

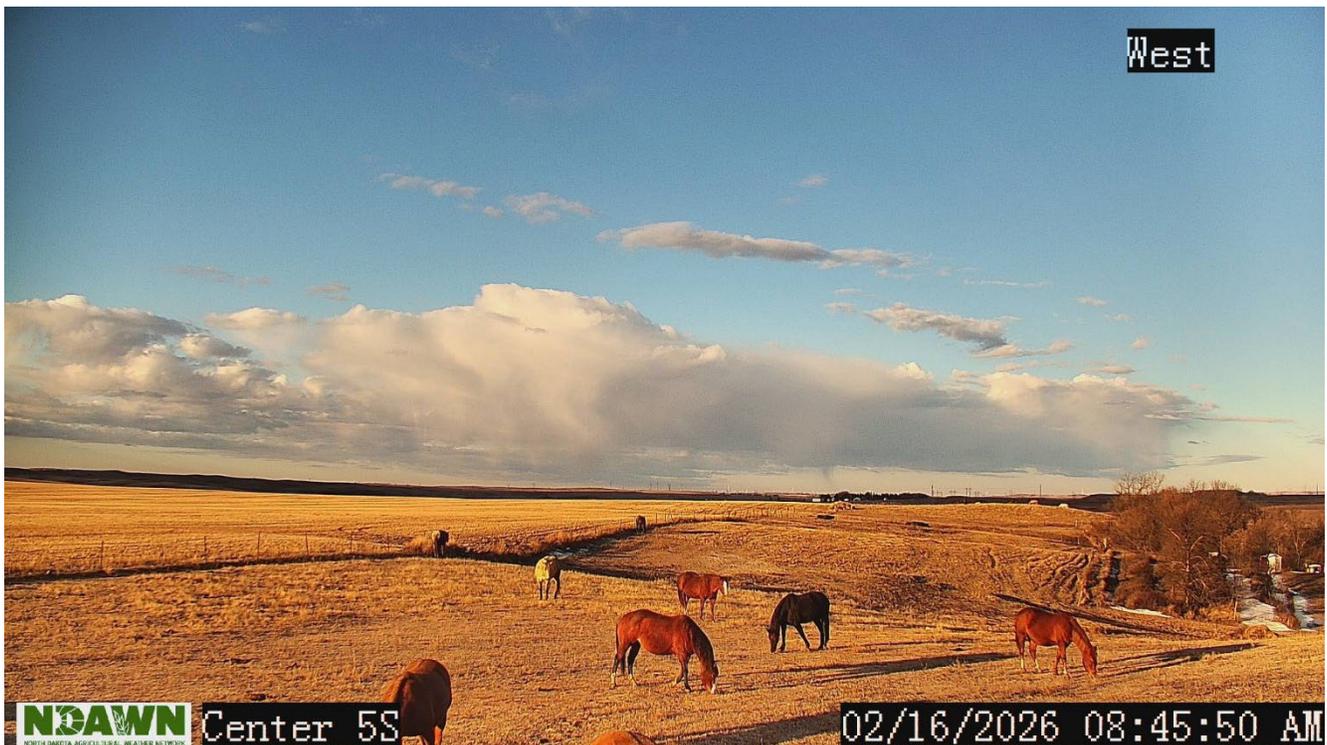


NORTH DAKOTA
STATE CLIMATE OFFICE



February

2026



The horses at NDAWN Center 5S enjoying a beautiful February morning

February is the driest month of the year in North Dakota. Average monthly precipitation is generally in the 0.50” to 0.75” range for much of the state. In turn, it often only takes one storm to turn the month “wet”. That is exactly what occurred on February 18 when a rain/snow maker produced widespread precipitation of over 0.50” in many parts of the state. If that one day was taken away, there would have been more dry than wet areas.

Temperatures were well above average consistently through the month. Most of North Dakota recorded an average temperature between 7°F and 10°F above the current 30-year average. That made it one of the warmest Februarys on record. Summed up, February 2026 was a mild and wet month in North Dakota.



Figure 1: Optical effects continued on throughout the month of February



Precipitation Summary

February 2026 Statewide Average Precipitation: 0.60”

Percent of Normal Statewide Precipitation: 113%

Much of February was dry, but one storm on February 18 dropped a month's+ precipitation to much of North Dakota. Even so, southwestern North Dakota finished very dry in an already very dry month – the normal total precipitation for North Dakota in February is only 0.53”.

