Synopsis

December 2021 was the warmest on record for NM and drier than normal for much of the area. It was also a windy month with a few days of damaging winds. The first bout of strong winds happened on the night of the 9th through 10th with gusts of 55-70 mph common across eastern NM. Light snow also accompanied this system across northwest NM. Winds were even stronger late on the 14th through the 15th. Multiple trees were blown town around Red River and Taos Ski Areas, while Santa Fe and Taos saw other damage. Gusts over 100 mph were clocked at Taos Ski Valley. Strong to damaging winds also occurred on Christmas Eve. A few rounds of much needed snow finally arrived late in the month.



Dec 15 Red River Enchanted Forest Ski Area



Dec 15 Santa Fe via PrecisionApproach - twitter



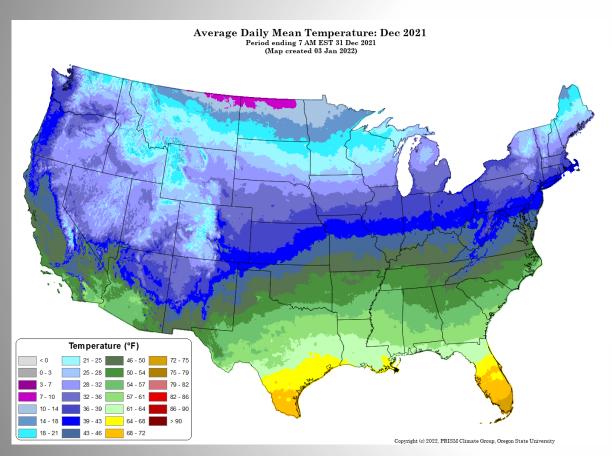


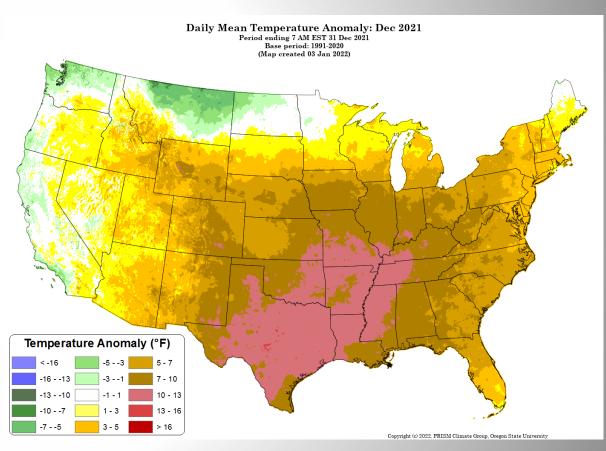






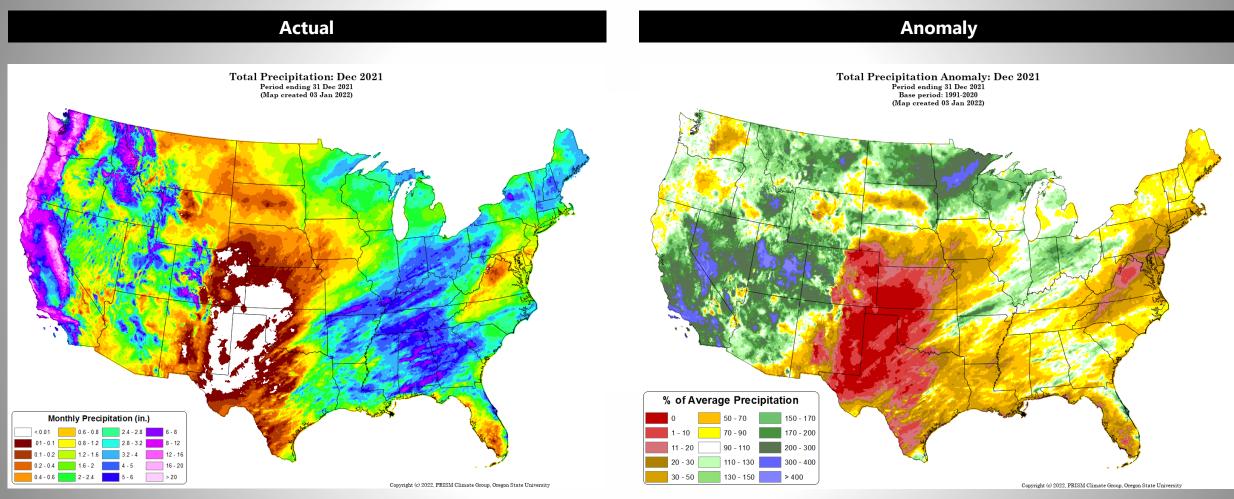
Anomaly





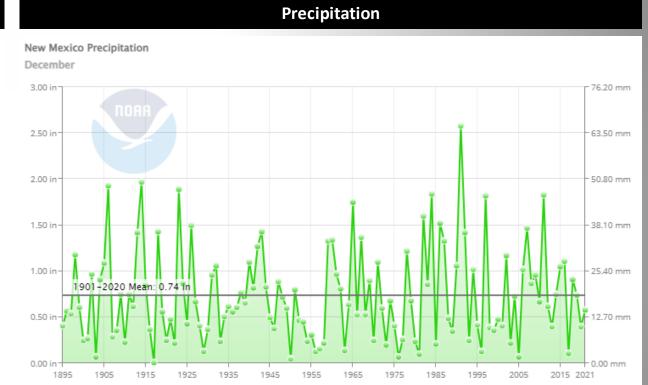
December temperatures were well above normal with some parts of eastern NM averaging 7 to 10° above normal. The northern and western high terrain experienced temperatures closer to normal with greater cloud cover and several days with rain and snow.





