

December 2019 Climate Summary

Overview



Synopsis

December 2019 was generally warmer and drier than normal for much of New Mexico. Temperatures and precipitation were close to normal in the west. There were several storms during the month, but most only produced light to moderate snow amounts. The most significant and widespread snow event was the December 27th-28th storm.

Albuquerque, NM | December 6, 2019
Courtesy of @penaphotonm



West of Tucumcari, NM | December 3, 2019
Courtesy of @wxbird



Valles Caldera, NM December 8, 2019
Courtesy of @bigblackchair



Raton Pass, NM December 16, 2019
Courtesy of NMDOT



December 2019 Climate Summary

State Temperatures

Weather Forecast Office
Albuquerque, NM
Issued January 5, 2020 11:43 PM MDT

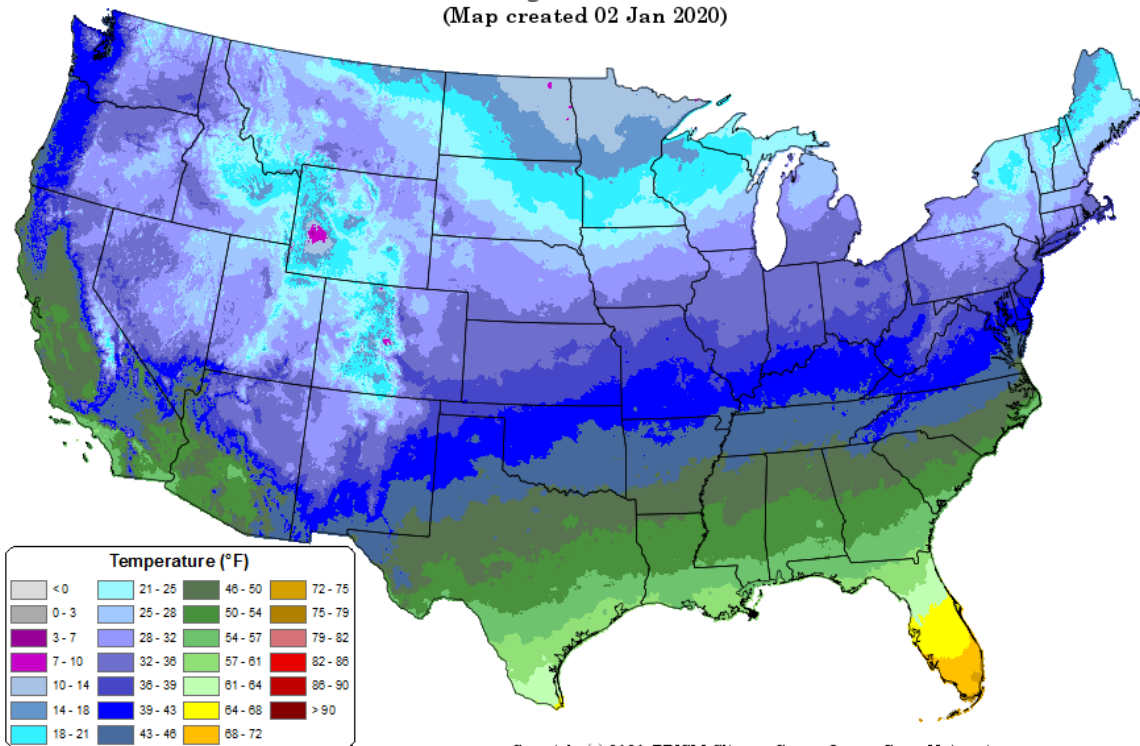


Actual

Average Daily Mean Temperature: Dec 2019

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2019

(Map created 02 Jan 2020)



