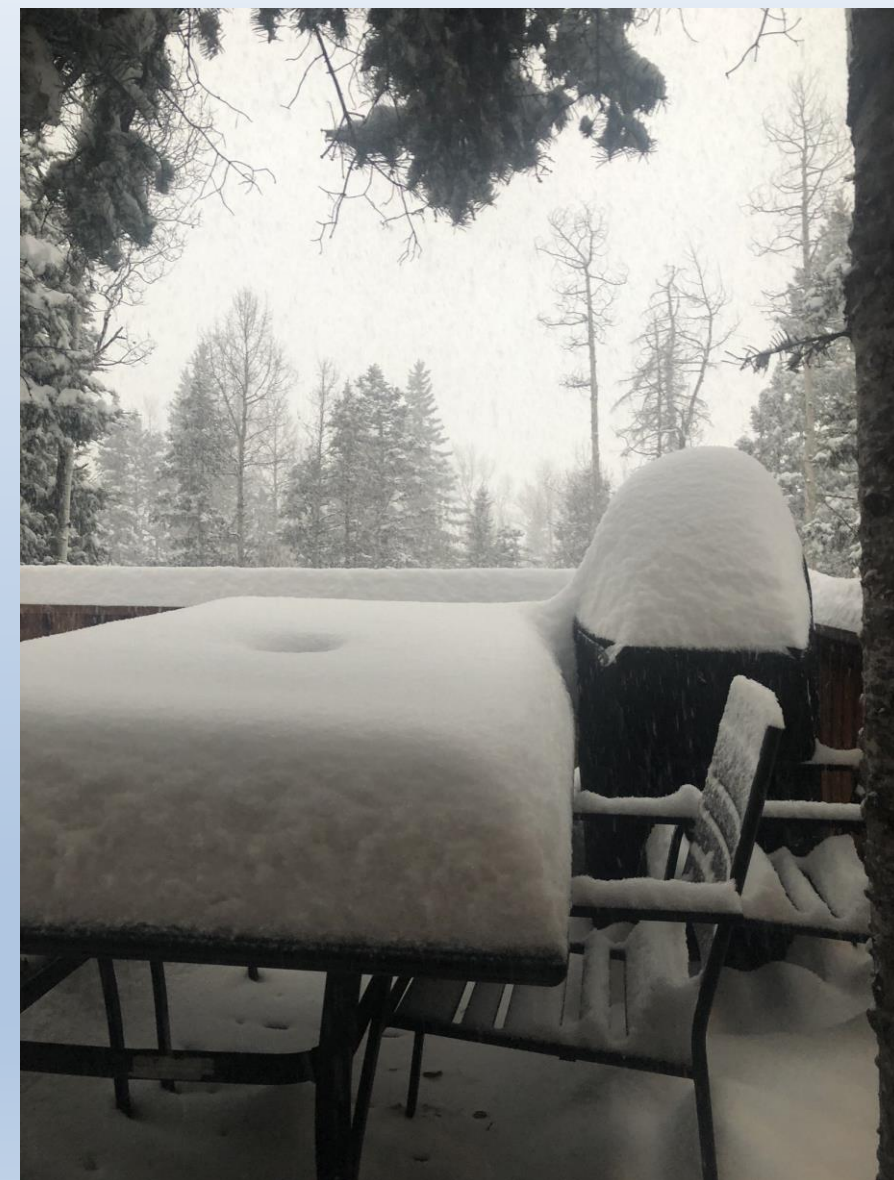


Synopsis

October 2020 was warmer in the west and central areas, but near to a little below normal in the east. Precipitation was below normal except for parts of the western and northern mountains and the far northeast. It was another crazy month in terms of records. Record high temperatures were set on multiple days during early and mid October, but record low temperatures (both minimum and lowest maximum) were also set near the end of the month. The big story of the month involved the epic winter storm on the 25th through 28th. Record snowfall was widespread, reminiscent of the storm in September. The month ended quietly with below normal to near normal temperatures and no precipitation.

October 26 Taos Ski Valley – photo courtesy of Stephen Williamson-via Joe Diaz Twitter



October 26 Grants – photo courtesy of Dominic Aragon
Via KOB Twitter



October 10 Animas River – photo courtesy of
Mike Easterling – Farmington DailyTimes



October 2020 Climate Summary

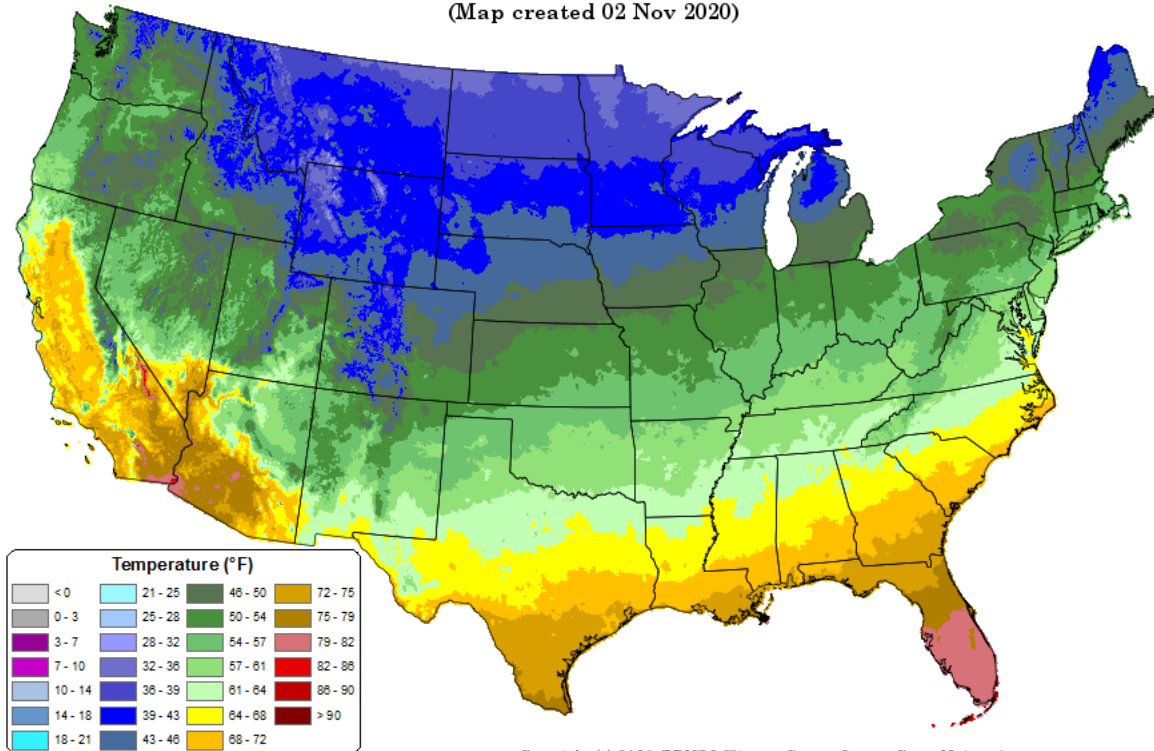
State Temperatures

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM
Issued November 12, 2020 2:50 PM MDT



