

# February 2021 Climate Summary

## Overview

Weather Forecast Office  
Albuquerque, NM  
Issued January 8, 2022 6:21 PM MDT



### Synopsis

February 2021 temperatures and precipitation was quite varied across New Mexico. Temperatures were near to above normal in the west, near to below normal in central areas, and well below normal in the east, especially as you get closer to the Texas border. Precipitation was mostly near to below normal, but there were small areas of above normal precipitation, mainly in central areas.

Strong winds buffeted New Mexico on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The most impressive series of storms this winter struck on the 13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> with 3 storms piling up the snow. During this time record smashing cold air settled over New Mexico.



Los Lunas, ©Brian Young, 2/14



Tijeras, © Mary Marash, 2/14



Santa Fe, © Gregory North, 2/16

# February 2021 Climate Summary

## State Temperatures

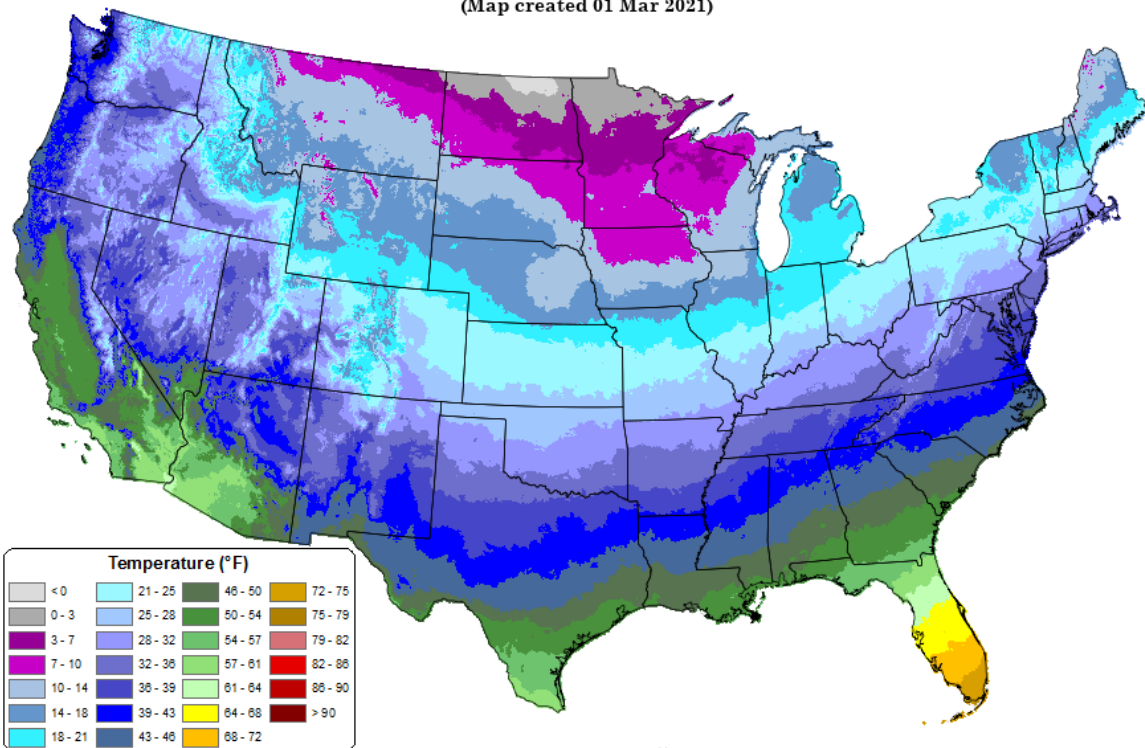
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### Actual

#### Average Daily Mean Temperature: 01 Feb 2021 - 28 Feb 2021

Period ending 7 AM EST 28 Feb 2021  
(Map created 01 Mar 2021)

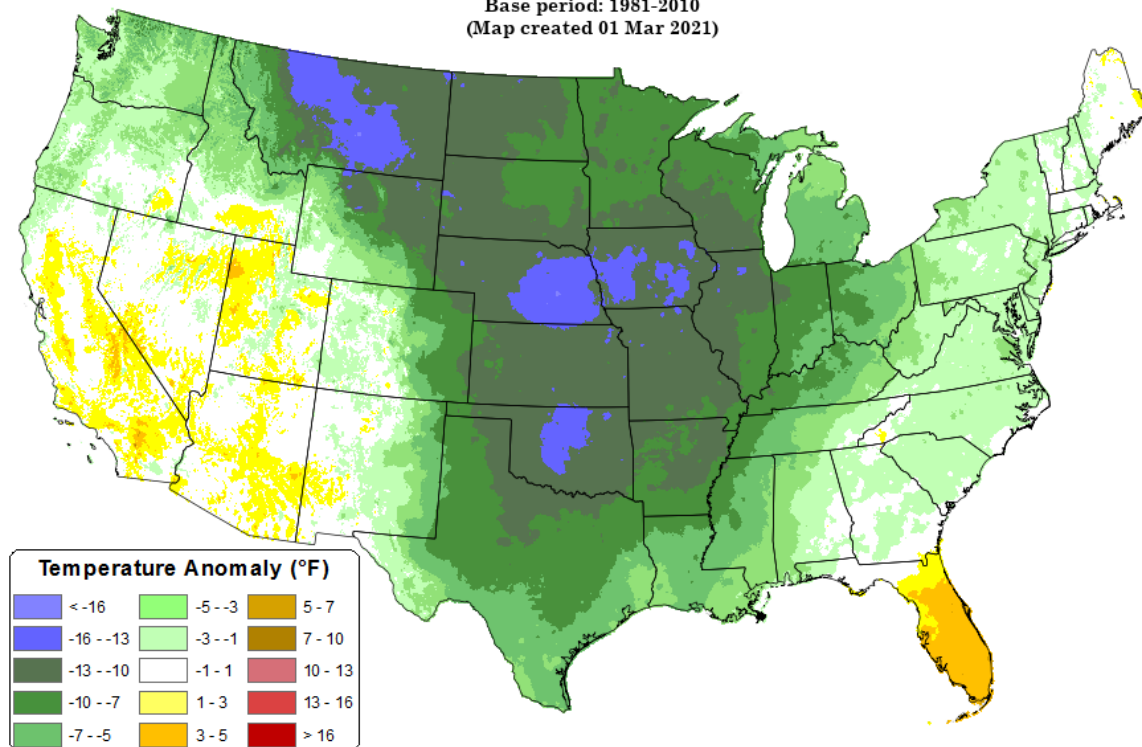


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### Anomaly

#### Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: 01 Feb 2021 - 28 Feb 2021

Period ending 7 AM EST 28 Feb 2021  
Base period: 1981-2010  
(Map created 01 Mar 2021)



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# February 2021 Climate Summary

