

National Significant Events – December 2025–February 2026

Selected U.S. Significant Climate Anomalies and Events for February and Winter

The blizzard from Feb 22–24 set all-time storm-total and daily snowfall records at T.F. Green Intl. Airport, RI, surpassing benchmarks from 1978 and 1996.

December

Heavy lake-effect snow and blizzard conditions impacted the Great Lakes and parts of the Northeast in late Dec.

January

A long-duration winter storm crippled a broad swath of the central and eastern U.S. during Jan 23–26, bringing significant snow and ice.

The contiguous U.S. had its second-warmest winter with an average temperature 4.9°F above the 20th-century average. Average temperatures for December, January, and February were 5.1°F above average (fifth warmest), 3.1°F above average, and 6.6°F above average (fourth warmest), respectively. Globally, this December, January, February, and winter each ranked as the fifth warmest. The contiguous U.S. had its fifth-driest winter with precipitation 1.84 inches below average. During December, January, and February, precipitation was 0.33 inches below average, 0.78 inches below average, and 0.76 inches below average (fifth driest), respectively.

Highlights for the Northeast

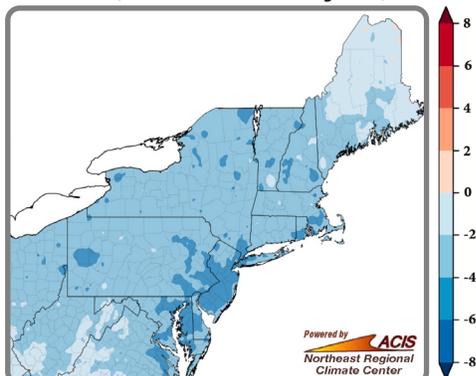
- The Northeast had its **coldest winter since 2014–15**, with all three months of the season being colder than normal. During a particularly cold period from January 23 to February 1, Kennedy Airport, NY, had six consecutive days with a high less than 25°F, tying its **longest such streak**. Dulles Airport, VA, tied its **greatest number of days in January** with a high less than 25°F at six days. The cold weather helped keep snow on the ground for an extended period. For instance, Dulles Airport had 15 consecutive days with 6+ inches of snow depth, **tying its longest such streak**.
- There were **several notable storms** this season. A **blizzard** in February dumped 12–38 inches of snow on coastal areas from Maryland to Massachusetts, **possibly setting a state snowfall record** for Rhode Island. [Other records](#) included **greatest two-day snowfall**, **snowiest day**, and **snowiest month** for February and/or all months.
- It was the **eighth-driest winter** on record for the Northeast. Drought conditions intensified in some areas, like northern New Jersey where extreme drought was introduced, but improved in others, like Maryland where most severe drought was erased. **Groundwater levels** remained **well below normal** in many places.
- Multiple lake-effect snow events [took place in New York](#). December 30 was Syracuse's **all-time snowiest day** with 24.2 inches. From December 31 to January 4, up to 58.5 inches of snow fell east of Lake Ontario, making it difficult to clear roads and [respond to some emergency calls](#). It was the first time since winter 2010–11 that Rochester, NY, had **over 100 inches of snow**.

Regional Climate Overview – December 2025–February 2026

Temperature

Departure from Normal (°F)

December 1, 2025–February 28, 2026

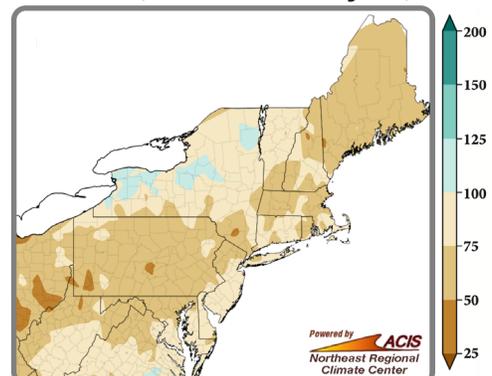


Climate normals based on 1991–2020 data; rankings based on 1895–2026.

