

# December 2024 Climate & Weather Summary

Issued: January 10, 2025



ALBUQUERQUE  
Weather Forecast Office

December 2024 was a very quiet month with abundant sunshine, well above normal temperatures, very little if any rain or snow, and light winds on most days. Nearly the entire southwestern United States and Front Range was precipitation free and nearly the entire country west of the Mississippi River experienced above normal temperatures. In some cases, December was actually warmer than November for parts of NM. The only notable weather events for the month included a day of strong winds gusts near 65 mph around Vaughn on the 8<sup>th</sup> then a few brief wind gusts near 60 mph over northeast and east-central NM on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

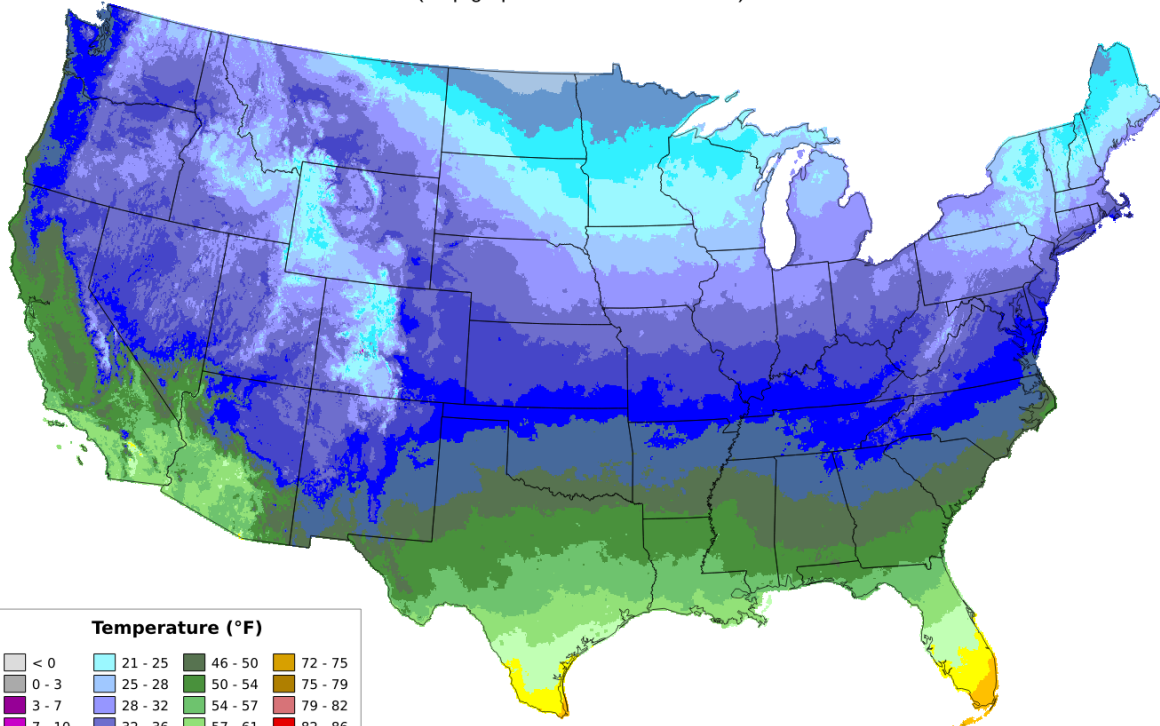


December 4, 2024 | Sedillo Canyon  
Photo courtesy NWS Employee

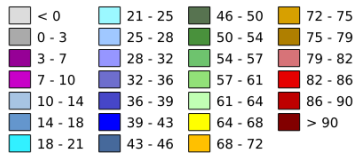
## Actual

### Average Daily Mean Temperature: Dec 2024

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2024  
(Map graphic created 02 Jan 2025)



#### Temperature (°F)

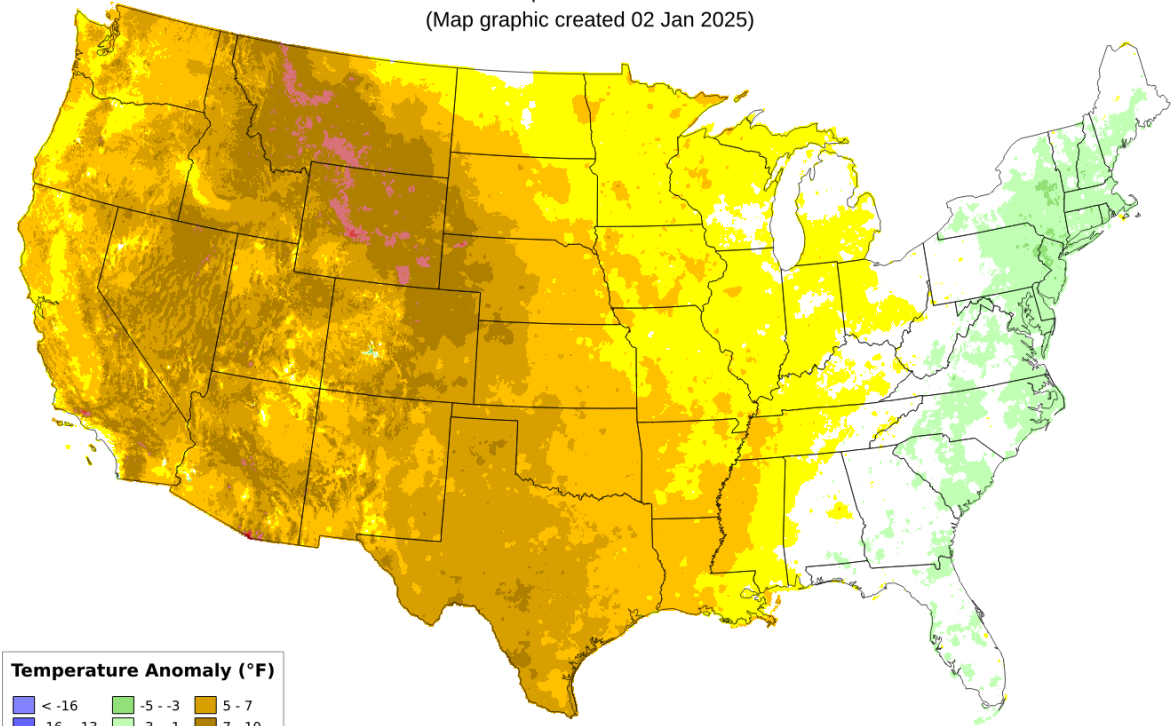


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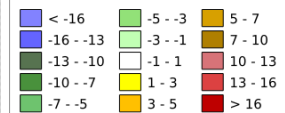
## Anomaly

### Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: Dec 2024

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2024  
Base period: 1991-2020  
(Map graphic created 02 Jan 2025)



