



### Synopsis

December 2023 was seasonably wet and warmer than normal for most of the state. There were several winter storms in December, the biggest of which came during the middle of the month and dropped almost 2 feet of snow in the northern mountains. There was another strong storm just before Christmas that brought widespread rain/snow, and even severe weather to the eastern plains. Monthly total precipitation ended up being above to well-above average across almost the entire state.

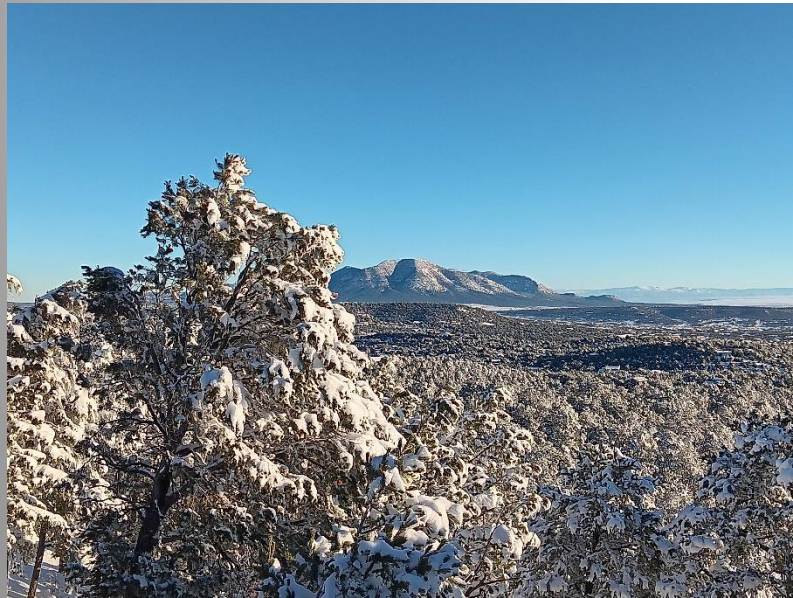


Photo courtesy Brian Guyer  
near Sedillo, NM | Dec 15<sup>th</sup>



Photo courtesy Steph Nakhleh  
Los Alamos, NM | Dec 14<sup>th</sup>

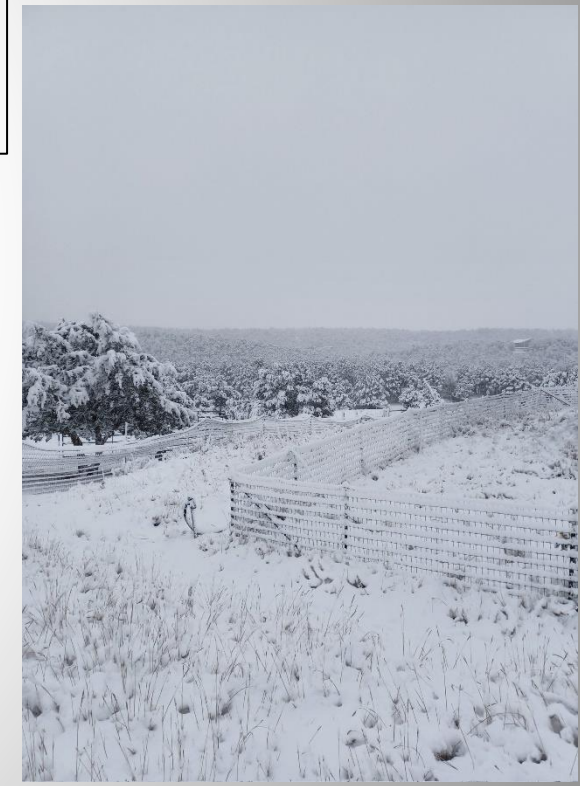
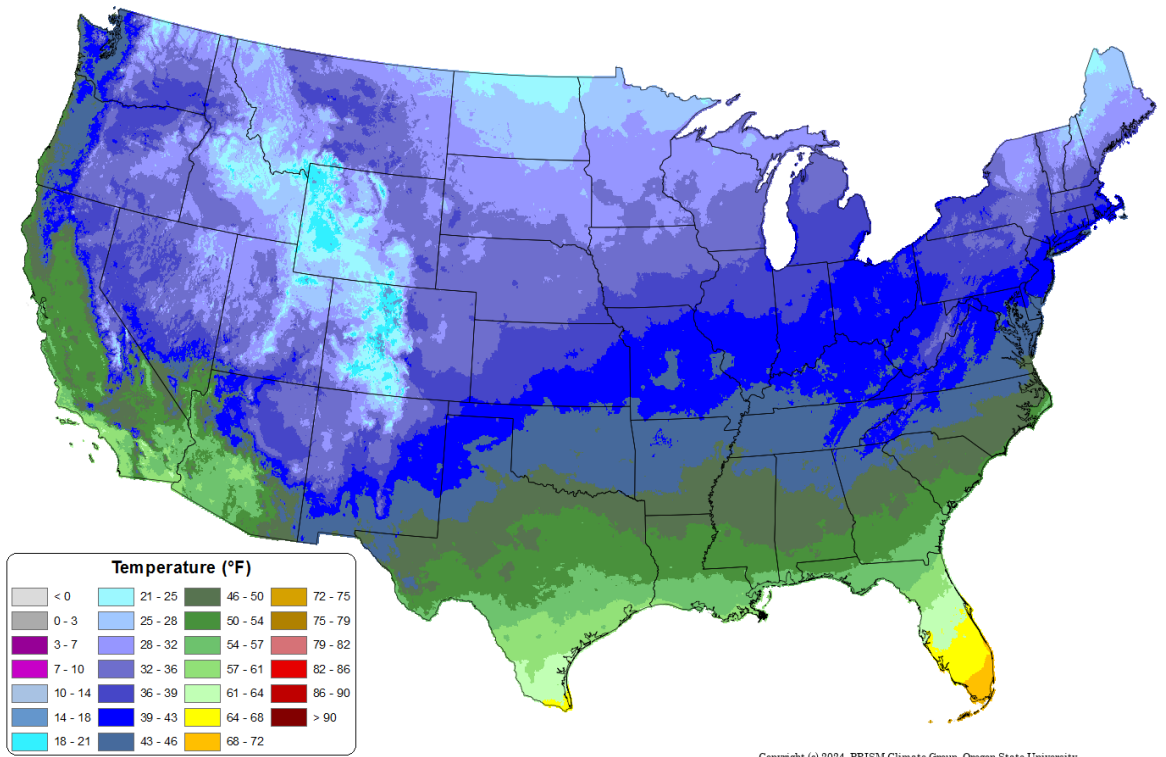


Photo courtesy Charlene Pyskoty  
Tijeras, NM | Dec 14<sup>th</sup>



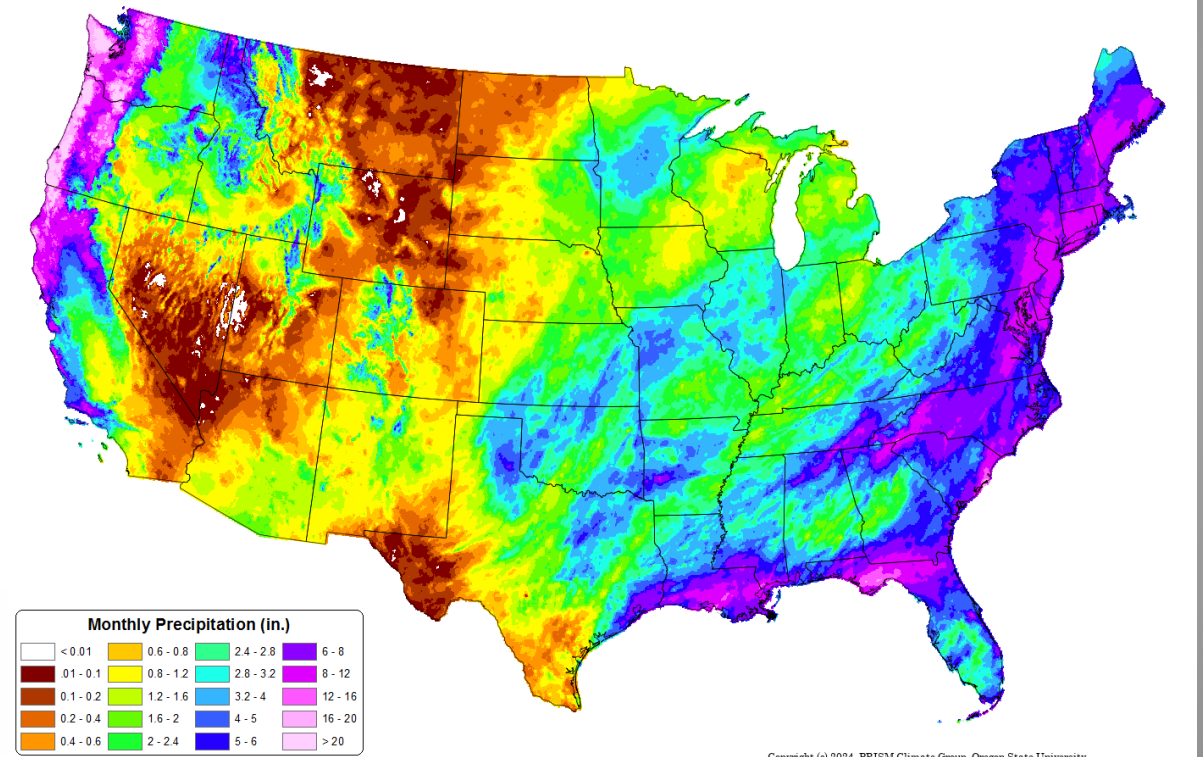
Average Temperatures

Average Daily Mean Temperature: Dec 2023  
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2023  
(Map created 16 Jan 2024)

