



Synopsis

March 2023 began with a strong winter storm that brought over a foot of snow to the northern mountains and wind gusts in excess of 60 mph to the eastern plains. Then there was a period of dry and seasonably warm weather accompanied by critical fire weather conditions in eastern New Mexico. Around the middle of the month, a train of Pacific storms brought rounds of heavy mountain snow and lower elevation rain and snow to western and central New Mexico. Like most of the winter, eastern New Mexico missed out on most of the moisture and got gusty winds instead. The month ended with another big storm that brought strong winds and mountain snow.



March 12th | NW Albuquerque, NM
Photo courtesy Scott Overpeck

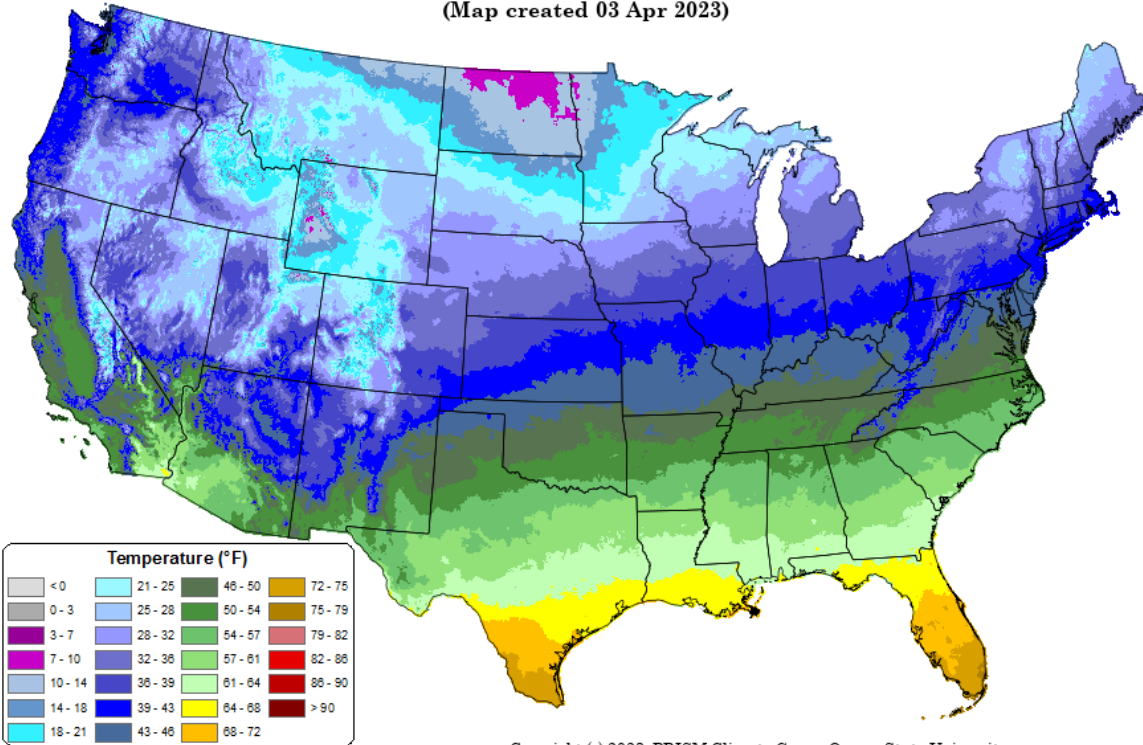


March 17th | Cerrillos, NM
Photo courtesy Betsy Siwula Brandt

Actual

Average Daily Mean Temperature: Mar 2023

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2023
(Map created 03 Apr 2023)

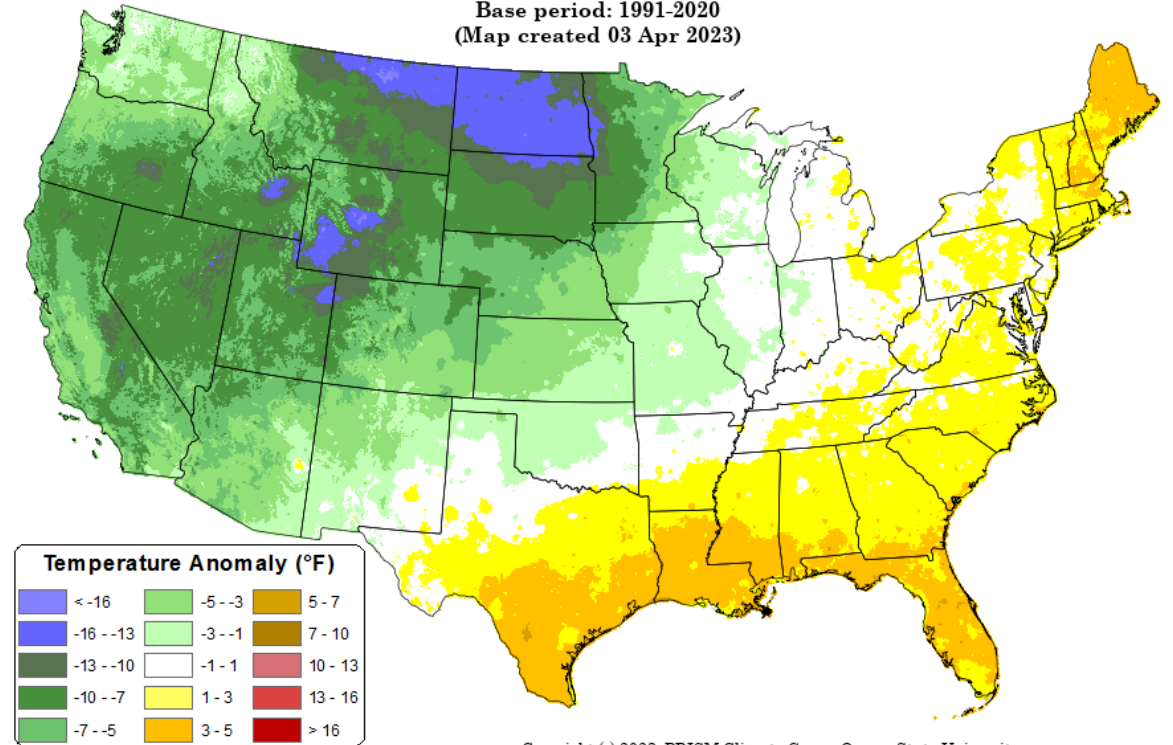


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Anomaly

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: Mar 2023

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Mar 2023
Base period: 1991-2020
(Map created 03 Apr 2023)