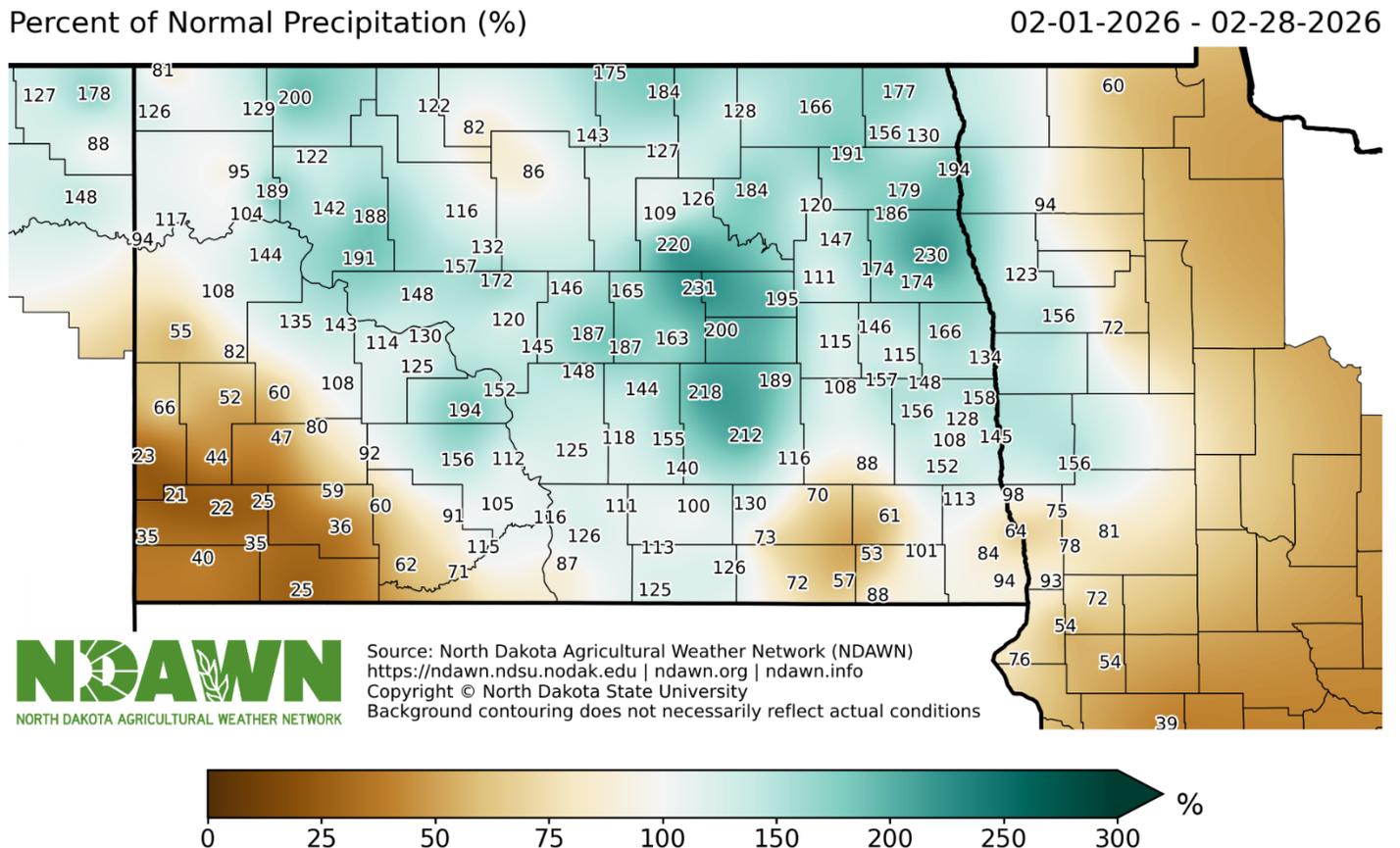


Figure 2: Percent of Average Precipitation measured at NDAWN stations with all-season precipitation gauges in February 2026

Precipitation



The maximum monthly precipitation recorded by NDAWN in North Dakota during the month of February was 1.17 inches at the Emerado 2E station in Grand Forks County. That was 230% of average. The minimum monthly precipitation recorded at NDAWN in North Dakota was at the Amidon 1NE station with only 0.12 inches of precipitation, 22% of normal (Figure 3).

