

Climate and Weather Summary for March 2021

Temperatures in March averaged above normal at San Angelo and Abilene. Precipitation was well below normal at San Angelo, and below normal at Abilene. Table 1 summarizes March, 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 March Precipitation (In.)
Abilene	59.4°	3.0°	56.4°	1.27"	-0.47"	1.74"
San Angelo	59.6°	1.8°	57.8°	0.50"	-1.00"	1.50"

Table 1: March 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	85° on Mar.26	64° Mar. 11-12	56° on Mar. 1	29° on Mar. 2	0.61" Mar. 13
San Angelo	89° on Mar. 30	60° Mar. 10-12	54° on Mar. 1	28° Mar. 2-3	0.24" Mar. 13

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

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

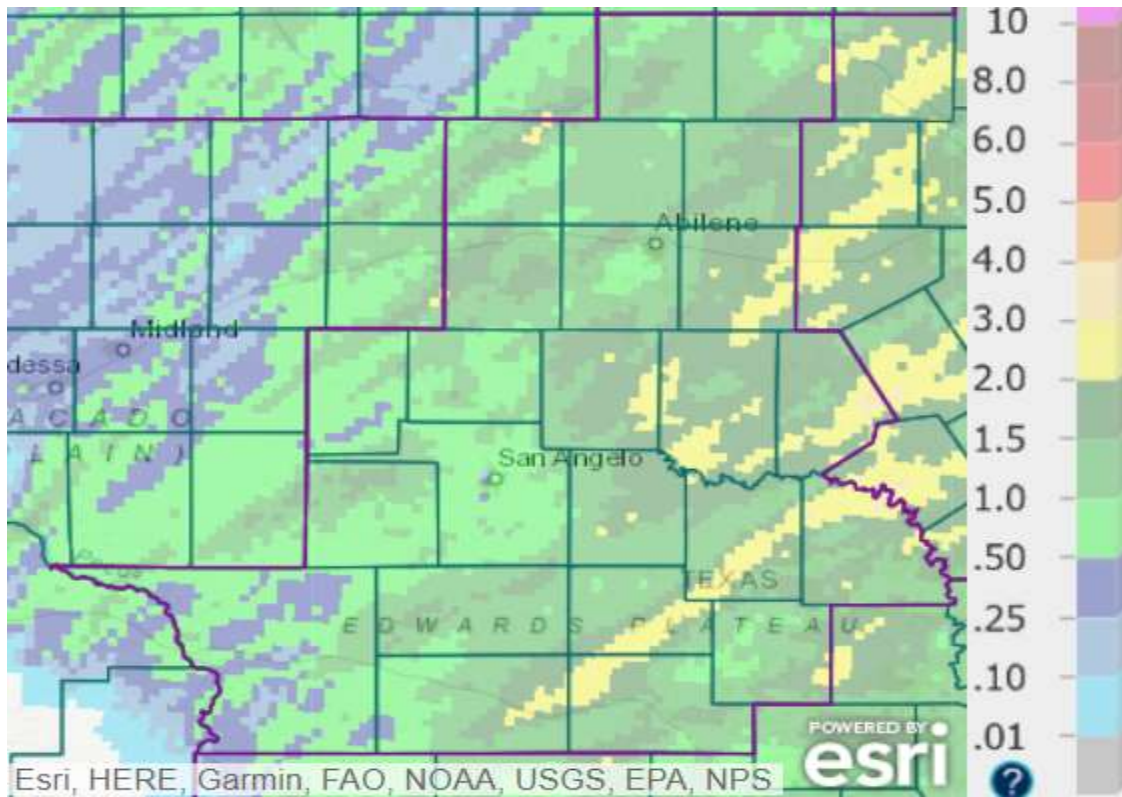


Figure 1: Total Precipitation for March.

