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**It's been 25 years since it's been this cold this late in March**



JESSICA RINALDI/GLOBE STAFF

**A pedestrian on Clarendon Street bundled up against the cold earlier this year.**

By [Matt Rocheleau](#)

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If it feels a little colder than usual for March, that's because it is. Boston hasn't seen a cold snap like this in March in a quarter-century.

If the National Weather Service's forecast holds true for the rest of Tuesday (which is technically the first day of spring), the average low temperature over the four-day stretch that began Saturday will be 19.5 degrees in Boston. That's well below the normal low the city sees at this time of year, which is about 32 degrees.

And it's just over the mark hit in 1993, between March 17 and 20, when temperatures averaged 18.8 degrees.

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That year also happened to be the snowiest March on record for Boston, with 38.9 inches during the month.

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But as chilly at March '93 seems, it was hardly the coldest spring-to-winter transition month on record. In fact, the current cold spell seems balmy compared with the coldest four-day stretches recorded in Boston that began on March 17 or later, according to weather service data that dates back to 1872.

Between March 18 and 21, 1885, for example, the average low was a bone chilling 8.5 degrees over a four-day stretch that included low daily temperatures of 5 and 7 degrees. In the four days immediately following that frigid stretch, the average low temperature was just 14.5 degrees.

In 1967, the average low was 11 degrees over the four days ending on March 20.

Late March of 1876 and 1916, each saw a four-day period in which the average low was about 12 degrees.

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And in 15 other years, Boston endured four-day stretches that started on March 17 or later in which the average low temperature was 19 degrees or lower.

So far this March, the city has received 21.9 inches of snow, tied for the sixth-highest amount on record.

But the month isn't over yet, and there's a potential for [more snow later this week](#).

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