



Synopsis

May 2021 was warmer than normal in the west and central areas, and near normal in the east. Precipitation ranged from well below normal in the southwest to well above normal in the northeast! Severe weather was the theme for May, especially over the last week of the month.

Note: The new 1991-2020 normals are used in this summary.



Feliz River Draw flash flooding – May 30, 2021
©Jim Tucker



Large hail in Albuquerque – May 31, 2021
©Michael Shackely



Land Spout near Abo – May 17, 2021
©Crystal Forni (Twitter)

May 2021 Climate Summary

State Temperatures

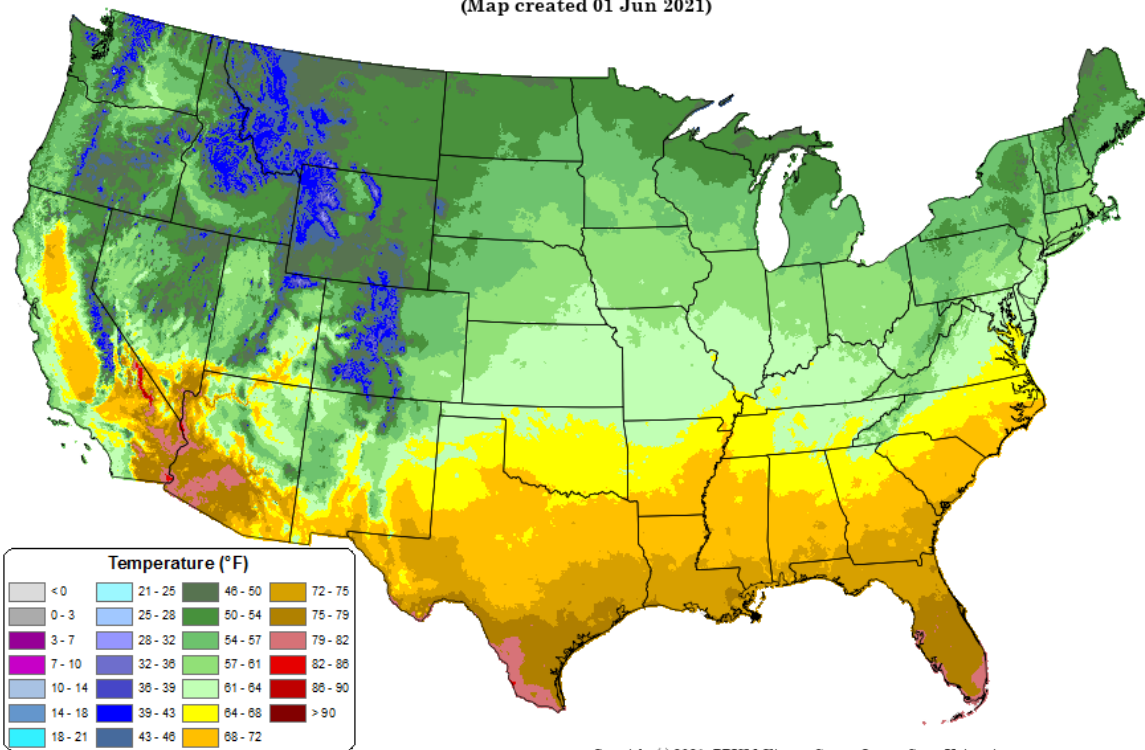
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Issued January 8, 2022 8:32 PM MDT



Actual

Average Daily Mean Temperature: 01 May 2021 - 31 May 2021

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 May 2021
(Map created 01 Jun 2021)

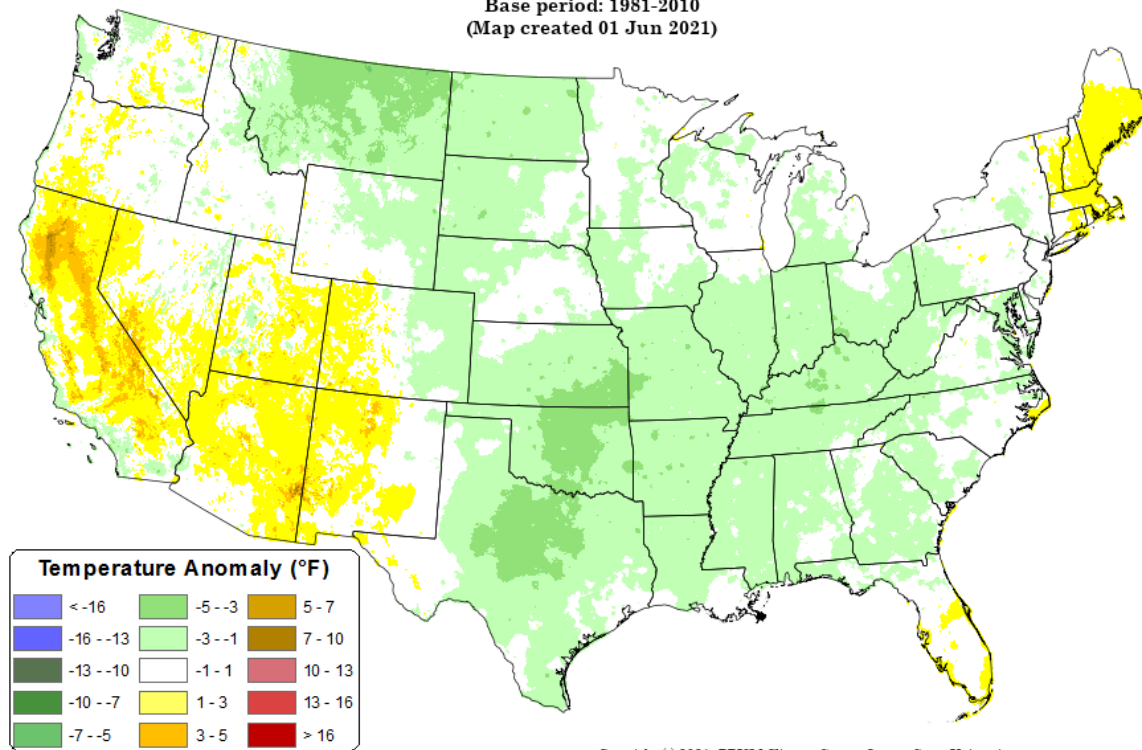


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Anomaly

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: 01 May 2021 - 31 May 2021

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 May 2021
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 01 Jun 2021)



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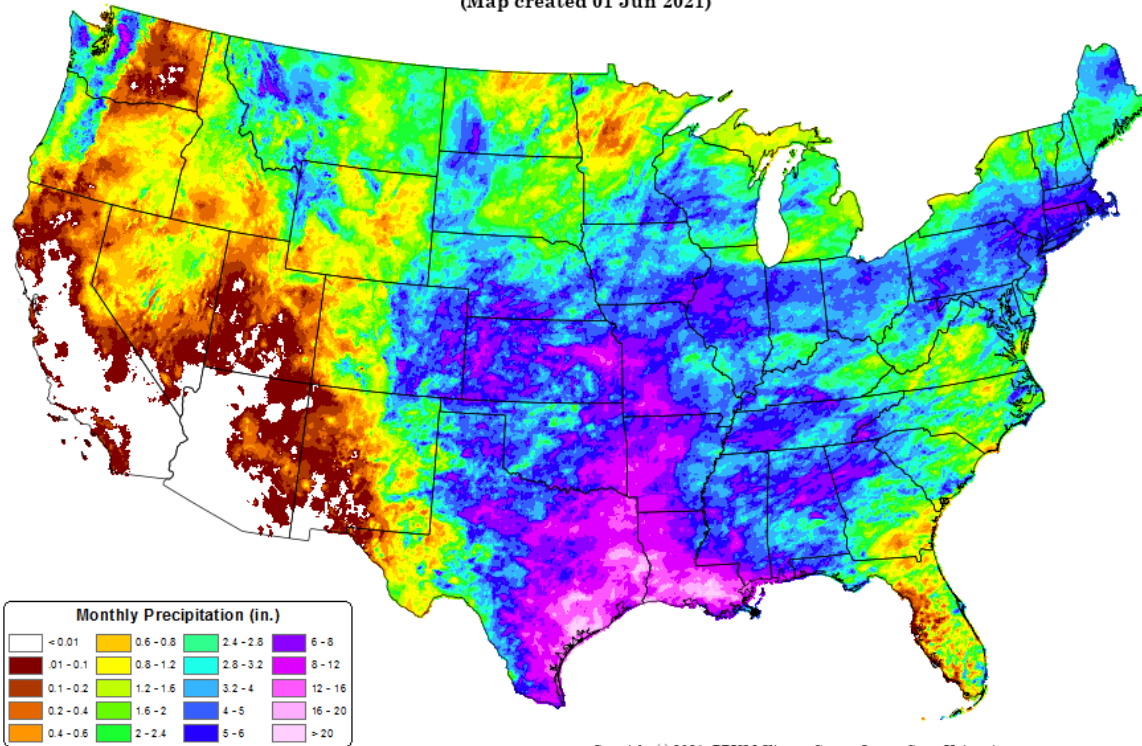
Temperatures were above normal in the west and central areas, and near normal in the east.



