

March 2026 Climate Highlights for Central & Northern New Mexico

Photo Courtesy Bill Kardokus. (Mar. 27, 2026)



National Weather Service
Albuquerque, New Mexico



Serving Central & Northern NM

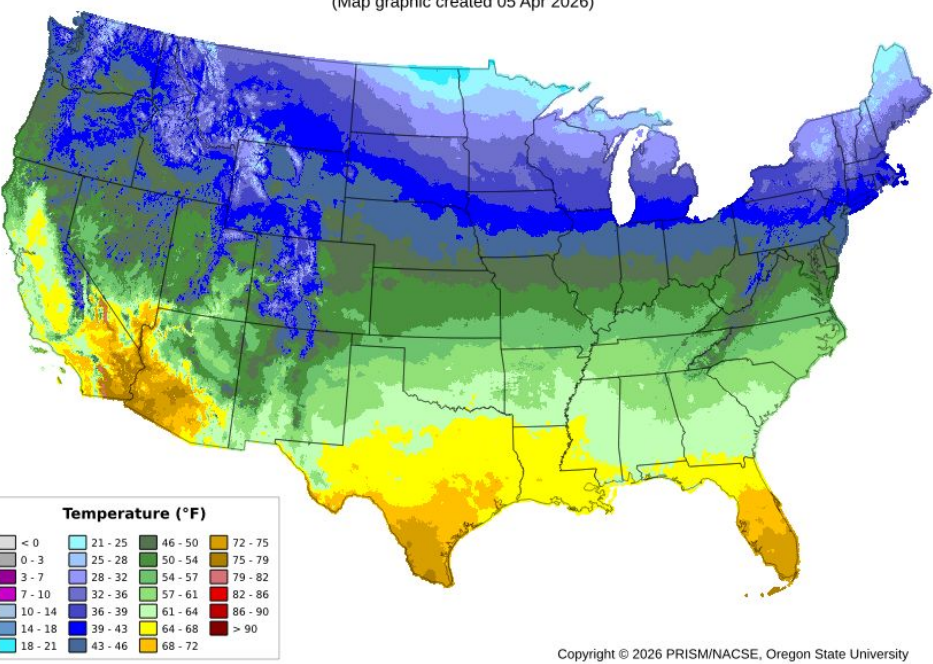
March Temperatures

Location	Observed Avg. Temp (°F)	Normal Avg. Temp (°F)	Departure (°F)	Rank <small>Years in POR</small> <small>(1 is hottest)</small>
Albuquerque (KABQ)	61.3°	49.5°	+11.8°	1 ¹³⁶
Roswell (KROW)	62.3°	55.2°	+7.1°	1 ¹³⁵
Clayton (KCAO)	55.8°	44.9°	+10.9°	1 ¹³¹
Raton (KRTN)	50.0°	40.4°	+9.6°	1 ⁸¹
Las Vegas (KLVS)	51.5°	41.4°	+10.1°	1 ⁸⁷
Santa Fe (KSAF)	53.1°	43.3°	+9.8°	1 ⁸⁶
Tucumcari (KTCC)	58.6°	50.0°	+8.6°	1 ⁷⁹
Farmington (KFMN)	53.2°	44.8°	+8.4°	1 ⁸⁶
Gallup (KGUP)	48.9°	40.6°	+8.3°	1 ⁵⁴

