

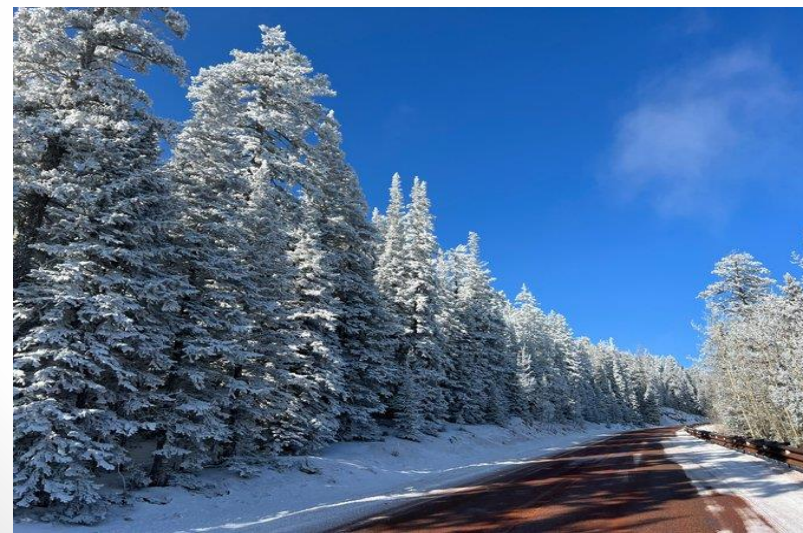


Synopsis

December 2022 began warmer than average as a subtropical moisture plume brought a soaking rain to southern and central New Mexico. A colder storm around the middle of the month brought mountain snow and strong winds to the eastern plains. After a brief quiet period, an arctic front brought bitterly cold wind chills to eastern New Mexico. The month ended with an active pattern that brought rounds of mountain snow, low elevation rain, and strong winds to the state.



December 2, 2022 | Clayton, NM
Photo Courtesy Marianne Rose



December 15, 2022 | Sandia Crest, NM
Photo Courtesy Roy Kent

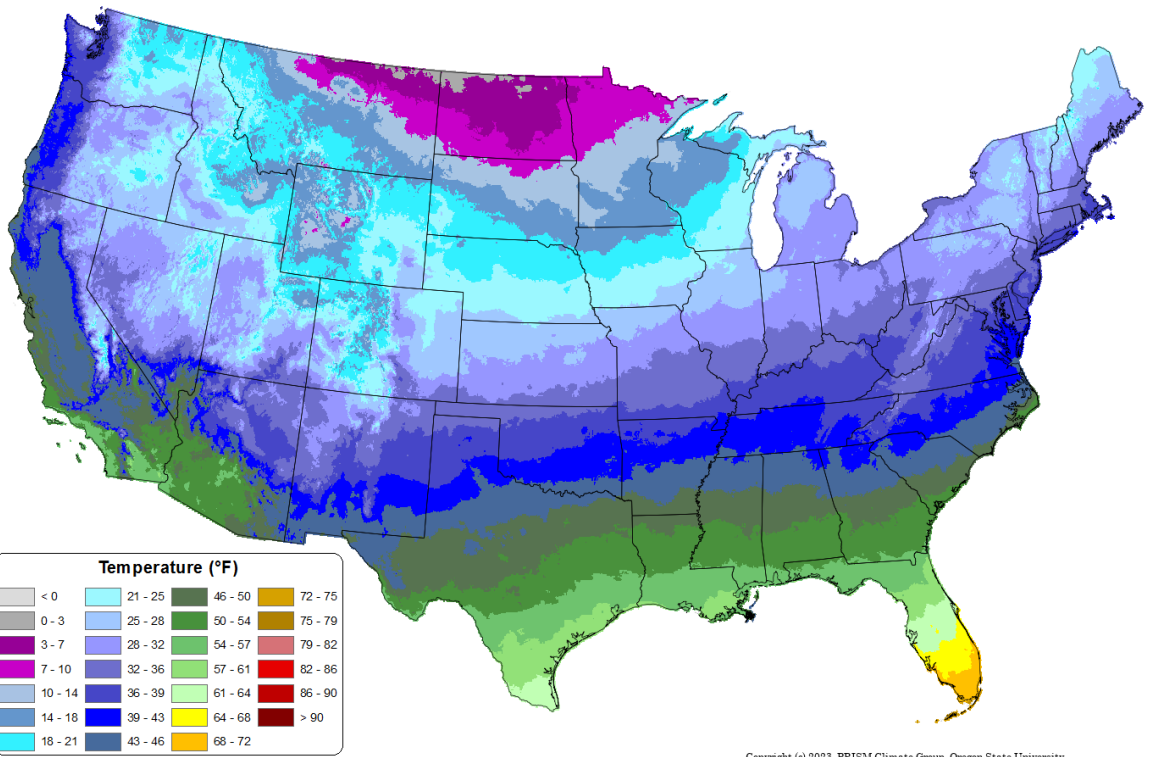


December 28, 2022 | Ruidoso, NM
Photo Courtesy Joe Kenmore



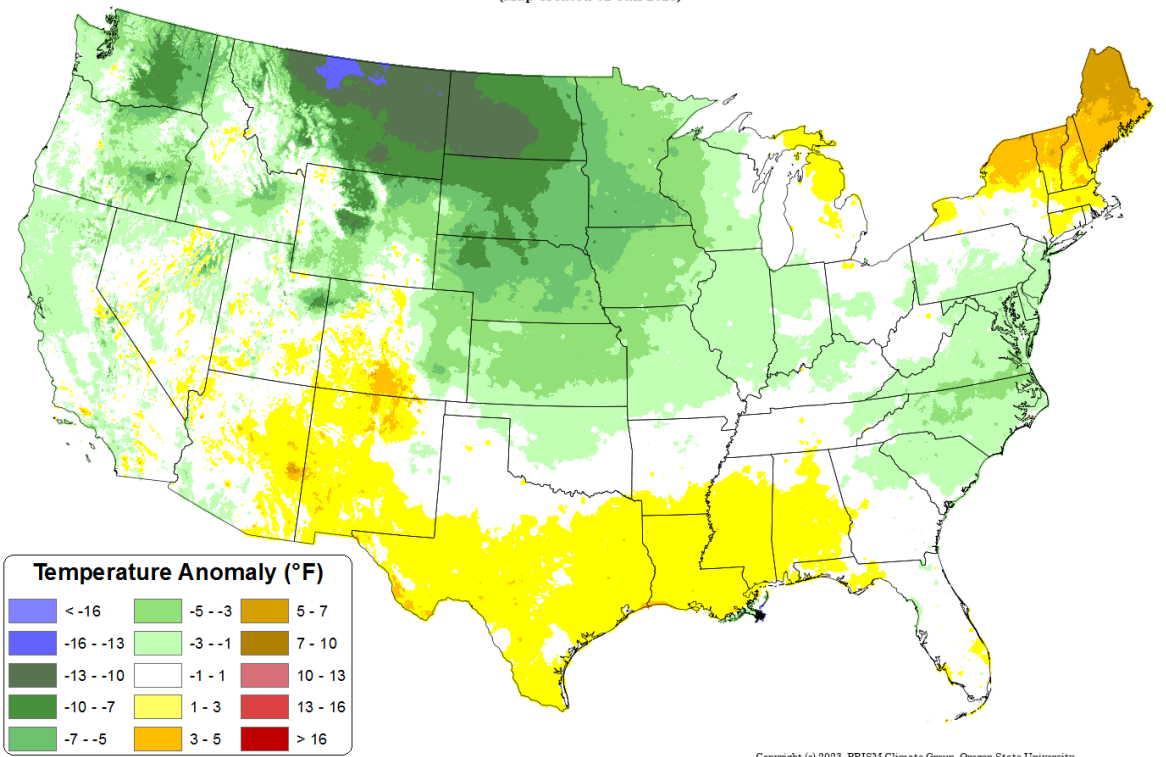
Actual

Average Daily Mean Temperature: Dec 2022
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2022
(Map created 02 Jan 2023)



Anomaly

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: Dec 2022
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2022
Base period: 1991-2020
(Map created 02 Jan 2023)

