



# January 2022 Colorado Monthly Climate Summary

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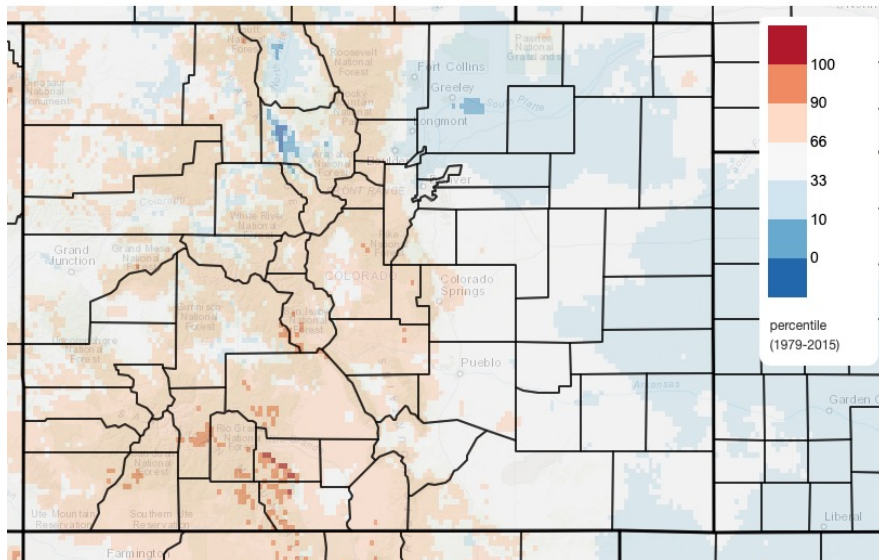


ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

# temperature

Mean Daily Temperature Percentile, Last Full Month

2022/01/01 - 2022/01/31

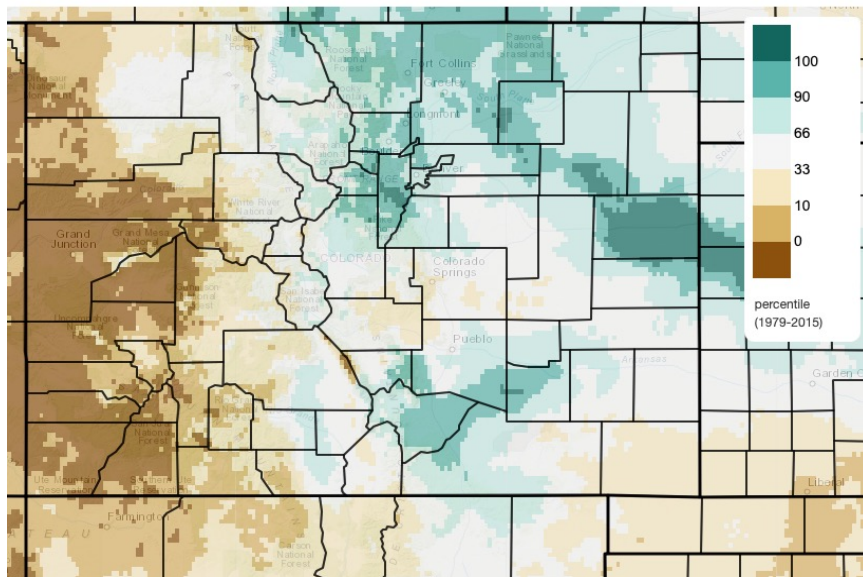


The statewide average temperature for January 2022 was 26.1°F which was 2.4°F above the 20th century average of 23.7°F but 0.2°F below the 1991-2020 average of 26.3°F. In other words, January 2022 was warmer than 89 of the last 128 years but only warmer than 15 of the last 32 years.

# precipitation

Total Precipitation Percentile, Last Full Month

2022/01/01 - 2022/01/31



In January 2022, some areas experienced wet conditions, including the northern mountains, much of the Front Range, and parts of eastern CO. Most of western CO and the southeastern corner were drier. Statewide, it was the 39<sup>th</sup> driest January in the 128-year record, and was .31" below the 1991-2020 average.