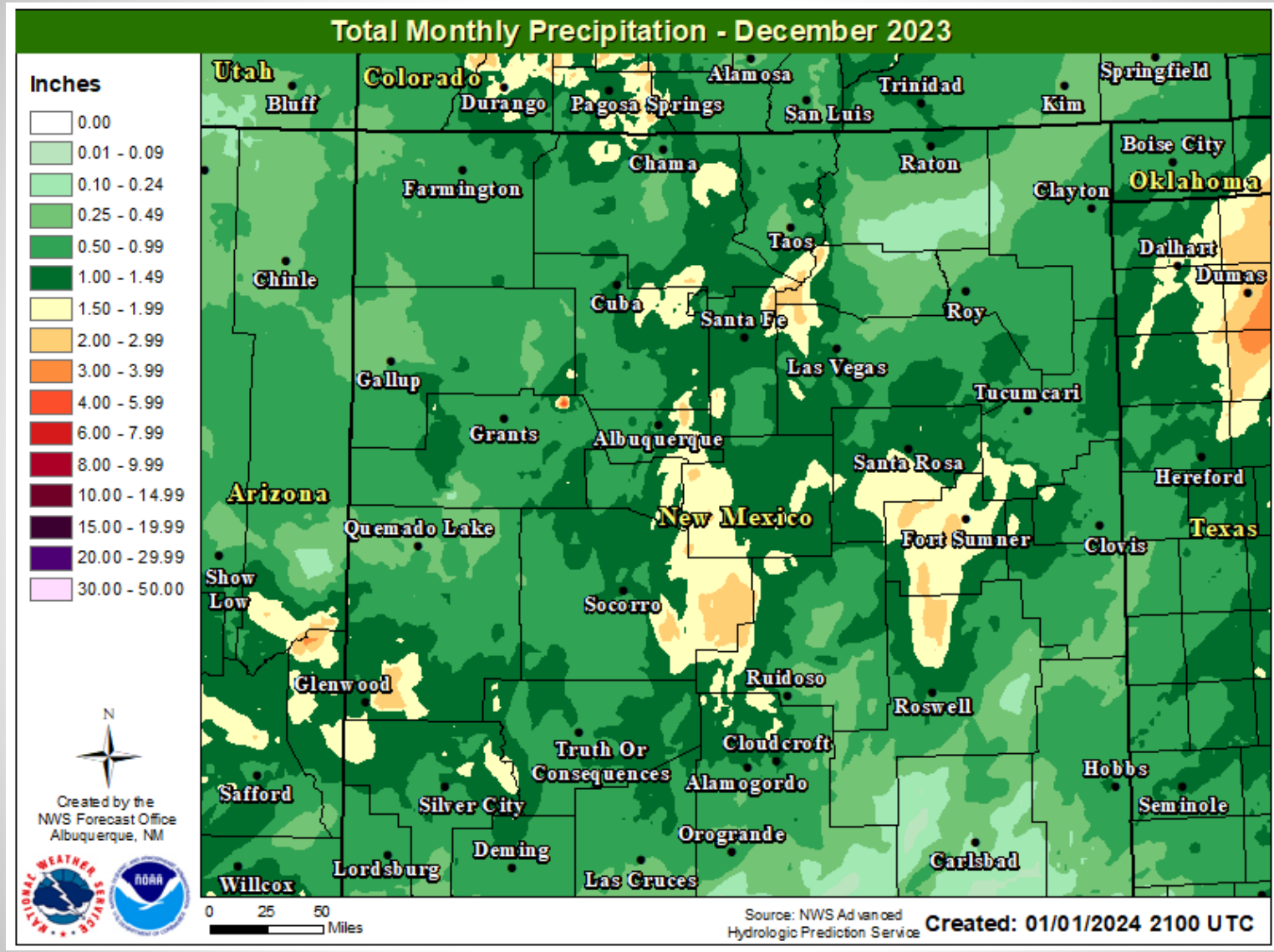


Total Precipitation

Total Precipitation: Dec 2023  
Period ending 31 Dec 2023  
(Map created 16 Jan 2024)







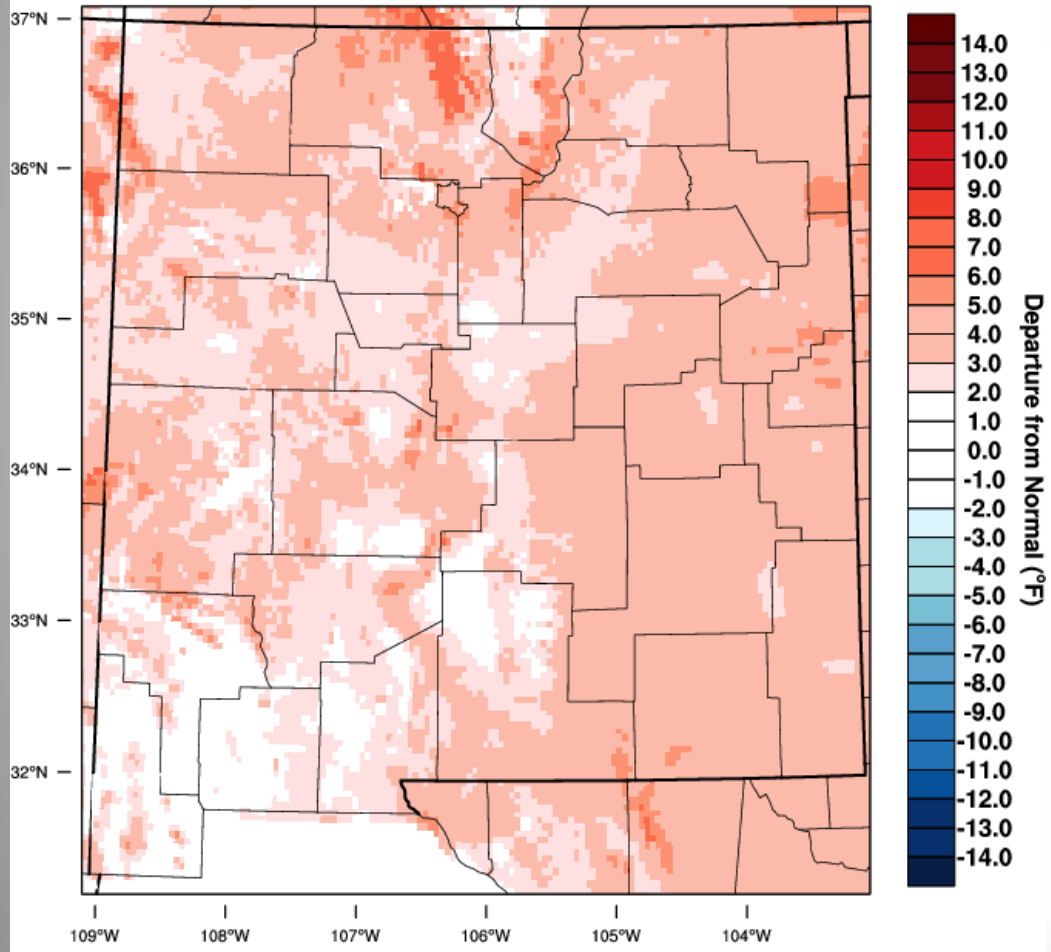
Here is a more detailed image of the December 2023 precipitation.



