

Climate and Weather Summary for December 2019

Temperatures in December averaged above normal at Abilene and San Angelo. Precipitation was below normal at Abilene and above normal at San Angelo. Table 1 summarizes December 2019 temperature, precipitation, and departure from normal for Abilene and San Angelo.

Site	Average Temperature (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)	Normal Average Temperature (°F)	Total Precipitation (In.)	Departure from Normal (In)	Normal December Precipitation (In.)
Abilene	49.6°	4.3°	45.3°	0.98"	-0.25"	1.23"
San Angelo	51.0°	4.3°	46.7°	1.28"	0.43"	0.85"

Table 1: December Climate Data for Abilene and San Angelo.

Additional temperature and precipitation data for Abilene and San Angelo is summarized in Table 2.

Site	Warmest High Temperature (°F)	Warmest Low Temperature (°F)	Coldest High Temperature (°F)	Coldest Low Temperature (°F)	Maximum Daily Precipitation (In.)
Abilene	83° on Dec. 5	58° on Dec. 27	45° on Dec. 16	24° Dec. 17, 21	0.41" Dec. 10
San Angelo	89° on Dec. 15	56° on Dec. 27	44° on Dec. 10	20° on Dec. 19	0.69" Dec. 10

Table 2: Additional December Climate Data for Abilene and San Angelo.

- No snow was recorded in December at Abilene and San Angelo.
- At Abilene, new record daily high temperatures were set on Dec. 5 (83 degrees) and Dec. 8 (81 degrees).
- At San Angelo, new daily record high temperatures were set on Dec. 5 (84 degrees), Dec. 14 (83 degrees), and Dec. 15 (89 degrees). A new daily rainfall record was set on Dec. 10 (0.69 inches).

A map of total precipitation for December is shown in Figure 1. Percentage of normal precipitation for December is shown in Figure 2.

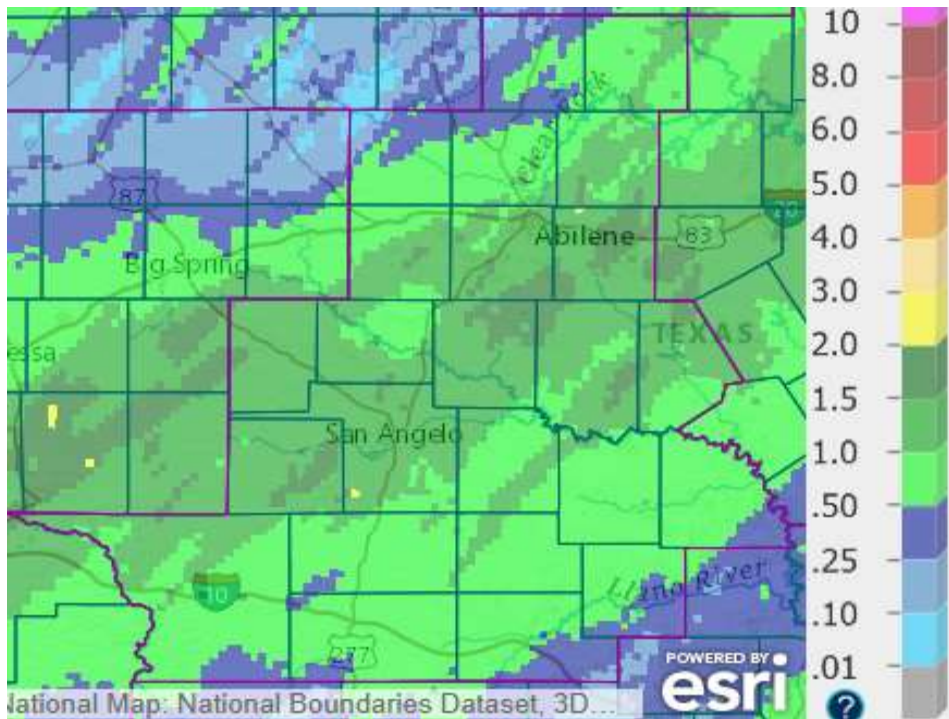


Figure 1: Total Precipitation for December.