## State Precipitation

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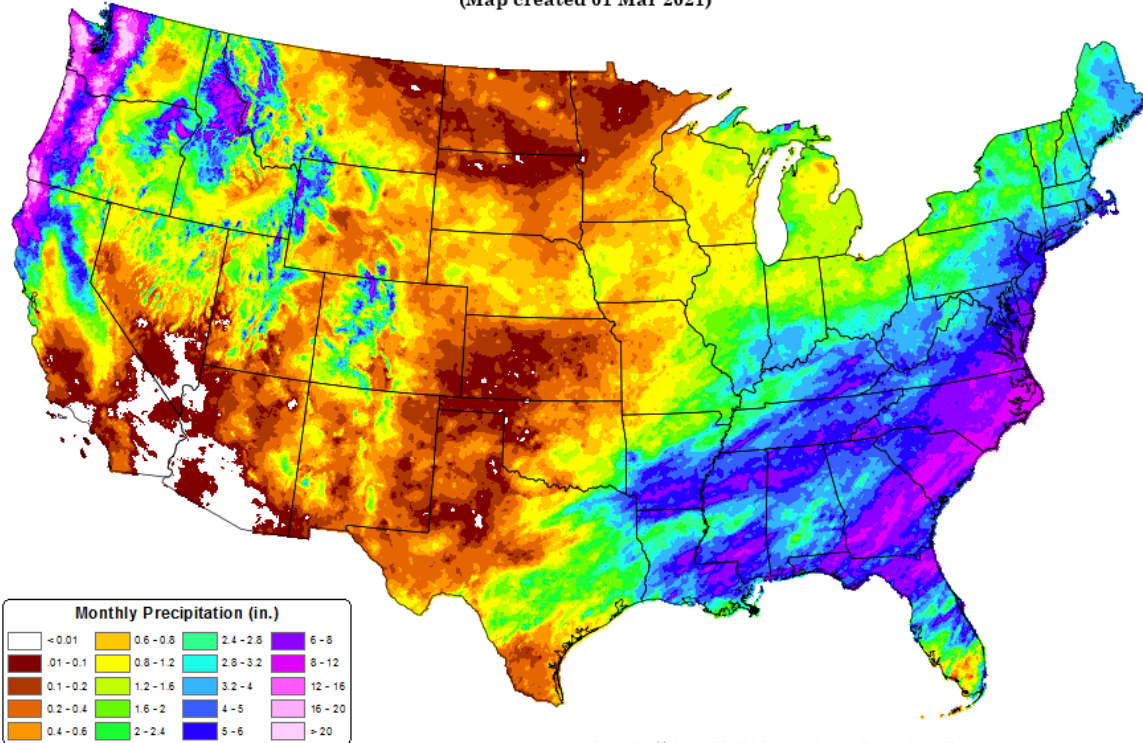


### Actual

#### Total Precipitation: 01 Feb 2021 - 28 Feb 2021

Period ending 7 AM EST 28 Feb 2021

(Map created 01 Mar 2021)



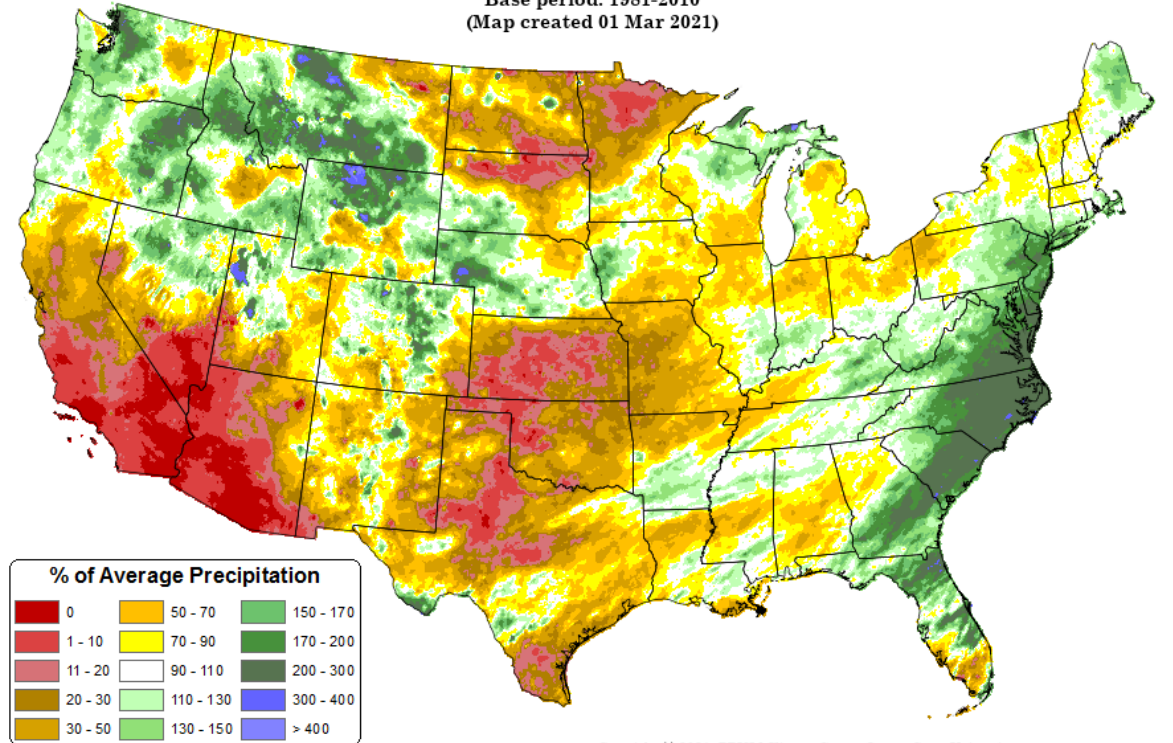
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### Anomaly

#### Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Feb 2021 - 28 Feb 2021

Period ending 7 AM EST 28 Feb 2021

Base period: 1981-2010  
(Map created 01 Mar 2021)



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# February 2021 Climate Summary

## Statewide Temperature & Precipitation Trends

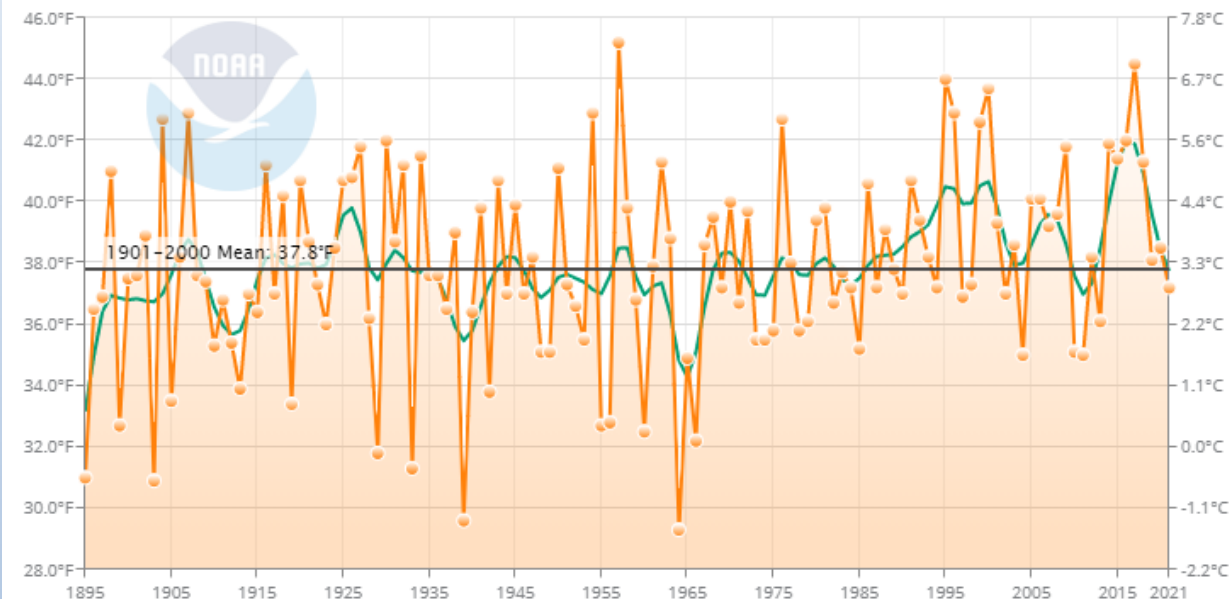
Weather Forecast Office  
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### Temperature

