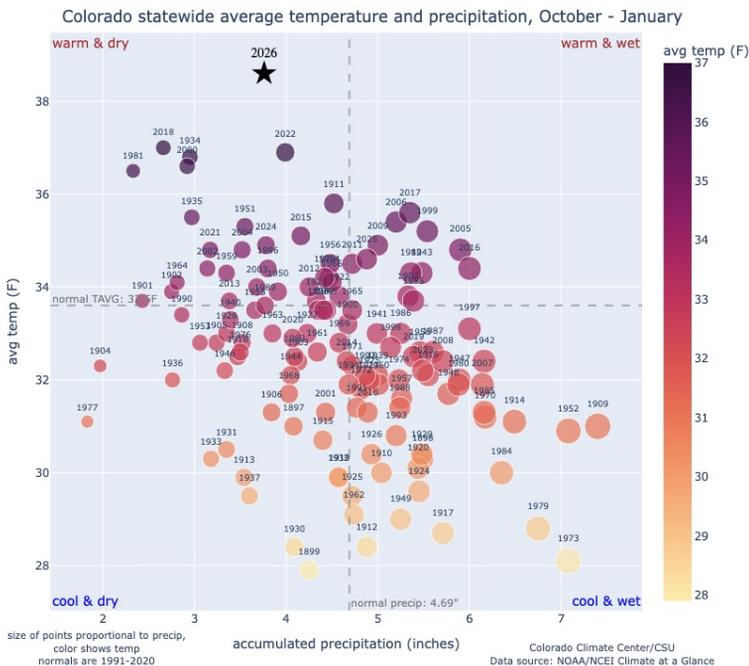
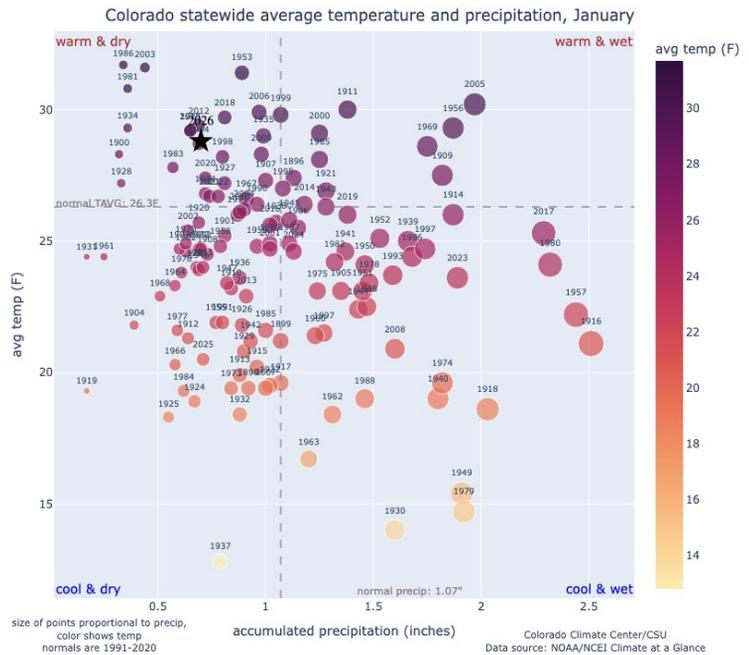
quadrant charts

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.

January 2026 fell within the warm and dry quadrant for Colorado. Averaged across the state, it was the 17th warmest January in 132 years of records for Colorado, at 5.1°F warmer than the 20th-century average, and 2.5°F above the 1991-2020 average. Statewide precipitation was 0.36" below the 30-year mean of 1.06" and was tied for the 33rd-driest January on record.

The first four months of water year 2026 have been exceptionally warm. It was 5°F warmer than the 1991-2020 average for these four months, and 1.7°F warmer than any other October through January period on record. It was the 33rd driest start to a water year, 0.78" below average for precipitation statewide.