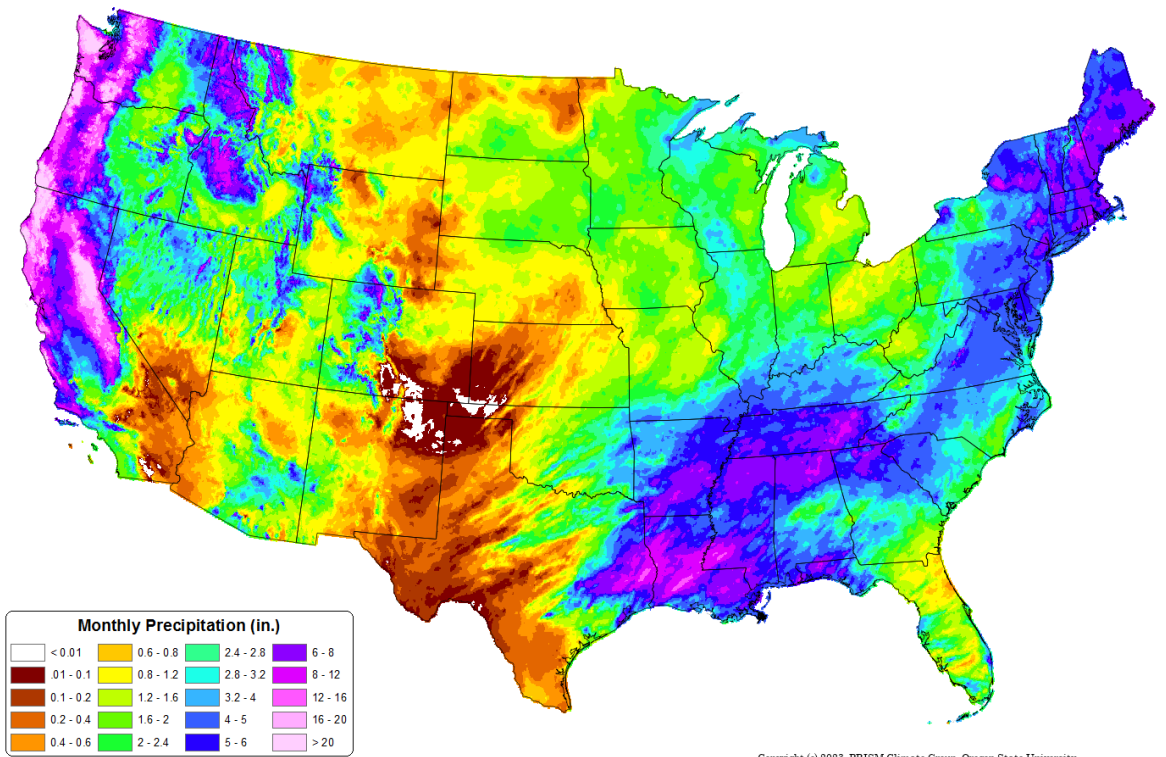


December temperatures were above normal for most of the state except for a small area on the eastern plains that was slightly below average.



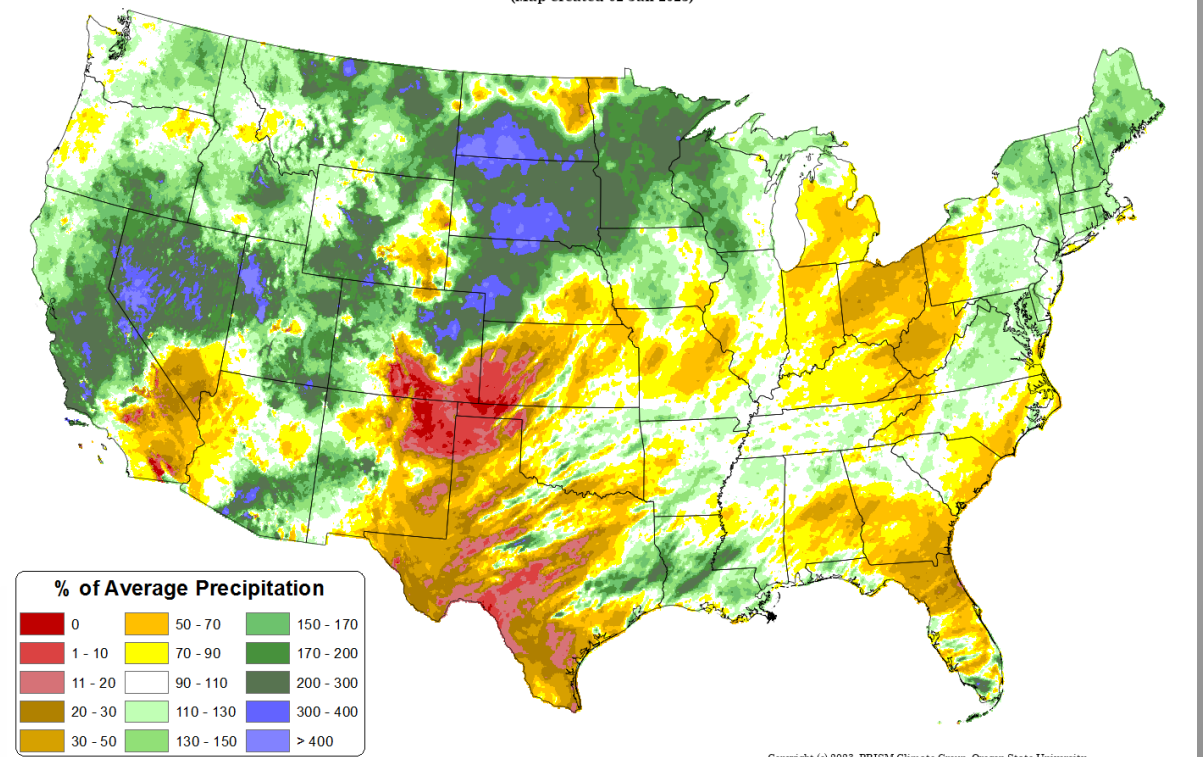
Actual

Total Precipitation: Dec 2022
Period ending 31 Dec 2022
(Map created 02 Jan 2023)



Anomaly

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Dec 2022
Period ending 31 Dec 2022
Base period: 1991-2020
(Map created 02 Jan 2023)

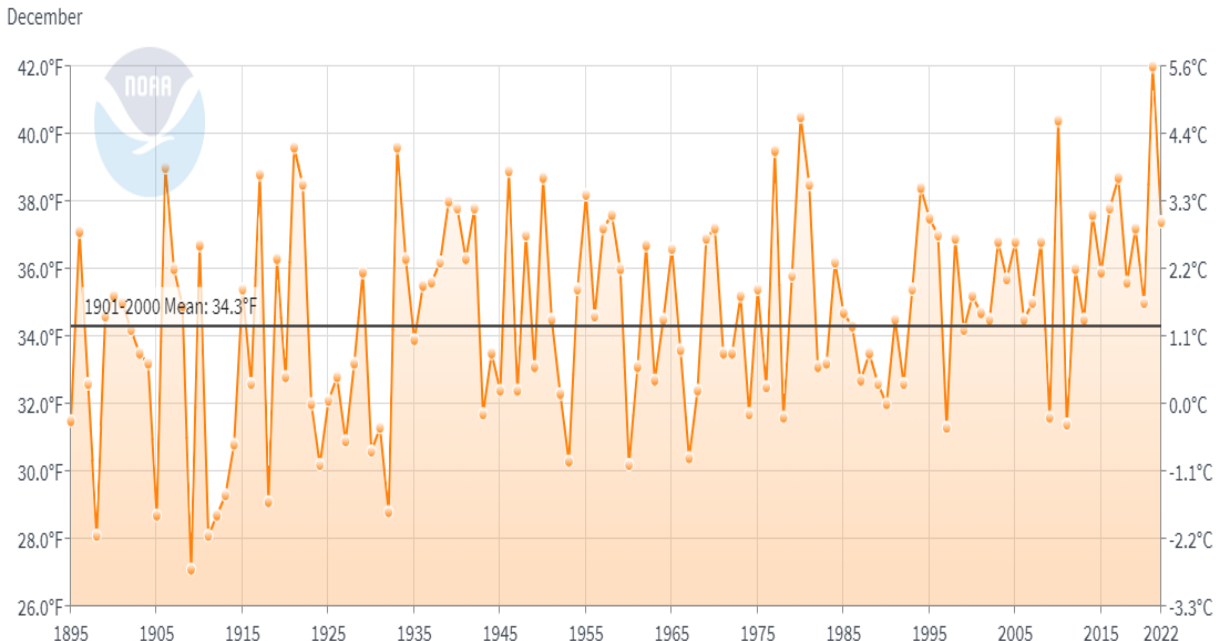


December precipitation ranged from well below normal in the northeast corner of the state to above normal in the southwest mountains.



