

## Climate and Weather Summary for October 2020

Temperatures in October averaged slightly below normal at Abilene and San Angelo. Precipitation was well-below normal at both locations. Table 1 summarizes October, 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 October Precipitation (In.)
Abilene	64.9°	-0.9°	65.8°	0.80"	-2.18"	2.98"
San Angelo	65.4°	-0.8°	66.2°	0.50"	-2.23"	2.73"

**Table 1: October 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	100° Oct. 11	68° on Oct. 14	32° on Oct. 27	29° Oct.26, 27	0.56" Oct. 27
San Angelo	101° on Oct. 10, 11	68° on Oct. 22	34° on Oct. 27	30° on Oct. 27	0.30" Oct. 27

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

- The number of days in October with high temperatures 100 degrees or more were 2 at San Angelo, and 1 at Abilene.
- New record for the latest occurrence in the year with 100 degree temperatures at Abilene (Oct. 11).
- The monthly temperature range, between the warmest daily high temperature and coldest daily low temperature, was 71 degrees at both Abilene San Angelo.

- New record for coldest daily high temperatures for the month of October at Abilene (32 degrees) and San Angelo (34 degrees) on Oct. 27.

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

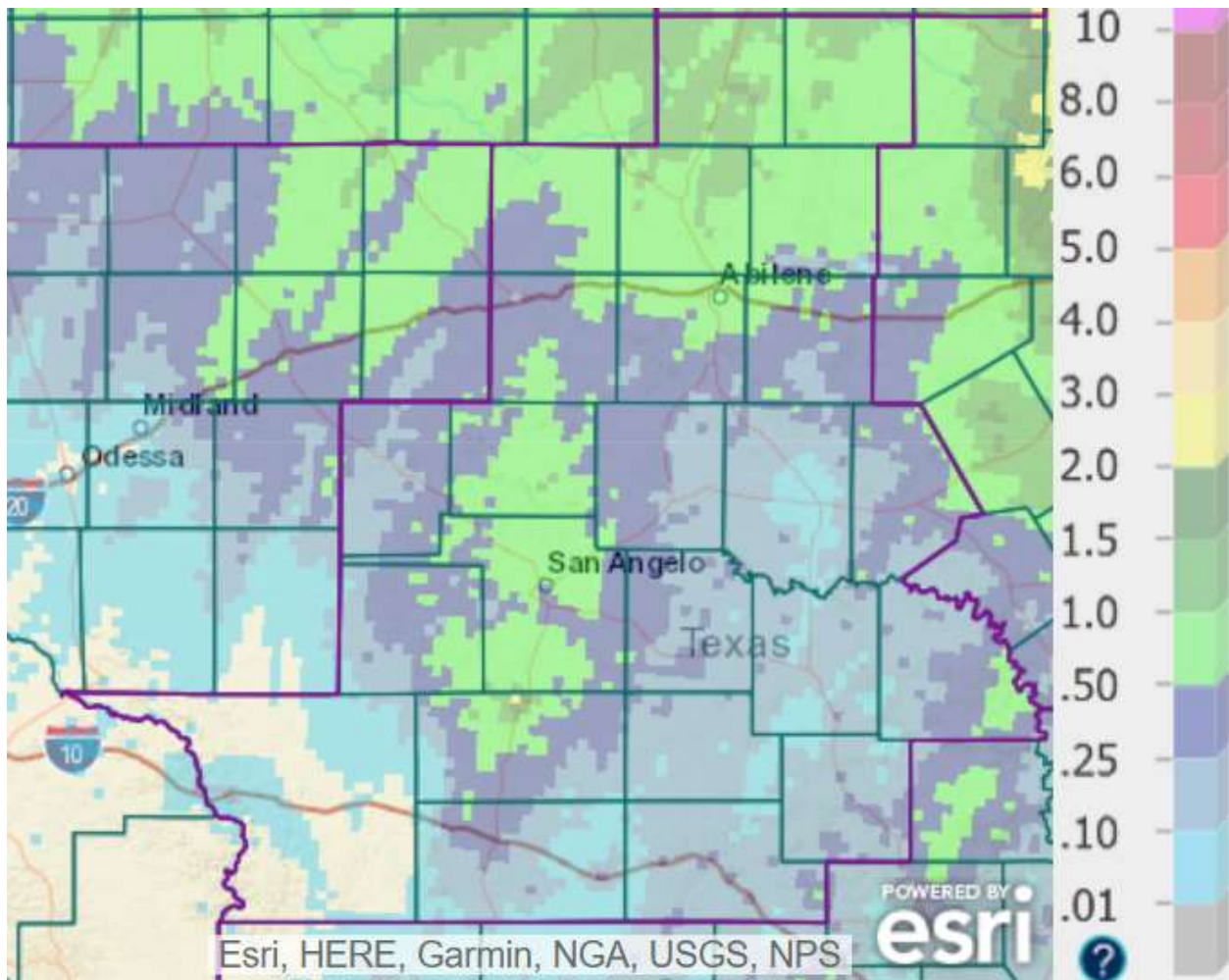
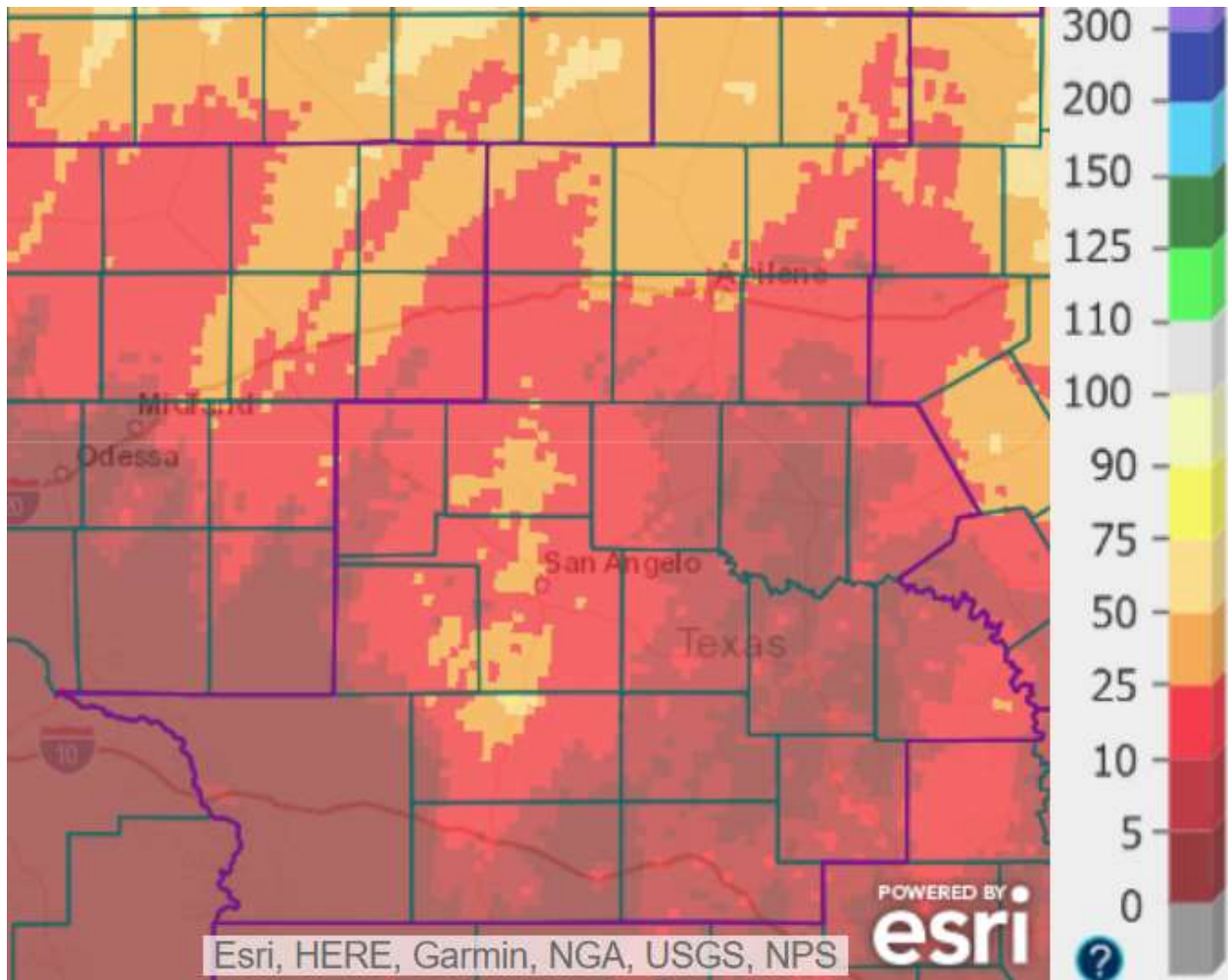


