

Photo Credit: Allie Mazurek

Fort Collins Weather Station Monthly Summary

December
2025

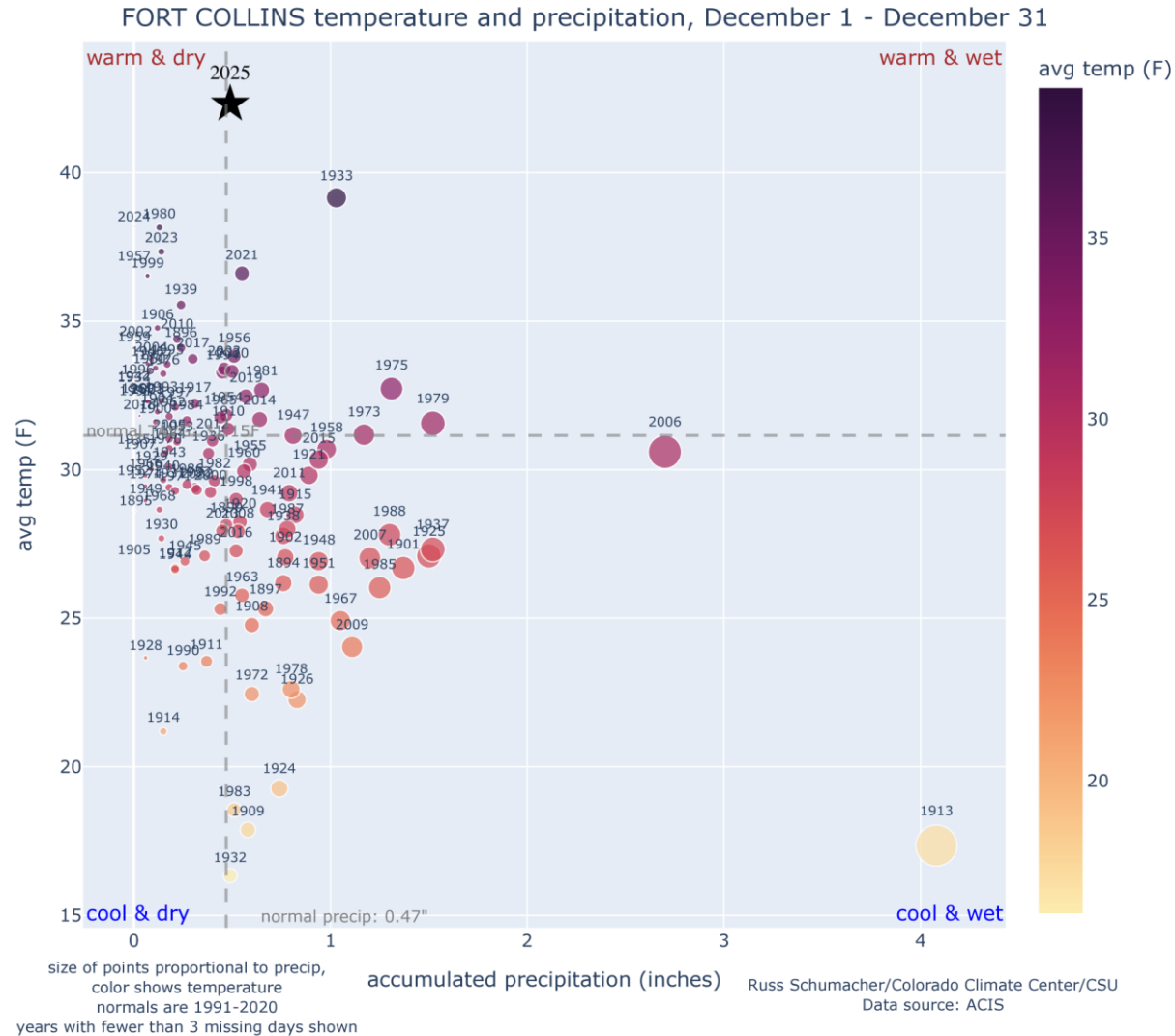


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Average December 2025 Temperature and Precipitation



The average air temperature for December 2025 was 42.3 °F, 11.2 °F above our 1991-2020 December normal (31.1 °F)