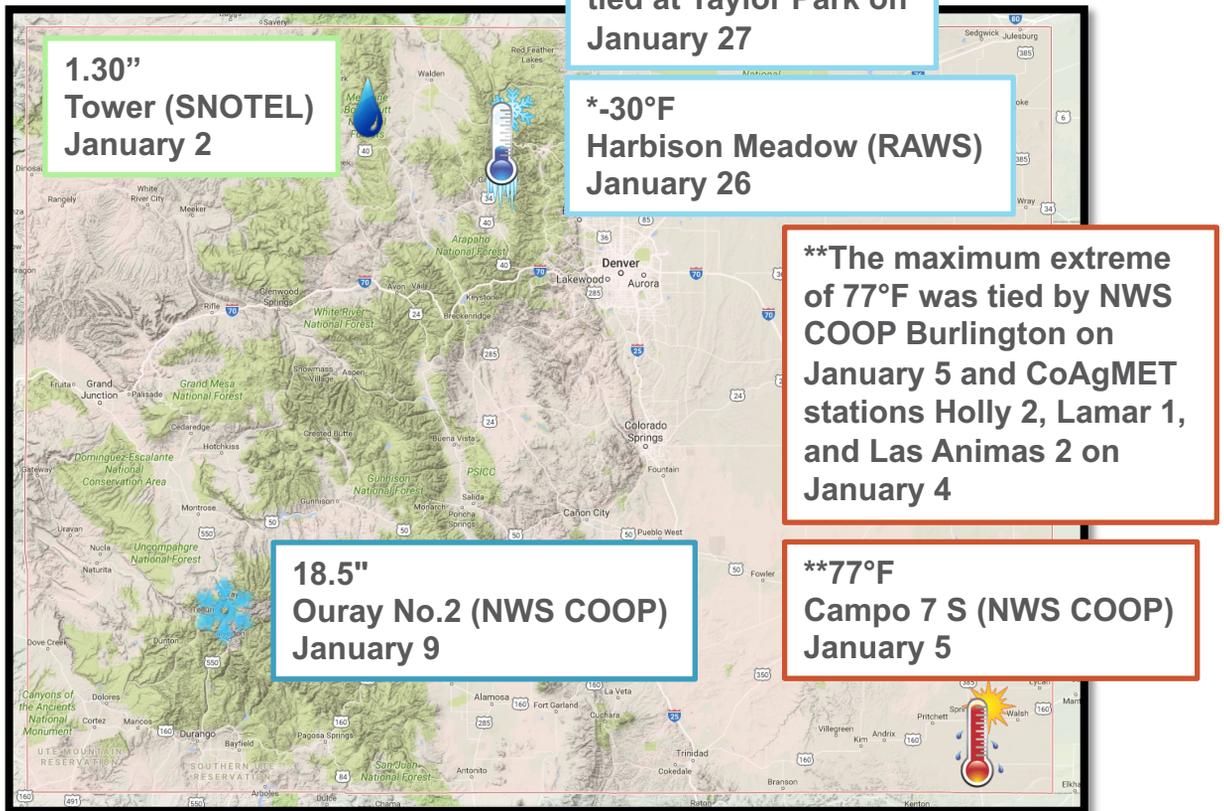
[view all quadrant charts](#)



	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	44/113	17/169	63/267	16/140	12/41	8/29
Monthly	0/0	0/1	5/2	0/0	0/1	0/1
All-time	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0