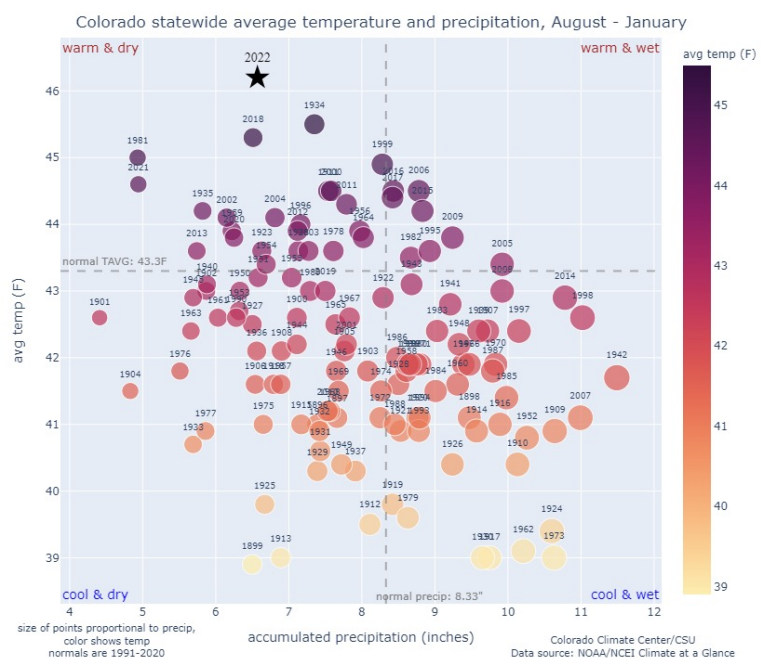
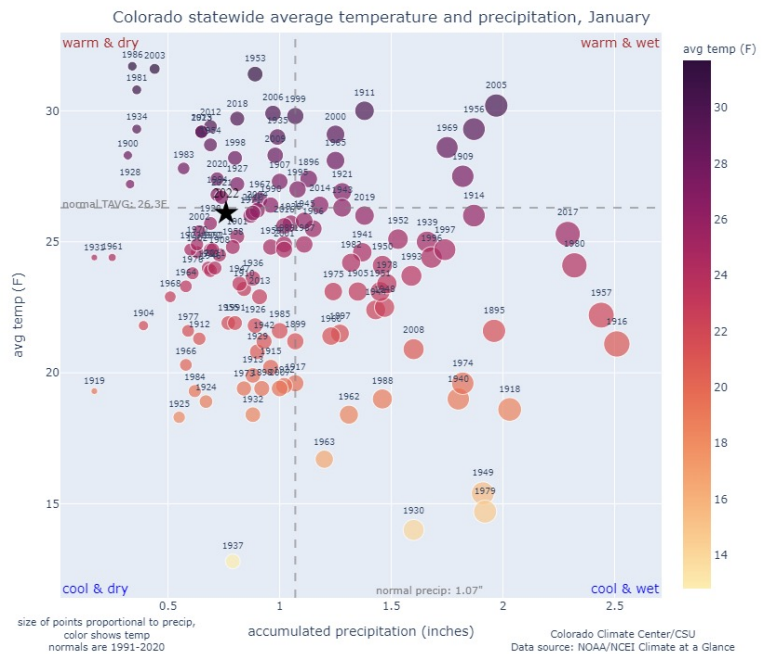
# quadrant charts

Each dot plots the precipitation on the x-axis and the temperature on the y-axis. Dots are colored based on temperature and size is based on precipitation. The current year is denoted with a star. Long-term averages are denoted by the dashed lines.

January 2022 was very close to the 1991-2020 average for temperature, but on the dry side. This is the first time since May 2021 that the statewide temperature has been cooler than the 1991-2020 average. The last January in the cool and dry quadrant was 2016.

Despite a slightly cooler January, the last 6 months (August-January) rank as the warmest in the 127-year record. With a rank of 26<sup>th</sup> driest, this makes 5 of the last 10 years that August-January has been in the warm and dry quadrant.

