

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

Month: March
Year: 2021



Monday, March 15th, after a very impressive snowstorm.

Temperature:

Mean T_{\max} was 52.9°F which is 1.8° below the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 75th coldest (57th warmest) in the 133-year record (1889-2021), tied with 1890 and 2001. The last March this cold or colder was 2019 with 49.0°F.

Mean T_{\min} was 26.8°F which is 1.4° below the 1981-2010 normal for the month. This is the 89th coldest (43rd warmest) in the 133-year record (1889-2021), tied with 1946 and 1973. The last March this cold or colder was 2019 with 24.0°F.

Mean T_{mean} was 39.8°F which is 1.6° below the 1981-2010 the normal for the month. This is the 78th coldest (56th warmest) in the 133-year record (1889-2021). The last March this cold or colder was 2019 with 36.5°F.

The maximum daily temperature for the month was 73°F and occurred on March 29, 2021.

The minimum daily temperature for the month was 15°F and occurred on March 1 and 15, 2021.

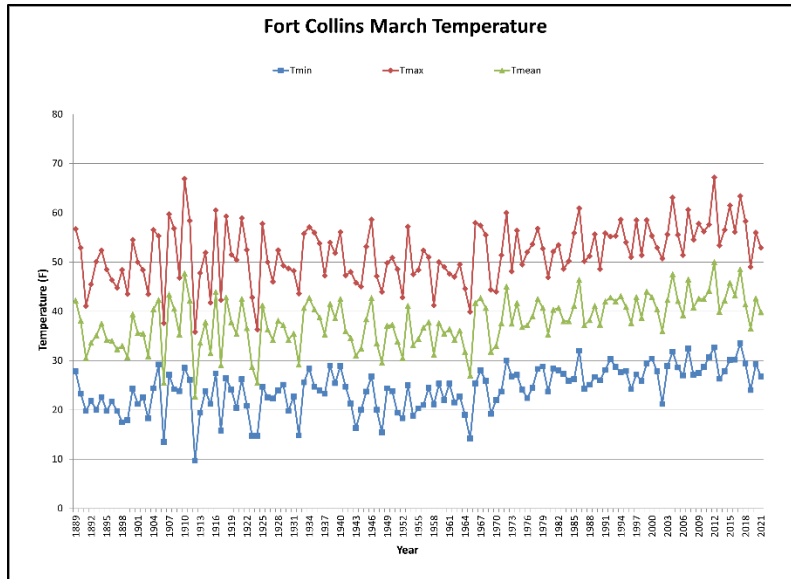


Figure 1: March temperature time series.

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

No temperature records for March.

Precipitation and Snowfall:

Total monthly precipitation was 2.66” which is 1.07” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (167% of normal). This ranks as the 9th wettest in the 133-year record (1889-2021). The last March this wet or wetter was 2003 with 5.76” of precipitation.

Water Year 2021 precipitation through March totaled 6.05” which is 1.25” above the 1981-2010 normal (126% of normal). This ranks as the 23rd wettest start to a water year in the 132-year record (1890-2021). The last water year this wet or wetter through March was 2016 with 8.18” of precipitation.

Total monthly snowfall for March was 19.9” which is 7.3” above the 1981-2010 normal for the month (158% of normal). This ranks as the 18th snowiest March in the 133-year record (1889-2021). The last March with this much snow or more was 2016 with 21.1” of snow.

Seasonal Snowfall for the 2021 snow season totaled 63.4” through March. This is 14.5” above the 1981-2010 normal (130% of normal). This ranks as the 11th snowiest start to a snow season. The last season to start with this much snow or more was the 2016 snow season with 67” of snow through March.

March had 10 days with measurable precipitation (≥ 0.01 ”) and 5 days with measurable snowfall (≥ 0.1 ”).