### Anomaly

#### New Mexico - Mean Temperature

December 2023 Departure from 1981-2010 Normal

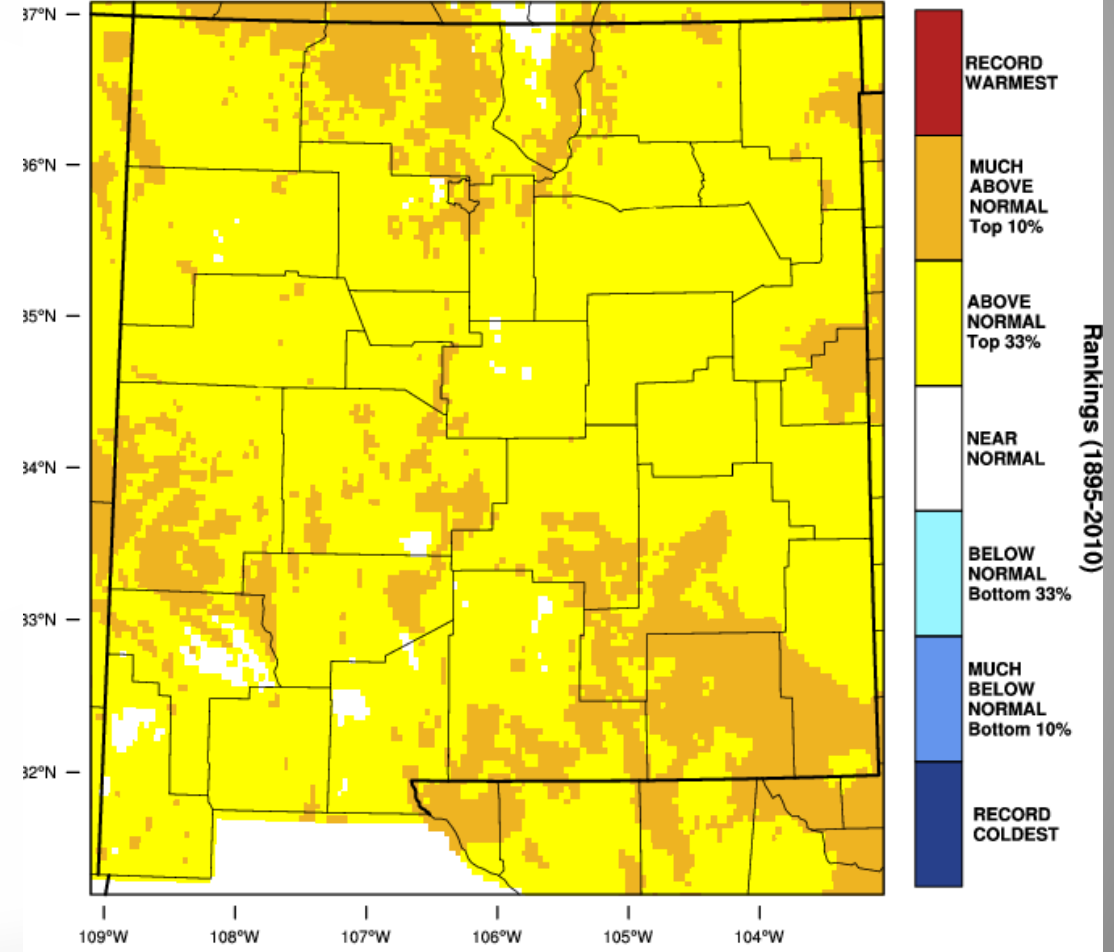


WestWide Drought Tracker, U Idaho/WRCC Data Source: PRISM (Prelim), created 5 JAN 2024

### Percentile

#### New Mexico - Mean Temperature

December 2023 Percentile



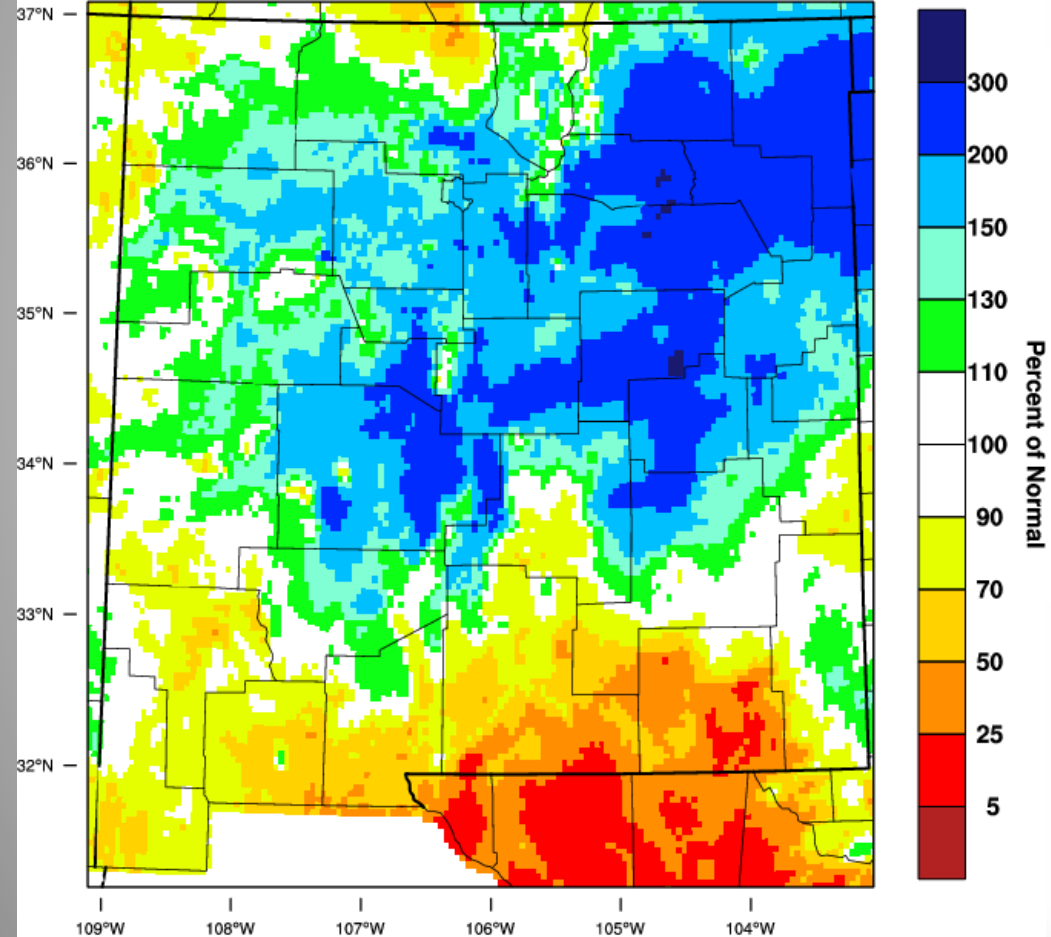
WestWide Drought Tracker, U Idaho/WRCC Data Source: PRISM (Prelim), created 5 JAN 2024