Precipitation

Percent of Normal (%)

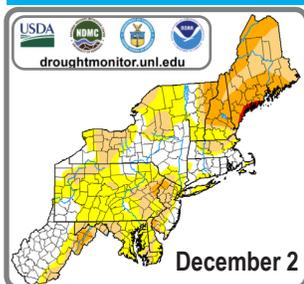
December 1, 2025–February 28, 2026



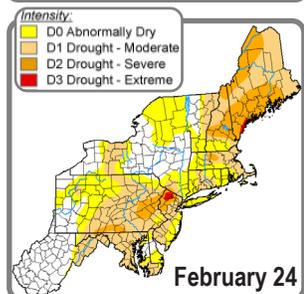
Winter was 3.3°F below normal for the Northeast, in the **coldest third** of all years. It was the **coldest winter since 2014–15** for the region. **December** was 4.4°F below normal, in the **coldest third** of all years. It was the region's coldest December since 2017. **January** was 2.8°F below normal, in the **middle third** of all years. **February** was 2.8°F below normal, in the **middle third** of all years. It was the **coldest February since 2015** for the region.

The Northeast had its **eighth-driest winter** with 71% of normal precipitation. It was among the 20 driest winters for nine states. **December** precipitation was 81% of normal, in the **middle third** of all years. **January** precipitation was 77% of normal, in the **driest third** of all years. The Northeast had its **sixth-driest February** with 50% of normal precipitation. It was among the 20 driest winters for eight states.

Regional Climate Overview – December 2025–February 2026



December 2



February 24

Drought in the Northeast

As of [December 2](#), the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) showed 39% of the Northeast in drought and 33% as abnormally dry. Below-normal precipitation in **December and January** allowed **drought to intensify** in some southern and coastal areas. However, locally heavy precipitation led to **improvement** in some northern and interior areas. For instance, severe drought spread in eastern West Virginia, southern Pennsylvania, and Maryland but was removed from Vermont and shrank in New Hampshire and Maine. Conditions **deteriorated or were unchanged** during much of **February**, but late-month precipitation led to **improvement** in some spots. For example, severe drought expanded in eastern Pennsylvania but eased in much of Maryland and West Virginia. The [February 24](#) U.S. Drought Monitor showed 47% of the Northeast in drought and 25% as abnormally dry.

Groundwater levels continued to be [lower than normal](#) in many areas, with **record low levels** in spots such as southern Maine, western New York, central Pennsylvania, central Maryland, and New Jersey. Frozen ground [paused recovery](#) in northern areas. Streamflow was [below normal](#) at times, particularly in southern and coastal locations like eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Lake and reservoir levels were [lower than usual](#) or declined in several places. For instance, the [North Jersey District reservoir system](#) was at 48.3% of capacity on January 28 compared to the long-term average of just over 80%. A few [water suppliers](#) in the Northeast had **mandatory water restrictions** in place.

Regional Impacts – December 2025–February 2026

Winter Conditions

Multiple storms and several wind events affected the Northeast during winter.

