

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

Month: March
Year: 2012



Temperature:

Mean T_{\max} was 67.2 which is 12.5 degrees above the normal for the month (and is actually 5 degrees above the APRIL normal!). This ranks as the warmest in the 124 year record (1889-2012). The second warmest on record is 1910 with 66.9 degrees.

Mean T_{\min} was 32.7 degrees which is 4.5 degrees above the normal for the month. This ranks as the warmest in the 124 year record (1889-2012). The second warmest on record is 2007 with 32.4 degrees.

Mean T_{mean} was 50.0 degrees which is 8.6 degrees above the normal for the month. This ranks as the warmest in the 124 year record (1889-2012). The second warmest on record is 1910 with 47.7 degrees.

The maximum daily temperature was 81 and occurred 26 March 2012.
The minimum daily temperature was 15 and occurred on 2 March 2012.

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

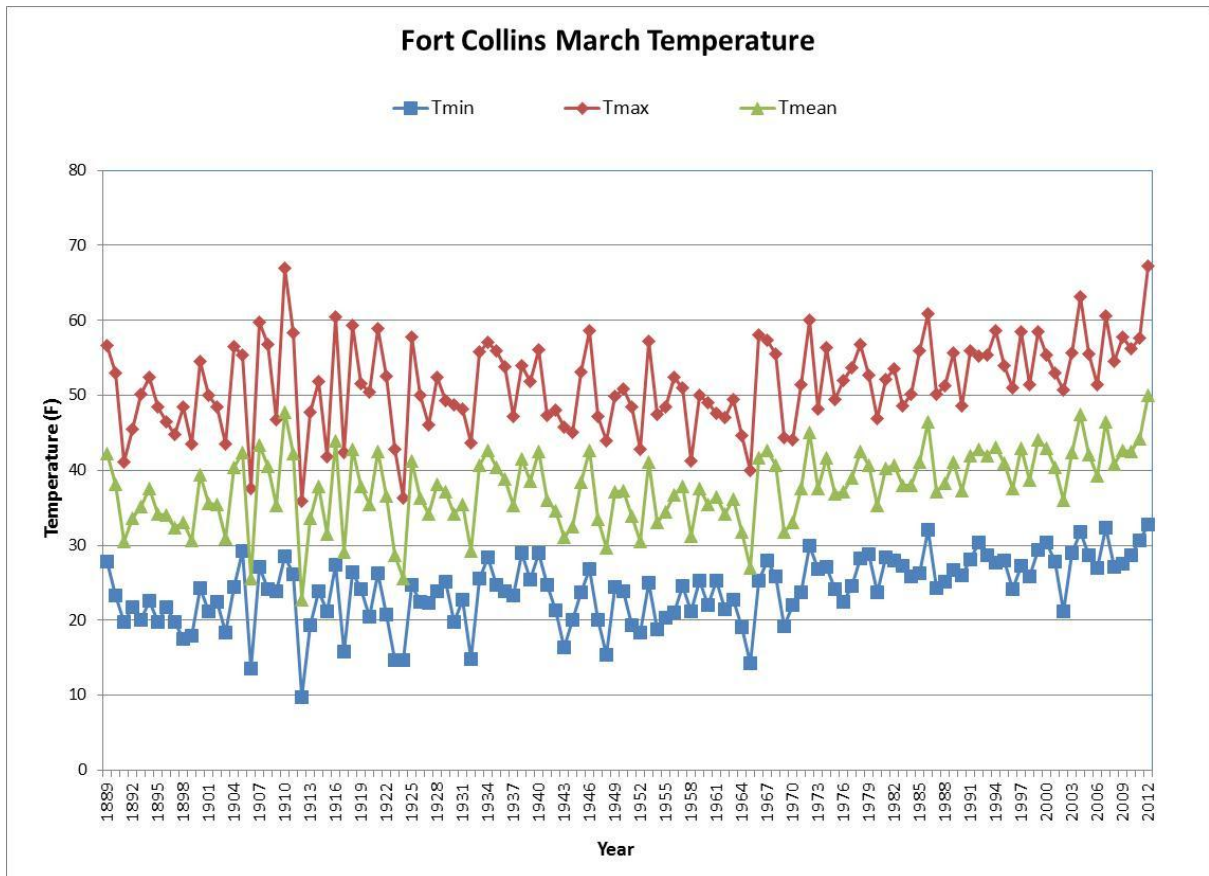


Figure 1: March temperature time series

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

Highest Maximum Temperature

16 March 2012: Daily maximum temperature of 77 breaks the old record of 76 set in 1908.

23 March 2012: Daily maximum temperature of 76 breaks the old record of 75 set in 1967.

26 March 2012: Daily maximum temperature of 81 breaks the old record of 79 set in 1971.

31 March 2012: Daily maximum temperature of 80 ties the record set in 1946.

Precipitation and Snowfall:

Total monthly precipitation was a Trace and was 1.59” below the normal for the month (0% of normal). This ranks as the driest March in the 124 year record (1889-2012) and the first time that March did not have measureable precipitation. The second driest March on record is 1966 with 0.01”

Water year 2012 precipitation through March was 4.22” and was 0.58” below the normal (88% of normal). This ranks as the 59th wettest water year in the 123 year data record (1890-2012).