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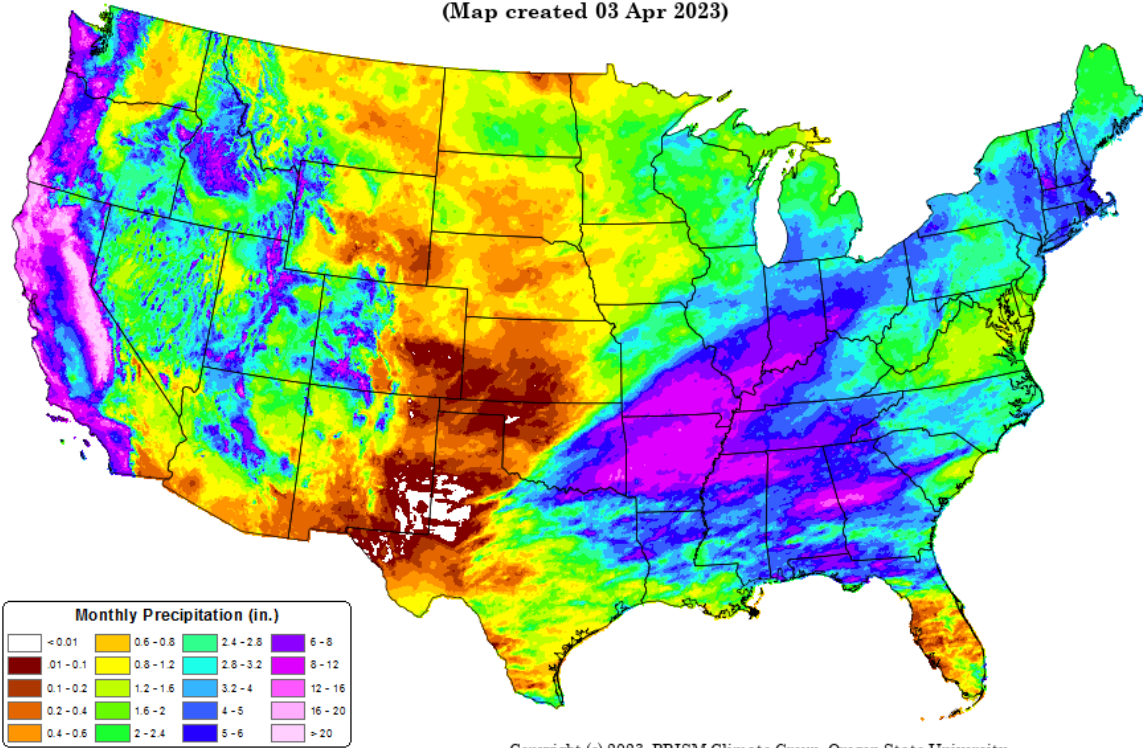
Temperatures were generally below average across the state during March, particularly in the northwest



Actual

Total Precipitation: Mar 2023

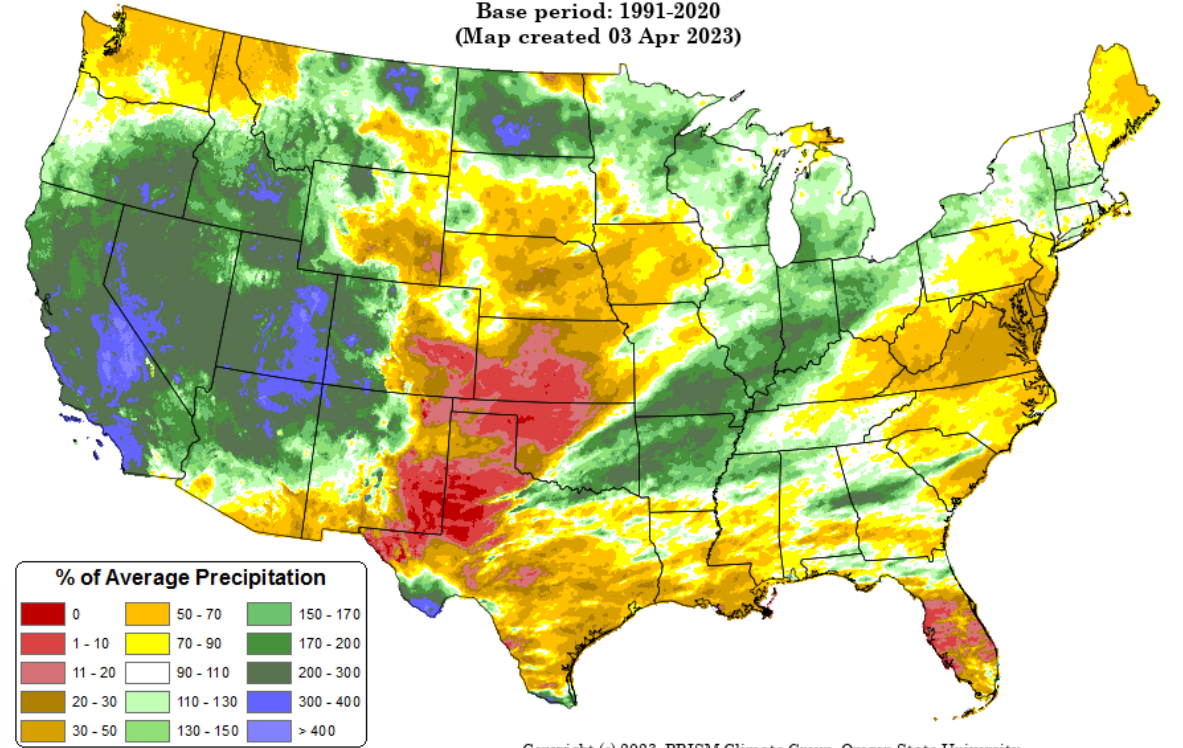
Period ending 31 Mar 2023
(Map created 03 Apr 2023)



Anomaly

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Mar 2023

Period ending 31 Mar 2023
Base period: 1991-2020
(Map created 03 Apr 2023)

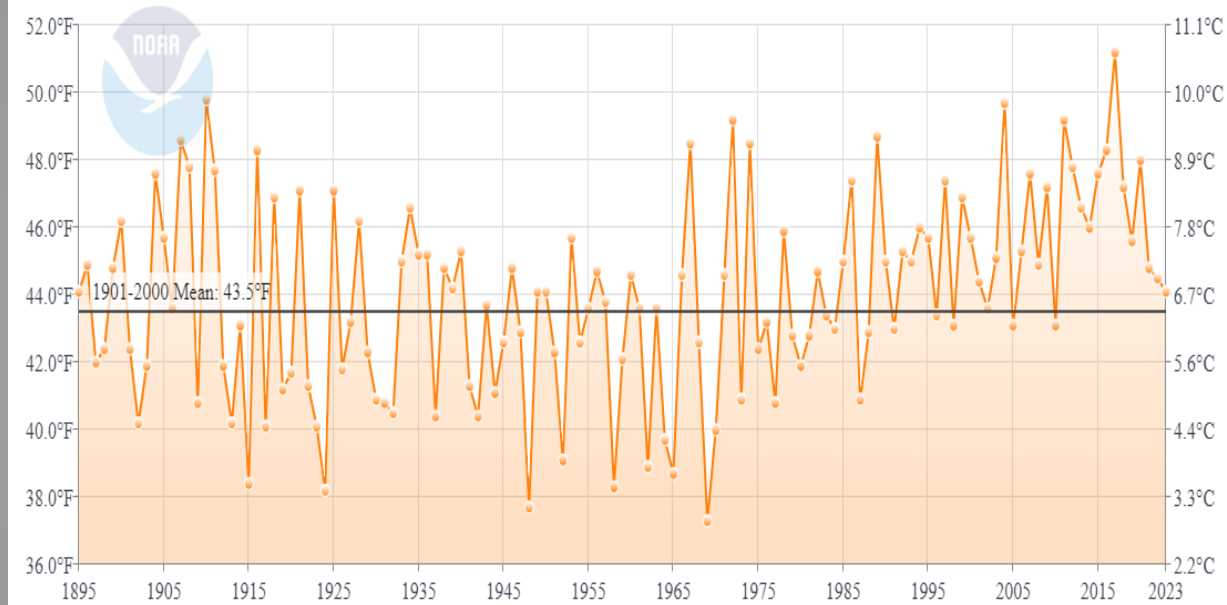


March precipitation ranged from well-below average in the southeast to well-above average in the northwest.