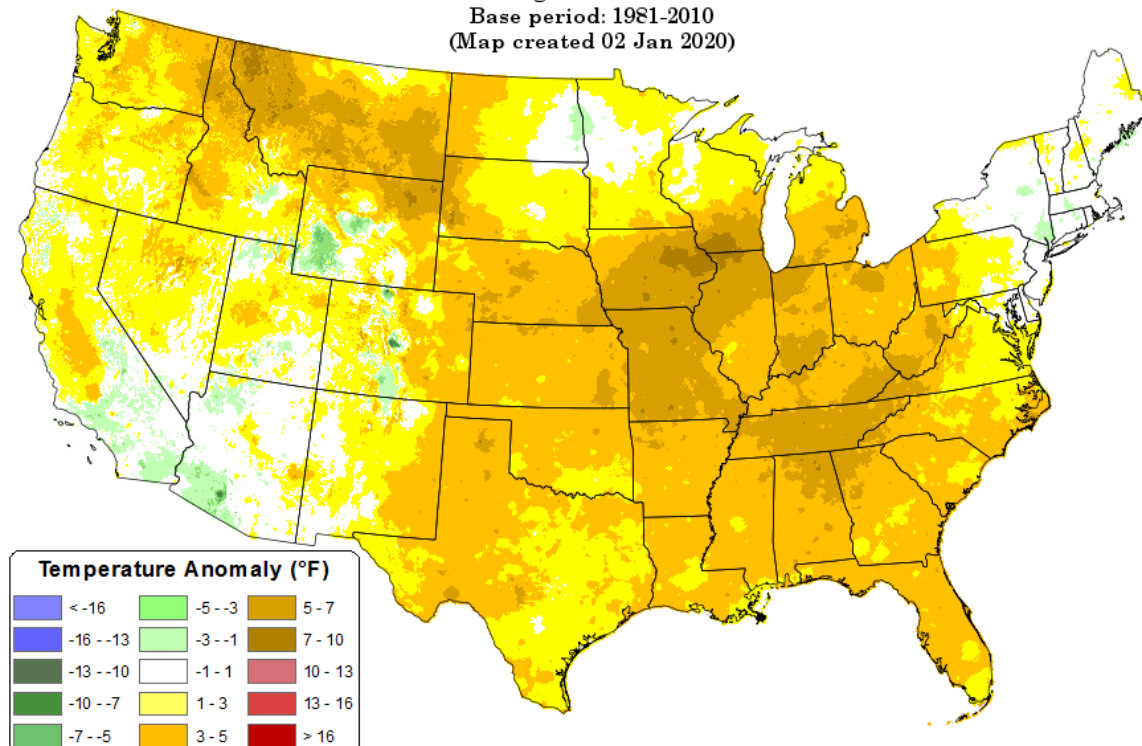
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Anomaly

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: Dec 2019

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2019

Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 02 Jan 2020)



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December 2019 Climate Summary

State Precipitation

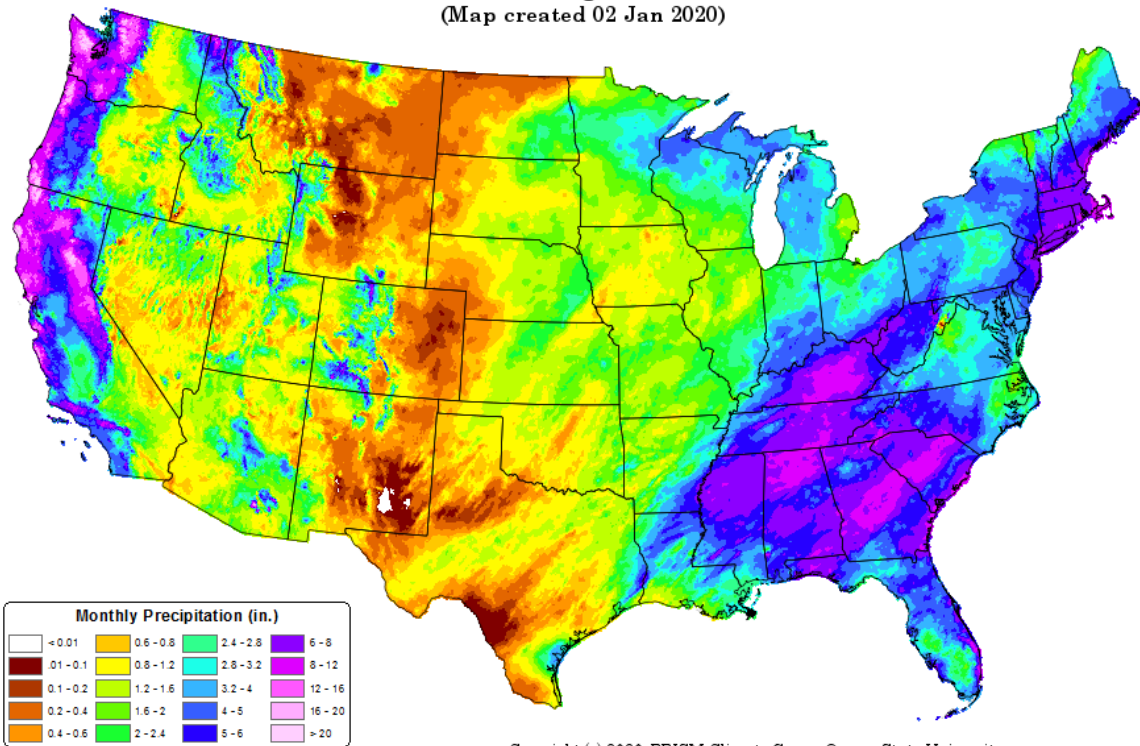
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Albuquerque, NM
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Actual

