

Climate and Weather Summary for December 2018

Temperatures in December averaged slightly above normal at Abilene and San Angelo. Precipitation was well-above normal at both locations. Table 1 summarizes December 2018 temperature, precipitation, and departure from normal for Abilene and San Angelo.

Site	Average Temperature (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)	Normal Average Temperature (°F)	Total Precipitation (In.)	Departure from Normal (In)	Normal December Precipitation (In.)
Abilene	46.4°	1.1°	45.3°	3.64"	2.41"	1.23"
San Angelo	47.5°	0.8°	46.7°	2.47"	1.62"	0.85"

Table 1: December Climate Data for Abilene and San Angelo.

Additional temperature and precipitation data for Abilene and San Angelo is summarized in Table 2.

Site	Warmest High Temperature (°F)	Warmest Low Temperature (°F)	Coldest High Temperature (°F)	Coldest Low Temperature (°F)	Maximum Daily Precipitation (In.)
Abilene	69° on Dec. 1	51° on Dec. 1	36° Dec. 8, 29	25° on Dec. 15	1.21" Dec. 13
San Angelo	78° on Dec. 22	49° on Dec. 1	39° on Dec. 29	26 on Dec. 10	1.05" on Dec. 7

Table 2: Additional December Climate Data for Abilene and San Angelo.

- 6th wettest December on record at Abilene
- 8th wettest December on record at San Angelo
- Abilene recorded 3.0 inches of snowfall in December
- A trace of snowfall was recorded at San Angelo in December
- New daily record rainfall was recorded at Abilene on Dec. 13 (1.21 inches) and Dec. 26 (0.93 inches)

Maps of total precipitation for December (Figure 1) and percent of normal precipitation for December (Figure 2) are shown below.

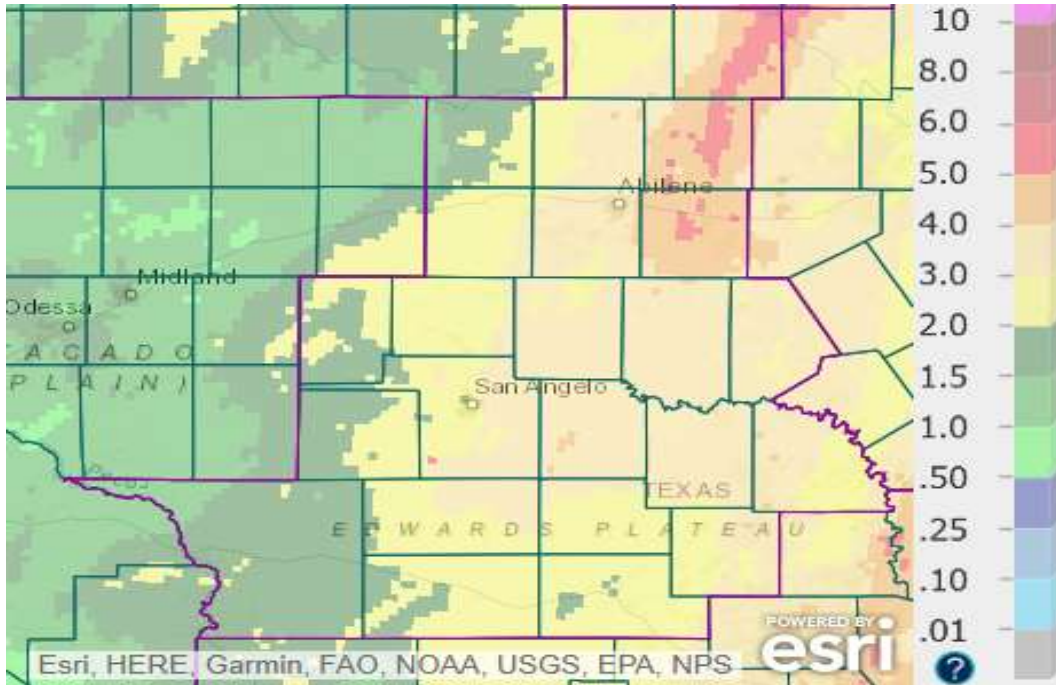


Figure 1: Total Precipitation for December.