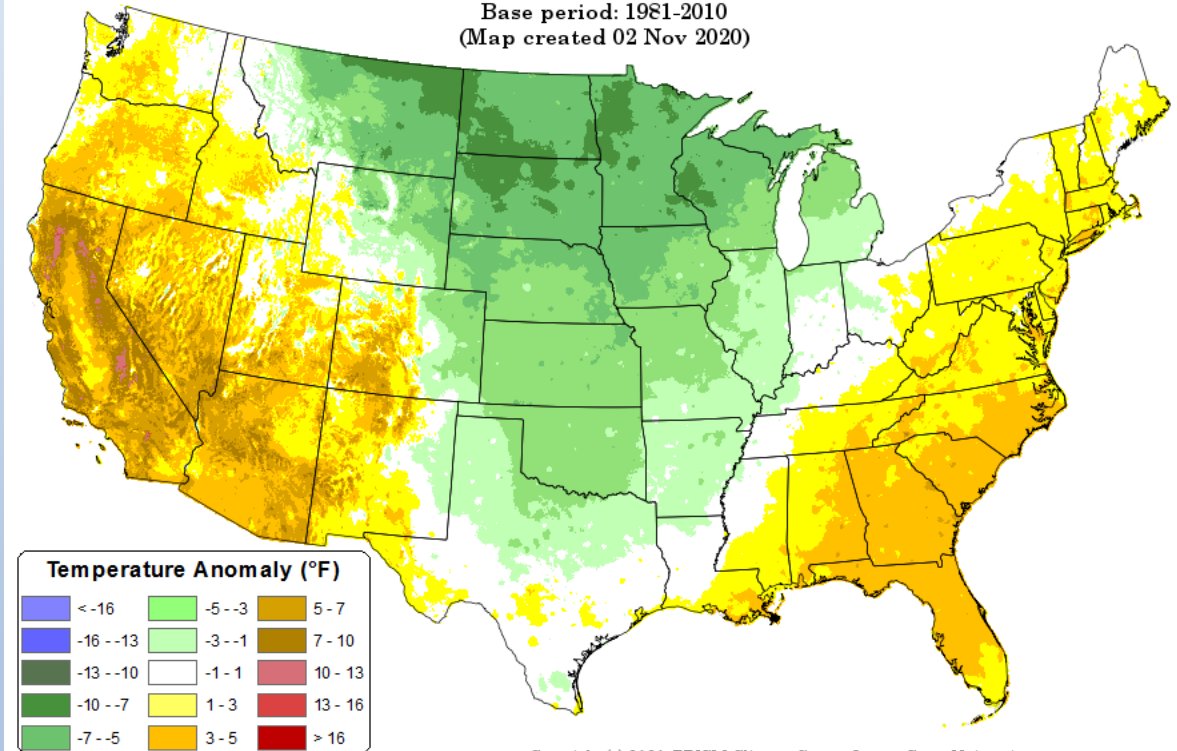
Actual

Average Daily Mean Temperature: Oct 2020
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Oct 2020
(Map created 02 Nov 2020)



Anomaly

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: Oct 2020
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Oct 2020
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 02 Nov 2020)



October 2020 was warmer in the west and central areas, but near to a little below normal in the east.

October 2020 Climate Summary

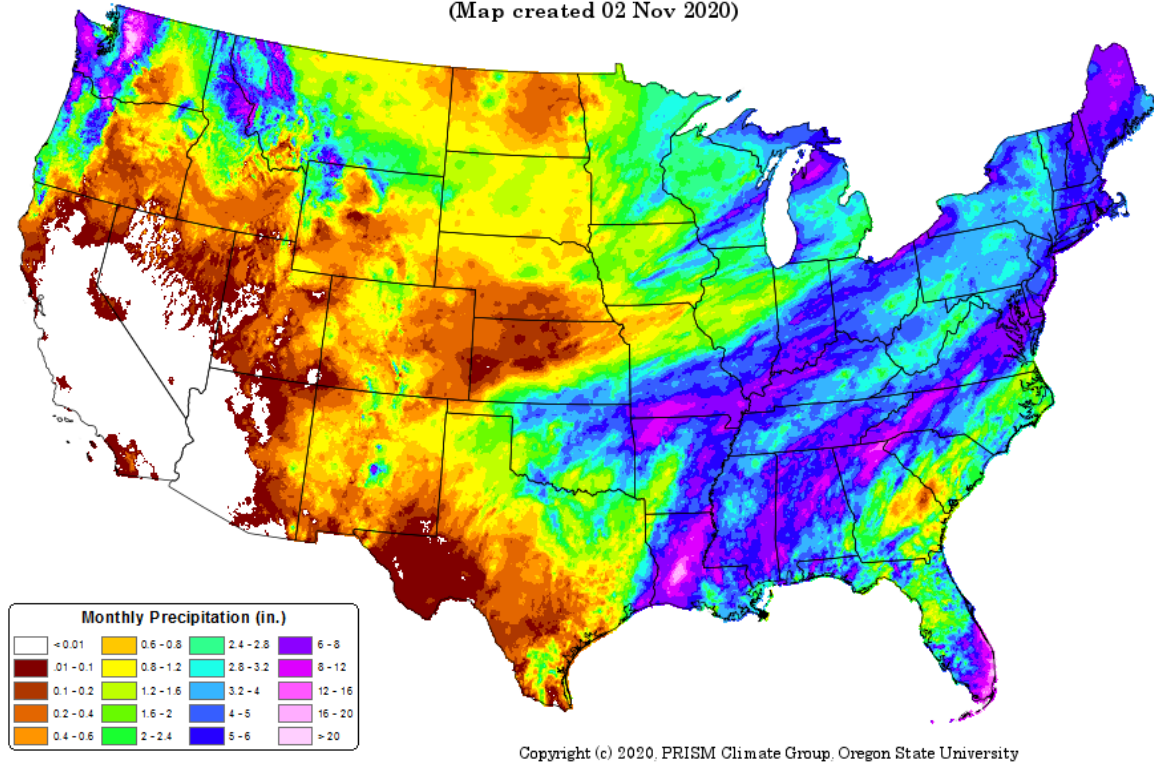
State Precipitation

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM
Issued November 12, 2020 2:50 PM MDT



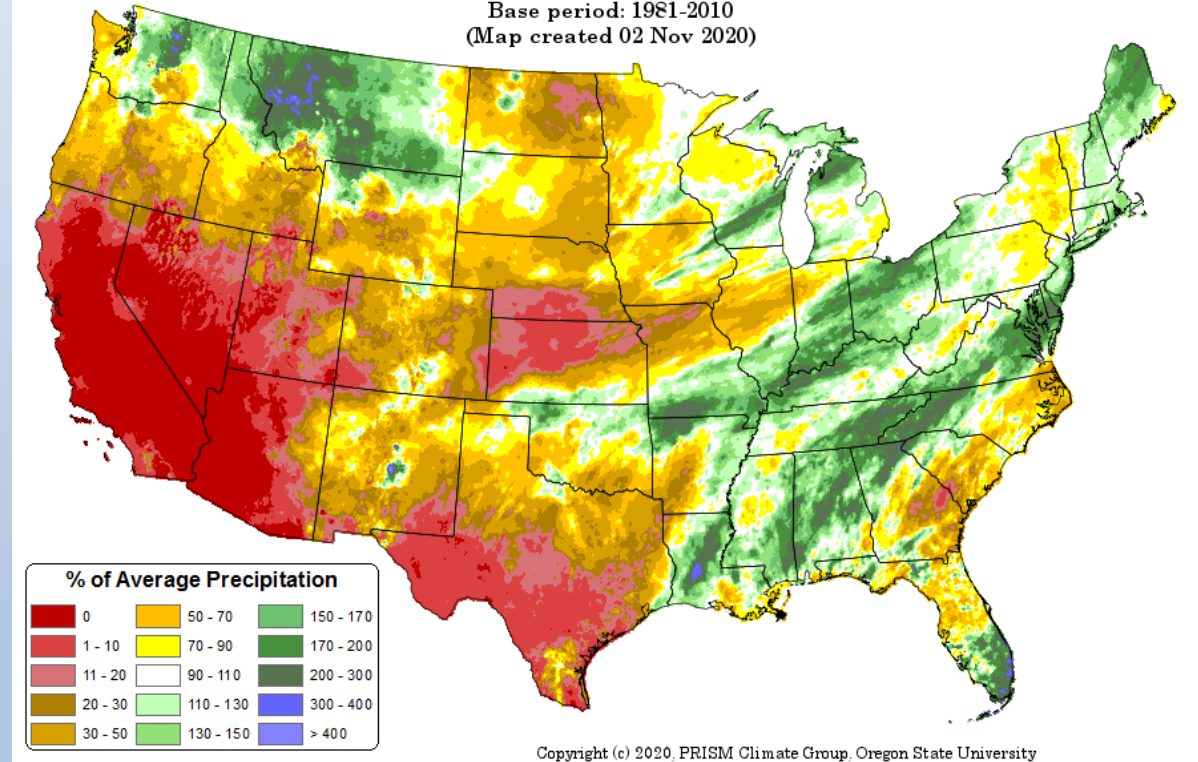
Actual

Total Precipitation: Oct 2020
Period ending 31 Oct 2020
(Map created 02 Nov 2020)



Anomaly

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Oct 2020
Period ending 31 Oct 2020
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 02 Nov 2020)



Precipitation was below normal except for parts of the western and northern mountains and the far northeast.