Anomaly

New Mexico - Precipitation

December 2023 Percent of 1981-2010 Normal

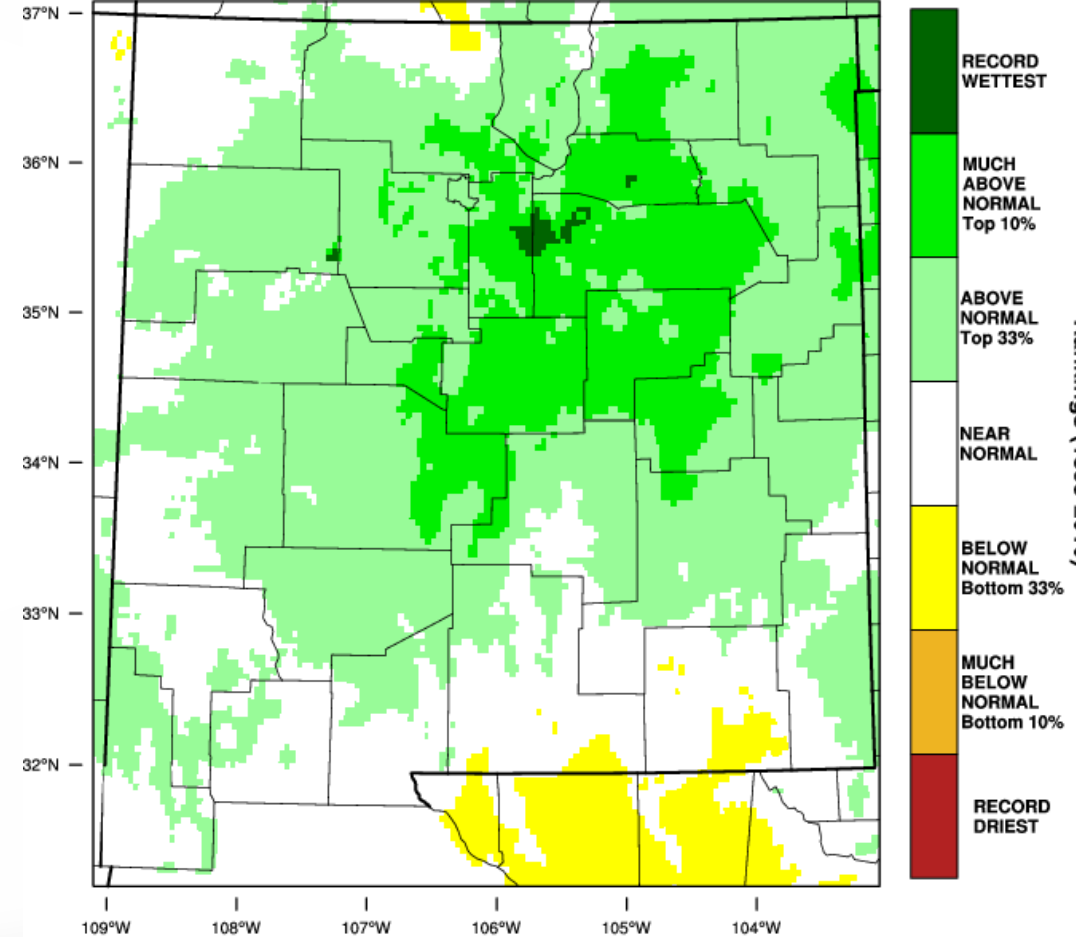


WestWide Drought Tracker, U Idaho/WRCC Data Source: PRISM (Prelim), created 5 JAN 2024

Percentile

New Mexico - Precipitation

December 2023 Percentile

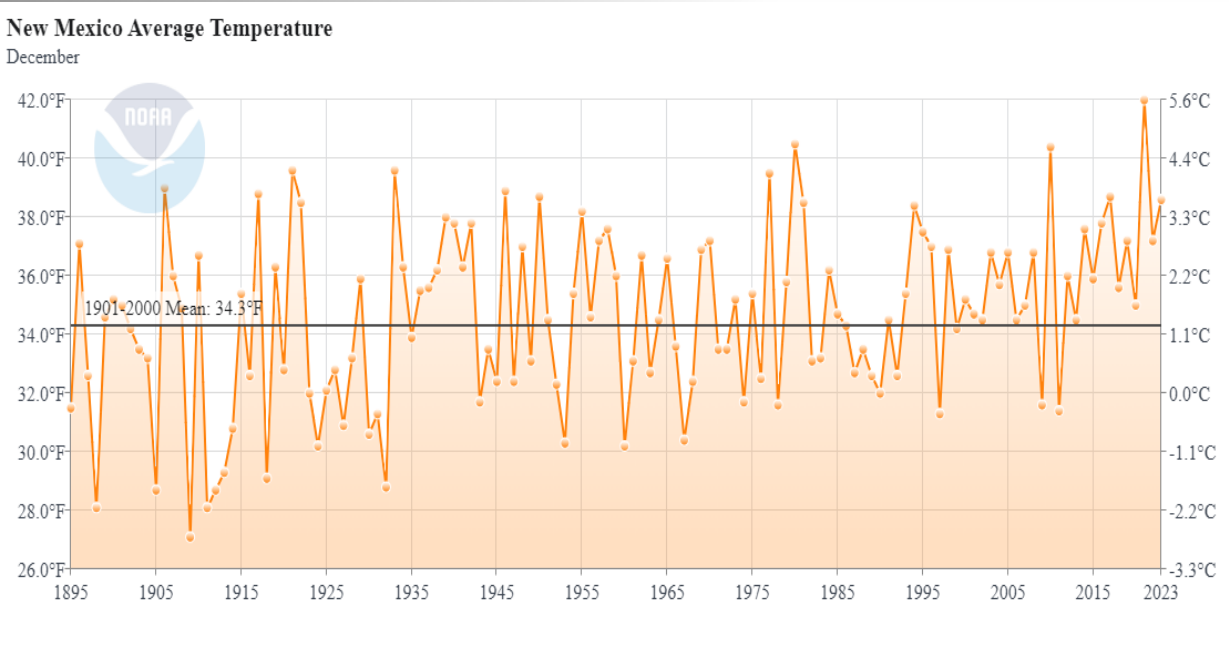


WestWide Drought Tracker, U Idaho/WRCC Data Source: PRISM (Prelim), created 5 JAN 2024

Rankings (1895-2010)

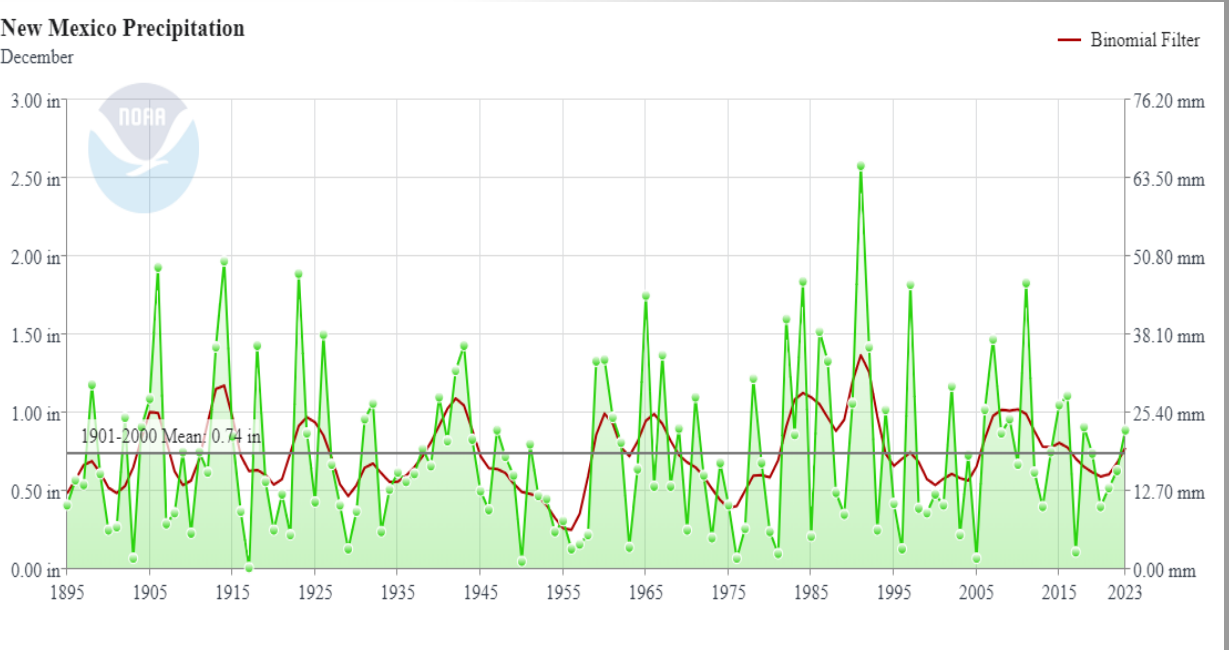


### Temperature



The December 2023 average statewide temperature was 38.6°, which was 4.3° above the long-term normal of 34.3° (1901-2000). This ranked as the 12<sup>th</sup> warmest December on record.

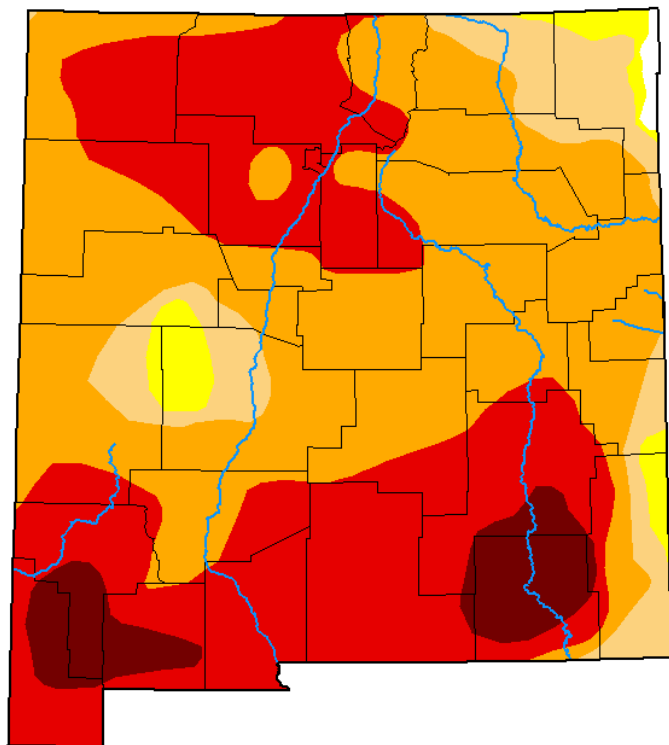
### Precipitation



The December 2023 average statewide precipitation was 0.89", which was 0.15" above the long-term normal of 0.74" (1900-2000). This ranked as the 42<sup>nd</sup> wettest December on record.