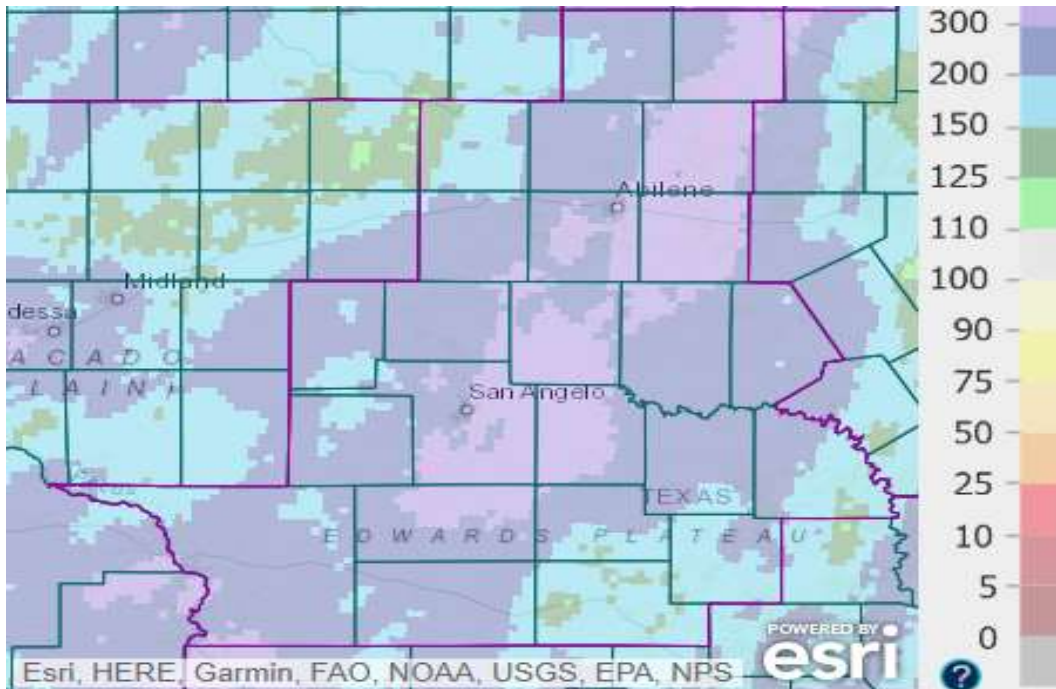


Figure 2: Percent of Normal Precipitation for December.

Precipitation for December was well-above normal across much of [west-central Texas](#).

Weather Highlights:

The weather pattern was fairly active in December. This included events with gusty winds, winter weather, and severe weather.

Gusty west winds occurred on Dec. 1, especially across the northern half of west-central Texas. Table 3 (below) shows where the recorded peak wind gusts were 40 mph or higher.

Location	Peak Wind Gust (mph)
Abilene (Airport)	45
Clyde	41
Coleman	41
Fort Chadbourne	40
Haskell	41
Rotan (5 miles west)	43
San Angelo (Airport)	40
Sweetwater	41
Wall	40

Table 3: Peak Wind Gusts on December 1.

During the first half of the month, a couple of wet weather events occurred with some winter weather.

Rain changed to snow on Dec. 8 across parts of the northern third of west-central Texas, as an upper level trough moved east into the area. Figure 3 (below) shows snowfall amounts for Dec. 8. The highest snowfall amounts (3-4 inches) occurred across the Big Country area from Abilene northwest across Fisher County and north across Haskell County. Abilene officially recorded 3.0 inches of snow with this event.