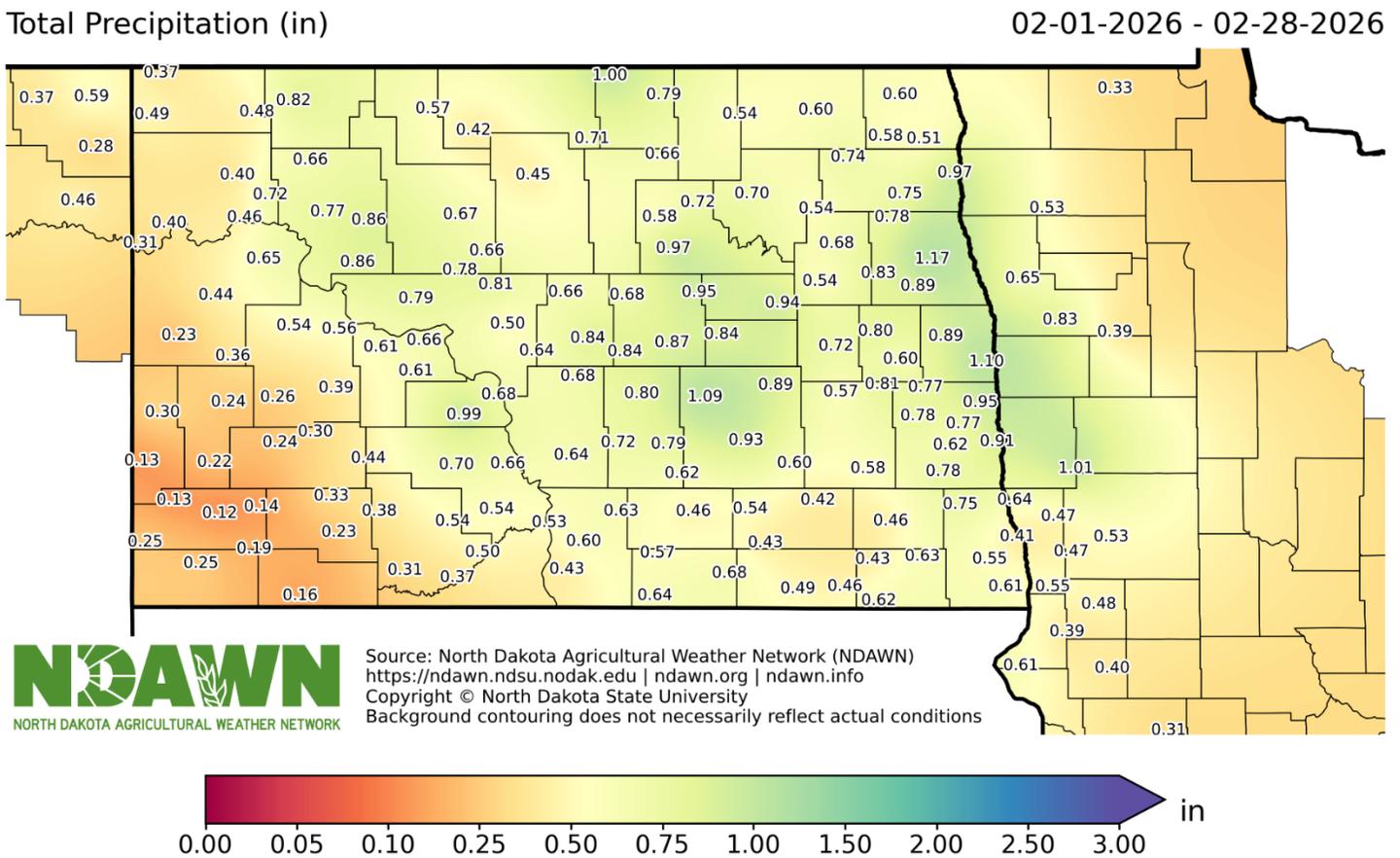


Figure 3: Total Precipitation measured at NDAWN stations with all-season precipitation gauges in February 2026

Precipitation



For the current water year (October 1 – February 28), southeast North Dakota remains dry, with most of the rest of the state well above average precipitation (Figure 4).