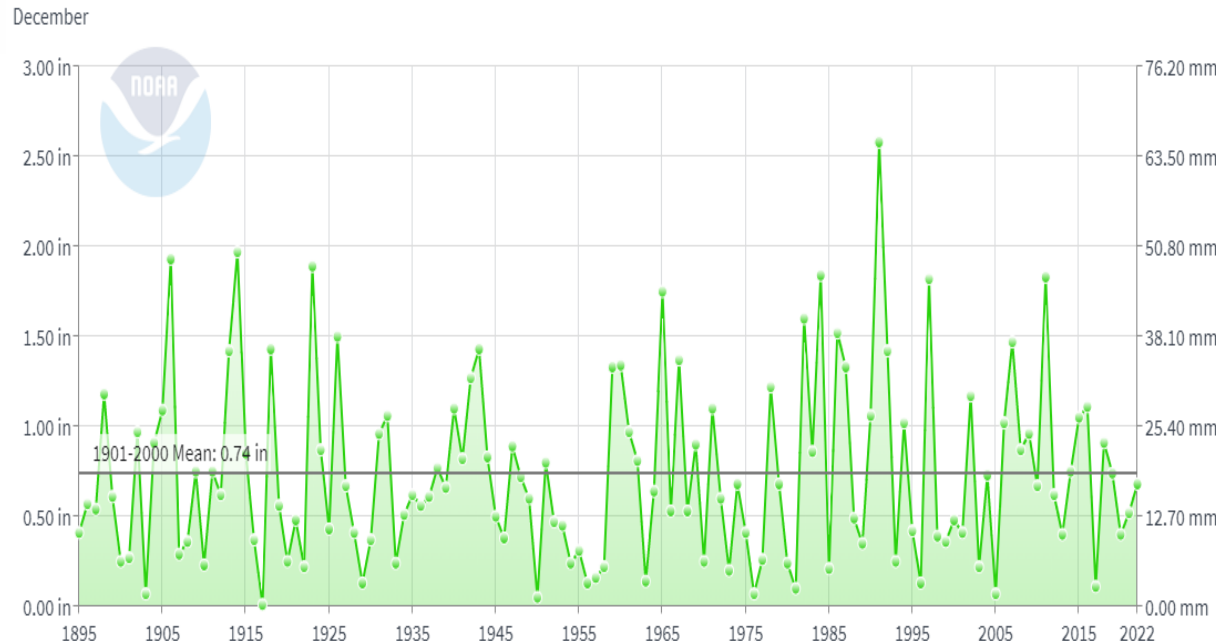
Temperature

New Mexico Average Temperature



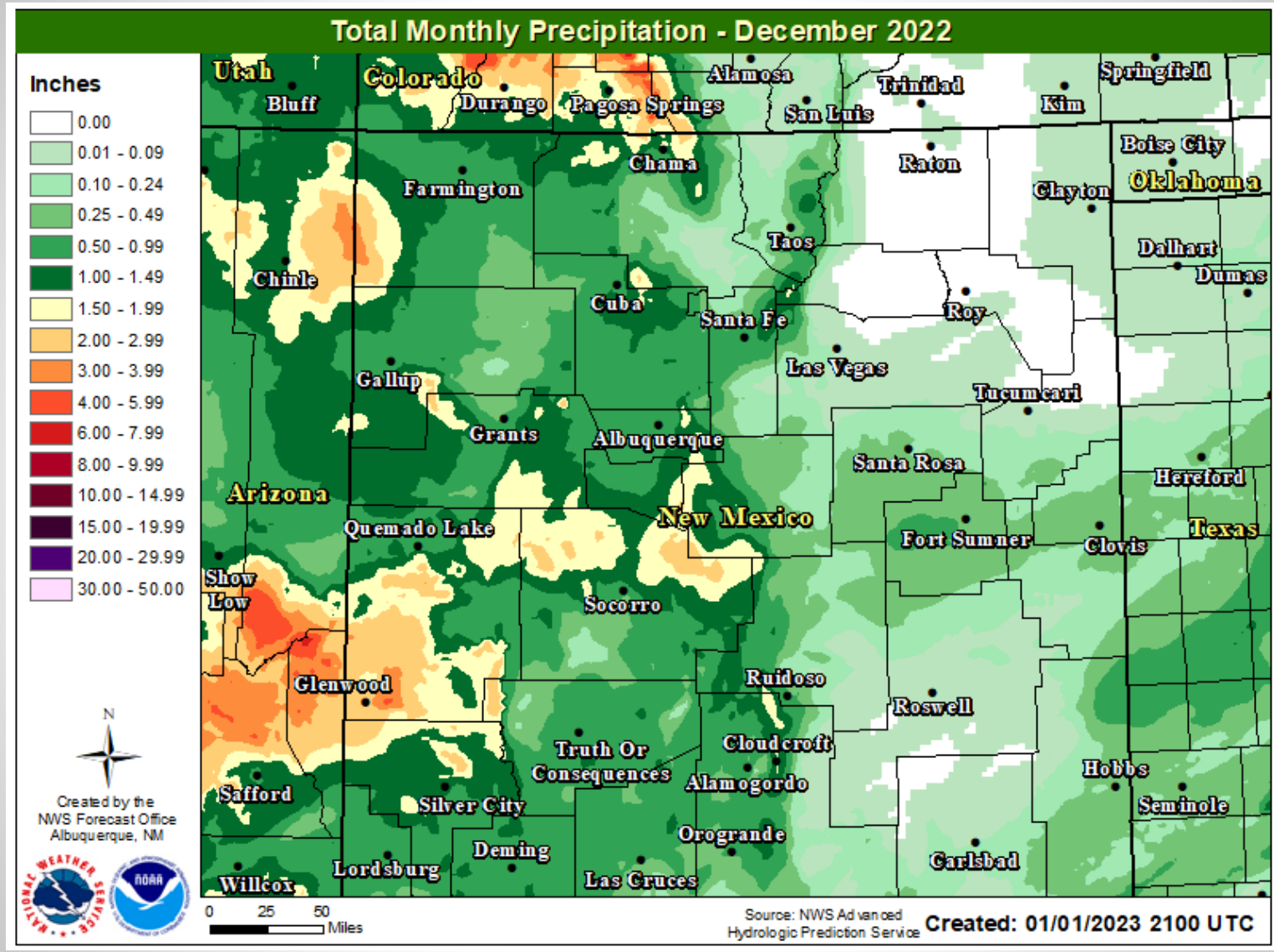
Precipitation

New Mexico Precipitation



The December 2022 average statewide temperature was 37.4°, which was 3.1° above the long-term normal of 34.3° (1901-2000). This ranked as the 23rd warmest December on record (1895-2022).