Actual

Total Precipitation: 01 May 2021 - 31 May 2021

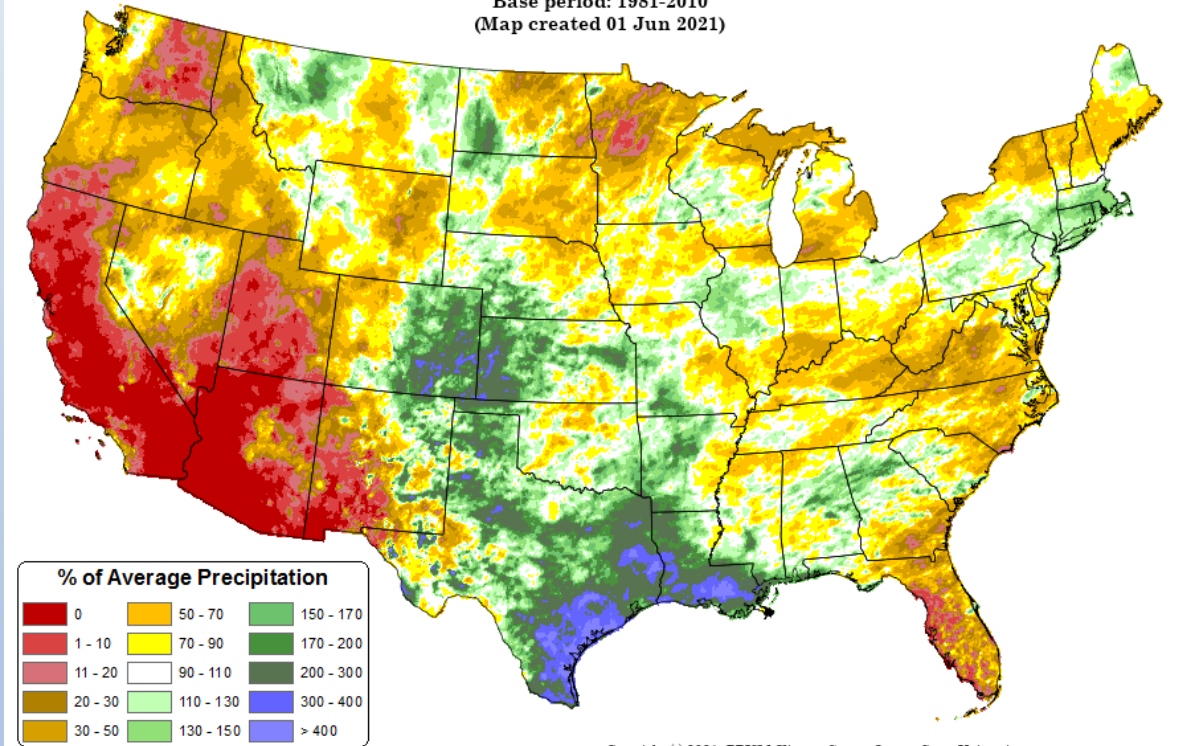
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 May 2021
(Map created 01 Jun 2021)



Anomaly

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 May 2021 - 31 May 2021

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 May 2021
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 01 Jun 2021)



Precipitation ranged from much below normal in the southwest, to much above normal in the northeast!