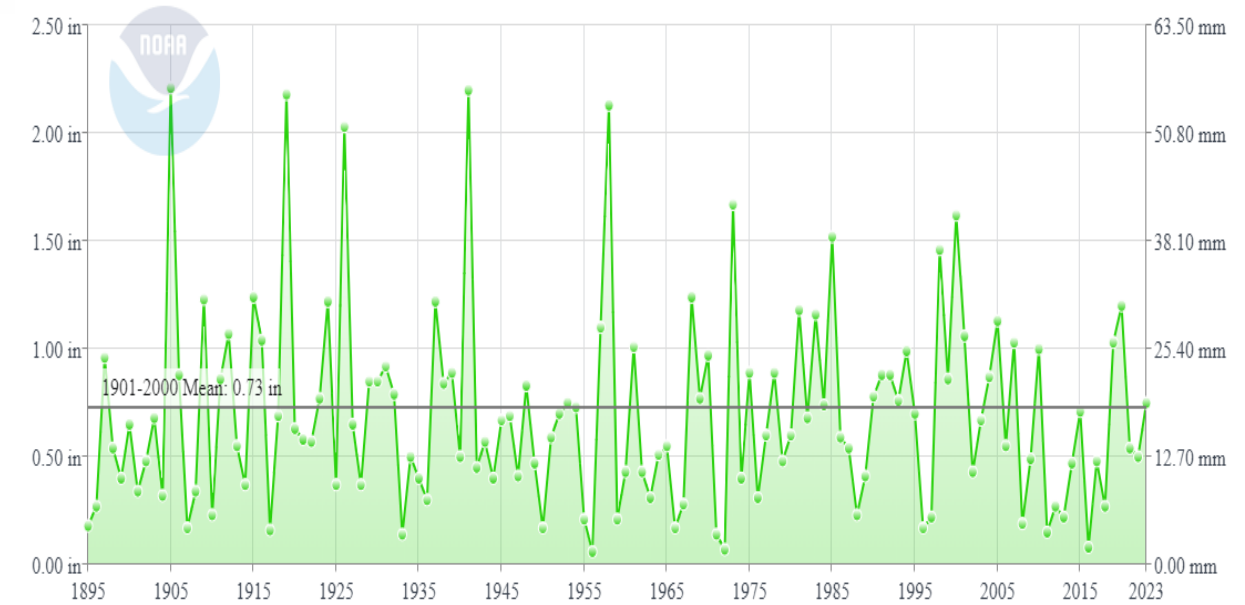
Temperature

New Mexico Average Temperature
March



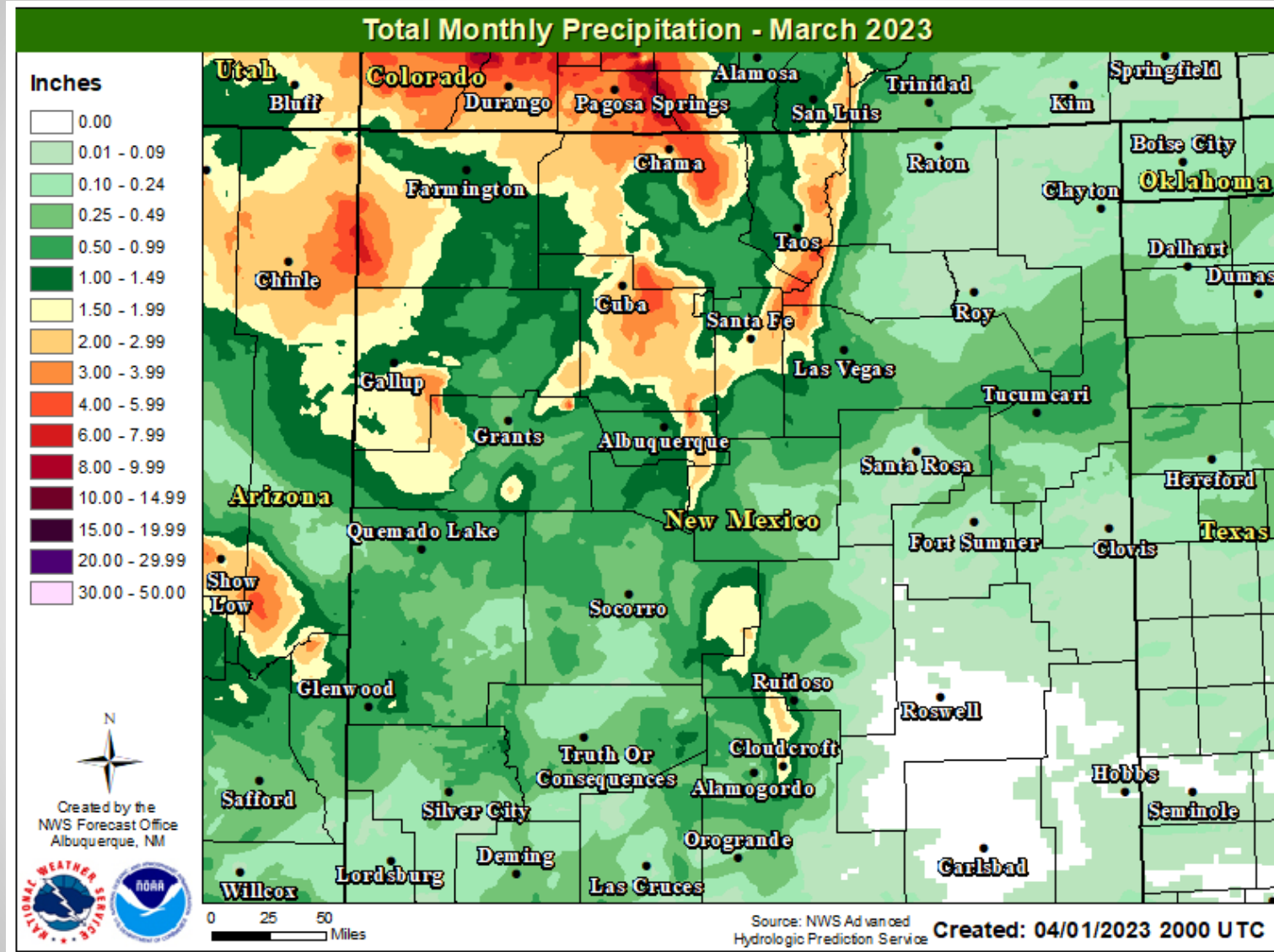
Precipitation

New Mexico Precipitation
March



The March 2023 average statewide temperature was 44.1°, which was 0.6° above the long-term normal of 43.5° (1901-2000). This ranked as the 64th warmest March on record (1895-2023).

The March 2023 average statewide precipitation was 0.75", which was 0.02" above the long-term normal of 0.73" (1901-2000). This ranked as the 48th wettest March on record (1895-2023).

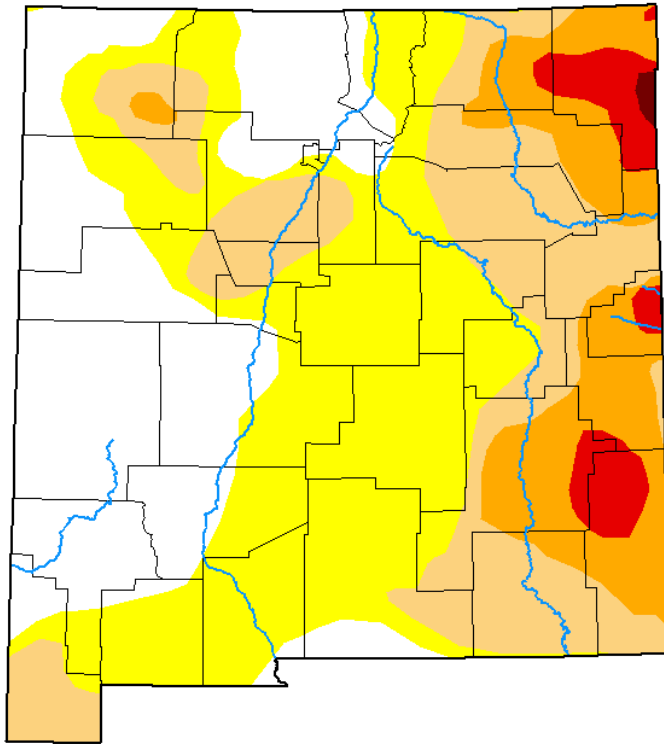


Here is a more detailed image of the March 2023 precipitation.



