

# West Texas/Southeastern New Mexico Climate Summary for May 2017



Midland/Odessa  
Texas



U.S. National Weather  
Service Midland, TX



@NWSMidland

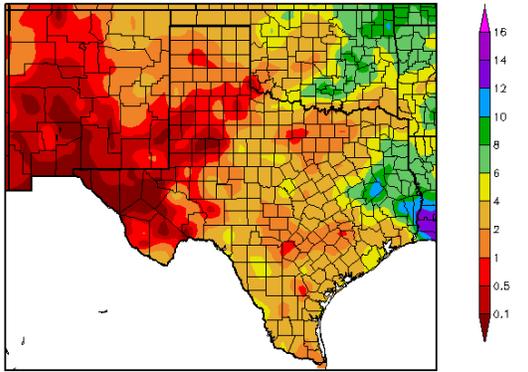
## May 2017 Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, and Wind Summary

**May 1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>:** May began with a warm and dry week across west Texas and southeastern New Mexico. High temperatures on the 1<sup>st</sup> were mainly in the 70s and 80s and increased on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with highs in the 80s and 90s. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, a dry cold front swept through the region bringing gusty winds and below normal temperatures. A few of the highest wind gusts included 55mph at Guadalupe Peak, TX, 49mph in Carlsbad, NM, and 42mph at Midland International Air & Space Port (MAF). Temperatures were below normal on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> with highs mainly in the 70s and lows in the 40s. Surface high pressure built over the region on the 6<sup>th</sup> and temperatures increased to at or above normal. Highest temperatures on the 6<sup>th</sup> were 100°F in Pecos, TX, 99°F in Presidio, TX, and 97°F in Carlsbad, NM. Moisture moved into the region by the 8<sup>th</sup> due to cut-off low pressure over the southwestern United States. A few strong to severe storms impacted Eddy and Lea Counties in southeastern New Mexico on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The upper-level low slowly progressed eastward and more thunderstorms occurred on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Numerous storms initiated ahead of a cold front in Eddy and Lea Counties and became strong to severe. Hail up to 1.00" was reported near Carlsbad, NM and a Tornado Warning was issued for a possible funnel cloud near Tatum, NM. Highest rainfall totals on the 9<sup>th</sup> were 0.60" in Seminole, TX 0.50" in Jal, NM, and 0.40" in Caprock, NM. During the morning hours of the 10<sup>th</sup>, storms merged along the cold front and moved across the northern Permian Basin. Rainfall amounts on the 10<sup>th</sup> included 0.30" in Odessa, TX, and 0.05" at MAF. Cooler temperatures were present from the 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> with daily averages down to 5°F below normal. High pressure returned to the region on the 14<sup>th</sup>, however a small disturbance moved across the Mexico border and provided instability for thunderstorms over Big Bend National Park. Lightning sparked a small wildfire that grew to over 1000 acres and forced parts of the park to close until the fire was contained. On the 14<sup>th</sup> temperatures increased area-wide to over 10°F above normal in some locations. Hottest temperatures on the 14<sup>th</sup> included 104°F at Rio Grande Village, TX, 103°F in Castolon, TX, and 100°F in Carlsbad, NM. Isolated evening storms developed and some became severe near Andrews, TX, Goldsmith, TX and Fort Stockton, TX. Rain cleared out of the region by the 15<sup>th</sup> and temperatures remained well above normal.

**May 16<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>:** A retreating dryline collided with a cold front over west Texas on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup>. A line of severe storms exploded along the front and raced eastward. Hail between quarter and golf ball size fell in parts of Odessa and Midland, TX. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, temperatures returned to near normal except for extreme heat along the Rio Grande. Moisture returned to the eastern counties on the 18<sup>th</sup> and thunderstorms occurred in the early morning hours of the 19<sup>th</sup>. Severe Thunderstorm Warnings and a Tornado Warning were issued between Odessa, TX and Colorado City, TX where rainfall totals included 0.85" in Colorado City, TX, 0.53" in Big Spring, TX, and 0.27" at MAF. A strong cold front moved through the region on the 20<sup>th</sup> which kept temperatures well below average through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Several rounds of storms occurred during this period. Heavy rain fell on the 21<sup>st</sup> along the Rio Grande which caused flooding. Greatest rainfall totals on the 21<sup>st</sup> were 3.90" in Lajitas, TX, 2.55" in Castolon, TX and 2.40" in Chisos Basin, TX. More rain fell on the 22<sup>nd</sup> mainly from southeastern New Mexico to the northern Permian Basin with totals including 0.38" in Fort Stockton, TX, and 0.28" in Odessa, TX. The area began to dry out and warm up on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and by the 24<sup>th</sup> the dryline moved into central Texas. Highs were in the 90s to lower 100s from the 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. MAF recorded its first 100°F day of the year on the 25<sup>th</sup> with a high of 102°F and also tied a record high of 100°F on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Other notable highs were 113°F in Rio Grande Village, TX, and 110°F in Terlingua, TX on the 25<sup>th</sup>. A cold front brought relief to the region on the 28<sup>th</sup> as temperatures dropped to at or below average. Temperatures remained around normal for the rest of May as multiple upper disturbances tracked through the region. Storms formed over the Davis Mountains and Big Bend National Park on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and the northern Permian Basin was impacted by storms that caused flash flooding on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Highest rainfall amounts from the 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> were 1.94" in Marathon, TX on the 29<sup>th</sup>, 0.90" in Bakersfield, TX on the 30<sup>th</sup>, and 1.60" in Odessa, TX on the 31<sup>st</sup>.