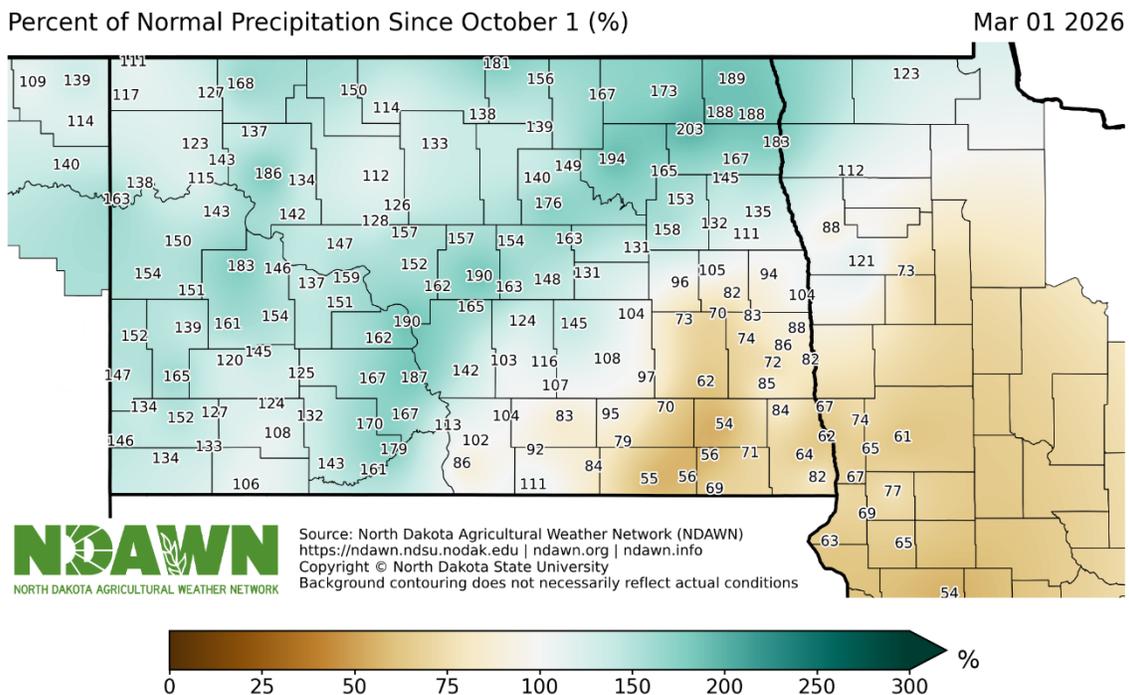


Figure 4: Percent of Average Precipitation measured at NDAWN stations with all-season for the current water year

Frozen soils, however, kept the drought monitor unchanged throughout February. (Figure 5).

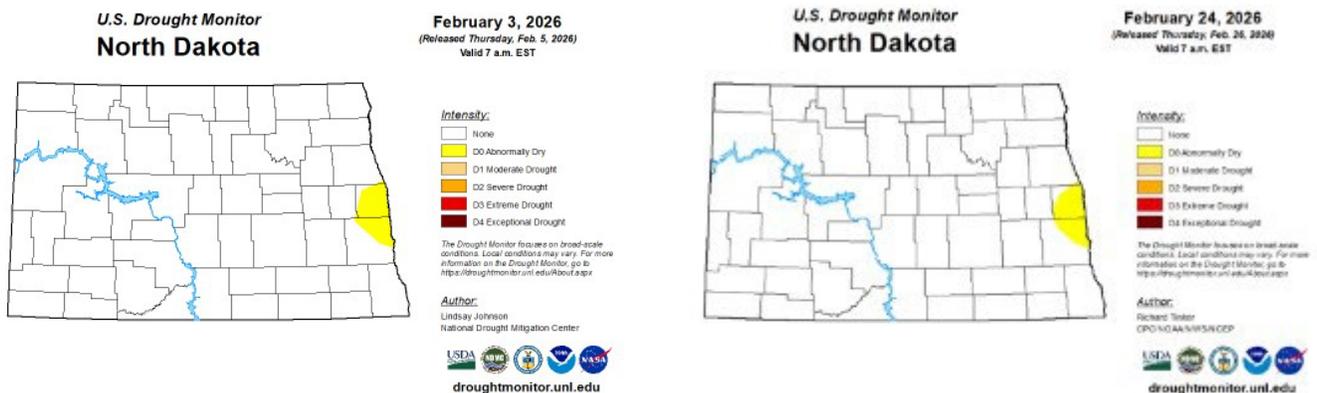


Figure 5: U.S. Drought Monitor conditions February 3, 2026 (left) and February 24, 2026 (right)