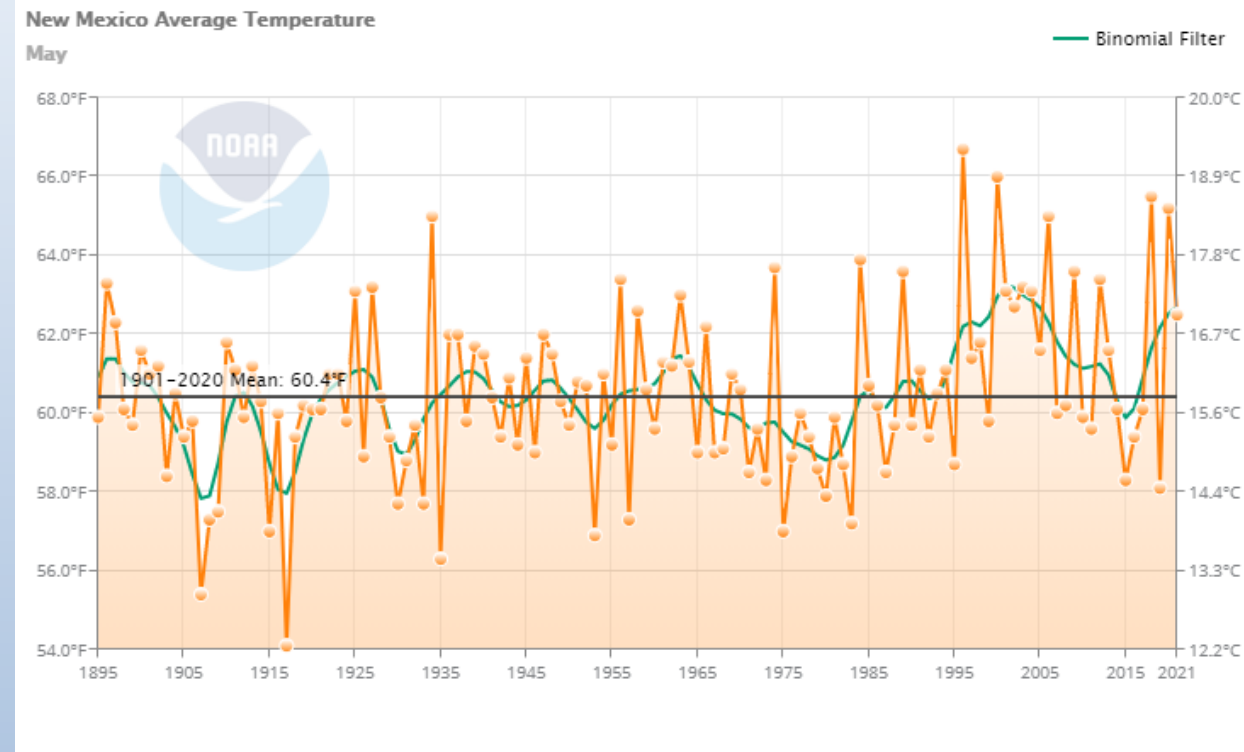
May 2021 Climate Summary

Statewide Temperature & Precipitation Trends

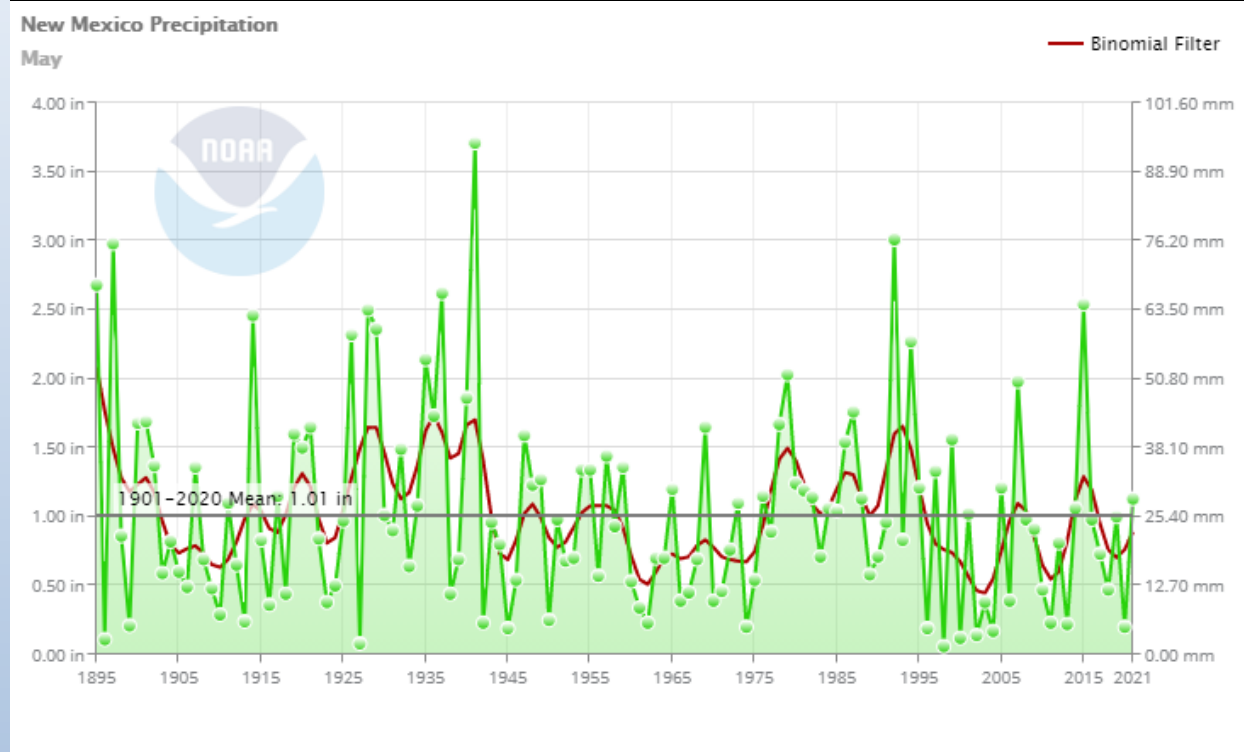
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Temperature



Precipitation



The average statewide temperature was 62.5°, which was 2.1° above the long-term normal of 60.4° (1901-2020). This ranked as the 22nd warmest May on record.

The average statewide precipitation was 1.13", which was 0.12" above the long-term normal of 1.01" (1901-2020). This ties the 45th wettest May on record.

May 2021 Climate Summary

Albuquerque Sunport Temperatures

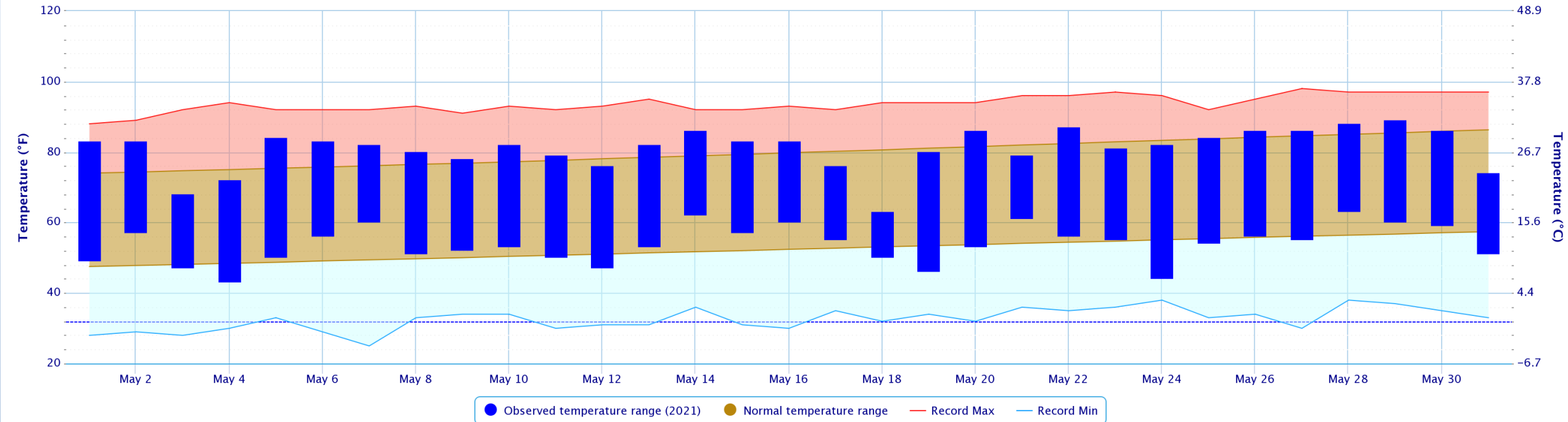
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(New 1991-2020 normals) Average Temperature: 67.4°

Daily Temperature Data – Albuquerque Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – 1891-12-01 to 2021-05-31. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Powered by ACIS

The average May temperature for Albuquerque was 67.4°, which was 1.3° above the normal of 66.1°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 81.0°. This was 1.1° above the normal average maximum temperature of 79.9°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 53.7°. This was 1.3° above the normal average minimum temperature of 52.4°. May 2021 was tied for the 17th warmest May on record.

May 2021 Climate Summary

Albuquerque Sunport Precipitation

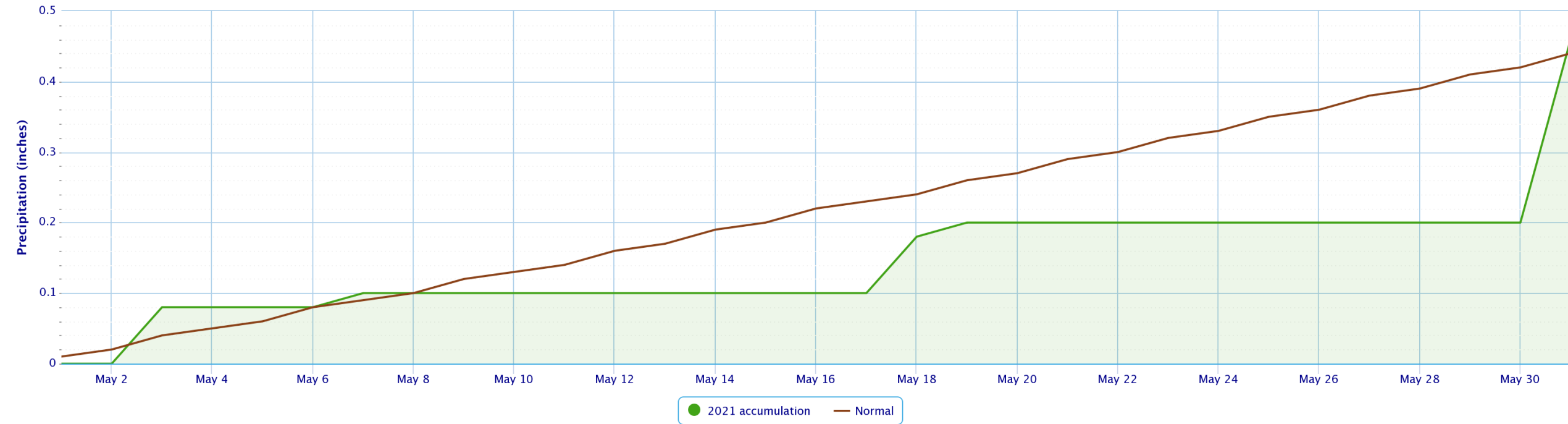
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(New 1991-2020 normals) Total Precipitation: 0.46"

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 0.46" of precipitation measured at the Sunport, compared to the normal of 0.44", or 0.02" above normal. Snowfall did not occur, which is normal. This was the 45th wettest May on record (1892-2021).

