



Maritimes Monthly Weather & Climate Summary January 2023

Overview

January was very warm and wet and the seventh consecutive warmer than normal month produced record setting warmth in some localities. In terms of precipitation, the month started out fairly dry but transitioned to a rather stormy second half. These resulted in above to well above normal monthly total precipitation. However, due to the warmth, many areas saw more precipitation in the form of rain than snow.

Temperature – Anomaly

Temperatures were 4 to 6 degrees above normal across the Maritimes in January. All sites ranked in the top 5 warmest January on record for their location (Table 1) with Greenwood, Halifax (Airport), Halifax (Shearwater), Yarmouth, NS, and Charlottetown, PEI, having their warmest January since records began. The entire month was consistently above normal with the exception of one very brief period of near normal during the middle of the month.

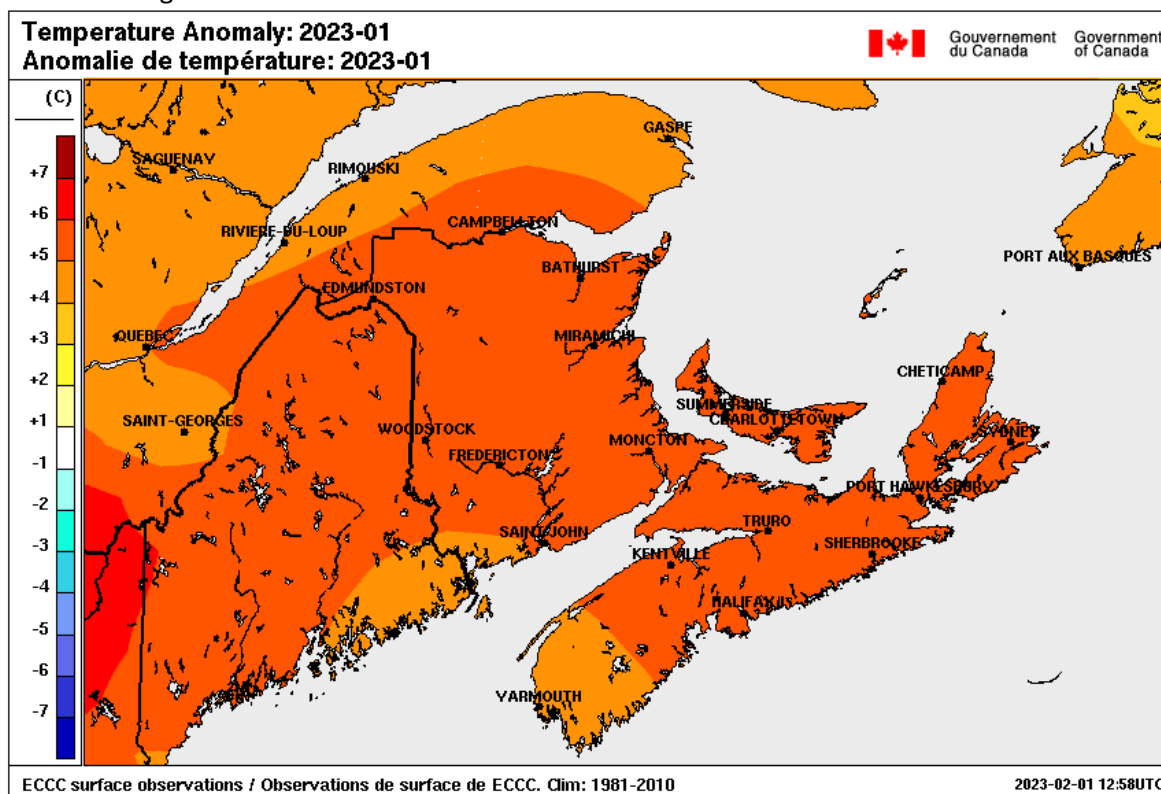


Figure 1: Monthly temperature anomaly map for January 2023 based on archived station data compared to 1981-2010 normals for the Maritimes.

Precipitation – Anomaly

Precipitation in January was above to much above normal with the exception of northern Cape Breton which was near normal. Bas-Caraquet and Moncton, NB reported their fourth wettest January on record. Precipitation in the form of rainfall was generally 200 to 350 % of normal while snowfall was less and varied from 30 to 125% of normal.

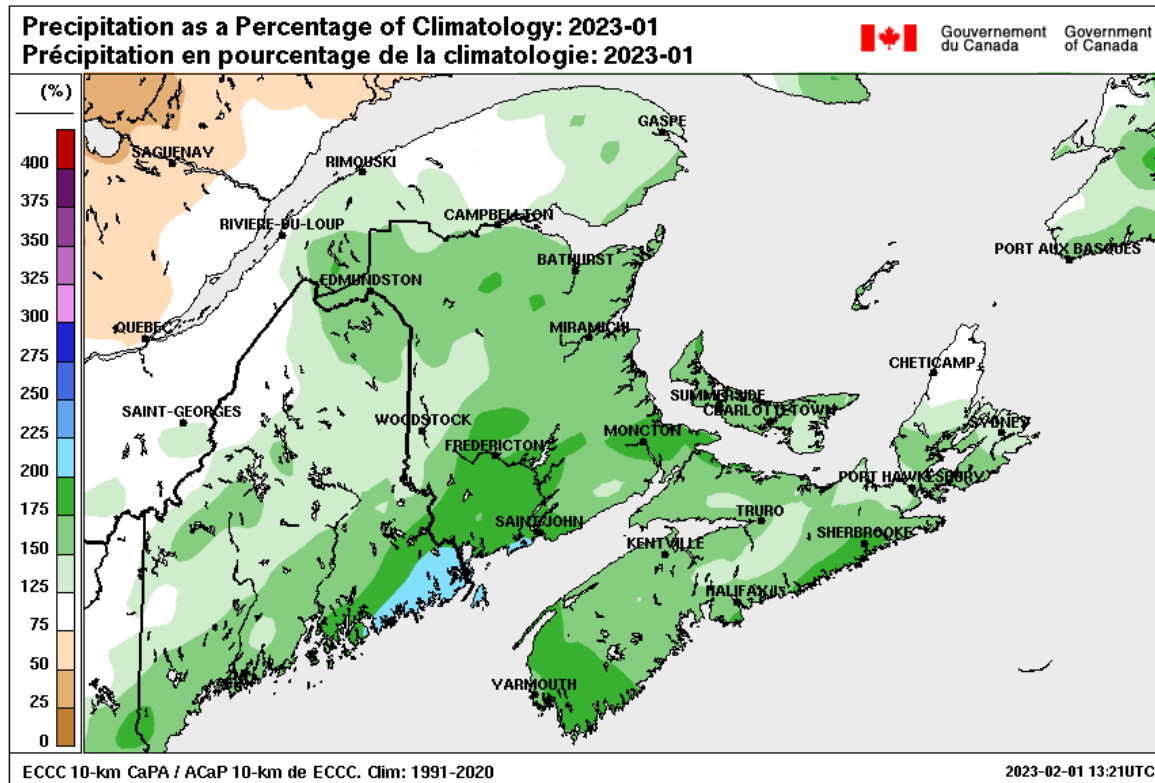


Figure 2: Monthly precipitation anomaly for January 2023 based on ECCC Canadian Precipitation Analysis (CaPA) a gridded blend of model, radar, and station data, compared to 1991-2020 normals for the Maritimes. (Anomaly: Precipitation as a percentage of the average).