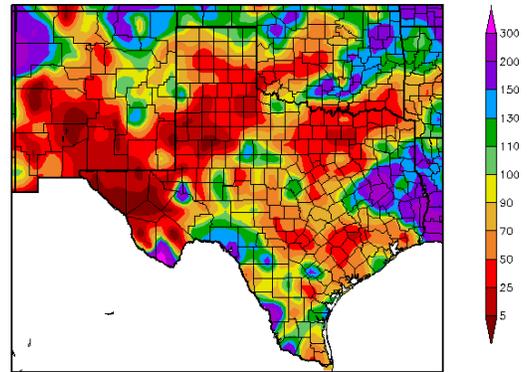
Precipitation (in)  
5/1/2017 – 5/31/2017



Generated 6/2/2017 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
5/1/2017 – 5/31/2017

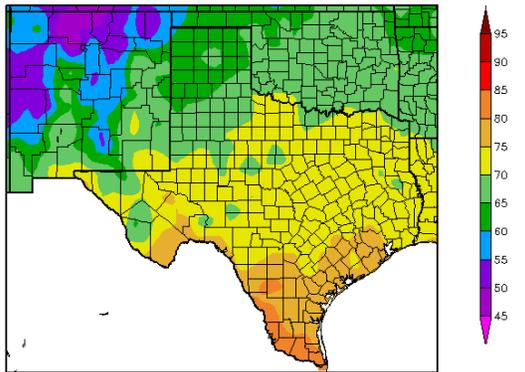


Generated 6/2/2017 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Precipitation in west Texas and southeastern New Mexico ranged from 0.00” at multiple locations to 4.98” in Lajitas, TX. The wettest areas were the Big Bend National Park, and parts of Crane, Glasscock, Pecos, Reagan, Terrell and Ward Counties. The driest regions were portions of Culberson, Jeff Davis, Martin and Reeves Counties.

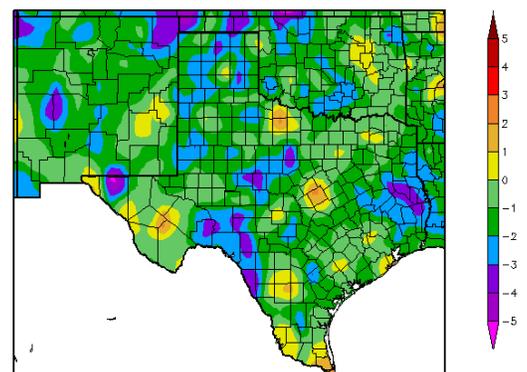
Temperature (F)  
5/1/2017 – 5/31/2017



Generated 6/2/2017 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
5/1/2017 – 5/31/2017

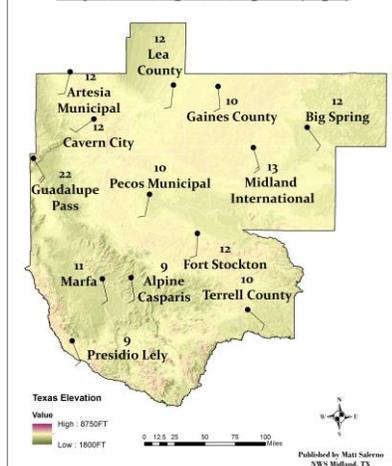


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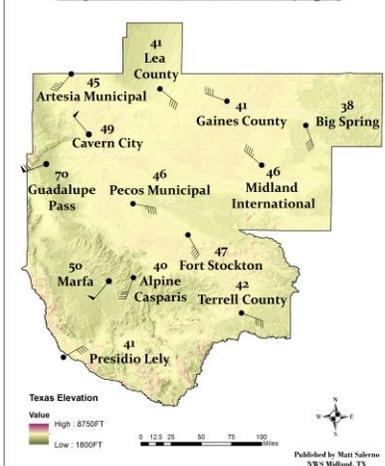
Regional Climate Centers

Average monthly temperatures ranged from near 56°F at Guadalupe Peak to about 83°F in Big Bend National Park. Most of west Texas and southeastern New Mexico experienced monthly temperatures at or below normal. Warmer than normal temperatures were present in Brewster and Jeff Davis Counties and along the Rio Grande in Presidio County.