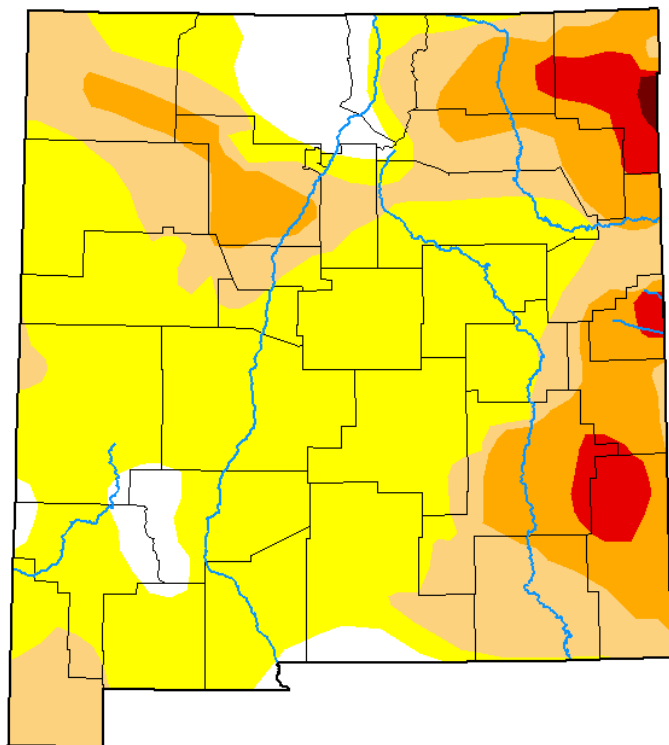
The December 2022 average statewide precipitation was 0.68", which was 0.06" below the long-term normal of 0.74" (1901-2000). This ranked as the 72nd driest December on record (1895-2022).



Here is a more detailed image of the December 2022 precipitation.



U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico



December 6, 2022
(Released Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	7.02	92.98	42.02	18.42	3.74	0.19
Last Week 11-29-2022	6.76	93.24	42.32	18.42	3.74	0.19
3 Months Ago 09-06-2022	0.91	99.09	87.78	58.35	9.17	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2022	0.00	100.00	97.83	75.86	20.91	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	0.99	99.01	76.80	31.46	6.99	0.00
One Year Ago 12-07-2021	0.00	100.00	96.85	69.86	19.10	0.00

Intensity:

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

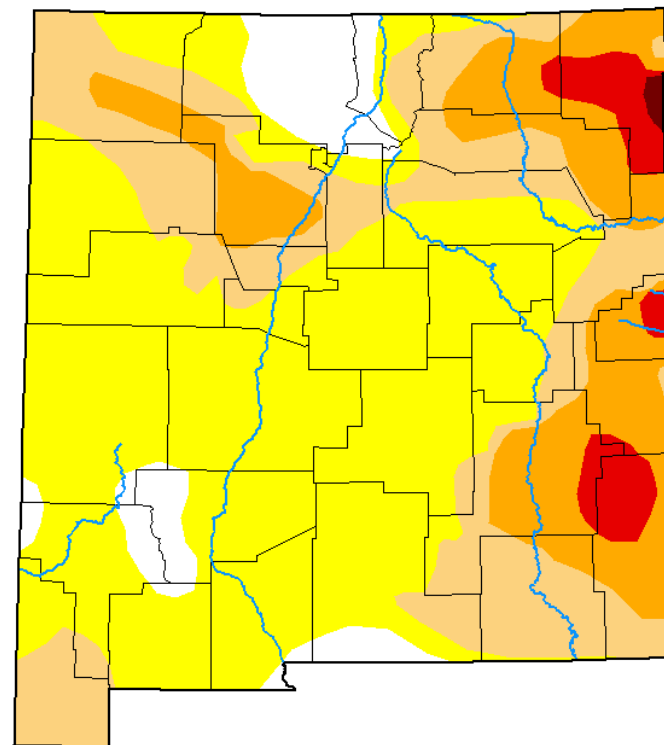
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
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Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico



December 27, 2022
(Released Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	7.03	92.97	41.73	18.55	3.74	0.19
Last Week 12-20-2022	7.03	92.97	41.73	18.55	3.74	0.19
3 Months Ago 09-27-2022	0.99	99.01	76.80	31.46	6.99	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2022	0.00	100.00	97.83	75.86	20.91	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	0.99	99.01	76.80	31.46	6.99	0.00
One Year Ago 12-28-2021	0.00	100.00	97.79	75.72	20.91	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme 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>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought conditions remain about the same across the state with widespread abnormally dry conditions and moderate drought. Extreme to exceptional drought remains along the NM/TX border where precipitation was below average in December.

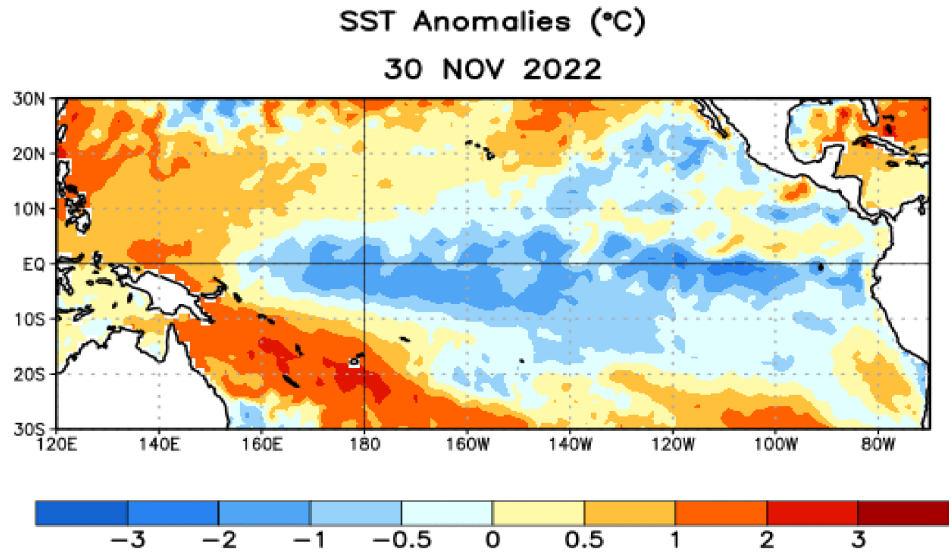


Figure 1. Average sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies (°C) for the week centered on 30 November 2022. Anomalies are computed with respect to the 1991-2020 base period weekly means.

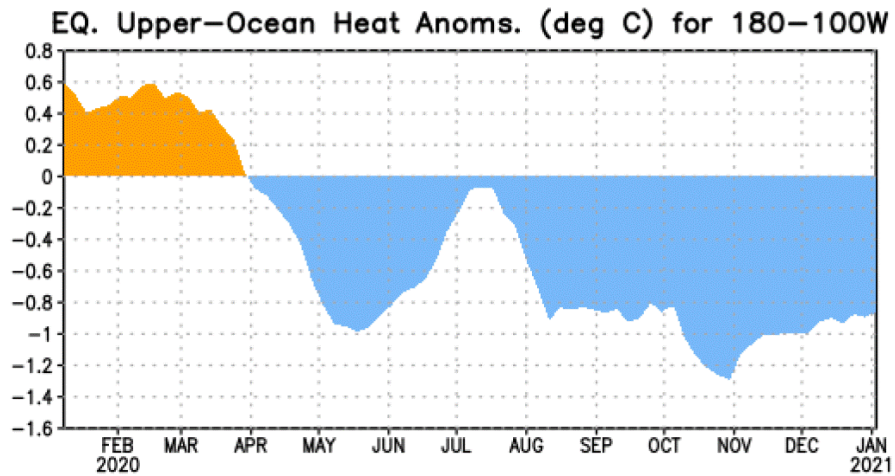


Figure 3. Area-averaged upper-ocean heat content anomaly (°C) in the equatorial Pacific (5°N-5°S, 180°-100°W). The heat content anomaly is computed as the departure from the 1981-2010 base period pentad means.

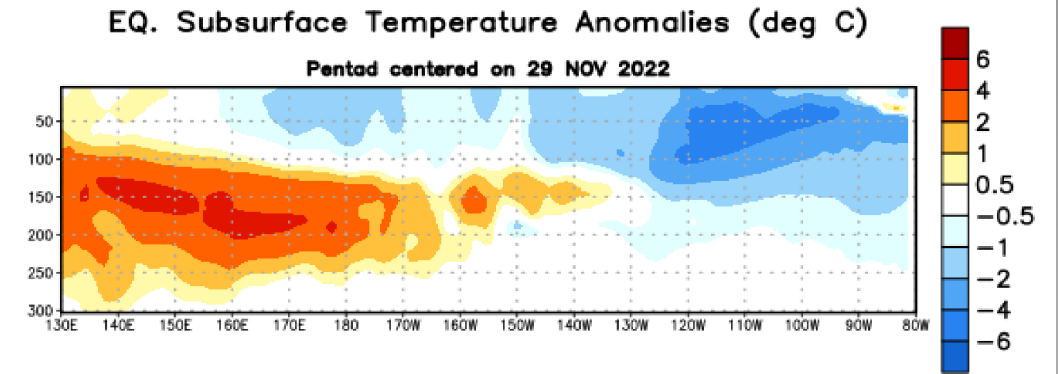


Figure 4. Depth-longitude section of equatorial Pacific upper-ocean (0-300m) temperature anomalies (°C) centered on the pentad of 29 November 2022. Anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period pentad means.