Total Precipitation: Dec 2019

Period ending 31 Dec 2019
(Map created 02 Jan 2020)

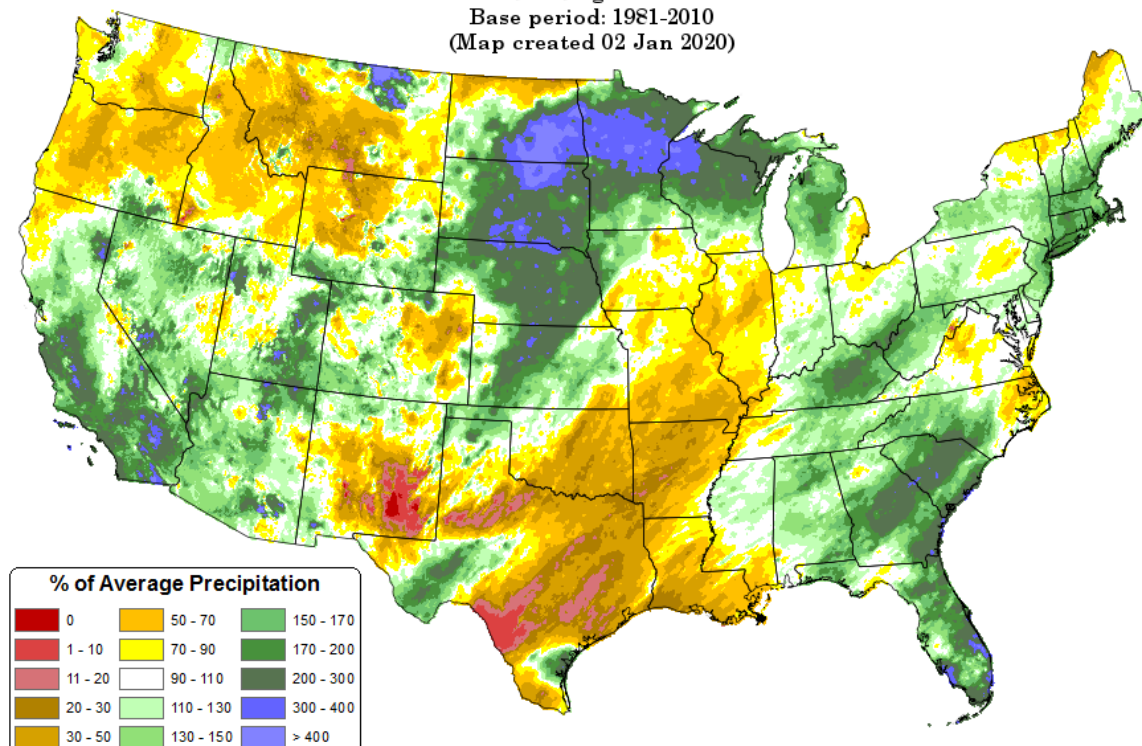