Table 1: Monthly average temperature and total precipitation for January 2023 for selected locations in the Maritimes compared to 1981-2010 Canadian Climate Normals (for the same or a nearby station). Temperature difference from normal: cells shaded pink if $\geq 1^{\circ}\text{C}$, blue if $\leq -1^{\circ}\text{C}$. Precipitation as a percent of normal: cells shaded green if $\geq 125\%$ of normal, yellow if $\leq 75\%$ of normal. Rank (if included) provides a ranking of mean temperature (eg. 1 warmest, 2 second warmest etc.) for the month against long-term data for the month).

Location	Monthly Mean	Normal Mean	Diff. from Normal	Rank (Warmest)	Monthly Total	Normal Total	Total as % of Normal
Bas Caraquet	-4.8	-9.8	5.0	3	153.8	97.3	158
Charlo	-7.1	-12.6	5.4	3	110.1	84.5	130
Fredericton	-4.1	-9.4	5.3	4	162.9	101.9	160
Moncton	-3.4	-8.9	5.4	2	182.5	103.3	177
Saint John	-2.7	-7.9	5.2	4	227.9	123.5	184
Woodstock	-5.8	-11.5	5.7	4	145.1	104.0	140
Amherst (Nappan)	-2.5	-7.7	5.2	3	213.0	106.1	201
Greenwood	-0.3	-5.5	5.3	1	197.0	102.5	192
Halifax (Airport)	-0.5	-5.9	5.3	1	209.6	134.3	156
Halifax (Shearwater)	1.3	-4.6	5.9	1	224.0	127.1	176
Sydney	0.0	-5.4	5.4	2	232.8	152.5	153
Truro (Debert)	-1.5	-6.7	5.2	2	181.8	92.8	196
Yarmouth	1.5	-3.0	4.5	1	208.5	127.3	164
Charlottetown	-2.1	-7.7	5.7	1	179.8	101.0	178
Summerside	-1.5			2	233.9		

Snowfall

Total snowfall amounts for January were highest in northwest NB (75-150+ cm) and northern Cape Breton (60-100+cm). Little snow fell (10-40 cm) in parts of western and central mainland NS while other parts of NB, PEI, eastern and northern NS, and southern Cape Breton saw 40-75 cm. Snowfall totals compared to 1981-2010 normals ranged from near normal (75 to 125 %) across NB except above normal (150 to 200 %) in the extreme northwest, below normal (50 to 75 %) across PEI, and below normal (0 to 75 %) across all of NS. Halifax (Airport) area had its lowest October to January snowfall total on record with just 36.8 cm (data beginning 1953-1954) (with the December 2022 snowfall total of 1.4 cm being its lowest December snowfall on record).

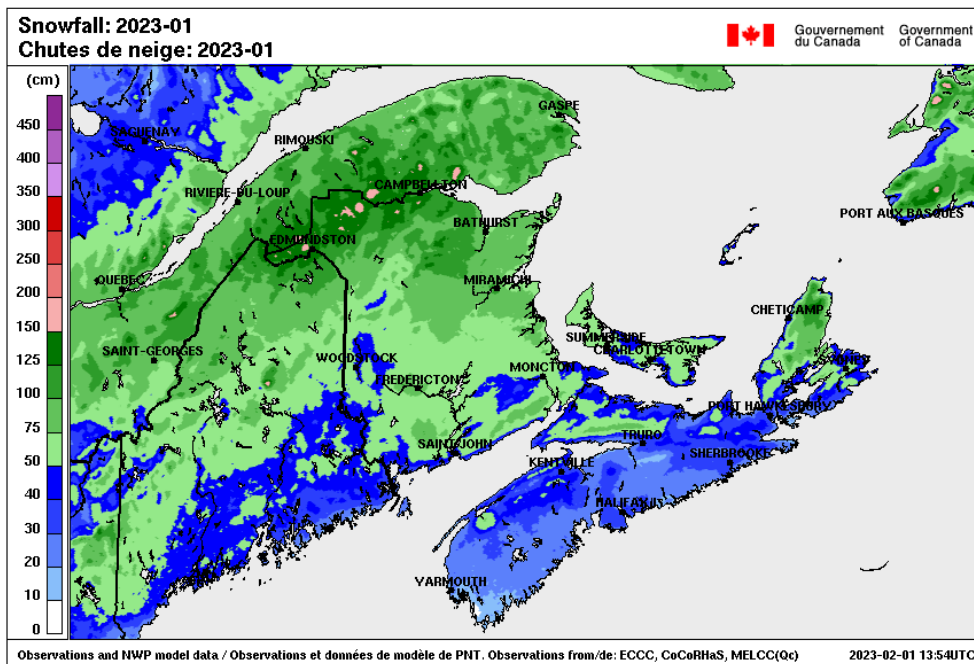


Figure 3: Monthly total snowfall for January 2023 based on a blend of observations and modelled data.

Snow Depth

According to a combination of observations and modeled data, snow depth at the end of the month ranged from 60-120+ cm in northern NB, 10-60 cm in southern NB, 5-15 cm in western PEI and northern NS, with all remaining areas reporting little to no snow. In terms of end of month snow depth in comparison to climate normals, northern and central NB were near normal or above normal (100 to 200 %). All other locations had much less snow on the ground than normal (0 to 75 % of normal) for the end of January.