U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico

March 7, 2023
(Released Thursday, Mar. 9, 2023)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	28.27	71.73	37.12	15.52	3.82	0.19
Last Week 02-28-2023	25.96	74.04	44.75	16.46	3.82	0.19
3 Months Ago 12-06-2022	7.02	92.98	42.02	18.42	3.74	0.19
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	7.03	92.97	41.30	18.55	3.74	0.19
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	0.99	99.01	76.80	31.46	6.99	0.00
One Year Ago 03-08-2022	0.00	100.00	98.92	85.09	34.52	3.85

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>

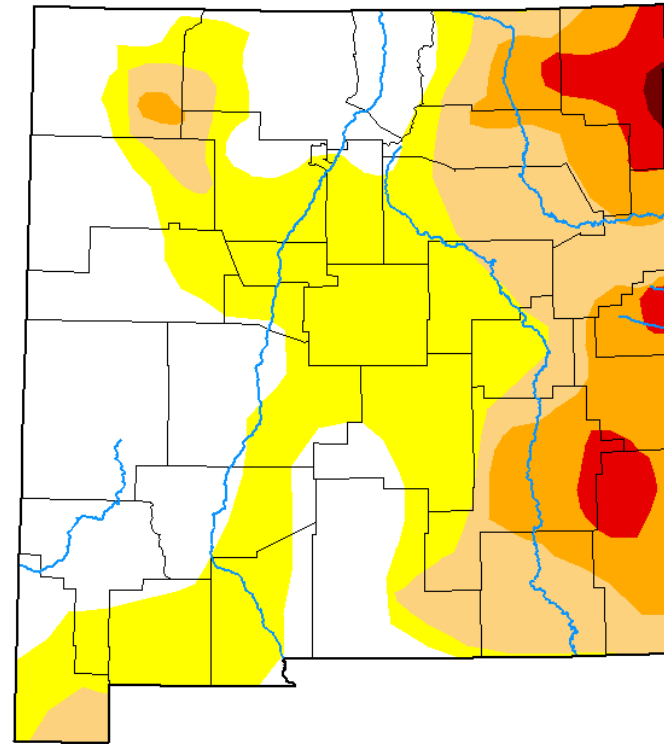
Author:
Deborah Bathke
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor New Mexico

March 28, 2023
(Released Thursday, Mar. 30, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	36.06	63.94	32.91	15.67	4.20	0.21
Last Week 03-21-2023	34.72	65.28	32.91	15.52	3.82	0.19
3 Months Ago 12-27-2022	7.03	92.97	41.73	18.55	3.74	0.19
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	7.03	92.97	41.30	18.55	3.74	0.19
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	0.99	99.01	76.80	31.46	6.99	0.00
One Year Ago 03-29-2022	0.06	99.94	98.89	91.19	43.84	5.53

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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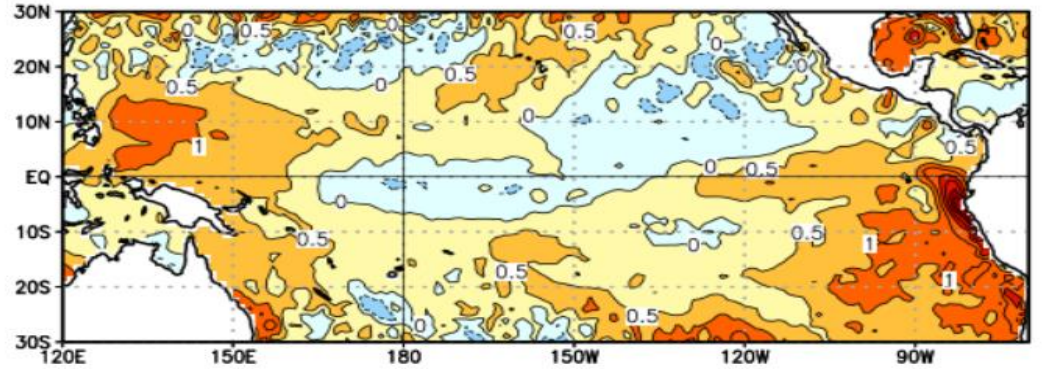


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Drought conditions in March improved slightly in central and western New Mexico but continued to worsen in the northeast where there was a subtle expansion of extreme and exceptional drought.

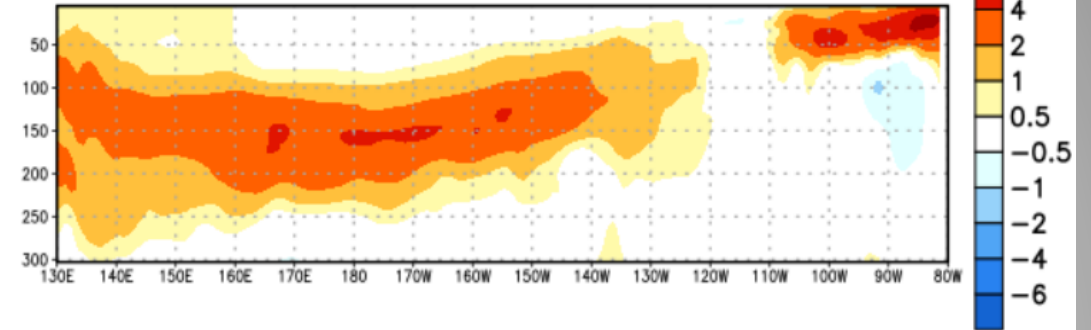


Average SST Anomalies
5 MAR 2023 – 1 APR 2023

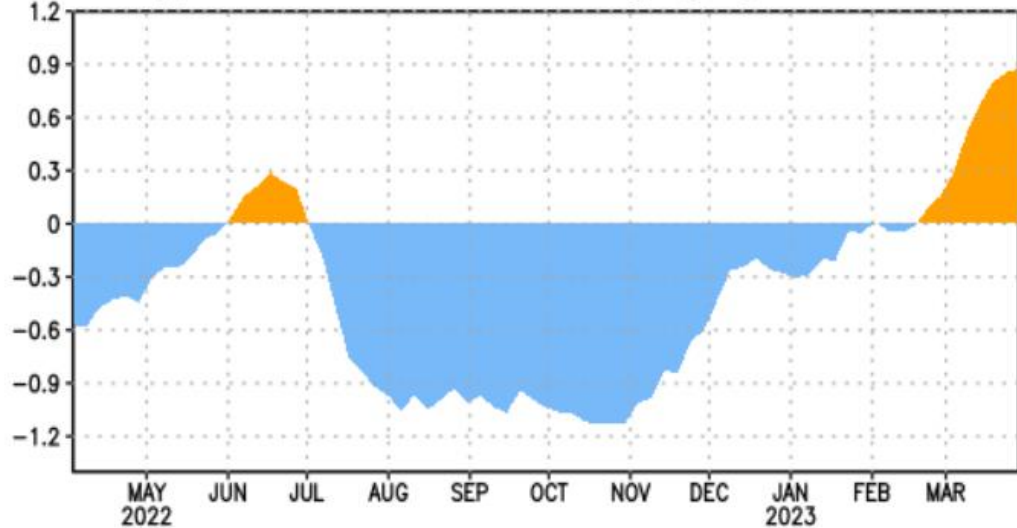


EQ. Subsurface Temperature Anomalies (deg C)