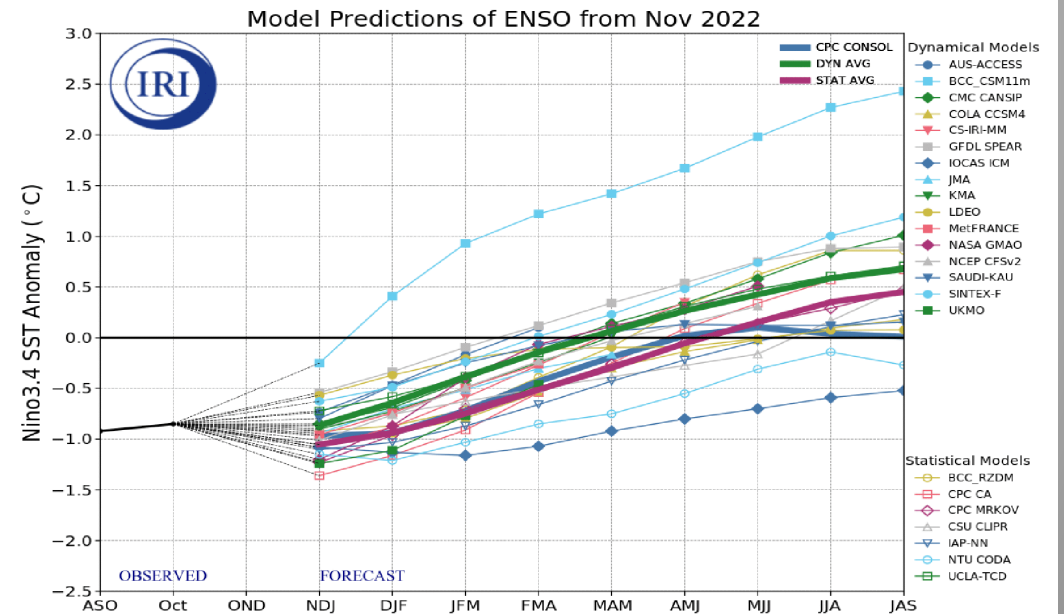
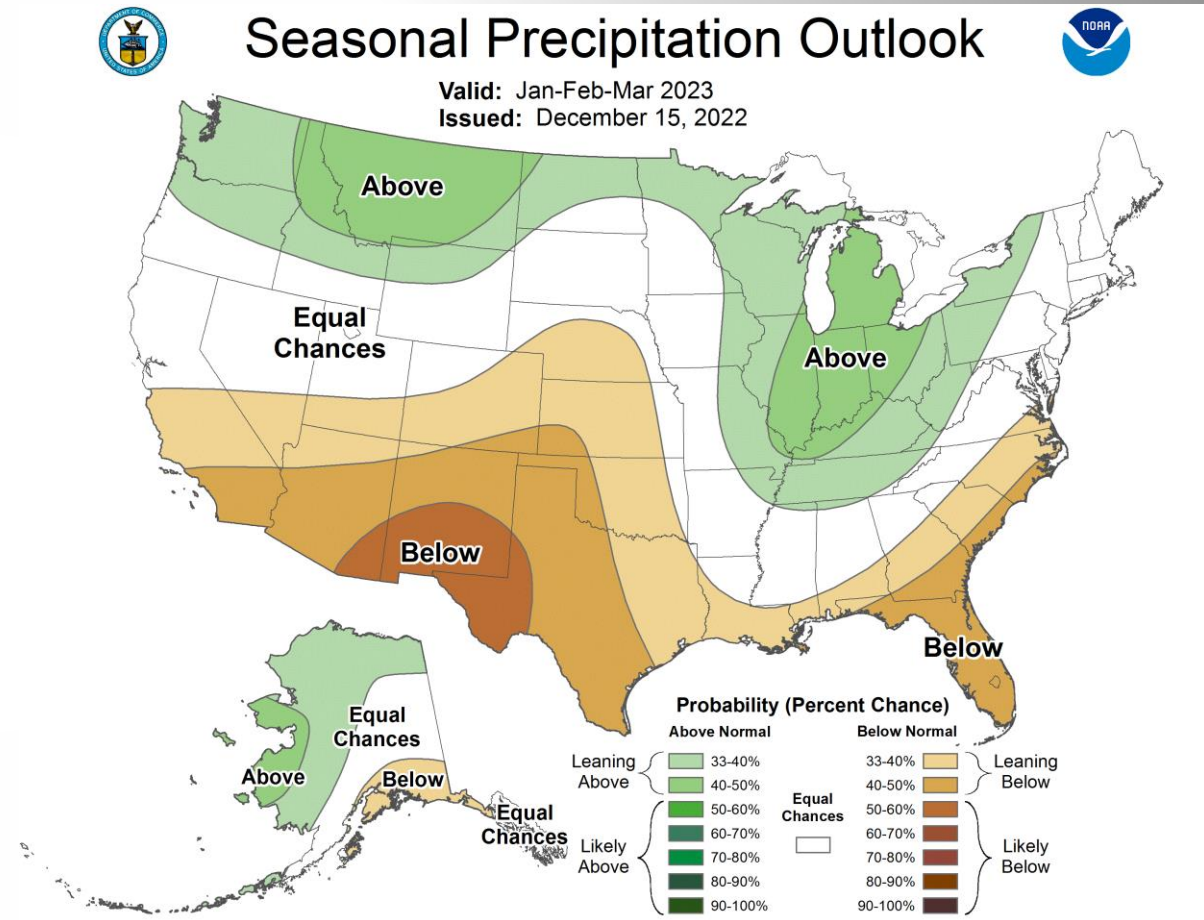
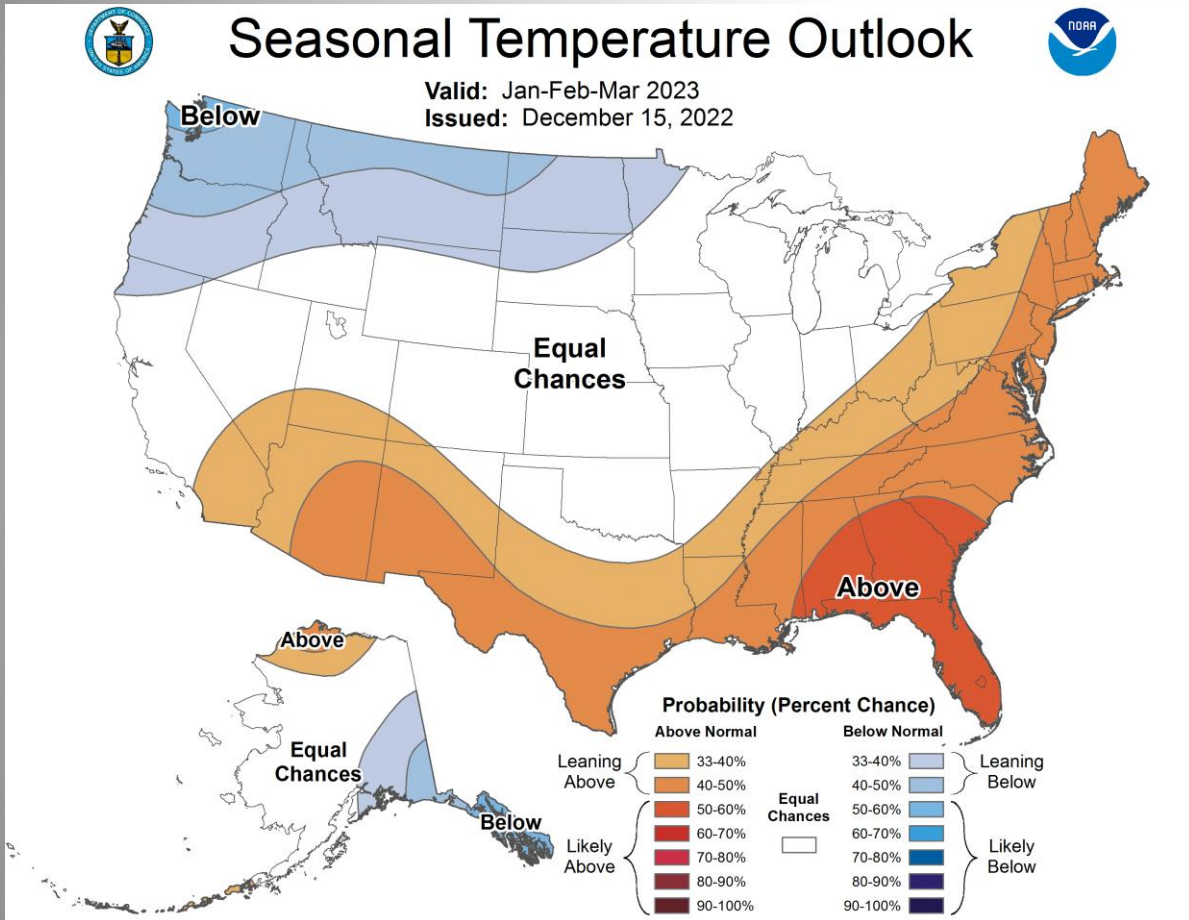