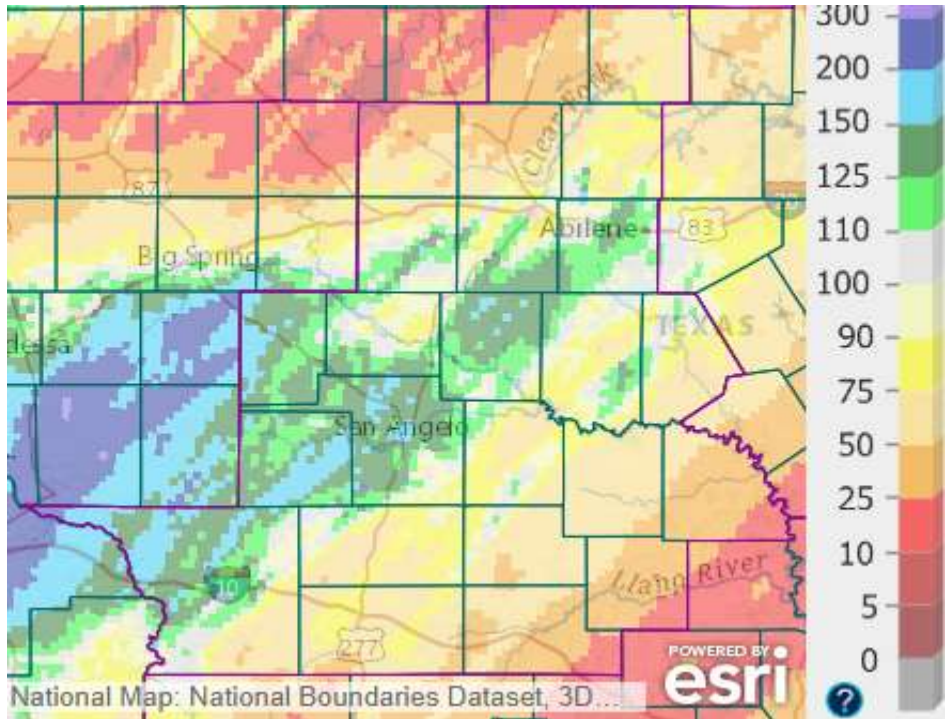


Figure 2: Percentage of Normal Precipitation for December.

Across most of west-central Texas, precipitation for December varied from above to below normal. Some locations received less than 25 percent of normal (red shading in Figure 2) in the far northwestern and far southeastern parts of the area.

Weather Highlights:

Dry conditions prevailed Dec. 1-8, and temperatures averaged mostly above normal. Unusually warm afternoon temperatures and breezy conditions occurred on the 5th and 8th. On Dec. 5, new daily record high temperatures were set at San Angelo (84 degrees) and Abilene (83 degrees). On Dec. 8, the new daily record high at Abilene (81 degrees) broke the old record (79 degrees), which had stood for 122 years (set in 1897).

Wet and colder weather occurred Dec. 9-10. Following a strong cold frontal passage and with the arrival of a strong upper level disturbance, a large and persistent area of light to moderate rain affected most of west-central Texas from the early nighttime hours of Dec. 9 into the morning of Dec. 10. This was a cold rain as temperatures dropped into the mid to upper 30s. Figure 3 shows rainfall amounts for the 24-hour period ending at 6 AM, Dec. 10.

