



Observed temperature

Temperatures during Water Year 2024 (October - August) rank **6th warmest** in the 129-year record. Temperatures in **August 2024 were well above average, ranking 14th warmest August on the 129-year record.** Much of the state experienced a warmer than average August, while South-central Colorado experienced a top ten warmest August. Temperatures in September 2024 so far have been well above normal in the northwestern quadrant of the state and along the Colorado-Utah border, and below normal in the Rio Grande basin.

Observed precipitation

Precipitation this water year has remained near normal, ranking **61st driest** in the 129-year record. The Rio Grande basin has been wetter than normal and northern Weld County has been drier than normal. **August 2024 was much wetter than normal, ranking 13th wettest August** on the 129-year record. Parts of southwestern Colorado experienced record wet conditions in August. Ouray County even declared an emergency disaster with the town of Ridgeway flooding in mid-August. So far, September 2024 has been much drier than normal, especially in the western half of the state.

Drought conditions

The US Drought Monitor indicates drought development in the eastern plains and drought amelioration along the West Slope. Drought conditions have worsened to D2 across the southeastern plains and worsened to D1 across much of the I-25 corridor. Drought conditions have improved across the entire Western Slope.

Snowpack & Reservoir Storage

Snowpack has officially melted out at all SNOTEL stations. The Upper Rio Grande basin had the lowest snowpack in the state this water year, while the Arkansas basin finished the snow season with the highest peak snowpack in the state. The South Platte basin maintained the most consistent snowpack throughout the water year. The average reservoir storage statewide has remained steady at 94 percent of the median.

Streamflows & Soil Moisture

Streamflows in the SMDASJ and high elevations of the South Platte basins were well below normal throughout August 2024. Flows in the southwestern quadrant of the state have improved dramatically with the heavy monsoon rains in August. Across the rest of the state, streamflow gauges detected near normal flows. Soil moisture at 1 meter depth is well above normal in the Rio Grande basin, and above normal across most of the West Slope. Soil moisture is below normal in much of the lower Arkansas basin.

Seasonal outlook

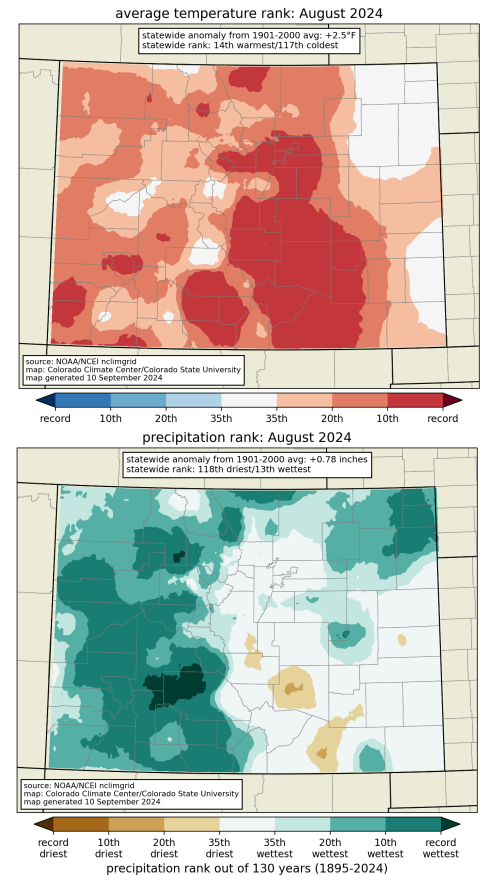
It's likely that fall will be much warmer and drier than normal, according to NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. The La Niña has come slower than originally anticipated, but it is likely to arrive in the next month and persist into winter. In Colorado, fall La Niña conditions typically indicate increased risk of warmer and drier conditions. However, La Niña winters in Colorado typically correlate with wetter than normal conditions.

The next Water Conditions Monitoring Committee Meeting will be on November 19, 2024.

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

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

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U.S. Drought Monitor