New Mexico Average Temperature  
February

Binomial Filter

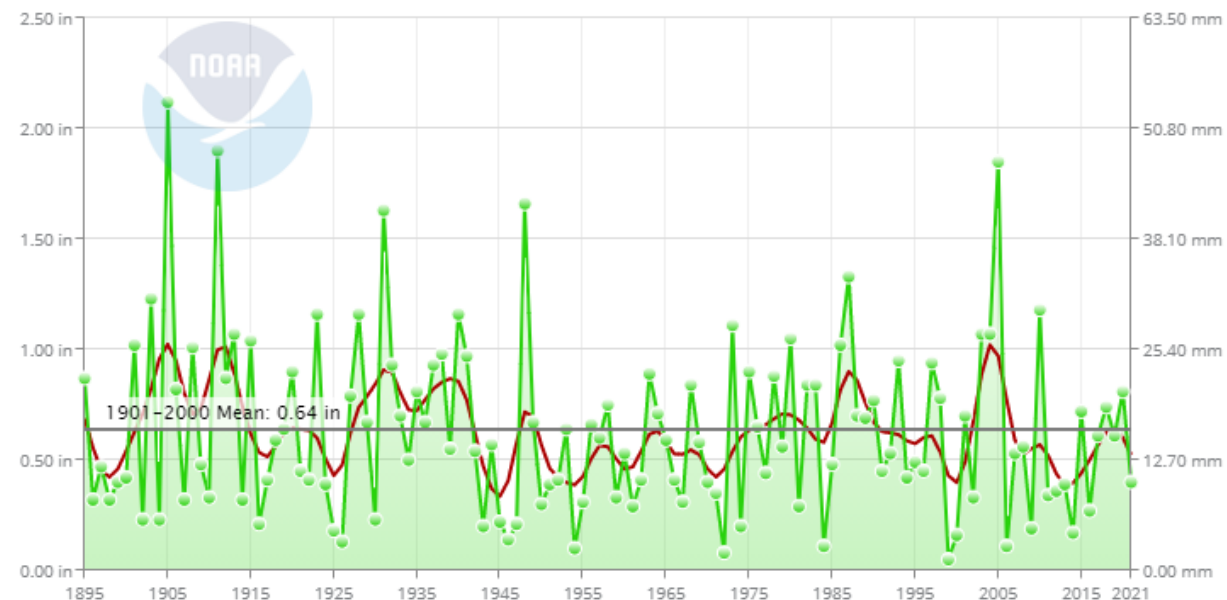


The average statewide temperature was 37.2°, which was 0.6° below the long-term normal of 37.8° (1901-2000). This ranked as the 51<sup>st</sup> coolest February on record.

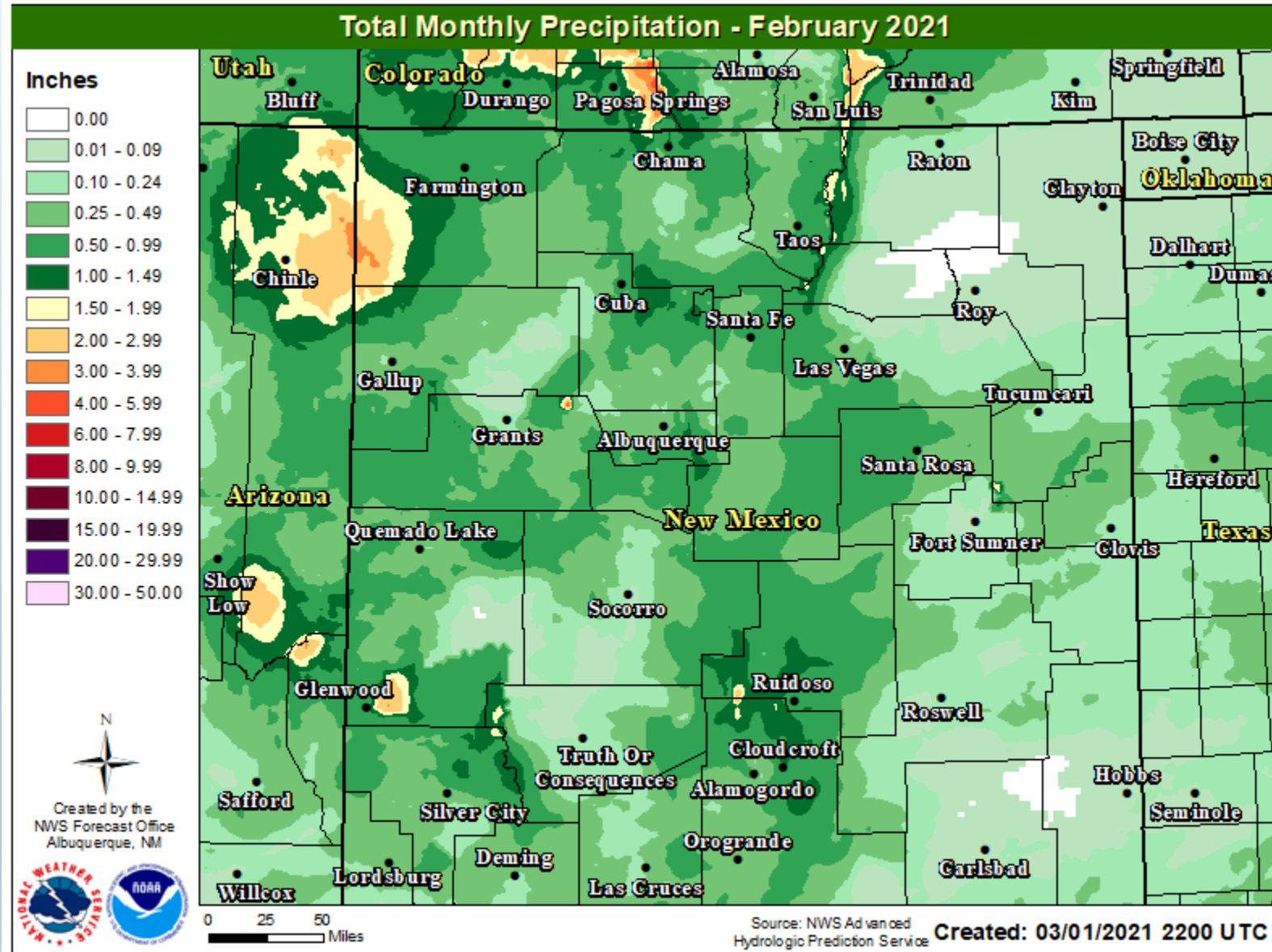
### Precipitation

New Mexico Precipitation  
February

Binomial Filter



The average statewide precipitation was 0.40", which was 0.24" below the long-term normal of 0.64" (1901-2000). This ranked as the 39<sup>th</sup> driest February on record.



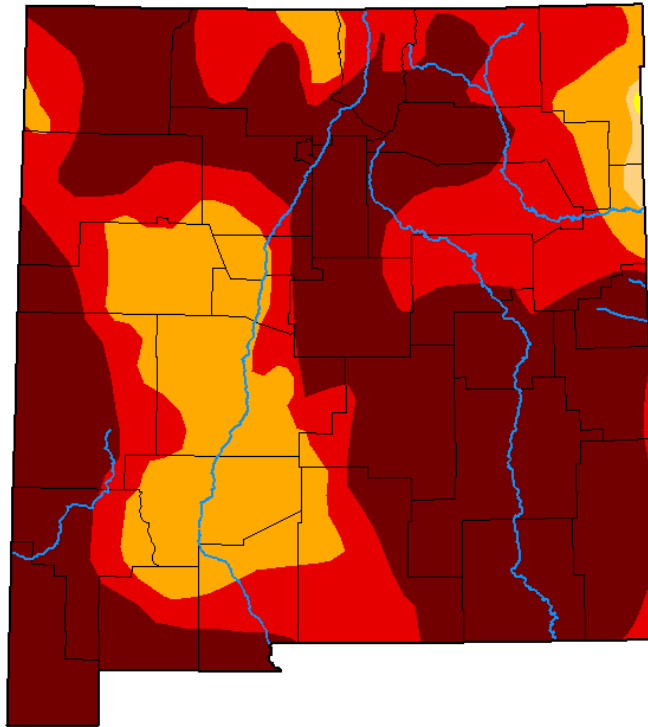
Here is a more detailed image of the February 2021 precipitation.



