

Winter 2024-25' (December Through February) Utah Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

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Fall 2024 Temperature and Precipitation Summary:

Salt Lake City:

Fall Mean High Temperature: 70.1°F (4.5°F above normal)

Fall Mean Low Temperature: 47.3°F (3.1°F above normal)

Fall Total Precipitation: 2.43" (1.21" below normal)

Logan:

Fall Mean High Temperature: 66.0°F (5.5°F above normal)

Fall Mean Low Temperature: 34.9°F (4.2°F below normal)

Fall Total Precipitation: 2.60" (1.95" below normal)

Vernal:

Fall Mean High Temperature: 66.2°F (5.1°F above normal)

Fall Mean Low Temperature: 37.2°F (2.4°F above normal)

Fall Total Precipitation: 1.85" (1.03" below normal)

Moab/Canyonlands Airport:

Fall Mean High Temperature: 71.1°F (6.9°F above normal)

Fall Mean Low Temperature: 41.9°F (2.6°F above normal)

Fall Total Precipitation: 2.35" (0.42" below normal)

Cedar City:

Fall Mean High Temperature: 69.3°F (2.3°F above normal)

Fall Mean Low Temperature: 38.9°F (4.6°F above normal)

Fall Total Precipitation: 2.11" (0.71" below normal)

St George:

Fall Mean High Temperature: 79.1°F (0.8°F above normal)

Fall Mean Low Temperature: 52.9°F (5.3°F above normal)

Fall Total Precipitation: 0.55" (1.56" below normal)

Fall 2024 Summary:

September saw a couple of cold fronts that ushered in periods of cool temperatures and a few rain showers, mainly across Northern Utah. However, the vast majority of the month was dry and warm, as Utah mostly sat under a ridge of high pressure that dominated the SW United States. As a result, the entire state saw well below normal precipitation, and the vast majority saw above normal temperatures.

October was very abnormally warm and almost completely dry up until the middle of the month, when a weak storm finally brought some valley rain and light mountain snow to most of the state. This also dropped temperatures down to near normal. A couple more late season cold fronts brought more significant rain/snow and dropped temperatures further, putting the state firmly cooler than average at the end of the month. This wasn't enough, however, to bring temperatures anywhere close to back to normal for the month.

As is typical of Utah, November 2024 acted as a sharp transition between summer and winter. Temperatures across the state dropped **20+ degrees** between October and November, which was exaggerated by far above normal temps in October. The pattern was generally unsettled throughout the month, but there was only one decent storm and a few weak storms.

December-February Averages:

Salt Lake City:

December Average High/Low Temperature: 39/25

January Average High/Low Temperature: 39/24

February Average High/Low Temperature: 45/29

December Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 1.40"

January Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 1.43"

February Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 1.30"

Logan:

December Average High/Low Temperature: 34/19

January Average High/Low Temperature: 32/18

February Average High/Low Temperature: 37/21

December Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 1.59"

January Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 1.83"

February Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 1.61"

Vernal:

December Average High/Low Temperature: 31/13

January Average High/Low Temperature: 29/10

February Average High/Low Temperature: 37/17

December Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 0.61"

January Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 0.62"

February Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 0.56"

Moab/Canyonlands Airport:

December Average High/Low Temperature: 37/23

January Average High/Low Temperature: 37/22

February Average High/Low Temperature: 43/27

December Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 0.70"

January Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 0.55"

February Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 0.58"

Cedar City:

December Average High/Low Temperature: 42/16

January Average High/Low Temperature: 43/18

February Average High/Low Temperature: 47/21

December Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 0.88"

January Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 0.82"

February Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 0.98”

St George:

December Average High/Low Temperature: 53/28

January Average High/Low Temperature: 54/28

February Average High/Low Temperature: 59/32

December Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 0.86”

January Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 1.22”

February Average Total Monthly Precipitation: 1.38”

Winter Outlook:

3-month average temperatures for December, January, and February are expected to be **above normal** for the mountains and SW Utah, and **near normal** for the rest of the state.

