

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

Month: December
Year: 2015



Temperature:

Mean T_{\max} was 42.4°F which is 0.4° below the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 54th coolest in the 127 year record (1889-2015), tied with 5 other years. The last December this cool or cooler was 2013 with 41.2°F.

Mean T_{\min} was 18.3°F which is 0.6° above the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 34th warmest in the 127 year record (1889-2015), tied with 1950 and 1991. The last December this warm or warmer was 2014 with 18.6°F.

Mean T_{mean} was 30.3°F which is 0.1° above the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 55th warmest in the 127 year record (1889-2015). The last December this warm or warmer was 2014 with 31.7°F.

The maximum daily temperature for the month was 65°F and occurred on December 8th, 2015.

The minimum daily temperature for the month was 0°F and occurred on December 27th and 28th, 2015.

Calendar year mean temperature was 51.9°F which is 1.6° above the normal for the year. This ranks as the 2nd warmest year in the 127 year record (1889-2015). The warmest year on record is 2012 with 53.4°F.

The maximum daily temperature for Calendar Year 2015 was 96°F and occurred on August 15th, 2015.

The minimum daily temperature for Calendar Year 2015 was -3°F and occurred on January 1st, 2015.

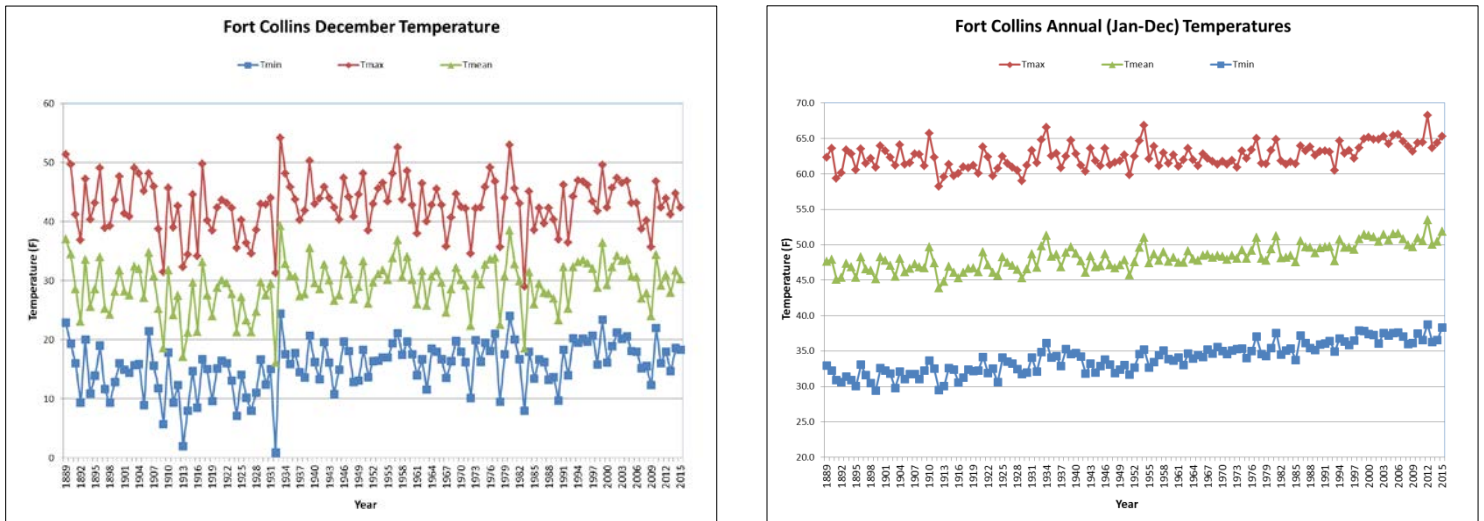


Figure 1: December (left) and Calendar Year (right) temperature time series.

Misc. Temperature (record status, thresholds, etc.):

Highest Maximum Temperature:

December 8th, 2015: The maximum temperature of 65°F broke the previous record for the day of 64 set in 1939.

Highest Minimum Temperature:

December 8th, 2015: The minimum temperature of 36°F broke the previous record for the day of 33°F set in 1975.

December 11th, 2015: The minimum temperature of 38°F broke the previous record for the day of 35°F set in 1995.

Precipitation and Snowfall:

Total monthly precipitation is 0.94” and was 0.44” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (188% of normal). This ranks as the 19th wettest in the 127 year record (1889-2015), tied with 1948. The last December this wet or wetter was 2009 with 1.11” of precipitation.

Calendar year 2015 precipitation totaled 19.51” and is 3.41” above the normal for calendar year (121% of normal). This ranks as the 21st wettest year in the 127 year record (1889-2015). The last year this wet or wetter was 2009 with 21.88”.

Total monthly snowfall was 16.7” and is 8.3” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (199% of normal). This was the 12th snowiest December in the 127 year record (1889-2015). The last December with this much snowfall or more was 2009 with 20.3” of snowfall.

Seasonal snowfall for the 2016 snow season is 25.1” and is 3.60” above the 1981-2010 normal for the season through December (117% of normal). This ranks as the 25th snowiest in the 127 year record (1890-2016). The last season to start with this much snowfall or more was the 2012 season with 34.2” by the end of December 2011.

