

## Climate and Weather Summary for December 2021

Temperatures in December averaged much above normal at San Angelo and Abilene. Precipitation was well-below normal at both locations. Table 1 summarizes December 2021 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 Dec. Precipitation (In.)
Abilene	60.4°	13.1°	47.3°	0.05"	-1.21"	1.26"
San Angelo	60.1°	11.7°	48.4°	0.03"	-0.86"	0.89"

**Table 1: Dec. 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)	Coollest High Temperature (°F)	Coldest Low Temperature (°F)	Maximum Daily Precipitation (In.)
Abilene	90° on Dec. 26	64° on Dec. 15	48° on Dec. 19	27° on Dec. 7	0.05" Dec. 18
San Angelo	89° on Dec. 26	62° on Dec. 15	45° on Dec. 19	25° on Dec. 12	0.02" Dec. 18

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

- Warmest December on record at Abilene (average temperature of 60.4 degrees) and at San Angelo (average temperature of 60.1 degrees).
- At Abilene, new records were set for the warmest high temperature (90 degrees on Dec. 26) and warmest low temperature (64 degrees on Dec. 15) *for the month of December*.
- New records were set for the highest number of days in December with high temperatures 80 degrees or above (10 days at both Abilene and San Angelo).

Maps of total precipitation and percentage of normal precipitation, for December, are shown in Figures 1 and 2 (next page).

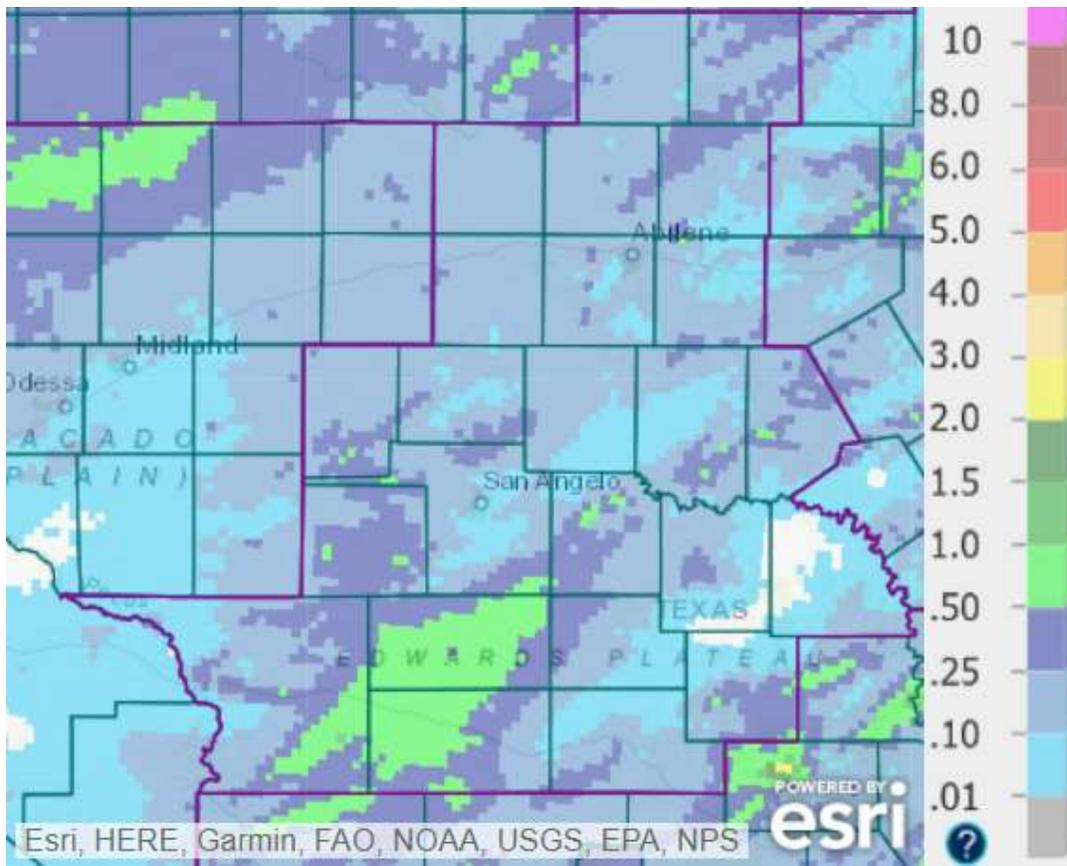


Figure 1: Total Precipitation for December.