October 2020 Climate Summary

Statewide Temperature & Precipitation Trends

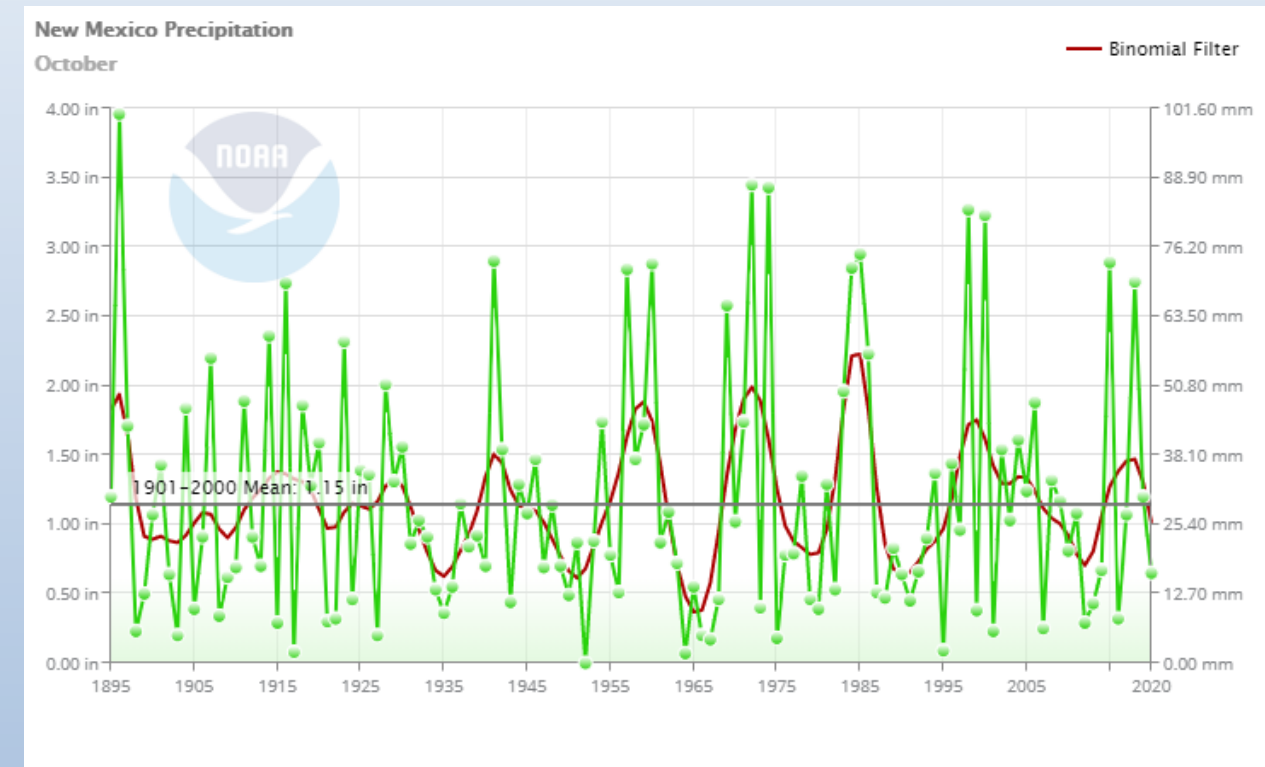
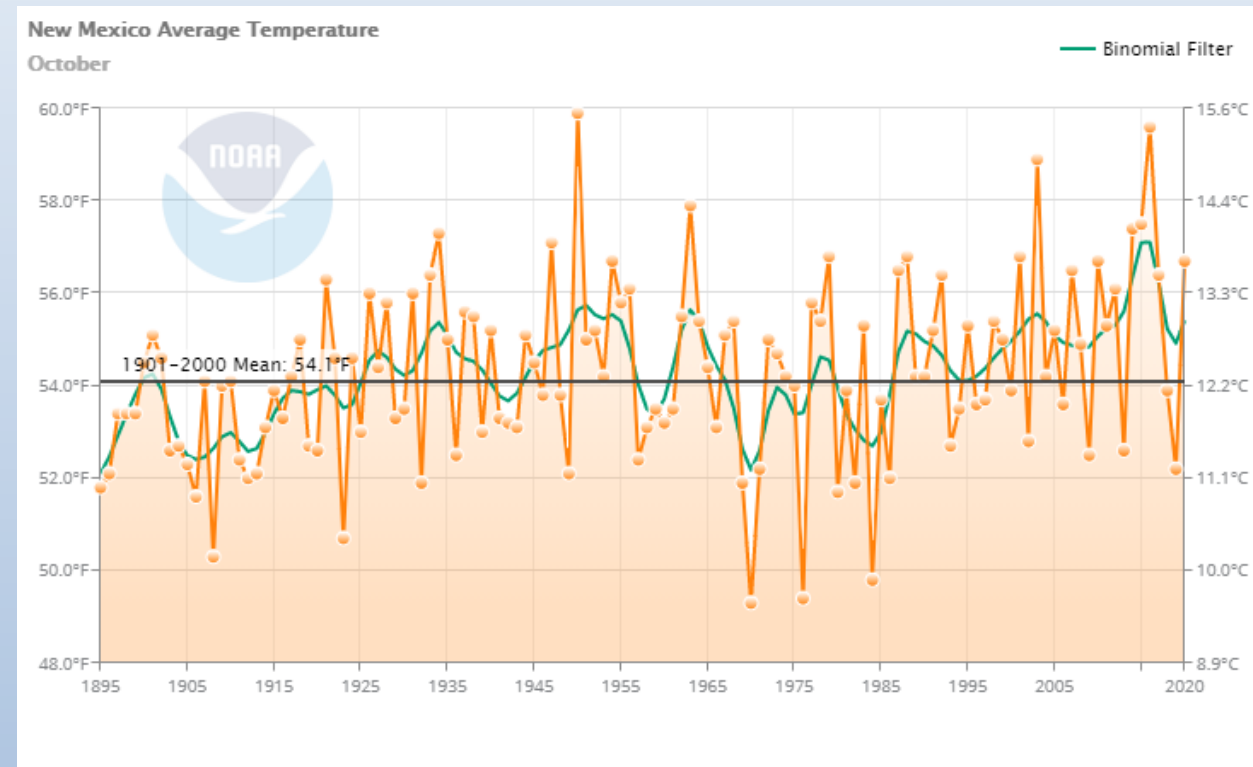
Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM

Issued November 12, 2020 2:50 PM MDT



Temperature

Precipitation



The average statewide temperature was 56.7° which was 2.6° above the long-term normal of 54.1° (1901-2000). This is a tie for the 12th warmest October on record for New Mexico.

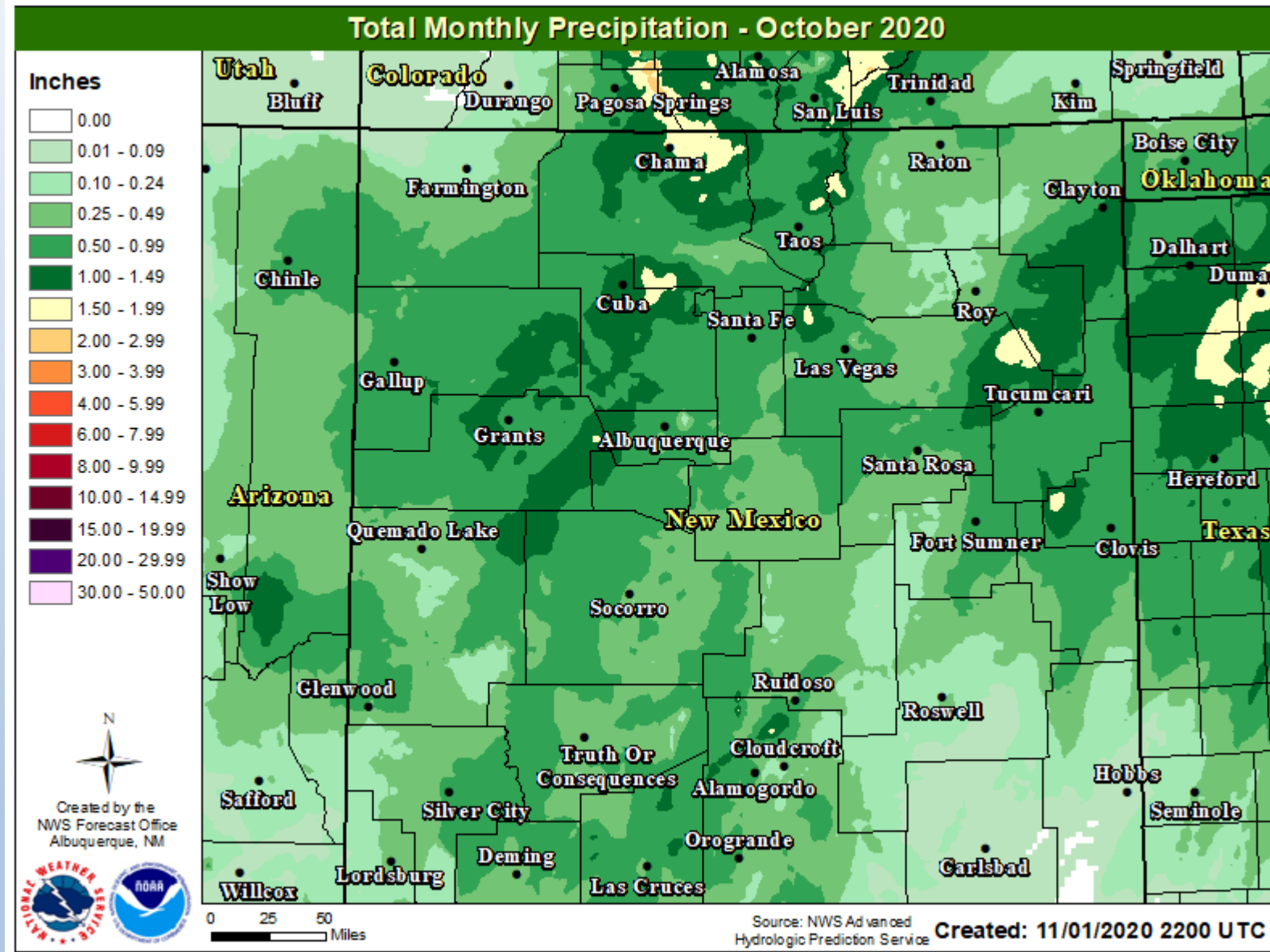
The average statewide precipitation was 0.65" which was 0.50" below the long-term normal of 1.15" (1901-2000). This is a tie for the 42nd driest October on record for New Mexico.