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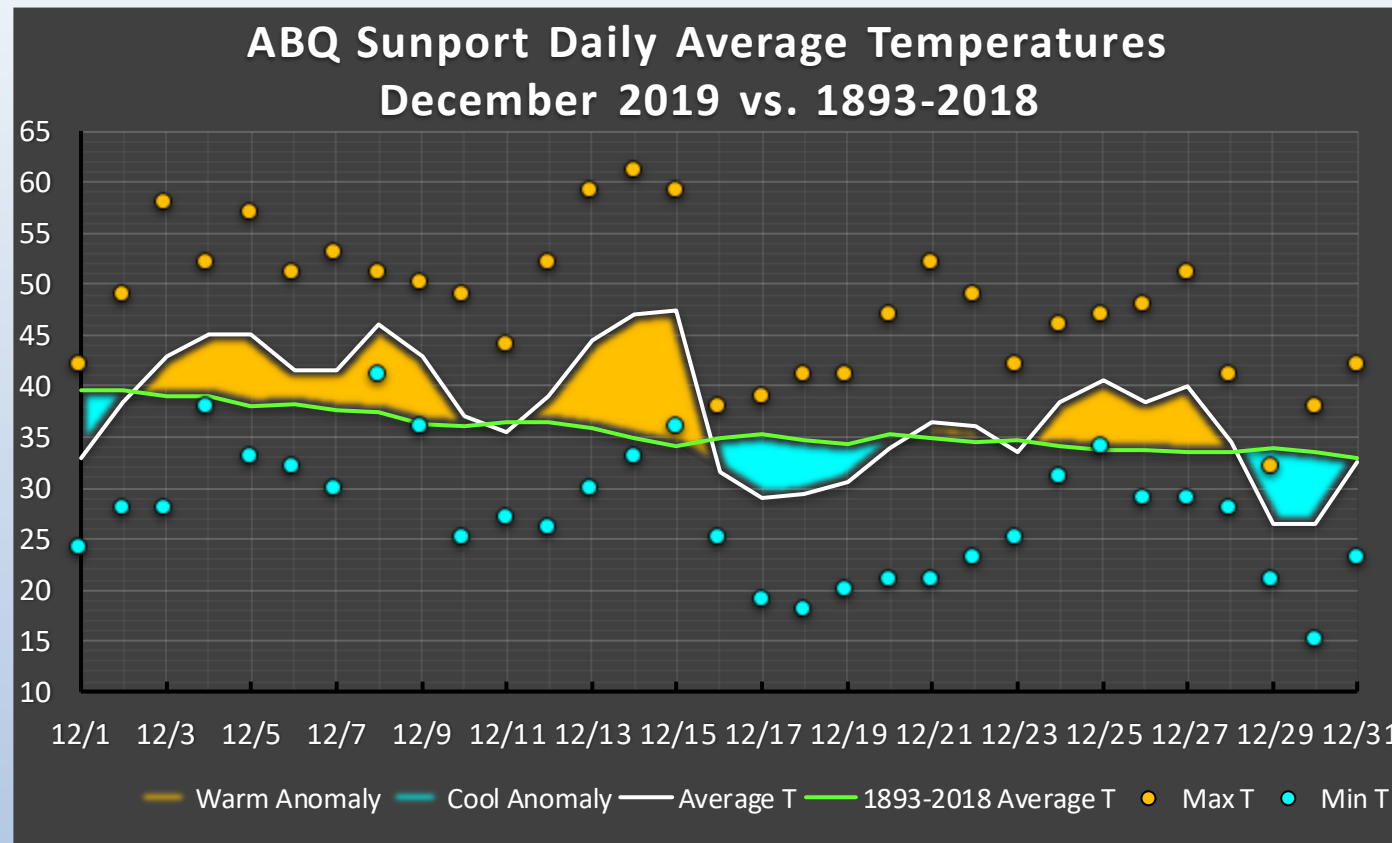
Anomaly