Figure 6. Forecasts of sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies for the Niño 3.4 region (5°N-5°S, 120°W-170°W). Figure updated 18 November 2022 by the International Research Institute (IRI) for Climate and Society.

Temperature
January-February-March

Precipitation
January-February-March



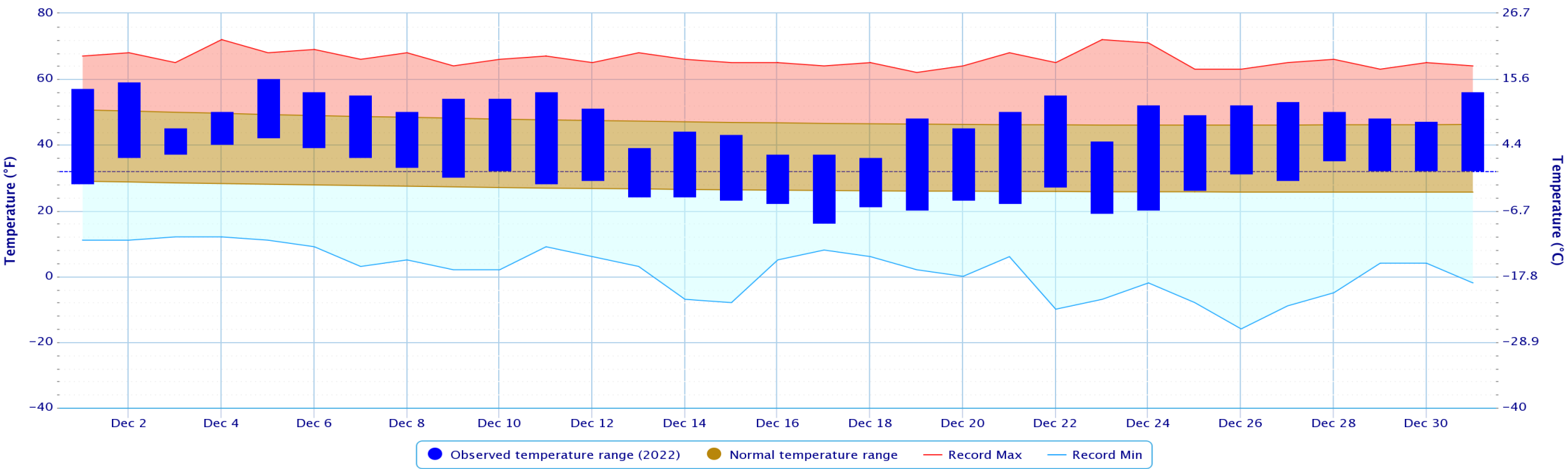
Above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation continue to be the most likely weather scheme for January through March, especially southern New Mexico.



Average Temperature: 39.0°

Daily Temperature Data – Albuquerque Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – 1891-12-01 to 2023-01-04. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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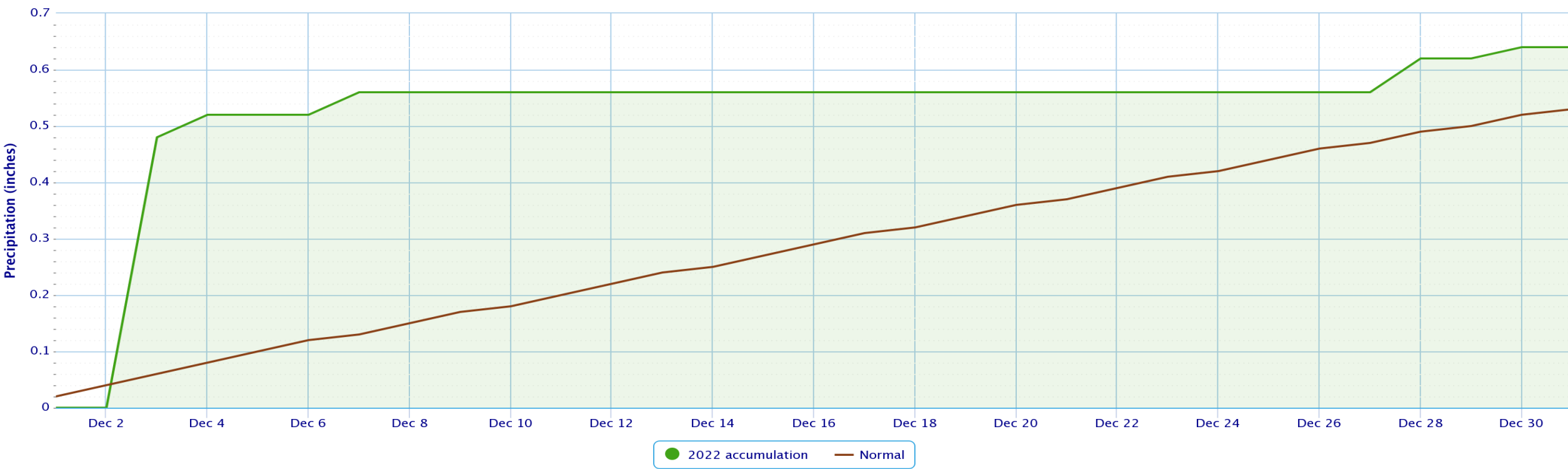
The December 2022 average temperature for Albuquerque was 39.0°, which was 2.1° above the normal of 36.9°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 49.3°. This was 2.0° above the normal average maximum temperature of 47.3°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 28.6°. This was 2.0° above the normal average minimum temperature of 26.6°. This ranked as the 22nd warmest December on record.



Precipitation: 0.64"

Accumulated Precipitation – Albuquerque Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



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The December 2022 precipitation for Albuquerque was 0.64", which was 0.11" above the normal of 0.53". This ranked as the 37nd wettest December on record.