- **December 13–14:** Much of the region saw snow, with the greatest totals up to 13 inches. December 14 was the snowiest December day in the [past 5- to 15-year period](#) for several sites along the Interstate 95 corridor including Philadelphia, PA, and Newark, NJ.
- **December 19:** Wind gusts of up to 65 mph were widespread, with [locally higher gusts](#). Impacts included damaged roofs and downed trees and power lines that blocked roads and caused [power outages](#). At least nine people suffered [storm-related injuries](#).
- **December 26–27:** A winter storm **disrupted post-Christmas travel**. Snow fell in parts of New York and southern New England, while places like central New Jersey and southeastern Pennsylvania saw sleet and spots like central Pennsylvania and western Maryland had freezing rain. Road were hazardous, and there were [numerous flight delays/cancellations](#) at some of the region's busiest airports.
- **December 31–January 1:** Snow squalls created [hazardous travel conditions](#) during the **New Year's holiday**. For instance, in Pennsylvania, the squall line produced wind gusts of up to 50 mph, near-zero visibility, and snow-covered roadways.
- **January 24–26:** A major winter storm produced a mix of precipitation types. The greatest storm snowfall totals of up to 28 inches were in southwestern Pennsylvania, eastern New York, and New England. January 25 ranked among the **10 snowiest January days at 18 of the Northeast's 35 major sites** and among the 10 all-time snowiest days at Boston, MA, and Bridgeport, CT. Some southern and coastal sites like Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia, PA, saw multiple hours of sleet, ranking among their 10 greatest number of such hours for January. In fact, Baltimore, MD, went on to have its **greatest number of hours with sleet for January** and its second greatest for any month. Up to 0.75 inches of ice accumulation from freezing rain was reported in West Virginia, where most of the Northeast's [power outages](#) occurred. Air travel was significantly impacted due to [airport closures](#), [flight cancellations](#), and extended delays. Flight cancellations across the U.S. reached [a number not seen since 2020](#). There were several storm-related deaths.
- **February 22–23:** A powerful nor'easter dropped 12–38 inches of snow [on coastal areas](#) from Maryland to Massachusetts, with the greatest totals of 30+ inches in southeastern Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York's Long Island, and northeastern New Jersey. Providence, RI, and Islip, NY, had their **all-time largest two-day snowfall** total with 37.9 inches and 29.1 inches, respectively. February 23 became Providence's **all-time snowiest day** with 35.5 inches, **possibly setting a state record for Rhode Island**, and Islip's snowiest February day with 19.6 inches. Monthly snowfall totals were also record-setting at both sites. [Daily and/or two-day snowfall totals](#) ranked among the **10 greatest for any month** at sites like Boston, MA; Bridgeport, CT; LaGuardia and Kennedy Airports, NY; and Atlantic City, NJ, and among the 10 greatest for February at sites like Central Park, NY, and Philadelphia, PA. [Wind gusts](#) of 35+ mph were common, with the highest gusts exceeding 65 mph. **Blizzard conditions** were [reported in multiple locations](#). Storm impacts included [multi-day power outages](#), downed trees, [transit disruptions](#) and [driving bans](#), and [beach erosion](#). There were [several deaths](#) and an [uptick in emergency room visits](#) related to the storm.



Above: Low visibility on Long Island during the blizzard. Credit: Chris Stachelski; Left: Snow piles in Providence, RI. Credit: Anonymous