Time series of March and water year precipitation are shown in Figure 2.

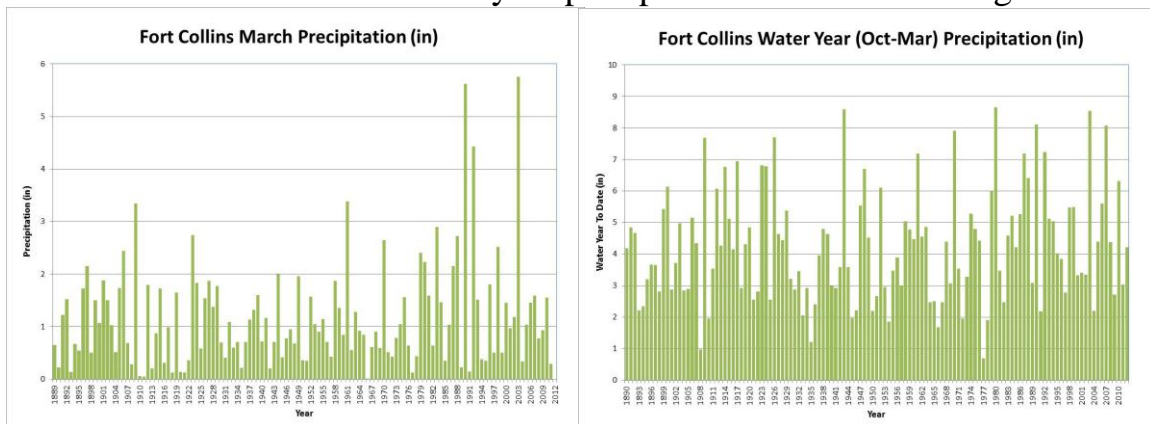


Figure 2: March (left) and water year (right) precipitation time series.

Total monthly snowfall was a Trace and was 12.6” below the normal (0% of normal) and ranks as the 4th least snowiest March in the 124 year record (1889 -2012) tied with 2010. 1910, 1911 and 1966 had 0” of snowfall in March.

Seasonal snowfall was 49.9” and was 1.0” above the normal for the season by March (102% of normal). This ranks as the 33rd snowiest season in the 123 year data record (1890-2012). The last snow season this snowy was the 2009-10 season which had 82.7” by the end of March.

Time series of March and seasonal snowfall are shown in Figure 3.

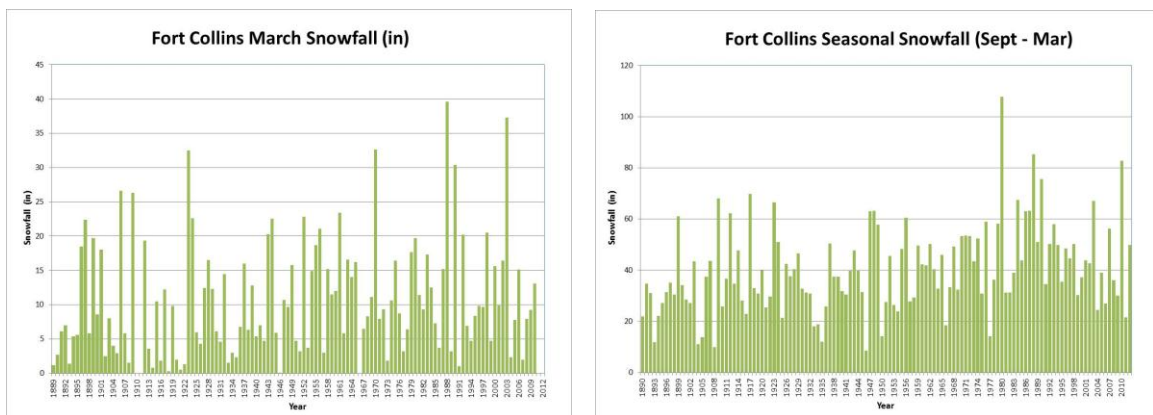


Figure 3: March (left) and seasonal (right) snowfall time series.

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

Wind:

In March 2012 there were 21 days with maximum wind gusts ≥ 20 mph and 3 days ≥ 30 mph.

The maximum daily wind gust for the month was 42 mph and occurred on 18 March 2012 at 17:20 MST from 180°.