



Observed temperature

Temperatures during Water Year 2024 (October 2023 - September 2024) tied for **6th warmest** in the 129-year record. Average temperatures in **October 2024 were well above average, ranking as the 2nd warmest October on the 129-year record.** Large swaths of the West Slope experienced a record warm October. Temperatures in November so far have been near or below normal. Southeastern Colorado and portions of the Rio Grande basin have experienced nearly 10°F below normal so far in November 2024.

Observed precipitation

Precipitation accumulation in Water Year 2024 remained near normal, ranking **62nd driest** in the 129-year record. Although precipitation was relatively normal, Conejos County and Rio Grande County experienced a record-wet water year. The northern Front Range and portions of the southeast experienced a drier than normal year. October 2024 accumulation statewide was wetter than normal, ranking **47th wettest October** on the 129-year record. That being said, the northern Front Range and north-central Colorado were very dry in October 2024. Precipitation in November 2024 has been well above normal in the southeast.

Snowpack & Reservoir Storage

Snowpack statewide is 115% of normal thanks to three major storm cycles that have come through since the beginning of the water year. Snowpack in Colorado’s southern basins are well above normal, with the Upper Rio Grande at 175% of normal snowpack. Snowpack in basins in northern Colorado are below normal, with the North Platte basin at 77% of normal snowpack. The state’s average reservoir storage is 98% of the median.

Streamflows & Soil Moisture

Average streamflows during the month of September were below normal in almost every basin – the lowest streamflow average was in the Arkansas basin at 57% of the median. October streamflows improved on the East Slope, with the Arkansas basin averaging the highest flows at 131% of the median and the Yampa-White-Green basin averaging the lowest flows at 76% of the median. Soil moisture leading into winter is slightly above normal in southern Colorado and below normal in northern Colorado.

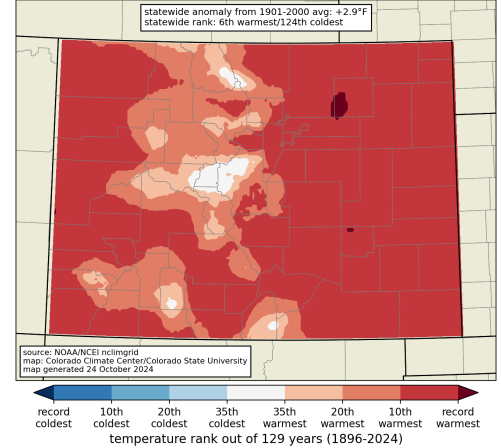
Drought conditions

Since September, drought conditions have degraded in northern Colorado and improved in the Eastern Plains. The northern Front Range experienced a two class degradation in drought. Parts of Larimer and Weld counties are now in D3 (extreme) drought. Conditions in the Eastern Plains improved due to a November snowstorm that dropped nearly 40 inches of snow in some areas.

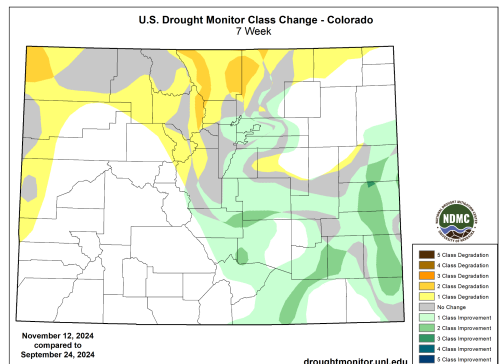
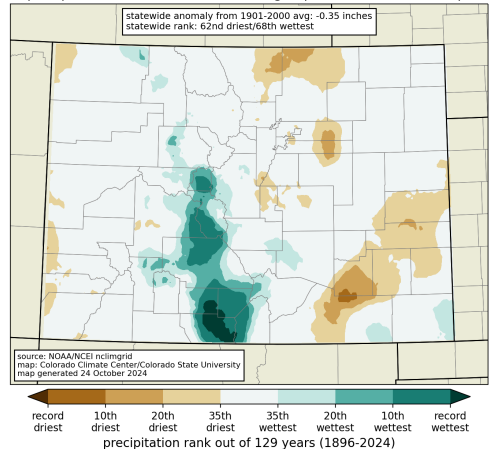
Seasonal outlook

The La Niña that has been predicted is finally emerging, but it’s anticipated to be weaker than once expected with a shorter duration. La Niña tends to favor more snow in the northern mountains and less in the southern mountains overall, but according to NOAA, this La Niña is less likely to result in conventional winter impacts. The winter outlook for temperature and precipitation in Colorado has low-confidence overall.

average temperature rank: 12 months ending September 2024 (Oct-Sep)



precipitation rank: 12 months ending September 2024 (Oct-Sep)



The next Water Conditions Monitoring Committee Meeting will be on January 14, 2025.

Co-Chairs: Emily Adrid, CWCB and Sarah Brucker, DWR

Additional info at <https://cwcb.colorado.gov/Water-Conditions-Monitoring-Committee>

Special thanks to Russ Schumacher, Colorado Climate Center and Brian Domonkos, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services