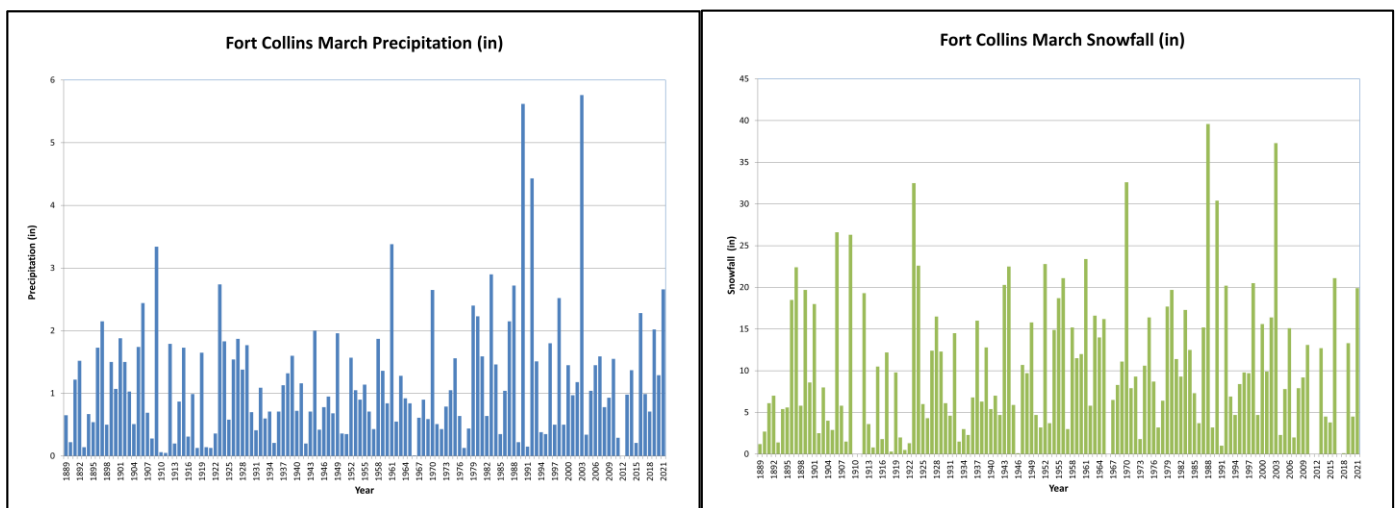


Figure 2: March precipitation (left) and snowfall (right) time series.

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

Daily Precipitation Record:

March 14, 2021: The precipitation of 1.75” broke the previous record for the day of 1.31” set in 1996.

Daily Snowfall Record:

March 14, 2021: The snowfall of 16.8” broke the previous record for the day of 15.5” set in 1956.

Days with Snow Depth \geq 1 inch

March had 10 days with 1” of snow or greater on the ground. This compares to a normal of 5 days in March.

This season has seen 51 days with 1” of snow or greater on the ground through the end of March. This compares to a normal of 44 days.

The highest one-day precipitation total for March 2021 was 1.78” falling on March 14. The highest one-day snowfall total for the month was 16.8” on March 14.

Top 10 March Precipitation Totals

Year	Total Monthly Precip
2003	5.76
1990	5.62
1992	4.43
1961	3.38
1909	3.34
1983	2.9
1923	2.74
1988	2.72
2021	2.66
1970	2.65