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Dec 2019

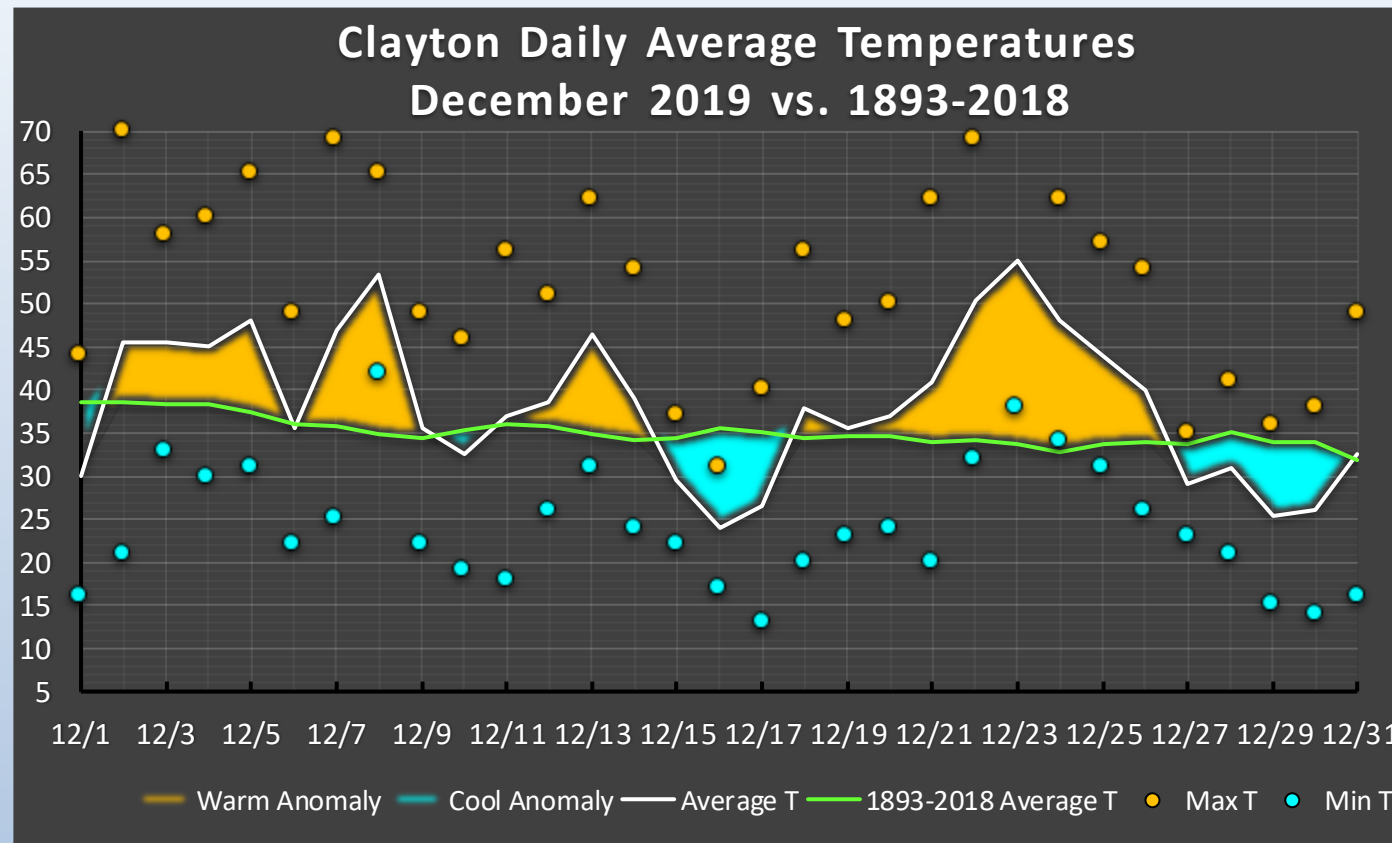
Period ending 31 Dec 2019
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 02 Jan 2020)