### U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico



**December 5, 2023**  
(Released Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	0.39	99.61	96.83	87.73	43.00	6.48
<b>Last Week</b> 11-28-2023	0.40	99.60	96.75	87.73	43.48	6.48
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 09-05-2023	0.00	100.00	95.45	68.72	19.99	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-03-2023	7.03	92.97	41.30	18.55	3.74	0.19
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-26-2022	0.00	100.00	96.87	67.52	32.31	6.85
<b>One Year Ago</b> 12-06-2022	7.02	92.98	42.02	18.42	3.74	0.19

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>

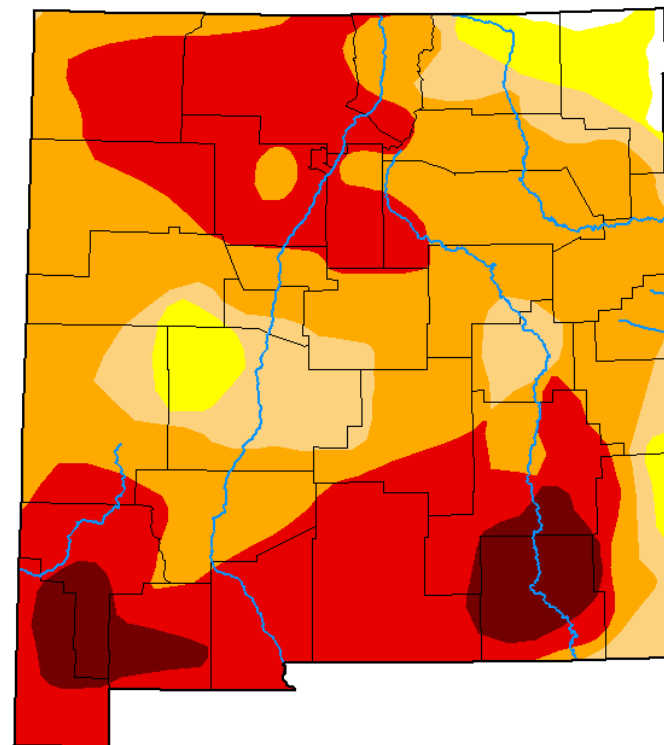
Author:

David Simeral  
Western Regional Climate Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

### U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico



**December 26, 2023**  
(Released Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	0.71	99.29	94.04	82.04	41.16	6.48
<b>Last Week</b> 12-19-2023	0.70	99.30	94.48	82.92	42.01	6.48
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 09-26-2023	0.00	100.00	96.87	67.52	32.31	6.85
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-03-2023	7.03	92.97	41.30	18.55	3.74	0.19
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-26-2022	0.00	100.00	96.87	67.52	32.31	6.85
<b>One Year Ago</b> 12-27-2022	7.03	92.97	41.73	18.55	3.74	0.19

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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NCEI/NOAA



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Despite above average precipitation in the central and eastern portions of the state, drought conditions remained relatively unchanged during the month of December due to long-term precipitation deficits.



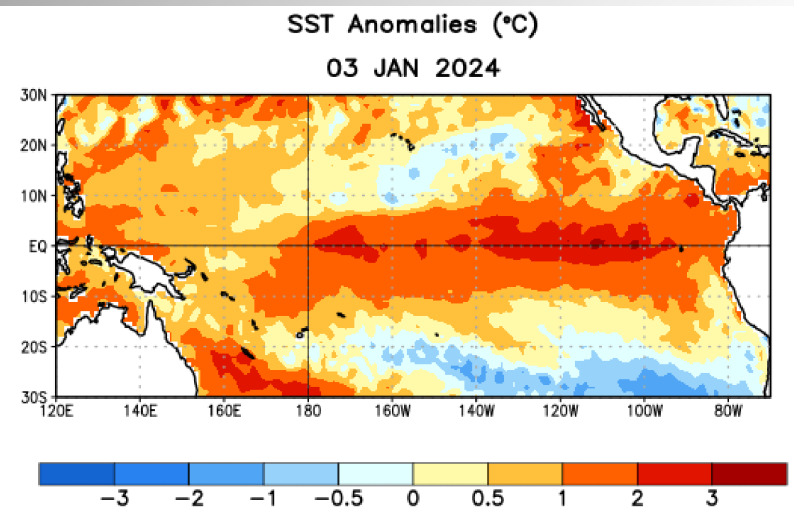


Figure 1. Average sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies (°C) for the week centered on 3 January 2024. Anomalies are computed with respect to the 1991-2020 base period weekly means.

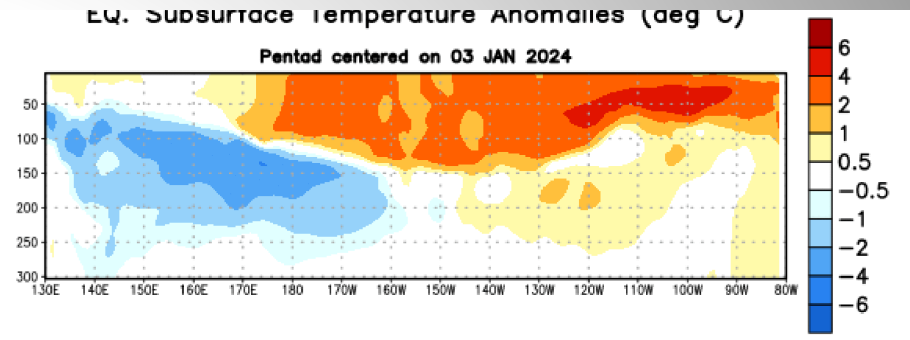


Figure 4. Depth-longitude section of equatorial Pacific upper-ocean (0-300m) temperature anomalies (°C) centered on the pentad of 3 January 2024. Anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period pentad means.

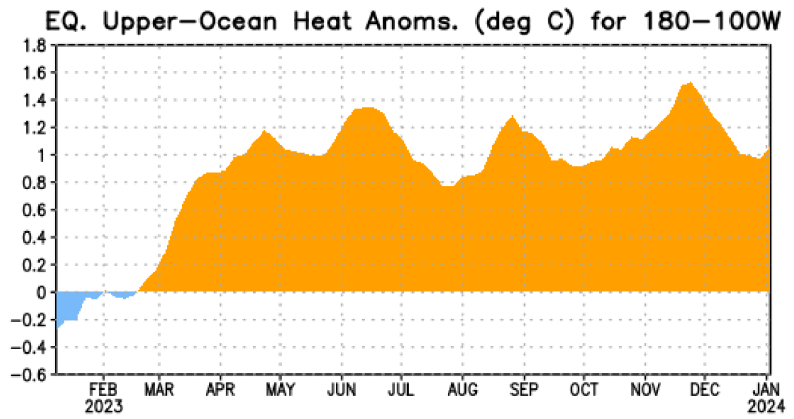


Figure 3. Area-averaged upper-ocean heat content anomaly (°C) in the equatorial Pacific (5°N-5°S, 180°-100°W). The heat content anomaly is computed as the departure from the 1991-2020 base period pentad means.

