

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

Month: January
Year: 2017



Temperature:

Mean T_{\max} was 43.0°F which is 1.2° below the 1981-2010 normal for the month (1.2°F above the 1889-2017 average). This is the 55th warmest in the 129 year record (1889-2017), tied with 1956. The last January this warm or warmer was 2016 with 44.6°F .

Mean T_{\min} was 17.7°F which is 0.2° below the 1981-2010 normal for the month (4.0°F above the 1889-2017 average). This is the 33rd warmest in the 129 year record (1889-2017). The last January this warm or warmer was 2016 with 17.9°F .

Mean T_{mean} was 30.3°F which is 0.8° below the 1981-2010 normal for the month (2.6°F above the 1889-2017 average). This is the 43rd warmest in the 129 year record (1889-2017). The last January this warm or warmer was 2016 with 31.4°F .

The maximum daily temperature for the month was 64°F and occurred on January 30th, 2017.

The minimum daily temperature for the month was -16°F and occurred on January 6th, 2017.

** Note: As evidence by the graphs below, Fort Collins has a very noticeable long-term warming trend. This is due, in part, to the large growth and development of the campus and surrounding city since the late 1950s. As a result it is fairly common now to be above the long-term “average” even when we are experiencing relatively cool weather with respect to the 1981-2010 30-year average (referred to as the climate “normal”). That was certainly the case this month.

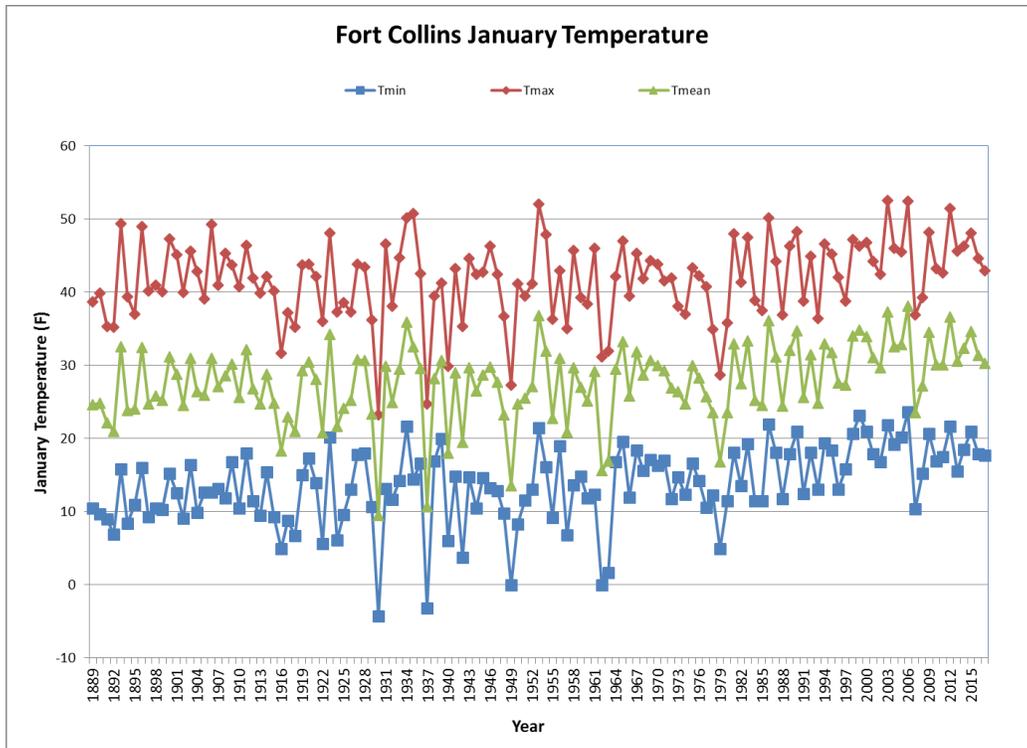


Figure 1: January temperature time series.

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

Highest Minimum Temperature:

January 29, 2017: The minimum daily temperature of 40° broke the previous record for the day of 36° set in 1917.