#### Temperature Anomaly (°F)

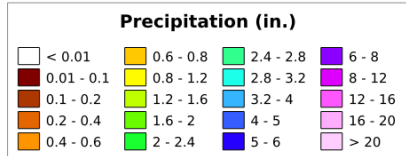
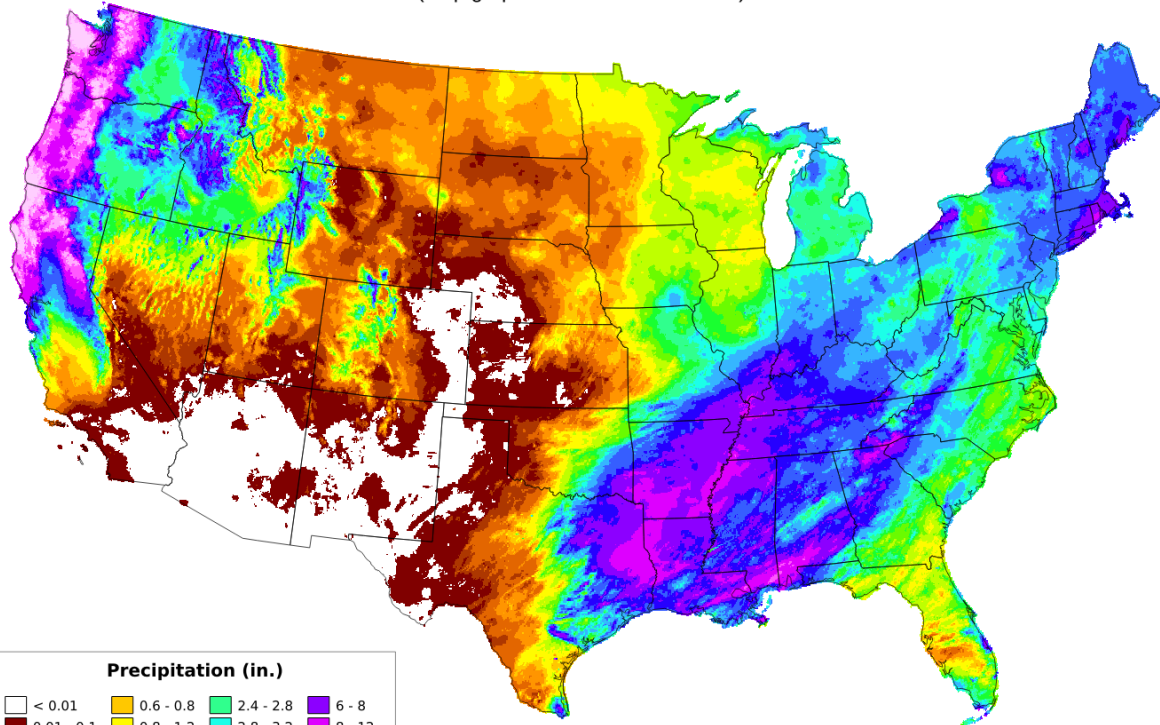


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## Actual

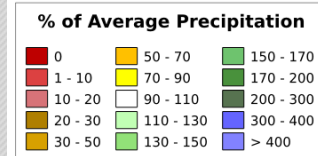
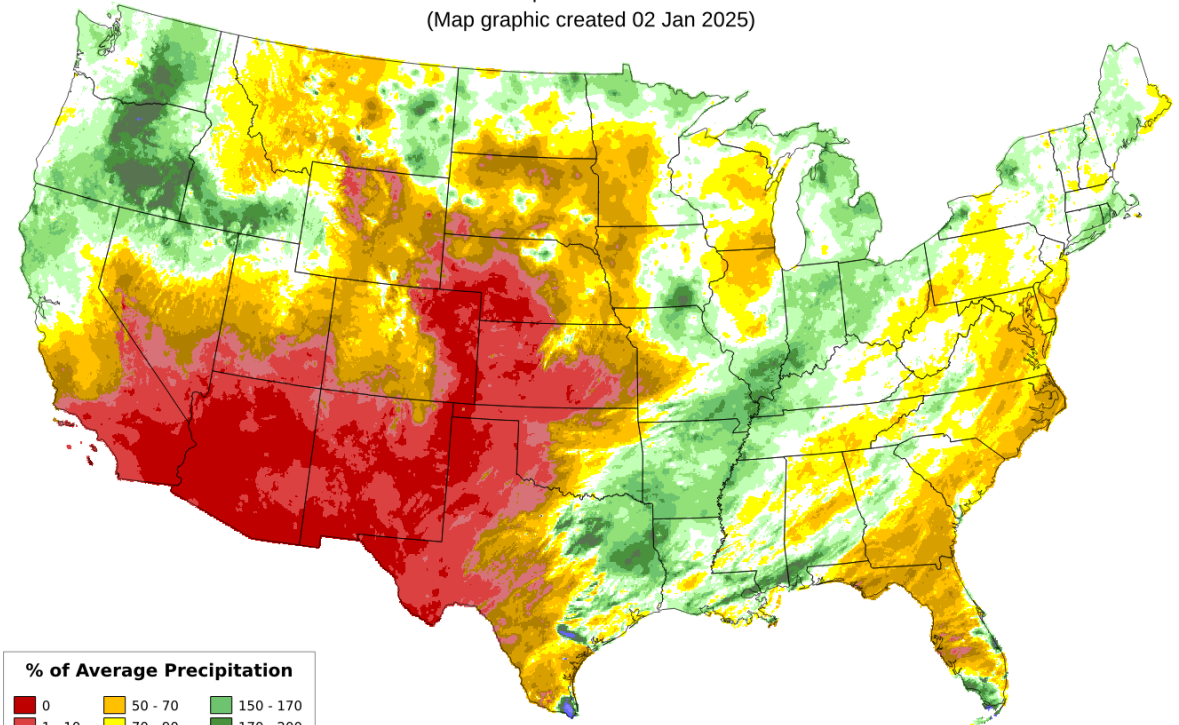
Total Precipitation: Dec 2024  
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2024  
(Map graphic created 02 Jan 2025)