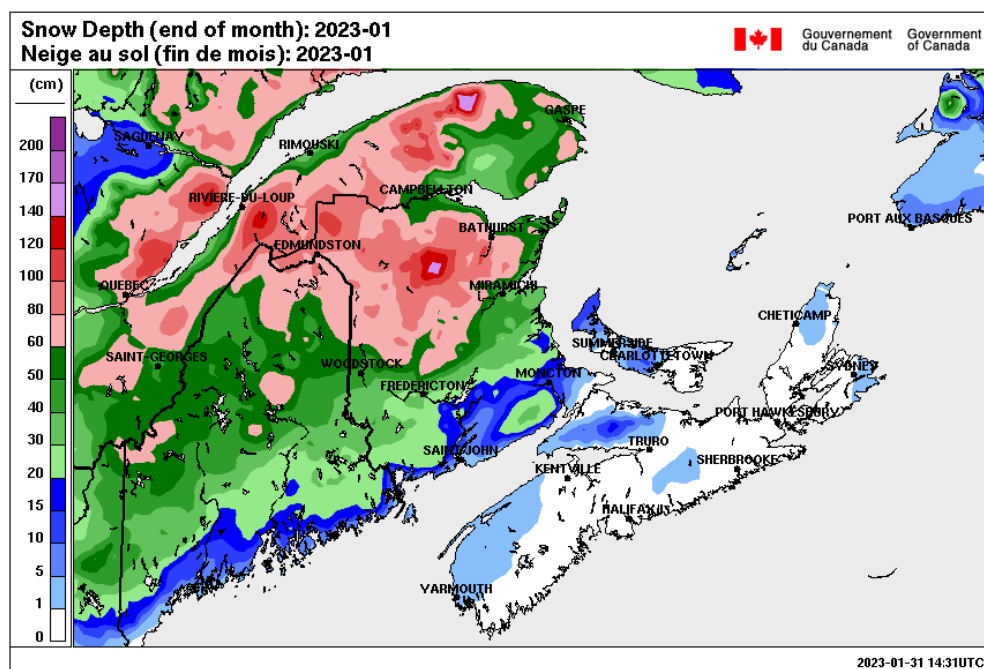


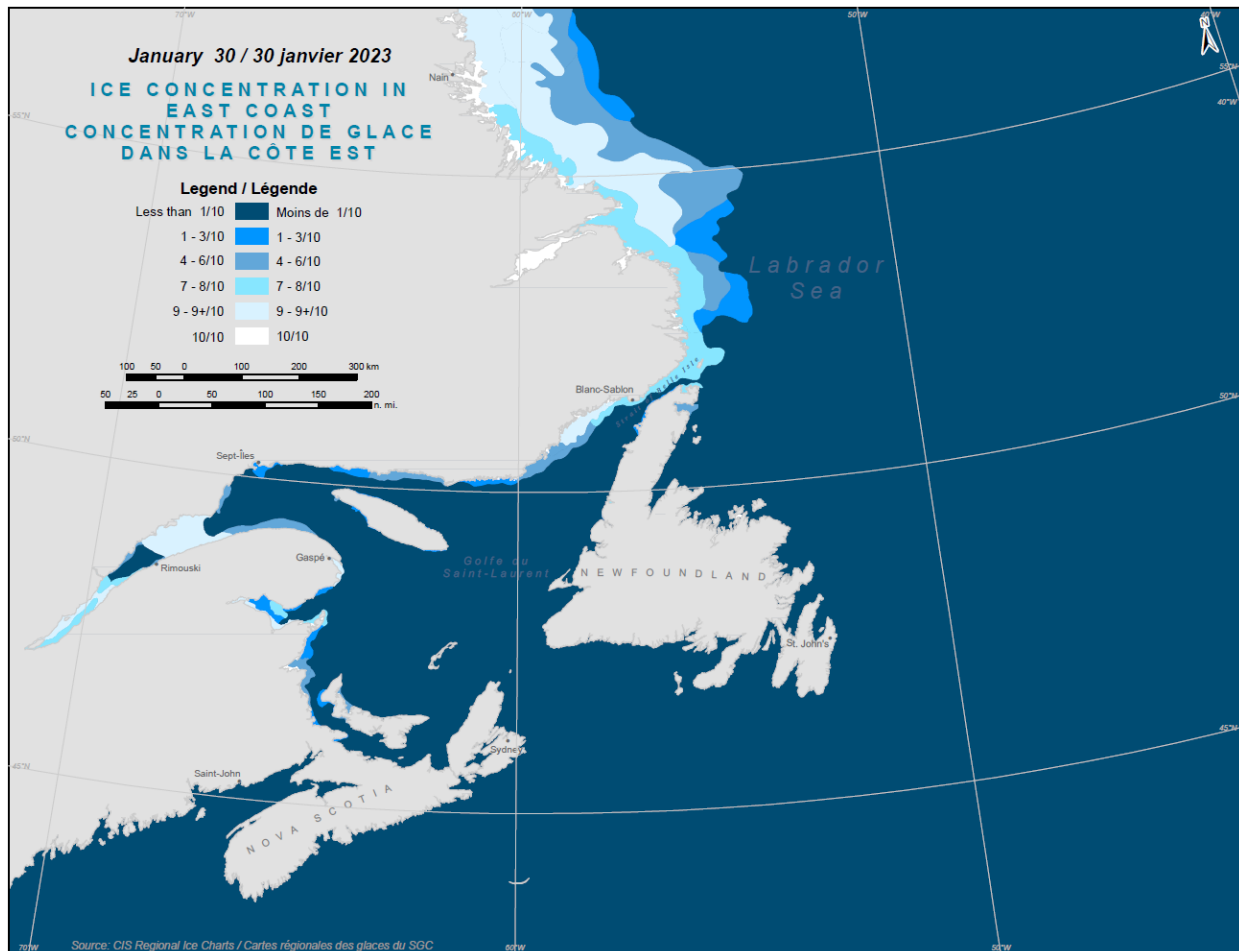
Figure 4: Month-end snow depth for January 2023 based on a blend of observations and modelled data.

Sea ice

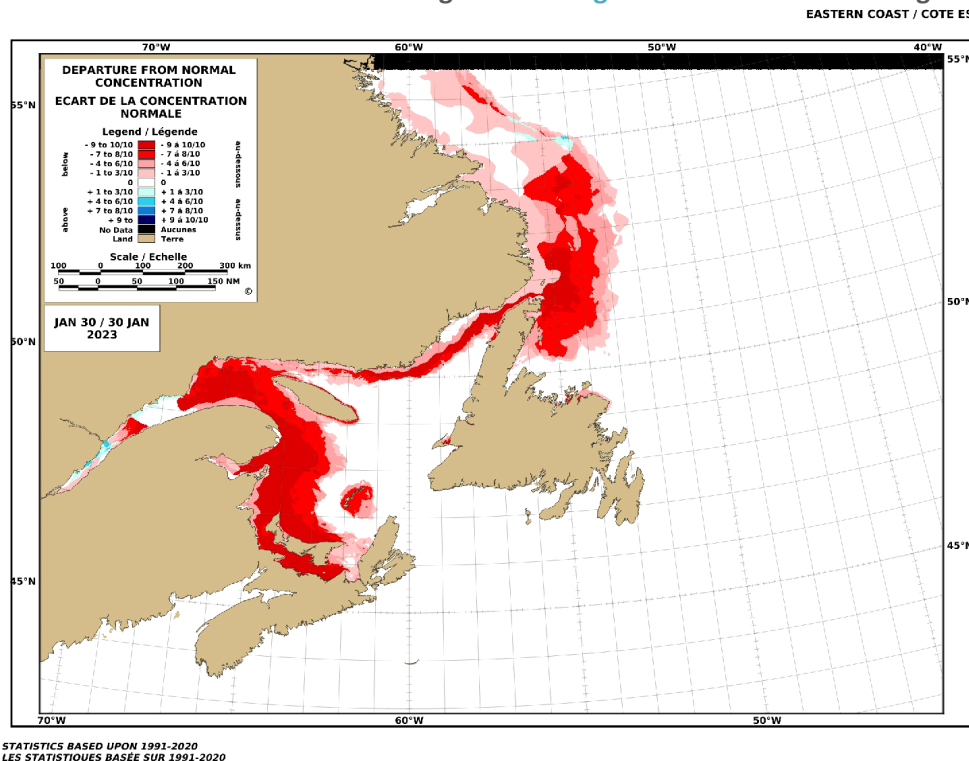
Gulf of St. Lawrence:

The Gulf of St. Lawrence started 2023 at less than 0.5 % ice covered, the climatological median is 3.2 %. There was almost no ice growth for the entire month as temperatures were between 4°C to 7°C warmer than average. Any new ice that formed during short lived colder periods was quickly destroyed by winds. At mid month there was 1.8 % ice coverage while the climatological average for January 15th is 12 %. By months end the ice coverage in the Gulf reached 4 % which is well below the average value of 21 % ice coverage on January 31st. Last year also started with little ice but turned colder in January and had ended the month with an ice coverage near normal of about 15 percent. Ice coverage in January 2023 has been very low and similar to January 2021 which also had very low amounts of ice of near 2 % in January. That year ended up as one of the lowest total ice coverage.

[Gulf of St. Lawrence could set another record for lack of ice | CBC News](#)



Departure from normal concentration showing areas with **greater** and **less** ice coverage than normal



Gulf Ice coverage this season, green line is the Median (green line) expected averaging 1990-2020

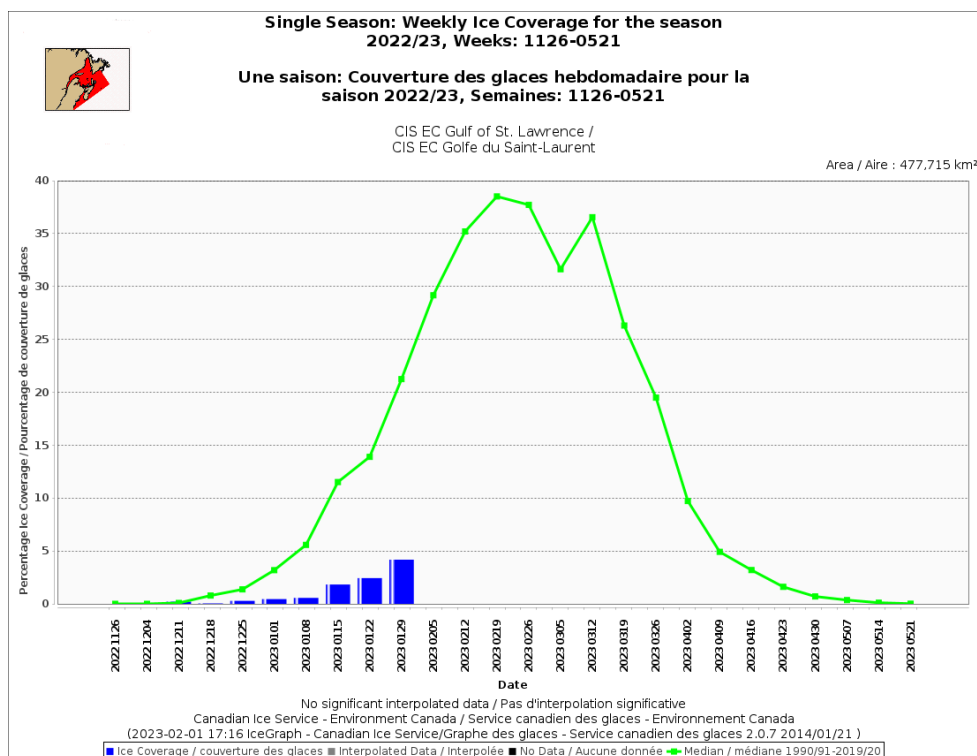


Figure 5, 6, & 7: Sea ice analyses charts Concentration (top), Departure from Normal (middle) and Ice Coverage compared to normal (bottom) for January 30, 2023.

Source: <https://icweb1.cis.ec.gc.ca/Prod/page2.xhtml?subID=2004>

Significant Weather Events & Impacts

January 1 – A low-pressure system ushered in January with some rain and mild temperatures. Rainfall amounts generally ranged from 15-25 mm with locally higher amounts in western NS. Temperatures climbed into the double-digits for southern areas and resulted in a few maximum daily temperature records for NS.

January 13-17 – A series of moisture impulses brought prolonged mixed precipitation to the region. Snowfall amounts were generally 15-30 cm across most of NB and western PEI with the most being reported in St. Hilaire, NB with 63 cm. Total precipitation amounts of 55-133 mm fell across the entire region which amounted to nearly the monthly total precipitation for some regions. Numerous hours of freezing rain fell in southeastern NB and northern NS and caused excessive ice build-up on infrastructure along with multi-day power outages.

[Freezing rain causes power outages throughout N.S. | CBC News](#)

[Rainfall warnings in effect across P.E.I. | CBC News](#)

[Freezing rain closes schools and highways, leaves thousands without power | CBC News](#)

[Destruction, beauty in wake of N.B. ice storm | CBC News](#)

[Incident kills N.B. Power technician trying to restore power in southeast | CBC News](#)