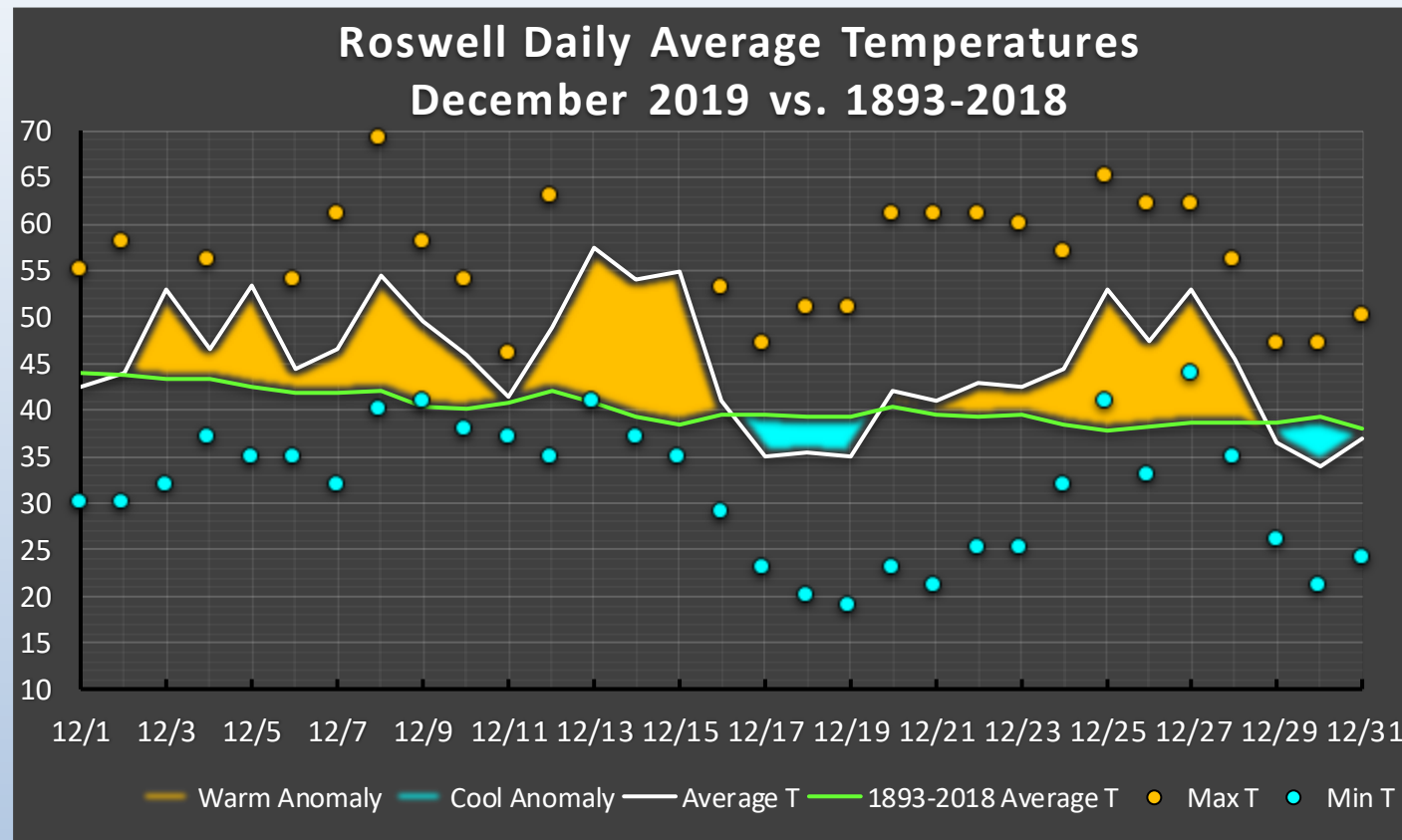
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The average temperature for Albuquerque was 37.6°, which was 1.3° above the normal of 36.3°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 47.8°. This was 1.7° above the normal average maximum temperature of 46.1°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 27.4°. This was 0.9° above the normal average minimum temperature of 26.5°.