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## Anomaly

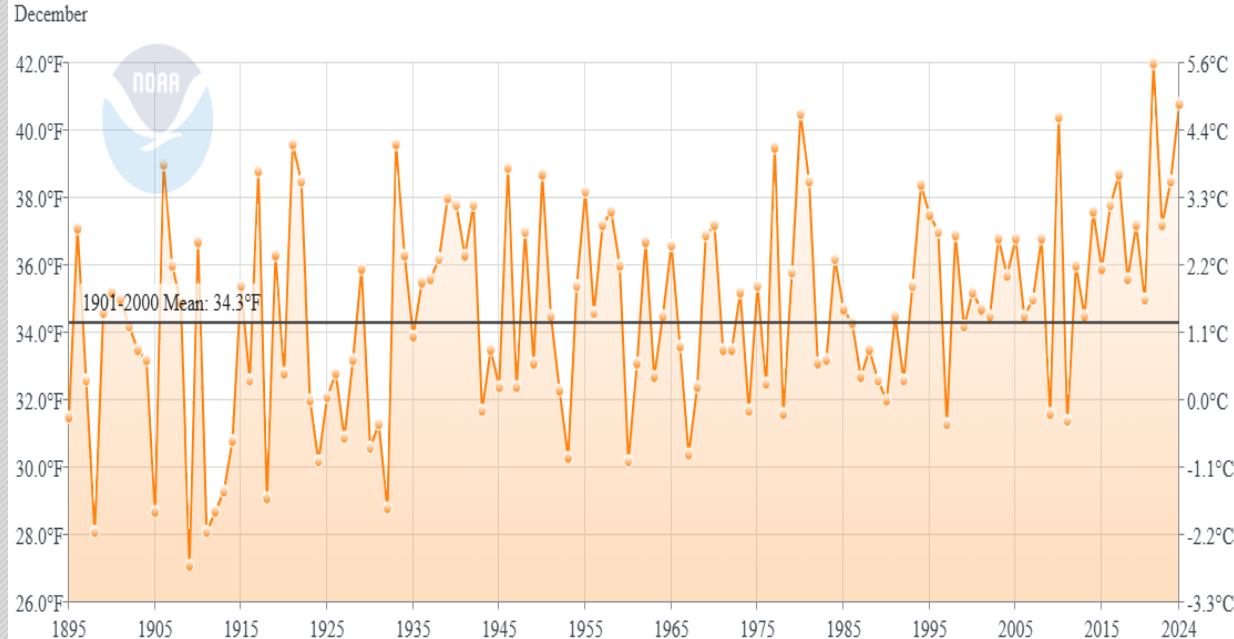
Total Precipitation Anomaly: Dec 2024  
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Dec 2024  
Base period: 1991-2020  
(Map graphic created 02 Jan 2025)



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## Temperature

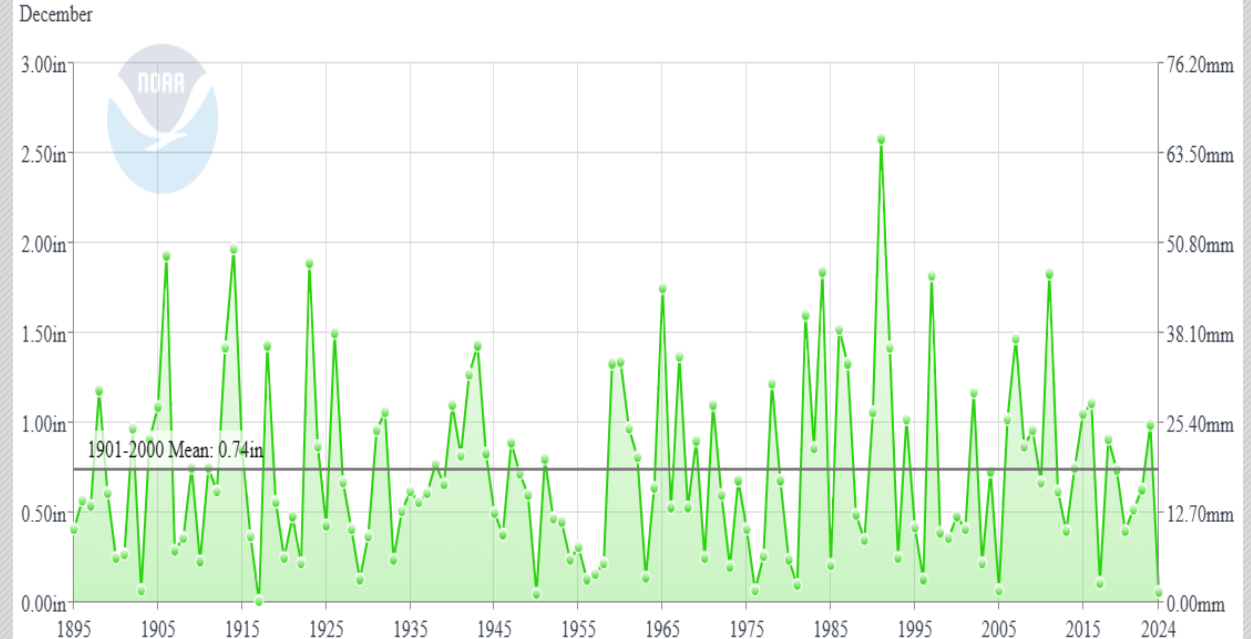
New Mexico Average Temperature



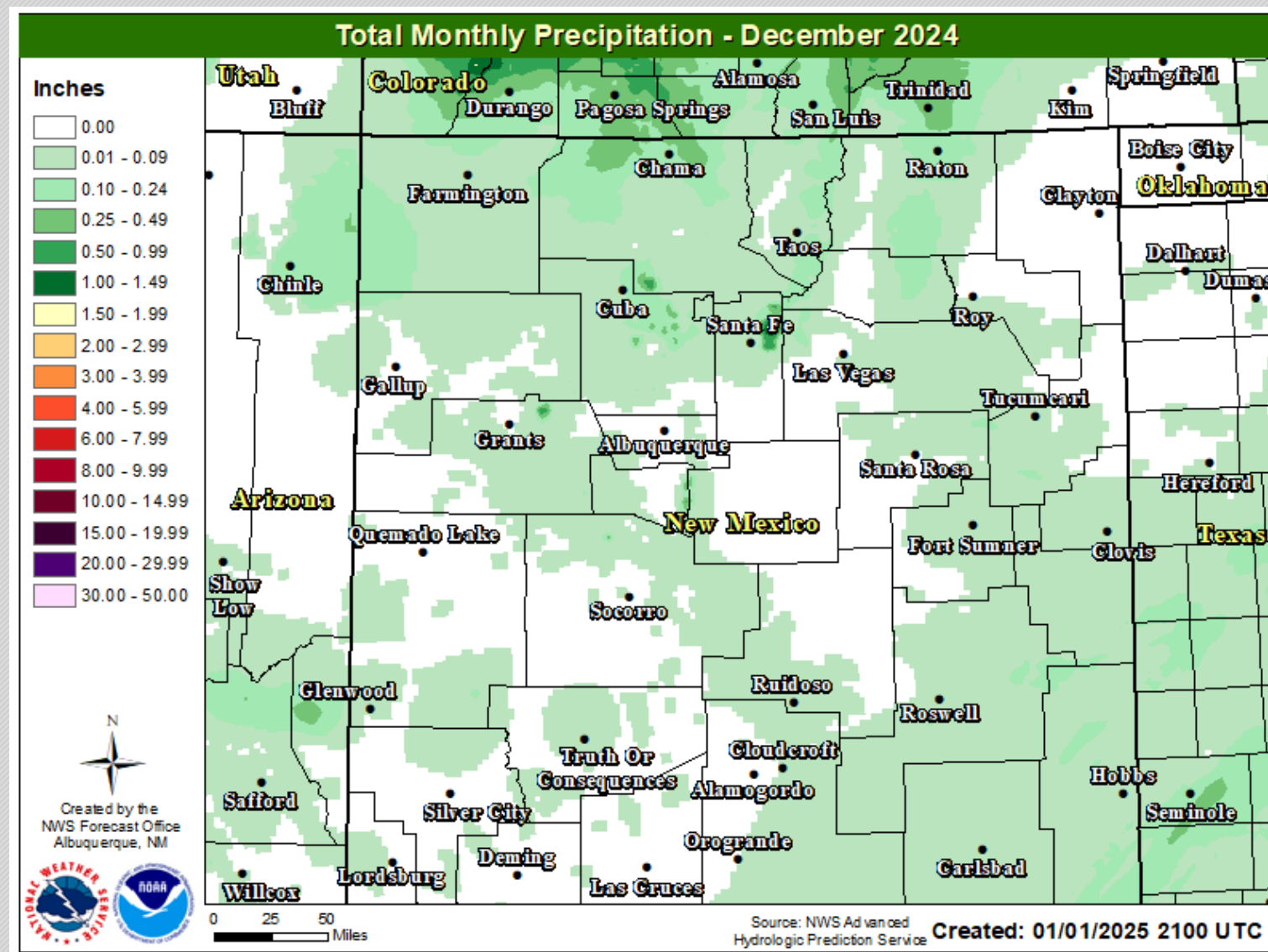
The December 2024 average statewide temperature was 40.8°, which was 6.5° above the long-term normal of 34.3° (1901-2000). This ranked as the 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest December on record (1895-2024).

