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A record winter: Not for everyone in Mass.

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SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

Reminders of a record winter are all around in Boston, including along Commonwealth Avenue.

By **Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF MARCH 20, 2015

It's been the snowiest stretch ever for a number of municipalities around Massachusetts, including Boston, but for other cities and towns around the state this season has not even cracked their top 10 snowiest winters of all time.

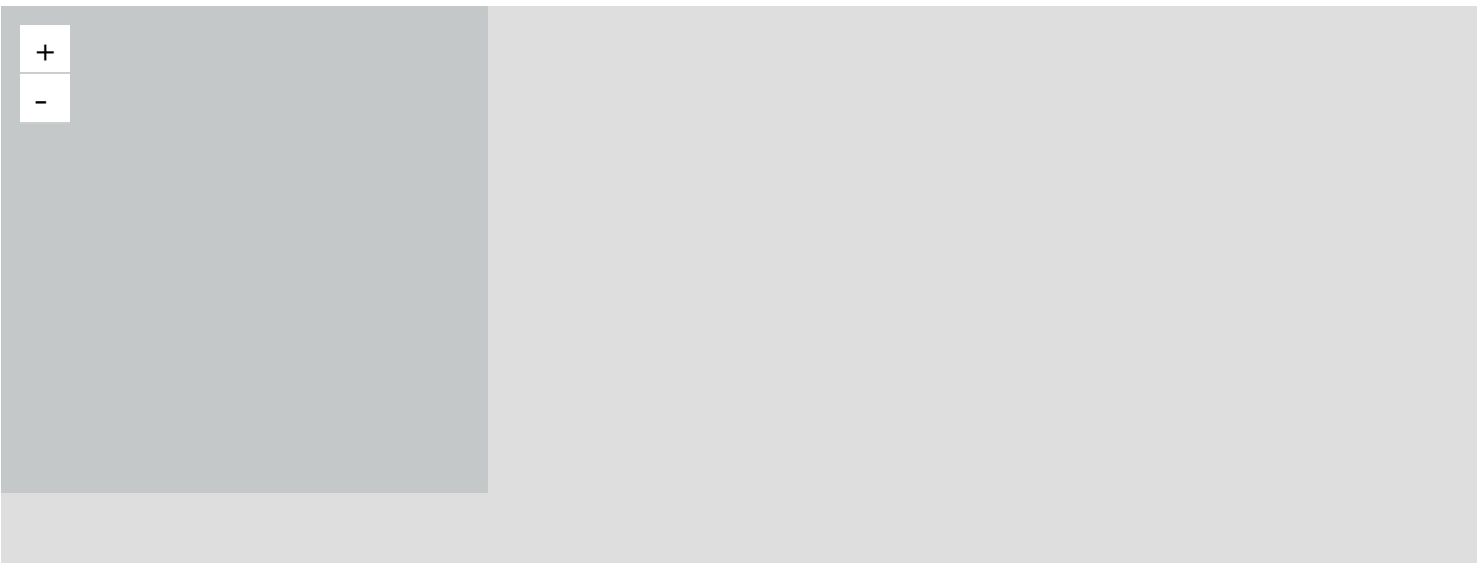
Ashburnham, for example, has seen about 88 inches of snow this year, which only ranks as the 27th snowiest winter the town has ever recorded and it pales in comparison to the 145.7 inches that fell in the winter of 1995-96 in the town, which borders New Hampshire, according to data from the National Weather Service.

About 15 miles west, at a snow measurement site at Birch Hill Dam in Royalston, the roughly 68 inches that fell this winter is just the 20th highest total for a winter there. The snowiest winter at Birch Hill Dam was 1960-1961, when 104.5 inches fell, data shows.

And in Worthington, about 30 miles northwest of Springfield, the snowfall this winter barely surpassed the halfway mark of the town's record winter, 1995-96 when a whopping 152.9 inches piled up.

Snowfall around Massachusetts during winter 2014-2015

A look at local snow totals as recorded by National Weather Service volunteers





DATA: National Weather Service

MATT ROCHELEAU/GLOBE STAFF

The Globe looked at seasonal snowfall totals and historical records collected and published by the National Weather Service.



Don't despair. It will get warm

This winter's chill is going to end, even if it takes a little longer than usual.