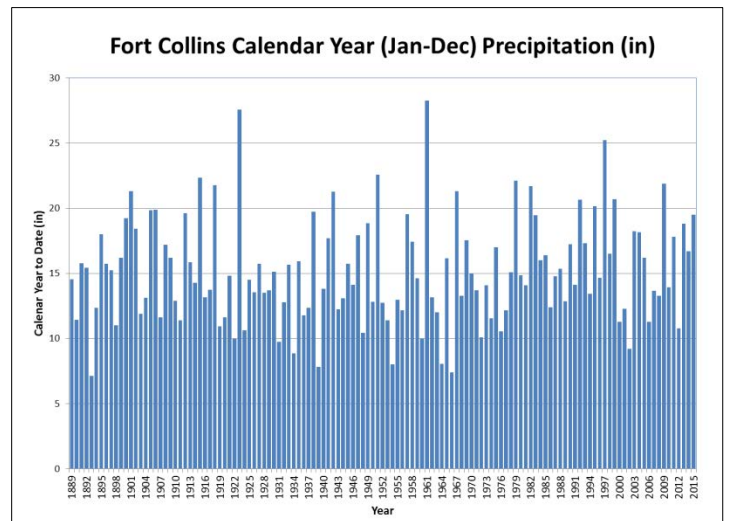
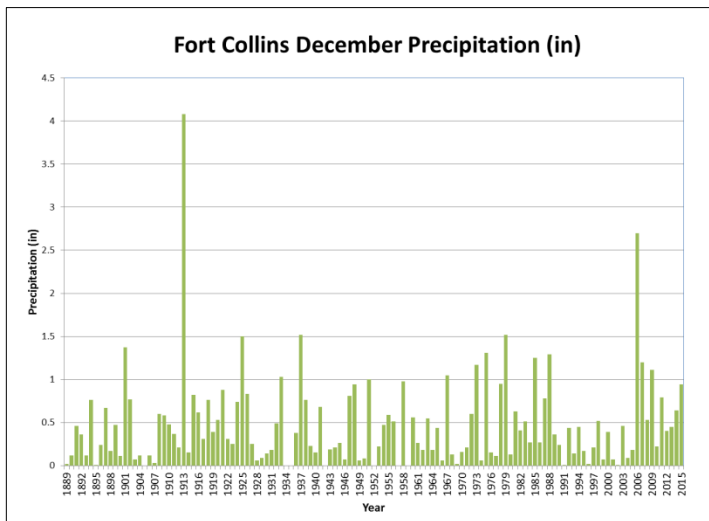


Figure 2: December (left) and calendar year precipitation (right) time series.

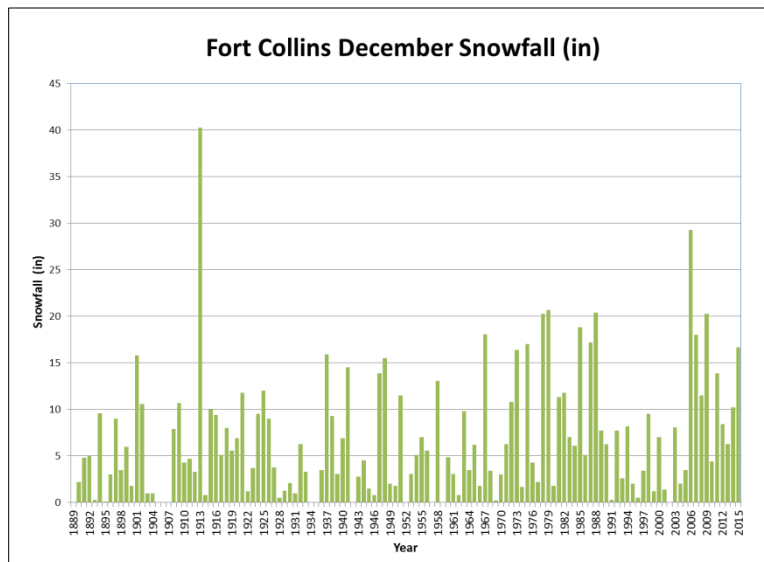


Figure 3: December snowfall time series.

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

Highest Daily Precipitation:

December 15th, 2015: The daily precipitation total of 0.50" broke the record for the day of 0.20" set in 1988

Highest Daily Snowfall:

December 15th, 2015: The daily snowfall total of 7.4" broke the record for the day of 4.0" set in 1988.

Days with Precipitation:

6 days with measureable precipitation (0.01" or greater), which was all snow.

1 day with a trace of precipitation

Days with Snow Depth ≥ 1 inch

December had 22 days with 1" of snow or greater on the ground. This compares to a normal of 12 days in December.

This season has seen 27 days with 1" of snow or greater on the ground at the end of December 2015. This compares to a normal of 18 days by the end of December.

Wind:

In December 2015 there were 9 days with maximum wind gusts ≥ 20 mph and 3 days ≥ 30 mph.

The maximum daily wind gust for the month was 35 mph and occurred on December 8th, 2015 at 5:50 MST from 290.

The maximum daily wind gust for 2015 was 39 mph, occurring 3 times on November 18th, 2015 at 8:00 MST from 290°, 10:50 MST from 280° and 12:50 MST from 300°.

Calendar year 2015 wrap-up:

Number of daily records broken or tied in 2015:

10 daily maximum temperature records, with 4 ties

9 daily highest minimum temperature records, with 2 ties

1 daily coldest maximum temperature record

4 daily precipitation records

1 daily snowfall record

0 coldest minimum temperature records were broken

Monthly records in 2015:

January 2015 saw the warmest January maximum with 75°F on the 26th

March saw the earliest 80°F on the 16th (previous was the 18th).

Warmest June on average, mean temperature of 56.9°F (previous was 1977 with 56.3°F)

Warmest September on average, mean temp of 67.1°F (previous was 1998 with 66.5°F)

Warmest October on record with 2003 at 55.2°F

Warmest fall on record, mean temperature of 53.5°F (previous warmest were 1963 and 1998 with 52.8°F).

The latest first frost on record occurred October 24th (previous was the 23rd)
Latest first freeze on record occurred November 7th (previous was the 1st)