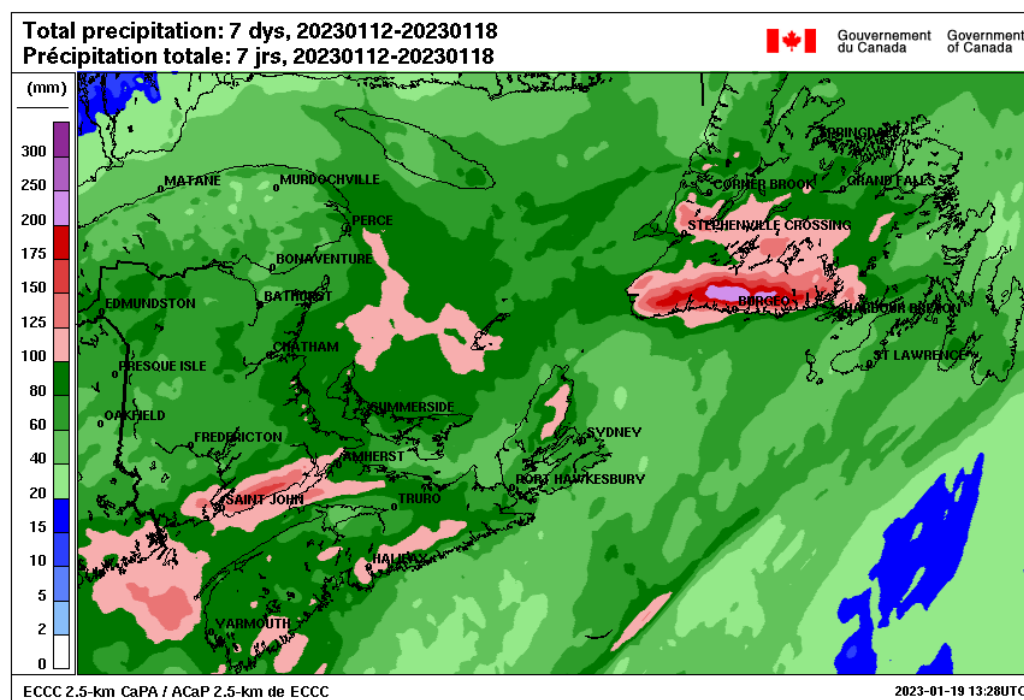


Figure 8: Total precipitation for January 13-17, 2023 based on ECCC Canadian Precipitation Analysis (CaPA) a gridded blend of model, radar, and station data

January 20-21 – A low pressure system moved south of the region and brought snow to southern areas. This was the first significant snowfall of the season for western NS with 10-20 cm of snow accumulation.

January 23-24 – Mixed precipitation was again falling across parts of the region, with snow across southern NB, most of PEI and northern NS and rain along the Atlantic coast of NS. Snowfall varied from 15-37 cm and rainfall varied from 35-66 mm in the hardest hit regions.

January 26 – A system that originated from Texas brought abundant mixed precipitation and strong winds that spread across all regions. Strong southerly winds of 80-100 km/h blew across mostly coastal areas of all three provinces with maximum gusts of 130-150 km/h over Cape Breton. These winds caused thousands to lose power, especially in NS. Snow was confined to central and northern NB where 15-30 cm fell with the most rain in the Bay of Fundy region and Atlantic coast of NS where 40-50 mm was recorded.

[Soggy winter storm closes N.B. schools, warnings in effect across the Maritimes | CTV News](#)
[Thousands left without power after strong winds, rain blast Nova Scotia | CBC News](#)

Daily Temperature and Precipitation Time Series

The precipitation time series below for the three provincial capitals indicate precipitation events increased for the last two thirds of the month at all three capitals. Precipitation totals were above to much above normal at all sites. The temperature time series are similar for all three sites with above to much above normal temperatures for the most of the month with the exception of one very brief period of near normal.

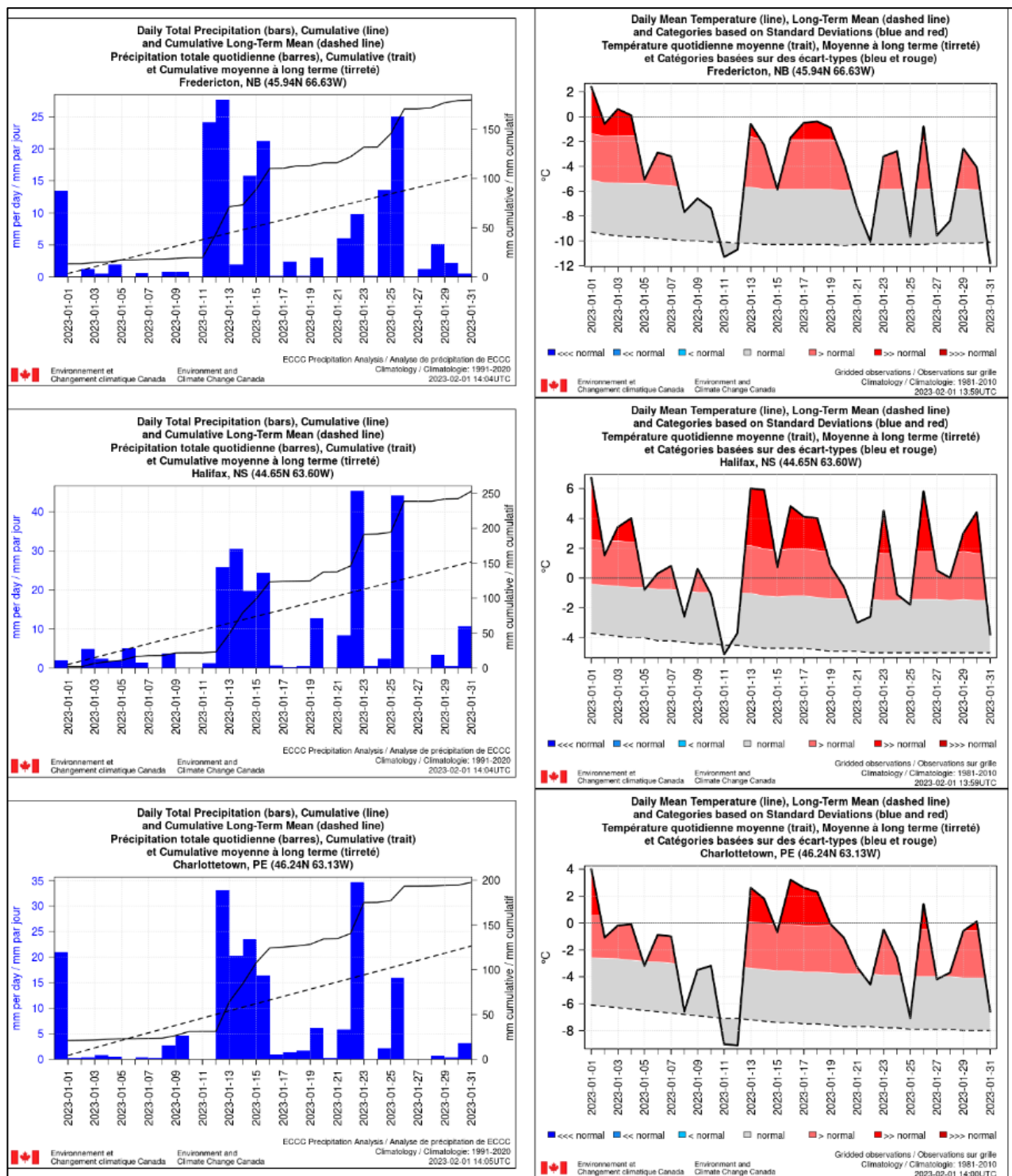


Figure 9: Daily total precipitation (Canadian Precipitation Analysis (CaPA) data) and mean temperature for Fredericton, NB (top), Halifax, NS (middle), and Charlottetown, PEI (bottom), for January 2023 based on gridded data, compared to long-term means (Canadian Precipitation Analysis (CaPA) data, 1991-2020, and temperature data, 1981 to 2010).