October 2020 Climate Summary

Monthly Precipitation

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM

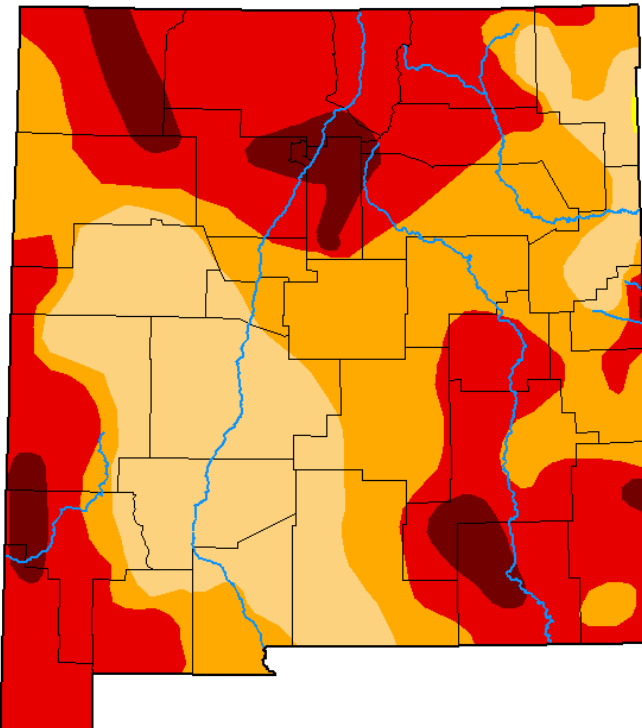
Issued November 12, 2020 2:50 PM MDT



Here is a more detailed image of the October 2020 precipitation.



U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico



October 6, 2020
(Released Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	99.94	76.30	45.01	6.82
Last Week 09-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.92	73.65	39.88	2.90
3 Months Ago 07-07-2020	17.61	82.39	58.16	40.83	11.17	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2019	52.86	47.14	28.33	15.26	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.92	73.65	39.88	2.90
One Year Ago 10-08-2019	60.03	39.97	18.07	7.58	0.00	0.00

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>

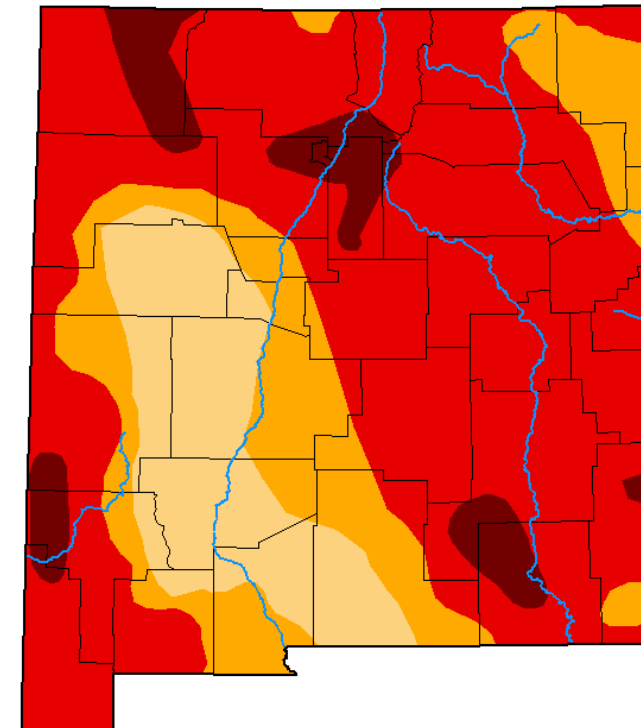
Author:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico



November 3, 2020
(Released Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	99.98	84.82	66.18	7.21
Last Week 10-27-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	85.27	67.12	7.24
3 Months Ago 08-04-2020	0.04	99.96	94.52	51.77	15.22	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2019	52.86	47.14	28.33	15.26	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.92	73.65	39.88	2.90
One Year Ago 11-05-2019	35.27	64.73	34.66	8.67	0.00	0.00

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>

Author:

David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Over the past month (from early October to early November) drought has worsened over much of the state. Extreme and Exceptional Drought has increased from 45% to a little over 66% in roughly the past month.

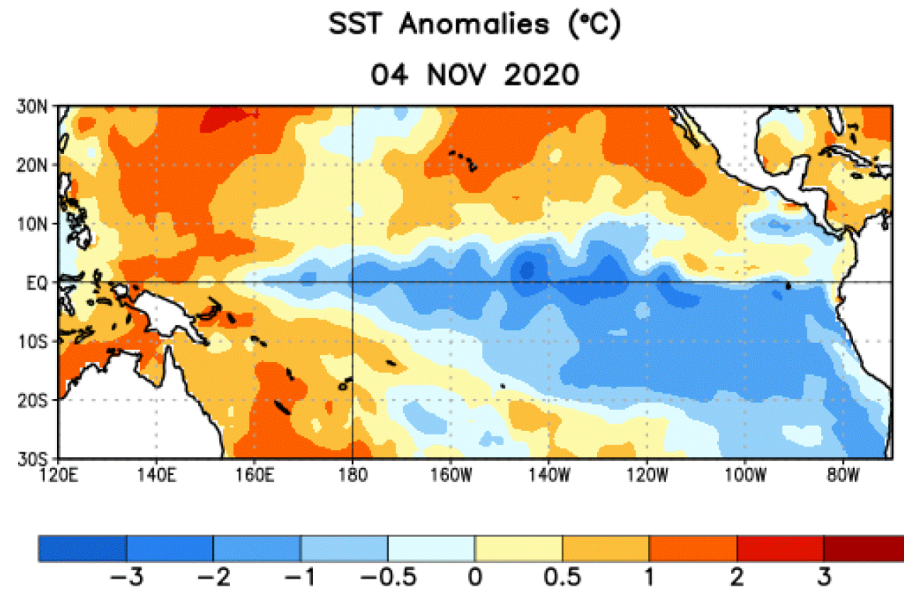


Figure 1. Average sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies (°C) for the week centered on 4 November 2020. Anomalies are computed with respect to the 1981-2010 base period weekly means.

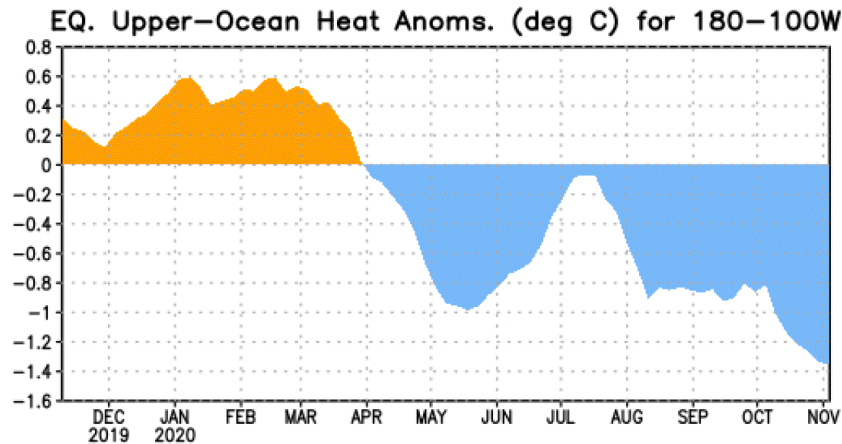


Figure 3. Area-averaged upper-ocean heat content anomaly (°C) in the equatorial Pacific (5°N-5°S, 180°-100°W). The heat content anomaly is computed as the departure from the 1981-2010 base period pentad means.