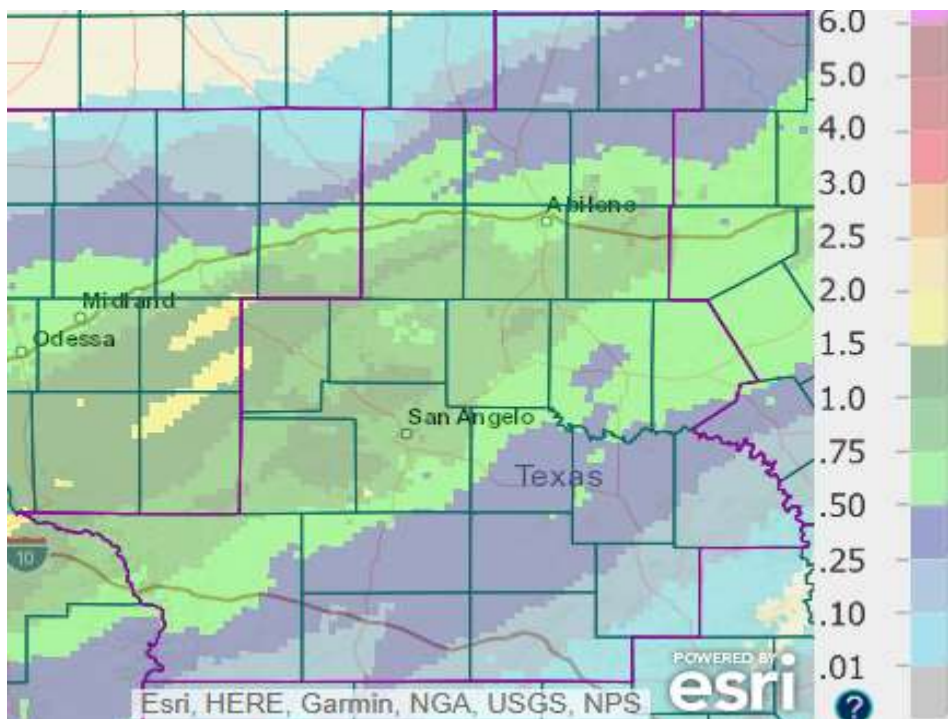


Figure 3: Rainfall for the 24-hour period ending at 6 AM, December 10.

The heavier rainfall (between 0.5 and 1.5 inches) occurred along a swath from the Interstate 20 corridor south across the Concho Valley and northern Heartland areas, and into Crockett County. This rainfall was of short-term benefit for the area, which had been affected by moderate to severe drought conditions in the preceding weeks.

Highs were in the 40s on Dec. 10, and cloud cover lingered over much of west-central Texas. Patchy fog and freezing fog occurred on the early morning of Dec. 11, as temperatures dropped below freezing and into the upper 20s to lower 30s.

High temperatures (for mid-December) were unusually warm on Dec. 14-15, and in the 80s across central and southern parts of west-central Texas. New daily record high temperatures were set at San Angelo on the 14th (83 degrees) and 15th (89 degrees). The high of 89 was the third warmest temperature recorded in the month of December, and was only 2 degrees less than the warmest December temperature (91 degrees set on Dec. 4, 1954).

Following passage of a fairly strong cold front, dry and colder conditions occurred Dec. 16-19. Early morning lows on the 18th and 19th were in the teens, at several locations in low-lying areas across central and southern parts of west-central Texas. This was brought about by a combination of clear skies, light winds and rather dry air.

Daily high temperatures were well-above normal and mostly in the 70s Dec. 23-25. With a combination of southeast to south winds, cloudy skies and an intrusion of moist air from the Gulf of Mexico, low temperatures on Dec. 27 were very mild. New record high minimum temperatures were set at Abilene (58 degrees) and San Angelo (56 degrees).

Numerous showers and thunderstorms occurred on Dec. 28, with the arrival of a strong upper level disturbance from New Mexico. Pea size hail was observed near the San Angelo Airport. The rain coverage was widespread, and rainfall amounts varied under one inch.

Dry and cooler conditions followed passage of a cold front on Dec. 29. The month ended with quiet weather, with the influence of a high pressure system.

[Additional Tabular and Graphical Daily Climate Data](#)