December was another drier than normal month, especially across the south and east. Parts of the northern and western high terrain ended up picking up some decent rain and snow during December while eastern NM saw almost nothing.

Temperature New Mexico Average Temperature December 42.0°F 40.0°F 1901-2020 Mean: 34.6°F 34.0°F 0.0°C -1.1°C -2.2°C



The average statewide temperature was 41.9° which was 7.3° above the long-term normal of 34.6° (1901-2020). This ranks as the **warmest** December on record for New Mexico.

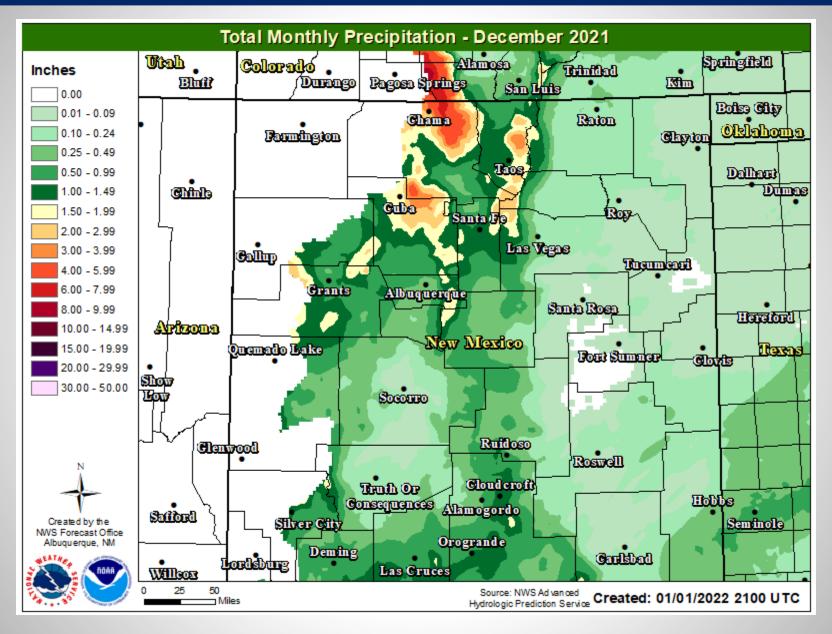
The average statewide precipitation was 0.58" which was 0.16" below the long-term normal of 0.74" (1901-2020). This ranks as the 58th driest December on record for New Mexico.





Monthly Precipitation

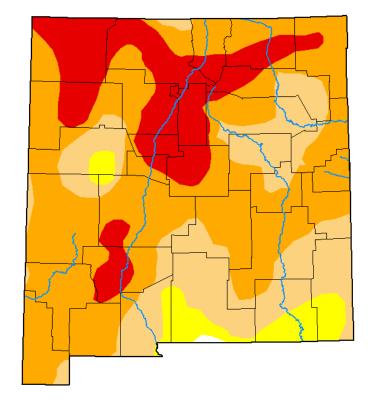




Here is a more detailed image of the December 2021 precipitation.



U.S. Drought Monitor
New Mexico



November 30, 2021

(Released Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021) Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.15	99.85	94.19	69.50	19.01	0.00
Last Week 11-23-2021	0.15	99.85	88.58	56.14	14.42	0.00
3 Month's Ago 08-31-2021	13.53	86.47	75.85	50.05	21.18	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.97	99.59	82.26	53.20
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	10.70	89.30	79.47	49.33	19.12	0.00
One Year Ago 12-01-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.59	82.26	53.27

Intensity:

None D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.
Local conditions may vary. For more information on the
Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

<u>Author:</u>

Richard Heim NCEI/NOAA

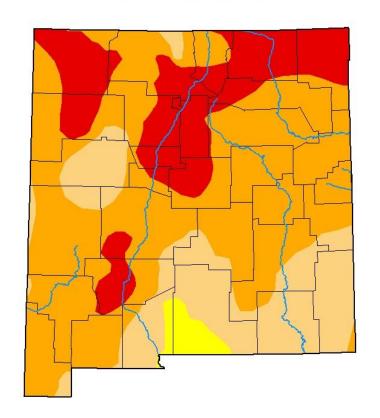








U.S. Drought Monitor
New Mexico



December 28, 2021

(Released Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021) Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	97.79	75.72	20.91	0.00
Last Week 12-21-2021	0.00	100.00	97.91	69.91	22.94	0.00
3 Month's Ago 09-28-2021	10.70	89.30	79.47	49.33	19.12	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.97	99.59	82.26	53.20
Start of Water Year 09-28-2021	10.70	89.30	79.47	49.33	19.12	0.00
One Year Ago 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	99.97	99.59	82.26	53.20

Intensity

None D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

Author: Brad Pu

Brad Pugh CPC/NOAA









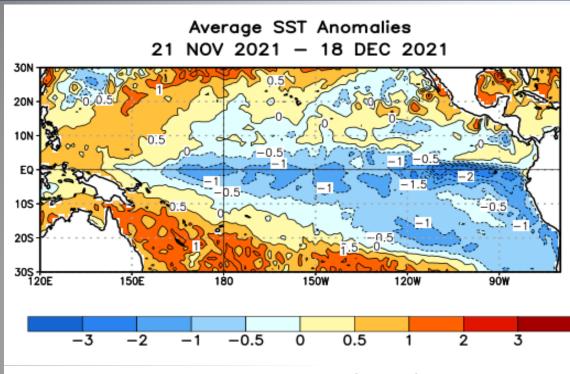
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