### February 2

### February 23

#### U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico



#### February 2, 2021 (Released Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021) Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	0.00	100.00	99.96	99.57	81.83	54.03
<b>Last Week</b> <i>01-26-2021</i>	0.00	100.00	99.96	99.57	82.05	54.25
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>11-03-2020</i>	0.00	100.00	99.98	84.82	66.18	7.21
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>12-29-2020</i>	0.00	100.00	99.97	99.59	82.26	53.20
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>09-29-2020</i>	0.00	100.00	99.92	73.65	39.88	2.90
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>02-04-2020</i>	29.53	70.47	31.90	11.80	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

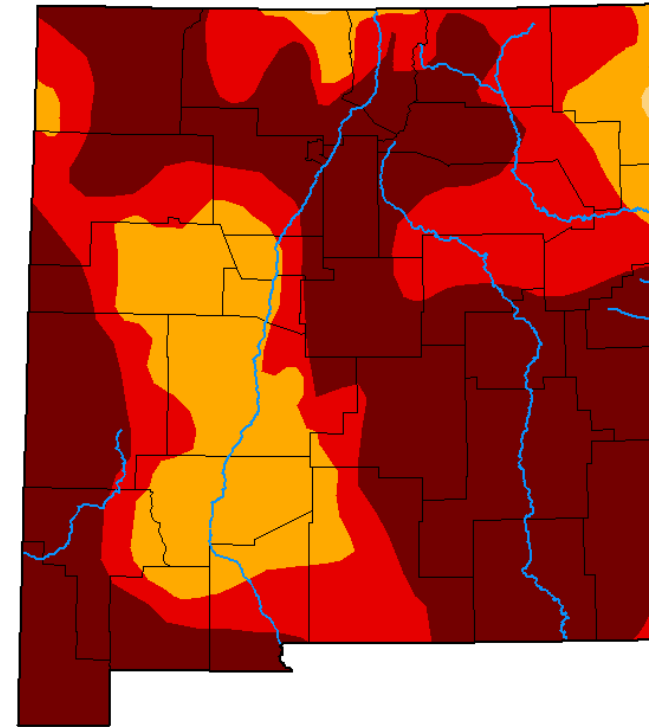
Author:

Brad Rippey  
U.S. Department of Agriculture



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

#### U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico

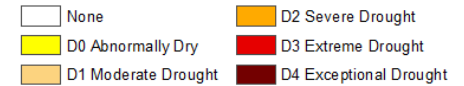


#### February 23, 2021 (Released Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021) Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.91	82.03	54.24
<b>Last Week</b> <i>02-16-2021</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.93	82.23	54.24
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>11-24-2020</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.59	79.21	50.95
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>12-29-2020</i>	0.00	100.00	99.97	99.59	82.26	53.20
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>09-29-2020</i>	0.00	100.00	99.92	73.65	39.88	2.90
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>02-25-2020</i>	44.24	55.76	28.52	11.40	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

David Miskus  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

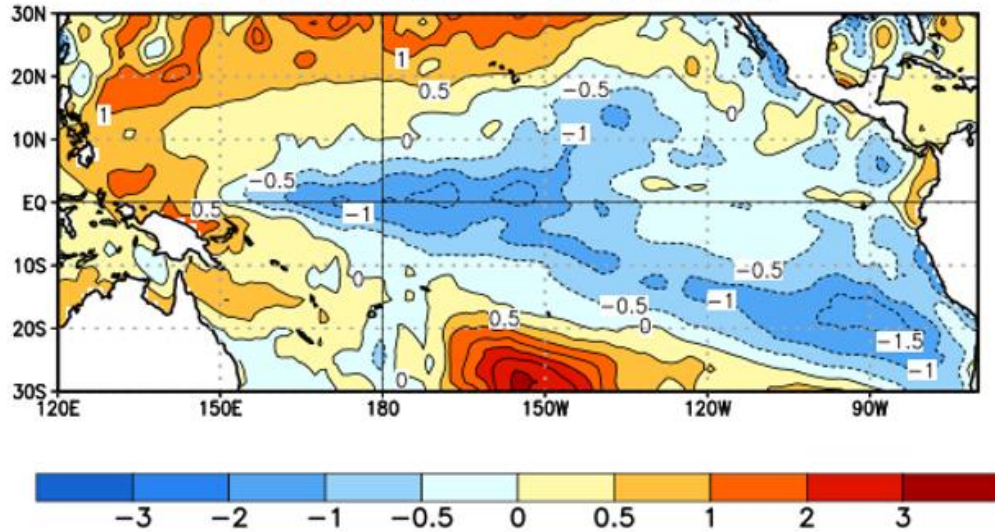


[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Very little change occurred to drought conditions through much of February 2021. Extreme to exceptional drought covers nearly 82% of the state, of which over 54% is exceptional.



Average SST Anomalies  
24 JAN 2021 – 20 FEB 2021



EQ. Subsurface Temperature Anomalies (deg C)

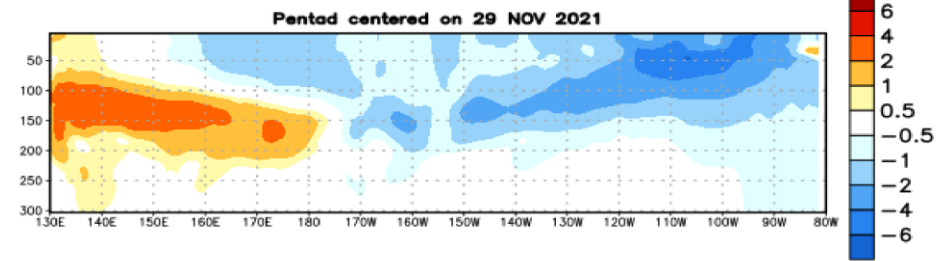


Figure 4. Depth-longitude section of equatorial Pacific upper-ocean (0-300m) temperature anomalies ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) centered on the pentad of 29 November 2021. Anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period pentad means.

EQ. Upper-Ocean Heat Anoms. (deg C) for 180–100W

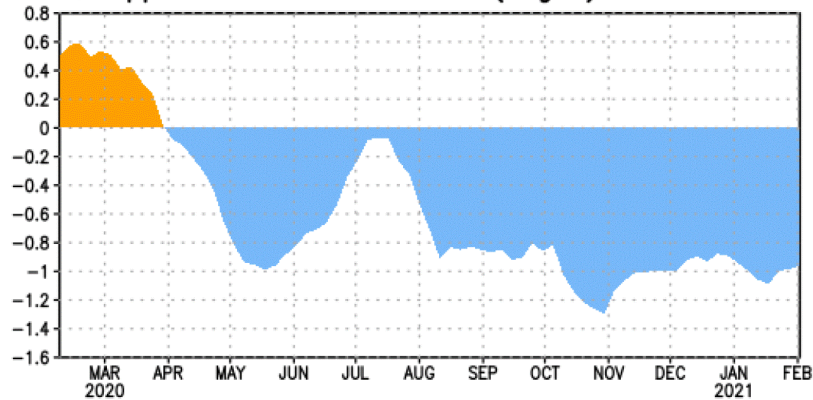
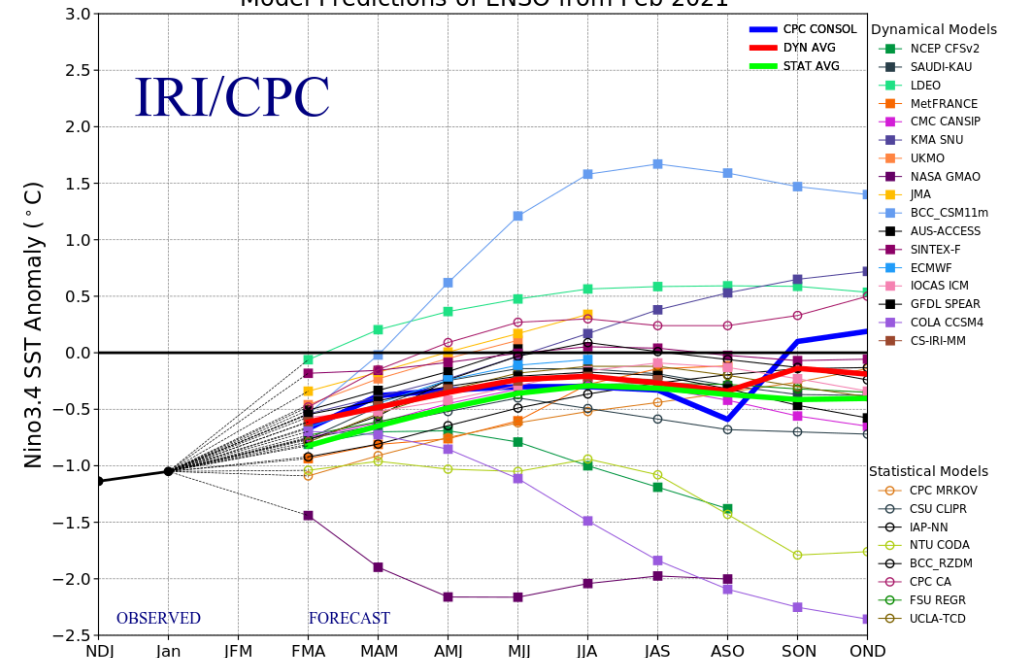


Figure 3. Area-averaged upper-ocean heat content anomaly ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) in the equatorial Pacific ( $5^{\circ}\text{N}$ - $5^{\circ}\text{S}$ ,  $180^{\circ}$ - $100^{\circ}\text{W}$ ). The heat content anomaly is computed as the departure from the 1981-2010 base period pentad means.