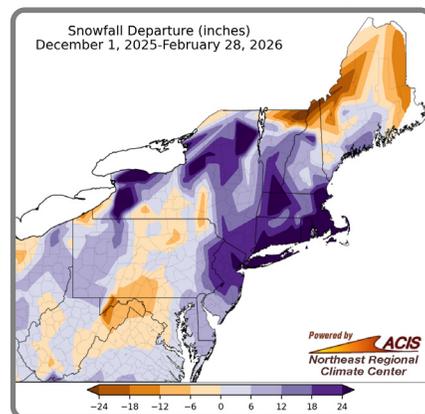


Regional Impacts and Updates – December 2025–February 2026

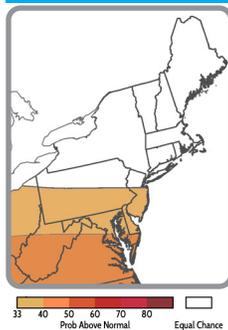
Winter Temperatures and Snowfall

There were multiple cold air outbreaks this winter, with an **extended period of unusually cold temperatures** from January 23 to February 1. The coldest lows were below -30°F , while highs at some locations did not make it to 0°F . Subzero wind chills were observed at times across most of the region. The number of consecutive days with high and/or low temperatures meeting certain thresholds was [noteworthy at multiple sites](#). For example, Kennedy Airport, NY, tied its **longest streak of days** with a high less than 25°F , while sites like Harrisburg, PA; Charleston, WV; and Central Park, NY, had their second- or third-longest such streaks. Driven by this event, Dulles Airport, VA, went on to tie its **greatest number of days for January** with a high less than 25°F . The cold weather was beneficial for outdoor recreation like [ice fishing](#) and [ice boating](#) but caused electricity demand to reach [near record levels](#) and contributed to numerous [water main breaks](#), an uptick in [emergency room/urgent care visits](#), and [multiple deaths](#). Cold temperatures also helped keep **snow on the ground for an extended period**. Dulles Airport had 15 consecutive days with 6+ inches of snow depth, **tying its longest such streak**. Several sites including Wilmington, DE; Baltimore, MD; Newark, NJ; and Philadelphia, PA, had 16 or 17 consecutive days with 5+ inches of snow depth, ranking among their five longest such streaks.

December snowfall was near or above normal for a large portion of the Northeast, with the largest surplus of more than 12 inches in multiple locations including upstate New York and central Maine. **January snowfall was near or above normal** for most of the Northeast. The largest surplus of over 24 inches was in lake-effect areas of New York, where a few sites had one of their 10 snowiest Januaries. **February snowfall was below or near normal** for most of the Northeast, with deficits of up to 24 inches in western Maine and some lake-effect areas of New York. However, the February blizzard gave coastal locations along its path **above-normal snowfall**, with a surplus of over 24 inches in parts of southern New England. Providence, RI, had its **all-time snowiest month**, while Islip, NY, had its **snowiest February**. Several other sites had one of their [10 all-time snowiest months or Februaries](#). **Winter snowfall was near or above normal** for many areas.



Regional Outlook – Spring 2026



Temperature and Precipitation

Normal April–June average temperatures range from the upper 40s in northern New England to the mid 60s in parts of the Mid-Atlantic. [NOAA's Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\)](#) favors **above-normal temperatures** for **April–June** for much of the Mid-Atlantic (map left). **Equal chances** of below-, near-, or above-normal temperatures were forecast for the rest of the Northeast.

Normal April–June precipitation ranges from 9 inches in western New York to more than 15 inches in parts of West Virginia. **Above-normal precipitation** is favored for **April–June** for western New York and much of the Mid-Atlantic (map right). This is due in part to long-term trends. **Equal chances** were forecast elsewhere.

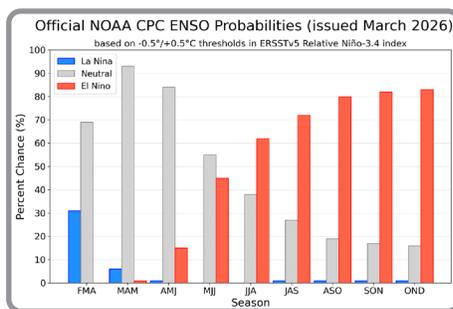


Spring Flooding

According to [NOAA](#), "isolated minor flooding is possible" through March tied to melting snowpack in parts of New York, Vermont, and southern New England. Dry conditions in the Mid-Atlantic are expected to "help reduce the potential for flooding the remainder of the spring." However, **very heavy rain** can cause flooding at any time of the year, even in areas that have little to no snow cover. [NOAA's flood inundation mapping services](#) provide visualizations of flooding extent, along with a flood inundation forecast. The NRCC's webinar on March 26 will focus on the spring flood outlook. Register for the webinar [here](#).

ENSO

La Niña conditions were still present in the equatorial Pacific Ocean in February. According to NOAA's [Climate Prediction Center](#), a transition to **ENSO-neutral conditions** is expected in the next month, with a 55% chance of ENSO-neutral conditions through May–July 2026 and a 62% chance of **El Niño** emerging during summer.



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