

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

**Month: February**  
**Year: 2017**



Webcam catching a hawk watching over the station.

## **Temperature:**

Mean  $T_{\max}$  was  $54.4^{\circ}\text{F}$  which is  $7.9^{\circ}$  above the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest in the 129 year record (1889-2017). The warmest February on record was 1954 with  $58.9^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

Mean  $T_{\min}$  was  $26.6^{\circ}\text{F}$  which is  $5.7^{\circ}$  above the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the warmest in the 129 year record (1889-2017). The second warmest February was 1992 with  $26.0^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

Mean  $T_{\text{mean}}$  was  $40.5^{\circ}\text{F}$  which is  $6.8^{\circ}$  above the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest in the 129 year record (1889-2017). The warmest February was 1954 with  $41.2^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

Winter (December-February) mean temperature was  $32.7$  which is  $1.0^{\circ}\text{F}$  above the 1981-2010 normal for the season. This winter ranks as 22<sup>nd</sup> warmest in the 128 year record (1890-2017), tied with 2004 and 2012. This last winter this warm or warmer was 2016 at  $33.5^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

The maximum daily temperature for the month was  $77^{\circ}\text{F}$  and occurred on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**\*\*This sets a new record maximum for the month of February. The previous record was  $76^{\circ}$  set on February 25, 1986.**

The minimum daily temperature for the month was  $9^{\circ}\text{F}$  and occurred on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

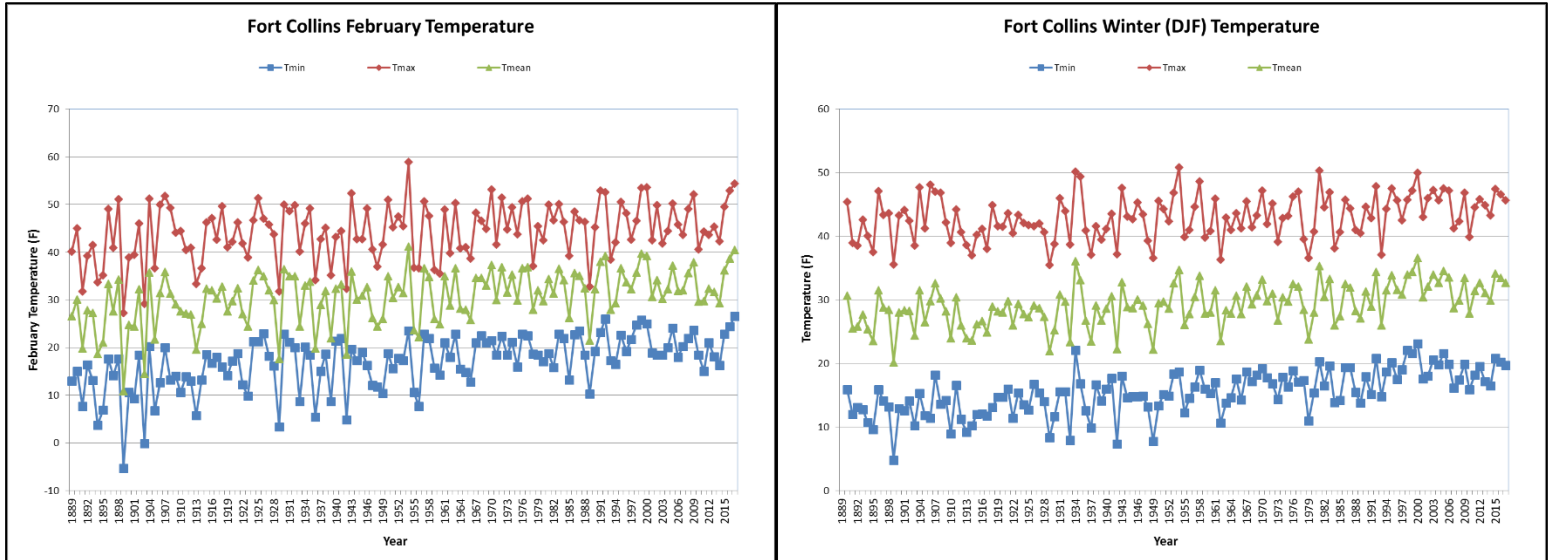


Figure 1: February (left) and winter (right) temperature time series.

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

### ***Highest Maximum Temperature:***

*February 10, 2017: The maximum daily temperature of 77° broke the previous record for the day of 71° set in 1962.*

*-This also broke the record maximum temperature for the month. The previous record was 76° set on February 25, 1986.*

*February 16, 2017: The maximum daily temperature of 70°F broke the record for the day of 67° set in 1982 and 2011.*

### ***Highest Minimum Temperature:***

*February 10, 2017: The minimum daily temperature of 48°F broke the previous record for the day of 41 set in 1951.*

*February 11, 2017: The minimum daily temperature of 39°F broke the previous record for the day of 36°F set in 1962.*

*February 20, 2017: The minimum daily temperature of 44°F broke the previous record for the day of 36°F set in 1943 and 1981.*

***Not a record, but interesting note:***

*The mean daily temperature on February 10, 2017 was 63°F. This was 30° above the normal mean daily temperature. This is equivalent to the normal mean daily temperature on June 3<sup>rd</sup> in Fort Collins.*

***0 Degree and Colder Days***

As of the end of February, there have been 7 days at or below 0 degrees in winter 2017.