May 2021 Climate Summary

Clayton Temperatures

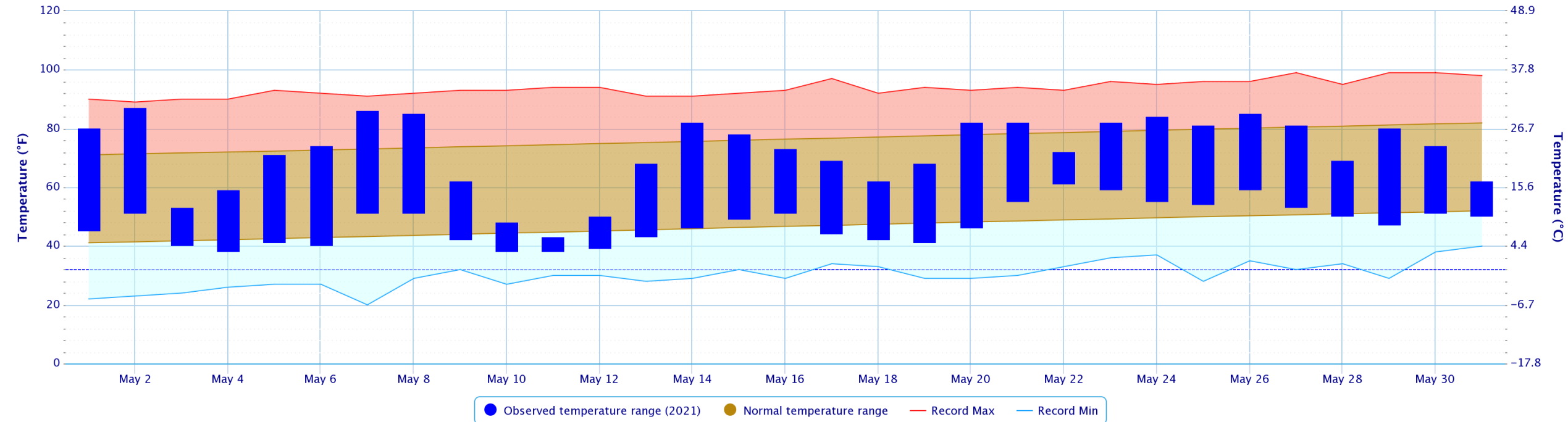
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(New 1991-2020 normals) Average Temperature: 59.7°

Daily Temperature Data – Clayton Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – 1896-02-01 to 2021-05-31. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Powered by ACIS

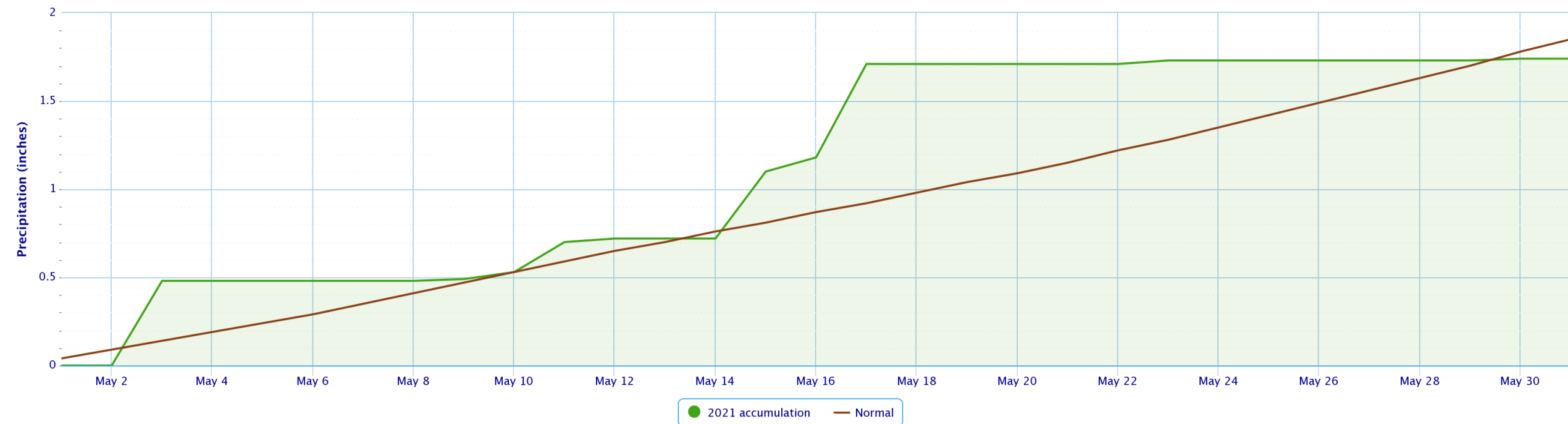
The average May temperature for Clayton was 59.7°, which was 1.8° below the normal of 61.5°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 72.0°. This was 4.4° below the normal average maximum temperature of 76.4°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 47.4°. This was 0.8° above the normal average minimum temperature of 46.6°. May 2021 was the 37th coolest May on record.



(New 1991-2020 normals) Total Precipitation 1.74"

Accumulated Precipitation – Clayton 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 1.74" of precipitation measured at Clayton in May 2021, compared to the normal of 1.85", or 0.11" below normal. Note there was no precipitation over the last 2 weeks of the month. This ranks as the 14th driest May on record (1892-2021). There was no snow, compared to the normal of 0.5".

May 2021 Climate Summary

Roswell Temperatures

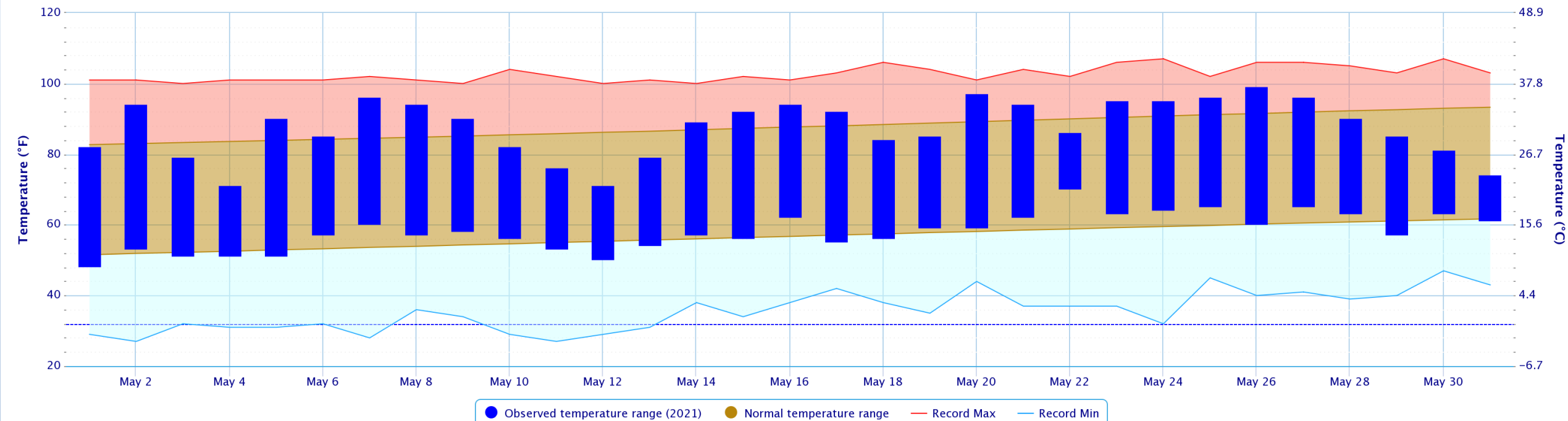
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(New 1991-2020 normals) Average Temperature: 72.7°

Daily Temperature Data – Roswell Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – Max temperature: 1893-01-03 to 2021-05-31; Min temperature: 1893-01-21 to 2021-05-31. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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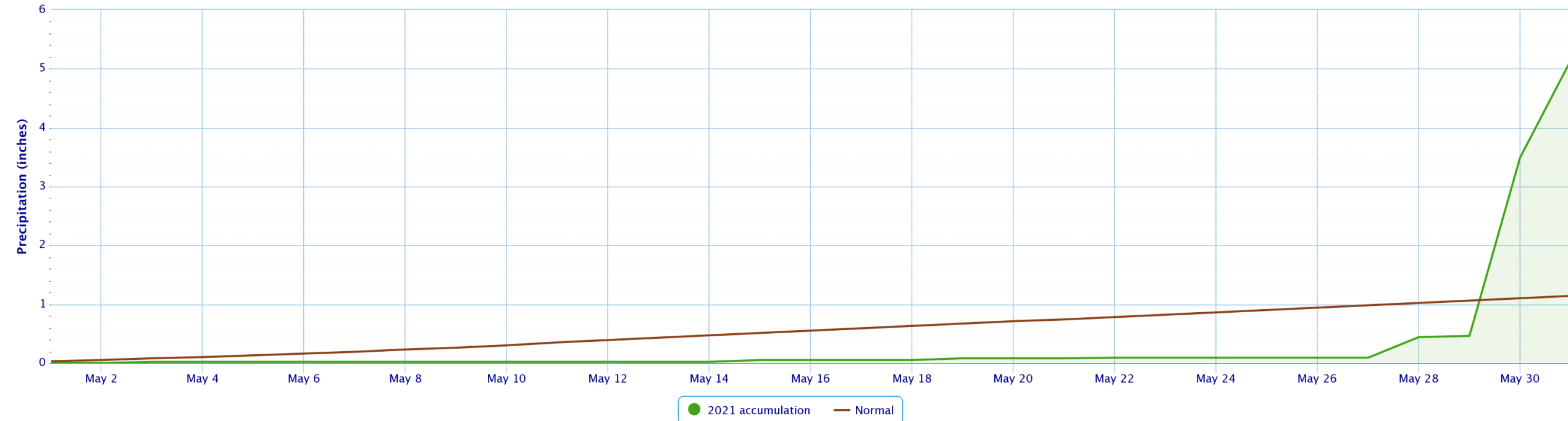
The average May temperature for Roswell was 72.7°, which was 0.4° above the normal of 72.3°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 87.5°. This was 0.3° below the average maximum temperature of 87.8°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 57.9°. This was 1.2° above the normal average minimum temperature of 56.7°. May 2021 the 12th warmest May on record.