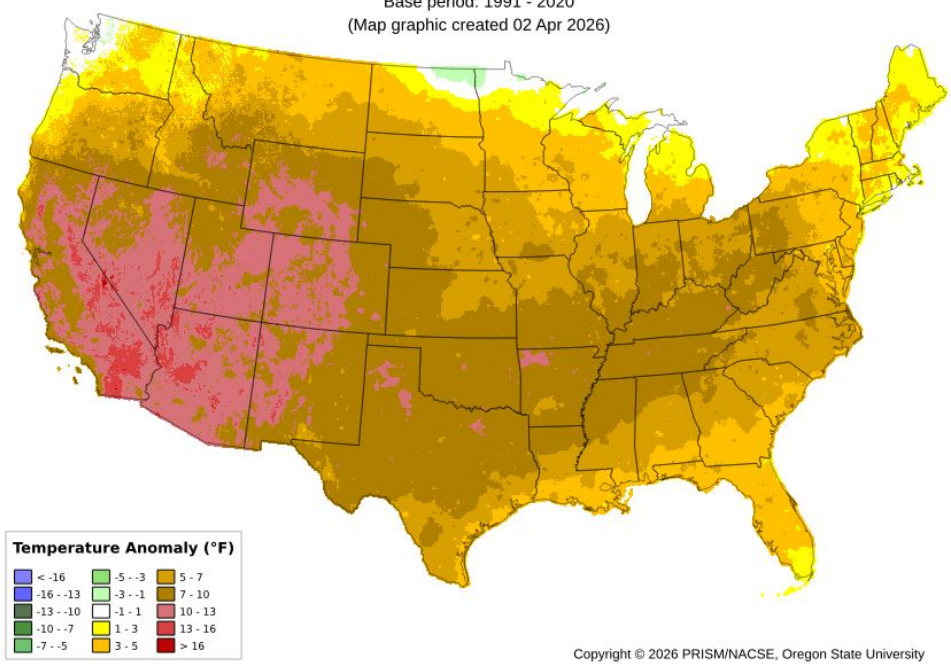
Data is considered preliminary until certified by NCEI

March Temperatures

Average Daily Mean Temperature: 01 Mar 2026 - 31 Mar 2026
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2026
(Map graphic created 05 Apr 2026)



Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: Mar 2026
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2026
Base period: 1991 - 2020
(Map graphic created 02 Apr 2026)