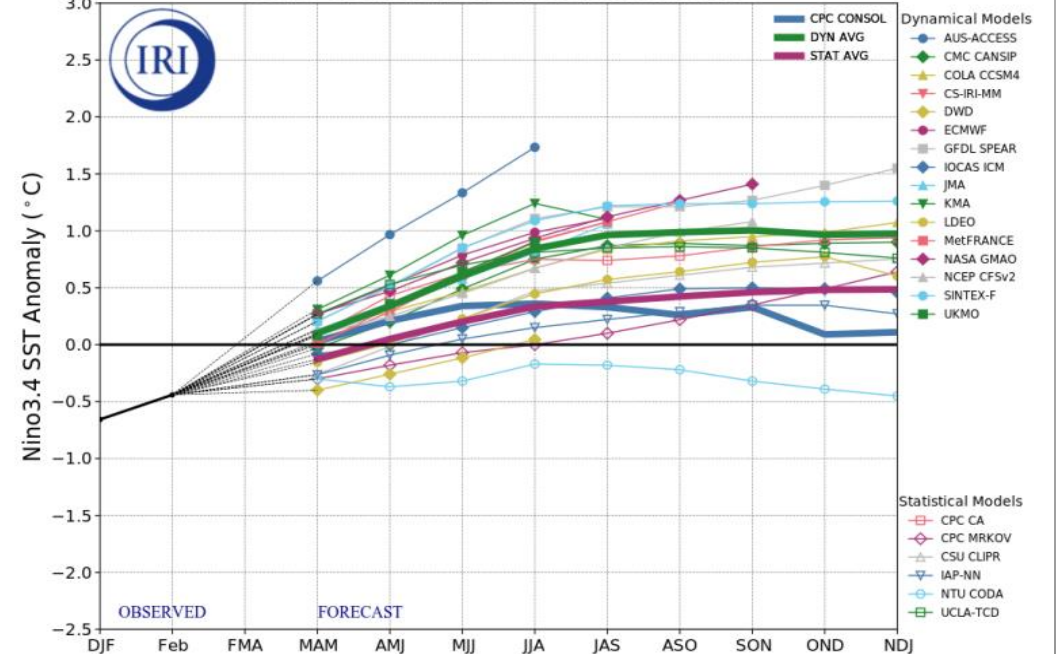
Pentad centered on 29 MAR 2023



EQ. Upper-Ocean Heat Anoms. (deg C) for 180–100W

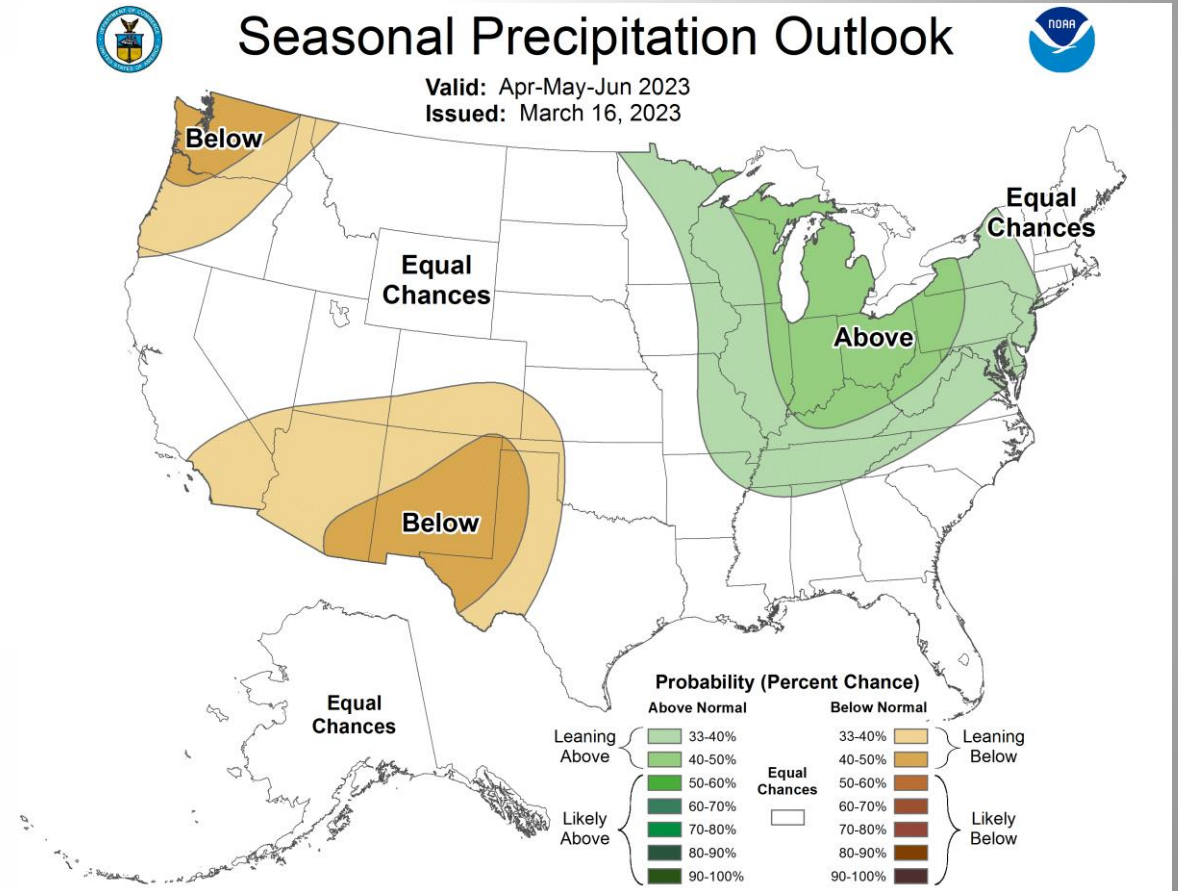
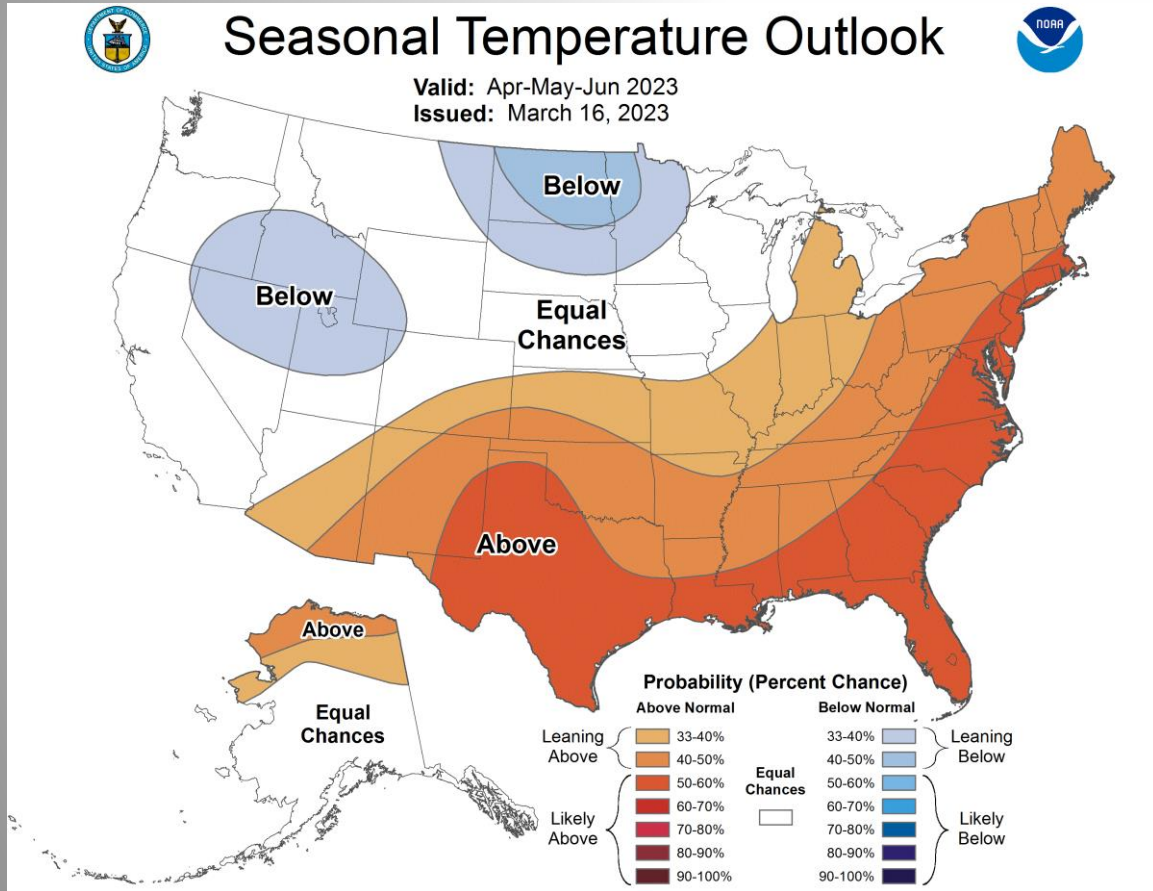


