

Climate and Weather Highlights for 2016

Temperatures averaged well-above normal for the month. Table 1 summarizes December 2016 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 Annual Precipitation (In.)	Total Snowfall (In.)
Abilene	66.4°	+1.8°	64.6°	37.00"	12.18"	24.82"	Trace
San Angelo	67.6°	+2.1°	65.5°	35.72"	14.47"	21.25"	Trace

- For San Angelo, the annual precipitation (35.71 inches) ranks as the 3rd wettest on record. The average temperature for 2016 was the 8rd warmest on record.
- For Abilene, the annual precipitation (37.00 inches) ranks as the 6th wettest on record. The average temperature for 2016 tied for the 11th warmest on record.

Total snowfall for the year was: a trace at Abilene, and a trace at San Angelo.

Table 1: Year 2016 Temperature and Precipitation 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	103° on Aug. 11	79° on Jul. 3 and Aug. 7, 11	26° on Dec. 18	10° on Dec. 18	2.54" on Aug. 20
San Angelo	105° on Aug. 10, 11	80° on Aug. 9, 11	31° on Dec. 18	17° on Dec. 18	3.30" on Jun. 27

Table 2: Additional Year 2016 Climate Data for Abilene and San Angelo.

The number of days in 2016 with high temperatures 100 degrees or more were: 33 at San Angelo, 21 at Abilene, and 22 at Junction. The average annual number of days with high temperatures 100 degrees or more are 18 at San Angelo, and 12 at Abilene.

The growing season information for the year is summarized in Table 2, for Abilene and San Angelo.

Site	Last Spring Freeze	First Autumn Freeze	Length of Growing Season	Normal Length of Growing Season (1981-2010 Average)	Departure from Normal
Abilene	Mar. 20	Nov. 19	243 days	234 days	+9 Days
San Angelo	Mar. 20	Nov. 19	243 days	231 days	+12 Days

Table 3: Growing Season Information for Abilene and San Angelo.

The growing season (number of days between the last spring freeze and the first autumn freeze) was 1-2 weeks longer than normal at Abilene and San Angelo.

Total precipitation for the year is shown in Figure 1.

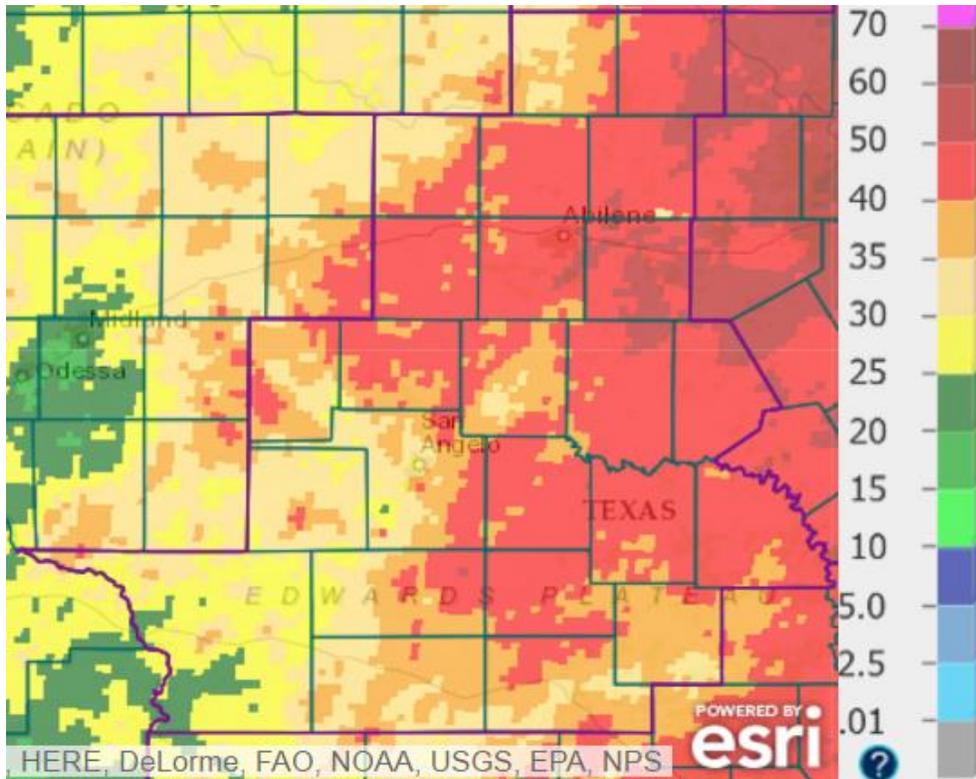


Figure 1: Total Annual Precipitation for 2016.

Total precipitation for the year ranged from less than 20 inches in parts of southwestern Crockett County, to over 50 inches at a couple of locations southeast of Abilene and northeast of Brownwood. For a sizeable portion of [west-central Texas](#), annual precipitation was more than 35 inches (orange and red shading).

Departure from normal precipitation for the year is shown in Figure 2.