[view all quadrant charts](#)

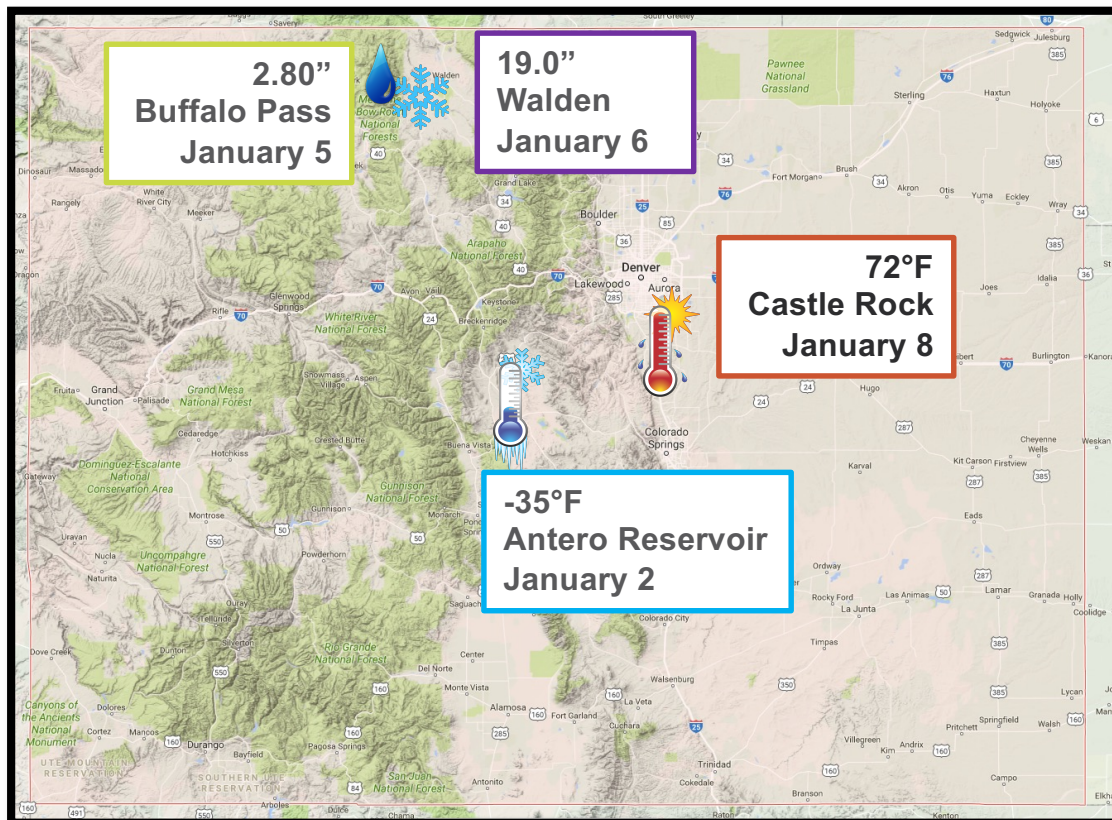


# records tied and broken

	High Max	Low Max	High Min	Low Min	Precip	Snow
Daily	21/71	8/39	15/98	11/31	14/111	16/59
Monthly	0/0	1/0	0/0	0/0	2/8	0/3
All-time	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/0

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

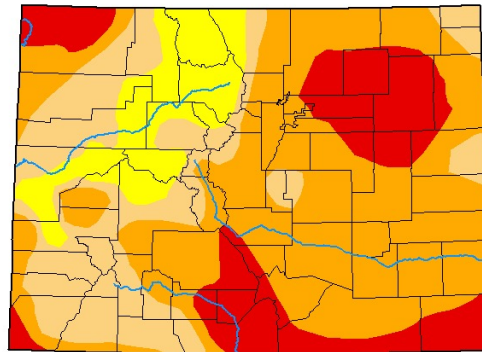
# state extremes



# drought

There were some improvements to the US Drought Monitor map in January. Thanks to late December and early January snows, the northern mountains saw some improvement. Increased snow activity along the Front Range and a major snow band across eastern CO resulted in some improvements east of the Continental Divide as well.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado