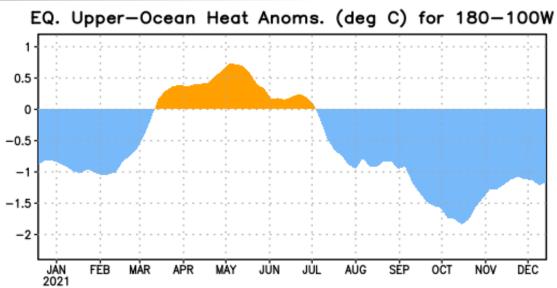
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

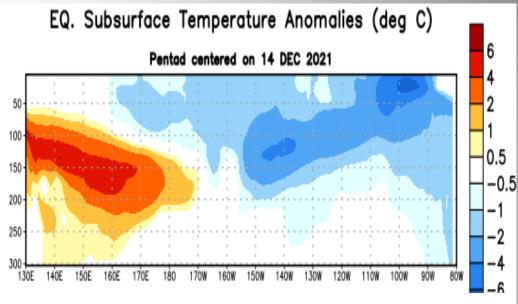
Drought conditions changed very little through December. Drought increased in intensity across portions of northeast New Mexico and west central New Mexico thanks to continued below normal precipitation across the area. Extreme drought covered around 21% of the state.