Figure 1: Total Precipitation for October.



**Figure 2: Percentage of Normal Precipitation for October.**

October is climatologically one of the wettest months of the year. This year, however, precipitation for October was well-below normal in [west-central Texas](#), especially across the area along and south of Interstate 20. For most of that area, the monthly precipitation was less than 25 percent of normal (red shaded area in Fig. 2). Nearly all of the October precipitation occurred with a cold weather event late in the month.

**Weather Highlights:**

October was a month which included summer-like heat, and winter-like cold.

High pressure systems were over the area during most of the month. The airmasses were dry with a lack of cloud cover. This resulted in a pattern with larger daily temperature ranges between the morning lows and afternoon highs. On numerous occasions, the daily highs were above normal.

Unusually hot daytime temperatures occurred Oct. 10-11. Highs were 95-101 degrees on Oct. 10, and in the upper 90s to 101 degrees on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

New daily record highs were set at San Angelo on Oct. 10 (101 degrees) and Oct. 11 (101 degrees). A new daily record high was set at Abilene on Oct. 11 (100 degrees). *For Abilene, this set a new record for the latest occurrence in the year with 100 degree temperatures.* The previous record latest date was Oct. 8, 1979, when the high was 102 degrees.

Blowing dust overspread the area from the north, following a cold frontal passage during the early to mid-morning hours on Oct. 12. Visibilities were reduced to 3-6 miles with this dust.



**Photo of the dust from the National Weather Service Forecast Office in San Angelo, on Oct. 12.**

After briefly cooler temperatures Oct. 12, temperatures rebounded on the 13<sup>th</sup> and were very warm on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

A highly unusual winter weather event occurred late in the month. After warm temperatures on Oct. 25, an unusually strong cold frontal passage brought an unseasonably cold airmass south into west-central Texas. Temperatures fell through the day on Oct. 26, into the upper 20s to lower 30s. This marked the first freeze of the Autumn season for almost all of the area. This first freeze occurred [1-2 weeks earlier](#) than average.

A new daily record low temperature was set at Abilene (29 degrees) on Oct. 26. Highs were only in the 30s across the area on Oct. 27. The highs at Abilene (32 degrees) and San Angelo (34 degrees), in addition to being new record cold highs for the date, were *the coldest highs on record for the month of October.*



With the approach of an upper level storm system from southern Arizona and New Mexico, a mix of winter precipitation affected much of the area north of a line from Sonora to Brady to Brownwood on Oct. 27. A mix of freezing rain, freezing drizzle, sleet and snow occurred across the Big Country and Concho Valley, with some light freezing rain and drizzle farther south. *Abilene and San Angelo received their earliest (in the cold season) measurable snowfall on record Oct. 27 (0.8 inches at Abilene and 0.3 inches at San Angelo).* An [ice storm](#) affected much of the Big Country, and this resulted in damage to trees and power lines. The following photos show the extent of ice accumulation in Haskell. These photos were provided by Casey Moeller, the Fire Chief of the Haskell Volunteer Fire Department.



**Photo in Haskell After Ice Storm, on the morning of Oct. 28.**



**Photo in Haskell After Ice Storm, on the morning of Oct. 28.**

Quiet weather conditions followed through the end of the month with a notable warming trend. Highs on Oct. 31 were in the mid 70s to around 80 degrees.

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