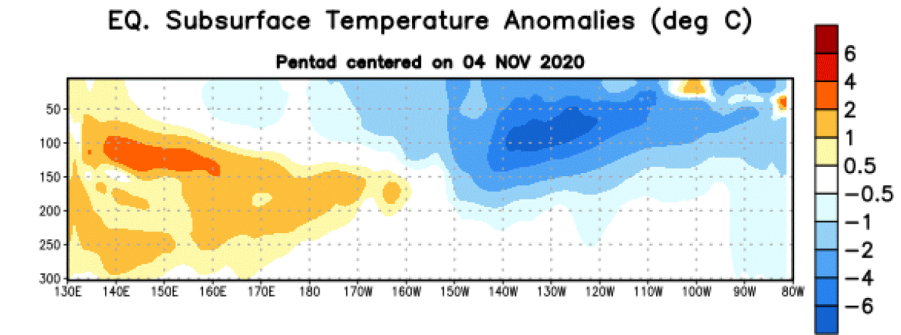


Figure 4. Depth-longitude section of equatorial Pacific upper-ocean (0-300m) temperature anomalies (°C) centered on the pentad of 4 November 2020. Anomalies are departures from the 1981-2010 base period pentad means.

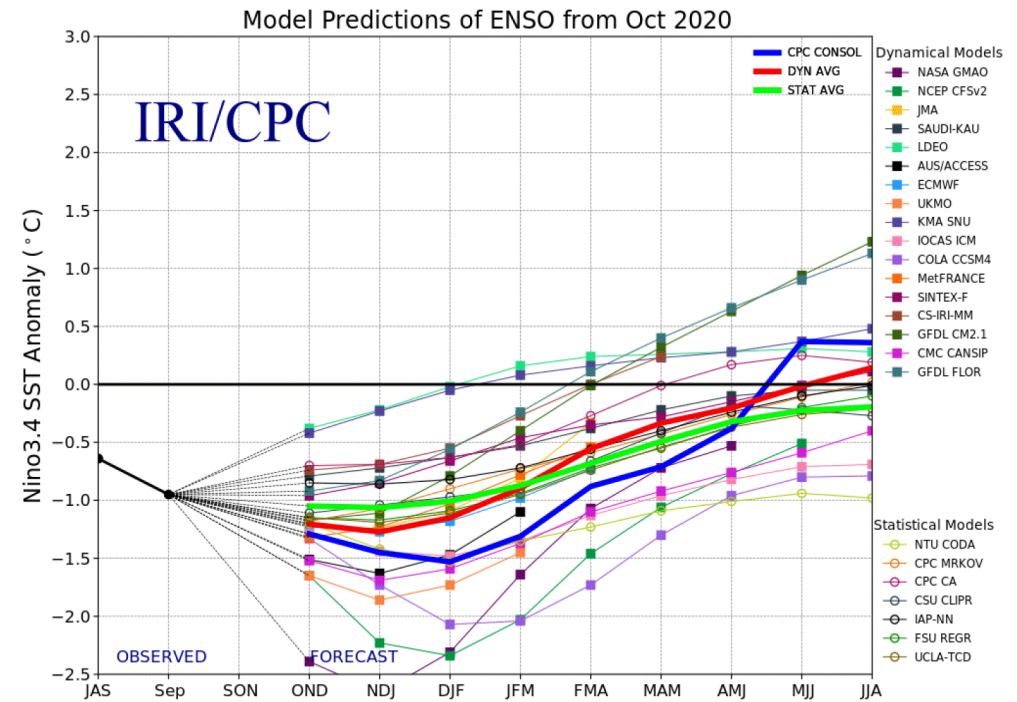


Figure 6. Forecasts of sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies for the Niño 3.4 region (5°N-5°S, 120°W-170°W). Figure updated 19 October 2020.