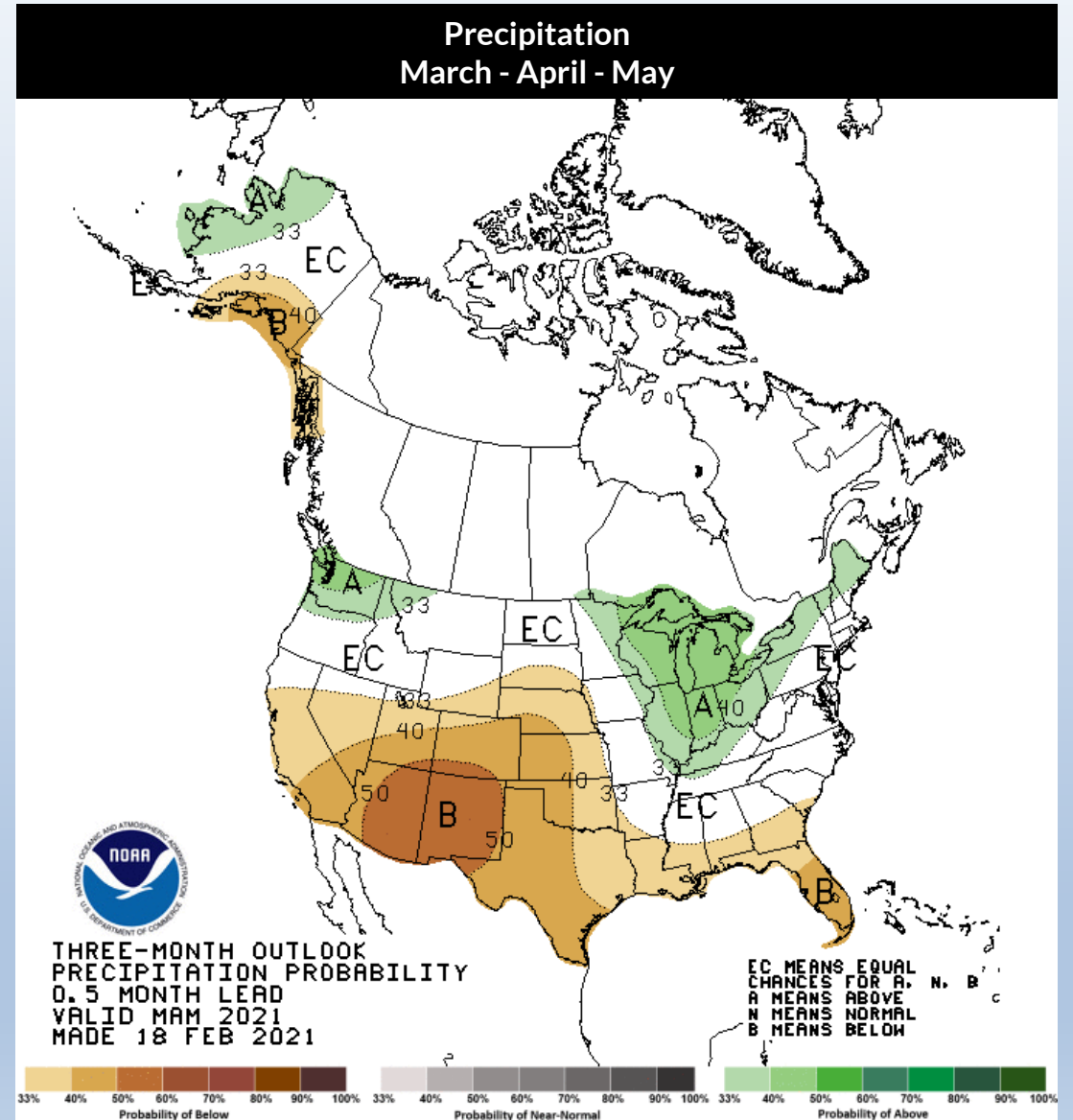
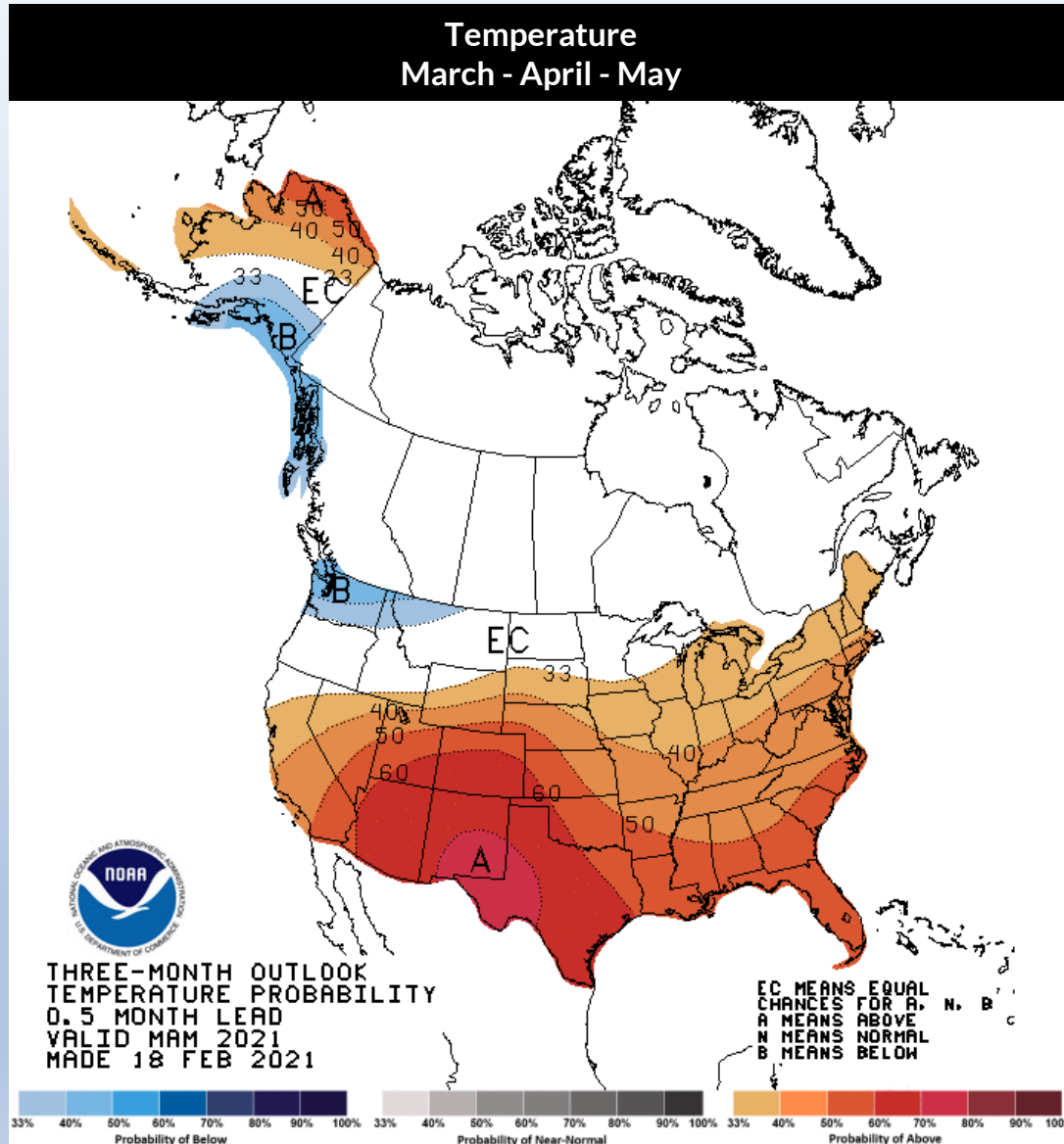
Model Predictions of ENSO from Feb 2021



# February 2021 Climate Summary

## Temperature & Precipitation Outlook

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The three month climate outlook strongly favors above normal temperature probabilities while precipitation favors below normal probabilities. This spring outlook will favor persistent or worsening drought conditions over NM.