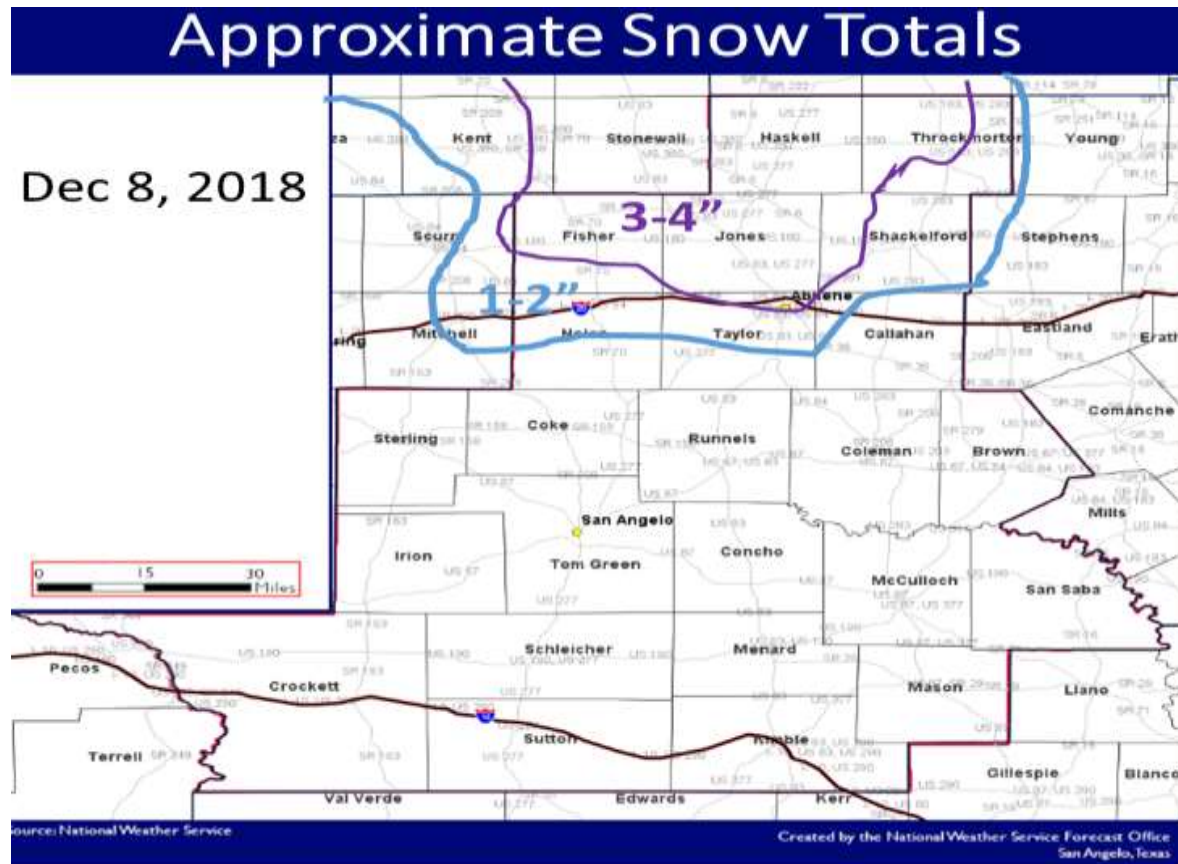


Figure 3: Total Snowfall Amounts for December 8.

A mixed rain and snow event occurred Dec. 13-14, as an upper level storm system tracked east across the region. Accumulating snowfall occurred, mainly in areas with slightly higher elevation across the northern half of west-central Texas (Figure 4 below). The heaviest snow affected areas of Nolan County on the afternoon and early evening of the 13th, where accumulations were 5-8 inches at some locations. Snowfall accumulations of 1-3 inches occurred in parts of the Big Country and northern Concho Valley. For some areas east of Abilene and south across the Concho Valley, into Coleman and Brown Counties, wet snow was mixed with the rain at times during the overnight hours of the 13th and 14th. Snow accumulations up to one inch occurred in parts of northern Brown County. The precipitation was a cold rain for the rest of west-central Texas.