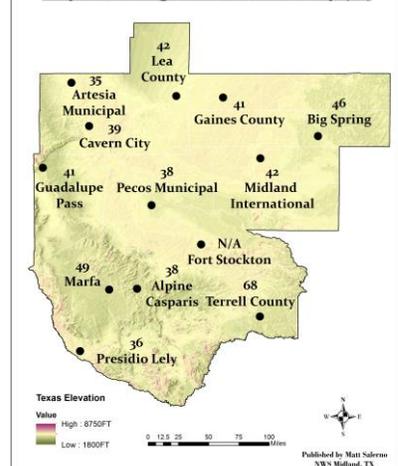
**May 2017 Avg Wind Speed (mph)**



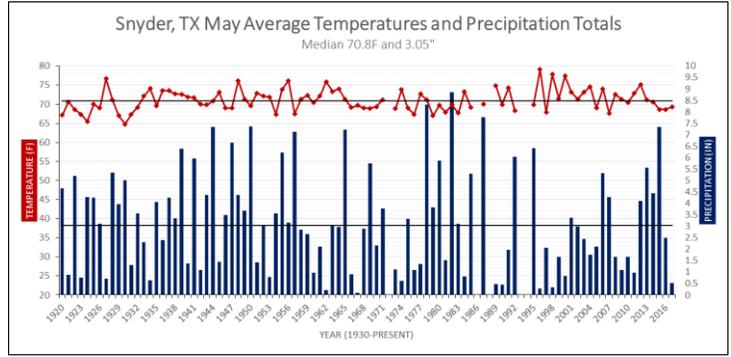
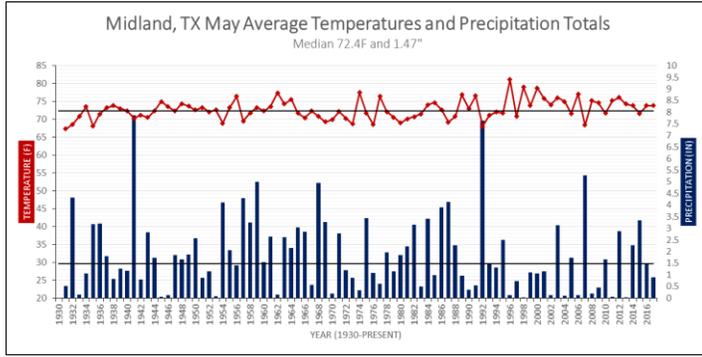
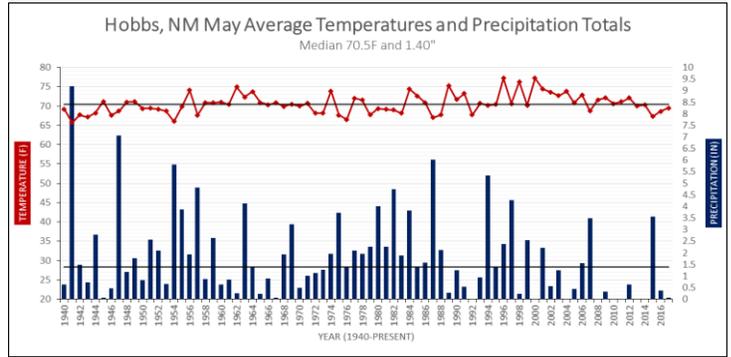
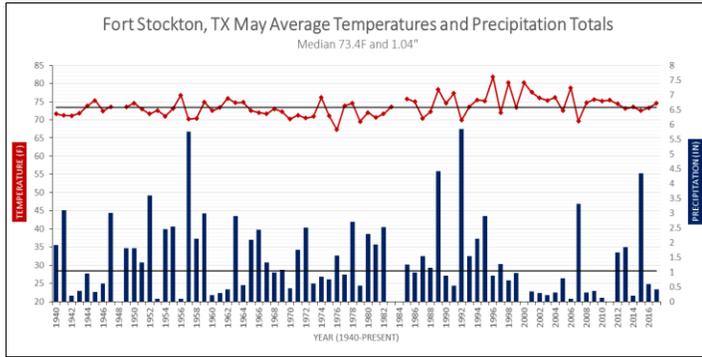
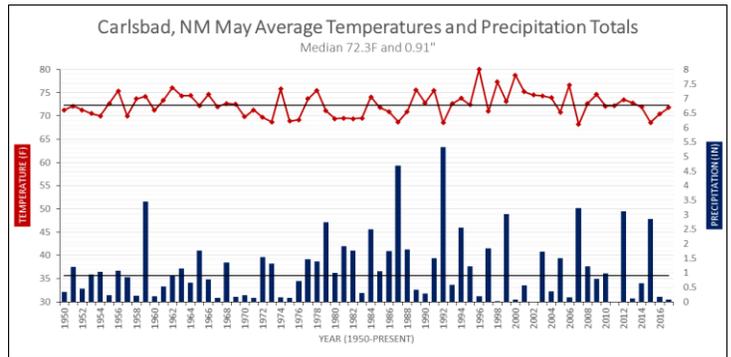
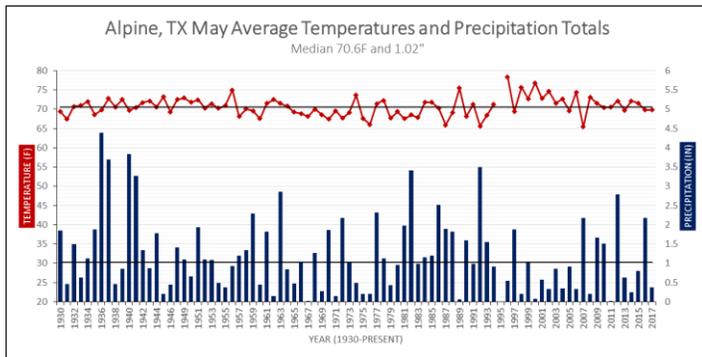
**May 2017 Max Wind Gust (mph)**



