

Phoenix's Winter That Wasn't

By Don Sutherland

Phoenix closed out its warmest February on record, with a monthly mean temperature of 67.7°, surpassing the previous record of 66.0° set in 1991 and tied just last year. The new mark continues a recent string of unusual warmth across the desert Southwest and highlights the persistence of above-normal temperatures through the 2025–2026 cool season.

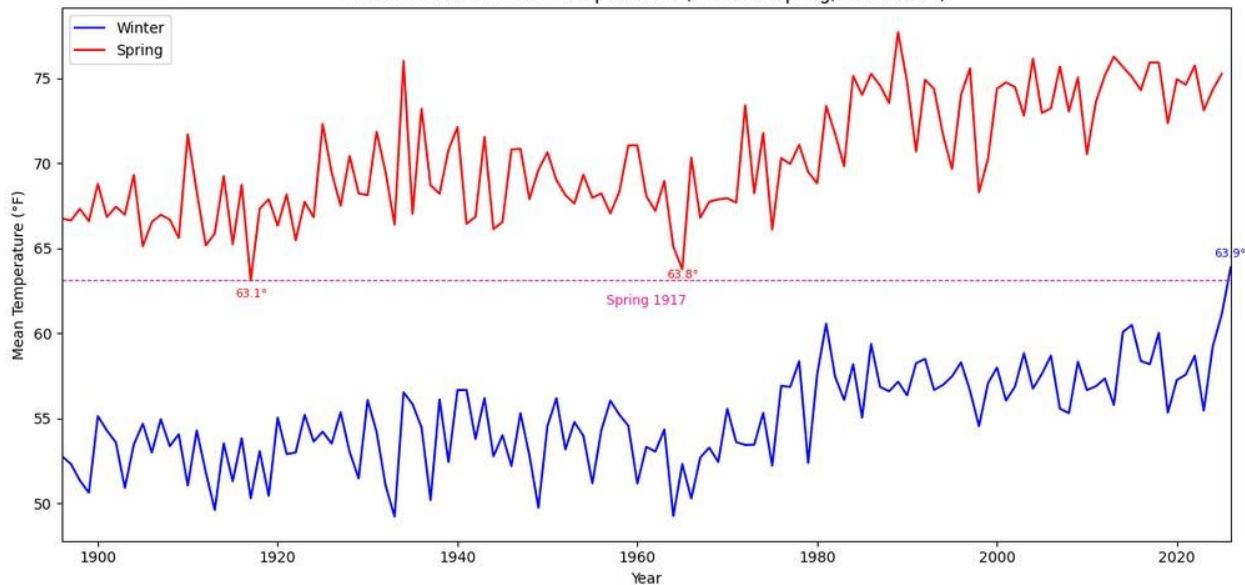
The record February capped an extraordinary winter for the city. Boosted by the warmest December and February ever observed, Phoenix posted a winter (December–February) mean temperature of 63.9°, the highest on record by a wide margin. The seasonal average is comparable to a typical winter in Melbourne, Florida, underscoring just how mild conditions were in the Sonoran Desert during a period that historically represents the region's coolest months.

Phoenix's 20 Warmest Winters

Rank	Mean Temperature	Year (s)
1.	63.9°	2025-26
2.	61.1°	2024-25
3.	60.6°	1980-81
4.	60.5°	2014-15
5.	60.1°	2013-14
6.	60.0°	2017-18
7.	59.4°	1985-86
8.	59.2°	2023-24
9.	58.8°	2002-03
11.	58.7°	2005-06, 2021-22
12.	58.5°	1991-92
13.	58.4°	1977-78, 2015-16
15.	58.3°	1995-96, 2008-09
17.	58.2°	1983-84, 1990-91, 2016-17
20.	58.0°	1999-00

The winter warmth was notable even in a broader historical context. Phoenix's seasonal mean temperature exceeded the average temperature reached during spring (March–May) of 1917 and 1965, illustrating how dramatically the season's temperatures departed from long-term norms. For perspective, New York City's warmest winter (41.6° seasonal mean temperature during 2001-2002) was more than 3° cooler than its coldest spring (1888 with a seasonal average temperature of 44.7°).

Phoenix Seasonal Mean Temperatures (Winter & Spring, 1896-2026)



Since 2020, seven months have seen their warmest temperatures on record.

Phoenix's Monthly Records Set 2020-2026:

Month	Season	Year(s)
February	Winter	2026
June	Summer	2021, 2024
July	Summer	2020, 2023
August	Summer	2020
September	Fall	2024
October	Fall	2024
December	Winter	2024, 2025

