

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

**Month: March**  
**Year: 2019**



March 4, 2019. Photo by Noah Newman

## **Temperature:**

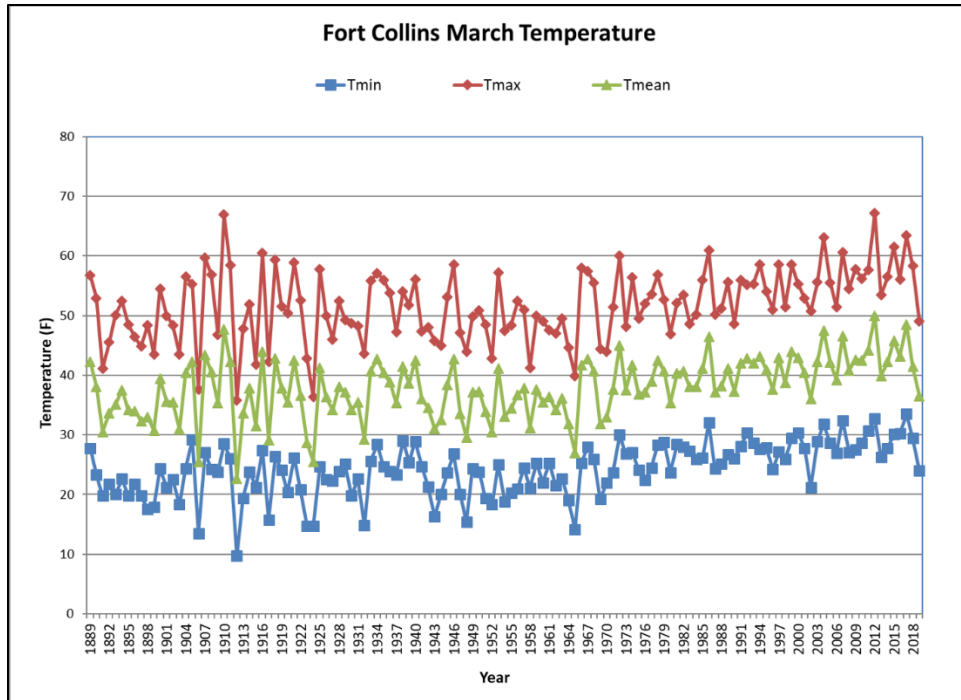
Mean  $T_{\max}$  was 49.0°F which is 5.7° below the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 44<sup>th</sup> coldest in the 131-year record (1889-2019), tied with 1960. The last March this cold or colder was 1990 with 48.6°F.

Mean  $T_{\min}$  was 24.0°F which is 4.2° below the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 57<sup>th</sup> coldest in the 131-year record (1889-2019). The last March this cold or colder was 2002 with 21.2°F

Mean  $T_{\text{mean}}$  was 36.5°F which is 4.9° below the 1981-2010 the normal for the month. This is the 48<sup>th</sup> coldest in the 131-year record (1889-2019). The last March this cold or colder was 2002 with 36.0°F. This is only the 4<sup>th</sup> time since 2000 the mean temperature for March was below 40°F.

The maximum daily temperature for the month was 70°F and occurred on March 27, 2019.

The minimum daily temperature for the month was -9°F and occurred on March 4, 2019.



**Figure 1: March temperature time series.**

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

***Coldest Maximum Daily Temperature:***

*March 3, 2019: The maximum temperature of 10°F degrees broke the previous record coldest maximum temperature for the day of 15°F set in 1978.*

***0 Degrees and Colder Days:***

*March had 3 days with a minimum temperature below 0°F. Winter 2019 has had 6 day below 0°F*

***Minimum Temperature of the Cold Season:***

*The minimum temperature of the Cold Season (October – March) was -9°F on March 4, 2019. This was only the 12<sup>th</sup> time in the 131 years of data the coldest temperature occurred in March.*

### ***Consecutive Days below 70 Degrees:***

*2019 saw **148** consecutive days below 70°F, October 10, 2018 through March 26, 2019. The 1981-2010 normal for consecutive days below 70F for the cold season is **121** days, which means 2019 saw a stretch of nearly **4 weeks longer** of sub 70 temperatures than the normal. The period of record average streak is **133** days, so 2019 was **15 days longer** than the period of record average. This was the 39<sup>th</sup> longest sub 70 streak in the record.*

*\*Consecutive Days below 70 data compiled by Becky Bolinger, Assistant State Climatologist at the Colorado Climate Center, CSU.*

### **Precipitation and Snowfall:**

Total monthly precipitation was 2.02” which is 0.43” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (127% of normal). This ranks as the 17<sup>th</sup> wettest in the 131-year record (1889-2019). The last March this wet or wetter was 2016 with 2.28” of precipitation.