October 2020 Climate Summary

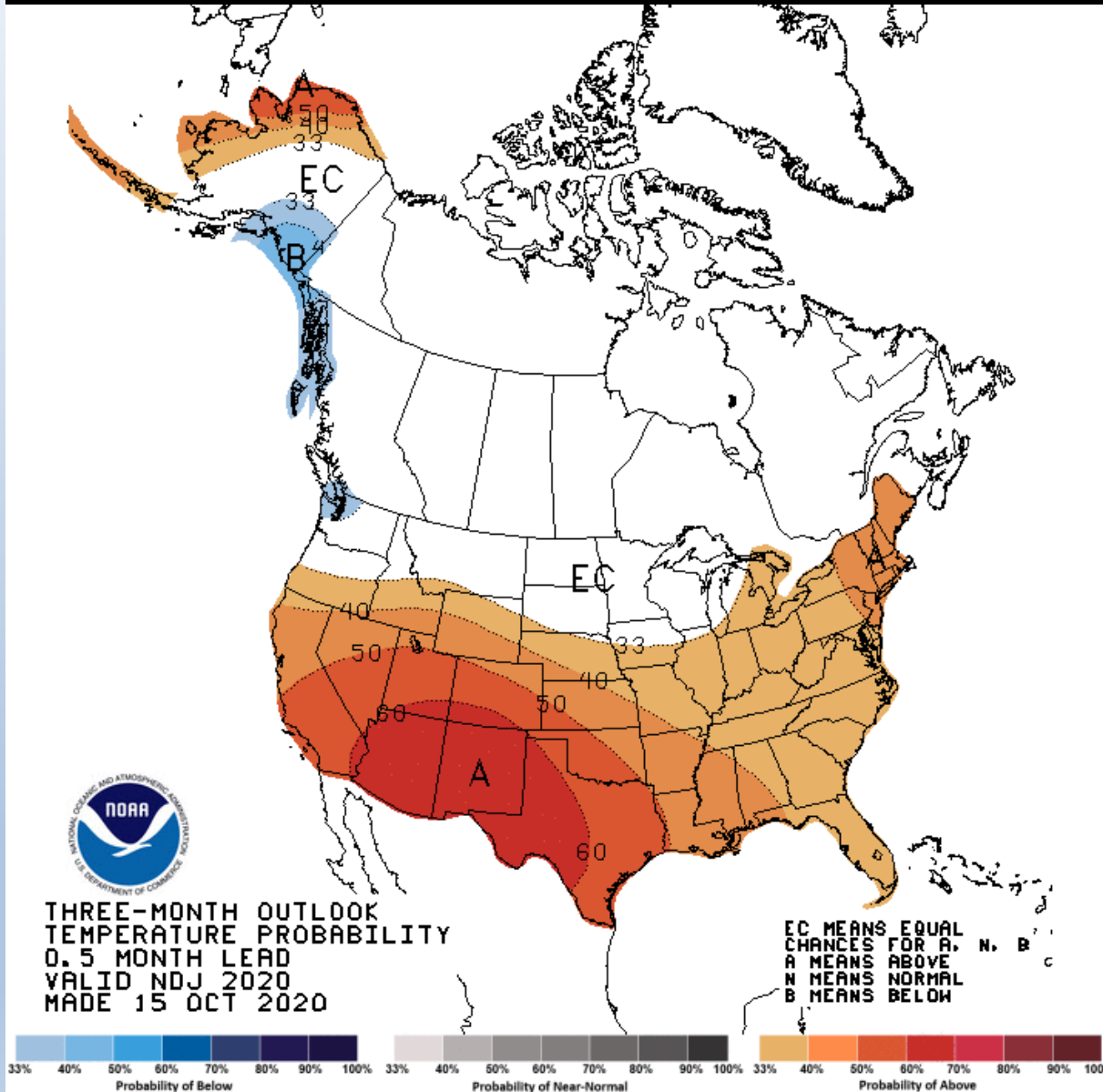
Temperature & Precipitation Outlook

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM

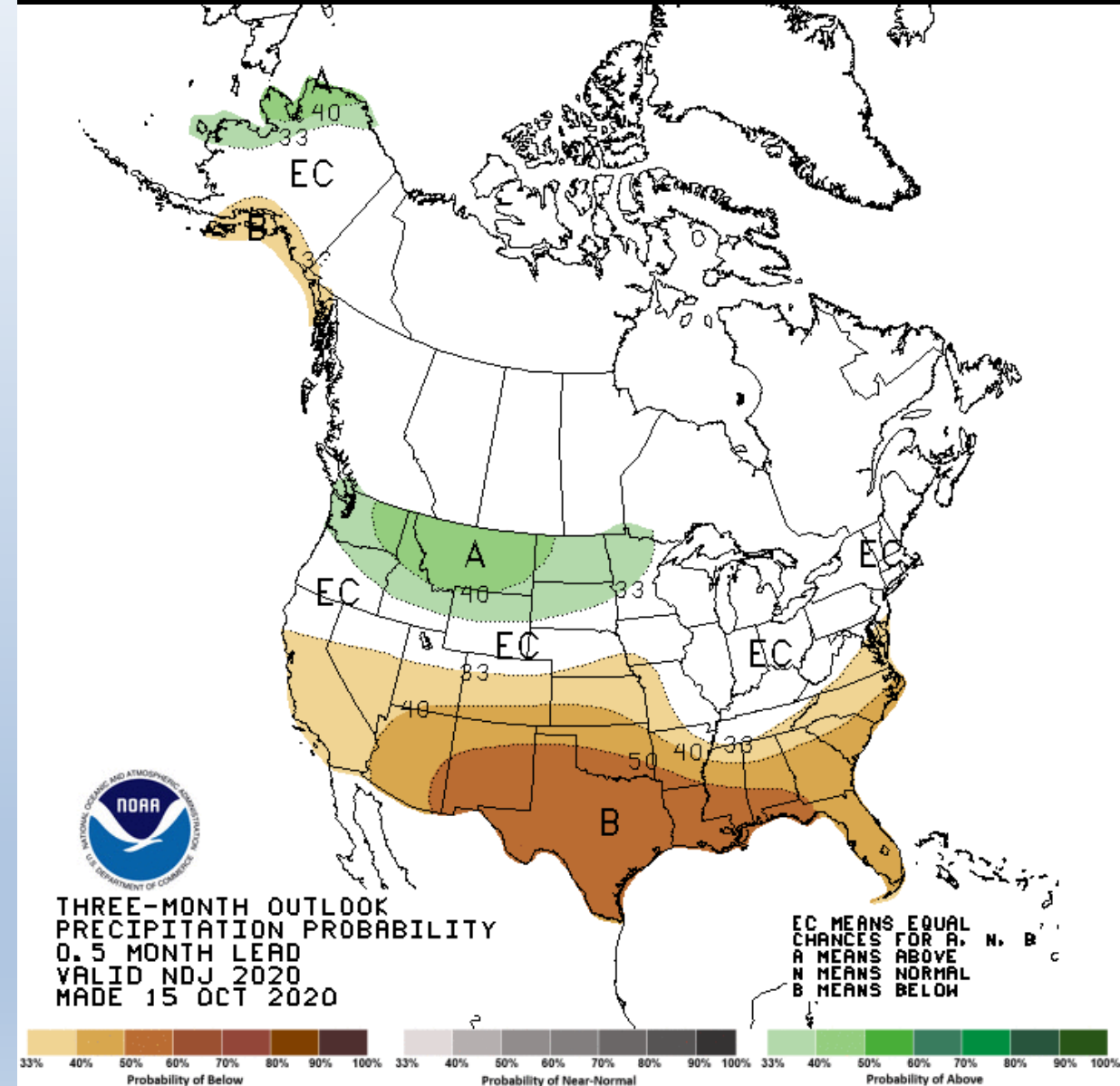
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Temperature November-December-January



Precipitation November-December-January



Above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation continue to be the most likely weather scheme for the rest of the Fall and early Winter seasons.

October 2020 Climate Summary

Albuquerque Sunport Temperatures

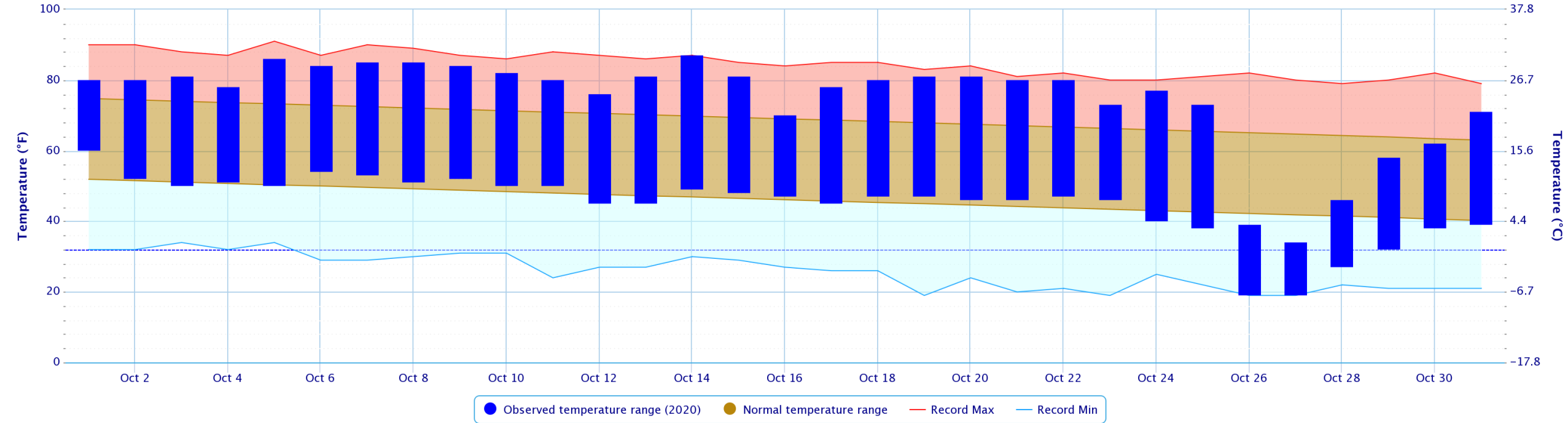
Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM

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Daily Temperature Data – Albuquerque Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – 1891-12-01 to 2020-11-01. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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The average temperature for Albuquerque was 59.6°, which was 2.1° above the normal of 57.5°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 74.6°. This was 5.6° above the normal average maximum temperature of 69.0°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 44.6°. This was 1.5° below the normal average minimum temperature of 46.1°. This ranks as the 21st warmest October on record.

Record Type	Date	New Record	Previous Record
High Temperature	October 14 th	87°	86° in 1909
Low Temperature	October 26 th	19°	25° in 1916
Low Temperature	October 27 th	19°	21° in 1913

October 2020 Climate Summary

Albuquerque Sunport Precipitation

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM

Issued November 12, 2020 2:50 PM MDT



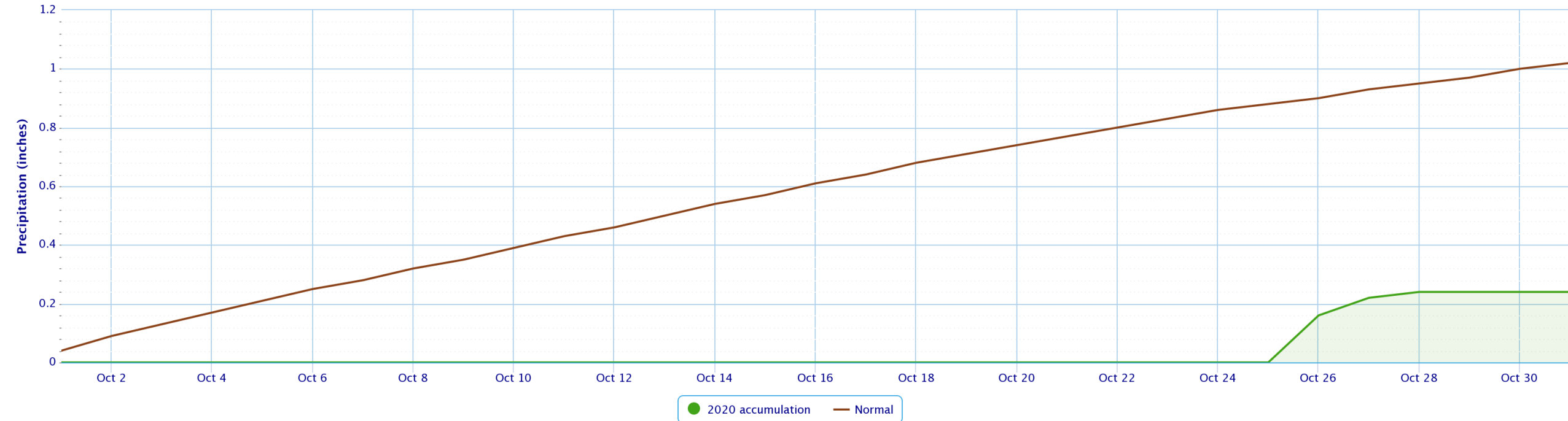
Normal Precipitation = 1.02"

Actual = 0.24"

Snow = 4.2"

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 0.24" of precipitation measured at Albuquerque, compared to the normal of 1.02", or 0.78" below normal. This ranks as a tie for the 21st driest October on record (1893-2019). The 4.2" of snow was the highest October snowfall on record!