(New 1991-2020 normals) Total Precipitation 5.14"

Accumulated Precipitation – Roswell 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 5.14" of precipitation measured at Roswell, compared to the normal of 1.14", or 4.00" above normal! This ranks as the 3rd wettest May on record (1892-2021)! There was no snow, which is normal. Only one May had measurable snow, that was 0.2 inches in 1935. Six May's had a trace of snow.



May 4

May 25

U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico

May 4, 2021

(Released Thursday, May 6, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.37	80.50	52.12
Last Week 04-27-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.37	80.93	53.16
3 Months Ago 02-02-2021	0.00	100.00	99.96	99.57	81.83	54.03
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.97	99.59	82.26	53.20
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.92	73.65	39.88	2.90
One Year Ago 05-05-2020	52.57	47.43	28.14	15.44	0.49	0.00

Intensity:

	None		D2 Severe Drought
	D0 Abnormally Dry		D3 Extreme Drought
	D1 Moderate Drought		D4 Exceptional Drought

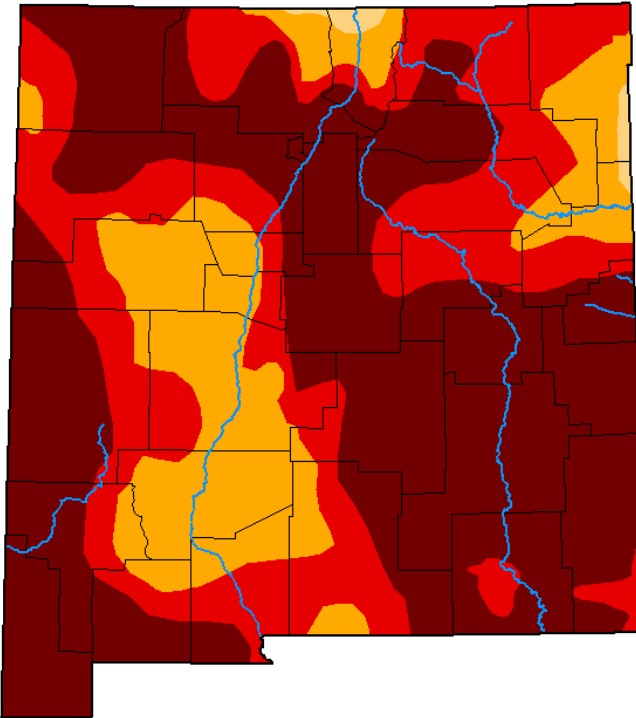
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico

May 25, 2021

(Released Thursday, May 27, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.01	99.99	99.47	94.88	74.71	46.72
Last Week 05-18-2021	0.00	100.00	99.67	96.89	77.51	47.82
3 Months Ago 02-23-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.91	82.03	54.24
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.97	99.59	82.26	53.20
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.92	73.65	39.88	2.90
One Year Ago 05-26-2020	32.47	67.53	37.62	23.07	4.44	0.00

Intensity:

	None		D2 Severe Drought
	D0 Abnormally Dry		D3 Extreme Drought
	D1 Moderate Drought		D4 Exceptional Drought

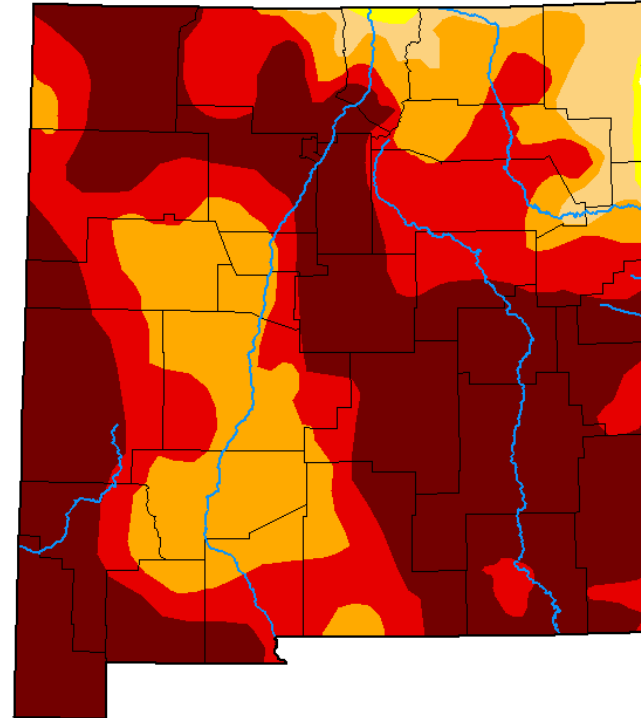
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Adam Hartman
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Some improvement to drought conditions during May 2021, mostly in the northeast. Extreme to exceptional drought covers nearly 75% of the state, of which almost 47% is exceptional (D4) drought.

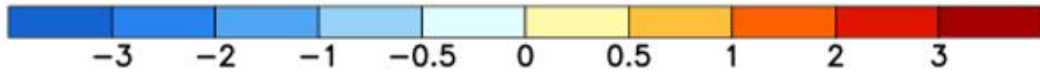
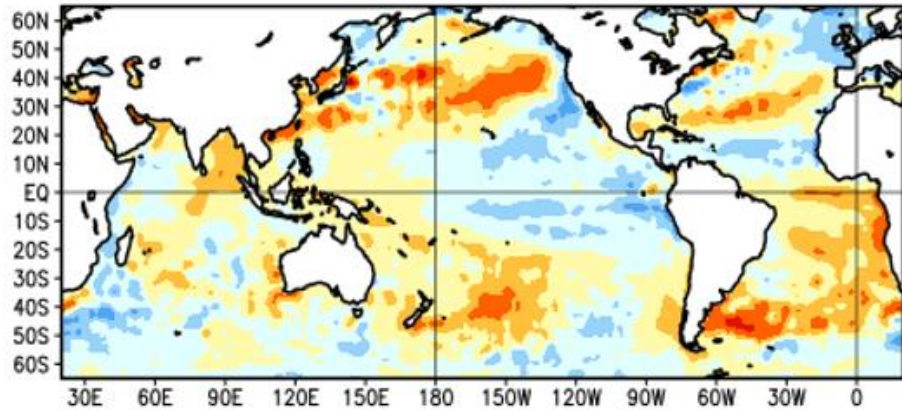
May 2021 Climate Summary

ENSO

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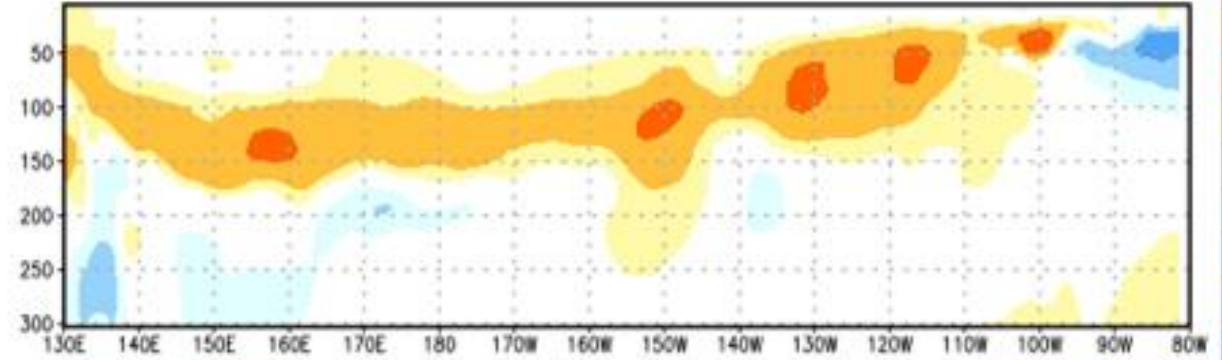