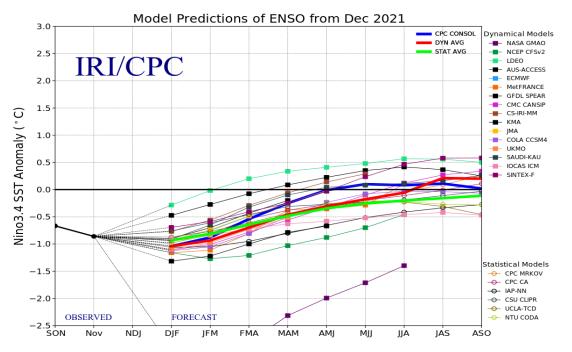






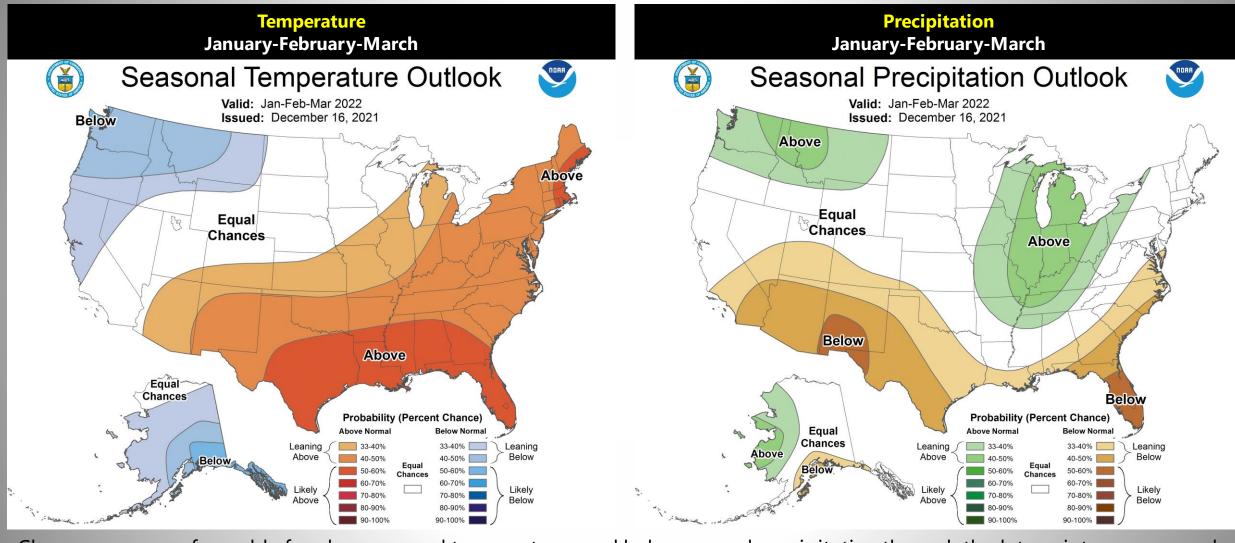






Temperature & Precipitation Outlook

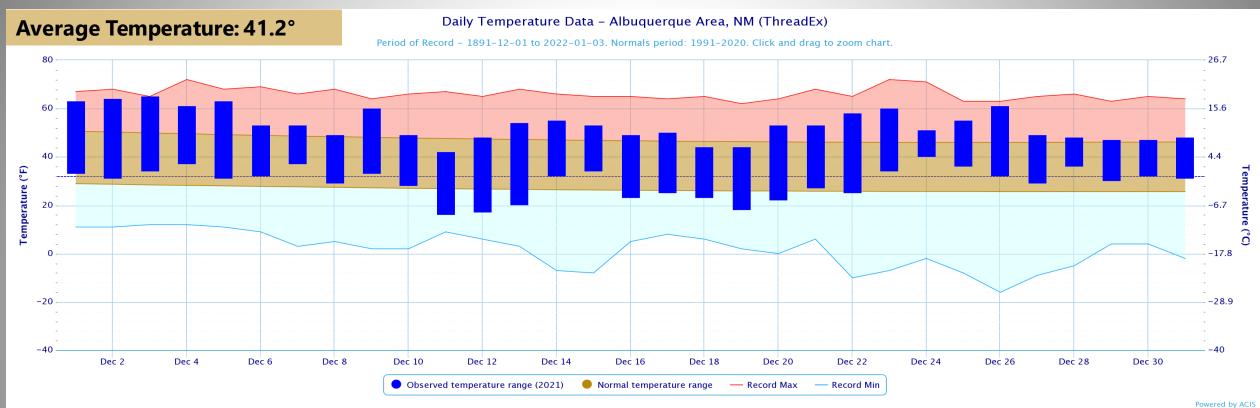




Chances are more favorable for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation through the later winter season and early spring, especially in southern New Mexico.

Albuquerque Sunport Temperatures

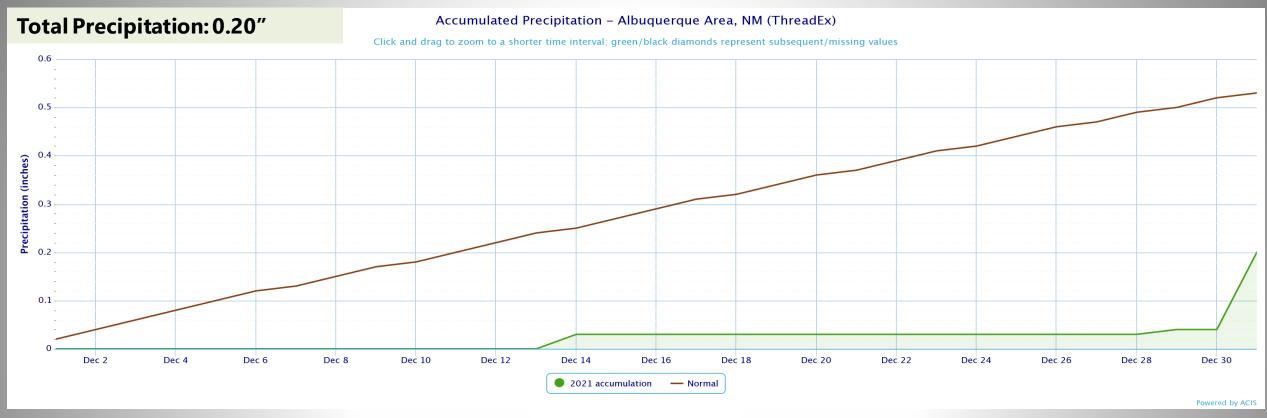




The average temperature for Albuquerque was 41.2°, which was 4.3° above the normal of 36.9°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 53.2°. This was 5.9° above the normal average maximum temperature of 47.3°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 29.3°. This was 2.7° above the normal average minimum temperature of 26.6°. This ranks as the 5th warmest December on record.

Albuquerque Sunport Precipitation

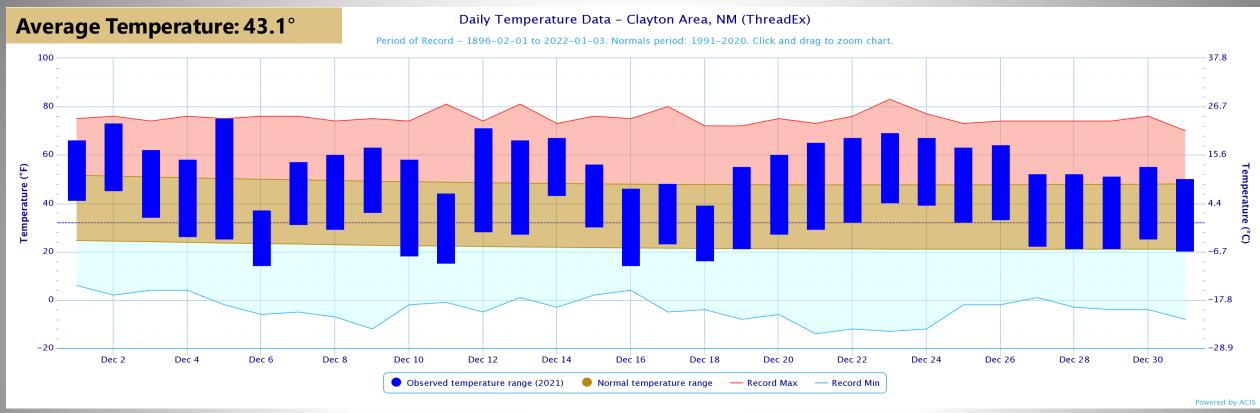




There was 0.20" of precipitation measured at Albuquerque, compared to the normal of 0.53", or 0.33" below normal. There was 0.1" of snow compared to the normal of 2.8".