Record Type	Date	New Record	Previous Record
Daily Snowfall	October 26 th	2.9"	0.1" in 1996
Daily Snowfall	October 27 th	1.1"	Trace in 1970
Daily Snowfall	October 28 th	0.2"	Trace in 2009
Monthly Snowfall	October	4.2"	3.2" in 1986

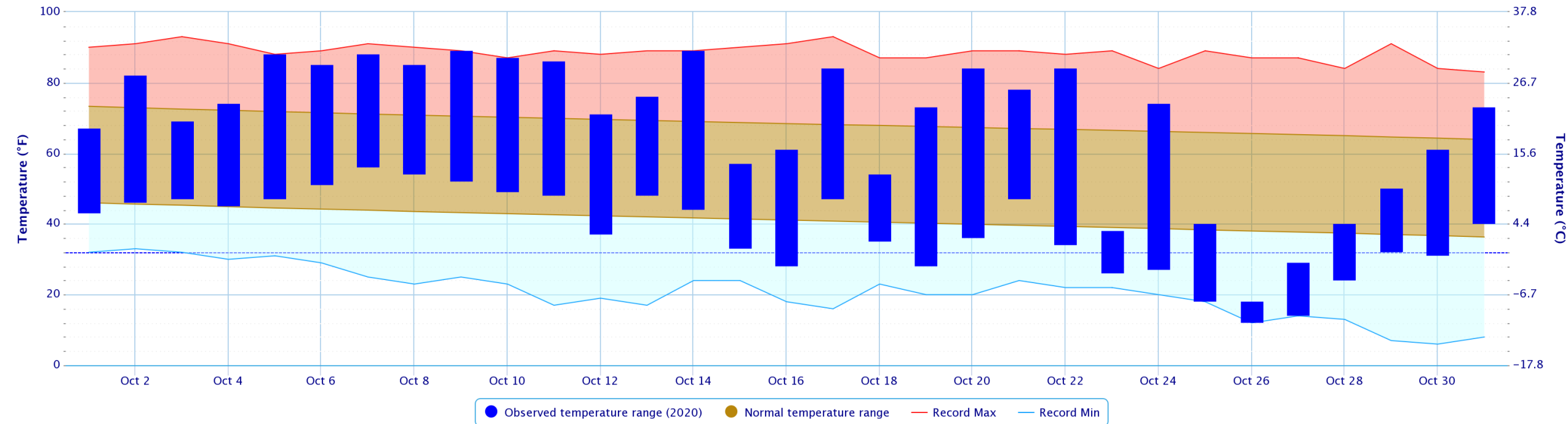
October 2020 Climate Summary

Clayton Temperatures



Daily Temperature Data – Clayton Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – 1896-02-01 to 2020-11-01. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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The average temperature for Clayton was 53.4°, which was 1.4° below the normal of 54.8°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 68.8°. This was 0.3° above the normal average maximum temperature of 68.5°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 38.0°. This was 3.1° below the normal average minimum temperature of 41.1°. This ranks as the 28th coolest October on record.

Record Type	Date	New Record	Previous Record
High Temperature	October 5th	88°	88° in 1922
High Temperature	October 9th	89°	86° in 1928
High Temperature	October 10th	87°	87° in 1962
High Temperature	October 14th	89°	88° in 1962
Low Temperature	October 25 th	18°	19° in 1997
Low Temperature	October 26 th	12°	22° in 1987
Low temperature	October 27 th	14°	21° on 1917

October 2020 Climate Summary

Clayton Precipitation

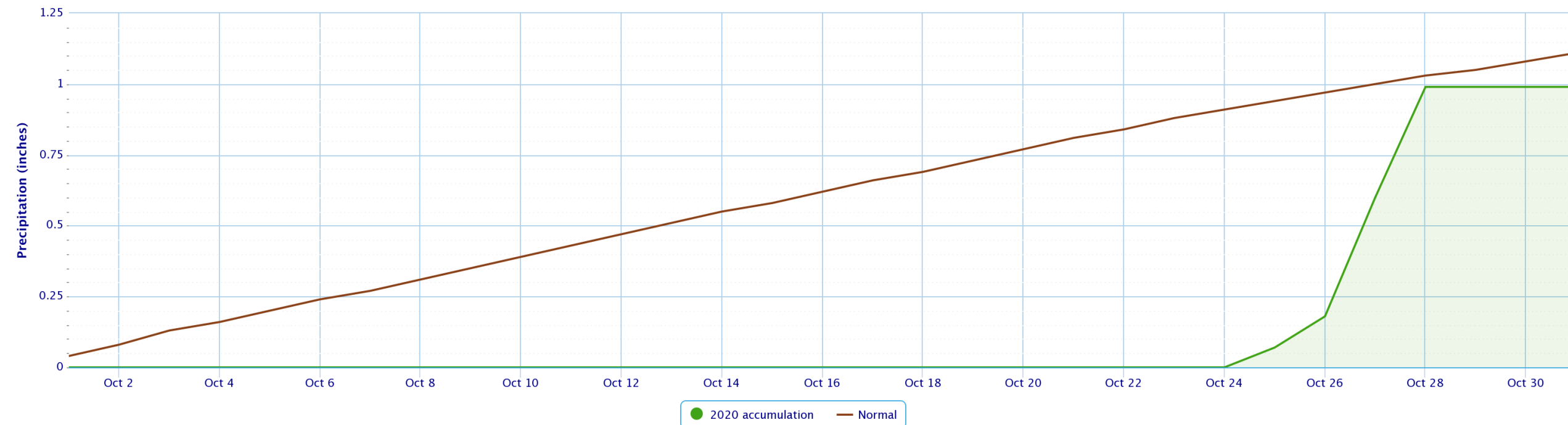
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Normal Precipitation = 1.11" Actual = 0.99" Snowfall = 12.2"

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 0.99" of precipitation measured at Clayton, compared to the normal of 1.11", or 0.12" below normal. This was tied for the 71st driest October on record (1893-2019). The 12.2 inches of snow was the snowiest October on record.

Record Type	Date	New Record	Previous Record
Daily Rainfall	October 27 th	0.42"	0.41" in 1998
Daily Snowfall	October 26 th	3.1"	1.5" in 1913
Daily Snowfall	October 27 th	5.5"	1.9" in 1970
Daily Snowfall	October 28 th	3.1"	1.0" in 2019

October 2020 Climate Summary

Roswell Temperatures

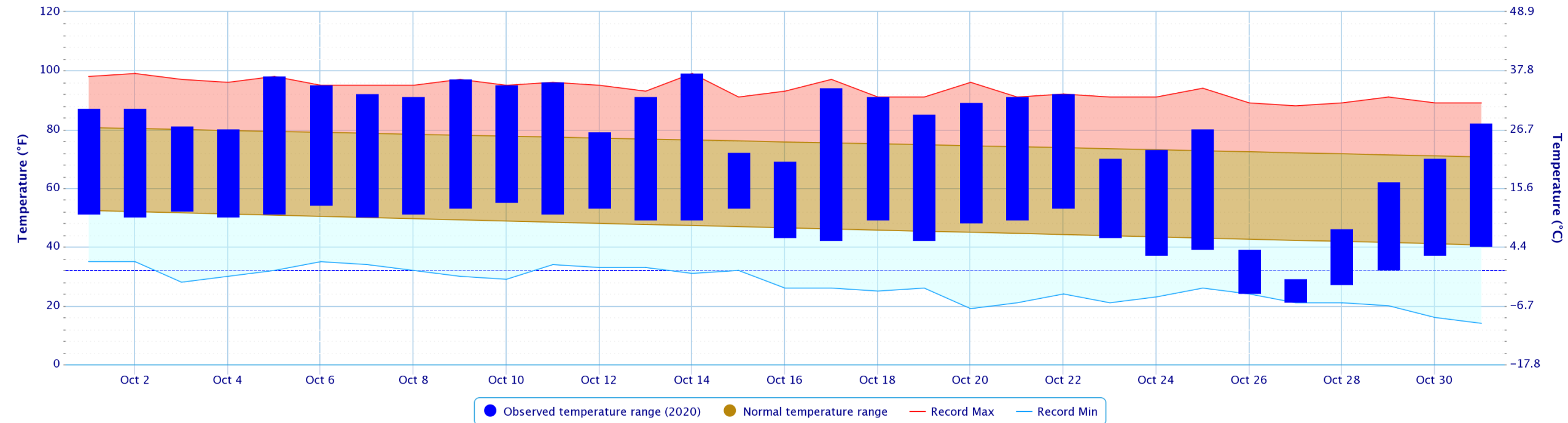
Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM

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Daily Temperature Data – Roswell Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – Max temperature: 1893-01-03 to 2020-11-01; Min temperature: 1893-01-21 to 2020-11-01. Normals period: 1981-2010. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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The average temperature for Roswell was 62.9°, which was 1.8° above the normal of 61.1°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 80.7°. This was 5.0° above the average maximum temperature of 75.7°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 45.1°. This was 1.4° below the normal average minimum temperature of 46.5°. This was tied for the 25th warmest October on record.