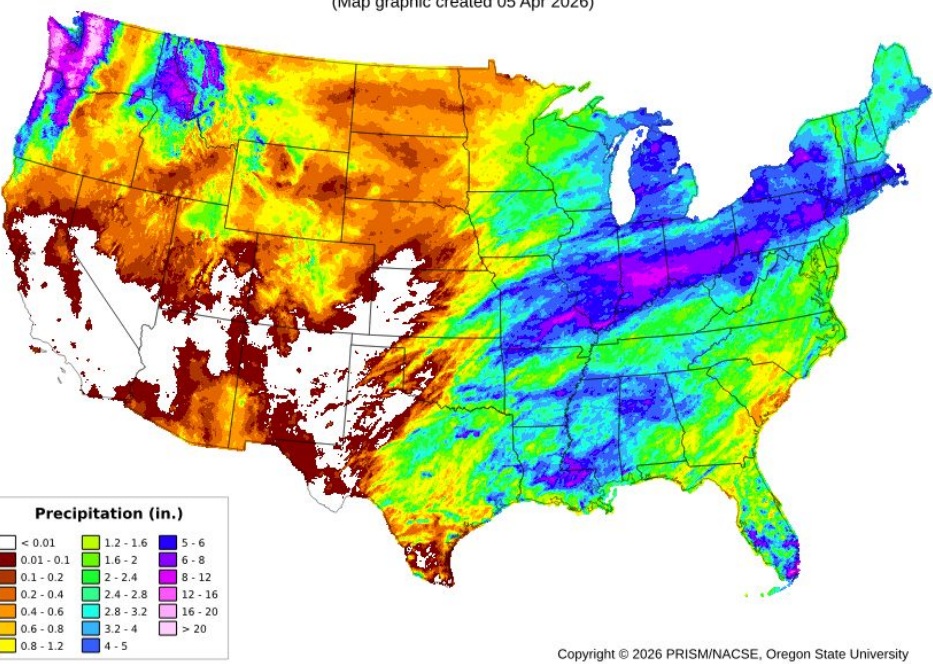
March Precipitation

Location	Observed Precip (in)	Normal Precip (in)	Departure (in)	Rank ^{Years in POR} (1 is wettest)
Albuquerque (KABQ)	T	0.46"	-0.46"	T - 136 ¹³⁶
Roswell (KROW)	0.01"	0.54"	-0.53"	T - 114 ¹³⁵
Clayton (KCAO)	T	0.91"	-0.91"	T - 128 ¹³¹
Raton (KRTN)	0.00"	0.81"	-0.81"	86 ⁸⁶
Las Vegas (KLVS)	T	0.60"	-0.6"	T - 87 ⁸⁷
Santa Fe (KSAF)	T	0.66"	-0.66"	T - 86 ⁸⁶
Tucumcari (KTCC)	T	0.84"	-0.84"	T - 78 ⁷⁹
Farmington (KFMN)	T	0.60"	-0.6"	86 ⁸⁶
Gallup (KGUP)	0.03"	0.62"	-0.59"	52 ⁵⁴

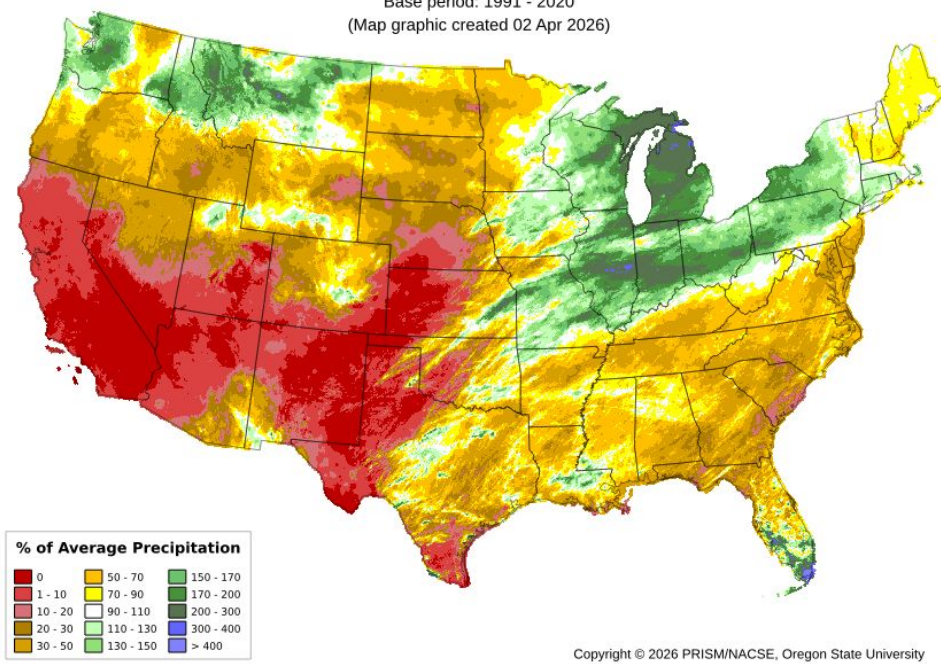
Data is considered preliminary until certified by NCEI

March Precipitation

Total Precipitation: 01 Mar 2026 - 31 Mar 2026
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2026
(Map graphic created 05 Apr 2026)



Total Precipitation Anomaly: Mar 2026
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2026
Base period: 1991 - 2020
(Map graphic created 02 Apr 2026)

