

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO Weather Station Monthly Summary Report

Month: December
Year: 2012



Temperature:

Mean T_{\max} was 43.9 which is 1.1 degrees above the normal for the month. This ranks as the 51st warmest in the 124 year record (1889-2012) tied with 1941.

Mean T_{\min} was 18.0 degrees which is 0.3 degrees above the normal for the month. This ranks as the 36th warmest in the 124 year record (1889-2012) tied with 1965, 1970, 1984, and 2006.

Mean T_{mean} was 31.0 degrees which is 0.8 degrees above the normal for the month. This ranks as the 45th warmest in the 124 year record (1889-2012).

The calendar year mean temperature (Jan-Dec) is 53.5 degrees which is 3.2 degrees above the normal for the period. This ranks as the warmest calendar year in the 124 year record (1889-2012). A table of the 5 warmest calendar years on record is shown below.

Table 1: Five warmest calendar years on record.

Year	Mean Temperature F
2012	53.5
2006	51.6
2005	51.5
2003	51.5
1999	51.4

The maximum daily temperature was 63 and occurred on 5 December 2012. The minimum daily temperature was -1 and occurred on 29 December 2012.

A time series of temperatures for Fort Collins, CO is shown in Figure 1 below.

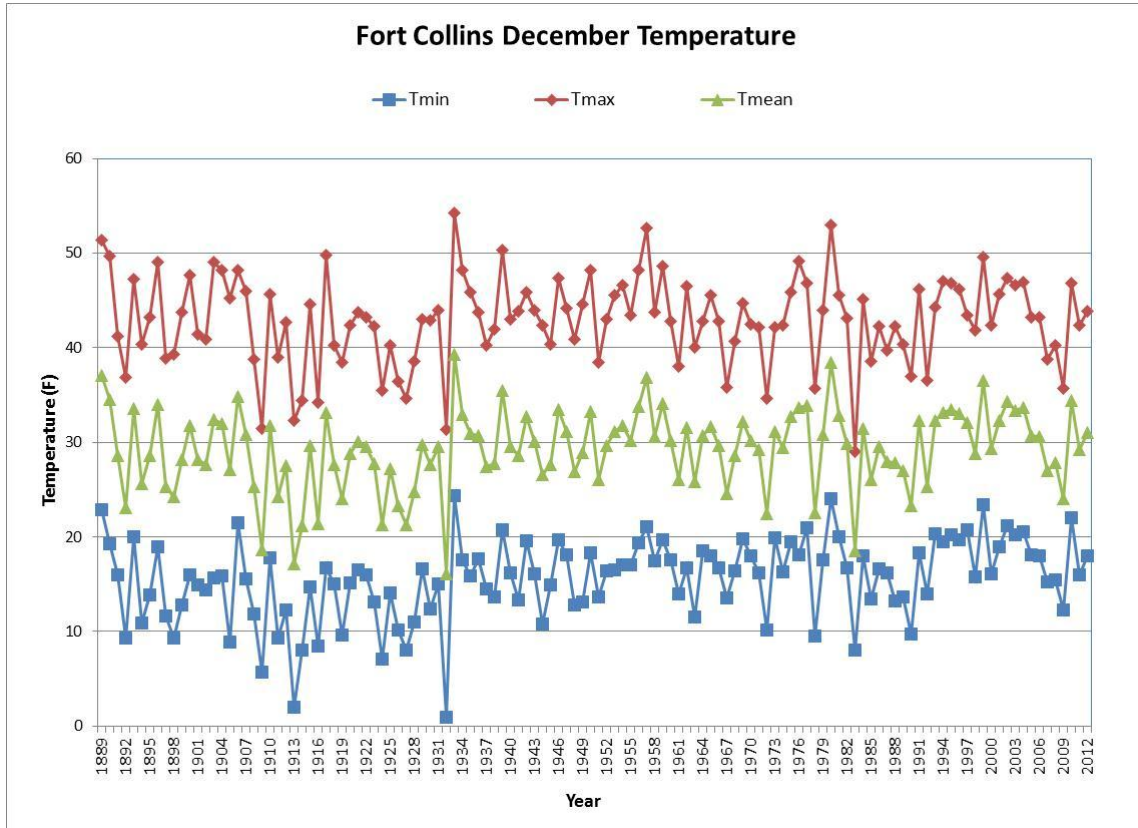


Figure 1: December temperature time series

Misc. Temperature (record status, days above/below thresholds):

Highest Minimum Temperature

6 December 2012: The daily minimum of 35 degrees broke the record of 33 set in 1949.

Precipitation and Snowfall:

Total monthly precipitation was 0.40” and was 0.10” below the normal for the month (80% of normal). This ranks as the 55th wettest in the 124 year record (1889-2012).

Calendar year 2012 precipitation was 10.76” which is 5.34” below the normal (67% of normal). This ranks as the 15th driest calendar year in the 124 year record (1889 – 2012). The last calendar year this dry or drier was 2002 with 9.22”.

Total monthly snowfall was 8.4”, which is the normal for December (100%). This ranks as the 38th snowiest December in the 124 year record (1889-2012).

Seasonal snowfall is 12.7”, which is 8.8” below the normal for the season (59% of normal). This ranks as the 55th least snowy season in the 124 year snow season record (1890-2013).

Time series of December and calendar year precipitation are shown in Figure 2.

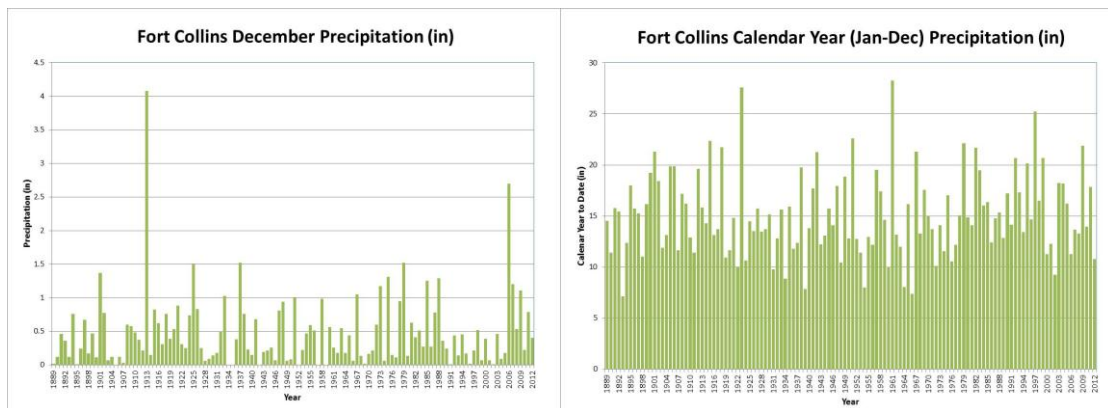


Figure 2: December (left) and calendar year (right) precipitation time series

Misc. Precipitation (predominant type, record status, etc.):

Daily Maximum Snowfall

25 December 2012: Daily snowfall of 3.1" breaks the Christmas Day record of 3.0" set in 1894.

Wind:

In December 2012 there were 10 days with maximum wind gusts ≥ 20 mph and 3 days ≥ 30 mph.

The maximum daily wind gust for the month was 36 mph and occurred on 23 December 2012 at 13:40 MST from 290°.