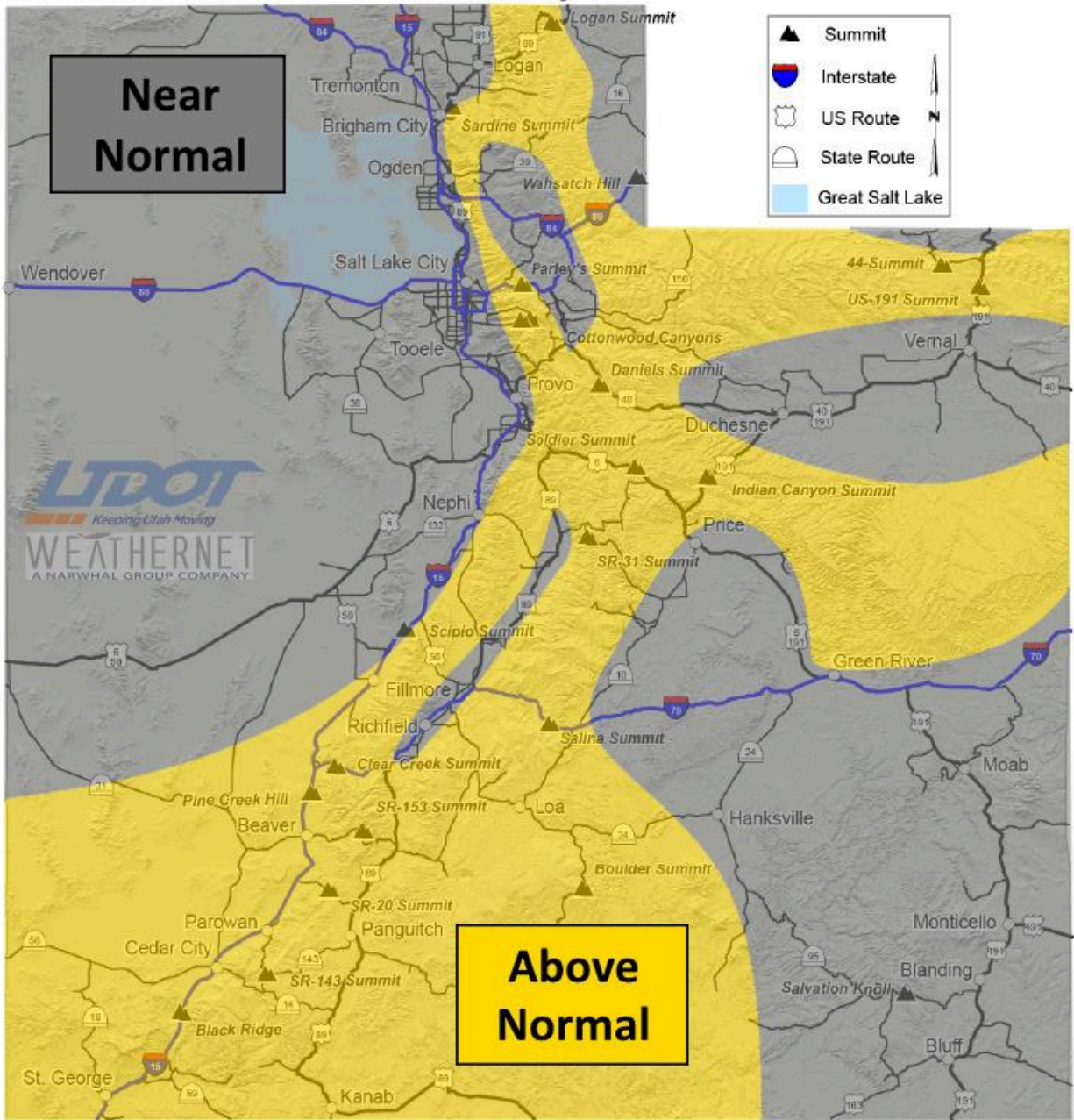
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Discussion:

December is starting off with Utah sitting under a ridge of high pressure, which is allowing inversions to sit in the valleys, especially in Northern Utah. There is a bit of a debate in meteorology circles, but the Pacific Ocean is either already in a weak La Nina, or will be soon. La Nina generally results in storms targeting the Pacific NW, while EL Nino favors a more southerly track over California. Northern Utah should do better than Southern Utah in La Nina, while the state as a whole sees colder, but less moisture-laden, storms.

This type of setup suggests that we will see a few cold storms interrupted by extended periods of dry weather. If that occurs, valleys will likely see extended inversions, keeping temperatures cool while the mountains warm up. That is the expectation I have for this winter, which is why I believe that the valleys will see near normal temperatures while the mountains will be warmer than normal. SW Utah should miss out on all the action, staying abnormally warm and dry.

Winter 24-25 Temperature Outlook



Winter 24-25 Precipitation Outlook