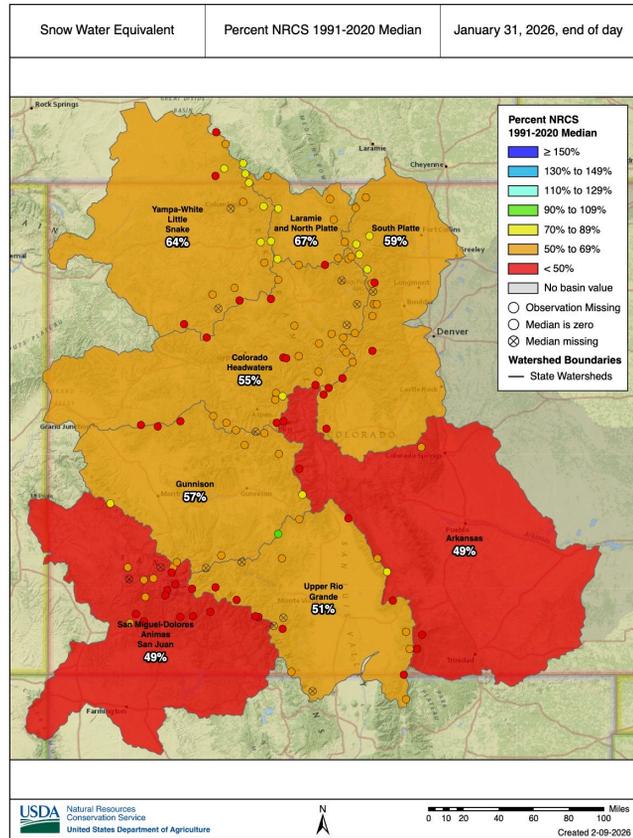
Tied/Broken, from NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

state extremes



drought & snowpack

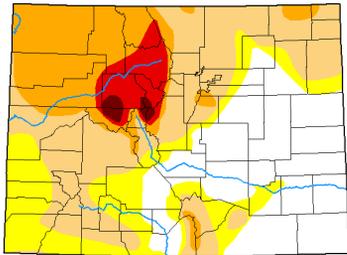
Statewide snowpack is at its lowest in over 40 years. January brought little moisture to the mountains, and every basin in Colorado was well-below average throughout the month. According to data from the SNOTEL network (which includes snowpack records back to the mid-1980s), both the Yampa-White-Little Snake and Colorado Headwaters basins reported record-low snowpack at the end of January. And snow water equivalent in the Arkansas and San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan basins fell to less than 50% of average. Check out our most recent [blog post](#) for a detailed synopsis of the current snowpack situation.



Colorado Drought Update Page

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

January 27, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D1	D2-D3	D3-D4	D4	D4
Current	30.06	49.94	52.36	22.73	5.67	0.83
Last Week (1/20/2026)	30.14	49.86	51.47	15.76	5.67	0.83
3 Months Ago (10/30/2025)	50.64	49.36	29.20	13.49	1.30	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (1/1/2026)	25.90	74.04	46.22	15.77	4.36	0.67
Start of Water Year (10/30/2025)	45.82	54.18	45.19	36.88	14.34	0.00
One Year Ago (1/28/2025)	61.15	38.85	17.11	4.82	0.98	0.00

Intensity:
 D0 None
 D1 Moderately Dry
 D2 Severe Drought
 D3 Extreme Drought
 D4 Exceptional Drought

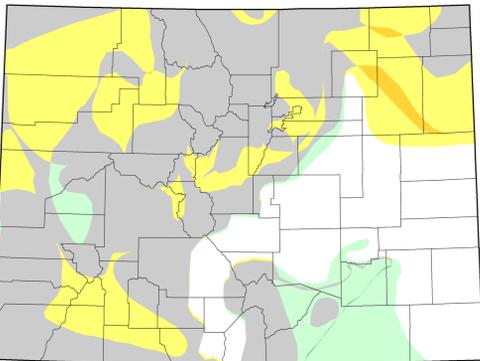
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.aspx>

Author:
Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

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



February 3, 2026 compared to January 6, 2026

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought worsened in several areas of Colorado in January. Most of Northeast and Southeast Colorado were drought-free at the end of 2025, but persistent below-normal precipitation in January allowed for moderate to severe drought conditions to creep into those areas. In the higher elevations, the extreme to exceptional drought areas also expanded, and severe drought filled in across the northwestern portions of the state. Southeast Colorado was one area that managed to see drought improvements, thanks to snowfall from a winter storm near the beginning of the month. At the end of January, ~52% of the state was experiencing some level of drought (up from ~38% at the end of December). ~23% of Colorado is currently seeing severe drought or worse.