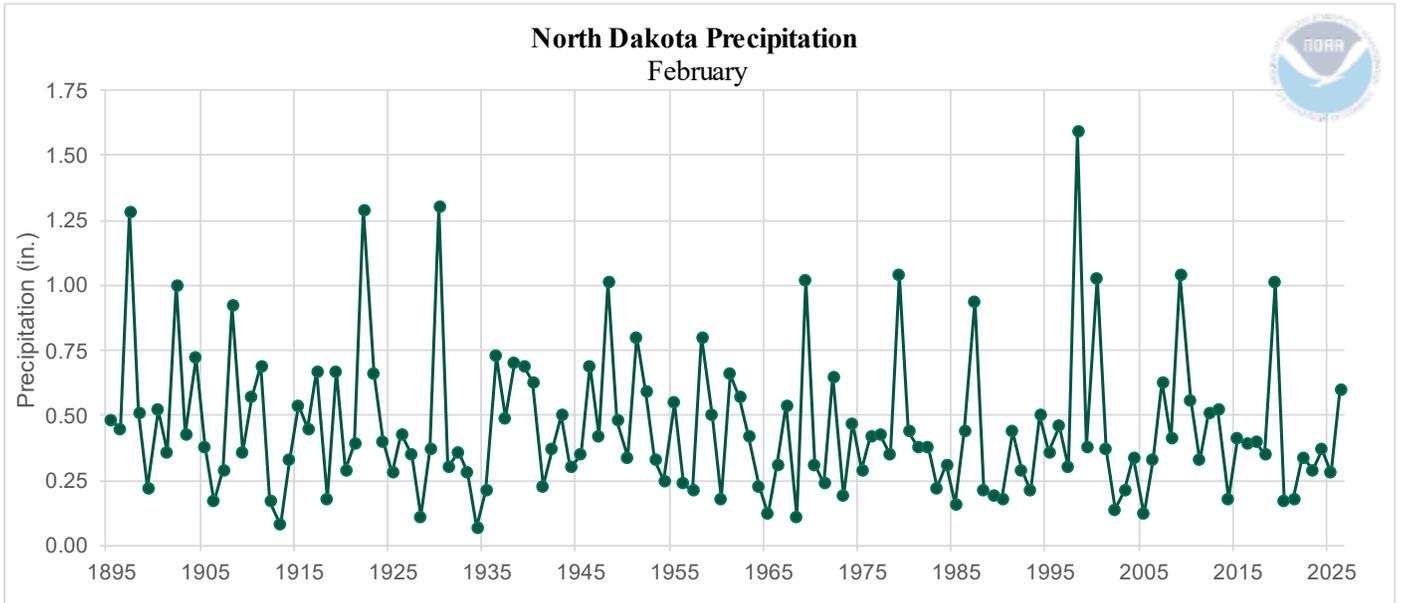


Figure 6: Average Statewide Total Precipitation in North Dakota for the month of February (via NCEI)

North Dakota February Precipitation Summary

	Precipitation	Normal	Anomaly	Rank	Record Year
February 2026	0.60"	0.53"	+0.07"	29th Wettest	1.59" (1998)
				104th Driest	0.07" (1934)

Table 1: February precipitation summary for North Dakota. 2026 statistics from NDAWN station data. Ranking and records based on NCEI climate data (1895-2026) (NOAA).



Temperature Summary

February 2026 Statewide Average Temperature: 24.0°F

Departure from Normal Statewide Temperature: 9.4°F above normal

February was a very warm month on average (Figure 7). The NDAWN stations Fort Yates 2W and Livona 5S were both 11.7°F above normal for February. In fact, the NDAWN station finishing the closest to normal was Grafton 10E, which still was 5.5°F above normal.

Departure from Normal Average Air Temperature (°F)

02-01-2026 - 02-28-2026

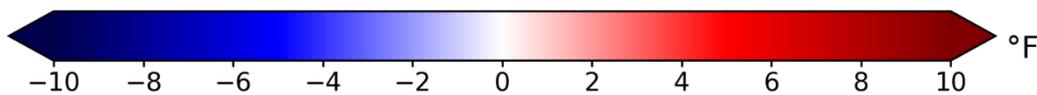
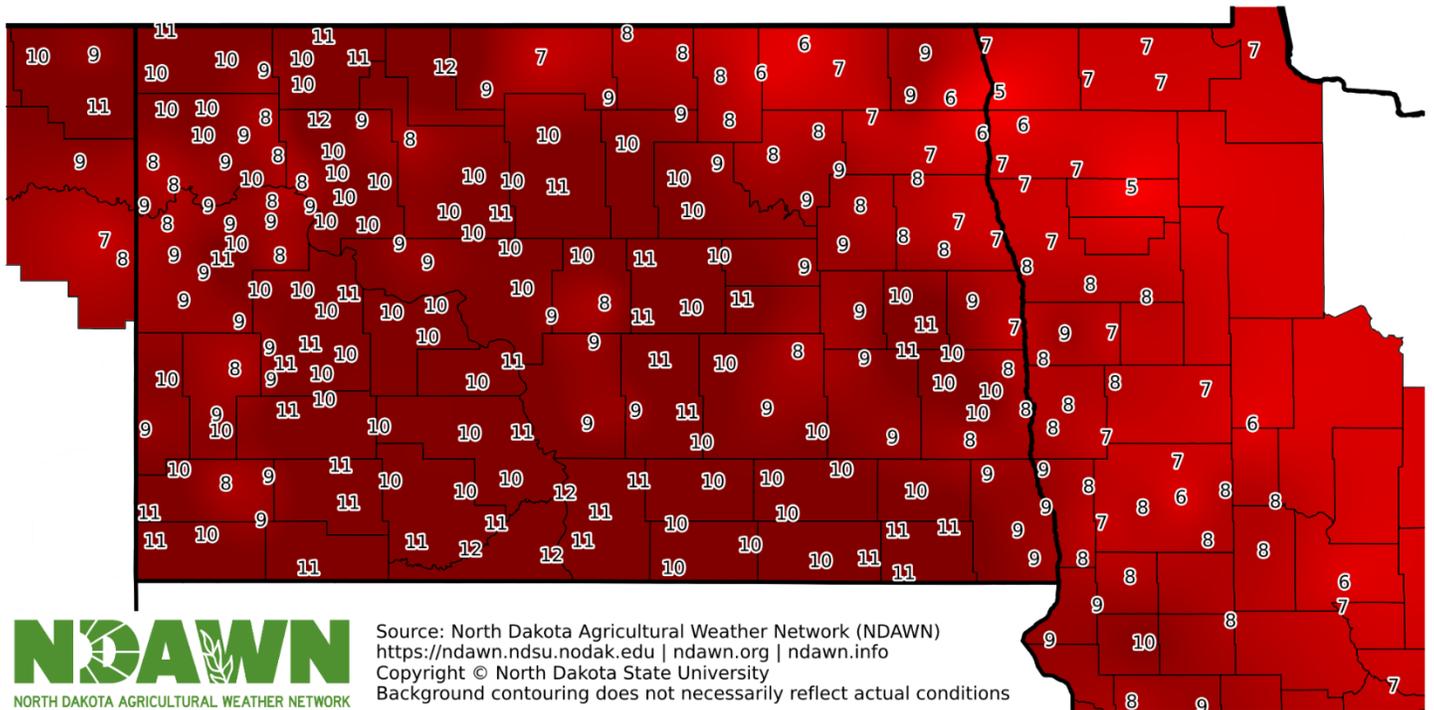