# February 2021 Climate Summary

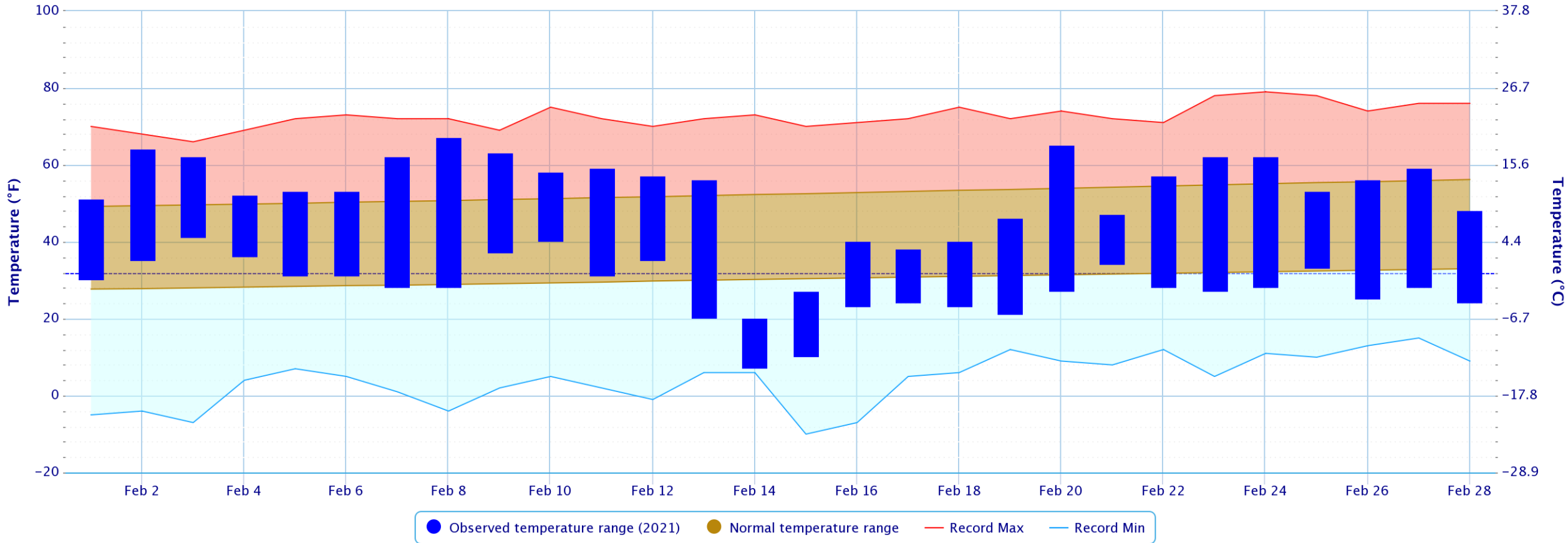
## Albuquerque Sunport Temperatures

Weather Forecast Office  
Albuquerque, NM  
Issued January 8, 2022 6:21 PM MDT



### Daily Temperature Data – ALBUQUERQUE INTL AP, NM

Period of Record – 1891-12-01 to 2021-02-28. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Powered by ACIS

The average temperature for Albuquerque was 40.4°, which was 1.0° below the normal of 41.4°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 52.8°. This was 0.3° above the normal average maximum temperature of 52.5°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 28.0°. This was 2.3° below the normal average minimum temperature of 30.3°. This February's average temperature was tied for the 62<sup>nd</sup> warmest on record.

# February 2021 Climate Summary

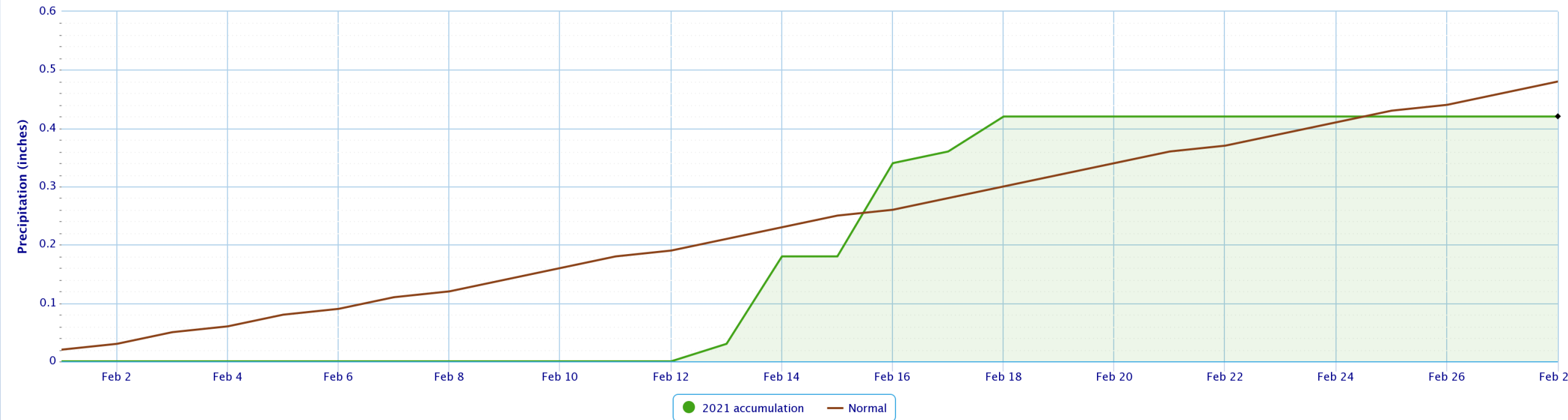
## Albuquerque Sunport Precipitation

Weather Forecast Office  
Albuquerque, NM  
Issued January 8, 2022 6:21 PM MDT



Accumulated Precipitation – Albuquerque Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



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There was 0.42" of precipitation measured at the Sunport, compared to the normal of 0.48", or 0.06" below normal. This ranks as a tie for the 67<sup>th</sup> driest February on record (1892-2021). Snowfall measured 6.5 inches, compared to the normal of 1.8 inches, which ranks as the 5<sup>th</sup> snowiest February on record!