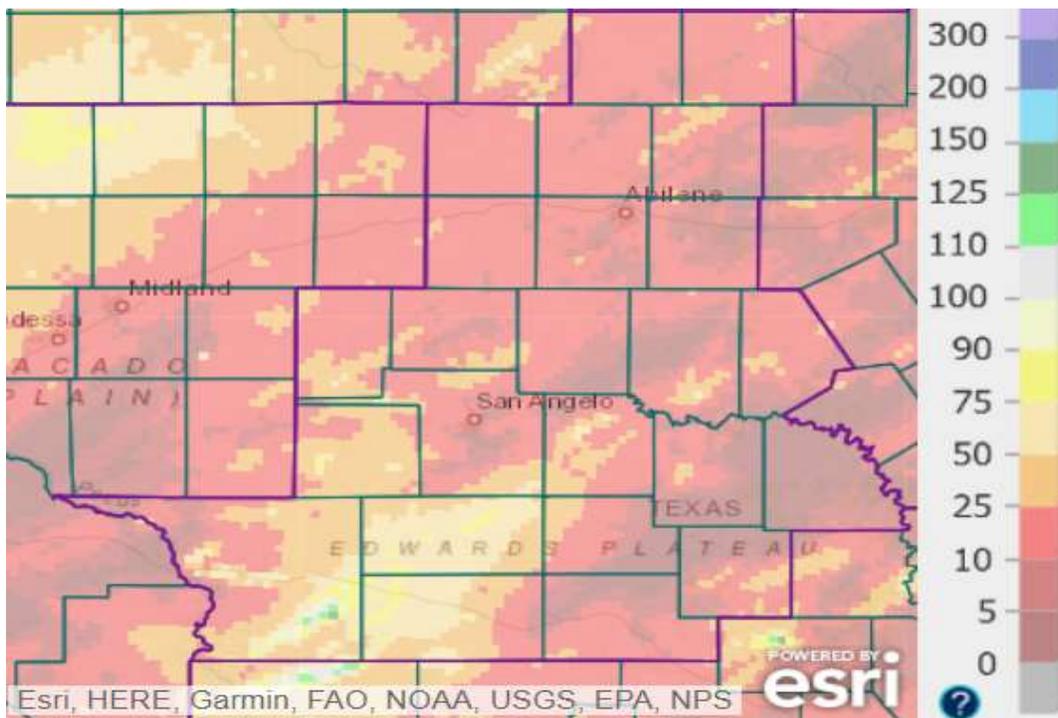


Figure 2: Percentage of Normal Precipitation for December.

Precipitation for December was well-below normal across most of west-central Texas (less than 25 percent of normal indicated in red shading in Fig. 2). The only exception was across parts of the Northern Edwards Plateau, where the monthly precipitation was one-half to one inch (green shading in Fig. 1).

### **December 2021 Weather Highlights**

The average temperature for December was the warmest on record at Abilene and San Angelo. These records were set by large margins. Abilene set a new record for its warmest high temperature (90 degrees on Dec. 26) and warmest low temperature (64 degrees on Dec. 15) *for the month of December*. During the month, numerous new daily record high temperatures, and a few record warm low temperatures, were set at Abilene and San Angelo. In addition, a new record was set for the highest number of days in December with highs 80 degrees or above, at Abilene (10 days) and San Angelo (10 days).

Rainfall during the month was spotty and light. No snowfall was recorded at Abilene and San Angelo in December.

Dry conditions prevailed in December, and temperatures were well-above normal on several occasions during the month. On these occasions, daytime temperatures were unseasonably warm with highs in the 80s. San Angelo and Abilene recorded a record high number of days in December with highs 80 degrees or above.

The early part of the month was dry with abnormal warmth. Highs were 80-85 degrees on Dec. 2 and in the 80s on Dec. 3. Temperatures were much cooler on Dec. 3 with brisk north winds in the morning, following an early morning cold frontal passage. A freeze occurred area wide on the early morning of Dec. 4, when lows were in the mid 20s to lower 30s.

Well-above normal highs returned Dec. 8-10. Highs were in the upper 70s to mid 80s on Dec. 9, and generally in the 80s on Dec. 10. As an upper level storm system moved from the central Rockies into the central Plains, strong and gusty southwest to west winds on Dec. 10 brought an intrusion of dry air into west-central Texas. Patchy blowing dust occurred across the Big Country. Peak wind gusts were 45-55 mph across the the northwestern Concho Valley and much of the Big Country. The highest recorded wind gusts were 64 mph at Haskell, and 59 mph at a Mesonet site 5 miles west of Rotan. A couple of grass fires were reported in the Big Country.

Following an overnight cold frontal passage, temperatures were much cooler on Dec. 11 when highs were in the mid 50s to near 60 degrees. Gusty north to northwest winds followed this cold frontal passage, and peak wind gusts 40-50 mph occurred across much of the Big Country. The highest recorded gust was 55 mph at Abilene.

Strong, gusty south-southwest winds occurred on Dec. 15. This was in association with a powerful storm system which moved from the central Rockies across the central Plains. A number of locations across the area recorded peak wind gusts over 45 mph including Abilene (57 mph) and San Angelo (53 mph).

Following a strong cold frontal passage, temperatures were colder on Dec. 18-19. Rain showers and scattered thunderstorms occurred across much of the southern half of the area on Dec. 18. Additional

light rain showers occurred in the southern half of the area on Dec. 19. A little sleet was mixed with the rain in Crockett, Tom Green, and Mcculloch Counties.

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