Photos: The last day of winter

The actual snow measurements are made by volunteers, who receive equipment and training from the federal weather agency to properly observe and report back local weather conditions.

The weather service has quality control measures in place to vet the information volunteers send in, said Kimberly Buttrick, meteorologist and manager of the weather service's Southern New England Cooperative Weather Observer program.

However, tallying precise snow totals is easier said than done.

For instance, the amount and height of snowfall can vary greatly over small distances, and the so-called weather observers are not always available to adhere to the recommended process of measuring snowfall every six hours during a storm, meaning measurements taken later on could differ if the snow has drifted or settled.

"They do the best they can," Buttrick said of the volunteers. "But snowfall observation can be subjective."

How local snowfall totals rank all time

A town-by-town look at how snowfall this winter compares with historical records

City/town	State	2014-2015 (inches)	Snowfall rank	Record / Previous record if broken this winter	Winter of record	Snowfall recorded since
Blue Hill Observatory	MA	144	1	143.4	1995-1996	1892-1893
Worcester	MA	115.6	3	132.9	1995-1996	1947-1948
Middleboro	MA	114.6	2	117.4	2004-2005	1892-1893
Lowell	MA	114.5	1	111.5	1947-1948	1889-1890
Hingham	MA	113.9	1	112.2	1995-1996	1959-1960
Newburyport	MA	113.5	3	133.5	1947-1948	1892-1893
Marblehead	MA	111.8	2	119	2004-2005	1983-1984
Brockton	MA	111.4	1	105.8	1995-1996	1893-1894
Groveland	MA	109.4	4	124.9	1995-1996	1991-1992
Boston	MA	108.6	1	107.6	1995-1996	1935-1936
Beverly	MA	102.1	1	89.5	2004-2005	1995-1996
Middleton	MA	101.6	3	124	1947-1948	1925-1926
Taunton	MA	98.1	1	97.6	2004-2005	1996-1997

Milford	MA	98	2	114	1995-1996	1930-1931
Walpole	MA	93.2	3	118.9	1995-1996	1972-1973
Norton	MA	90.9	3	111.2	1995-1996	1916-1917
Franklin	MA	90.4	2	99.3	1995-1996	1925-1926
Maynard	MA	89.6	6	124.3	1995-1996	1962-1963
Buffumville Lake	MA	88.8	1	88.3	1966-1967	1958-1959
Ashburnham	MA	87.7	27	145.7	1995-1996	1906-1907
East Brimfield Lake	MA	87.3	6	135	1995-1996	1961-1962
East Wareham	MA	84.9	2	104.2	2004-2005	1925-1926
Northbridge	MA	79.2	4	96.5	1995-1996	1963-1964
Barre Falls Dam	MA	77.6	13	127.2	1995-1996	1958-1959
Worthington	MA	77.3	9	152.9	1995-1996	1993-1994
East Sandwich	MA	75.4	2	75.7	2013-2014	2009-2010
Westfield	MA	75.1	2	82.1	2010-2011	2006-2007
Hardwick	MA	74	2	83.5	2010-2011	2006-2007
Providence	RI	73.5	1	72.9	1947-1948	1931-1932
Tully Lake	MA	71.2	20	114.3	1995-1996	1948-1949
Birch Hill Dam	MA	68.1	23	104.5	1960-1961	1947-1948
Bridgewater	MA	64.4	1	49.9	2004-2005	1948-1949
Greenfield	MA	64.2	4	91.5	2000-2001	1999-2000
Rochester	MA	63.7	3	77.5	2004-2005	1899-1900
Amherst	MA	63.4	14	83.9	1995-1996	1892-1893
Ware	MA	60.5	16	90	1971-1972	1937-1938
Sunderland	MA	59.8	9	95.8	1995-1996	1977-1978
Windsor Locks	CT	59.3	16	107.1	1995-1996	1948-1949
Hyannis	MA	56.2	6	73	1903-1904	1892-1893
Woods Hole Golf Club	MA	53.4	1	49.2	2013-2014	2009-2010
Edgartown	MA	52.8	4	67	2004-2005	1945-1946
Chatham	MA	40.5	7	67.1	1995-1996	1971-1972
Ashfield	MA	38.3	3	63.6	2012-2013	2011-2012

DATA: National Weather Service

MATT ROCHELEAU/GLOBE STAFF

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele)

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