Model Predictions of ENSO from Mar 2023



Temperature
April-May-June

Precipitation
April-May-June



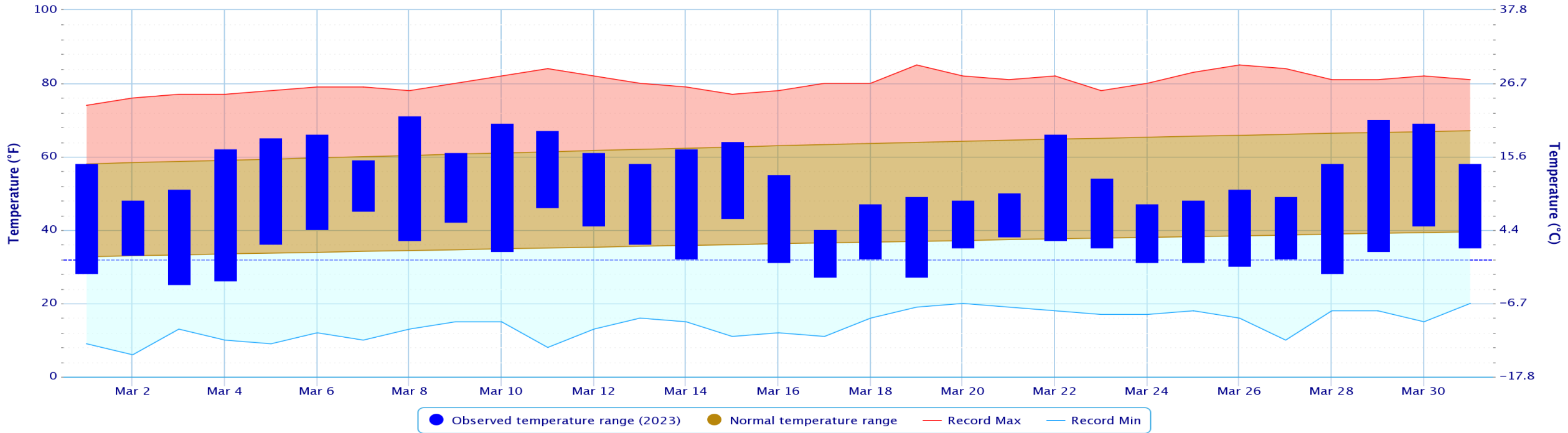
The rest of spring and early summer are expected to be warmer and drier than average in New Mexico.



Average Temperature: 46.0°

Daily Temperature Data – ALBUQUERQUE INTL AP, NM

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



Powered by ACIS

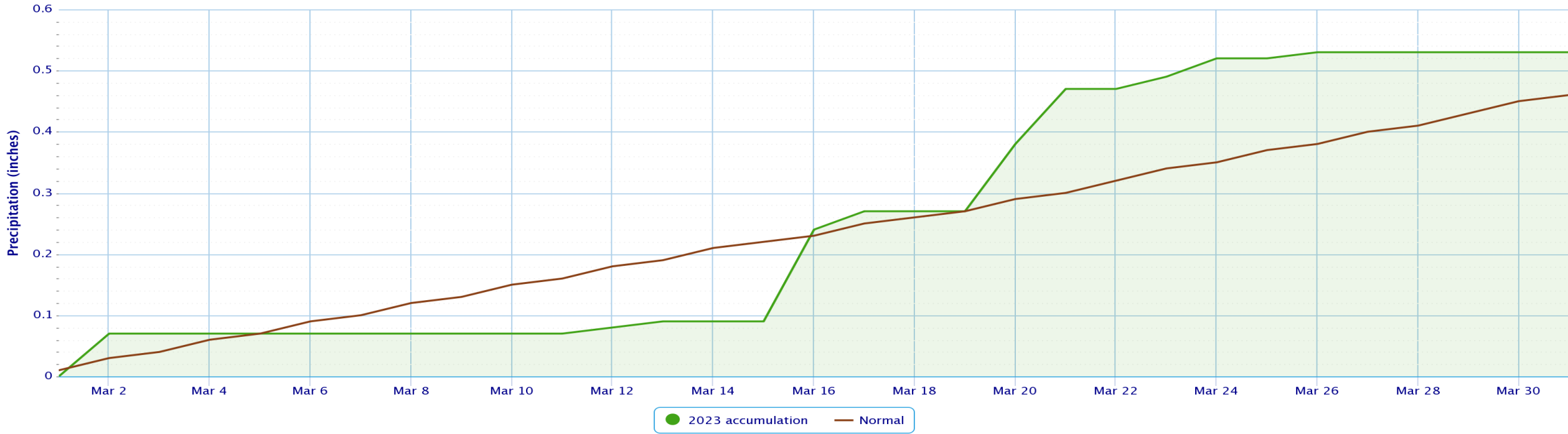
The March 2023 average temperature for Albuquerque was 46.0°, which was 3.5° below the normal of 49.5°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 57.5°. This was 5.3° below the normal average maximum temperature of 62.8°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 34.5°. This was 1.7° below the normal average minimum temperature of 36.2°. This ranked as the 46th coldest March on record.



Precipitation: 0.53"

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 March 2023 precipitation for Albuquerque was 0.53", which was 0.07" above the normal of 0.46". This ranked as the 45th wettest March on record.