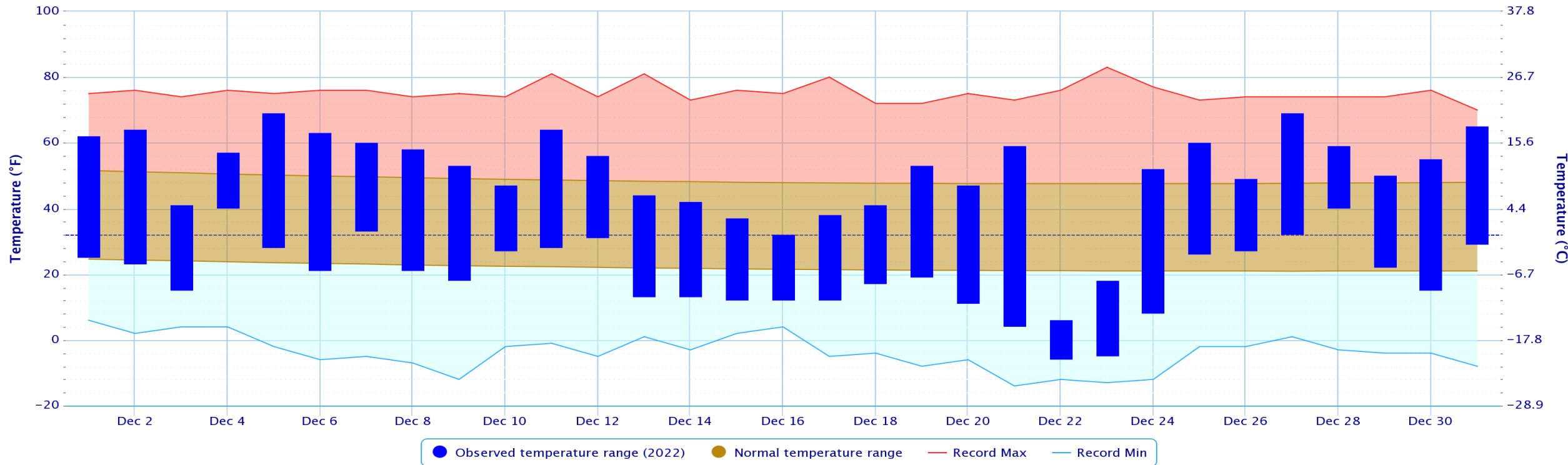
There was a trace of snow, compared to the normal of 2.8".



Average Temperature: 35.2°

Daily Temperature Data – Clayton Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – 1896-02-01 to 2023-01-04. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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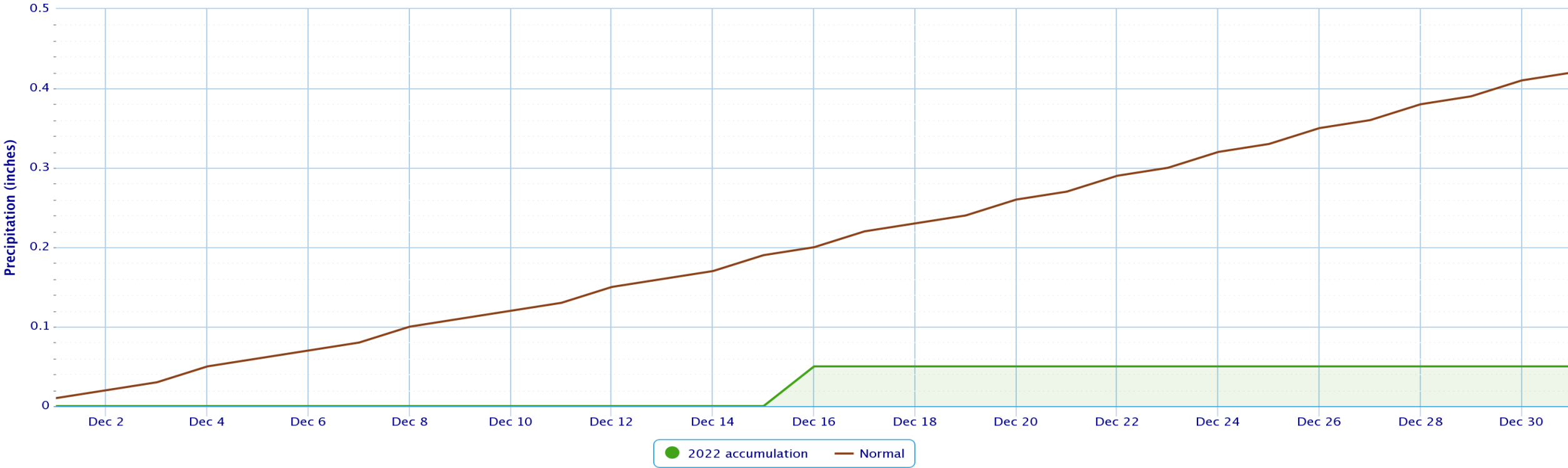
The December 2022 average temperature for Clayton was 35.2°, which was 0.1° below the normal of 35.3°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 50.6°. This was 2.0° above the normal average maximum temperature of 48.6°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 19.7°. This was 2.3° below the normal average minimum temperature of 22.0°. This ranked as the 58th coldest December on record.



Precipitation: 0.05"

Accumulated Precipitation – Clayton Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



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The December 2022 precipitation for Clayton was 0.05", which was 0.37" below the normal of 0.42". This is tied for the as the 21st driest December on record.

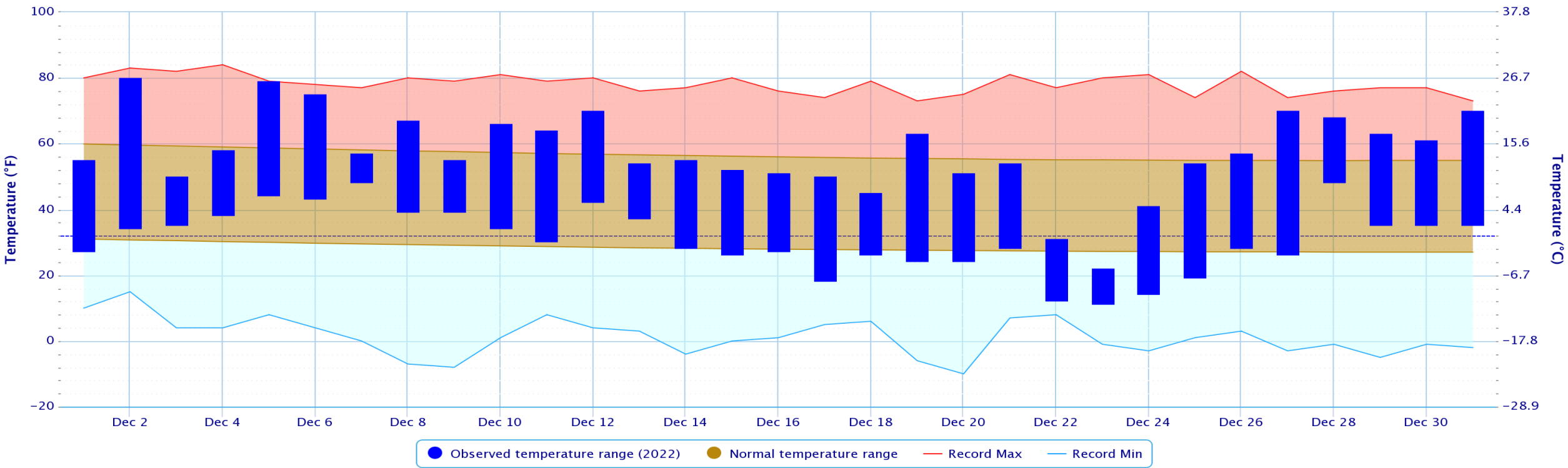
There was 0.5" of snow, compared to the normal of 6.8".