Figure 7: Departure from Normal Average Air Temperature measured at NDAWN stations in February 2026

Temperature



The highest temperature recorded during February at NDAWN stations in North Dakota was 63°F at Sunny Slope 3W NDAWN on February 5 (Figure 8).

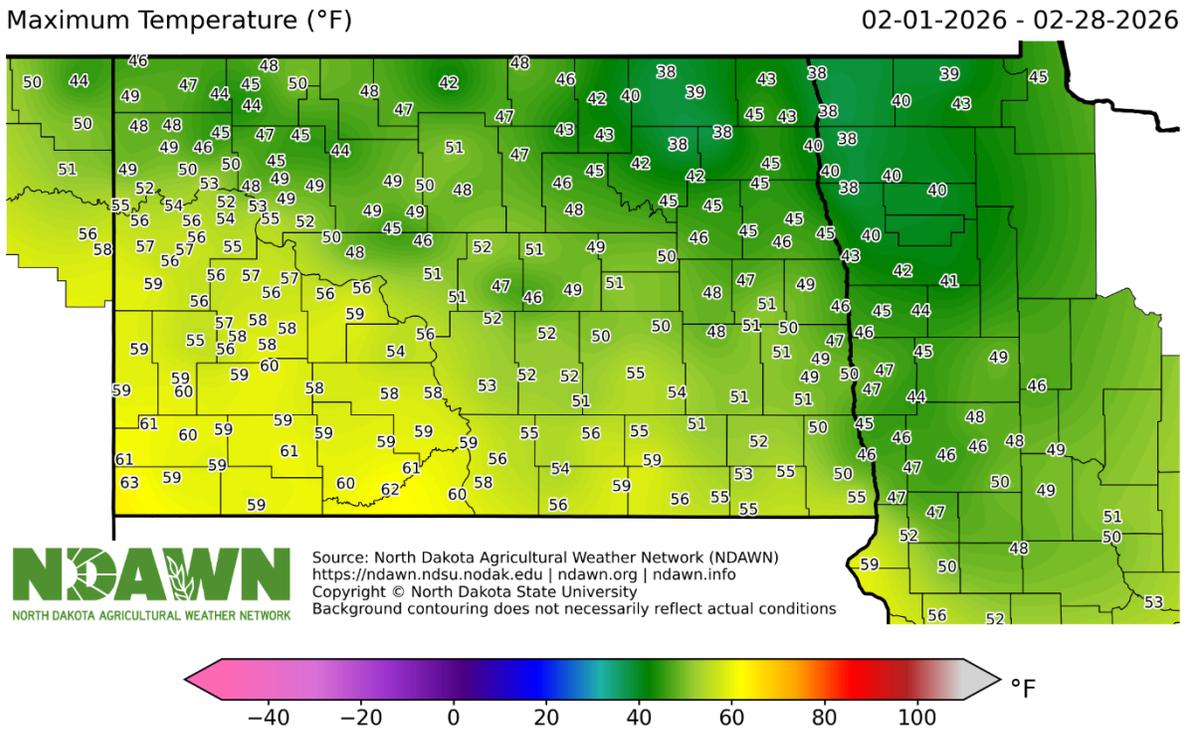


Figure 8: Maximum Air Temperature measured at NDAWN stations in February 2026

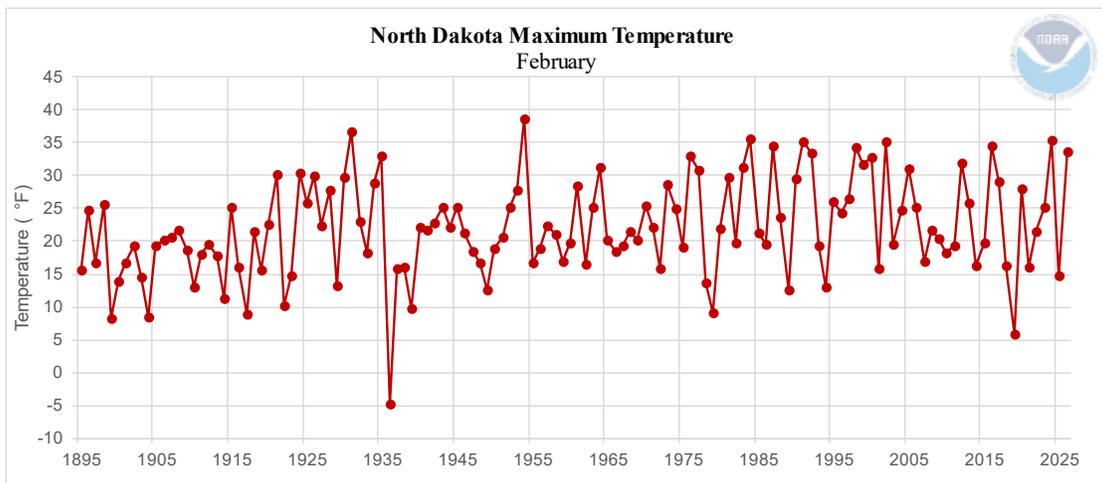


Figure 9: Average Maximum Temperature in North Dakota for the month of February (via NCEI)

Temperature



The lowest temperature recorded during February at NDAWN stations in North Dakota was -21°F at the Portal 1SE NDAWN station on February 22 (Figure 10).