The average temperature for Clayton was 38.5°, which was 3.7° above the normal of 34.8°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 52.7°. This was 5.0° above the normal average maximum temperature of 47.7°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 24.2°. This was 2.3° above the normal average minimum temperature of 21.9°. This ranks as the 16th warmest December on record (1909-2019).



The average temperature for Roswell was 45.3°, which was 4.9° above the normal of 40.4°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 59.1°. This was 4.5° above the average maximum temperature of 54.6°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 31.5°. This was 5.4° above the normal average minimum temperature of 26.1°. This ranks as the 6th warmest December on record (1894-2019).

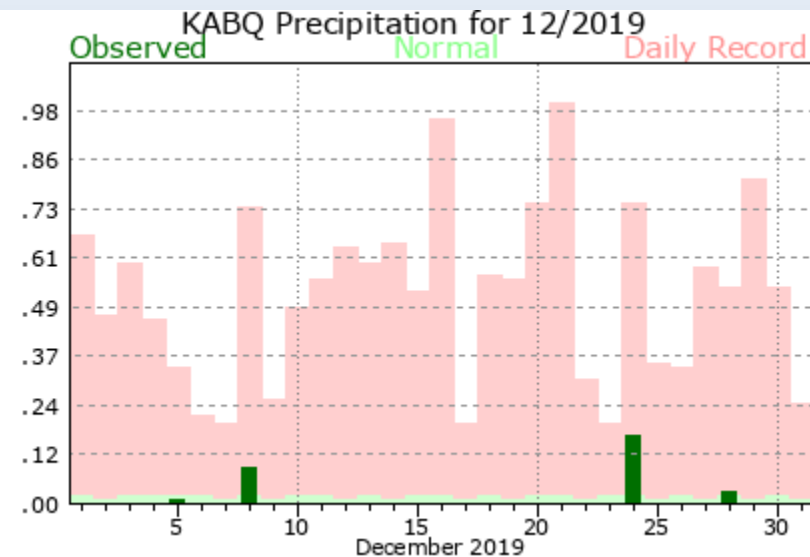
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Precipitation – Climate Sites

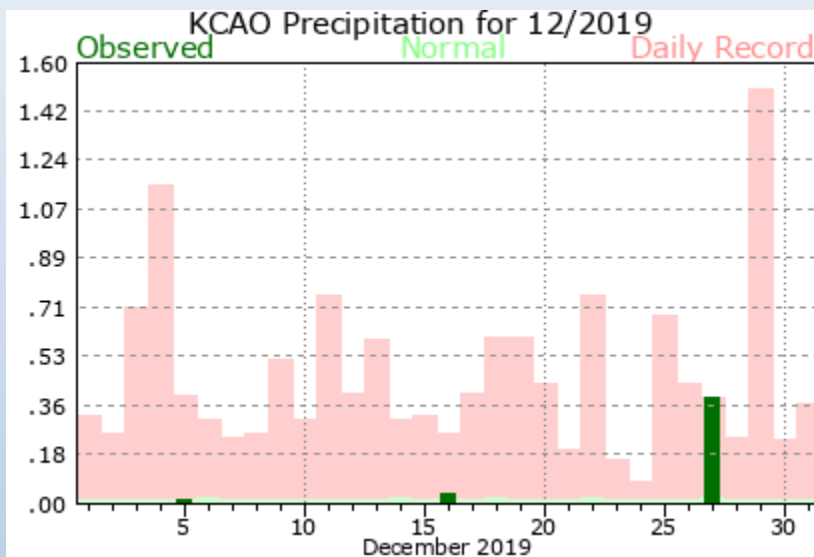
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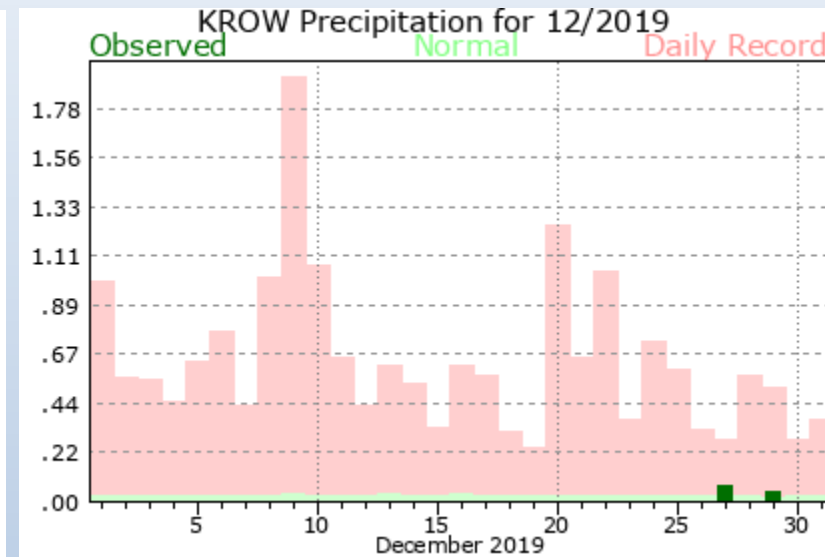
Albuquerque Sunport