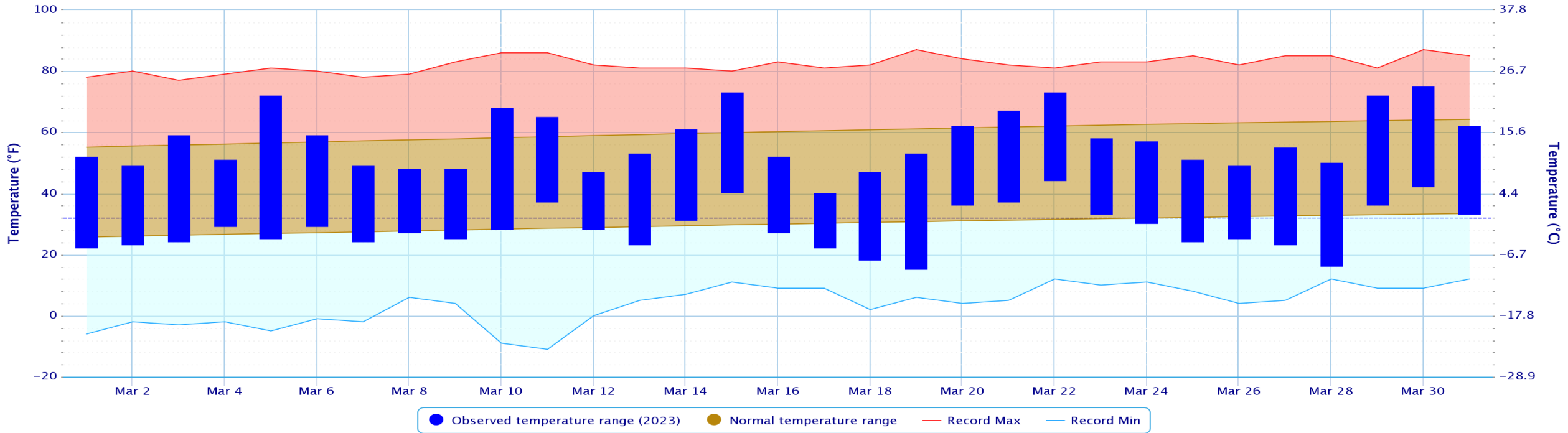
There was 1.2" of snow, compared to the normal of 0.7".



Average Temperature: 42.8°

Daily Temperature Data – CLAYTON MUNICIPAL AIR PARK, NM

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



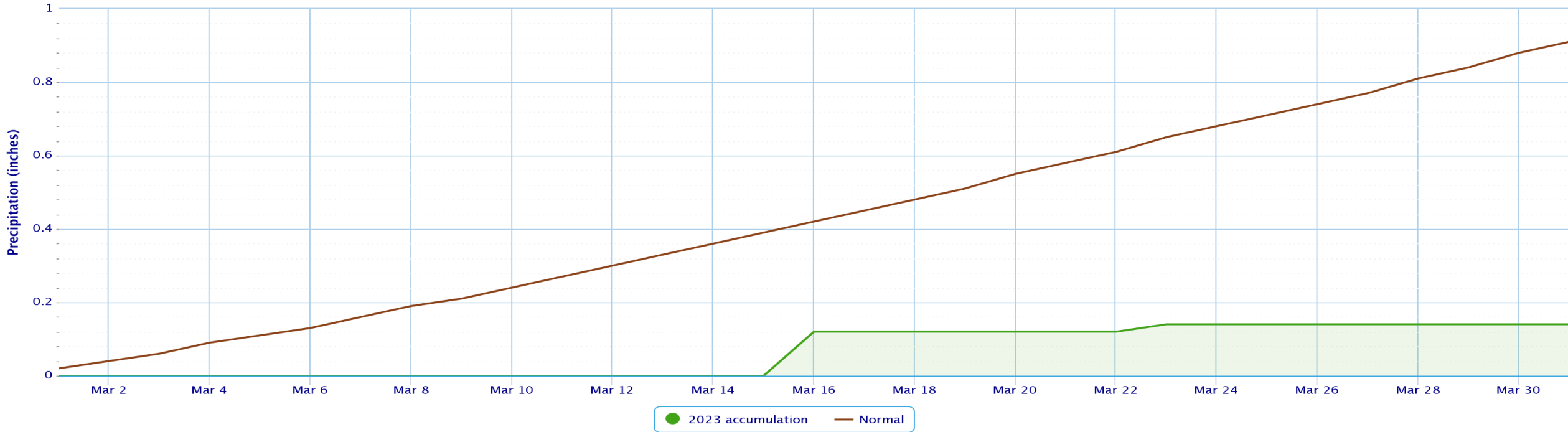
The March 2023 average temperature for Clayton was 42.8°, which was 2.1° below the normal of 44.9°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 57.3°. This was 2.7° below the normal average maximum temperature of 60.0°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 28.3°. This was 1.5° below the normal average minimum temperature of 29.8°. This ranked as the 55th coldest March on record.



Precipitation: 0.14"

Accumulated Precipitation – CLAYTON MUNICIPAL AIR PARK, NM

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



Powered by ACIS

The March 2023 precipitation for Clayton was 0.14", which was 0.77" below the normal of 0.91". This ranked as the 28th driest March on record.

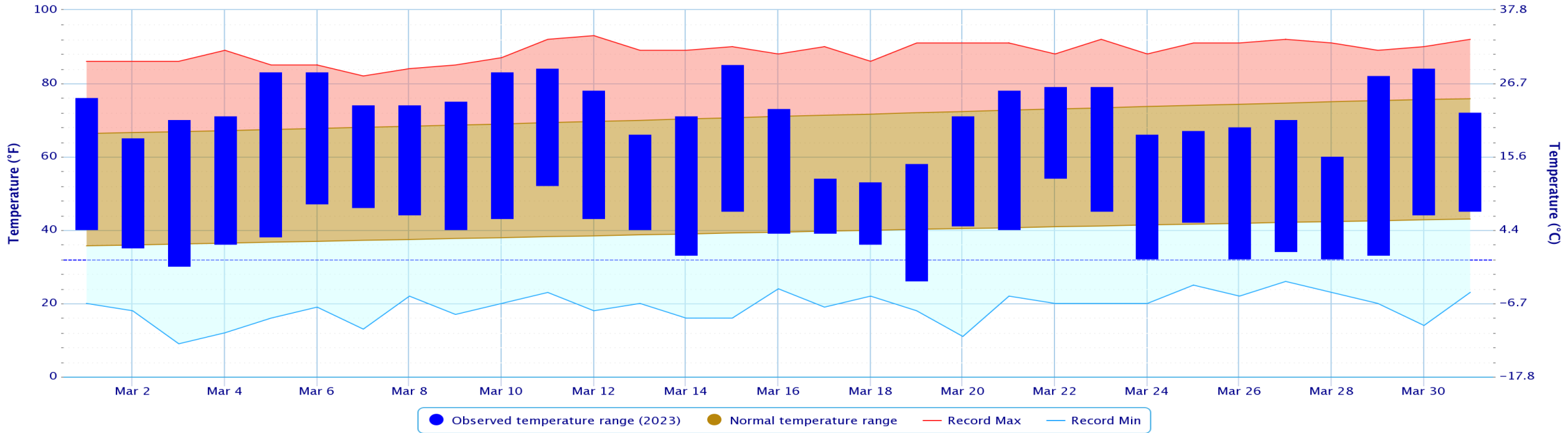
There was a Trace of of snow, compared to the normal of 3.4".



Average Temperature: 56.1°

Daily Temperature Data – ROSWELL INDUSTRIAL AIR PARK, NM

Period of Record – 1946-12-01 to 2023-04-04. Normals period: 1991-2020. Click and drag to zoom chart.