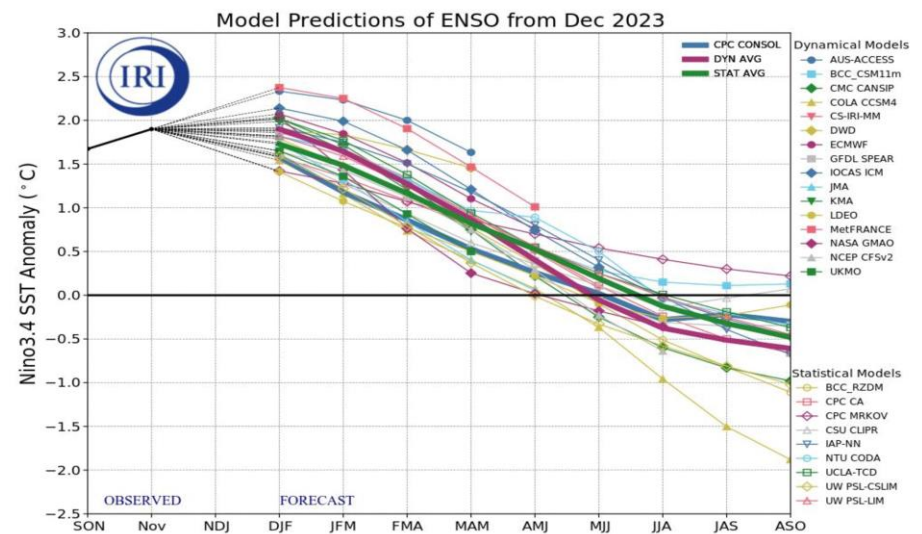


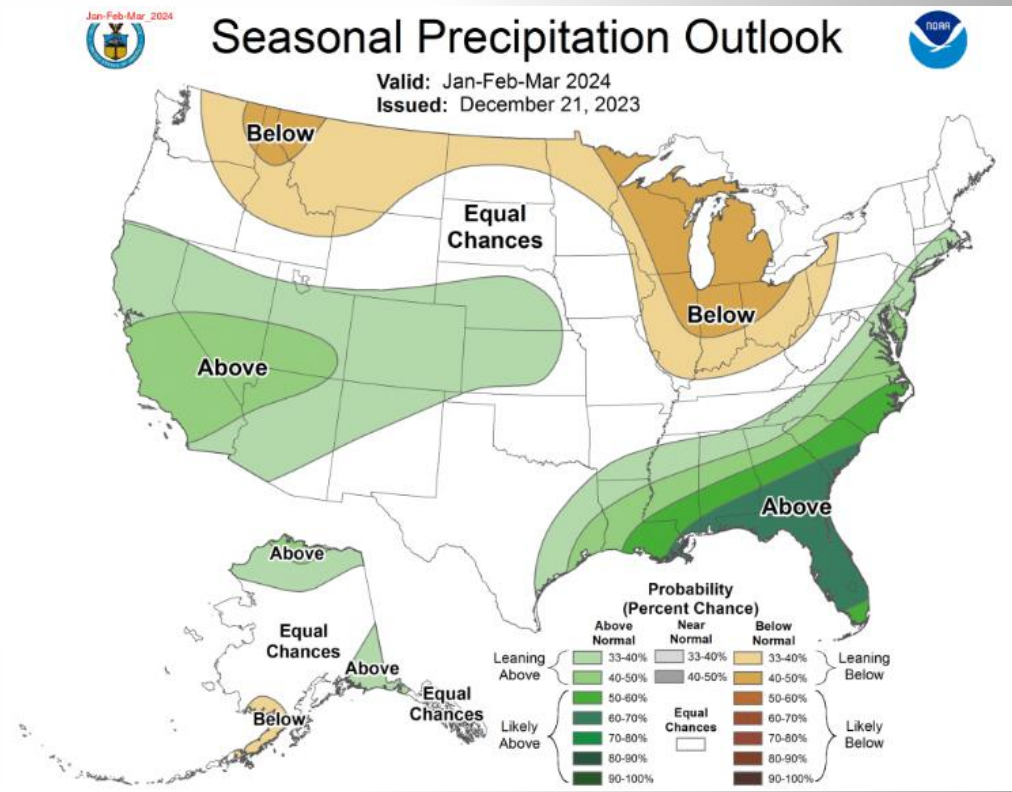
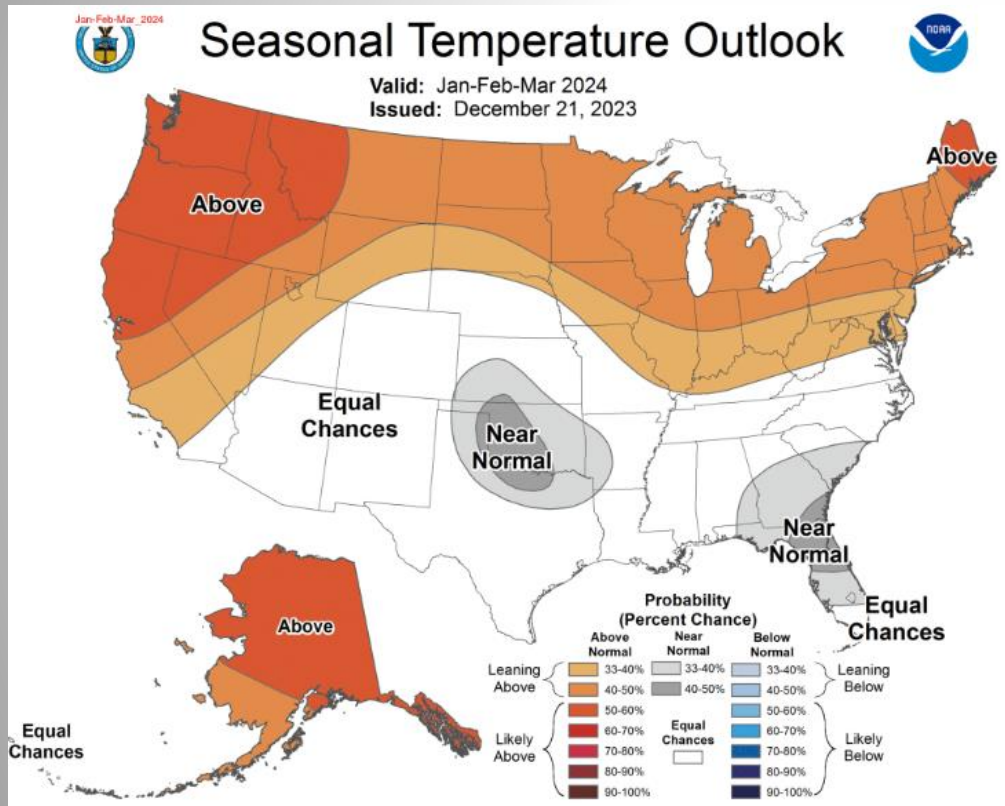
Figure 6. Forecasts of sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies for the Niño 3.4 region (5°N-5°S, 120°W-170°W). Figure updated 19 December 2023 by the International Research Institute (IRI) for Climate and Society.





Temperature  
January-February-March

Precipitation  
January-February-March



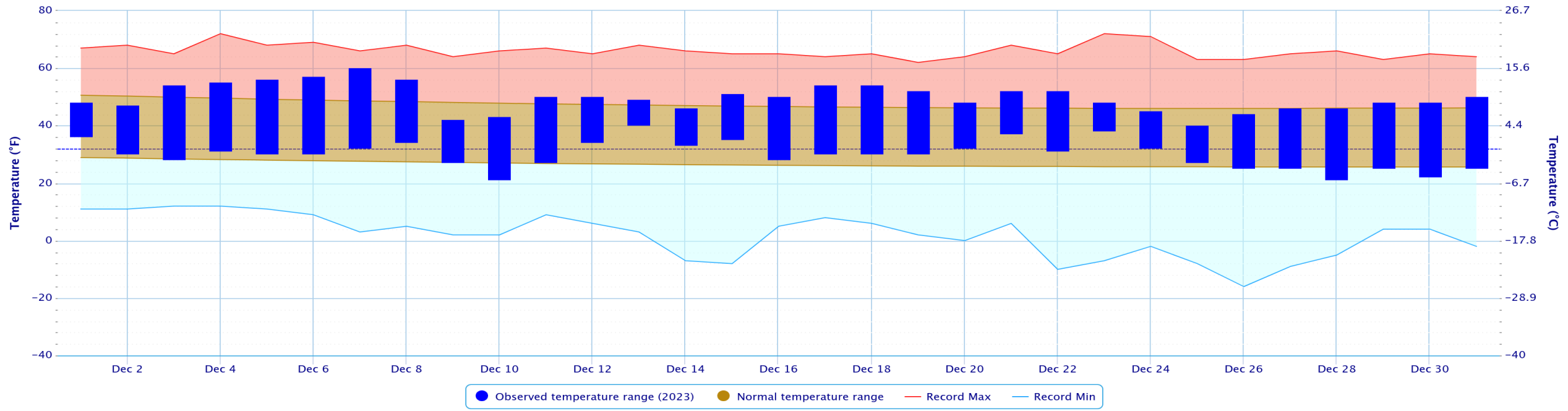
Near normal temperatures and near normal precipitation are favored for most of New Mexico the next 3 months. The northwest portion of the state has a slightly above average chance of greater than normal precipitation.