Average SST Anomalies
2 MAY 2021 – 29 MAY 2021

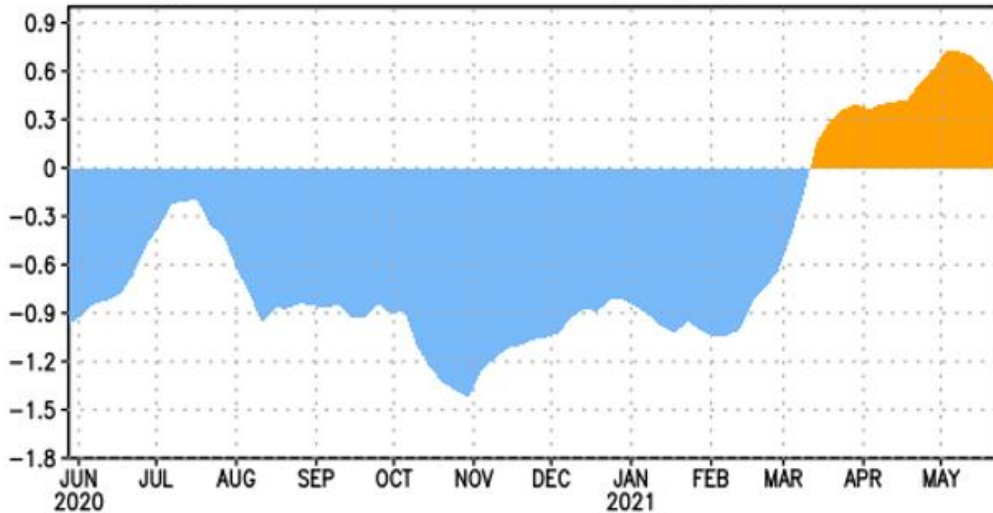


EQ. Subsurface Temperature Anomalies (deg C)