## Precipitation

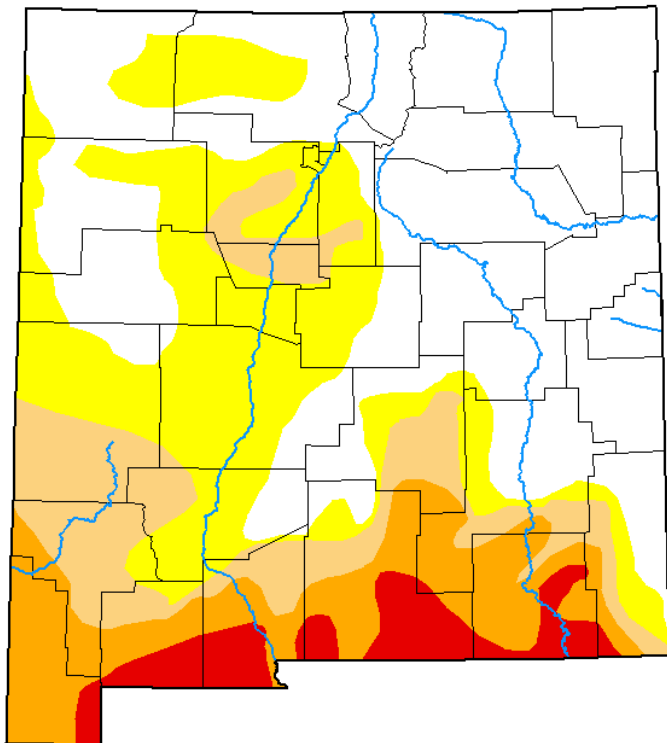
New Mexico Precipitation



The December 2024 average statewide precipitation was 0.06", which was 0.68" below the long-term normal of 0.74" (1901-2000). This ranked as the 3<sup>rd</sup> driest December on record (1895-2024).



## U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico



**December 3, 2024**

(Released Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	46.49	53.51	29.05	16.25	5.19	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 11-26-2024	37.86	62.14	27.46	16.25	5.19	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 09-03-2024	21.83	78.17	42.50	20.87	4.62	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-02-2024	0.71	99.29	94.04	79.22	38.39	6.48
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 10-01-2024	28.35	71.65	34.73	17.54	2.80	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 12-05-2023	0.39	99.61	96.83	87.73	43.00	6.48

Intensity:



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>

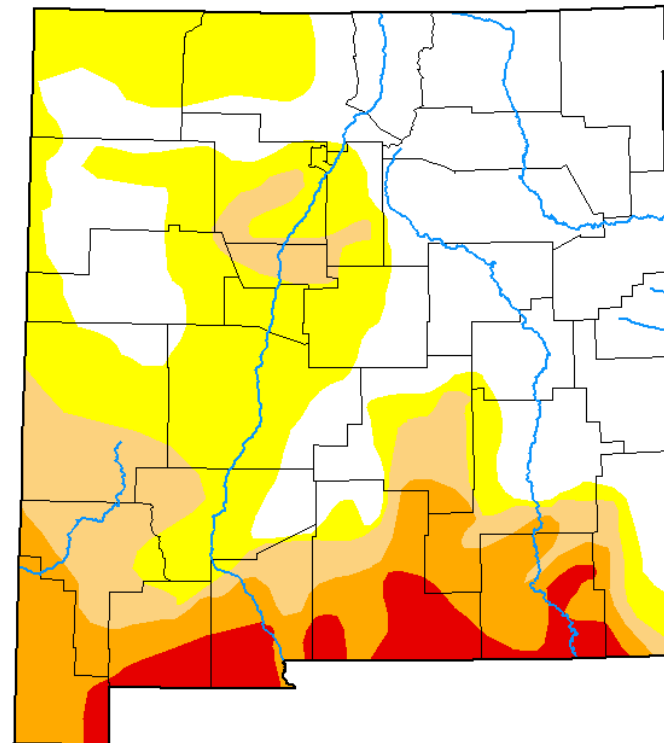
Author:

David Simeral  
Western Regional Climate Center



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

## U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico



**December 31, 2024**

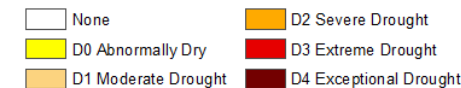
(Released Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	43.74	56.26	29.19	16.25	5.19	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 12-24-2024	44.02	55.98	29.05	16.25	5.19	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 10-01-2024	28.35	71.65	34.73	17.54	2.80	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-02-2024	0.71	99.29	94.04	79.22	38.39	6.48
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 10-01-2024	28.35	71.65	34.73	17.54	2.80	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 01-02-2024	0.71	99.29	94.04	79.22	38.39	6.48

Intensity:



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:

Rocky Bilotta  
NCEI/NOAA



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

Drought conditions in December changed very little for the vast majority of the state. There was a slight degradation across portions of San Juan and Rio Arriba counties. Additional deterioration will be considered in January for more of the state if dry conditions persist.