This breaks the previous record of 39.2 °F from 1933 by a wide margin (3.1 °F)

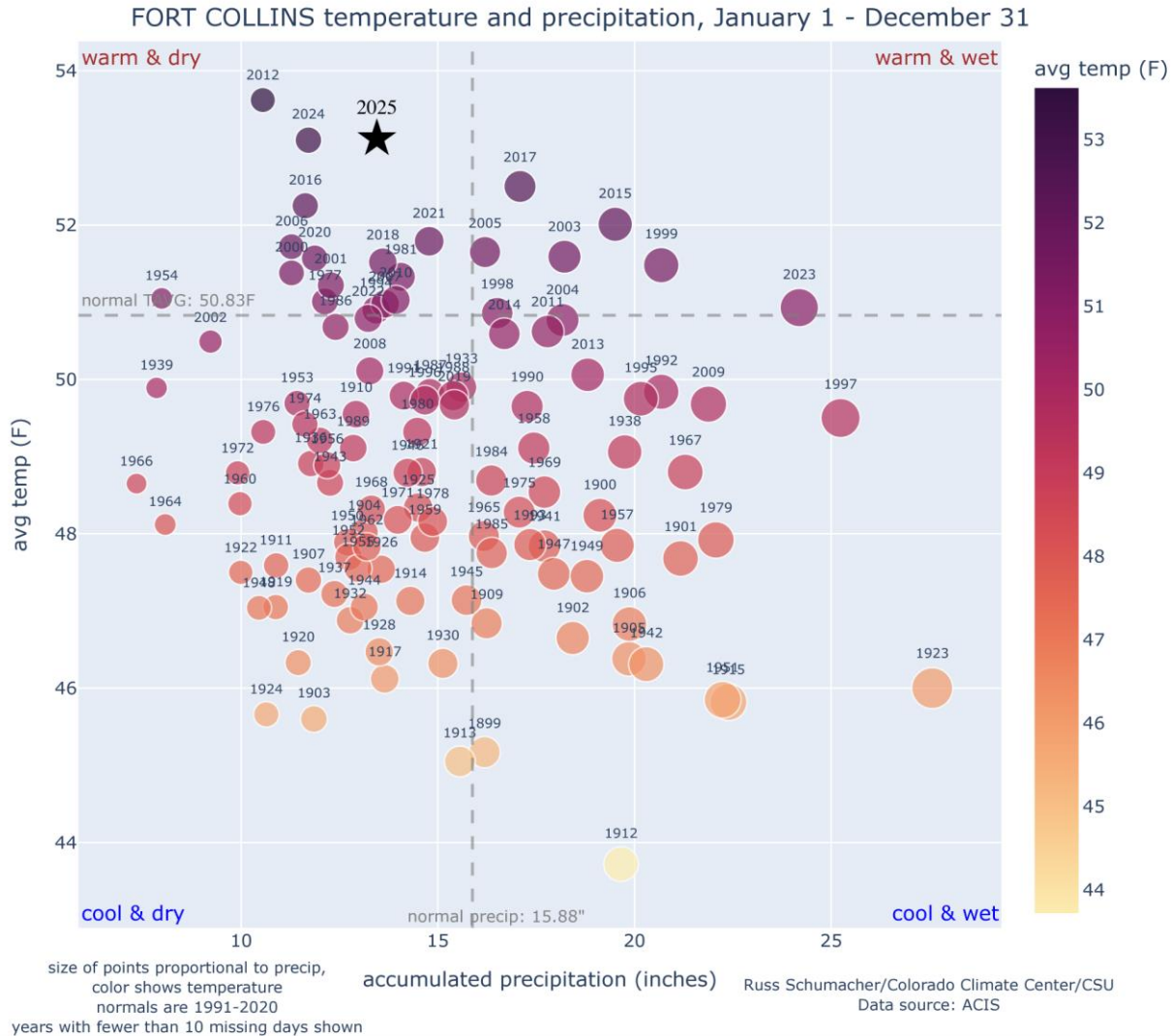
We received 0.49" of precipitation in December 2025, 104% of our 1991-2020 December normal (0.47")

The last wetter December was 2021, with 0.55" of precipitation

We received 6.8" of snowfall in December 2025, 91% of our 1991-2020 December normal (7.5"). The last December with less snow was 2024 (only a trace).