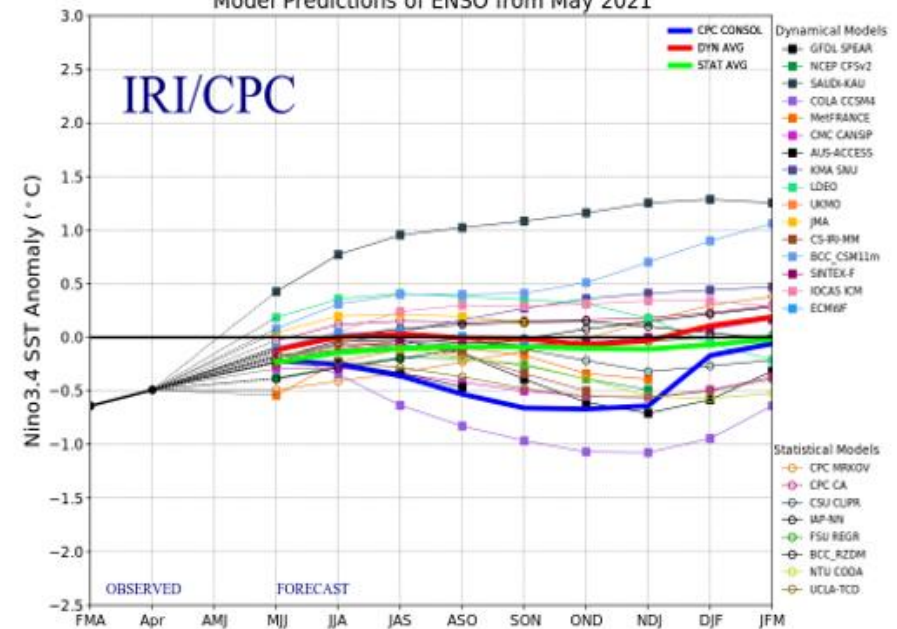
Pentad centered on 23 MAY 2021



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



Model Predictions of ENSO from May 2021



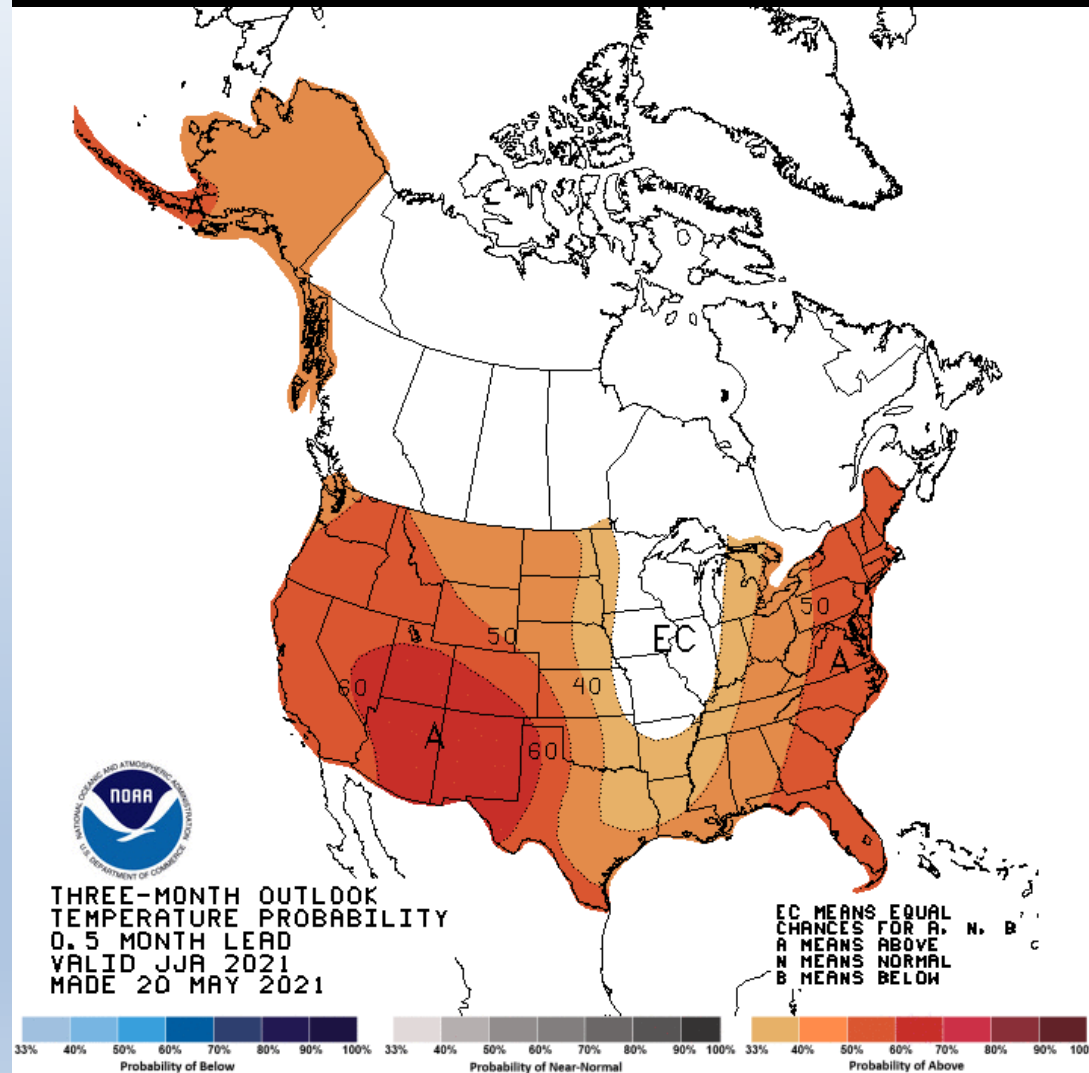
May 2021 Climate Summary

90 Day Temperature & Precipitation Outlook

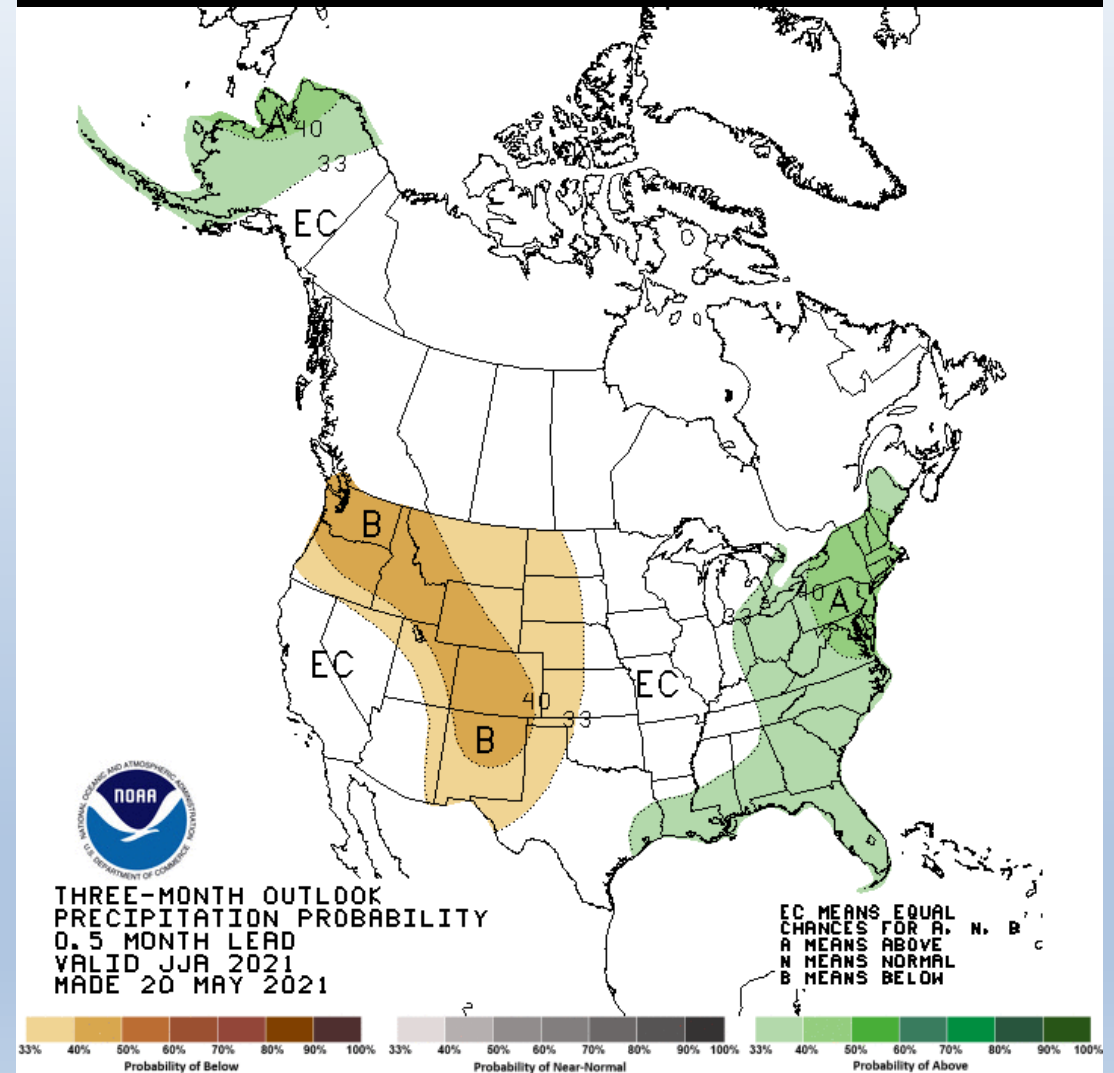
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Temperature June-July-August



Precipitation June-July-August



The three month climate outlook strongly favors above normal temperature probabilities, while precipitation has a trend toward below normal, especially in the north. This would favor persistent/worsening drought conditions in NM.

May 2021 Climate Summary

Severe Weather*

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Type	Begin Date	County/Zone Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
Hail	5/3/2021	Chaves	0.88"		Nickel size hail northwest of Roswell.
Hail	5/3/2021	Chaves	0.75"		Penny size hail reported in Roswell.
Hail	5/3/2021	Chaves	1.75"		Golf ball size hail near Mesa with significant damage to nearby ranch.
Hail	5/7/2021	Socorro	0.88"		Lemitar reported nickel size hail from a strong thunderstorm.
Hail	5/9/2021	Quay	1"		Quarter size hail near Logan.
High Wind	5/11/2021	Middle RGV/ABQ Metro	57 kt	Gust	Albuquerque measured a peak wind gust of 66 mph.
Wildfire	5/2-5/4/2021	Northwest Plateau	422 acres		Wildfire near Shiprock. One building was destroyed.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/14/2021	Roosevelt	52 kt	Gust	A spotter in Tolar estimated 60 mph wind gusts with damage to some trees.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/14/2021	Quay	52 kt	Gust	A spotter in Logan measured a 60 mph.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/14/2021	Socorro	51 kt	Gust	Belen measured 59 mph wind gusts.
Hail	5/14/2021	Curry	0.88"		A spotter in Texico reported nickel size hail.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/14/2021	Chaves	60 kt	Gust	Roswell measured a 69 mph thunderstorm wind gust.
Hail	5/15/2021	Colfax	1"		Several inches of quarter size hail was reported around Capulin.
Hail	5/15/2021	Roosevelt	1.25"		A spotter in Portales measured half dollar size hail.
Hail	5/15/2021	Quay	0.75"		Penny size hail was reported just east-southeast of Tucumcari.
Hail	5/15/2021	Roosevelt	0.75"		A spotter reported penny size hail in Portales.
Hail	5/15/2021	Roosevelt	1.75"		Quarters to the golf ball size hail was reported in Portales with some damage.
Flash Flood	5/15/2021	Roosevelt	2-4"		Significant flash flooding and water rescues were observed around Portales.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/15/2021	Quay	51 kt	Gust	Tucumcari recorded a 59 mph wind gust.
Hail	5/16/2021	Harding	0.88"		A spotter reported nickel size hail in Mills.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/9/2021	Curry	78 kt	Gust	A microburst with estimated 70 to 90 mph winds caused significant damage around Grady.
Hail	5/17/2021	Taos	0.75"		Red River reported penny size hail.
Hail	5/17/2021	Santa Fe	1"		Quarter size hail produced minor damage near Los Cerrillos.
Hail	5/17/2021	De Baca	1"		Quarter size hail was reported in Yeso.
Hail	5/17/2021	Guadalupe	0.88"		Nickel size hail was reported near Vaughn.
Hail	5/17/2021	Santa Fe	0.75"		Penny size hail was reported near Agua Fria.

*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/>

May 2021 Climate Summary

Severe Weather*

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Type	Begin Date	County/Zone Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
Hail	5/17/2021	Santa Fe	0.75"		Penny size hail was reported southeast of Santa Fe.
Hail	5/17/2021	Quay	0.88"		Nickel size hail was reported near House.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/17/2021	San Miguel	51 kt	Gust	Las Vegas measured a 59 mph wind gust.
Tornado	5/17/2021	Socorro			A brief landspout tornado was reported near Abo.
Tornado	5/17/2021	Valencia			A brief landspout was reported near Bosque Farms.
Tornado	5/17/2021	Sandoval			A brief landspout tornado was reported near Kewa Pueblo.
Tornado	5/17/2021	Curry			A brief tornado was reported north of Melrose.
Tornado	5/17/2021	Quay			A brief tornado was reported near Nara Visa.
Funnel Cloud	5/17/2021	Santa Fe			A funnel cloud was spotted near the Santa Fe airport.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/21/2021	Roosevelt	64 kt	Gust	The Portales airport measured a 74 mph wind gust.
Hail	5/21/2021	Roosevelt	0.75"		A severe thunderstorm produced penny size hail in Portales.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/21/2021	Quay	70 kt	Gust	Tucumcari measured an 81 mph wind gust from a severe thunderstorm.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/9/2021	Curry	73 kt	Gust	A school weather station measured a peak wind gust of 84 mph from a thunderstorm microburst.
Wildfire	5/16-5/17/2021	Northwest Plateau			A grass fire caused property damage near CR-5211 and U.S. 64 between Bloomfield and Lee Acres.
Hail	5/22/2021	Santa Fe	1"		An observer reported quarter size hail northeast of Santa Fe.
Hail	5/22/2021	Santa Fe	1"		Quarter size hail was reported southwest of Santa Fe.
Hail	5/22/2021	Santa Fe	0.75"		A COOP observer reported penny size hail near Santa Fe.
Hail	5/22/2021	Santa Fe	1.5"		Glorieta reported quarter to ping pong ball size hail with minor property damage.
Hail	5/22/2021	Lincoln	0.75"		A CoCoRaHS observer near Capitan reported penny size hail.
High Wind	5/22/2021	Middle RGV/ABQ Metro	52 kt	Gust	An ASOS station in Albuquerque measured a peak non-thunderstorm wind gust of 60 mph.
Hail	5/22/2021	Lincoln	1.5"		Ping pong size hail was reported around Fort Stanton.
Hail	5/22/2021	San Miguel	2"		A trained spotter reported two inch hail from a severe thunderstorm near Rociada.
High Wind	5/22/2021	Southwest Mountains	52 kt	Gust	Red Hill measured a peak non-thunderstorm wind gust of 60 mph.
Hail	5/22/2021	Santa Fe	1"		Nickel to quarter size hail was reported near Agua Fria.
Hail	5/22/2021	Santa Fe	0.75"		A COOP observer near Santa Fe reported penny size hail with minor vehicle damage.
Hail	5/22/2021	Santa Fe	1"		Penny to quarter size hail was reported southwest of Santa Fe.
Hail	5/22/2021	Colfax	1.25"		Half dollar size hail was reported from a severe thunderstorm near Cimarron.

