

Climate and Weather Summary for December 2020

Temperatures in December averaged above normal at San Angelo and Abilene. Precipitation was above normal at both locations. Table 1 summarizes December, 2020 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	48.3°	3.0°	45.3°	1.82"	0.59"	1.23"
San Angelo	48.5°	1.8°	46.7°	1.06"	0.21"	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	82° on Dec. 10	57° on Dec. 29	36° on Dec. 31	19° on Dec. 14	0.98" Dec. 31
San Angelo	83° on Dec. 10	56° on Dec. 29	38° on Dec. 31	20° Dec. 14, 17	0.93" Dec. 31

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

- Total snowfall for December was 2.6 inches at Abilene, and 1.7 inches at San Angelo.

A Map of total precipitation for December is shown in Figure 1 (below). Percentage of normal precipitation for December is shown in Figure 2.

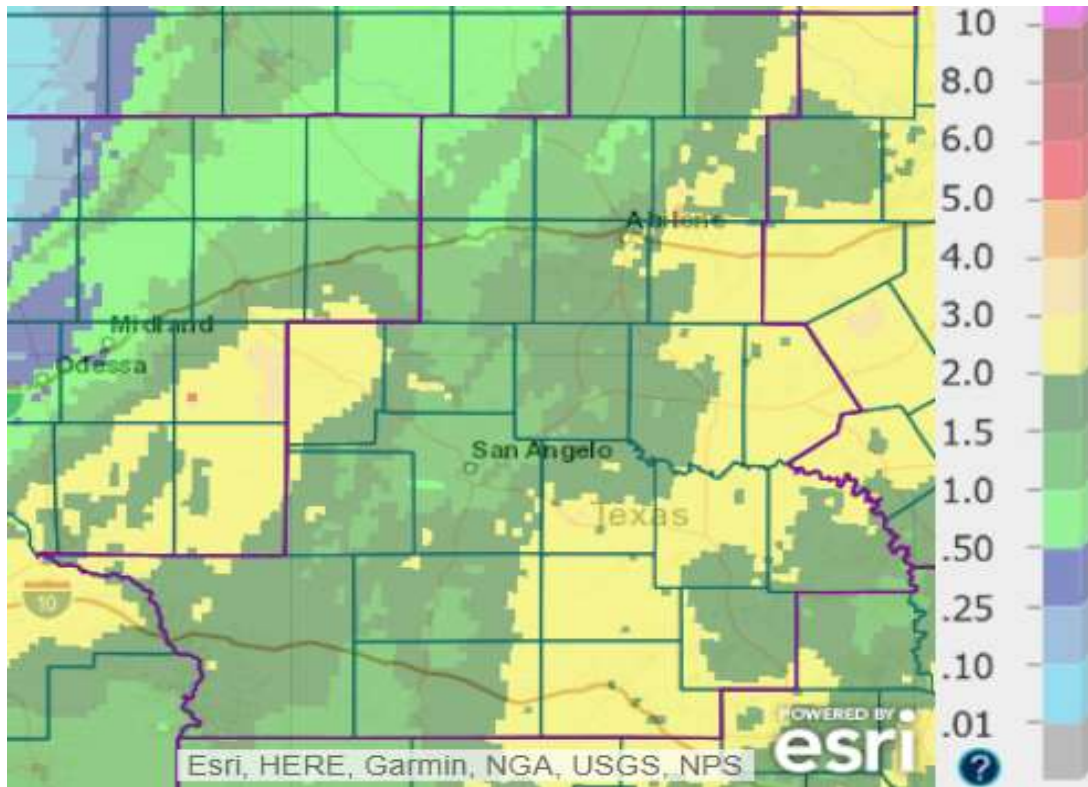


Figure 1: Total Precipitation for December.