Water year precipitation through March totaled 4.40” which is 0.40” below the 1981-2010 normal for the water year (92% of normal). This ranks as the 75<sup>th</sup> driest start to a water year in the 130-year record (1890-2019), tied with 2018. The last water year to start this dry or drier was 2018.

March snowfall totaled 13.3” which is 0.7” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (106% of normal). This ranks as the 40<sup>th</sup> snowiest in the 131-year record (1889-2019). The last March with this much snow or more was 2016 with 21.1” of snowfall.

Seasonal snowfall for the 2019 season through March totaled 32.8” which is 16.1” below the 1981-2010 normal for the season (67% of normal). This ranks as the 49<sup>th</sup> least snowy start to the snow season in the 130-year record (1890-2019). The last season to start with this little snowfall was 2017 with 26.3” of snowfall.

March had 8 days with measurable precipitation ( $\geq 0.01$ ”) and 6 days with measurable snowfall ( $\geq 0.1$ ”).

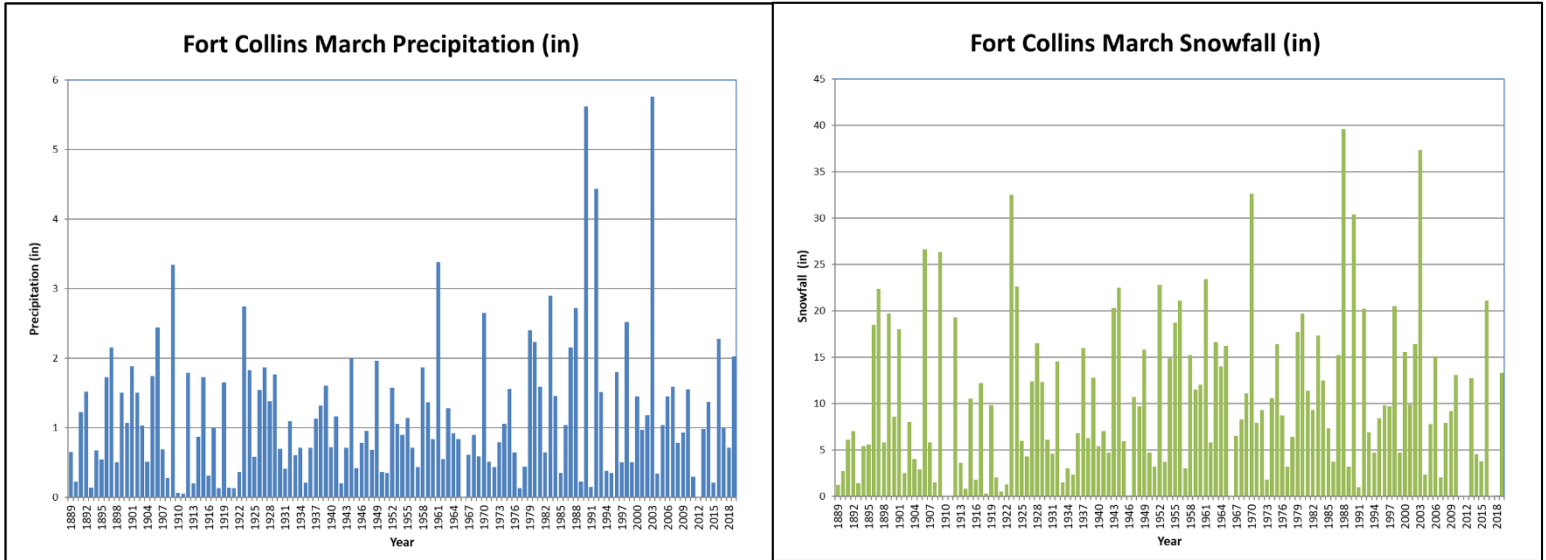


Figure 2: March precipitation (left) and snowfall (right) time series.

