

## Historical cold record: Freezing point measured in Cuba for the first time



*A Cuban weather radar in service of INSMET (Source: Alexis Merlaud/imaggeo.egu.eu/[CC-BY-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/))*

The winter of 2025/2026 will go down in Cuban meteorological history: on Tuesday morning, February 3, the Indio Hatuey weather station in the western province of Matanzas officially recorded a temperature of zero degrees Celsius—the freezing point—for the first time. The measurement was taken at 7 a.m. local time, according to the Cuban Meteorological Institute (INSMET).

This broke the previous national cold record of 0.6 degrees Celsius, which had been measured on February 18, 1996, in Bainoa in what is now the province of Mayabeque. Cuban meteorologist Laura Pit [pointed out](#) that the thermometers had already been at one degree Celsius three hours before the record measurement.

### **Frost on fields – a rare phenomenon**

The Matanzas Provincial Meteorological Center reported frost on the leaves of various crops in the vicinity of the measuring station – an extremely unusual phenomenon for Cuba's tropical climate. The weather station is located in the municipality of Perico.

Abel Maturell Salina, head of the forecasting center at the Meteorological Institute, told the party newspaper Granma that remarkably low temperatures had been recorded in numerous other locations across the archipelago. Some of these could be absolute records for these locations or for the month of February.

The lowest temperatures included 2.8 degrees in Tapaste, 3.0 degrees in Aguada de Pasajeros, 3.2 degrees in Güines, 3.3 degrees in Jagüey Grande, 3.7 degrees in Bainoa,

and 4.4 degrees at José Martí International Airport. Temperatures of 5.4 degrees were also recorded in the municipality of Venezuela in Ciego de Ávila, in Bauta, and in Santo Domingo in Villa Clara.

## **Polar air from North America as the cause**

According to INSMET, a total of 32 weather stations reported temperatures of 10 degrees Celsius or below. The widespread cold was attributed to the strong influence of high-pressure systems combined with the influx of cold air masses over the island.

The institute explained that the sharp drop in temperature was triggered by an intense cold front that transported a mass of polar air from North America to the Caribbean. The cold snap was preceded at the end of January by an exceptional cold wave in the United States, which caused several deaths from hypothermia in New York. A few days ago, [severe flooding](#) occurred in Havana's Malecón waterfront area as a result of the cold front.

The very cold, dry air mass of Arctic origin, combined with other factors such as weak winds and low cloud cover, led to the marked drop in minimum temperatures, according to INSMET. The recent cold snap also affected parts of the southern United States: over the weekend, there were [reports](#) from Florida, about 145 kilometers from Cuba's north coast, of iguanas falling from trees due to the cold. ([Cubaheute](#))