Clayton



Roswell



There was 0.30" of precipitation measured at the Sunport, compared to the normal of 0.50", or 0.20" below normal. This ranks as the 61st driest December on record (1893-2019).

There was 0.42" of precipitation measured at Clayton, compared to the normal of 0.36", or 0.06" above normal. This ranks as the 36th wettest December on record (1909-2019).

There was 0.11" of precipitation measured at Roswell, compared to the normal of 0.64", or 0.53" below normal. This ranks as the 38th driest December on record (1894-2019).

December 2019 Climate Summary

Severe Weather*








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Event Type	Date	County/Zone Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
High Wind	12/13/19	Eastern Lincoln County	61 kt	Gust	Peak wind gusts near 70 mph toppled an oak tree near Arabela.
High Wind	12/13/19	South Central Mountains	51 kt	Gust	Sierra Blanca airport peak wind gusts up to 59 mph.
Heavy Snow	12-14/15-19	Tusas Mountains and Chama	6-10"		Difficult travel along U.S. 64 and 84.
Heavy Snow	12-27/28-19	Southwest Mountains	3-10"		Difficult travel along U.S. 180, 60, and SR-12.
Heavy Snow	12-27/28-19	Tusas Mountains and Chama	5-13"		Difficult travel conditions were reported along parts of U.S. Highways 64 and 84.
Heavy Snow	12-27/28-19	Jemez Mountains	2-11"		Difficult travel conditions were reported along State Road 4.
Heavy Snow	12-27/28-19	Northern Sangre de Cristo Mountains	6-18"		Difficult travel conditions were reported along U.S. Highway 64 and State Road 38.
Heavy Snow	12-27/28-19	Southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains	10-22"		Difficult travel conditions were reported over higher mountain roadways.
Heavy Snow	12-27/28-19	East Slopes Sangre de Cristo Mountains	4-13"		Difficult travel conditions were reported along U.S. Highway 64 and State Road 434.
Tornado	12/27/2019	Curry County	EF-1		Power poles, pivot irrigation, and fencing damaged near SR-288 and CR-25.
Winter Weather	12-27/28-19	West Central Plateau	2-5"		Severe travel conditions with motor vehicles accidents along I-40.
Winter Weather	12-27/28-19	West Central Mountains	2-8"		Severe travel conditions with motor vehicles accidents along I-40.
Winter Weather	12-27/28-19	Santa Fe Metro Area	1-2"		Southbound U.S. 84 closed due to numerous vehicle accidents.

*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/>
-  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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