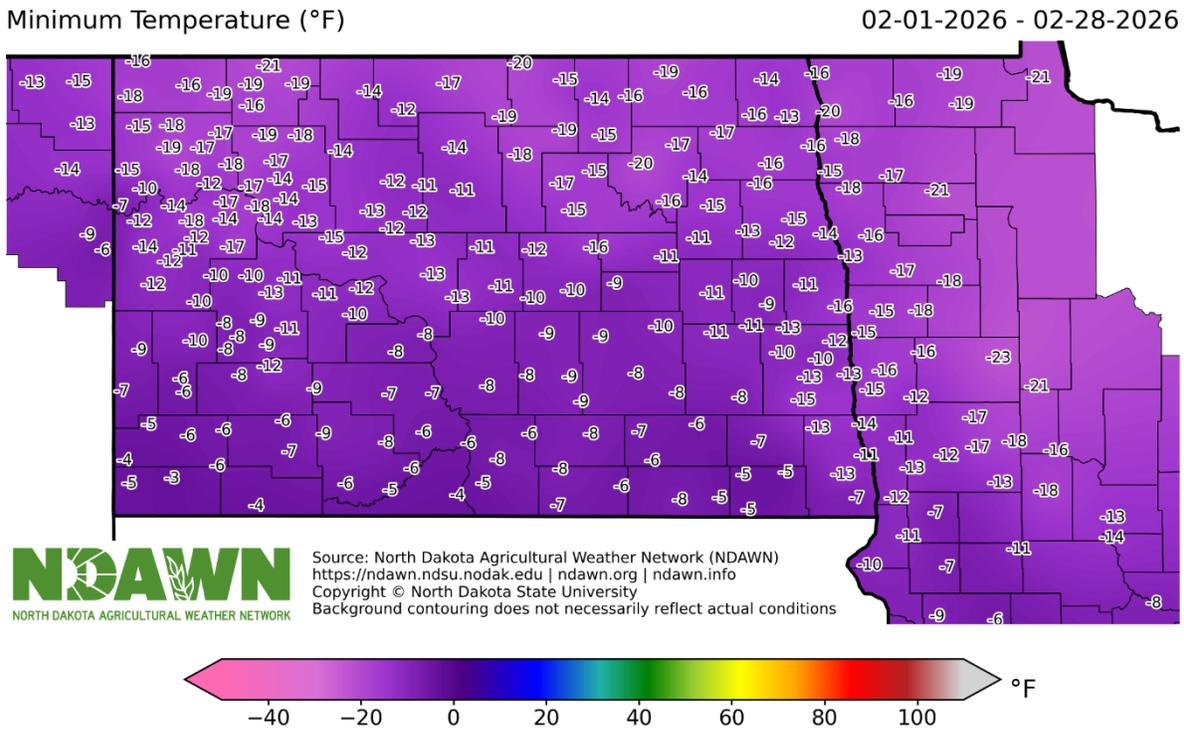


Figure 10: Minimum Air Temperature measured at NDAWN stations in February 2026

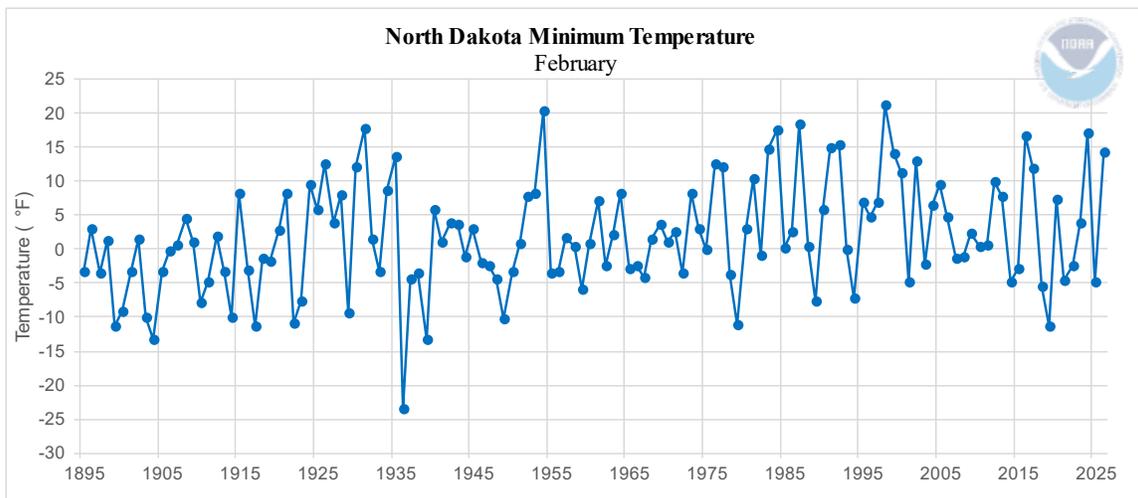


Figure 11: Average Minimum Temperature in North Dakota for the month of February (via NCEI)



North Dakota February Temperature Summary

February 2026	Average T	Avg max T	Avg min T	Maximum	Minimum
	24.0°F	33.7°F	14.2°F	63°F	-21°F
Anomaly	+9.4°F	+8.9°F	+9.8°F		
Rank					
Warmest	11th Warmest	10th Warmest	11th Warmest		
