

# Warm West offsets cold East, makes average January

February 13 2014, by Seth Borenstein

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For those who shivered through January, this may be hard to believe: Nationwide, the average temperature for the first month of the year was about normal because a warm West offset a cool East

The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration said January in the Lower 48 states was the 53rd coldest of 120 years. The nation averaged only one-tenth of a degree below normal for January.

While Alabama had its fourth coldest January on record, California and Alaska had their third warmest.

Weather Underground's Jeff Masters said the nation is in a new normal, where the [cold winters](#) of 30 years ago now seem extreme.

Nationwide, it was the fifth driest January on record. New Mexico had its driest January, Arizona had its second driest and California, its third.

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