Average 2025 Temperature and Precipitation



The average air temperature for 2025 was 53.0 °F. This is 2.2 °F above our 1991-2020 normal of 50.8 °F, and ties 2024 for our second warmest calendar year on record

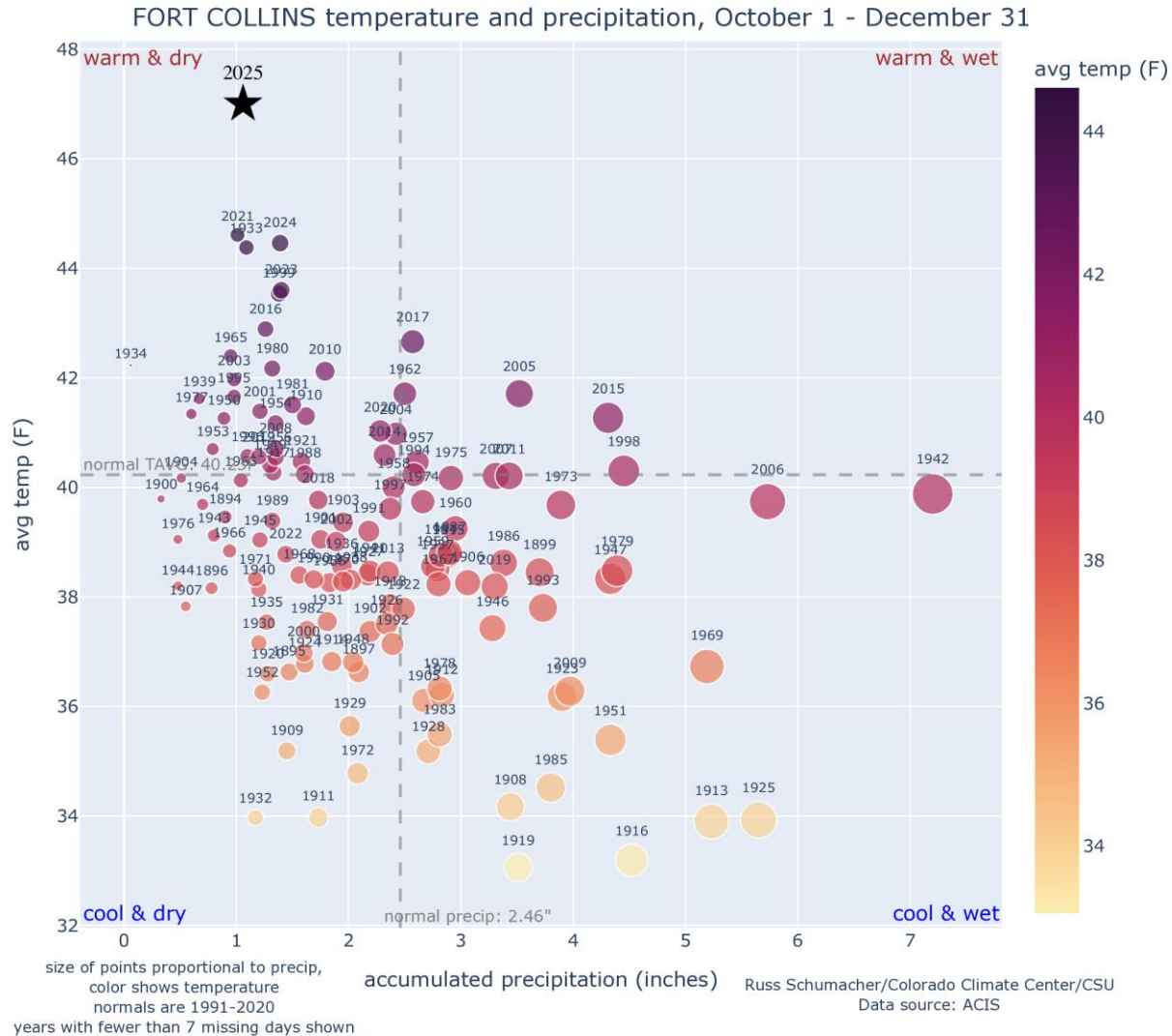
The last warmer calendar year was 2012 (53.5 °F), which remains the warmest year on record

