

Coldest Since 1989 or 1996

Farther east, however, mid-month temperatures took another nosedive—except in the Far West. On January 13, temperatures across the contiguous United States spanned a remarkable 137°F , from -47°F in several North Dakota communities to 90°F in Lake Forest, California.

By January 16, daily-record lows dipped to -6°F in Joplin, Missouri, and 1°F in Dalhart, Texas. Consecutive daily-record lows were established

on January 16–17 in several locations, including Batesville, Arkansas (6°F and 4°F); Greenwood, Mississippi (9°F and 5°F); and Waco, Texas (15°F and 8°F).

On January 17, temperatures plunged to their lowest levels since December 1989 in Arkansas locations such as Mena (−1°F), El Dorado (3°F), and Texarkana (6°F). Similarly, Longview, Texas (8°F on January 17), reported its lowest reading since December 23, 1989, when it was 2°F.

In Louisiana, minimum temperatures on January 17 bottomed out at 16°F in Lafayette and 20°F in New Orleans; it was the coldest day in both locations since February 5, 1996. Lafayette also achieved a daily-record low (17°F) the following day, on January 18. From January 16–18, Vicksburg, Mississippi, posted a trio of daily-record lows (13°F, 11°F, and 8°F).

By January 18, daily-record lows in Florida fell to 25°F in Lakeland and 29°F in Tampa. For Tampa, it was the first freeze since January 13, 2011, and the lowest temperature since January 11, 2010, when it was 25°F. For Florida locations such as Melbourne and Fort Pierce, record-setting streaks of freeze-free weather ended at 1,459 days (January 20, 2014–January 17, 2018).

Barely half a continent away, daily-record highs for January 19 reached 74°F in Goodland, Kansas, and Burlington, Colorado. On January 20, daily-record highs in Texas surged to 81°F in Childress and 80°F in Borger, and in Iowa rose to 52°F in Mason City and 50°F in Waterloo.