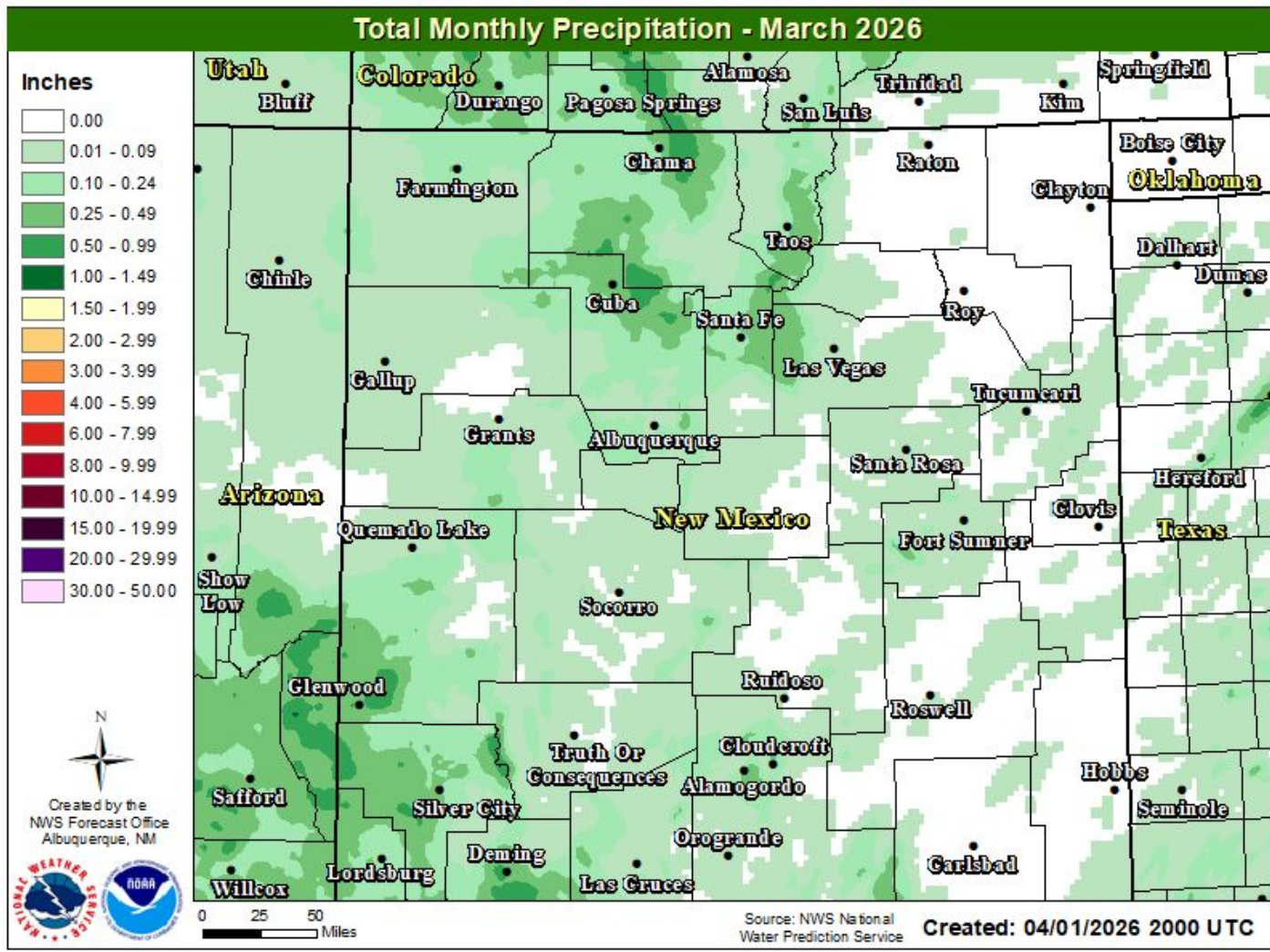


Highest CoCoRaHS Reports

Station Name	Total Precipitation (Inches)
Glenwood 8.8 NW	0.71"
Glenwood 0.4 NE	0.38"
Chama 1.0 N	0.16"
Chama 12.3 SSE	0.15"
Gallina 2.0 W	0.15"
Espanola 3.8 ESE	0.14"
Albuquerque 4.0 W	0.10"
Datil 2.0 W	0.07"
Red Hill 3.2 NW	0.06"