Clayton Temperatures

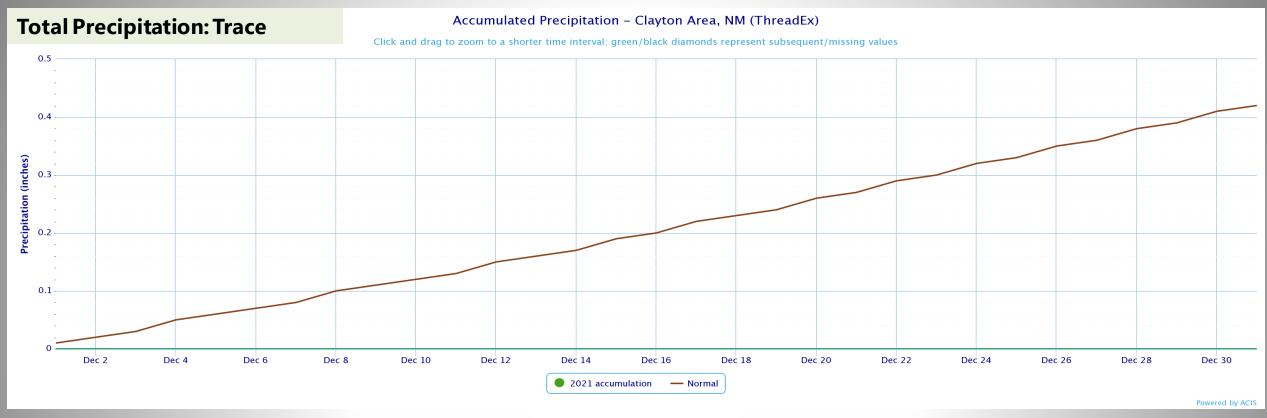




The average temperature for Clayton was 43.1°, which was 7.8° above the normal of 35.3°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 58.6°. This was 10.0° above the normal average maximum temperature of 48.6°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 27.6°. This was 5.6° above the normal average minimum temperature of 22.0°. This ranks as the 3rd warmest December on record.

Clayton Precipitation

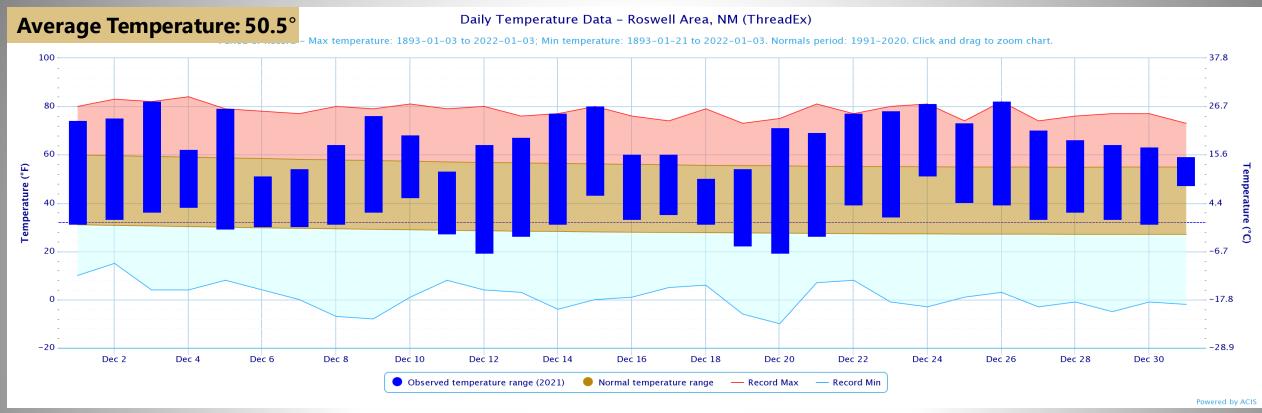




There was only a trace of precipitation measured at Clayton, compared to the normal of 0.42", or 0.42" below normal. This was tied for the 33rd driest December on record (1893-2020). There was a trace of snowfall, compared to the normal of 6.8".

Roswell Temperatures

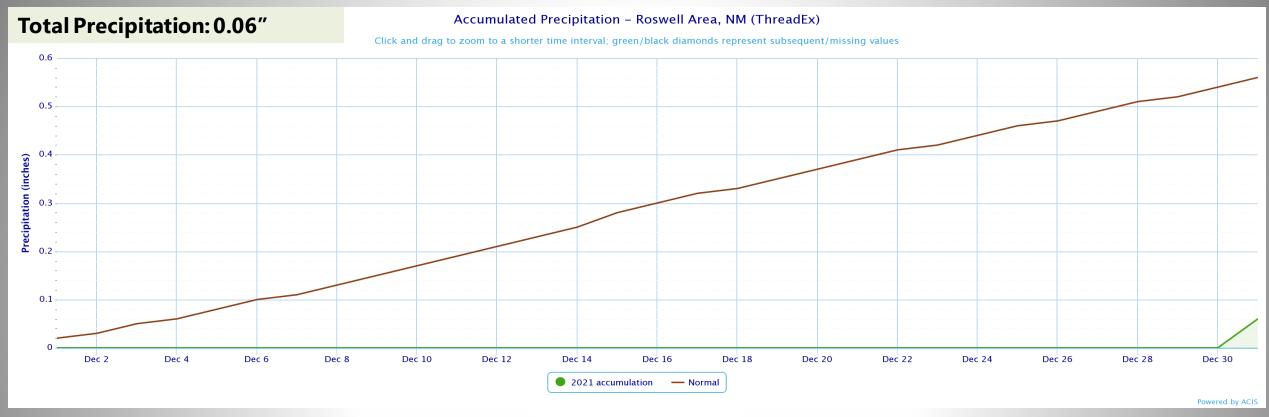




The average temperature for Roswell was 50.5°, which was 8.1° above the normal of 42.4°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 67.8°. This was 11.3° above the average maximum temperature of 56.5°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 33.3°. This was 5.0° above the normal average minimum temperature of 28.3°. This was the **warmest** December on record!