significant events

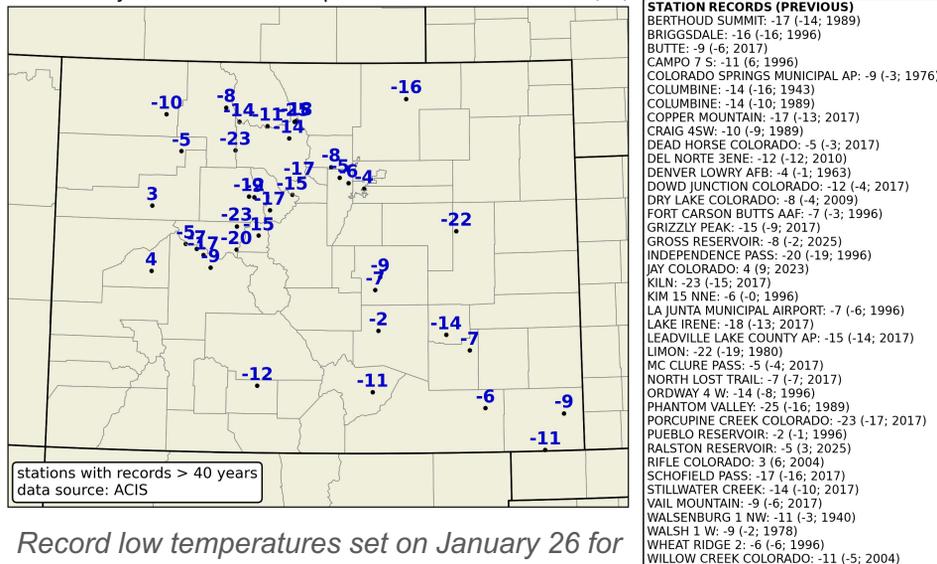
Period	Value	1901-2000 Mean	Anomaly	Rank (1895-2026)
January 2026	28.8°F (-1.8°C)	23.7°F (-4.6°C)	5.1°F (2.8°C)	116th Coldest 17th Warmest
1-Month				
Dec 2025-Jan 2026	32.0°F (0.0°C)	24.5°F (-4.2°C)	7.5°F (4.2°C)	130th Coldest 2nd Warmest
2-Month				
Nov 2025-Jan 2026	35.0°F (1.7°C)	27.5°F (-2.5°C)	7.5°F (4.2°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest
3-Month				
Oct 2025-Jan 2026	38.6°F (3.7°C)	32.3°F (0.2°C)	6.3°F (3.5°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest
4-Month				
Sep 2025-Jan 2026	42.8°F (6.0°C)	37.3°F (2.9°C)	5.5°F (3.1°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest
5-Month				
Aug 2025-Jan 2026	46.9°F (8.3°C)	41.9°F (5.5°C)	5.0°F (2.8°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest
6-Month				
Jul 2025-Jan 2026	50.1°F (10.1°C)	45.5°F (7.5°C)	4.6°F (2.6°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest
7-Month				
Jun 2025-Jan 2026	51.9°F (11.1°C)	47.5°F (8.6°C)	4.4°F (2.4°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest
8-Month				
May 2025-Jan 2026	51.9°F (11.1°C)	48.0°F (8.9°C)	3.9°F (2.2°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest
9-Month				
Apr 2025-Jan 2026	51.2°F (10.7°C)	47.4°F (8.6°C)	3.8°F (2.1°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest
10-Month				
Mar 2025-Jan 2026	50.1°F (10.1°C)	46.2°F (7.9°C)	3.9°F (2.2°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest
11-Month				
Feb 2025-Jan 2026	48.5°F (9.2°C)	44.6°F (7.0°C)	3.9°F (2.2°C)	131st Coldest 1st Warmest
12-Month				
Aug 2024-Jan 2026	47.2°F (8.4°C)	43.7°F (6.5°C)	3.5°F (1.9°C)	130th Coldest 1st Warmest
18-Month				
Feb 2024-Jan 2026	47.9°F (8.8°C)	44.6°F (7.0°C)	3.3°F (1.8°C)	130th Coldest 1st Warmest
24-Month				