Coolest	122nd Coldest	123rd Coldest	122nd Coldest		
Record					
Warmest	29.6°F (1954)	38.7°F (1954)	21.2°F (1998)		
Coolest	-14.1°F (1936)	-4.7°F (1936)	-23.4°F (1936)		

Table 2: February temperature summary for North Dakota. 2026 statistics from NDAWN station data. Ranking and records based on NCEI climate data (1895-2026) (NOAA).

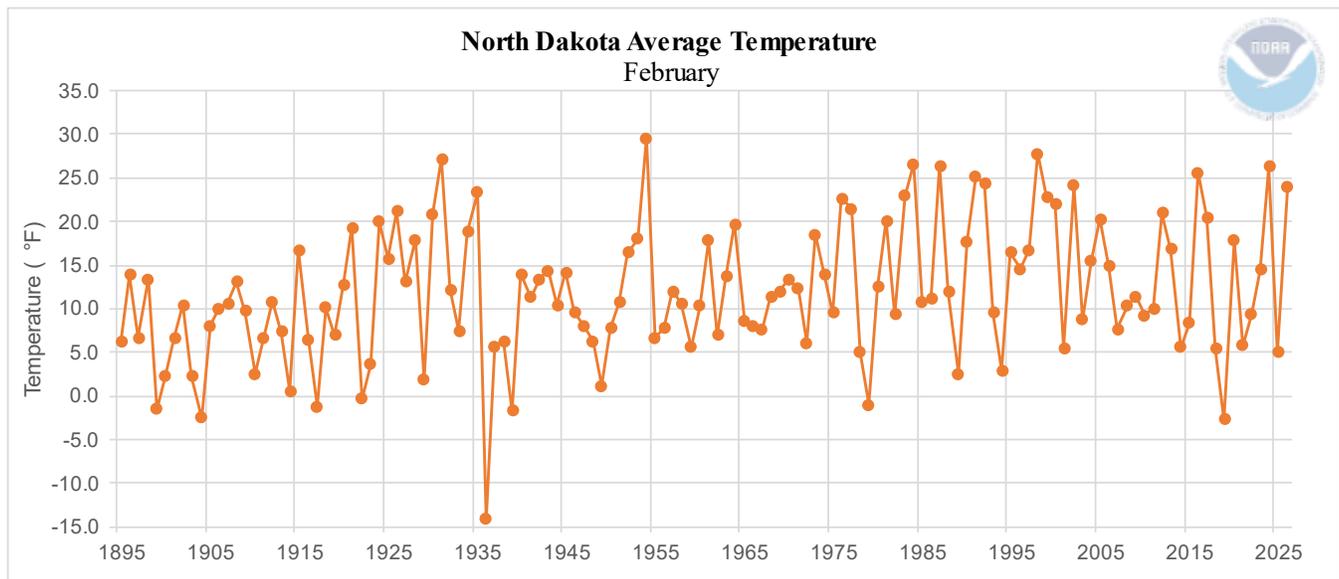


Figure 12: Average Temperature in North Dakota for the month of February (via NCEI)

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