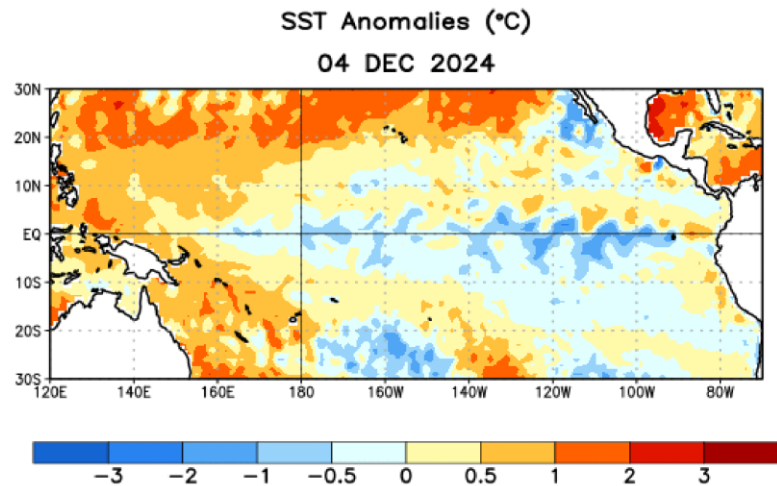


Figure 1. Average sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies (°C) for the week centered on 4 December 2024. Anomalies are computed with respect to the 1991-2020 base period weekly means.

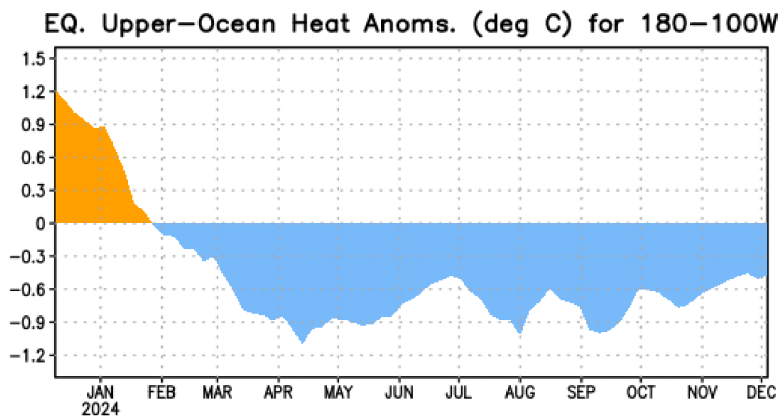


Figure 3. Area-averaged upper-ocean heat content anomaly (°C) in the equatorial Pacific (5°N-5°S, 180°-100°W). The heat content anomaly is computed as the departure from the 1991-2020 base period pentad means.

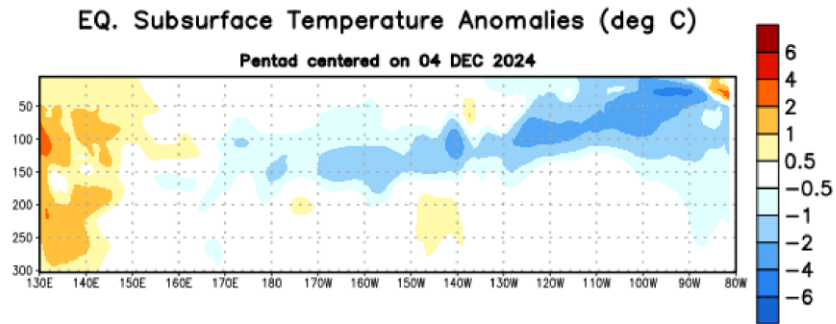


Figure 4. Depth-longitude section of equatorial Pacific upper-ocean (0-300m) temperature anomalies (°C) centered on the pentad of 4 December 2024. Anomalies are departures from the 1991-2020 base period pentad means.

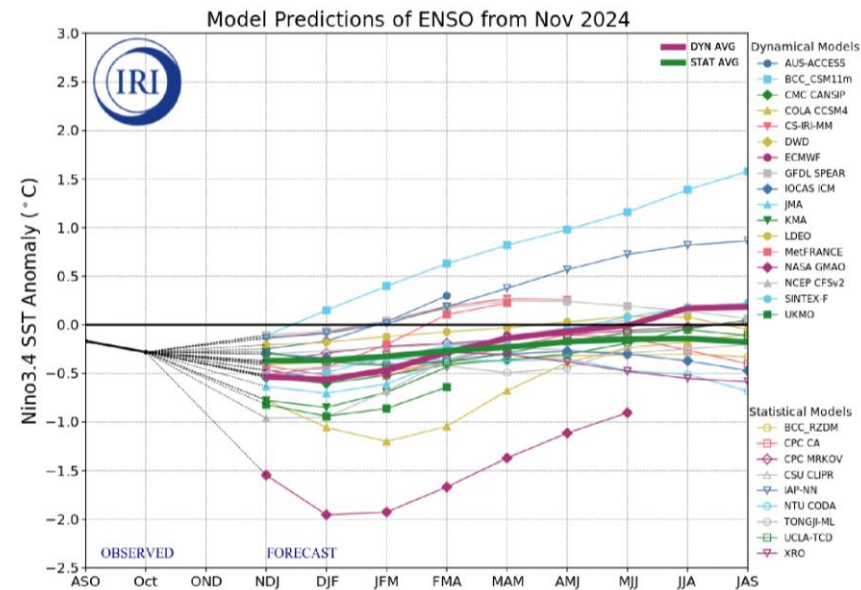
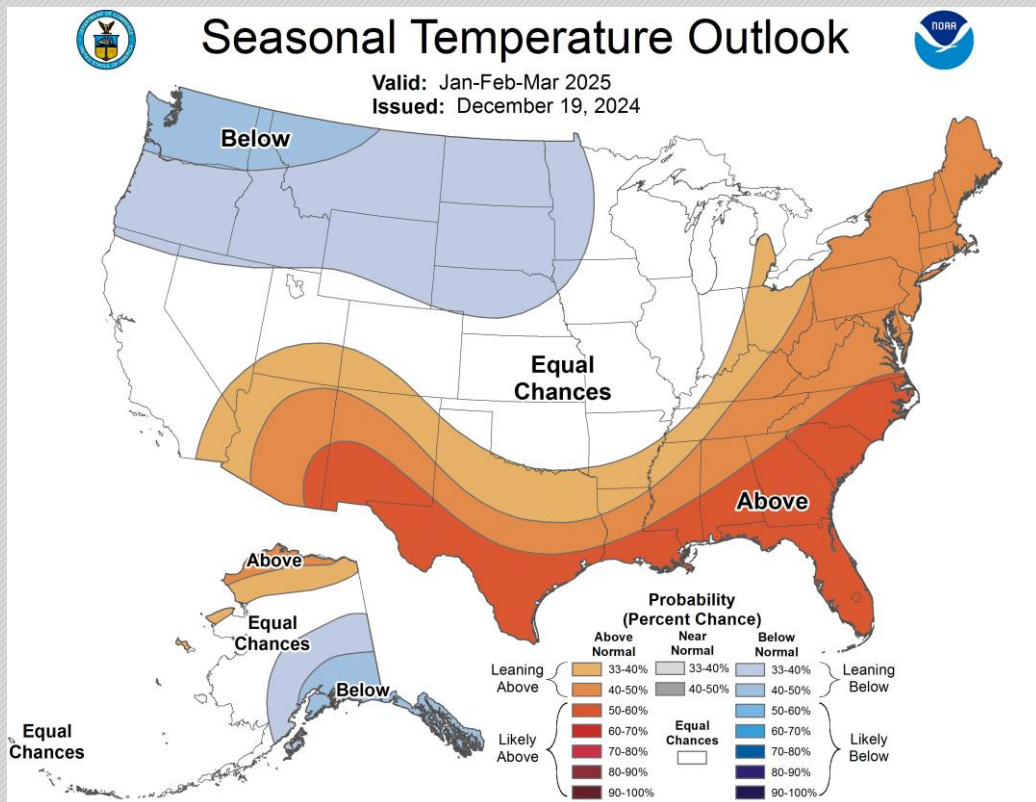
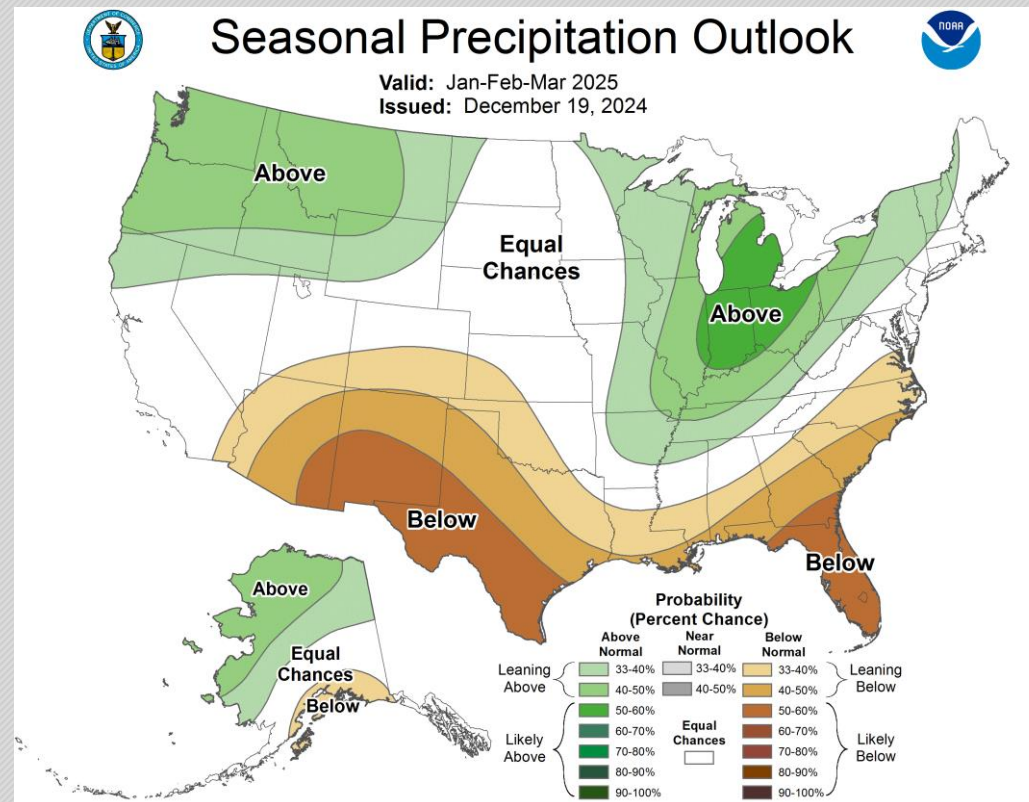