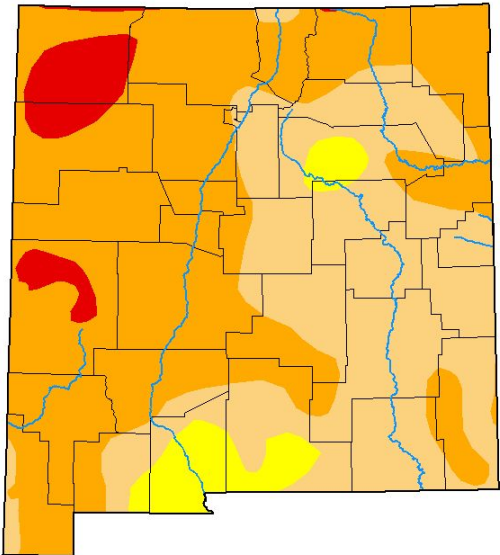


Monthly Precipitation



Current Drought Conditions & Four Week Change

U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico



March 31, 2026

(Released Thursday, Apr. 2, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	94.70	57.95	4.82	0.00
Last Week 03-24-2026	0.00	100.00	92.61	51.13	4.63	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-30-2025	17.40	82.60	71.38	51.95	2.59	0.00
Start of Calend ar Year 01-06-2026	0.01	99.99	71.71	51.89	2.59	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	19.91	80.09	68.67	47.53	14.45	2.41
One Year Ago 04-01-2025	0.00	100.00	92.94	78.82	27.69	2.50

- Intensity:**
- None
 - D0 Abnormally Dry
 - D1 Moderate Drought
 - D2 Severe Drought
 - D3 Extreme Drought
 - D4 Exceptional Drought

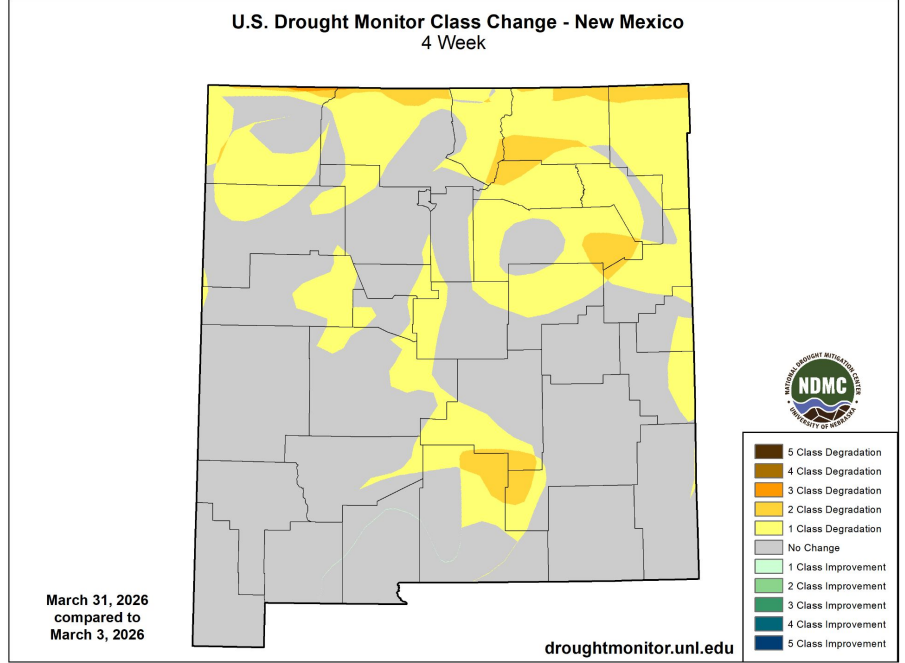
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - New Mexico 4 Week



March 31, 2026
compared to
March 3, 2026

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

- 5 Class Degradation
- 4 Class Degradation
- 3 Class Degradation
- 2 Class Degradation
- 1 Class Degradation
- No Change
- 1 Class Improvement
- 2 Class Improvement
- 3 Class Improvement
- 4 Class Improvement
- 5 Class Improvement



Weather Event of the Month: Historic March Heatwave

Quick Summary: March 2026 was not only the **warmest March on record**, but it surpassed the previous record by a staggering **5.2°F**. It was so warm that the month's average temperature actually beat the April average by over 5°F. Had these temperatures occurred in April, they still would have secured a spot among the **top 10 warmest Apri**ls in state history.

Atmospheric Setup: The extreme heat was driven by an unusually strong atmospheric ridge over the Desert Southwest. This weather pattern is more characteristic of late May or early June than mid-March. The record heat was not confined to New Mexico as much of the western US experienced a stretch of record-breaking temperatures. Across the state, all-time monthly high temperature records were shattered repeatedly at every ASOS (Automated Surface Observing System) site.