Roswell temperature records table on next slide

October 2020 Climate Summary

Roswell Temperatures

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM
Issued November 12, 2020 2:50 PM MDT



Record Type	Date	New Record	Previous Record
High Temperature	October 5th	98°	94° in 2018
High Temperature	October 6th	95°	93° in 2007
High Temperature	October 9th	97°	93° in 1965
High Temperature	October 10th	95°	93° in 1972
High Temperature	October 11th	96°	93° in 1996
High Temperature	October 14th	99°	94° in 1968
High Temperature	October 18 th	91°	89° in 1995
High Temperature	October 21 st	91°	90° in 1995
High Temperature	October 22 nd	92°	90° in 1961
Low Temperature	October 26 th	24° (T)	24° in 1898
Low Temperature	October 27 th	21°	23° in 1913

October 2020 Climate Summary

Roswell Precipitation

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM

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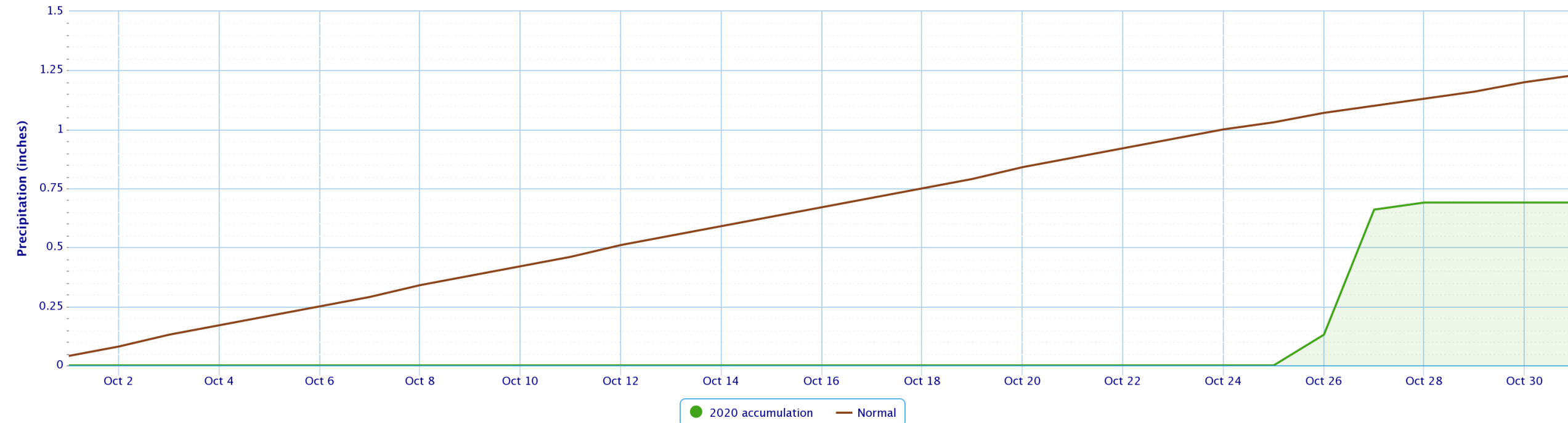
Normal = 1.23"

Actual = 0.66"

Snowfall = 4.9"

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 0.69" of precipitation measured at Roswell, compared to the normal of 1.23", or 0.54" below normal. This was tied for the 64th driest October on record (1893-2020). The 4.9" of snow was a record high snowfall for October!

Record Type	Date	New Record	Previous Record
Monthly Snowfall	October	4.9"	4.2" in 1976
Daily Snowfall	October 27 th	4.6"	0.4" in 1976

October 2020 Climate Summary

Severe Weather*

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM

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Event Type	Date	County Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
High Wind	10/14/2020	Central Highlands	38 kt	Sustained	Clines Corners reported sustained winds up to 44 mph.
High Wind	10/14/2020	Central Highlands	52 kt	Gust	Clines Corners reported peak wind gusts up to 60 mph.
High Wind	10/25/2020	South Central Mountains	60 kt	Gust	A 30 inch diameter tree and some power lines were toppled near Ruidoso.
High Wind	10/25/2020	Northwest Plateau	62 kt	Gust	Peak wind gusts up to 71 mph were reported with virga near Farmington.
Heavy Snow	10/26-10/27/2020	Northwest Highlands	6-11"		Cuba to Torreon Navajo Mission.
Heavy Snow	10/26-10/27/2020	West Central Highlands	4-9"		Around Grants.
Heavy Snow	10/25-10/27/2020	Tusas Mountains and Chama	10-20"		Low visibility in heavy snow around Chama.
Heavy Snow	10/25-10/28/2020	Jemez Mountains	12-24"		23 inches at Wolf Canyon set a new monthly record snowfall for October.
Heavy Snow	10/25-10/28/2020	Glorieta Mesa	8-16"		Glorieta to Rowe.
Heavy Snow	10/25-10/28/2020	Northern Sangre de Cristo Mts	12-24"		Taos Ski Valley to Red River.
Heavy Snow	10/25-10/28/2020	East Slopes Sangre de Cristo Mts	6-14"		Mora to Angel Fire and Eagle Nest.
Heavy Snow	10/26-10/28/2020	Upper Rio Grande Valley	8-14"		Taos area.
Heavy Snow	10/26-10/28/2020	Espanola Valley	3-5"		Espanola area.
Heavy Snow	10/26-10/28/2020	Santa Fe Metro Area	4-7"		Santa Fe area.
Heavy Snow	10/26-10/28/2020	ABQ Metro Area	4-12"		Albuquerque to Rio Rancho.
Winter Storm	10/26-10/28/2020	Lower Rio Grande Valley	2-5"		Socorro area.
Heavy Snow	10/26-10/28/2020	Sandia/Manzano Mountains	5-10"		Edgewood to Mountainair.
Heavy Snow	10/26-10/28/2020	Estancia Valley	4-8"		Moriarty to Estancia.
Winter Storm	10/25-10/28/2020	Central Highlands	3-6"		U.S. 285 corridor from Encino to Clines Corners.
Winter Storm	10/26-10/28/2020	South Central Highlands	3-6"		Mountainair to near Corona.
Winter Storm	10/26-10/28/2020	South Central Mountains	5-10"		Ruidoso area.
Winter Storm	10/25-10/28/2020	Johnson/Bartlett Mesas and Raton Pass	4-7"		Raton Pass to Capulin and Folsom.
Winter Storm	10/25-10/28/2020	Far Northeast Highlands	3-6"		Interstate 25 from Raton south to Springer.
Blizzard	10/28/2020	Far Northeast Highlands			U.S. Highway 56 closed. One to three feet drifts.
Heavy Snow	10/25-10/28/2020	Union County	8-12"		Clayton area.
Blizzard	10/28/2020	Union County			Severe to impossible travel.
Heavy Snow	10/25-10/28/2020	Harding County	8-16"		Roy to Mosquero and Bueyeros.
Blizzard	10/28/2020	Harding County			Two to four feet drifts.
Heavy Snow	10/25-10/28/2020	Eastern San Miguel County	10-20"		Conchas Dam to Mosquero.
Blizzard	10/28/2020	Eastern San Miguel County			Two to four feet drifts.
Heavy Snow	10/25-10/28/2020	Quay County	8-16"		Tucumcari area.
Blizzard	10/28/2020	Quay County			One to three feet drifts. Several travel.
Winter Storm	10/25-10/28/2020	Northeast Highlands	4-8"		Las Vegas area.
Winter Storm	10/26/2020	Roosevelt County	2-4"		Melrose to Portales.
Heavy Snow	10/25-10/28/2020	Guadalupe County	6-12"		Santa Rosa area.
Heavy Snow	10/25-10/28/2020	De Baca County	8-12"		Fort Sumner area.
Heavy Snow	10/26-10/28/2020	Chaves County Plains	2-8"		Roswell area.
Heavy Snow	10/26-10/28/2020	Eastern Lincoln County	4-8"		Near Corona to Arabela.
Heavy Snow	10/26-10/28/2020	Southwest Chaves County	3-7"		Elk to Dunkin.
Heavy Snow	10/26-10/27/2020	San Agustin Plains	4-8"		Magdalena area.

*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/>
- ▶ U.S. Drought Monitor: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>
- ▶ NWS Local Climate Pages: <https://w2.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=abq>
- ▶ CPC ENSO: https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/ensodisc.shtml
- ▶ NCEI Storm Data: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>
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