Figure 6. Forecasts of sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies for the Niño 3.4 region (5°N-5°S, 120°W-170°W). Figure updated 19 November 2024 by the International Research Institute (IRI) for Climate and Society.

## Temperature January-February-March



## Precipitation January-February-March



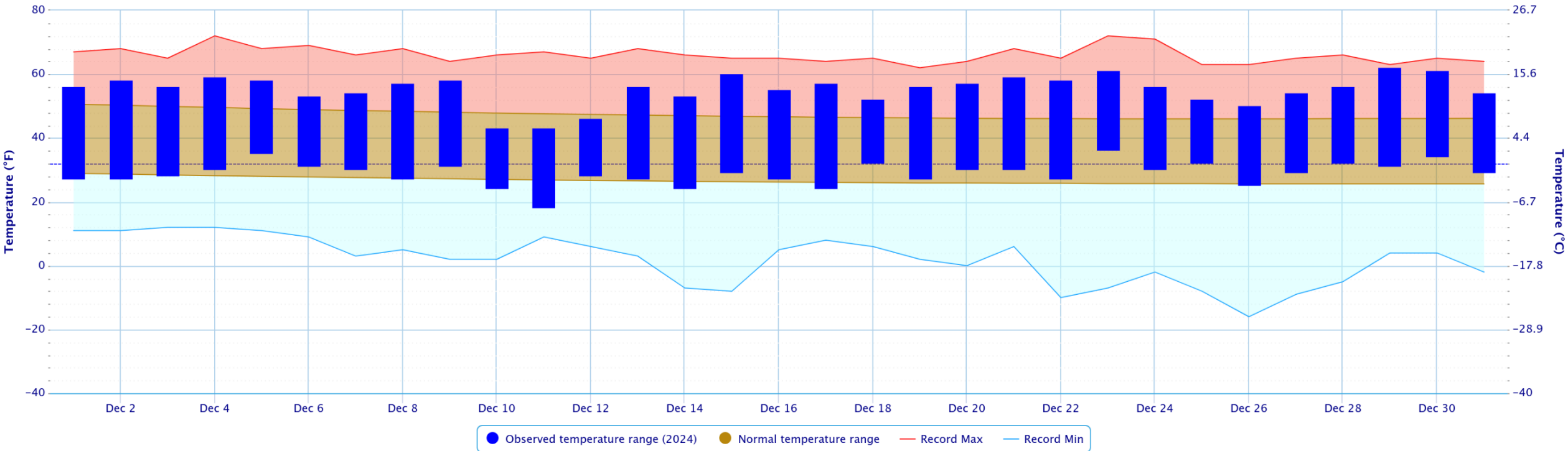
For the remainder of this winter and into very early spring, there are higher chances for above normal temperatures, especially across the southern half of NM. There are higher chances for below normal precipitation, especially across the southern half of NM.