Average Temperature: 39.8 °

Daily Temperature Data – ALBUQUERQUE INTL AP, NM

Period of Record – 1891-12-01 to 2024-01-17. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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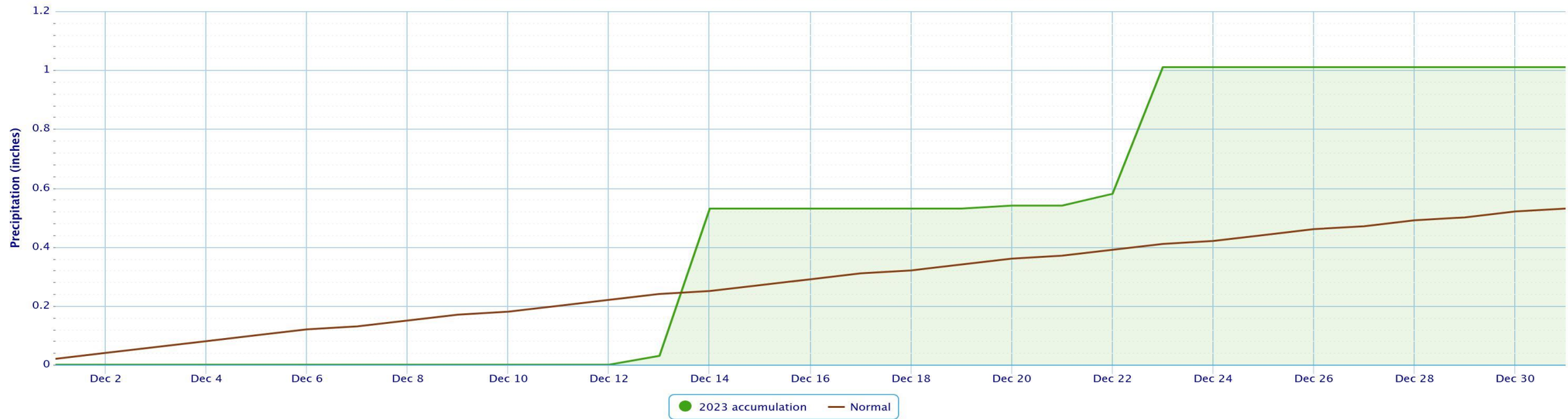
The December 2023 average temperature for Albuquerque was 39.8°, which was 2.9° above the normal of 36.9°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 49.7°. This was 2.4° above the normal average maximum temperature of 47.3°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 29.9°. This was 3.3° above the normal average minimum temperature of 26.6°. This ranked as the 17<sup>th</sup> warmest December on record.



Precipitation: 1.01"

### Accumulated Precipitation – ALBUQUERQUE INTL AP, NM

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



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The December 2023 precipitation for Albuquerque was 1.01", which was 0.48" above the normal of 0.53". This ranked as the 20<sup>th</sup> wettest December on record.

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

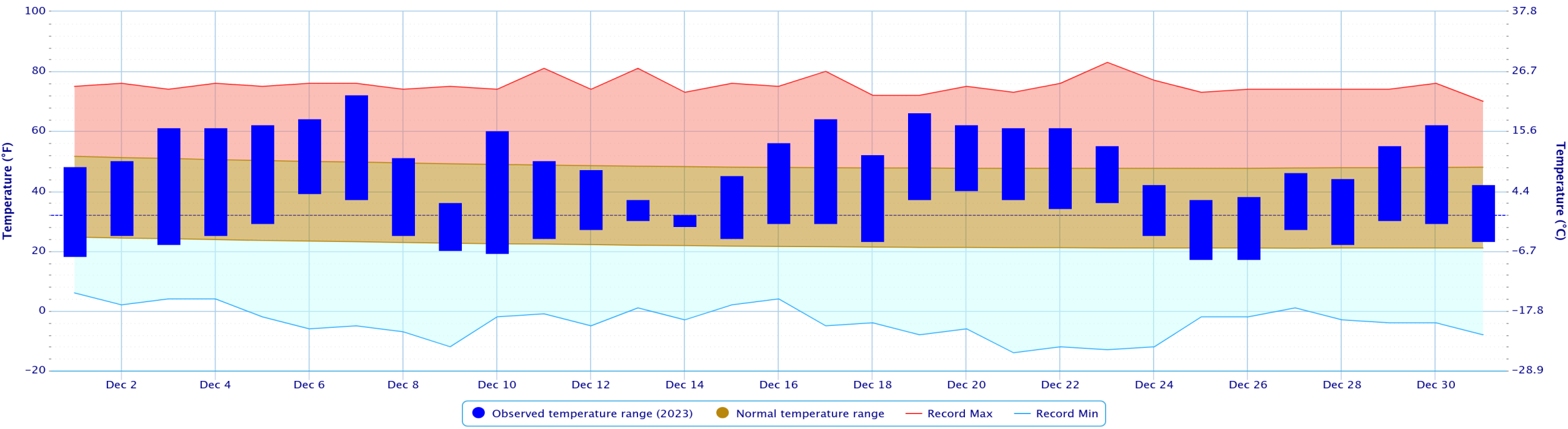




Average Temperature: 39.8°

Daily Temperature Data - CLAYTON MUNICIPAL AIR PARK, NM

Period of Record - 1896-02-01 to 2024-01-17. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Powered by ACIS

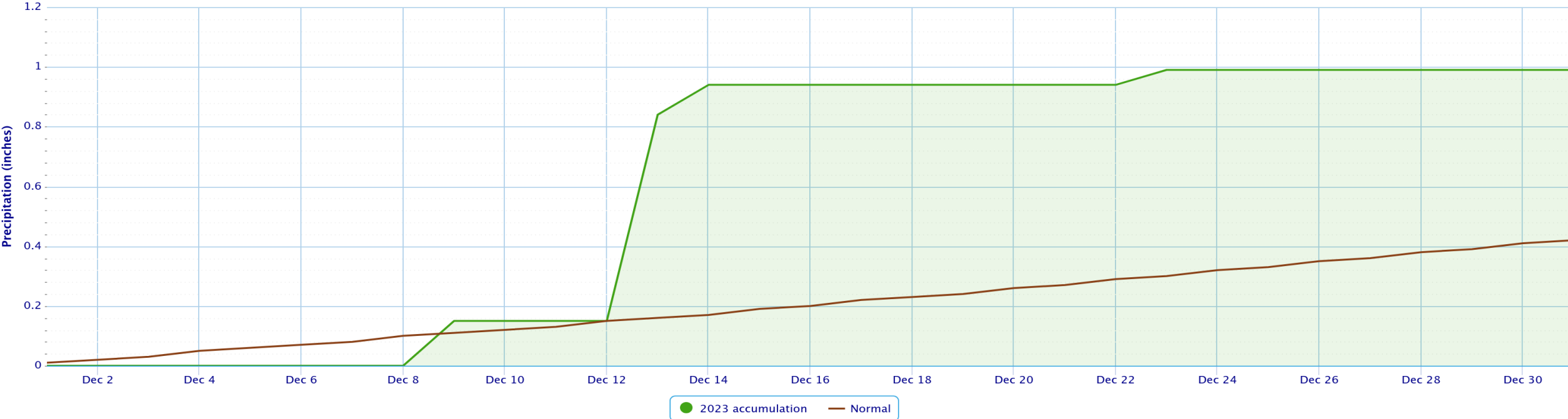
The December 2023 average temperature for Clayton was 39.8°, which was 4.5° above the normal of 35.3°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 52.2°. This was 3.6° above the normal average maximum temperature of 48.6°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 27.3°. This was 5.3° above the normal average minimum temperature of 22.0°. This ranked as the 9<sup>th</sup> warmest December on record.



Precipitation: 0.99"

Accumulated Precipitation – CLAYTON MUNICIPAL AIR PARK, NM

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



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The December 2023 precipitation for Clayton was 0.99", which was 0.57" above the normal of 0.42". This ranked as the 10<sup>th</sup> wettest December on record.

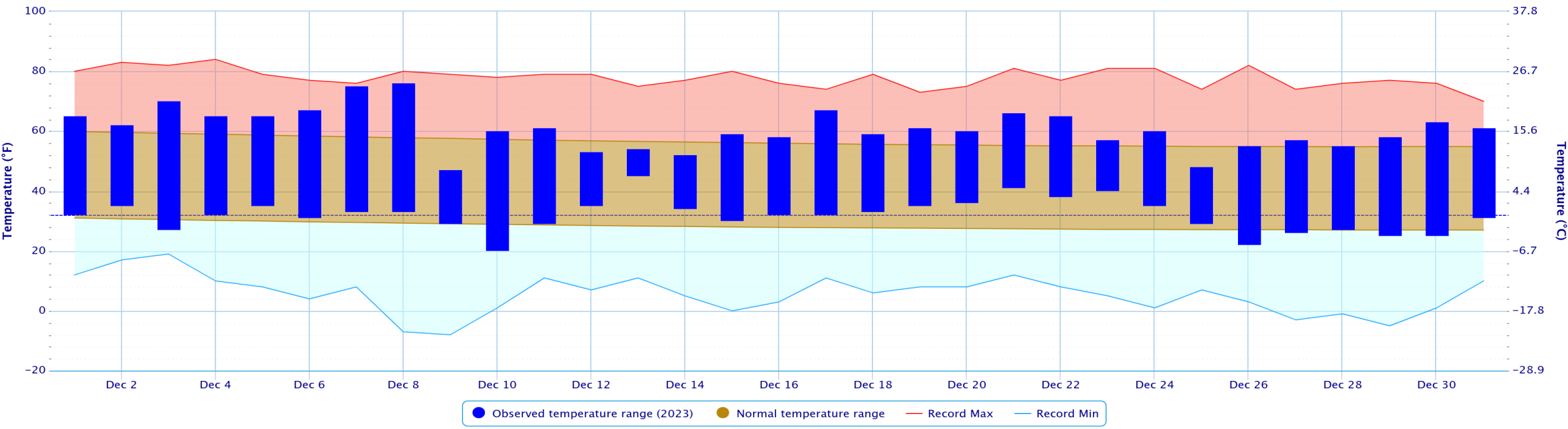
There was 3.5" of snow, compared to the normal of 6.8".