Roswell Precipitation





There was 0.06" of precipitation measured at Roswell, compared to the normal of 0.56", or 0.50" below normal. This was tied for the th driest December on record (1893-2020). There was no snow, compared to the normal of 3.8".

Severe Weather*



Event Type	Date	County/Zone Name	Magnitude	Туре	Event Narrative
High Wind	12/5/2021	Curry County	51 kt	Gust	Cannon Air Force Base measured a brief wind gust of 59 mph.
High Wind	12/8-12/9/2021	East Slopes Sangre de Cristo Mts	52 kt	Gust	Angel Fire recorded several hours of high winds of at least 58 mph. The peak wind recorded in Angel Fire was 60 mph.
High Wind	12/8/2021	East Slopes Sangre de Cristo Mts	53 kt	Gust	Rociada measured a peak wind gust of 61 mph.
High Wind	12/8-12/9/2021	Glorieta Mesa/Pass	37 kt	Sustained	South San Ysidro measured about an hour of sustained winds in excess of 40 mph. The peak sustained wind measured was 43 mph.
High Wind	12/9/2021	Central Highlands	60 kt	Gust	Clines Corners measured a peak wind gust of 69 mph.
High Wind	12/10/2021	East Slopes Sangre de Cristo Mts	52 kt	Gust	The Mineral Hill FD reported numerous downed trees with damage across the area. Peak wind gusts were at leat 60 mph.
High Wind	12/10/2021	Santa Fe Metro	54 kt	Gust	Madrid measured several hours of wind gusts in excess of 58 mph. The peak wind gust measured was 62 mph.
High Wind	12/10/2021	Sandia/Manzano Mts	63 kt	Gust	The Sandia Tramway measured a peak wind gust of 72 mph. The high winds forced the closure of the Sandia Peak Tramway.
High Wind	12/10/2021	Central Highlands	56 kt	Gust	Clines Corners measured a peak wind gust of 64 mph.
High Wind	12/10/2021	Central Highlands	37 kt	Sustained	Clines Corners measured a peak sustained wind of 43 mph.
High Wind	12/10/2021	Northeas Highlands	54 kt	Gust	Las Vegas measured several hours of wind gusts in excess of 58 mph. The peak wind gust measured was 62 mph.
High Wind	12/10/2021	Union County	53 kt	Gust	Clayton measured a brief wind gust of 61 mph.
High Wind	12/10/2021	Harding County	52 kt	Gust	Mosquero reported that high winds blew out a window in their barn. Time is estimated as are damages.
High Wind	12/10/2021	Eastern San Miguel County	52 kt	Gust	Conchas Dam and Bell Ranch estimated wind gusts to 60 mph. Bell Ranch reported blowing dust.
High Wind	12/10/2021	Guadalupe County	38 kt	Sustained	Santa Rosa measured a peak sustained wind of 44 mph.
High Wind	12/10/2021	Guadalupe County	52 kt	Gust	Vaughn and Dilia estimated 60 mph wind gusts. Dilia reported wind damage with blowing dust.
High Wind	12/10/2021	Quay County	50 kt	Gust	Endee measured a peak wind gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	12/10/2021	Curry County	50 kt	Gust	Clovis measured a peak wind gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	12/10/2021	De Baca County	53 kt	Gust	Fort Sumner measured a peak wind gust of 61 mph with minor damage in the area.
High Wind	12/10/2021	Southwest Chaves County	52 kt	Gust	Dunken estimated 60 mph wind gusts. These winds resulted in numerous tumbleweeds along with blowing dust.
Heavy Snow	12/9-12/10/2021	Tusas Mountains & Chama	11"	Snow	SNOTEL near Canon Plaza. Blowing snow and low visibility led to difficult travel.
Tstorm Wind	12/15/2021	San Juan County	57 kt	Gust	Snow Squall. Farmington area. Wind gusts to 66 mph with thunderstorms, heavy snow, and 1/4 mile visibility. Difficult travel reported.
High Wind	12/15/2021	West Central Plateau	50 kt	Gust	Gallup measured a peak high wind gust of 58 mph.
Tstorm Wind	12/15/2021	McKinley County	65 kt	Gust	Wind gusts up to 75 mph were estimated around Gallup with damage to some buildings and power lines.
Winter Weather	12/15/2021	West Central Plateau			Snow squall. Severe travel conditions with numerous accidents along I-40 near Manuelito.
Winter Weather	12/15/2021	West Central Mts			Snow squall. Severe travel conditions with multiples crashes along Interstate 40 near Coolidge.
High Wind	12/15/2021	West Central Mts	53 kt	Gust	El Morro measured a peak wind gust of 61 mph.
Tstorm Wind	12/15/2021	Rio Arriba County	60 kt	Gust	Snow squall. El Vado measured a peak wind gust of 69 mph with lightning.
High Wind	12/15/2021	West Central Highlands	51 kt	Gust	A NMDOT weather station along Interstate 40 near Mesita measured a peak wind gust of 59 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Southwest Mts	51 kt	Gust	Quemado measured a peak wind gust of 59 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Jemez Mts	78 kt	Gust	Wind gusts up to 90 mph produced widespread tree damage within Valles Caldera and significant damage to vehicles. Injuries reported.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Glorieta Mesa	56 kt	Gust	Glorieta measured a peak wind gust of 64 mph.