Average Temperature: 42.0°

Daily Temperature Data – Albuquerque Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – 1891-12-01 to 2025-01-07. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



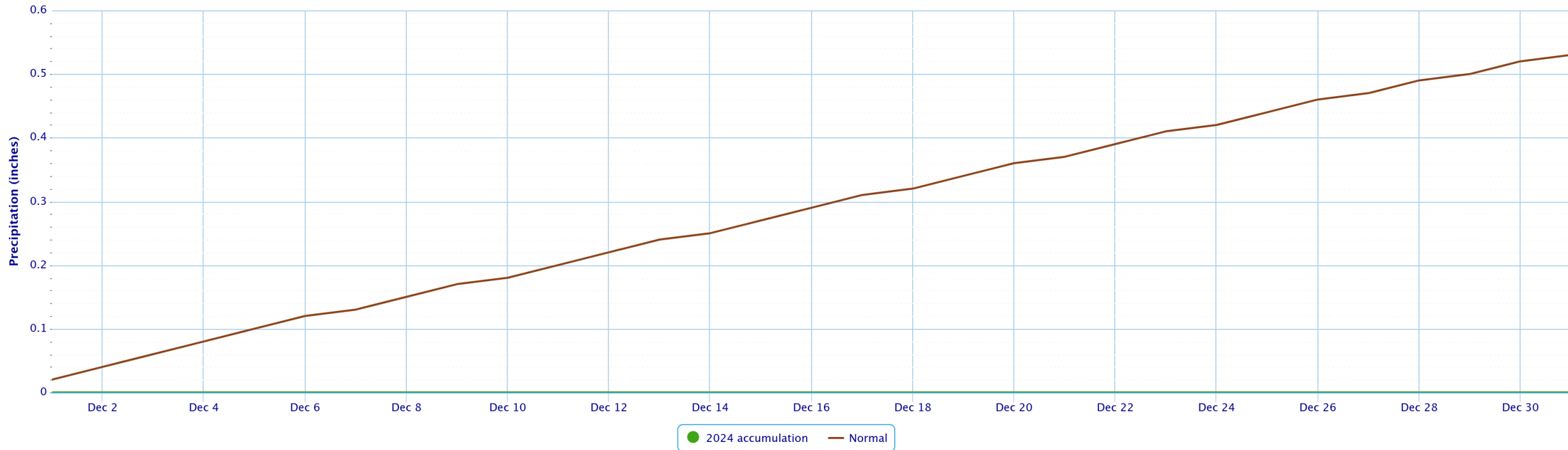
Powered by ACIS

The December 2024 average temperature for Albuquerque was 42.0°, which was 5.1° above the normal of 36.9°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 55.2°. This was 7.9° above the normal average maximum temperature of 47.3°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 28.7°. This was 2.1° above the normal average minimum temperature of 26.6°. This ranked as the 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest December on record.

## Precipitation: Trace

## Accumulated Precipitation – Albuquerque Area, NM (ThreadEx)

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



Powered by ACIS

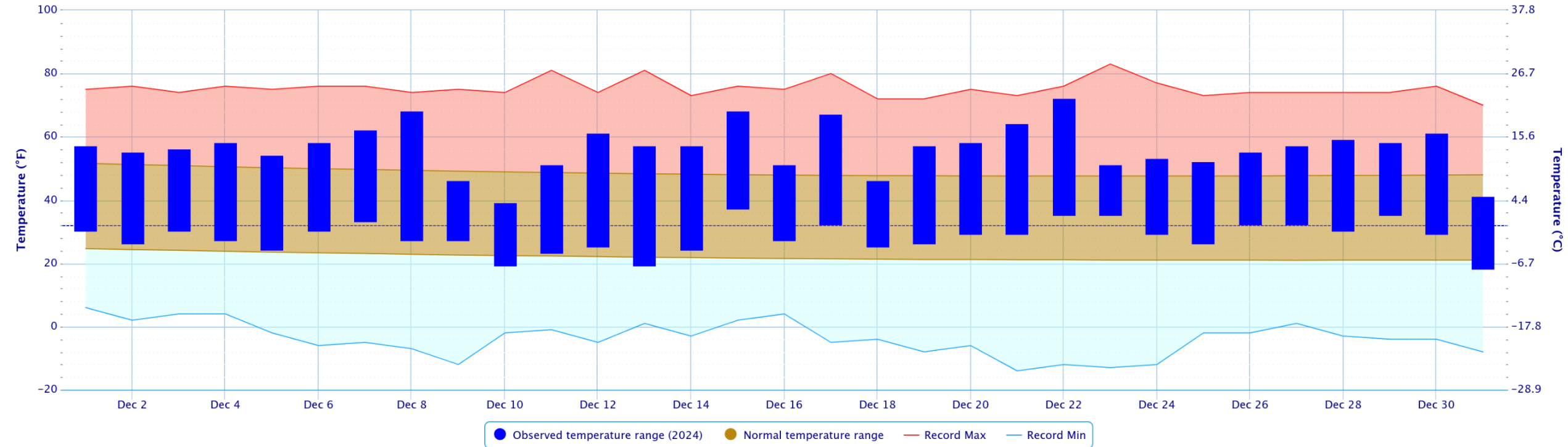
The December 2024 precipitation for Albuquerque was a trace, which was 0.53” below the normal of 0.53”. This tied as the 6<sup>th</sup> driest December on record. There are five Decembers with zero precipitation and seven Decembers with a trace.

There was 0.0” of snow compared to the normal of 2.8”.

Average Temperature: 42.2°

Daily Temperature Data – Clayton Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – 1896-02-01 to 2025-01-07. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



Powered by ACIS

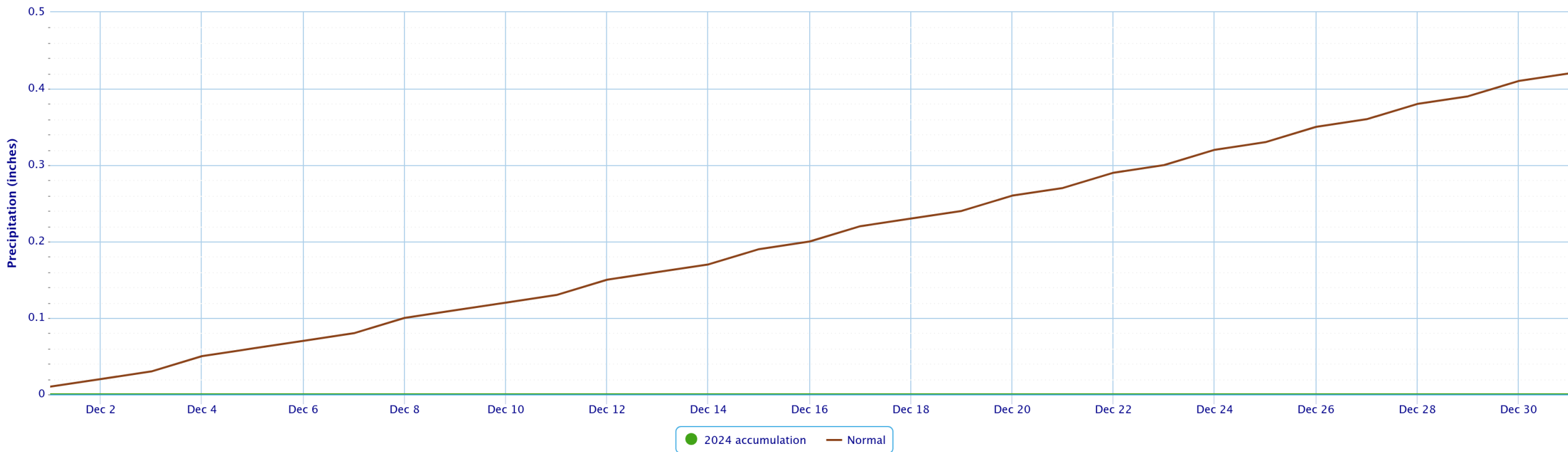
The December 2024 average temperature for Clayton was 42.2°, which was 6.9° above the normal of 35.3°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 56.4°. This was 7.8° above the normal average maximum temperature of 48.6°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 28.1°. This was 5.9° above the normal average minimum temperature of 22.0°. This ranked as the 6<sup>th</sup> warmest December on record.