Average Temperature: 44.2°

Daily Temperature Data – Roswell Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – Max temperature: 1893-01-03 to 2023-01-04; Min temperature: 1893-01-21 to 2023-01-04. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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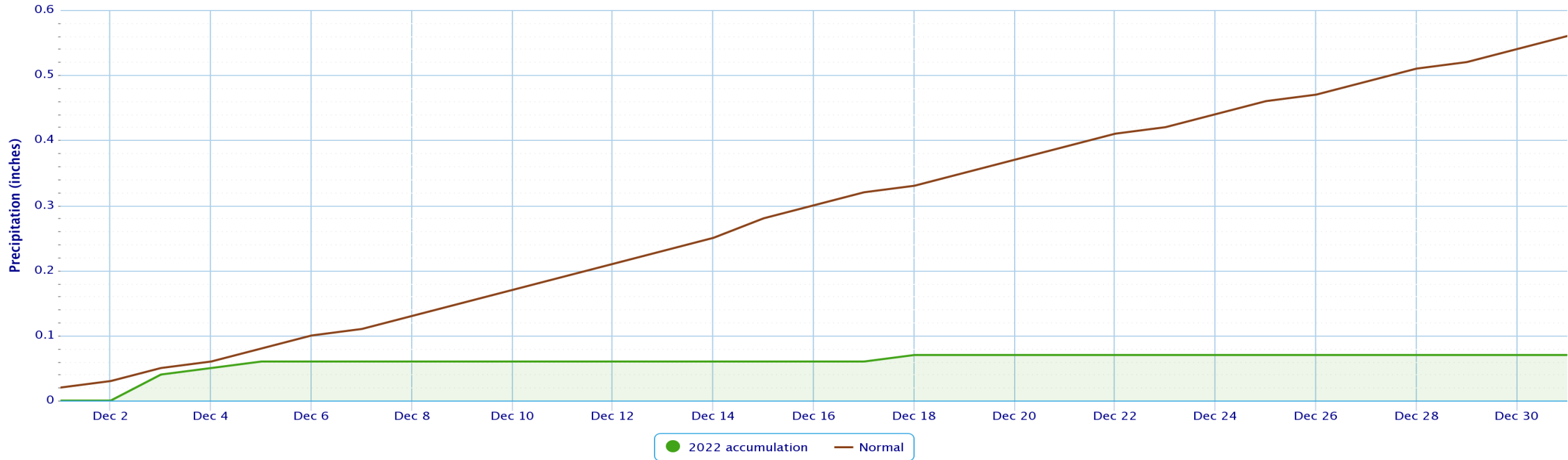
The December 2022 average temperature for Roswell was 44.2°, which was 1.8° above the normal of 42.4°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 57.7°. This was 1.2° above the average maximum temperature of 56.5°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 30.8°. This was 2.5° above the normal average minimum temperature of 28.3°. This ranked as the 56th warmest December on record.



Precipitation: 0.07"

Accumulated Precipitation – Roswell Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



Powered by ACIS

The December 2022 precipitation for Roswell was 0.07", which was 0.49" below the normal of 0.56". This is tied for the 21st driest December on record.

There was 0.0" of snow, compared to the normal of 3.8".



Event Type	Date	County/Zone Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
Dust Storm	12/2/2022	Union County			High winds with gusts over 70 mph resulted in blowing dust with near zero visibility in Clayton, NM.
High Wind	12/2/2022	Northern Sangre De Cristo Mountains	52 kt	Gust	Taos Ski Valley weather observing station recorded a peak wind gust of 60 mph.
High Wind	12/2/2022	South Central Mountains	52 kt	Gust	A public weather station near Bonito Lake experienced a peak wind gust of 60 mph.
High Wind	12/2/2022	Far Northeast Highlands	62 kt	Gust	The Raton Airport ASOS recorded a peak wind gust of 71 mph.
High Wind	12/2/2022	Northeast Highlands	62 kt	Gust	The Las Vegas Airport ASOS recorded a peak wind gust of 71 mph.
High Wind	12/2/2022	Union County	62 kt	Gust	Clayton Airport ASOS recorded a peak wind gust of 71 mph.
High Wind	12/2/2022	Guadalupe County	52 kt	Gust	A public weather station near Santa Rosa Lake State Park experienced a peak wind gust of 60 mph.
High Wind	12/2/2022	Far Northeast Highlands	39 kt	Sustained	A public weather station reported high sustained wind speeds of 40 to 45 mph near Cimarron, NM.
High Wind	12/5/2022	Central Highlands	55 kt	Gust	Clines Corners ASOS experienced a peak wind gust of 63 mph.
High Wind	12/12/2022	Northern Sangre De Cristo Mountains	58 kt	Gust	Taos Ski Valley reported a gust of 67 mph.
High Wind	12/12/2022	Central Highlands	51 kt	Gust	Clines Corners AWOS reported a gust of 67 mph.
High Wind	12/12/2022	Lower Rio Grande Valley	58 kt	Gust	Harry WSMR site reported a gust of 64 mph.
High Wind	12/12/2022	South Central Highlands	50 kt	Gust	North Oscura Peak WSMR site reported a gust of 67 mph.
High Wind	12/12/2022	South Central Mountains	51 kt	Gust	Sierra Blanca Airport AWOS site reported a gust of 59 mph.
High Wind	12/12/2022	Guadalupe County	57 kt	Gust	NMC40 site southeast of Vaughn reported a gust of 66 mph.
High Wind	12/22/2022	Jemez Mountains	53 kt	Gust	A Los Alamos National Laboratories weather station recorded a peak gust of 61 mph.
High Wind	12/22/2022	Northern Sangre De Cristo Mountains	50 kt	Gust	The Taos Ski Valley weather station atop Kachina Peak recorded a peak gust of 58 mph.
Cold/Wind Chill	12/22/2022	Union County			Clayton Airport reported a wind chill of -33F.
Cold/Wind Chill	12/22/2022	Guadalupe County			A mesonet station just east of Santa Rosa along I-40 reported a wind chill of -25F.
Cold/Wind Chill	12/22/2022	Curry County		14"	Clovis Municipal Airport reported a wind chill of -25F.








*Storm reports are considered preliminary until a final review is certified in the NWS Storm Data publication. Certified data is available three to four months post-event at: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>



Event Type	Date	County/Zone Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
Heavy Snow	12/28/2022	Chuska Mountains		14"	Navajo Whiskey SNOTEL.
Heavy Snow	12/28-11/29/2022	Tusas Mountains Including Chama		10"	SNOTELs east of Chama and Canjilon.
Heavy Snow	12/28-11/29/2022	Jemez Mountains		12"	SNOTELs in the Jemez Mountains.
Heavy Snow	12/28-11/29/2022	Southern Sangre De Cristo Mountains		12"	The Santa Fe Ski area.
High Wind	12/28/2022	Northern Sangre De Cristo Mountains	56 kt	Gust	Taos Ski Valley reported a wind gust of 64 mph at Kachina Peak.
High Wind	12/27-12/28/2022	East Slopes Sangre De Cristo Mountains	69 kt	Gust	Taos Ski Valley reported a wind gust of 64 mph at Kachina Peak.
High Wind	12/28/2022	Central Highlands	56 kt	Gust	The Clines Corners ASOS reported a peak wind gust of 64 mph.
High Wind	12/28/2022	Far Northeast Highlands	67 kt	Gust	The Raton Crews Municipal Airport reported a peak wind gust of 67 mph.
High Wind	12/28/2022	South Central Mountains	52 kt	Gust	Shed roof blown off near Ruidoso.
High Wind	12/28/2022	South Central Mountains	52 kt	Gust	Large tree down near Alto.
High Wind	12/28/2022	Quay County	53 kt	Gust	The Las Vegas Airport reported a peak wind gust of 64 mph.
High Wind	12/28/2022	Southwest Chaves County	56 kt	Gust	The Dunken RAWs reported a peak wind gust of 64 mph.
Winter Weather	12/28/2022	West Central Plateau			I-40 closed between Gallup to the Arizona border.
Winter Weather	12/28/2022	West Central Mountains			I-40 closed between Grants to the Continental Divide.
Heavy Snow	12/28/2022	Northwest Plateau			Snow squall. Visibility near 1/4 mile around Farmington, Bloomfield, and Aztec, NM.
Heavy Snow	12/28-12/29/2022	Santa Fe Metro Area			Snow squall. Visibility near 1/4 mile led to a semi truck jackknifed on I-25 near La Bajada.
High Wind	12/31/2022	Northeast Highlands	55 kt	Gust	The Las Vegas Municipal Airport measured a wind gust of 63mph.
High Wind	12/31/2022	Guadalupe County	51 kt	Gust	A mesonet station southeast of Vaughn measured a wind gust of 59mph.

*Storm reports are considered preliminary until a final review is certified in the NWS Storm Data publication. Certified data is available three to four months post-event at: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>



-  NCEI Climatological Rankings: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/national/rankings>
-  PRISM Climate Data: <http://www.prism.oregonstate.edu/>
-  NWS Local Climate Pages: <https://w2.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=abq>
-  NCEI Storm Data: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/>
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