We received 13.45" of precipitation in 2025, 85% of our 1991-2020 normal (15.88")

The last drier calendar year was 2024 (11.71")



Water Year 2026 to Date Temperature and Precipitation



The average air temperature for Water Year 2026 to date is 47.0 °F. This is 6.8 °F above our 1991-2020 normal of 40.2 °F

This smashes the previous record from 2021 of 44.6 °F

We have received 1.06" of precipitation in Water Year 2026 to date, 43% of our 1991-2020 normal (2.46")

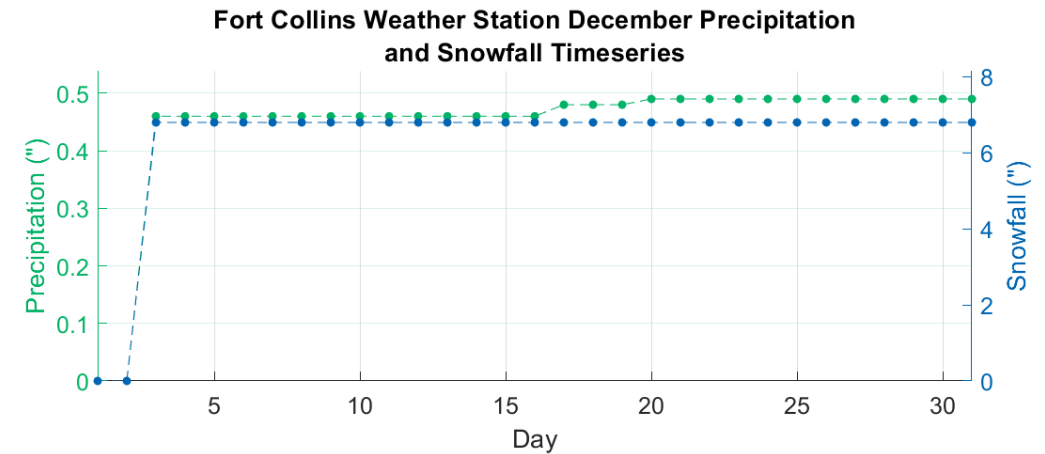
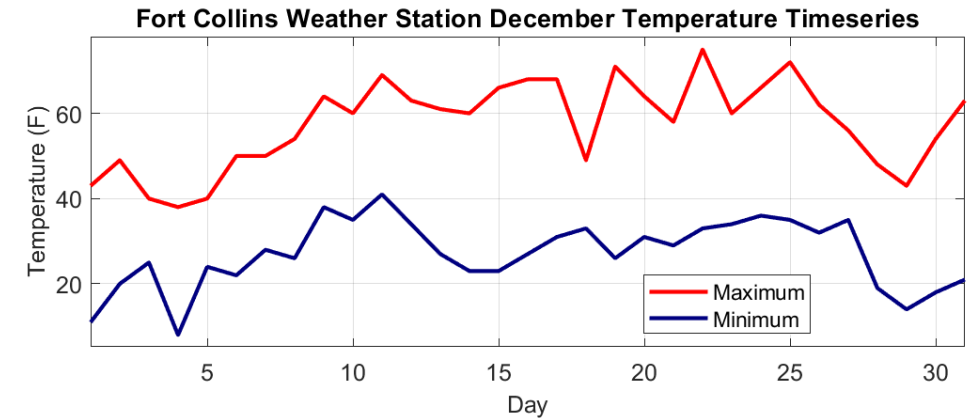
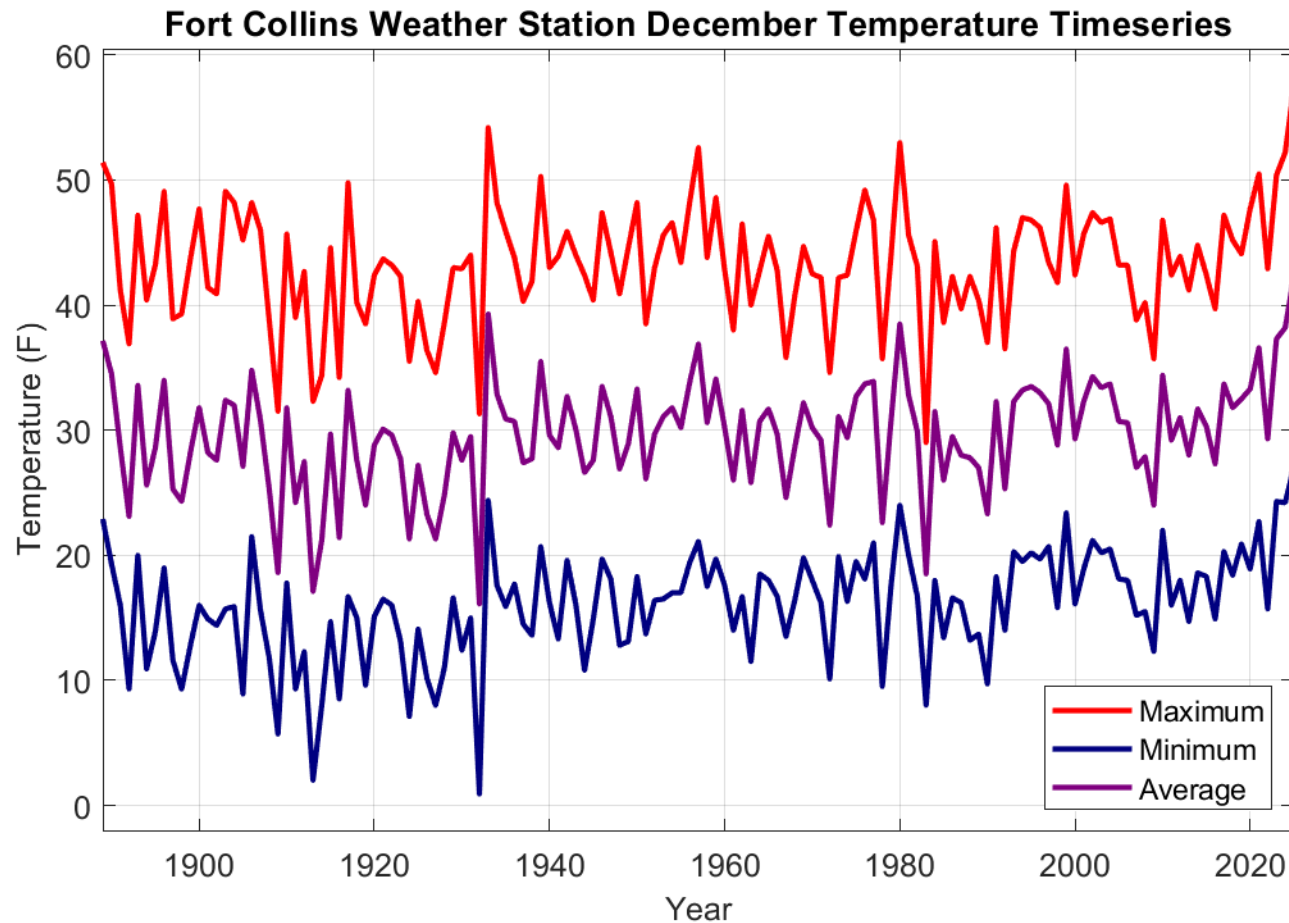
The last drier water year through December was 2021 (1.02")

We have received 6.9" of snowfall for the snow season to date. This is just 35% of our average by this point in the snow season (19.6")

Our last season to start with less snow through December was 2024 (1.7")