There's no question that we've recorded numerous remarkably warm days over the past several months in Colorado. This prolonged, widespread warmth has contributed to record-setting temperatures across numerous timescales. Although January 2026 was "only" the 17th-warmest January on record, Colorado's average temperatures set records at every timescale from the past 3 months (Nov. 2025-Jan. 2026) through the past 24 months (Feb. 2024-Jan. 2026). Temperatures across those timescales have ranged from 3.3°F to 7.5°F above the 20th century average. The past 24 months have only featured three months with below-average statewide temperatures (May 2024, Nov. 2024 and Jan. 2025), while 1/3 of the past 24 months have ranked among the top-10 warmest.

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

Despite January being yet another warm month statewide, Colorado saw a notable cold snap around Jan. 24-26. Temperatures fell well below 0°F across portions of the Eastern Plains and in the mountains, which broke daily minimum temperature records throughout the state. Daytime temperatures were also cold: on Jan. 25, temperatures didn't make it out of the teens in many areas, leading to numerous record low daily *maximum* temperatures as well.

record daily low minimum temperatures for 2026-01-26 (°F)



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



CCC in the news

- ❑ **January 3, 2026: [Colorado ends 2025 with extremely low snowpack](#)**
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher on KUNC
- ❑ **January 7, 2026: [An ice park without ice: How is the outdoor recreation industry grappling with an unseasonably warm winter?](#)**
 - Featuring Allie Mazurek on Colorado Public Radio
- ❑ **January 9, 2026: [The western US is in a snow drought, raising fears for summer water supplies](#)**
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in CNN News
- ❑ **January 13, 2026: [Is it time to panic about Colorado's low snowpack? We asked experts](#)**
 - Featuring Peter Goble in the Coloradoan
- ❑ **January 14, 2026: [Season's snowpack remains meager with little moisture in sight](#)**
 - Featuring Allie Mazurek in the Grand Junction Sentinel
- ❑ **January 15, 2026: [Colorado snowpack hits record lows, raising summer water concerns](#)**
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in Western Slope Now
- ❑ **January 16, 2026: [Colorado's snowpack hits record-lows for 3 days straight as 'bummer' winter conditions continue](#)**
 - Featuring Peter Goble in the Summit Daily
- ❑ **January 20, 2026: [Winter Drought continues to deepen across Colorado, threatening spring water supply](#)**
 - Featuring Peter Goble in Colorado Public Radio

CCC in the news - continued

- **January 21, 2026:** [Experts issue worrying statement about major US region's winter: 'It's pretty ugly'](#)
 - Featuring Russ Schumacher in the Cool Down - referenced in the San Francisco Chronicle
- **January 21 2026:** [Big storms needed to make up huge water supply gap –experts say](#)
 - Featuring Peter Goble in The Colorado Sun
- **January 24, 2026:** [Colorado snowpack falls to record low with slim chance of recovery](#)
 - Featuring Peter Goble in the Colorado Springs Gazette
- **January 25, 2026:** [Can Colorado get back to normal snowpack conditions this winter?](#)
 - Featuring Allie Mazurek in Sky-Hi News
- **January 28, 2026:** [Western states face 'snow drought' as snowpack hits record lows](#)
 - Featuring Peter Goble in NBC Universal
- **January 29 2026:** [Spring preview in Western Colorado](#)
 - Featuring Peter Goble in KCJT
- **January 30, 2026:** [Why Colorado's snowpack is so low – and if winter can still deliver](#)
 - Featuring Peter Goble in CBS News

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