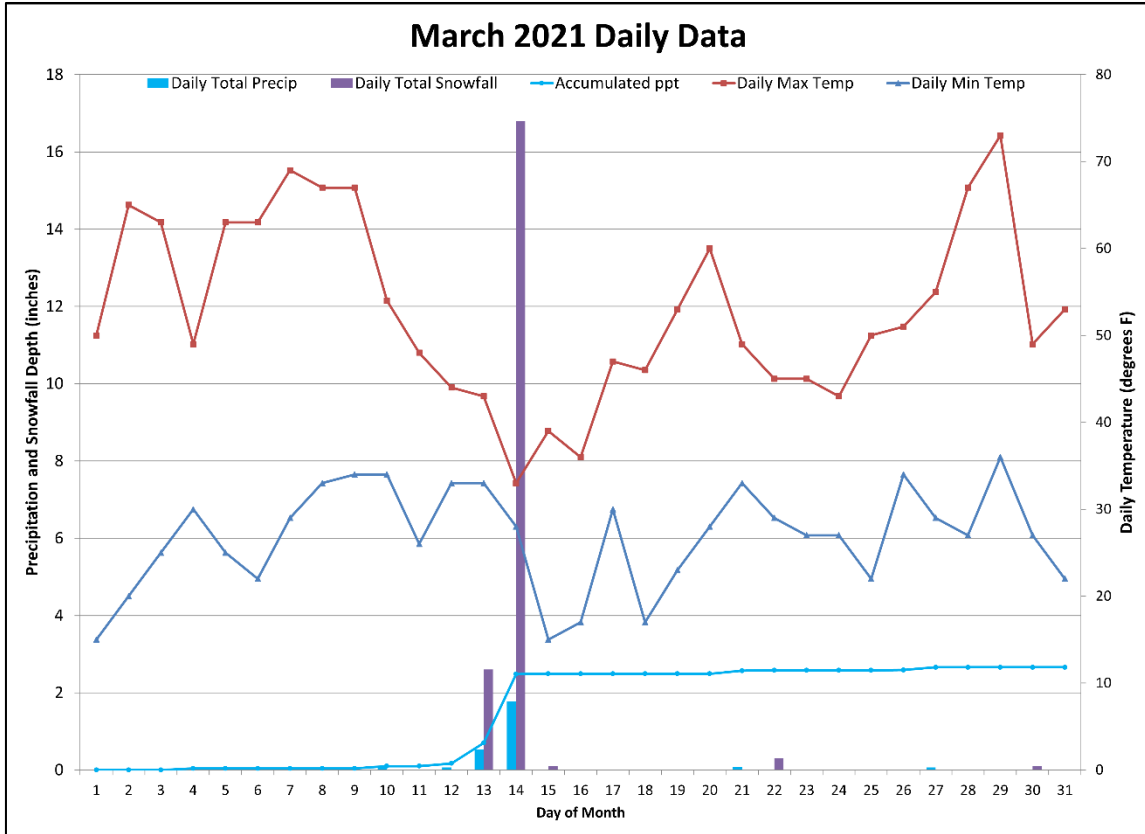


Figure 3: Daily Data for March 2021. Precipitation and temperature both show up on this graph. The y-axis on the left is for precipitation and snowfall. The y-axis on the right is for temperature.

Wind:

In March 2021 there were 7 days with maximum wind gusts ≥ 20 mph and 1 day ≥ 30 mph.

The maximum daily wind gust for the month was 32 mph and occurred on March 29, 2021 at 9:26 AM MST from 290° (WNW).

Additional graph on next page!

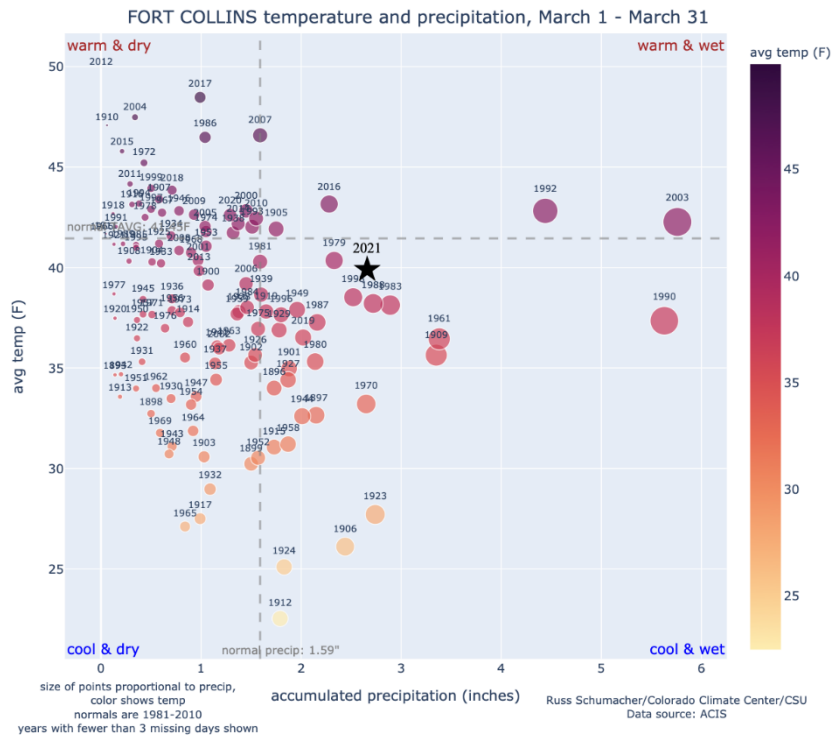


Figure 4: March (top) precipitation and temperature data plot. Each dot plots monthly average temperature and precipitation at Fort Collins for the period of record. From left to right, monthly precipitation is shown on the x-axis, where the wettest years are plotted furthest to the right. Dot sizes are proportional to precipitation amounts. From bottom to top on the y-axis, average monthly temperature is shown, where the warmest years are plotted towards the top. The dots are also color coded with darker colors indicating higher temperatures. The horizontal and vertical dotted lines indicate the 1981-2010 normals. March 2021 shows up slightly cooler and wetter than normal.