## Precipitation: Trace

Accumulated Precipitation – Clayton Area, NM (ThreadEx)

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



Powered by ACIS

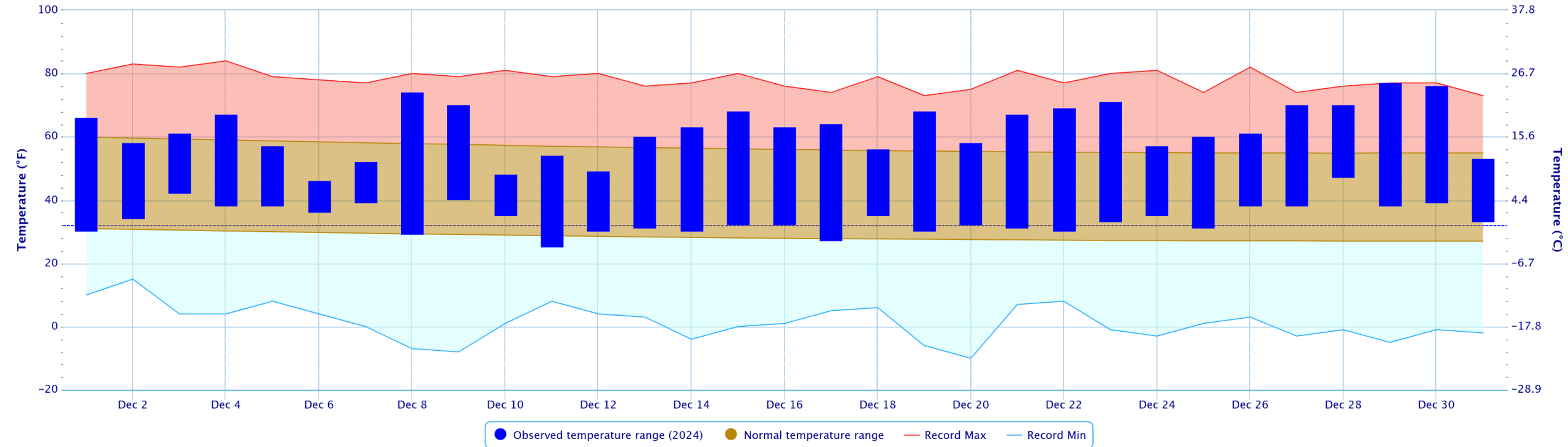
The December 2024 precipitation for Clayton was a trace, which was 0.42” below the normal of 0.42”. This tied as the 3<sup>rd</sup> driest December on record. There are two Decembers with zero precipitation and nine Decembers with a trace.

There was a trace of snow compared to the normal of 6.8”.

Average Temperature: 48.2°

Daily Temperature Data – Roswell Area, NM (ThreadEx)

Period of Record – Max temperature: 1893-01-03 to 2025-01-07; Min temperature: 1893-01-21 to 2025-01-07. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.

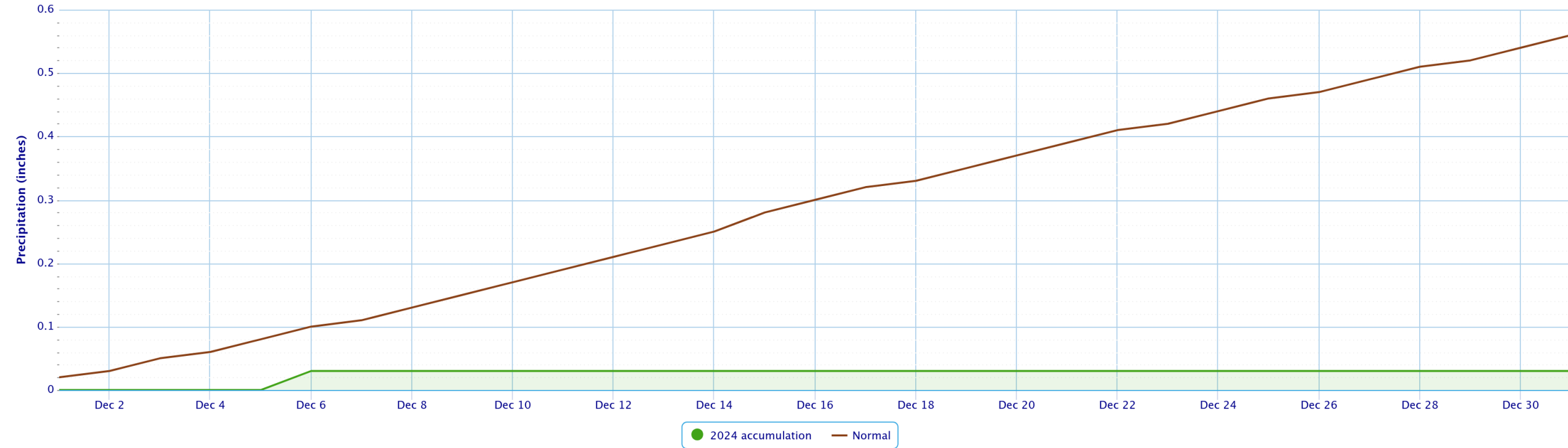


The December 2024 average temperature for Roswell was 48.2°, which was 5.8° above the normal of 42.4°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 62.4°. This was 5.9° above the average maximum temperature of 56.5°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 34.1°. This was 5.8° above the normal average minimum temperature of 28.3°. This ranked as the 2<sup>nd</sup> warmest December on record.

Precipitation: 0.03"

Accumulated Precipitation – Roswell Area, NM (ThreadEx)

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










The December 2024 precipitation for Roswell was 0.03", which was 0.53" below the normal of 0.56". This ranked as the 24<sup>th</sup> driest December on record.

There was a trace of snow compared to the normal of 3.8".



Event Type	Date	County Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
High Wind	12/8/2024	Guadalupe County	56 kt	Gust	The ZiaMet station near Vaughn reported peak gusts to 65 mph.
High Wind	12/30/2024	Union County	51 kt	Gust	A brief 59 mph wind gust was observed at the Clayton Municipal Airpark.
High Wind	12/30/2024	Harding County	51 kt	Gust	Hartley Ranch observed a brief wind gust of 59 mph.
High Wind	12/30/2024	De Baca County	50 kt	Gust	A 58 mph wind gust was observed at the mesonet station east of Fort Sumner.

\*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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