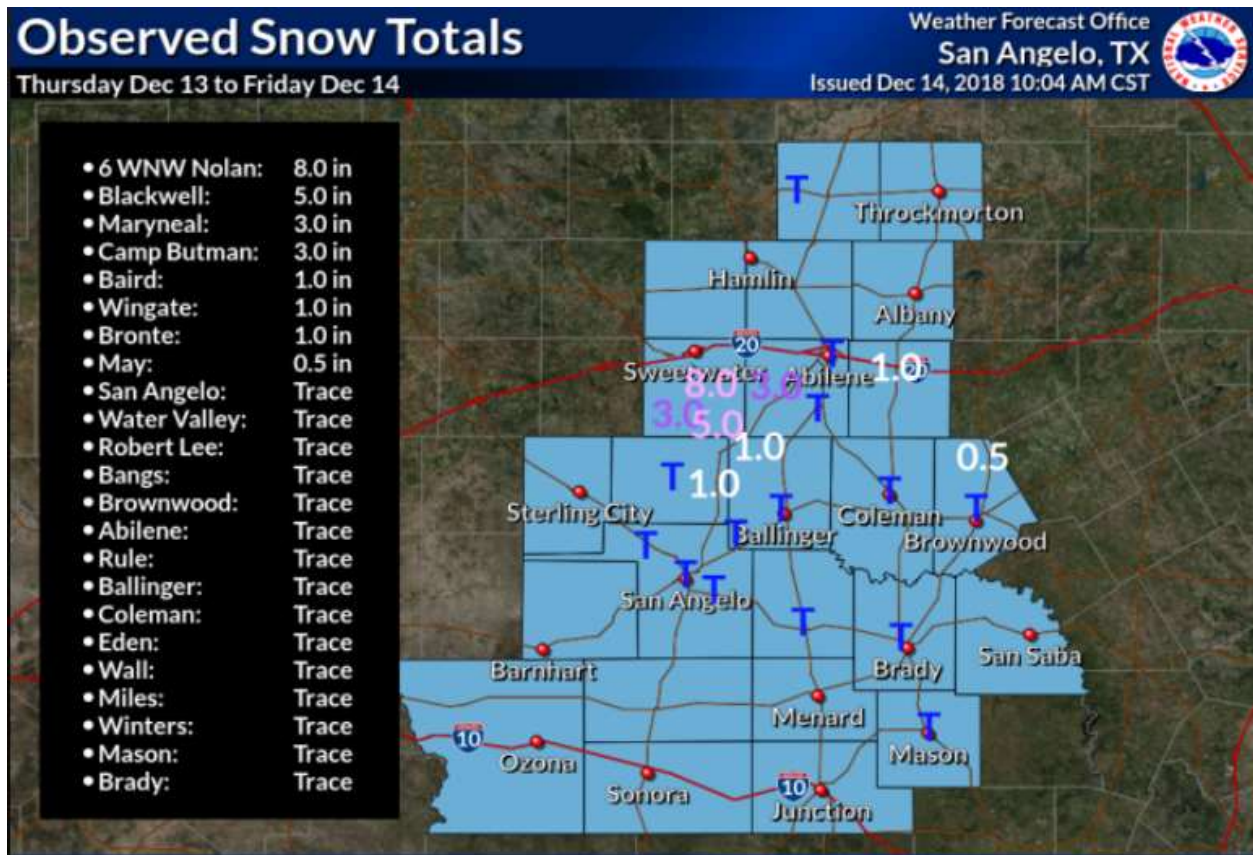


Figure 4: Total Snowfall Amounts for December 13-14.

Strong, gusty winds (mostly from the north) also occurred on Dec. 13, with the potent storm system. Table 4 (below) shows where the recorded peak wind gusts were 40 mph or higher.

Location	Peak Wind Gust (mph)
Abilene (Airport)	53
Clyde	44
Fort Chadbourne	44
Haskell	57
Rotan (5 miles west)	48
San Angelo (Airport)	45
Sweetwater (11 miles southwest)	43
Stamford	56
Throckmorton	47
Wall	40
Weinert	59

Table 4: Peak Wind Gusts on December 13.

Some locations across the Big Country also recorded wind gusts of 40-45 mph during the post-Midnight hours of Dec. 14, on the back side of the storm system departing the area.

Patchy dense fog occurred across the area south of Interstate 20, on the early morning of Dec. 19. At some locations, visibility was one quarter of a mile or less at times.

Temperatures were well-above normal on Dec. 22, across central and southern parts of west-central Texas. Temperatures rose into the 70s across central and southern parts of the area, ahead of an approaching cold front.

Areas and fog and patchy drizzle occurred on Christmas morning, with an increase in low-level moisture.

A [severe weather event](#) occurred on Dec. 26, with the approach and arrival of a strong upper level storm system from the west. Strong, gusty winds accompanied a squall line of thunderstorms, which moved east across the Big Country and Concho Valley areas. Minor wind damage was reported in Rotan, Abilene, in the vicinity of Clyde, and 5 miles north of Bronte.

Temperatures were colder across the area Dec. 28-30. The approach and arrival of a strong upper level disturbance brought showers and a few thunderstorms during the overnight hours of Dec. 30-31.

[Additional Tabular and Graphical Daily Climate Data](#)