Sea Surface Temperature - Departure from Normal

The sea surface temperature (SST) departure from normal map during the week of January 23 to 29, 2023 indicates above normal conditions across the region. SST anomalies of near two to four degrees above normal have been recorded with the exception of the eastern Bay of Fundy and parts of offshore NS where anomalies of 5 degrees or more above normal occurred.

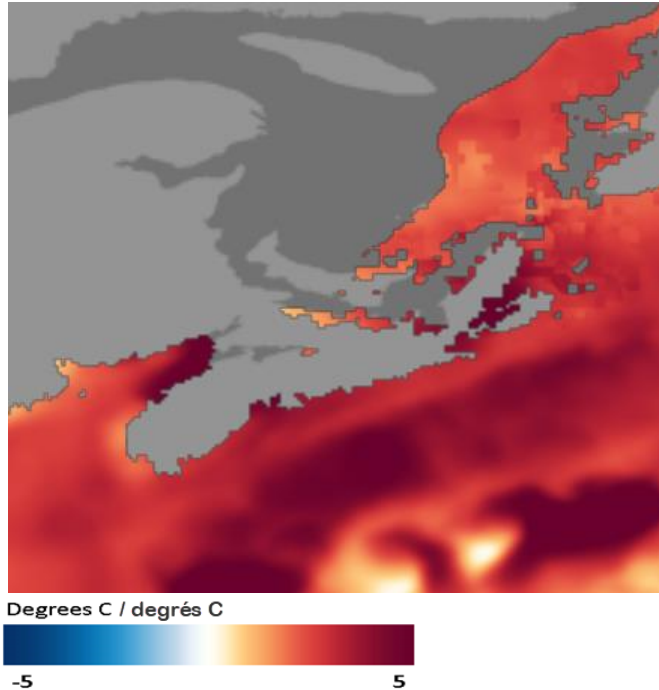


Figure 10: Sea surface temperature (SST) anomaly map for January 23 to 29, 2023. Data based on 1981-present. Source: <https://www.nnvl.noaa.gov/view/#SSTA>

Other Climate Related Information

[Lack of snow in NS | CBC News](#)

[Where is old man winter? Not in Atlantic Canada — yet | CBC News](#)

[New ice core analysis shows sharp Greenland warming spike | AP News](#)

[Why no snow is bad news for some Nova Scotia businesses | CBC News](#)

Temperature & Precipitation Outlook

The four-week outlook for temperature and precipitation from the Canadian Global Ensemble Prediction System (GEPS) for January 30 to February 27, 2023 indicates a weak to moderate signal for below normal temperatures for NB and western PEI with near normal elsewhere. In terms of precipitation, there is a weak probability of below normal precipitation forecasted for southern NB with all other areas indicating no signal in relation to normal.

The previous four-week outlook, from December 29th, performed well for temperatures with all areas reporting above normal temperatures as forecast. The precipitation outlook performed moderately well as most of NB reported above normal precipitation. However, southern NB, PEI and all of NS also reported above normal precipitation but near normal was forecast.

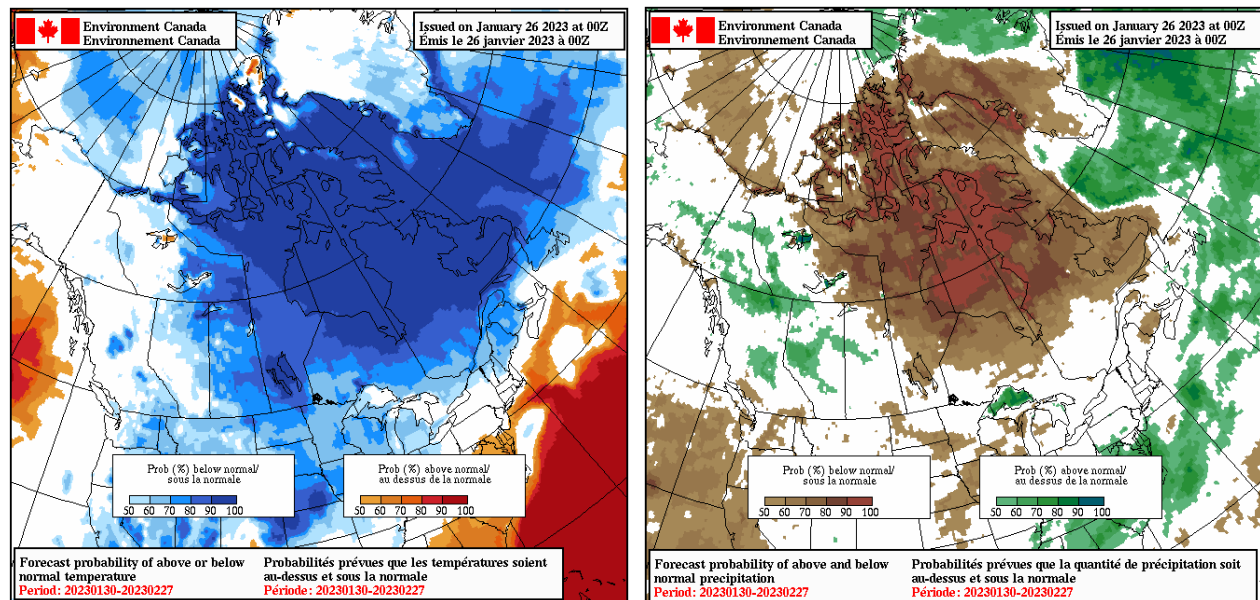


Figure 11: Temperature and Precipitation Anomaly Forecasts from the MSC Global Ensemble Prediction System issued January 26, 2023 for January 30 to February 27, 2023.

Source: http://collaboration.cmc.ec.gc.ca/cmc/ensemble/monthly/prev_mens_geps.html

Contact

Environment and Climate Change Canada, Meteorological Service of Canada,
Prediction Services Operations – Atlantic and Ice, Applied Climatology Services
Email address: climatatlantique-climateatlantic@ec.gc.ca

Appendix

Table A1: Station metadata for the selected locations in Table 1.