**May 2017 Avg Relative Humidity (%)**



Average wind speeds ranged from 9 mph at Alpine, TX and Presidio, TX to 22 mph at Guadalupe Pass, TX. The strongest wind gusts occurred at Guadalupe Pass, TX and Marfa, TX. Average relative humidity values ranged from 35-68%.



Note: Each location has a slightly different period of record. Data gaps within each graph indicate missing data for those years.

May Temperature and Precipitation	Avg Temp (°F)	Departure from Avg (°F)	Temp Ranking (Period of Record)	Precip (In.)	Departure from Avg (In.)	Precip Ranking (Period of Record)
Alpine COOP	69.8	-0.8	T-33 <sup>rd</sup> Coolest	0.38	-0.83	18 <sup>th</sup> Driest
Carlsbad Airport	71.8	-0.8	T-27 <sup>th</sup> Coolest	0.07	-1.38	4 <sup>th</sup> Driest
Fort Stockton COOP	74.5	+0.9	T-27 <sup>th</sup> Warmest	0.41	-1.05	T-18 <sup>th</sup> Driest
Hobbs COOP	69.5	-0.7	29 <sup>th</sup> Coolest	0.05	-1.80	7 <sup>th</sup> Driest
Midland International	73.8	+0.2	T-26 <sup>th</sup> Warmest	0.89	-0.85	28 <sup>th</sup> Driest
Snyder COOP	69.3	-1.7	T-30 <sup>th</sup> Coolest	0.53	-2.61	7 <sup>th</sup> Driest

The graphs above show May temperature and precipitation records for six individual weather stations at select cities. Average May temperatures were near normal at all six locations. The coolest city was Snyder, TX while both Fort Stockton, TX and Midland, TX were slightly warmer than normal. None of the six cities had temperature rankings inside the top ten for warmest/coolest May on record. Since 1995, a slight cooling trend in May temperatures is observed in each graph and years prior to 1995 are much more variable. Precipitation totals were below average at all six locations despite the number of storms that occurred throughout the month. This was most likely due to the hit-or-miss nature of heavy rainfall which occurred over mainly rural areas. Midland, TX received the most rainfall with a total of 0.89" and Carlsbad, NM received the least at 0.07". Snyder, TX had the greatest deficit compared to average. Hobbs, NM, and Snyder, TX recorded their 7<sup>th</sup> driest May on record and Carlsbad, NM experienced its 4<sup>th</sup> driest May on record. In summary, at each location temperatures were near normal and precipitation was below average.