**February 1, 2022**  
(Released Thursday, Feb. 3, 2022)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b> 01-25-2022	0.00	100.00	88.17	65.07	19.09	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 01-25-2022	0.00	100.00	88.32	65.93	20.68	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 10-02-2021	4.44	95.56	76.77	30.46	6.93	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-04-2022	0.00	100.00	95.49	67.08	22.25	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-26-2021	12.72	87.28	46.42	26.30	15.05	3.91
<b>One Year Ago</b> 02-02-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	90.24	70.73	24.79

**Intensity:**  
 None (White)      D2 Severe Drought (Orange)  
 D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow)      D3 Extreme Drought (Red-Orange)  
 D1 Moderate Drought (Light Orange)      D4 Exceptional Drought (Red)

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>

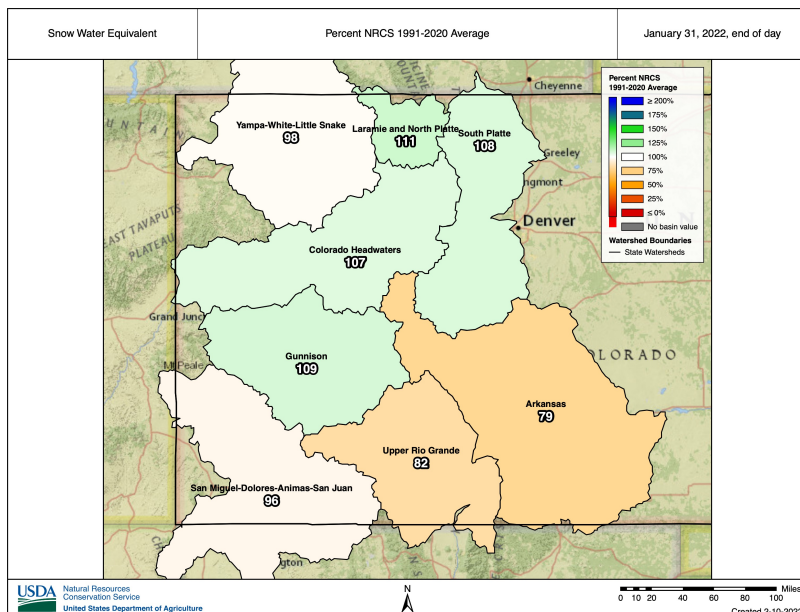
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National Drought Mitigation Center



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

## [Colorado Drought Update Page](#)

# snowpack



Snowpack at the end of January was slightly above average to the north and slightly below average to the south. Snowpack numbers peaked earlier in January but declined due to a lack of snow activity. Statewide snowpack was 105% of normal on January 31, 2022.

# CCC in the news

- ❑ [Marshall Fire exposes potential for urban fire risk in Larimer County](#)
  - The Coloradoan, January 11, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Recent mountain snow giving Colorado statewide snowpack a big boost](#)
  - 9News, January 12, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [2021's deadliest, coldest, most expensive U.S. disasters, by the numbers](#)
  - PBS, January 12, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Colorado had hottest six months in history, new data shows](#)
  - Denver Post, January 13, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [When does Vail get the most snowfall?](#)
  - Vail Daily, January 17, Russ Schumacher
- ❑ [Heavy snowfall in late December, early January produces rare optimism from water watchers](#)
  - The Gazette, January 18, Peter Goble
- ❑ [Nature never closes: Marshall Fire should propel climate change to top of agenda for 2022](#)
  - The Daily Camera, January 22, Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Data may be Colorado's best bet to mitigate increasing wildfire risk on the Front Range](#)
  - The Colorado Sun, January 23, Peter Goble
- ❑ [Colorado's snowpack dips, despite snowfall on the Front Range](#)
  - Denver Post, January 27, Russ Schumacher and Becky Bolinger
- ❑ [Who calculates the snow totals during a storm? People like you.](#)
  - The Boston Globe, January 28, Noah Newman