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Type	Begin Date	County/Zone Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
Thunderstorm Wind	5/22/2021	Chaves	52 kt	Gust	A spotter measured a 60 mph wind gust near Hagerman.
High Wind	5/22/2021	Far Northwest Plateau	58 kt	Gust	Archuleta measured a 67 mph non-thunderstorm wind gust.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/22/2021	Chaves	57 kt	Gust	Roswell measured a 66 mph wind gust.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/22/2021	Guadalupe	59 kt	Gust	A spotter measured a 68 mph wind gust.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/22/2021	Quay	60 kt	Gust	An ASOS station in Tucumcari measured a 69 mph wind gust.
Hail	5/23/2021	Union	1"		A spotter near Amistad reported quarter size hail.
High Wind	5/23/2021	Far Northeast Highlands	51 kt	Gust	Raton measured a peak non-thunderstorm wind gust of 59 mph.
Hail	5/24/2021	Curry	1.75"		Clovis reported quarter to golf ball size hail.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/26/2021	Chaves	51 kt	Gust	Roswell measured a 59 mph wind gust.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/26/2021	Chaves	56 kt	Gust	An observer at 2nd and Union in Roswell measured a 65 mph wind gust.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/26/2021	Roosevelt	52 kt	Gust	A station near Dora measured a 60 mph wind gust.
Hail	5/28/2021	San Miguel	1"		An observer reported quarter size hail.
Tornado	5/28/2021	Colfax			A severe thunderstorm near Maxwell produced twin tornadoes (one classic and one landspout).
Hail	5/28/2021	Union	1.5"		An observer near Capulin reported quarter inch to ping pong ball size hail with minor property damage.
Hail	5/28/2021	Guadalupe	1"		A spotter near Milagro reported penny to quarter size hail.
Hail	5/28/2021	Lincoln	1.5"		A spotter southeast of Corona reported a mixture of pea size to ping pong size hail.
Hail	5/28/2021	Quay	1"		A spotter reported quarter size hail along I-40.
Hail	5/28/2021	Torrance	1"		A observer near Encino reported quarter size hail.
Hail	5/28/2021	Lincoln	0.88"		Nickel size hail was reported near Corona with accumulation on the highway.
Hail	5/28/2021	Guadalupe	0.75"		A spotter reported penny size hail near Vaughn.
Hail	5/28/2021	Quay	1"		A spotter reported quarter size hail along U.S. Highway 209 near Quay.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/28/2021	De Baca	50 kt	Gust	A spotter near Fort Sumner measured a 58 mph wind gust with pea size hail.
Tornado	5/28/2021	Lincoln			A storm chaser reported a tornado north-northeast of Arabela.
Hail	5/28/2021	Lincoln	2"		A severe thunderstorm north of Arabela produced quarter to hen egg size hail.
Hail	5/28/2021	Chaves	1"		A storm chaser reported quarter size hail near Roswell.
Hail	5/28/2021	Chaves	3"		Storm chasers reported quarter to baseball size hail near Midway with lots of damage.
Hail	5/28/2021	Chaves	1"		Quarter size hail was reported from a severe thunderstorm near Roswell.

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Type	Begin Date	County/Zone Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
Hail	5/28/2021	Roosevelt	1.75"		Observers reported quarter to golf ball size hail near Portales.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/28/2021	Roosevelt	56 kt	Gust	An observer estimated 65 mph wind gusts in Portales.
Hail	5/28/2021	Chaves	3"		Baseball size hail produced damage around Dexter.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/28/2021	Chaves	52 kt	Gust	Severe thunderstorm winds produced damage around Dexter.
Hail	5/28/2021	Curry	1"		Clovis reported quarter size hail.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/28/2021	Curry	61 kt	Gust	Estimated 60 to 70 mph winds moved through Clovis.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/28/2021	Curry	57 kt	Gust	Clovis measured a 66 mph wind gust.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/28/2021	Chaves	52 kt	Gust	A spotter near Hagerman reported a snapped power pole along Morgan Road west of SR-2.
Hail	5/28/2021	Quay	1.75"		Ragland reported a mixture of quarter to golf ball size hail.
Flash Flood	5/28/2021	Lincoln			The NASA CSBF southeast of Corona measured 5.77" of rainfall.
Hail	5/29/2021	Harding	1"		A spotter west-southwest of Roy reported quarter size hail with minor property damage.
Hail	5/29/2021	San Miguel	1.5"		Bell Ranch reported ping pong ball size hail with property damage.
Hail	5/30/2021	Colfax	0.75"		A spotter in Raton reported penny size hail from a strong thunderstorm.
Hail	5/30/2021	Santa Fe	1.25"		An observer reported half dollar size hail near La Cienega.
Hail	5/30/2021	Lincoln	1.75"		Spotters in Tinnie reported hail ranging from the size of nickels to golf balls.
Hail	5/30/2021	Mora	1"		A spotter near Ocate reported quarter size hail.
Flash Flood	5/30/2021	Lincoln			Widespread flooding of roads and low water crossings near Hondo resulted in one fatality.
Tornado	5/30/2021	Union			A thunderstorm near Moses produced a brief tornado.
Tornado	5/30/2021	Quay			A storm chaser reported a brief tornado near the intersection of CR-62 and CR-O.
Hail	5/30/2021	Chaves	1.5"		A spotter near Dexter reported ping pong ball size hail.
Hail	5/30/2021	Chaves	0.88"		A spotter near Greenfield reported nickel size hail.
Hail	5/30/2021	Roosevelt	1"		A spotter near Milnesand reported nickel to quarter size hail.
Flash Flood	5/30/2021	Chaves	2-4"		Significant flash flooding and water rescues were observed around Roswell.
Flash Flood	5/30/2021	Chaves	2-4"		Significant flash flooding and water rescues were observed around Dexter.
Flash Flood	5/30/2021	Chaves			Spotters reported flash flooding along U.S. 285 near Midway with water rescues and damage to homes.
Tornado	5/31/2021	Socorro			A spotter south of U.S. 380 observed a brief landspout tornado near Bingham.
Tornado	5/31/2021	Socorro			A spotter observed a brief landspout near Veguita. No damage was recorded.

*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/>

May 2021 Climate Summary

Severe Weather*








Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM
Issued January 8, 2022 8:32 PM MDT



Type	Begin Date	County/Zone Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
Hail	5/31/2021	Sandoval	1"		Observers near Rio Rancho reported quarter size hail.
Hail	5/31/2021	Bernalillo	0.88"		An observer near Golf Course and Subio in northwest Albuquerque reported nickel size hail.
Hail	5/31/2021	Bernalillo	1"		A spotter near Coors Bypass in northwest Albuquerque reported quarter size hail.
Hail	5/31/2021	Bernalillo	0.75"		An observer near Ellison and Golf Course in northwest Albuquerque reported penny size hail.
Flash Flood	5/31/2021	Chaves			Major flash flooding occurred across southern Roswell with many roadways underwater.
Flash Flood	5/31/2021	Bernalillo			Major flash flooding occurred along parts of western ABQ with numerous flooded roadways and homes.
Thunderstorm Wind	5/29/2021	Union	50 kt	Gust	Clayton measured a 58 mph wind gust .

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-  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/>
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