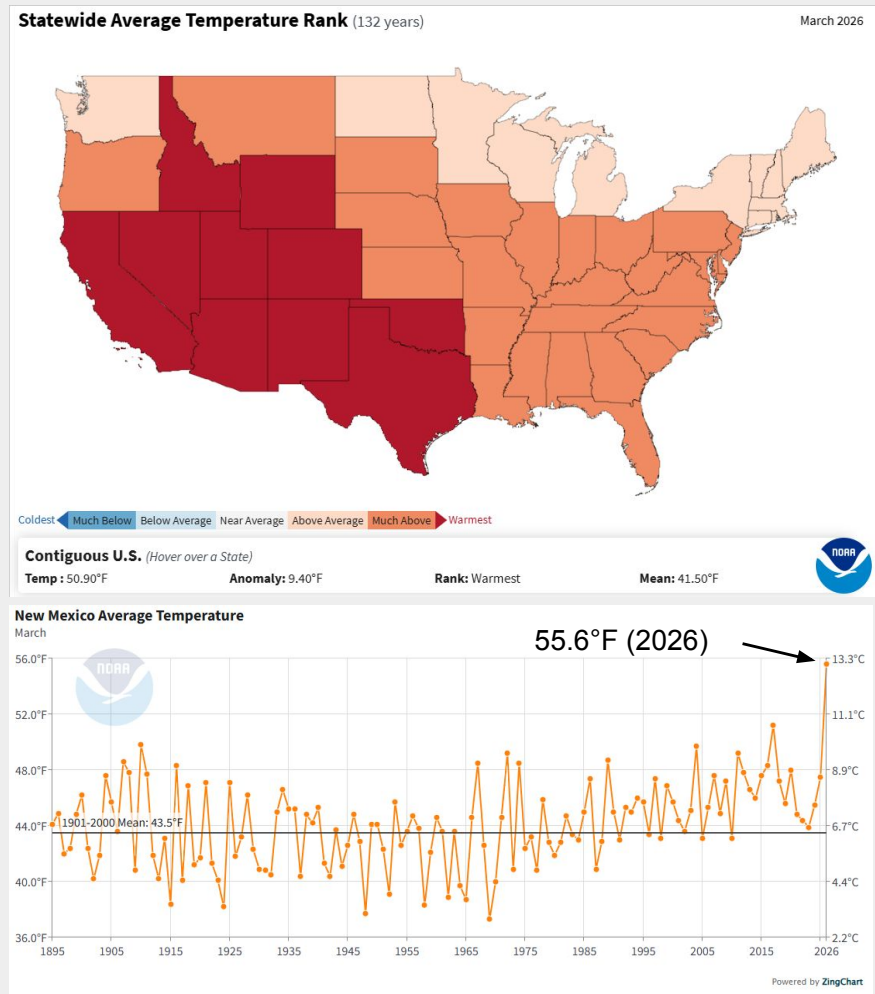
Impacts: The combination of record heat and exceptional dryness led to several critical environmental concerns:

- **Snowpack Depletion:** Rapid melting further decimated a snowpack that was already at record low levels.
- **Fire Danger:** Energy Release Components (ERCs) surged to maximum values for March, signaling an early and intense start to the fire season.
- **Drought Intensification:** Drought continued to develop and deteriorate in response to the record warm and dry conditions.



Weather Event of the Month: Historic March Heatwave

Location	Previous March Record (°F)	New March Record (°F)
Albuquerque (KABQ)	85°	91°
Roswell (KROW)	95°	100°
Clayton (KCAO)	87°	94°
Raton (KRTN)	84°	88°
Las Vegas (KLVS)	81°	86°
Santa Fe (KSAF)	81°	87°
Tucumcari (KTCC)	93°	98°
Farmington (KFMN)	82°	87°
Gallup (KGUP)	80°	87°



Additional Resources

PRISM Charts: <https://prism.oregonstate.edu/>

CPC Outlooks: <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

NCEI Climatological Rankings:
<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/statewide/time-series>