0 Degree and Colder Days

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

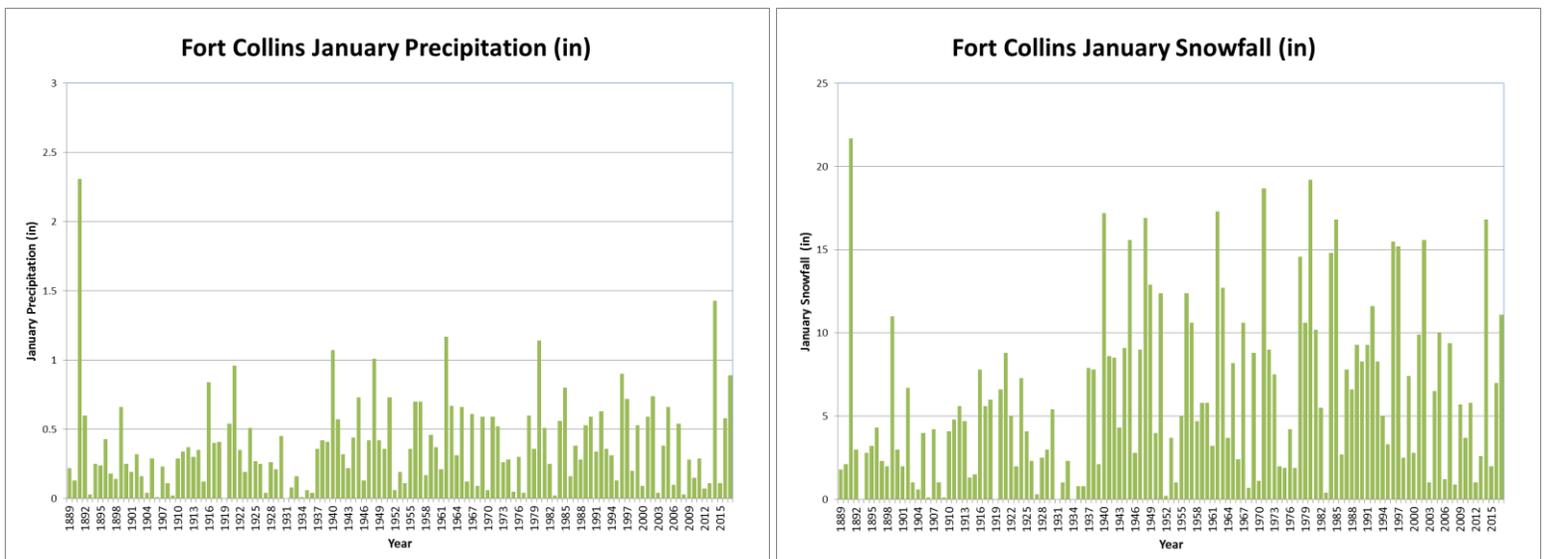
Precipitation and Snowfall:

Total monthly precipitation is 0.89” and was 0.49” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (223% of normal). This ranks as the 9th wettest in the 129 year record (1889-2017). This was the wettest January since 2014 with 1.43” of precipitation.

Water year precipitation through January totaled 2.15” and is 0.66” below the normal for the water year (77% of normal). This ranks as the 57th driest start to the water year in the 128 year record (1890-2017), tied with 1969. This is the driest start to a water year since 2013 with 1.31” through January.

Total monthly snowfall was 11.1” and was 3.2” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (141% of normal). This was the 20th snowiest January in the 129 year record (1889-2017). This was the snowiest January since 2014 with 16.8” of snowfall.

Seasonal snowfall for the 2017 snow season is 22.3” and is 7.1” below the 1981-2010 normal for the season through January (76% of normal). This ranks as the 69th least snowy in the 127 year record (1890-2017), tied with 2002. This is the least snowy start to a season since 2015 with 17.4” through



January.

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

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

Highest Daily Precipitation:

January 5, 2017: The daily precipitation of 0.35" broke the previous record for the day of 0.34" set in 1955.

Highest Daily Snowfall:

January 5, 2017: The daily snowfall of 5.0" broke the previous record for the day of 4.5" set in 1955.

Days with Snow Depth \geq 1 inch

January had 11 days with 1" of snow or greater on the ground. This compares to a normal of 13 days in January.

This season has seen 28 days with 1" of snow or greater on the ground at the end of January. This compares to a normal of 31 days.

Wind:

In January 2017 there were 9 days with maximum wind gusts \geq 20 mph and 2 days \geq 30 mph.

The maximum daily wind gust for the month was 37 mph and occurred on January 10th, 2017 at 00:40 MST from 300.