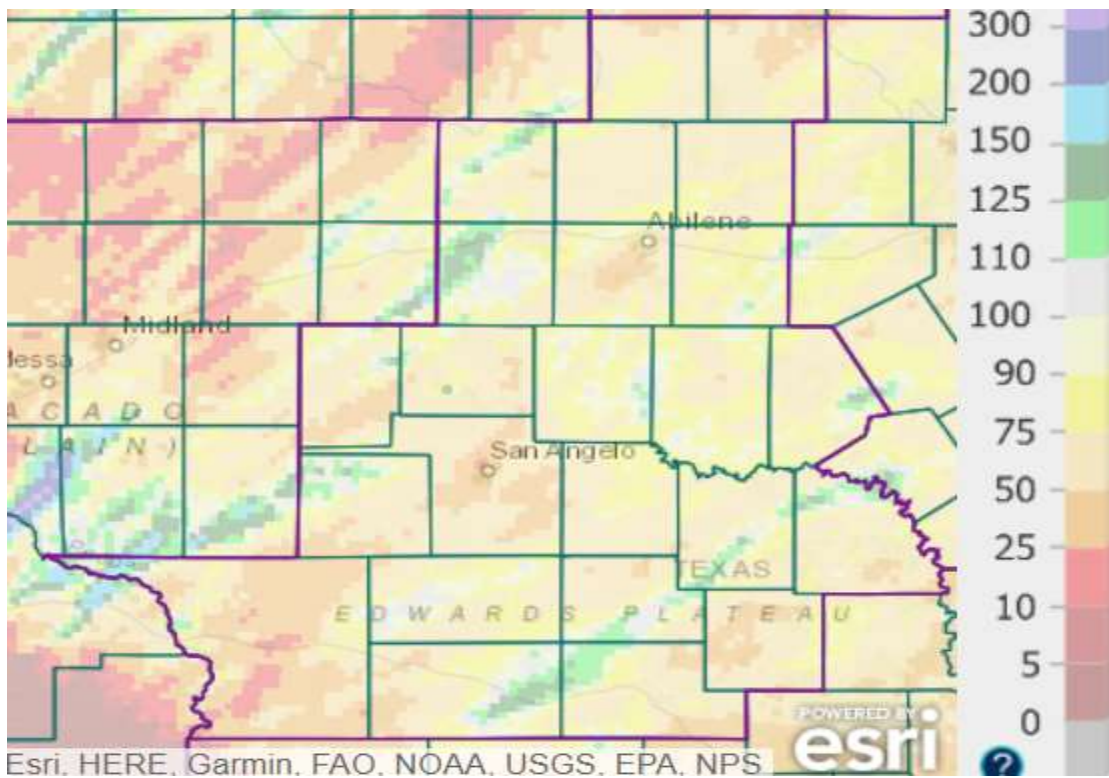


Figure 2: Percentage of Normal Precipitation for March.

Precipitation for March was below normal for much west-central Texas.

March 2021 Weather Highlights

With the approach of an upper level disturbance from southern New Mexico, numerous showers and widely scattered thunderstorms occurred between Midnight and 10 AM on Mar. 1. Rainfall amounts mostly varied under one quarter of an inch, but a few locations received between one quarter and three quarters of an inch. With considerable cloud cover, temperatures were cooler with highs mostly in the lower to mid 50s on Mar. 1.

A warming trend ensued Mar. 2-4, with increasing south-southwest winds. Highs on the 4th were 77-84 degrees. Following an overnight cold frontal passage, temperatures were cooler on Mar. 5 with gusty north to northwest winds. A few locations across the Big Country recorded peak wind gusts of 40-45 mph.

Breezy to windy conditions occurred Mar. 9-12 with mainly south winds. On Mar. 9, peak wind gusts were 51 mph at Abilene and 42 mph at San Angelo. This weather setup was accompanied by well-above nighttime temperatures and above normal daytime temperatures. Lows were generally at or above 60 degrees on Mar. 11-12. Skies were partly to mostly cloudy during that time.

With the approach of an upper level storm system from the southern Rockies, strong to severe thunderstorms occurred Mar. 13, and gusty south-southeast winds occurred prior to the storms. An area of showers and thunderstorms moved east across west-central Texas during the evening and early nighttime hours. With the arrival of the storms, a peak wind gust of 63 mph was recorded at the San Angelo Airport. Other wind gusts to 60 mph were reported at Sterling City and Bronte. A peak wind gust of 58 mph was recorded at Junction. Rainfall amounts of three quarters of an inch to 1.5 inches occurred across some of the southern Big Country and northern Concho Valley. For the rest of the area, rainfall amounts generally varied between one tenth of an inch and three quarters of an inch.

After passage of a Pacific cold front during the preceding night, gusty west to southwest winds brought an intrusion of much drier air into west-central Texas on Mar. 14. A few locations recorded peak wind gusts at or above 40 mph, including San Angelo (41 mph) and Abilene (40 mph).

After warm and dry conditions on Mar. 15, moisture made a quick return to the area with south winds on Mar. 16.

With the approach of another upper level storm system from New Mexico, a band of thunderstorms moved east across much of west-central Texas on Mar. 17, between Midnight and 5 AM. The storms were [strong to severe across the Concho Valley and northern Heartland areas](#). In the Concho Valley, hail up to quarter size was reported in the San Angelo area. Golfball size hail was reported in Hariet (Tom Green County). In Brown County, quarter size hail was reported at Blanket, while quarter to hen egg size hail occurred in Brownwood. A 63 mph wind gust was recorded at the Brownwood Airport. Some wind damage was reported in Brownwood and at Lake Brownwood. [Summary of severe weather reports for this event](#).

Rainfall amounts generally varied under one-half inch, with a few localized higher amounts in the Concho Valley and northern Heartland.

After passage of a Pacific cold front, strong, gusty west-northwest winds occurred with an intrusion of much drier air during the day Mar. 17. A [pronounced plume of blowing dust](#) was transported southeast across much of the area along and south of Interstate 20. Visibilities in this dust were reduced to 1-3 miles at times.

A 56 mph wind gust was recorded twice at Abilene Regional Airport on Mar. 17. The first occurrence was with the arrival of thunderstorms during the post-Midnight hours. The second occurrence was with strong west-northwest winds during the day.

Dry and cooler conditions followed Mar. 18-19 with clear skies, lows in the 30s, and highs in the 60s.

A few strong to severe storms occurred in the late afternoon and evening hours of Mar. 22, across mainly the southern third of west-central Texas. [Blowing dust](#) affected the western Big Country and Concho Valley.

A [severe weather event](#) occurred in the late afternoon and nighttime hours of Mar. 24. The area affected was generally southeast of a Sonora to Brownwood line.

Conditions were dry in the last week of the month. Gusty south winds occurred on Mar. 27. Peak wind gusts were 45 mph at Abilene and 43 mph at San Angelo.

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