Location/ Emplacement	Station Name/ Nom de la station	Climate ID/ ID climat	Station Operator/ Opérateur de station ¹	Type ²
Bas Caraquet	BAS CARAQUET (CCN for precip, ECCC-MSC for temps)	8100468	CCN	H
Charlo	CHARLO AUTO	8100885	ECCC-MSC	A
Fredericton	FREDERICTON CDA CS	8101605	ECCC-MSC	A
Moncton	MONCTON/GREATER MONCTON ROMEO LEBLANC INTL A	8103201	NavCan	H
Saint John	SAINT JOHN A	8104901	NavCan	H
Woodstock	WOODSTOCK NEWBRIDGE	8105603	ECCC-MSC	A
Amherst (Nappan)	NAPPAN AUTO	8203702	ECCC-MSC	A
Greenwood	GREENWOOD A	8202000	DND	H
Halifax (Airport)	HALIFAX STANFIELD INT'L A	8202251	NavCan	H
Halifax (Shearwater)	SHEARWATER RCS	8205092	ECCC-MSC	A
Sydney	SYDNEY A	8205701	NavCan	H
Truro (Debert)	DEBERT	8201390	ECCC-MSC	A
Yarmouth	YARMOUTH A	8206495	NavCan	H
Charlottetown	CHARLOTTETOWN A	8300301	NavCan	H
Summerside	SUMMERSIDE	8300596	ECCC-MSC	A

¹ Station Operator: CCN = Cooperative Climate Network, ECCC-MSC = Environment and Climate Change Canada, Meteorological Service of Canada, DND = Department of National Defence, NavCan = Nav Canada

² Type: A = Automatic observation, H = Human observation

Table A2: Monthly totals for January 2023 for New Brunswick stations compared to 1981-2010 Canadian Climate Normals (if available for same or nearby station). Temperature difference from normal: cells shaded pink if $\geq 1^\circ\text{C}$, blue if $\leq -1^\circ\text{C}$. Precipitation as a percent of normal: cells shaded green if $\geq 125\%$ of normal, yellow if $\leq 75\%$ of normal.

Station Name / Nom de la station	Prov	TC ID / ID de TC	Station Type / Type de station	Mean Temperature / Température moyenne ($^\circ\text{C}$)			Total Precipitation / Précipitations totales (mm)		
				Monthly Mean / Moyenne mensuelle	Normal Mean / Moyenne Normale	Diff from Normal / Écart avec la normale	Monthly Total / Total mensuel	Normal Total / Total normal	Total as % of Normal / Total en % de la normale
BAS CARAQUET	NB	WXS	AU8	-4.8	-9.8	5.0	144.3	97.3	148
BAS CARAQUET	NB		DAILY				153.8	97.3	158
BATHURST A	NB	ZBF	NCA	-6.9	-10.8	4.0			
CHARLO AUTO	NB	ZCR	AU8	-7.1	-12.6	5.4	110.1	84.5	130
DOAKTOWN AUTO RCS	NB	ADN	AU8	-5.6	-10.7	5.1	167.5	105.6	159
EDMUNDSTON	NB	ERM	AU8	-8.8					
FREDERICTON CDA CS	NB	AFC	AU8	-4.1	-9.4	5.3	162.9	101.9	160
FREDERICTON INTL A	NB	YFC	NCA	-4.5	-9.4	4.9			
FUNDY PARK (ALMA) CS	NB	AFY	AU8	-1.7	-7.4	5.7	271.0	144.9	187
GARNETT SETTLEMENT	NB	AJH	AU8	-2.1	-7.9	5.8	253.7	123.5	205
GRAND MANAN SAR CS	NB	XGM	AU8	-0.8					
KOUCHIBOUGUAC	NB	AKC	AU8	-4.8	-10.1	5.3	187.3	137.7	136
MECHANIC SETTLEMENT	NB	AMS	AU8	-4.6			291.0		
MIRAMICHI RCS	NB	ACQ	AU8	-5.5	-10.8	5.3	137.3	87.0	158
MISCOU ISLAND (AUT)	NB	WMI	AU8	-4.4			102.9		
MONCTON/GREATER MONCTON ROMEO LEBLANC INTL A	NB	YQM	NCH	-3.4	-8.9	5.4	182.5	103.3	177
OAK POINT	NB		DAILY	-2.1			186.8	104.6	179
POINT LEPREAU CS	NB	WPE	AU8	-0.9	-7.1	6.2			
RED PINES	NB	ARP	AU8	-7.1	-12.0	4.9	149.8	86.6	173
SAINT JOHN A	NB	YSJ	NCH	-2.7	-7.9	5.2	227.9	123.5	184
ST. STEPHEN	NB	WSS	AU8	-3.0			177.3		
SUSSEX FOUR CORNERS	NB	ASF	AU8	-2.9	-8.5	5.6	169.1	108.8	155
WOODSTOCK NEWBRIDGE	NB	EWD	AU8	-5.8	-11.5	5.7	145.1	104.0	140
Average				-4.3	-9.7	5.3	178.9	107.4	163
Max				-0.8	-7.1	6.2	291.0	144.9	205
Min				-8.8	-12.6	4.0	102.9	84.5	130