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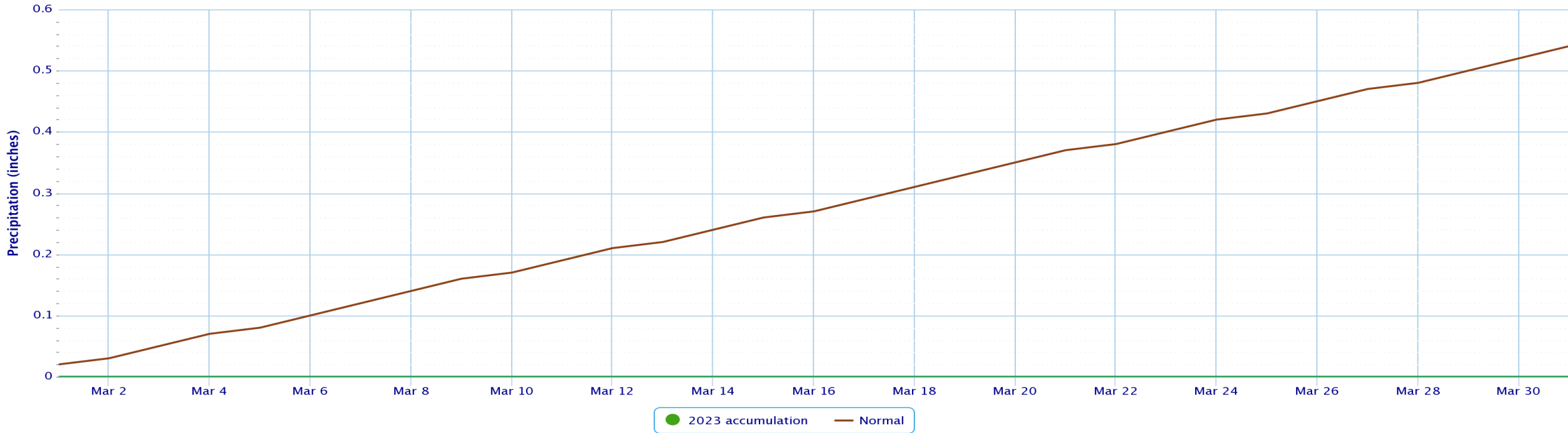
The March 2023 average temperature for Roswell was 56.1°, which was 0.9° above the normal of 55.2°. The average maximum temperature for the month was 72.6°. This was 1.6° above the average maximum temperature of 71.0°. The average minimum temperature for the month was 39.5°. This was 0.1° above the normal average minimum temperature of 39.4°. This ranked as the 11th warmest March on record.



Precipitation: Trace

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 March 2023 precipitation for Roswell was a Trace, which was 0.54” below the normal of 0.54”. This is tied for the 2nd driest March on record.

There was 0.0” of snow, compared to the normal of 0.7”.



Event Type	Date	County/Zone Name	Magnitude	Type	Event Narrative
High Wind	3/4/2022	Middle Rio Grande Valley/Abq Metro Area	56 kt	Gust	The ABQ Sunport measured a peak wind gust of 64 mph along with blowing dust and low visibility.
High Wind	3/4/2022	Santa Fe Metro Area	50 kt	Gust	The Santa Fe airport measured a peak wind gust of 58 mph with blowing dust and low visibility.
High Wind	3/4/2022	West Central Plateau	55 kt	Gust	The Gallup airport measured a peak wind speed of 63 mph.
High Wind	3/6/2022	Central Highlands	53 kt	Gust	Clines Corners measured a peak wind gust of 61 mph.
Heavy Snow	3/10/2022	West Central Plateau	6"		Gallup area. Difficult travel along I-40.
Heavy Snow	3/10-3/11/2022	Tusas Mountains Including Chama	10-16"		Severe driving along U.S. 64 from Tierra Amarilla and Hopewell Lake.
Heavy Snow	3/10-3/11/2022	Northern Sangre De Cristo Mountains	22"		Taos Ski Valley. Difficult driving on area roadways, particularly along U.S. 64 and NM-150.
Heavy Snow	3/10-3/11/2022	Southern Sangre De Cristo Mountains	12"		Tres Ritos area.
Heavy Snow	3/10-3/11/2022	East Slopes Sangre De Cristo Mountains	14"		Angel Fire and Eagle Nest area. Difficult driving, particularly along U.S. 64 from Taos to Eagle Nest.
Heavy Snow	3/10-3/11/2022	Upper Rio Grande Valley	6"		Arroyo Seco area. Difficult driving, particularly on U.S. 64 and NM-522.
Heavy Snow	3/10-3/11/2022	Sandia/Manzano Mts Including Edgewood	7.5"		Golden to Sedillo and Edgewood.
Heavy Snow	3/10-3/11/2022	Far Northeast Highlands	6"		Cimarron area.
Avalanche	3/10-3/11/2022	Northern Sangre De Cristo Mountains			Large avalanches reported in back country of Taos Ski Valley.
Winter Weather	3/10-3/11/2022	West Central Mountains	3-5"		Thoreau area. Difficult travel along I-40
Winter Storm	3/17/2022	Union County			Near-blizzard conditions with treacherous travel on U.S. 87 and 67. Roadways closed.
Winter Storm	3/17/2022	Johnson And Bartlett Mesas & Raton Pass	4"		Folsom area. Treacherous driving reported, particularly in the Raton Pass area. I-25 was closed.








*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
High Wind	3/21/2022	Quay County	50 kt	Gust	The Tucumcari airport measured a peak wind gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	3/22/2022	Far Northeast Highlands	57 kt	Gust	The Raton airport measured a peak wind gust of 66 mph.
High Wind	3/22/2022	Far Northeast Highlands	41 kt	Sustained	The Raton airport measured a peak sustained wind speed of 47 mph.
High Wind	3/22/2022	Union County	51 kt	Gust	Clayton measured a peak wind gust of 59 mph.
High Wind	3/22/2022	Curry County	54 kt	Gust	Clovis measured a peak wind gust of 62 mph.
High Wind	3/23/2022	Far Northeast Highlands	51 kt	Gust	The Raton airport measured a peak wind speed of 59 mph.
High Wind	3/23/2022	Union County	50 kt	Gust	A downed power pole in Mount Dora caused power outages in the region.
Heavy Snow	3/22-3/23/2022	Glorieta Mesa Including Glorieta Pass			Glorieta area. Severe travel along I-25 through Glorieta Pass.
Heavy Snow	3/22-3/23/2022	Middle Rio Grande Valley/Abq Metro Area			Albuquerque metro area. Difficult to severe travel across the area.
Winter Storm	3/22-3/23/2022	Johnson And Bartlett Mesas & Raton Pass			U.S. 64 closed from Raton to Des Moines.
Winter Storm	3/22-3/23/2022	Union County			U.S. 64 closed from Des Moines to Clayton.
High Wind	3/29/2022	Chaves County Plains	56 kt	Gust	The Roswell airport measured a peak wind gust of 64 mph.
High Wind	3/29/2022	South Central Mountains	54 kt	Gust	Ruidoso measured a peak wind gust of 62 mph.
High Wind	3/29/2022	Quay County	51 kt	Gust	The Tucumcari airport measured a peak wind gust of 59 mph.
High Wind	3/29/2022	Curry County	50 kt	Gust	Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis measured a peak wind gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	3/29/2022	Roosevelt County	50 kt	Gust	Dora measured a peak wind gust of 58 mph.
High Wind	3/29/2022	Lower Rio Grande Valley	55 kt	Gust	A WSMR mesonet site near Bosque del Apache measured a brief wind gust of 63 mph.
High Wind	3/29/2022	South Central Highlands	52 kt	Gust	A WSMR mesonet station at North Oscura Peak measured a brief wind gust of 60 mph.
High Wind	3/29/2022	Union County	50 kt	Gust	Clayton measured a brief wind gust of 58 mph.

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-  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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