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Severe Weather*



High Wind	12/15/2021	Northern Sangre de Cristo Mts	90 kt	Gust	Wind gusts up to 103 mph produced widespread damage around Taos Ski Valley.
High Wind	12/15/2021	East Slopes Sangre de Cristo Mts	60 kt	Gust	Angel Fire measured a peak wind gust of 69 mph. A CoCoRaHS observer near Agua Fria measured a 77 mph wind gust.
Tstorm Wind	12/15/2021	Santa Fe County	61 kt	Gust	Snow squall. Severe winds with snow produced damage at the Santa Fe airport with numerous trees down around Santa Fe.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Lower Rio Grande Valley	51 kt	Gust	A White Sands Missile Range mesonet station southeast of Bosque del Apache measured a peak wind gust of 59 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Sandia/Manzano Mts	59 kt	Gust	A weather station northeast of Edgewood measured a peak wind gust of 68 mph. Several trees were downed in the higher terrain.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Estancia Valley	42 kt	Sustained	Tajique measured a peak sustained wind of 48 mph. A trained spotter in Stanley measured a 63 mph wind gust.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Central Highlands	55 kt	Gust	
			37 kt		Clines Corners measured a peak wind speed of 63 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Central Highlands		Sustained	Clines Corners measured a peak sustained wind of 43 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	South Central Highlands	51 kt	Gust	A White Sands Missile Range mesonet station near Bingham measured a peak wind gust of 59 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Upper Tularosa Valley	51 kt	Gust	A White Sands Missile Range mesonet station near Oscuro measured a peak wind gust of 59 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	South Central Mts	59 kt	Gust	Ruidoso measured a peak wind gust of 68 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Raton Pass/Johnson/Bartlett Mesa	56 kt	Gust	Capulin measured a peak wind gust of 65 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Far Northeast Highlands	73 kt	Gust	Raton measured several hours of wind gusts in excess of 58 mph. The peak gust at the Raton airport was 84 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Far Northeast Highlands	53 kt	Sustained	Raton measured several hours with sustained winds in excess of 40 mph. The maximum sustained wind recorded was 61 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Northeast Highlands	78 kt	Gust	Las Vegas measured a peak wind gust of 90 mph. Significant damage was reported with numerous downed trees and power lines.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Northeast Highlands	53 kt	Sustained	Las Vegas measured a peak sustained wind of 61 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Union County	66 kt	Gust	Clayton measured a peak wind gust of 76 mph. Numerous reports of significant damage and power outages were received.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Union County	45 kt	Sustained	Clayton measured a peak sustained wind of 52 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Harding County	58 kt	Gust	Mills measured a peak wind gust of 67 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Eastern San Miguel County	52 kt	Gust	Bell Ranch estimated wind gusts of at least 60 mph in the area. No damages were reported.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Guadalupe County	51 kt	Gust	Santa Rosa measured a peak wind gust of 59 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Quay County	64 kt	Gust	Tucumcari measured a peak wind gust of 74 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Quay County	46 kt	Sustained	Tucumcari measured a peak sustained wind of 53 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Curry County	50 kt	Gust	Clovis measured a peak wind gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Curry County	37 kt	Sustained	Cannon Air Force Base measured a peak sustained wind of 43 mph with blowing dust and low visibility.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Chaves County Plains	60 kt	Gust	Roswell measured a peak wind gust of 69 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Chaves County Plains	44 kt	Sustained	Roswell measured a peak sustained wind of 51 mph.
High Wind	12/15/2021	Southwest Chaves County	36 kt	Sustained	Dunken measured a peak sustained wind of 41 mph.
Winter Weather	12/15/2021	Upper Rio Grande Valley			Snow squall. Heavy rain, snow, and thunderstorms moved into the Taos area resulting in 1 to 2" of snow with severe travel conditions.
Strong Wind	12/15/2021	ABQ Metro	43 kt	Gust	Strong winds in the Albuquerque area estimated at 45 to 50 mph downed trees on homes in the South Valley area.
Strong Wind	12/15/2021	Espanola Valley	43 kt	Gust	Strong winds estimated at 45 to 50 mph snapped a transmission pole, resulting in a power outage at San Ildefonso Pueblo.
Tstorm Wind	12/15/2021	Taos County	78 kt	Gust	Snow squall. An intense line of storms with rain and snow produced major damage across parts of Taos with winds over 80 mph.
Winter Storm	12/14-12/15/2021	Tusas Mts & Chama			Heavy snow and high winds created blizzard-like conditions with power outages around Chama and treacherous travel conditions.