Average Temperature: 46.3°

Daily Temperature Data - ROSWELL INDUSTRIAL AIR PARK, NM

Period of Record - 1946-12-01 to 2024-01-17. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Powered by ACIS

The December 2023 average temperature for Roswell was 46.3°, which was 3.9° above the normal of 42.4°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 60.7°. This was 4.2° above the average maximum temperature of 56.5°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 31.8°. This was 3.5° above the normal average minimum temperature of 28.3°. This ranked as the 4<sup>th</sup> warmest December on record.

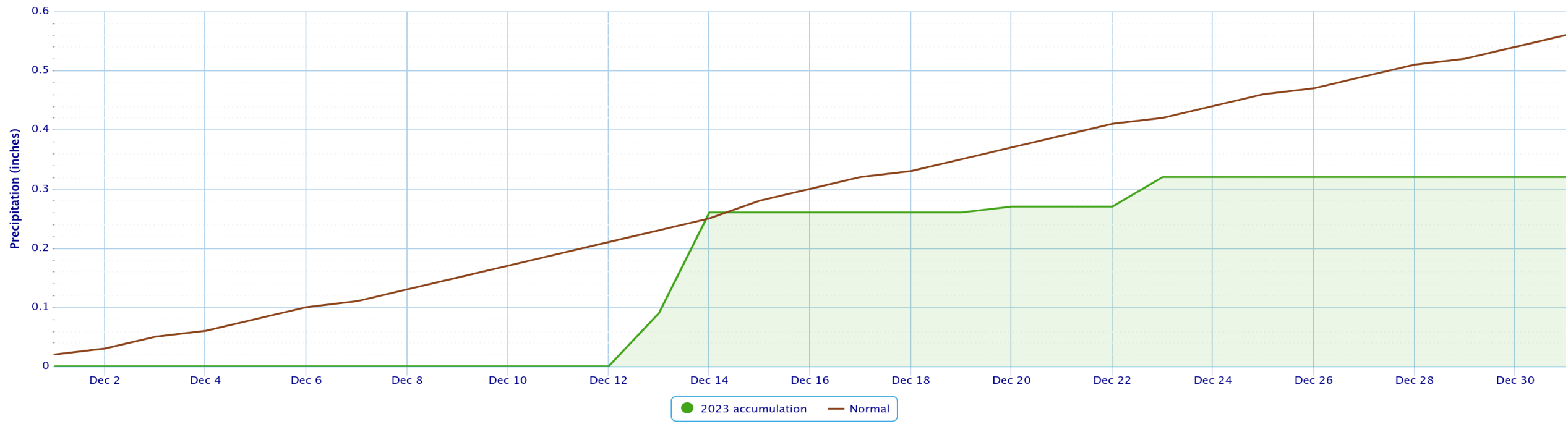




Precipitation: 0.32"

### Accumulated Precipitation – ROSWELL INDUSTRIAL AIR PARK, NM

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



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The December 2023 precipitation for Roswell was 0.32", which was 0.24" below the normal of 0.56". This ranked as the 44<sup>th</sup> driest December on record.








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



Event Type	Date	County Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
Heavy Snow	12/1/2023	WEST CENTRAL MOUNTAINS			13" of snow just west of Mt. Taylor leading to travel impacts along I-40 from Thoreau to Gallup. Four to 7" of snow were also reported along the Continental Divide.
Heavy Snow	12/1/2023	JEMEZ MOUNTAINS			12.3" in the far northwest Jemez. Nine to 10" also observed in southern portions of the zone and in Los Alamos.
High Wind	12/2/2023	CURRY COUNTY	50 kt	Gust	The Cannon AFB ASOS measured a peak wind gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	12/2/2023	CURRY COUNTY	50 kt	Gust	The St. Vrain mesonet station measured a peak wind gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	12/3/2023	GUADALUPE COUNTY	58 kt	Gust	A mesonet station southeast of Vaughn measured a peak gust of 67 mph. Gusts of 58 mph or higher were measured consistently during this time frame.
High Wind	12/3/2023	GUADALUPE COUNTY	54 kt	Gust	A mesonet station near Thompson Cattle Ranch measured a peak gust of 62 mph.
High Wind	12/8/2023	NORTHEAST HIGHLANDS	50 kt	Gust	The Las Vegas ASOS measured a peak gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	12/8/2023	NORTHEAST HIGHLANDS	50 kt	Gust	The Las Vegas ASOS measured a peak gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	12/8/2023	GUADALUPE COUNTY	50 kt	Gust	The SE Vaughn mesonet measured a peak gust of 58 mph.
Heavy Snow	12/13/2023	JEMEZ MOUNTAINS			The Pajarito Ski area measured a storm total of 15 inches on the morning of December 14th. Ten inches was also estimated at a SNOTEL station west of Los Alamos.
Heavy Snow	12/14/2023	GLORIETA MESA & GLORIETA PASS			Two CoCoRaHS Stations near I-25 from Rowe to Glorieta measured 12.6 and 13 inches of snow.
Heavy Snow	12/14/2023	NORTHERN SANGRE DE CRISTO MTS			12.2" along U.S. 64 east of Taos. The Red River Ski area reported 10 inches. Difficult driving was reported throughout the zone.
Heavy Snow	12/14/2023	SOUTHERN SANGRE DE CRISTO MTS			Approx 21" of snow was reported at the Wesner Springs SNOTEL. Other amounts ranged from 13" at Ski Santa Fe to 20" along NM Highway 518.
Heavy Snow	12/14/2023	EAST SLOPES SANGRE DE CRISTO MTS			21.2 inches in Chacon, 20 inches in Rociada. The Angel Fire Ski area reported 18 inches. Jackknifed semi truck along NM Highway 518 a few miles west of Mora.
Heavy Snow	12/14/2023	SANDIA/MANZANO MOUNTAINS			11.8" along NM-217 near McComb Rd. East Mtn Communities saw 2 to 7.7". I-40 EB closed due to a multi-vehicle crash b/w Edgewood and Moriarty.
Heavy Snow	12/13/2023	FAR NORTHEAST HIGHLANDS			There were two reports from a storm spotter and a CoCoRaHS observer of 8 inches of snow, one in Raton and the other in Maxwell.
Heavy Snow	12/13/2023	NORTHEAST HIGHLANDS			6.9 to 8" in Las Vegas, NM. There were other reports of 5" to 6" of snow southwest of Las Vegas toward Tecolote Creek.
Heavy Snow	12/13/2023	UNION COUNTY			6" of snow along U.S. 412 a few miles east of the Yates Highway intersection. Lower amounts of 2 to 2.5" were reported in Clayton.
Heavy Snow	12/13/2023	HARDING COUNTY			There were two reports of by trained spotters of 3 to 6 inches in Roy. Another spotter reported 3.5 inches just west of Mills.
Tstorm Wind	12/23/2023	LINCOLN	50 kt	Gust	Winds blew down large tree branches onto a house. Wind speed is an estimate based on the large tree branch broken causing damage.
Tstorm Wind	12/23/2023	CURRY	50 kt	Gust	Report was retrieved from a weather underground station.
Heavy Snow	12/22/2023	SOUTHERN SANGRE DE CRISTO MTS			An estimated thirteen 13 inches of snow at Ski Santa Fe SNOTEL site on December 23rd.
Strong Wind	12/23/2023	SOUTH CENTRAL MOUNTAINS	49 kt	Gust	Winds blew down a tree branch onto a home causing damage to the metal and wood framed roof and cosmetic damage to the side of the house.

\*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/>
-  Questions?: [sr-abq.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-abq.webmaster@noaa.gov)
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