# February 2021 Climate Summary

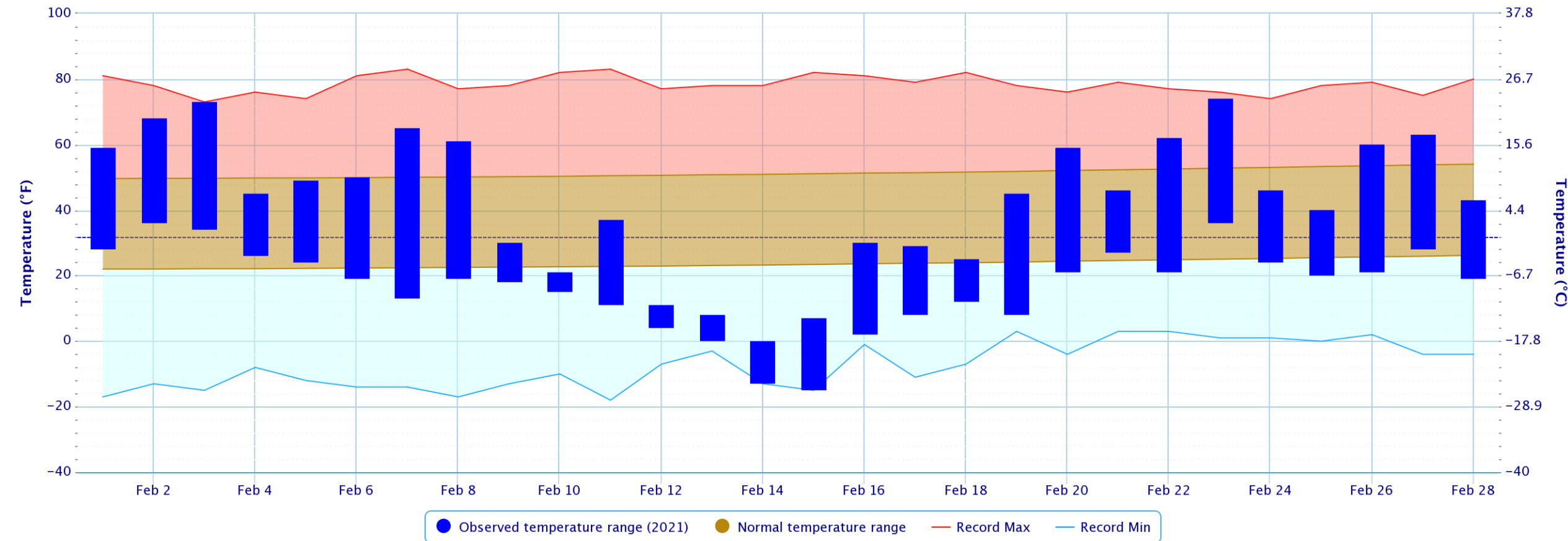
## Clayton Temperatures

Weather Forecast Office  
Albuquerque, NM  
Issued January 8, 2022 6:21 PM MDT



### Daily Temperature Data - CLAYTON MUNICIPAL AIR PARK, NM

Period of Record - 1896-02-01 to 2021-02-28. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Powered by ACIS

The average temperature for Clayton was 29.9°, which was 7.6° below the normal of 37.5°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 43.1°. This was 8.2° below the normal average maximum temperature of 51.3°! The average minimum temperature for the month was 16.6°. This was 7.0° below the normal average minimum temperature of 23.6°. February 2021 was tied for the 6<sup>th</sup> coldest on record (1896-2021)!

# February 2021 Climate Summary

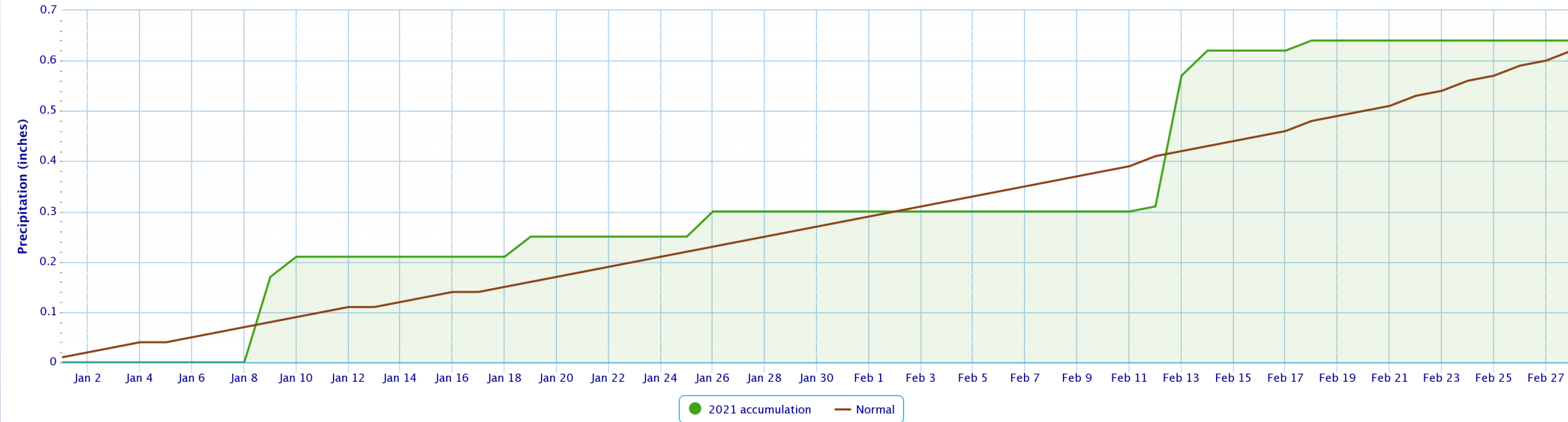
## Clayton Precipitation

Weather Forecast Office  
Albuquerque, NM  
Issued January 8, 2022 6:21 PM MDT



Accumulated Precipitation – Clayton Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



Powered by ACIS

There was 0.34" of precipitation measured at Clayton, which matched the normal of 0.34". This was the 67<sup>th</sup> driest February on record (1896-2021). Snowfall measured 7.8 inches, double the normal of 3.9 inches. This was the 14<sup>th</sup> snowiest February on record.

# February 2021 Climate Summary

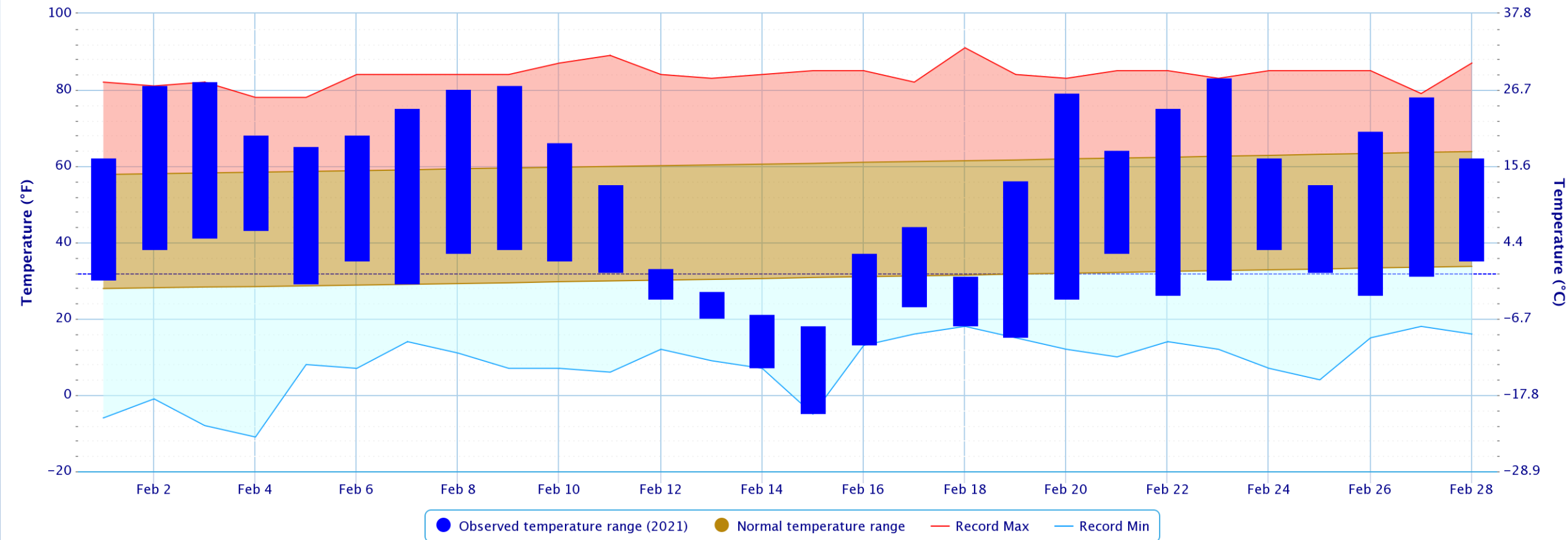
## Roswell Temperatures

Weather Forecast Office  
Albuquerque, NM  
Issued January 8, 2022 6:21 PM MDT



### Daily Temperature Data – ROSWELL INDUSTRIAL AIR PARK, NM

Period of Record – 1946-12-01 to 2021-02-28. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Powered by ACIS

The average temperature for Roswell was 43.9°, which was 1.8° below the normal of 45.7°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 59.9°. This was 0.8° below the average maximum temperature of 60.7°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 28.0°. This was 2.7° below the normal average minimum temperature of 30.7°. This was the 52<sup>nd</sup> coldest February on record (1893-2021).