Table A3: Same as Table A2, for Nova Scotia

Station Name / Nom de la station	Prov	TC ID / ID de TC	Station Type / Type de station	Mean Temperature / Température moyenne (°C)			Total Precipitation / Précipitations totales (mm)		
				Monthly Mean / Moyenne mensuelle	Normal Mean / Moyenne Normale	Diff from Normal / Écart avec la normale	Monthly Total / Total mensuel	Normal Total / Total normal	Total as % of Normal / Total en % de la normale
ALDERSVILLE	NS	ANR	AU8	-1.5	-5.4	3.9	238.4	129.2	184
BACCARO PT	NS	ACP	AU8	3.2			227.6	120.8	188
BEAVER ISLAND (AUT)	NS	WBV	AU8	1.7					
BEDFORD BASIN	NS	ABB	AU7	1.5	-4.1	5.7			
BEDFORD RANGE	NS	ABR	AU7	0.7	-6.2	6.9			
BRIER ISLAND	NS	WVU	AU8	2.3			205.6		
CARIBOU POINT (AUT)	NS	WBK	AU8	-0.2	-6.2	6.0	192.7	109.7	176
CHETICAMP (C.B. HIGHLANDS NATL PARK)	NS	AHT	AU8	0.1	-4.9	5.0	209.1	142.9	146
COLLEGEVILLE AUTO	NS	AGL	AU8	-1.3	-6.5	5.1	227.0	110.9	205
DEBERT	NS	ZDB	AU8	-1.5	-6.7	5.2	181.8	92.8	196
ESKASONI FIRST NATION	NS	AEI	AU8	0.1	-5.4	5.5	120.2	155.0	78
GRAND ETANG	NS	WZQ	AU8	0.6	-4.9	5.5			
GREENWOOD A	NS	YZX	WOD	-0.3	-5.5	5.3	197.0	102.5	192
HALIFAX STANFIELD INT'L A	NS	YHZ	NCH	-0.5	-5.9	5.3	209.6	134.3	156
HART ISLAND (AUT)	NS	WRN	AU8	1.6					
INGONISH BEACH RCS	NS	XIB	AU7	-0.4	-5.0	4.6	270.0	186.3	145
KENTVILLE CDA CS	NS	XKT	AU7	-0.4	-5.6	5.1	226.7	116.1	195
LOUISBOURG	NS	AUU	AU8	0.3	-4.9	5.2	209.6	147.0	143
LUNENBURG	NS	XLB	AU8	1.9					
MALAY FALLS	NS	XMY	AU8	0.1	-5.8	5.9	246.8	146.0	169
MCNABS ISLAND (AUT)	NS	XMI	AU8	1.9	-4.6	6.6			
NAPPAN AUTO	NS	XNP	AU8	-2.5	-7.7	5.2	213.0	106.1	201
NORTH MOUNTAIN CS	NS	XNM	AU7	-3.4	-6.3	2.9			
NORTHEAST MARGAREE (AUT)	NS	WNS	AU7	-0.5	-5.9	5.4	214.4	148.5	144
OSBORNE HEAD DND	NS	AOS	AU7	0.8	-4.6	5.5			
PARRSBORO	NS	APR	AU8	-2.0	-6.1	4.1	205.7	115.0	179
PORT HAWKESBURY	NS	YPD	NCA	-0.5	-6.2	5.6			
SABLE ISLAND	NS	ASB	AU8	4.2	-0.1	4.2	141.3	144.7	98
SABLE ISLAND A	NS	WSA	NCA	4.1	-0.1	4.2			
SHEARWATER RCS	NS	AAW	AU8	1.3	-4.6	5.9	224.0	127.1	176
SHELBURNE SANDY POINT	NS	ESB	AU8	1.5			286.2		
ST PAUL ISLAND (AUT)	NS	WEF	AU8	0.1					
SYDNEY A	NS	YQY	NCH	0.0	-5.4	5.4	232.8	152.5	153
SYDNEY CS	NS	AQY	AU8	-0.1	-5.4	5.3	218.7	152.5	143
TRACADIE	NS	XTD	AU8	-0.5	-6.5	6.0	195.3	110.9	176
WESTERN HEAD	NS	WWE	AU8	1.7			221.4		
YARMOUTH A	NS	YQI	NCH	1.5	-3.0	4.5	208.5	127.3	164
YARMOUTH RCS	NS	EQI	AU8	1.8	-3.0	4.8	210.0	127.3	165
Average				0.5	-5.1	5.2	212.8	130.7	164
Max				4.2	-0.1	6.9	286.2	186.3	205
Min				-3.4	-7.7	2.9	120.2	92.8	78

Table A4: Same as Table A2, for Prince Edward Island.

Station Name / Nom de la station	Prov	TC ID / ID de TC	Station Type / Type de station	Mean Temperature / Température moyenne (°C)			Total Precipitation / Précipitations totales (mm)		
				Monthly Mean / Moyenne mensuelle	Normal Mean / Moyenne Normale	Diff from Normal / Écart avec la normale	Monthly Total / Total mensuel	Normal Total / Total normal	Total as % of Normal / Total en % de la normale
CHARLOTTETOWN A	PEI	YYG	NCH	-2.1	-7.7	5.7	179.8	101.0	178
EAST POINT (AUT)	PEI	WEP	AU8	-0.6	-6.8	6.2	171.2	116.1	147
HARRINGTON CDA CS	PEI	AHR	AU8	-2.3	-7.7	5.4	208.1	101.0	206
MAPLE PLAINS	PEI	XMP	AU8	-3.1	-7.7	4.7			
NORTH CAPE	PEI	WNE	AU8	-2.1			116.1		
ST. PETERS	PEI	ZSP	AU8	-1.2	-6.9	5.7	215.7	100.9	214
STANHOPE	PEI	ANH	AU8	-1.5			233.9		
SUMMERSIDE	PEI	WSD	AU8	-2.7	-7.7	5.0	166.2	96.2	173
Average				-1.9	-7.4	5.4	184.4	103.0	184
Max				-0.6	-6.8	6.2	233.9	116.1	214
Min				-3.1	-7.7	4.7	116.1	96.2	147

Table A5: Monthly totals of rainfall and snowfall and month end snow depth, for January 2023, for Maritimes stations, compared to 1981-2010 Canadian Climate Normals (if available for same or nearby station). Rainfall/snowfall as a % of normal: cells shaded green if >125% of normal, yellow if <75% of normal.

Station Name	Prov	TC ID	Station Type	Total Rainfall (mm)			Total Snowfall (cm)			End Month Snow on Ground (cm)		
				Monthly Total	Normal Total	Total as % of Normal	Monthly Total	Normal Total	Total as % of Normal	End Month SOG	Norm End Mo SOG	End Month as % Normal
BAS CARAQUET	NB		DAILY	61.4	23.6	260	92.4	73.7	125	59	58	103%
FREDERICTON 4.0 SSE (CAN-NB-1)	NB		CoCoRaHS				88.1	69.9	126			
MONCTON/GREATER MONCTON	NB	YQM	NCH	96.1	28.8	334	103.9	78.1	133	10	26	39%
ROMEO LEBLANC INTL A	NB		DAILY	126.4	37.2	340	60.4	67.4	90	14	30	47%
OAK POINT	NB		DAILY	126.4	37.2	340	60.4	67.4	90	14	30	47%
SAINT JOHN A	NB	YSJ	NCH	185.6	66.1	281	42.6	64.3	66	4	15	26%
GREENWOOD A	NS	YZX	WOD	143.4	44.5	322	53.0	78.7	67	1	23	4%
HALIFAX STANFIELD INT'L A	NS	YHZ	NCH	183.5	83.5	220	35.4	58.5	61	0	13	0%
SYDNEY A	NS	YQY	NCH	170.4	80.5	212	82.6	74.3	111	2	17	12%
YARMOUTH A	NS	YQI	NCH	187.4	68.7	273	21.1	68.5	31	1	9	12%
CHARLOTTETOWN A	PEI	YYG	NCH	126.1	34.1	370	58.3	73.3	80	0	28	0%

Glossary

CaPA: The Canadian Precipitation Analysis. Full details available [here](#).

Standard Deviation: A statistical measure of how data compares to the mean (average) value. The standard deviation referenced in these monthly summaries is relative to the Canadian Climate Normals data set. The higher the standard deviation value, the further the data is from the normal value.

Temperature Anomaly: The deviation of temperature in a given region over a specified period from the long-term average value for the same region.

A more extensive glossary for weather and climate related terminology can be found [here](#).

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