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

***Highest Daily Precipitation:***

*March 13, 2019 (Bomb Cyclone): The daily precipitation of 1.03” beat the old record of 0.59” set in 2005.*

***Highest Daily Snowfall:***

*March 2, 2019: The daily snowfall total of 7.3” beat the old record for the day of 6.3” set in 1988.*

***Days with Snow Depth ≥ 1 inch***

March had 8 days with 1” of snow or greater on the ground at our 7:00 PM MST observation time. This compares to a normal of 5 days in March. This season has seen 17 days with 1” of snow or greater on the ground through March. This compares to a normal of 44 days.

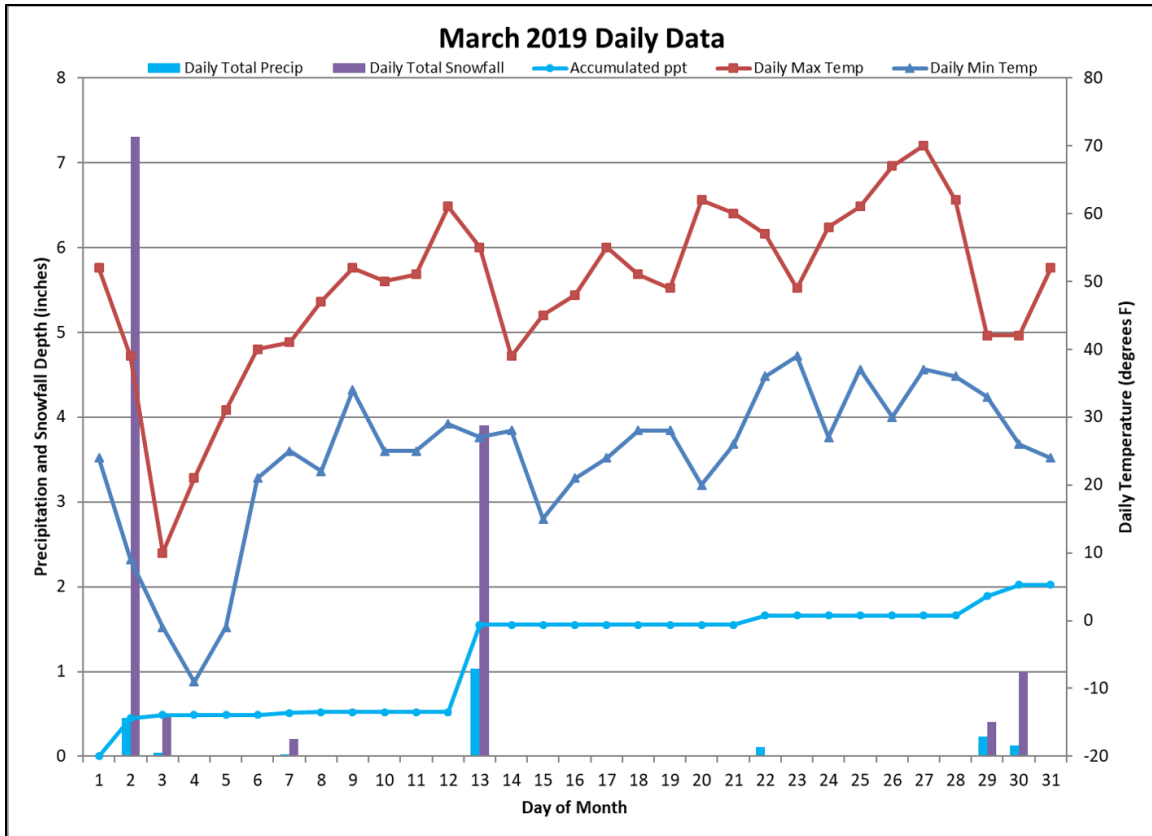


Figure 3: Daily Data for March 2019. Precipitation and temperature both show up on this graph. The y-axis on the left is for precipitation and snowfall. The y-axis on the right is for temperature.

### Wind:

In March 2019 there were 9 days with maximum wind gusts  $\geq 20$  mph, 2 days  $\geq 30$  mph and 1 day  $\geq 40$  mph.

The maximum recorded wind gust for the month was 40 mph and occurred on March 9, 2019 at 6:30 AM MST from  $270^\circ$  (West).

There is a likely chance this gust was eclipsed on March 13 during the bomb cyclone, however the anemometer at the weather station froze for a 10-hour period during the day.