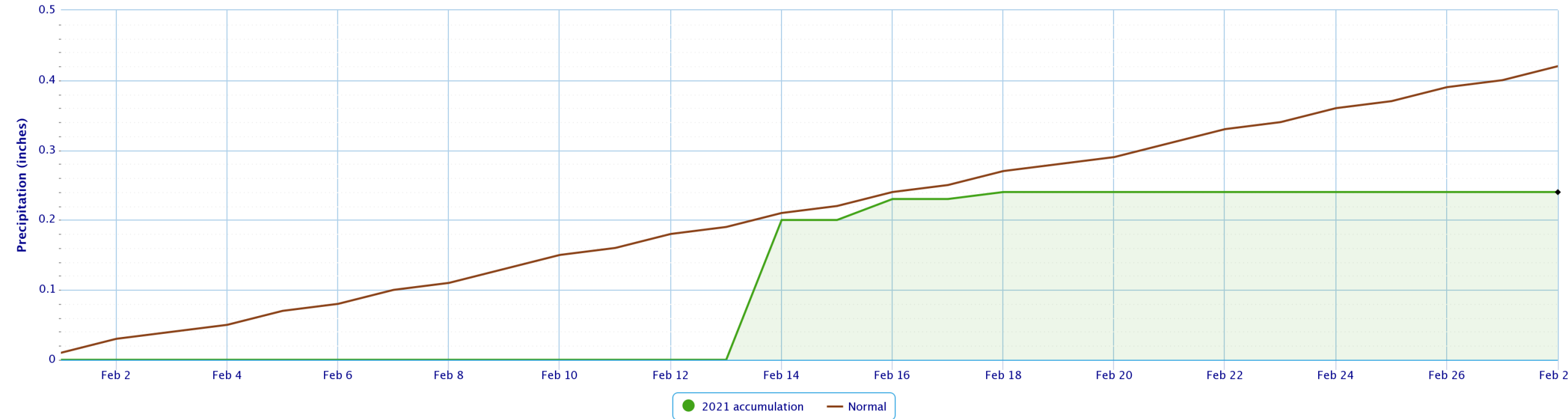
# February 2021 Climate Summary

## Roswell Precipitation



Accumulated Precipitation – Roswell Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



Powered by ACIS

There was 0.24" of precipitation measured at Roswell, compared to the normal of 0.42", or 0.18" below normal. This ranks as the 64<sup>th</sup> driest February on record (1892-2021). Snowfall measured 5.2 inches, compared to the normal of 2.1 inches.

# February 2021 Climate Summary

Severe Weather\*

Weather Forecast Office  
Albuquerque, NM  
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Event Type	Date	County/Zone Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
High Wind	2/3/2021	Far Northeast Highlands	59 kt	Gust	A wind gust up to 68 mph was reported at the Raton airport.
High Wind	2/4/2021	Northeast Highlands	52 kt	Gust	A wind gust up to 60 mph was reported at the Las Vegas airport.
High Wind	2/4/2021	Estancia Valley	50 kt	Gust	Wind gusts up to 58 mph were reported by an observer in Stanley.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Far Northwest Highlands	6"		Dulce area.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Southwest Mountains	8-12"		Red Hill area.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	San Francisco River Valley	4"		Aragon area.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Tusas Mountains and Chama	10-13"		Chama area.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Glorieta Mesa	3-6"		Glorieta area.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Northern Sangre de Cristo Mountains	7-10"		Taos Ski Valley to Red River.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	East Slopes Sangre de Cristo Mountains	5-8"		Eagle Nest to Ute Park.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Santa Fe Metro Area	3-5"		Santa Fe.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	ABQ Metro Area	2-4"		Albuquerque metro.
Blizzard	2/14/2021	ABQ Metro Area			High winds, snow, and blowing snow below Tijeras Canyon.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Sandia/Manzano Mountains	7-12"		Sandia Park to Sedillo and Edgewood.
Blizzard	2/14/2021	Sandia/Manzano Mountains			High winds, snow, and blowing snow.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Estancia Valley	5-6"		Moriarty area.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Central Highlands	4-6"		Encinco to Vaughn.
Winter Storm	2/13-2/14/2021	Upper Tularosa Valley	70 mph		Carrizozo area.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	South Central Mountains	8-12"		Ruidoso area.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Northeast Highlands	5-6"		
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Guadalupe County	6"		Santa Rosa.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Curry County	4"		Clovis.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Chaves County Plains	3-4"		Roswell.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Eastern Lincoln County	10"		Arabela.
Heavy Snow	2/13-2/14/2021	Southwest Chaves County	4"		Elk.

\*Storm reports are considered preliminary until a final review is certified in the NWS Storm Data publication. Certified data is available three to four months post-event at: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>

# February 2021 Climate Summary

Severe Weather\*

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Event Type	Date	County/Zone Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
Heavy Snow	2/13/2021	San Agustin Plains	4"		Magdalena.
Thunderstorm Wind	2/13/2021	Bernalillo County	54 kt	Gust	Thunderstorm wind gust to 60 mph on the ABQ west side.
Extreme Cold/Wind Chill	2/15/2021	Central Highlands			Wind chills of 25 below to 30 below zero.
Cold/Wind Chill	2/15/2021	Curry County			Wind chills of about 18 below to 22 below zero.
Extreme Cold/Wind Chill	2/14-2/15/2021	Union County			Wind chills were estimated to be 25 below to 30 below zero.
Extreme Cold/Wind Chill	2/15/2021	Far Northeast Highlands			Wind chills were estimated to be about 25 below zero.
Heavy Snow	2/15-2/18/2021	Glorieta Mesa	8"		Glorieta area.
Heavy Snow	2/15-2/18/2021	Northern Sangre de Cristo Mountains	17"		Taos Ski Valley to Red River.
Heavy Snow	2/15-2/18/2021	Southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains	13"		East of Santa Fe.
Heavy Snow	2/15-2/18/2021	East Slopes Sangre de Cristo Mountains	14"		Angel Fire area.
Heavy Snow	2/15-2/18/2021	Sandia/Manzano Mountains	6"		Sandia Park to Sedillo and Edgewood.
Heavy Snow	2/16-2/18/2021	South Central Mountains	11"		Ruidoso area.
Heavy Snow	2/16-2/17/2021	Chuska Mountains	11"		Narbona Pass.
Heavy Snow	2/15-2/18/2021	Santa Fe Metro Area	7"		Santa Fe.
Heavy Snow	2/16-2/17/2021	Upper Rio Grande Valley	6"		Taos area.
Heavy Snow	2/16-2/17/2021	Espanola Valley	1-3"		Espanola area.
Heavy Snow	2/16-2/18/2021	ABQ Metro Area	2-6"		ABQ metro.
Heavy Snow	2/16-2/18/2021	Northeast Highlands			Ribera area.
Cold/Wind Chill	2/15/2021	Guadalupe County			Wind chills of about 18 below zero.
Cold/Wind Chill	2/15/2021	Quay County			Wind chills were estimated to be about 18 below to 20 below zero.
Cold/Wind Chill	2/15/2021	Roosevelt County			Wind chills were estimated to be about 18 below to 20 below zero.
Extreme Cold/Wind Chill	2/15/2021	Northeast Highlands			Wind chills were estimated to be about 25 below to 28 below zero.
Heavy Snow	2/15-2/18/2021	Jemez Mountains	9"		Valles Caldera.
Heavy Snow	2/16-2/18/2021	Far Northeast Highlands	4"		Philmont Scout Ranch.
High Wind	2/23/2021	Quay County	52 kt	Gust	Tucumcari reported peak wind gusts of 60 mph.

\*Storm reports are considered preliminary until a final review is certified in the NWS Storm Data publication. Certified data is available three to four months post-event at: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>





-  NCEI Climatological Rankings: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/national/rankings>
-  PRISM Climate Data: <http://www.prism.oregonstate.edu/>
-  NWS Local Climate Pages: <https://w2.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=abq>
-  NCEI Storm Data: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>
-  Questions?: [sr-abq.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-abq.webmaster@noaa.gov)
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