December 2025 Time Series Graphics



Highest Daily T_{max} : 75 °F on December 22nd

Lowest Daily T_{min} : 8 °F on December 4th

Highest Daily Precipitation: 0.46" on December 3rd

Highest Daily Snowfall: 6.8" on December 3rd



Additional December 2025 Statistics

	Observed	1991-2020 Normal	POR Average	Depart from Normal	Depart from POR Average	Last Above	Last Below
Tmean °F	42.3	31.1	29.6	11.2	12.7	N/A	2024
Mean(Tmax) °F	57.5	43.9	43.3	13.6	14.2	N/A	2024
Mean(Tmin) °F	27.1	18.3	16	8.8	11.1	N/A	2024
Precipitation "	0.49	0.47	0.47	0.02	0.02	2021	2024
Snowfall "	6.8	7.5	6.6	-0.7	0.2	2020	2024
WYTD Precipitation "	1.06	2.46	2.16	-1.4	-1.1	2024	2021
Seasonal Snowfall "	6.9	19.6	16.5	-12.7	-9.6	2023	2024

	Value	Date
Max(T _{max}) °F	75	22 nd
Min(T _{max}) °F	38	4 th
Max(T _{min}) °F	41	11 th
Min(T _{min}) °F	8	4 th
Max(Daily Precip)"	0.46	3 rd
Max(Daily Snowfall)"	6.8	3 rd
Peak Wind Gust (mph)	45.6	18 th

Days Precip > 0	6
Days Snowfall > 0	4
Days Precip > Trace	3
Days Snowfall > Trace	1
Days Wind Gust > 20mph	16
Peak Wind Gust Direction	329
Peak Wind Gust Time (MST)	0220 MST

POR = period of record (1889-2025)



Records Broken

We set a new record for average December temperature in 2025 of 42.3 °F. The previous record was 39.2 °F from 1933

We set a new record for average maximum daily December temperature in 2025 of 57.5 °F. The previous record was 54.2 °F from 1933

We set a new record for average minimum daily December temperature in 2025 of 27.1 °F. The previous record was 24.4 °F from 1933

We set a new record snowfall accumulation of 6.8" on December 3rd. The previous record was 5.5" in 1973

We set a new record highest minimum daily temperature of 41 °F on December 11th. The previous record was 38 °F in 2015

We set a new record highest maximum daily temperature of 68 °F on December 16th. The previous record was 67 °F in 1939

We set a new record highest maximum daily temperature of 71 °F on December 19th. The previous record was 65 °F in 1954

We set a new record highest maximum daily temperature of 75 °F on December 22nd. The previous record was 69 °F in 1933

We set a new record highest maximum daily temperature of 72 °F on December 25th. The previous record was 67 °F in 1980

We set a new record highest minimum daily temperature of 35 °F on December 25th. The previous record was 30 °F in 2024

We tied the record highest minimum daily temperature of 35 °F on December 27th. The record was initially set in 2005

We set a new record for the largest positive monthly temperature anomaly for any month (+ 11.2 °F). The previous record was + 8.1 °F from December 1933. (note: December 1933 was a +12.4 °F anomaly relative to the normal of the time [1901-1930])

We reached a maximum daily temperature of 60 °F or greater 17 times in December 2025. The previous record for most 60 degree days in December is 13



Feature Story: Record Warmth

Our average December temperature of 42.3 °F is truly remarkable. It is 11.2 °F warmer than our 1991-2020 average and 12.7 °F warmer than the average throughout the entirety of our weather station's record. We have never experienced a month with temperatures more than 10 °F above the monthly 1991-2020 normals before. Furthermore, our 1991-2020 March normal is 42.4 °F, so temperatures this month were more on par with March than December. In fact, 4/5 of our last Marches have been colder than December 2025.

Fort Collins was not alone in experiencing record warmth. We will have more context across the state (and the nation) in the days to come. Much of the western United States from west Texas up to Idaho appears to be in record territory for the month. The map on the right (from PRISM) shows widespread monthly temperature anomalies of +7 or greater across the western United States

How did this happen? Of course, when it comes to new record high temperatures, climate change is an important part of the story. Increasing greenhouse gas concentrations in our atmosphere continue to raise our average temperatures.