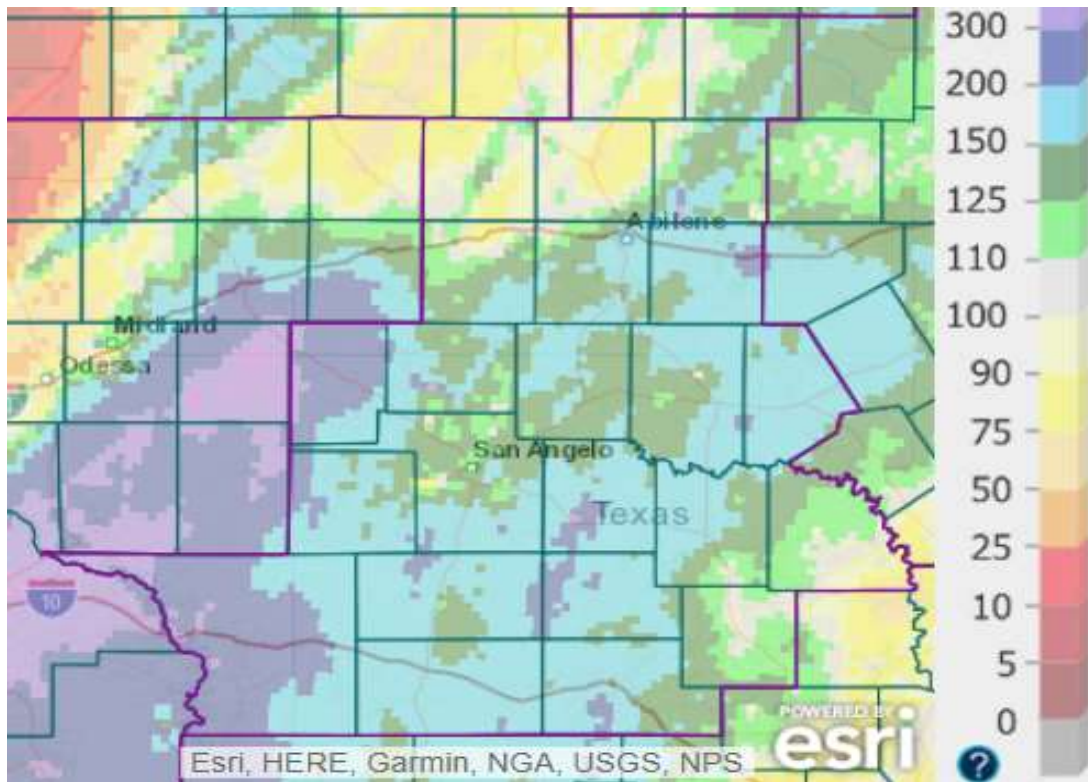


Figure 2: Percentage of Normal Precipitation for December.

Precipitation for December varied from below to well-above normal. The monthly precipitation was near to slightly below normal across the northwestern [Big Country](#), and in far southeastern San Saba County. December precipitation was above normal across the eastern Big Country, and across most of the area south of Interstate 20. The main precipitation event for the month occurred on Dec. 30-31.

Weather Highlights:

Dry conditions prevailed during most of December.

Temperatures were cold on Dec. 3 with highs in the 40s, under mostly cloudy skies.

With the approach and arrival of a weak upper level storm system from the Big Bend region, light rain occurred across some of [west-central Texas](#) on Dec. 5 into the post-Midnight hours of Dec. 6. Rainfall amounts were generally less than one quarter of an inch.

A considerable warming trend occurred Dec. 7-10, with dry conditions. The warmest day was Dec. 10, when afternoon highs were in the upper 70s to lower 80s. With the dry vegetation and well-above normal afternoon temperatures, a grass fire occurred in the northwestern corner of Coleman County, on the late afternoon of Dec. 10.

As a storm system tracked east across northwestern Texas and into the southern Plains, a strong cold front moved through west-central Texas on Dec. 13. Brisk northwest winds followed passage of this front. Several locations, including Abilene and San Angelo, recorded peak wind gusts 40-45 mph. A few snow flurries and sleet pellets were reported in Abilene. With clearing skies and diminishing winds, temperatures dropped into the upper teens to lower 20s for early morning lows on Dec. 14.

As an upper level storm system moved east into the southern Plains on Dec. 15, a cold front moved through west-central Texas. Gusty west-northwest winds followed passage of this front. With this setup, a plume of blowing dust was carried over much of the Concho Valley from mid-afternoon into early evening. This plume of blowing dust is shown in a [Facebook post](#) from our weather office.

Early morning low temperatures were cold on Dec. 16-17, as a high pressure system moved across the area. Lows were in the upper teens to lower 20s at some locations.

Warmer temperatures and breezy south winds occurred on Dec. 18, followed by a weaker cold frontal passage in the early morning of Dec. 19.

Patchy light fog and patchy blowing dust were observed in the same day across some of the area, on Dec. 23. This occurred as an upper level storm system deepened over parts of the Plains and Mississippi Valley. The patchy light fog occurred in the early morning, while moist conditions lingered from the previous day. A cold front moved south across the area during the day, and was followed by gusty north winds. The higher wind gusts occurred during the evening and early nighttime hours. Peak wind gusts were 40-45 mph across some of the area, including Abilene and San Angelo. With these winds, patchy

blowing dust was carried south into west-central Texas. With the windy conditions and the intrusion of much drier air, a brush fire was reported to the southeast of Santa Anna in Coleman County.

A quiet weather pattern prevailed Dec. 24-28, with rather dry conditions. Daily high temperatures were well-above normal Dec. 25-27. The San Angelo high of 78 degrees on the 27th was only one degree below the record high for that date.

A winter weather event occurred at the end of the month, on Dec. 31. Following a strong cold frontal passage, temperatures on Dec. 30 dropped into the mid 30s to mid 40s. A prolonged period of gusty north winds followed passage of the front and continued on Dec. 31. With the approach of an upper level storm system from northeastern Mexico toward south-central Texas, winter precipitation affected west-central Texas on Dec. 31. A cold rain changed to a mix of freezing rain, sleet, and snow. Ice accumulated mainly on elevated objects (trees and power lines) across central and eastern parts of west-central Texas. This caused power outages in Coleman County. The transition to snow occurred, from west to east across the area, on Dec. 31. Most of West Central Texas received anywhere from 2-5 inches of snow. The highest snowfall amounts (6-9 inches) occurred in Sterling and Irion Counties. A map with snowfall amounts is shown in a [Facebook post](#) from our weather office.

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