

APRIL 2023 WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA INTERIOR

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Overall, temperatures this month were near average, although some periods with above average temperatures occurred around the 9th-10th and towards the end of the month. Some record high temperatures were reached on the 28th-29th with highs reaching into the mid to upper 90's. There was generally well below average precipitation this month, unlike the previous months back to November 2022. Cool weather continued for the first few days of the month, but with relatively light precipitation. Cooler periods were accompanied with breezy conditions with locally gusty winds in the prone areas, which is typical for April. Another item of note is much San Joaquin Valley reached near freezing on the morning of the 4th, and Bakersfield tied a record low minimum temperature that day with a low of 34 degrees.

Table 1 – April 2023 Summary Statistics– NWS Hanford, CA ASOS Sites						
Location	Monthly Average Temp (deg F)	Departure from Average (deg F)	Temperature Rank	Total Monthly Precipitation (inches)	Departure from Normal (inches)	Precipitation Rank
Bakersfield	63.2	-0.1	56 th warmest	T	-0.60	4 th lowest
Fresno	63.7	+1.4	33 rd warmest	0.00	-1.04	Tied lowest
Hanford	62.4	+0.6	39 th warmest	T	-0.72	6 th lowest
Madera	59.5	-1.2	42 nd coolest	T	-0.89	6 th lowest
Merced	59.9	+0.2	52 nd warmest	0.03	-1.09	4 th lowest

Note: Triple digit heat and freezing minimum temperatures are rare in April for the stations above. Neither freezing low temperatures nor triple digit high temperatures occurred this month at these sites.

Cool weather continued for the first few days of the month. Unfortunately, high flows in rivers and streams, as well as flooding lingered for quite some time due to the activity during much of March. Strong, gusty winds occurred on the night of the 2nd into the 3rd along with light precipitation in the mountains and parts of the San Joaquin Valley. Gusts of 50 to 60 mph were observed in the mountain and desert areas. It was also quite windy in the San Joaquin Valley, as gusts of 35 to 40 mph were reported, mainly on the afternoon and evening of the 3rd. Precipitation amounts were generally less than 0.25 inch, except a few Sierra Nevada locations

reported over 0.50 inch of precipitation, or several inches of snow. Otherwise, light snow accumulated in the Kern County mountain areas during the morning hours of the 3rd. There was less than an inch of snow on the Grapevine, but it was enough to slow traffic near Tejon Pass along Interstate 5.

From the 5th until the 10th, a warming trend occurred in Central California, although there was a weak low pressure system that passed over the area and Northern California on the 7th that brought brief light to moderate showers at times and a brief disruption to the warming trend. Most locations that did report showers on the 7th received a few hundredths of an inch or less. The warming trend was generally gradual with small changes in daytime highs until the 8th, although there was a sharper increase in these temperatures by the 9th. The 10th was the warmest day in that stretch as temperatures reached the mid to upper 80s. However, the 10th did not break any daily record high temperatures.

There was a slight decrease in temperatures on the 11th, but temperatures were still 5 to 10 degrees above average. The cooling trend continued for the next couple of days, although an increase in winds occurred on the 12th into the 13th, with the strongest gusts in the mountains and desert in eastern Kern County. Gusts mainly around 45 to 55 mph were recorded in these areas.

A warming trend began on the 14th, with near seasonal temperatures and an upper-level ridge of high pressure along the coast of California. Further warming occurred on the 15th as high pressure moved inland into our forecast area

A slight cooldown happened on the 16th and 17th as temperatures dropped back to around average, as a low pressure system approached from the Pacific Northwest. Further lowering of temperatures occurred on the 18th due to this system, and highs were around ten degrees below average. Gusty winds once again developed in the desert areas and adjacent slopes in eastern Kern County on the 17th and 18th. Wind gusts of 45 to 55 mph were reported with some isolated stronger gusts of 60 to 70 mph at times. Also on the 18th, there were some sprinkles in the San Joaquin Valley and light showers in the Sierra Nevada. Precipitation amounts were generally a trace up to around a tenth of an inch. Cooler temperatures and breezy conditions continued until the 19th.

A warming trend resumed on the 20th and continued for the next several days. At first, the warming trend was gradual, as near average temperatures were recorded on the 21st until the 24th. Some gusty winds were reported along the Mojave Desert slopes in eastern Kern County, including gusts of 45 to 60 mph on the 24th and 25th. More noticeable warming began on the 25th, and much warmer temperatures occurred on the 26th until the 29th as a strong ridge of high pressure built along the coast and then moved inland over Central California. Highs reached around 15 to 20 degrees above average on the 28th, or into the mid to upper 90's at the warmest

locations on the 28th, and temperatures were similarly warm on the 29th. Some daily record highs were reached on the 28th, including a tie at Bakersfield (97 degrees) and Hanford (96 degrees). Low temperatures were also quite warm the following morning; Bakersfield tied a record high minimum temperature of 65 degrees on the morning of the 29th. High temperatures on the 29th ended up slightly lower compared to the previous day, but were still about 10 to 15 degrees above seasonal average. The cooling trend continued on the 30th, and temperatures were noticeably lower, but still about five to ten degrees above average.

Table 2 – Seasonal Precipitation for ASOS locations (ending on April 30th)						
Location	Since Jan 1st (inches)	Departure From Average (inches)	Since Jul 1st (inches)	Departure From Average (inches)	Since Oct 1st (inches)	Departure From Normal (inches)
Bakersfield	7.39	+3.27	9.74	+3.68	9.74	+3.73
Fresno	12.23	+5.20	17.59	+7.26	17.48	+7.23
Hanford	10.83	+5.62	14.52	+6.81	14.48	+6.83
Madera	7.94	+1.00	11.37	+1.21	10.83	+0.71
Merced	13.86	+6.35	20.27	+9.14	20.07	+8.99

Table 3 – Warmest High Temperatures and Coolest Low Temperatures of the Month for ASOS locations				
Location	High	Date(s)	Low	Date(s)
Bakersfield	97	28 th	34	4 th
Fresno	97	28 th	38	4 th
Hanford	96	28 th	33	4 th & 5 th
Madera	95	28 th	34	5 th
Merced	93	28 th	35	5 th

Daily Records Set During April 2023

Bakersfield

4th: Tied record of coldest low at 34 degrees. Ties the record set in 1914.

28th: Tied record high maximum temperature of 97 degrees that was last set for the date in 2007.

29th: Tied record high minimum temperature of 65 degrees that was last set for the date in 2020.

Fresno

No daily records reached.

Hanford

28th: Tied record high maximum temperature of 96 degrees that was last set for the date in 2015.

Madera

No daily records reached.

Merced

No daily records reached.

Fig 1 – Departure from Average Temperature for April 2023



Fig 2 – Percent of Average Precipitation for April 2023