**Precipitation and Snowfall:**

Total monthly precipitation is 0.52” and was 0.12” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (130% of normal). This ranks as the 56<sup>th</sup> wettest in the 129 year record (1889-2017), tied with 1957. The last February this wet or wetter was 2016 with 1.01” of precipitation.

Water year precipitation through February totaled 2.67” and is 0.54” below the normal for the water year (83% of normal). This ranks as the 58<sup>th</sup> driest start to the water year in the 128 year record (1890-2017). This is the driest start to a water year since 2013 with 1.86” through February.

Winter (December-February) precipitation totaled 1.93”. This is 0.63” above the 1981-2010 normal for the season (148% of normal). This ranks as the 22<sup>nd</sup> wettest winter in the 128 year record (1890-2017), tied with 1987. The last winter this wet was the winter of 2016 with 2.53” of precipitation.

Total monthly snowfall was 4.0” and was 2.9” below the 1981-2010 normal for the month (58% of normal). This was the 45<sup>th</sup> lowest February snowfall total in the 129 year record (1889-2017). This was the least snowy February since 2009 with 3.6” of snowfall.

Seasonal snowfall for the 2017 snow season is 26.3” and is 10.0” below the 1981-2010 normal for the season through February (73% of normal). This ranks as the 60<sup>th</sup> least snowy in the 127 year record (1890-2017). The last season to start with this little snowfall was 2013 with 24.2” through February.

Winter snowfall was 23.3” which is 0.1” above the 1981-2010 normal for the season (100.4% of normal). This ranks as the 45<sup>th</sup> snowiest winter season in the 127 year record (1890-2017). The last winter this snowy was last year (2016) with 37.5”.

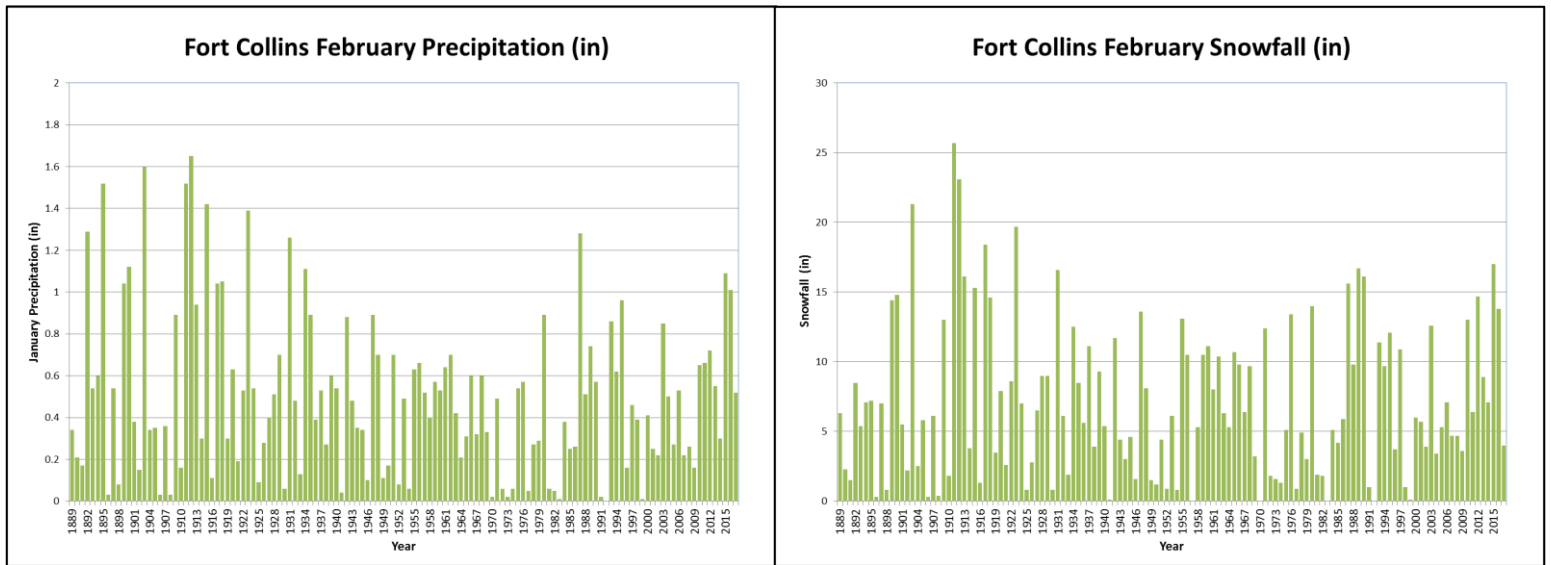


Figure 2: February precipitation (left) and snowfall (right) time series.

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

#### *Highest Daily Precipitation:*

*February 23, 2017: The daily precipitation of 0.43” broke the previous record for the day of 0.22” set in 1920.*

#### *Days with Snow Depth ≥ 1 inch*

February had 4 days with 1” of snow or greater on the ground. This compares to a normal of 8 days in February.

This season has seen 28 days with 1” of snow or greater on the ground at the end of February. This compares to a normal of 39 days.

**Wind:**

In February 2017 there were 13 days with maximum wind gusts  $\geq 20$  mph and 4 days  $\geq 30$  mph.

The maximum daily wind gust for the month was 41 mph and occurred on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 9:10 AM MST from 190°.