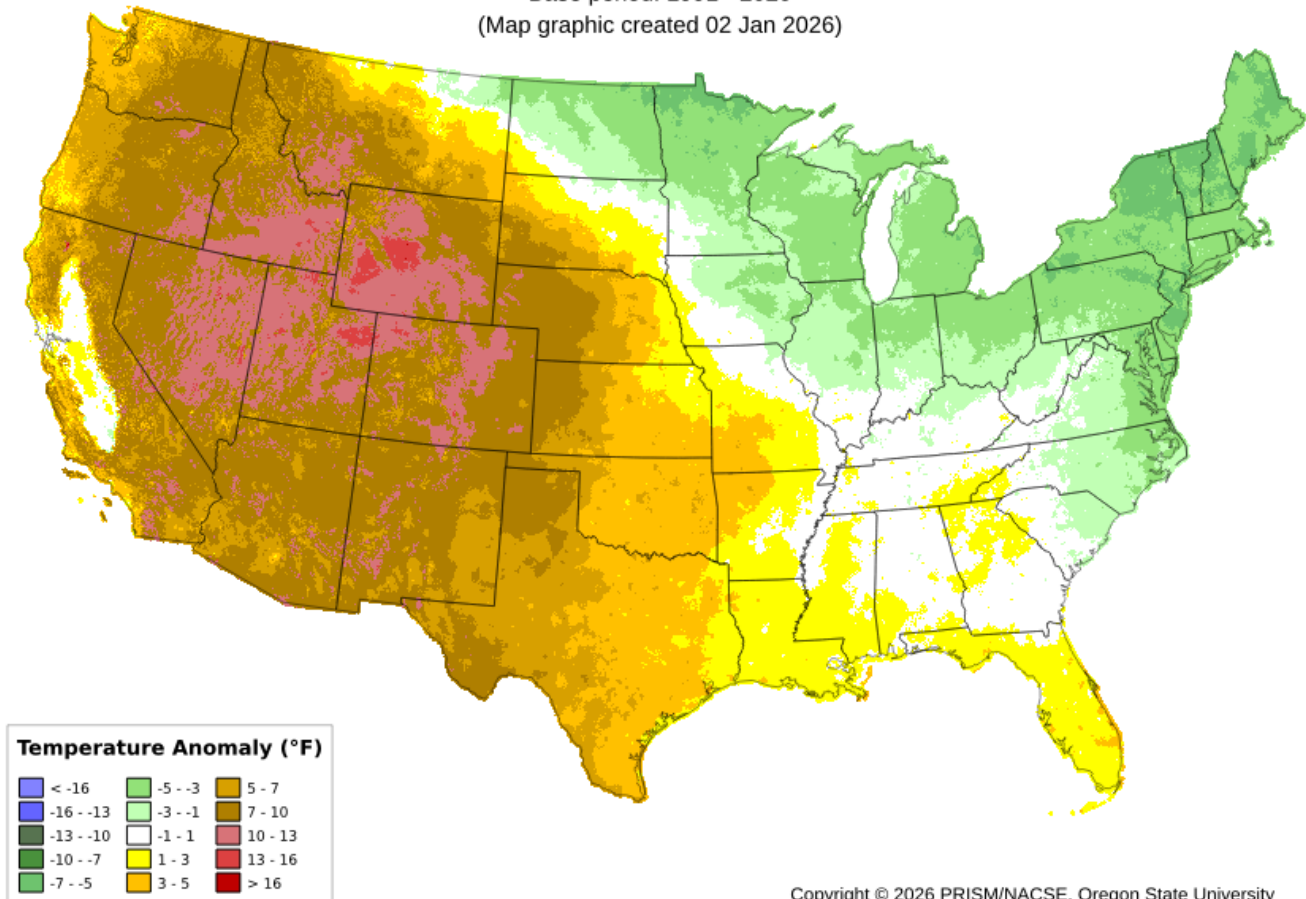
Still, not every month smashes records. A remarkable weather pattern, or series of weather patterns is also needed. Largely persistent high pressure over the south-central and southwestern United States ushered much warmer than normal air across the Intermountain West. Cold air intrusions from the north were largely blocked by high pressure, and swiftly sent eastward towards the Upper Midwest, Northeast, and central Eastern Seaboard. When storms did cut across Colorado, most of the cold air still missed to the north, or was warmed as it was forced down the leeward side of the Colorado Rockies, creating windy conditions instead of cold conditions. Our windy weather and fire danger deserve a feature story of their own. For more on that, please check out the "Where is the snow?..." article on our blog: <https://climate.colostate.edu/blog/>

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: Dec 2025

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2025

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 02 Jan 2026)



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