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Severe Weather*



High Wind	12/24/2021	Southwest Mts	59 kt	Gust	Magdalena Ridge Observatory measured a peak wind gust of 68 mph.
High Wind	12/24/2021	South Central Mts	56 kt	Gust	Ruidoso measured a peak wind gust of 64 mph with downed trees and minor damage.
High Wind	12/24/2021	South Central Mts	45 kt	Sustained	Ruidoso measured a peak sustained wind speed of 52 mph.
High Wind	12/24/2021	Union County	36 kt	Sustained	Sedan measured a peak sustained wind speed of 42 mph.
High Wind	12/24/2021	Quay County	52 kt	Gust	Tucumcari measured a peak wind gust of 60 mph.
High Wind	12/24/2021	Chaves County Plains	50 kt	Gust	Roswell measured a peak wind gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	12/24/2021	Southwest Chaves County	53 kt	Gust	Dunken measured a peak wind gust of 61 mph.
Heavy Snow	12/23-12/25/2021	Tusas Mts & Chama	10-17"	Snow	Severe driving conditions were reported as a result along U.S. Highway 64.
Heavy Snow	12/24/2021	Chuska Mts	10"	Snow	A SNOTEL site near Toadlena received an estimated 10 inches of new snow.
Winter Storm	12/23-12/24/2021	Northern Sangre de Cristo Mts			SNOTELs received an estimated 16" with high winds and blizzard-like conditions around Taos Ski Valley. Severe travel was reported.
High Wind	12/26/2021	Southwest Mts	67 kt	Gust	Magdalena Ridge Observatory measured a peak wind gust of 77 mph.
High Wind	12/26/2021	Glorieta Mesa	52 kt	Gust	South San Ysidro estimated 60 mph wind gusts that broke tree limbs that were four inches in diameter.
High Wind	12/26/2021	East Slopes Sangre de Cristo Mts	52 kt	Gust	Ojo Feliz estimated 60 mph wind gusts.
High Wind	12/26/2021	Sandia/Manzano Mts	52 kt	Gust	An NWS Employee estimated 60 mph wind gusts near Sandia Park.
High Wind	12/26/2021	Central Highlands	58 kt	Gust	Clines Corners measured a peak wind gust of 67 mph.
High Wind	12/26/2021	Central Highlands	39 kt	Sustained	Clines Corners measured a peak sustained wind speed of 45 mph.
High Wind	12/26/2021	South Central Highlands	52 kt	Gust	Corona estimated 60 mph wind gusts. The high winds caused a power outage in the community.
High Wind	12/26/2021	South Central Mts	72 kt	Gust	Ruidoso measured a peak wind gust of 83 mph.
High Wind	12/26/2021	South Central Mts	54 kt	Sustained	Ruidoso measured a peak sustained wind speed of 62 mph.
High Wind	12/26/2021	Raton Pass/Johnson/Bartlett Mesa	61 kt	Gust	Capulin estimated 70 mph wind gusts.
High Wind	12/26/2021	Far Northeast Highlands	51 kt	Gust	Raton measured a peak wind gust of 59 mph.
High Wind	12/26/2021	Northeast Highlands	62 kt	Gust	Las Vegas measured a peak wind gust of 71 mph.
High Wind	12/26/2021	Union County	59 kt	Gust	Clayton measured a peak wind gust of 68 mph.
High Wind	12/26/2021	Harding County	52 kt	Gust	Mosquero estimated wind gusts to 60 mph.
High Wind	12/26/2021	Quay County	53 kt	Gust	Tucumcari measured a peak wind gust of 61 mph.
High Wind	12/26/2021	Quay County	39 kt	Sustained	Tucumcari measured a peak sustained wind speed of 45 mph.
High Wind	12/26/2021	Southwest Chaves County	57 kt	Gust	Dunken measured a peak wind gust of 66 mph.

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Severe Weather*



High Wind	12/27/2021	South Central Mts	58 kt	Gust	Ruidoso measured a peak wind gust of 67 mph.
High Wind	12/28/2021	South Central Mts	50 kt	Gust	Ruidoso measured a peak wind gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	12/28/2021	Far Northeast Highlands	51 kt	Gust	Raton measured a peak wind gust of 59 mph.
High Wind	12/28/2021	Northeast Highlands	54 kt	Gust	Las Vegas measured a peak wind gust of 62 mph.
Heavy Snow	12/31/2021	Far Northwest Highlands	12"		Regina area.
Heavy Snow	12/31/2021	West Central Mts	12"		Bluewater Lake area.
Heavy Snow	12/31/2021	Southwest Mts	10"		Pietown area.
Heavy Snow	12/31/2021	Tusas Mts & Chama	10-14"		SNOTELs east of Chama.
Heavy Snow	12/31/2021	Jemez Mts	5-12"		SNOTELs east of Cuba.
Heavy Snow	12/31/2021	Glorieta Mesa	7"		Terrero area.
Heavy Snow	12/31/2021	Northern Sangre de Cristo Mts	10-16"		SNOTELs around Red River and TSV.
Heavy Snow	12/31/2021	Southern Sangre de Cristo Mts	up to 21"		SNOTELs east of Santa Fe.
Heavy Snow	12/31/2021	East Slopes Sangre de Cristo Mts	17"		Angel Fire area.
Heavy Snow	12/31/2021	Upper Rio Grande Valley	7"		Taos area.
Heavy Snow	12/31/2021	Santa Fe Metro	5-7"		Santa Fe Foothills areas.
Heavy Snow	12/31/2021	Sandia/Manzano Mts	4-11"		High terrain above Sandia Park.
Heavy Snow	12/31/2021	South Central Mts	10"		Bonito Lake area.
Winter Storm	12/31/2021	West Central Plateau	4-6"		Gallup area. Severe travel conditions.

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- NCEI Climatological Rankings: https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/national/rankings
- PRISM Climate Data: http://www.prism.oregonstate.edu/
- U.S. Drought Monitor: https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/
- NWS Local Climate Pages: https://w2.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=abq
- CPC ENSO: https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/ensodisc.shtml
- NCEI Storm Data: https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/
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