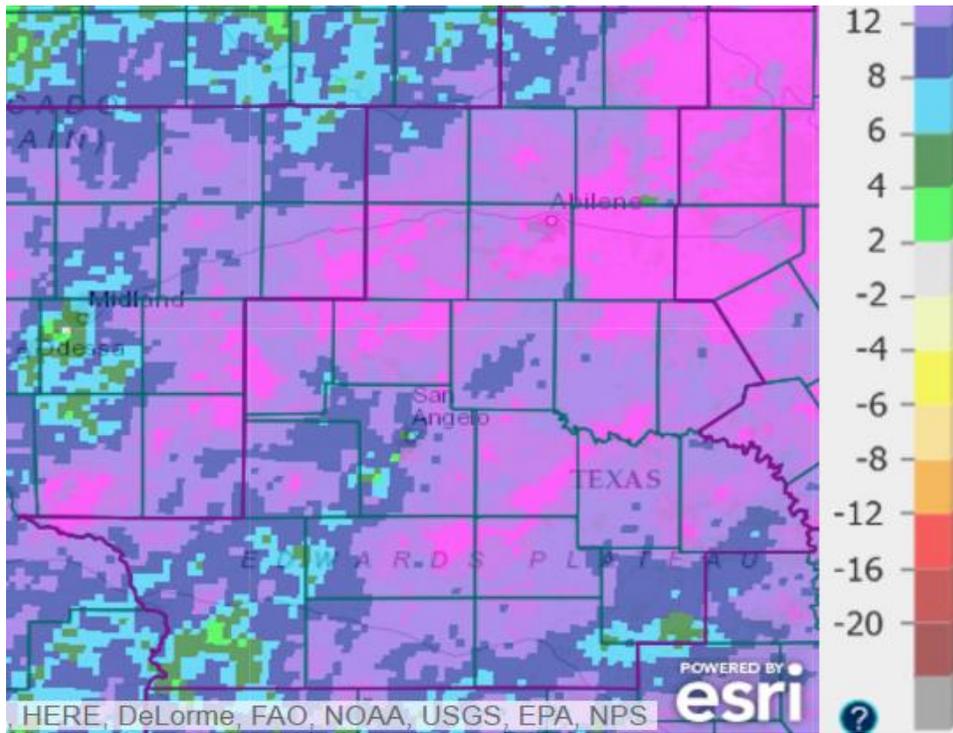


Figure 2: Departure from Normal Precipitation for Year 2016.

The annual precipitation was near normal in southern Crockett and parts of Throckmorton Counties, and at isolated other locations in the southeastern part of west-central Texas. For most of west-central Texas, however, the annual precipitation was much above normal (denoted by dark green, blue, purple and pink shading).

Weather Highlights:

Drier than normal conditions prevailed in January and February, with a lack of winter precipitation events. With the dry conditions, a couple of small wildfires (grass fires) occurred in February.

Precipitation was well-above normal during the spring. Abilene recorded its 7th wettest April, and San Angelo tied its 4th wettest April. May rainfall was the 5th wettest on record at Abilene, and 7th wettest at San Angelo. A significant severe weather event occurred on March 8, with significant rainfall March 8-11. Flash flooding occurred with heavy rainfall on April 16-17. The weather pattern was rather active in May, with numerous severe weather events. Numerous thunderstorms and thunderstorm complexes produced heavy rainfall. The wettest June on record was recorded at San Angelo. The weather pattern

continued to be active in June, with heavy rain events and flash flooding affecting the Abilene and San Angelo areas.

Tornadoes in 2016

- March 8 EF1 3 miles east northeast of Katemcy in northern Mason County and lifted about 2 miles north northwest of Fredonia in McCulloch County
- April 16 EF0 8 miles south southwest of Roby in Fisher County
- April 26 EF0 6 miles north northwest of Stamford in Haskell County
- May 26 EF1 Burkett in Coleman County
- May 28 EF2 20 miles southeast of Junction in Kimble County
- May 29 EF0 5 miles northwest of Elbert in Throckmorton County
- May 29 EF0 7 miles west southwest of Fort Griffin in Shackelford County

The largest reported hail size during the year was 4 inches in diameter on March 8th, in southeastern McCulloch County (5 miles southwest of Voca).

During the summer months, a marked change from the wet pattern occurred in July. Hot and dry conditions prevailed during most of July across west-central Texas, when upper level high pressure systems were in close enough proximity to dominate the weather pattern. Abilene and San Angelo both officially recorded their first 100-degree temperatures on July 4.

Hot and dry conditions occurred during the first week of August. The hot and dry conditions from July into August caused the vegetation to become very dry in some areas. Several grass and brush fires occurred, and some of these fires were started by lightning strikes. The location and estimated size of these wildfires is summarized in the table below.

Name and Location of Wildfire	Size (estimated number of acres burned)	Date of Containment
Wolf, southwestern Throckmorton County	262	Aug 8
Horse Creek Ranch, Concho County (5 N Millersview)	6623	Aug 11
Wolf Creek Ranch 2, McCulloch County (5 ESE Fife)	650	Aug 15
Taylor County (2 SSW Happy Valley)	300	Aug 15
Brady Mountain, San Saba County (12 SSW Algerita)	1357	Aug 16

Temperatures were closer to normal during the middle and late parts of August, when increased shower and thunderstorm activity occurred.

In the autumn, September temperatures averaged above normal, and precipitation was well-above normal, for most of west-central Texas. In October, temperatures averaged well-above normal. The average temperature for October was the 7th warmest on record at Abilene, and tied for the 3rd warmest at San Angelo. With the exception of the eastern [Big Country](#), the monthly precipitation for October was well-below normal across west-central Texas. The November monthly precipitation was above normal across most of west-central Texas, and much above normal for some of the central and northern sections of the area into northern Crockett County. November precipitation was below normal in scattered areas across the southern half of west-central Texas, most notably across western and southwestern Crockett County. Temperatures averaged well-above normal in November. The average temperature for November was the 2nd warmest on record at San Angelo, and 4th warmest at Abilene.

The first freeze of the fall season occurred on November 19-20.

Temperatures averaged above normal in December, and precipitation varied from above to below normal. A major temperature change occurred in the middle of December (17th), as an arctic cold front swept south across west-central Texas. Temperatures were well-above normal late in the month.