March 2020 Climate Summary

Overview

Synopsis

March 2020 was warmer than normal statewide, especially in the east. The precipitation was variable, with below normal in the northeast, near normal over central areas, and above to well above normal across the south.

Early March was pretty quiet, then a widespread rain and snow event impacted the state on the 12th and continued into the 14th. The first tornado of the season to strike NM occurred near Pleasant Hill on the 17th. Light snow fell on the 19th, then high winds swept through the state from the 26th to the 28th.
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State Temperatures

Actual

Average Daily Mean Temperature: 01 Mar 2020 - 31 Mar 2020
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2020
(Map created 01 Apr 2020)

Anomaly

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: 01 Mar 2020 - 31 Mar 2020
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2020
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 01 Apr 2020)
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State Precipitation

Actual

Total Precipitation: 01 Mar 2020 - 31 Mar 2020
Period ending 7 AM EST 01 Mar 2020
(Map created 01 Apr 2020)

Anomaly

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Mar 2020 - 31 Mar 2020
Period ending 7 AM EST 01 Mar 2020
Base period 1981-2010
(Map created 01 Apr 2020)
The average March temperature for Albuquerque was 51.2°, which was 3.1° above the normal of 48.1°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 63.5°. This was 3.0° above the normal average maximum temperature of 60.5°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 38.8°. This was 3.1° above the normal average minimum temperature of 35.7°. March 2020 was the 13th warmest March on record.
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Clayton Temperatures

The average March temperature for Clayton was 48.3°, which was 4.1° above the normal of 44.2°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 62.8°. This was 4.3° above the normal average maximum temperature of 58.5°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 33.9°. This was 3.9° above the normal average minimum temperature of 30.0°. This March was the 12th warmest on record.
The average March temperature for Roswell was 57.3°, which was 4.7° above the normal of 52.6°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 69.9°. This was 1.6° above the average maximum temperature of 68.3°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 44.6°. This was 7.7° above the normal average minimum temperature of 36.9°. March 2020 was the 5th warmest March on record!
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There was 0.31" of precipitation measured at the Sunport, compared to the normal of 0.57", or 0.26" below normal. This ranks as the 60th driest March on record (1892-2020).

There was 0.27" of precipitation measured at Clayton, compared to the normal of 0.95", or 0.68" below normal. This was the 41st driest March on record (1892-2020).

There was 2.07" of precipitation measured at Roswell, compared to the normal of 0.51", or 1.56" above normal. This ranks as the 5th wettest March on record (1892-2020).
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## Severe Weather*

**Event Type** | **Dates** | **County/Zone Name** | **Magnitude** | **Type** | **Event Narrative**
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Tornado | 3/17-3/19/2020 | Curry County | | | A brief tornado touched down near Pleasant Hill, NM.
High Wind | 3/17-3/19/2020 | Northeast Highlands | 65 kt | Gust | Various stations reported peak wind gusts of 65 to 75 mph around Las Vegas.
High Wind | 3/19/2020 | Eastern San Miguel County | 37 kt | Sustained | A public weather station at Conchas Dam reported sustained winds up 43 mph for several hours.
High Wind | 3/19/2020 | Union County | 51 kt | Gust | The Clayton airpark reported a brief wind gust up to 59 mph.
High Wind | 3/19/2020 | Johnson/Bartlett Mesas | 55 kt | Gust | A small carport and a dead elm tree were blown over in Capulin.
Tornado | 3/21/2020 | San Juan County | | | A brief landspout tornado touched down over the NAPI farm complex south of Bloomfield.
High Wind | 3/23/2020 | Far Northeast Highlands | 53 kt | Gust | The Raton airport reported a peak wind gust up to 61 mph.
High Wind | 3/26-3/27/2020 | South Central Mountains | 58 kt | Gust | The Sierra Blanca airport reported a peak wind gust up to 67 mph.
High Wind | 3/26-3/27/2020 | South Central Mountains | 45 kt | Sustained | The Sierra Blanca airport reported sustained winds up to 52 mph.
High Wind | 3/26/2020 | Northeast Highlands | 38 kt | Sustained | The Las Vegas airport reported sustained winds up to 44 mph.
High Wind | 3/26/2020 | Southwest Mountains | 50 kt | Gust | Public weather stations reported peak wind gust up to 58 mph near Red Hill and Omega.
High Wind | 3/26/2020 | Central Highlands | 35 kt | Sustained | Clines Corners reported sustained winds of 40 mph.
High Wind | 3/27/2020 | South Central Highlands | 38 kt | Sustained | A couple weather stations around Corona reported sustained winds near 40 mph.
High Wind | 3/27-3/28/2020 | Central Highlands | 38 kt | Sustained | Clines Corners reported sustained winds up to 44 mph.
High Wind | 3/27/2020 | Central Highlands | 56 kt | Gust | Clines Corners reported peak wind gusts up to 65 mph.
High Wind | 3/27/2020 | Northeast Highlands | 42 kt | Sustained | The Las Vegas airport reported sustained winds up to 48 mph.
High Wind | 3/27/2020 | Northeast Highlands | 62 kt | Gust | The Las Vegas airport reported a peak wind gust up to 71 mph.
High Wind | 3/27/2020 | Quay County | 40 kt | Sustained | The Tucumcari airport reported sustained winds up to 46 mph.
High Wind | 3/27/2020 | Quay County | 51 kt | Gust | The Tucumcari airport reported a peak wind gust up to 59 mph.
High Wind | 3/27/2020 | Far Northeast Highlands | 51 kt | Gust | The Raton airport reported a peak wind gust up to 59 mph.
High Wind | 3/27/2020 | Union County | 37 kt | Sustained | The Clayton airpark reported sustained winds up to 43 mph.
High Wind | 3/27/2020 | Upper Tularosa Valley | 54 kt | Gust | Various stations around Carrizo reported peak wind gusts near 60 mph.
High Wind | 3/27/2020 | Guadalupe County | 51 kt | Gust | The Santa Rosa airport reported a peak wind gust up to 59 mph.
High Wind | 3/28/2020 | Central Highlands | 51 kt | Gust | Clines Corners reported a peak wind gust up to 59 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/](https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/)*
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Resources

- 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
- NWS Albuquerque Facebook
- @NWSAlbuquerque & #nmwx