

office of the
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Office of the Texas State Climatologist
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Precipitation for November of 1999 was extremely sparse with eighteen of the nineteen stations receiving less half of their normal rainfall. The entire western half of Texas (eight stations) recorded virtually no rainfall while San Antonio and Austin recorded only 2% and 3% of their 30-year November normal, respectively. Only Brownsville in the Lower Valley reported above-normal precipitation, 183%.

Compounding the lack of moisture were the unseasonably warm temperatures across the state. With the exception of Austin, where the mean monthly temperature was normal, all stations in Texas measured above-normal temperatures. Departures ranged from around 0.5°F in the Rio Grande Valley to nearly 7.0°F in North Central Texas.

High pressure in the southern half of the country kept storm systems well to the north of the state resulting in clear skies and warm weather for all of Texas. This pattern persisted through the middle of November, and the extreme lack of moisture was taking a toll on farmers and ranchers across the state (see Agricultural Weather Highlights). Record high maximum temperatures were tied in Midland, Lubbock, and Austin on the 18th, in Galveston on the 19th, in Houston on the 21st, and Austin on the 22nd. Austin broke the record of fourteen days of 80°F or above set in 1950 with eighteen days in November of 1999. The sixteen consecutive days from the 4th through the 19th was also a record for Austin.

Rainfall finally came to parts of the eastern half of the state when a cold front extending from a Midwestern low pressure system moved across the state from the 22nd to the 25th. Seven of the primary stations recorded significant rainfall on the 23rd, and a record 2.62" fell in Brownsville on the 23rd and 24th. Cold air behind the front allowed temperatures to rise only into the 50s for much of the state on Thanksgiving Day.

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Station	TMAX			TMIN			Mean Temp		No. Days	Precipitation			HDD*	CDD*
	Avg.	Dep.	Abs. Max	Avg.	Dep.	Abs. Min	Avg.	Dep.		Total (In.)	Percent Avg.	Gr'st 24 hr. (In.)		
Abilene	72.5	6.2	82	47.0	3.6	25	59.7	4.8	0	0.00	0%	0.00	171	20
Amarillo	68.6	8.9	83	36.0	3.7	19	52.3	6.3	0	0.00	0%	0.00	373	0
Austin	77.2	5.4	85	51.6	1.7	37	64.4	3.5	1	0.15	6%	0.15	80	70
Brownsville	81.2	2.9	90	56.9	-2.1	41	69.0	0.3	6	2.77	183%	2.62	31	159
College Station	76.3	6.2	85	47.7	-1.7	28	62.0	2.2	5	1.08	34%	0.70	120	38
Corpus Christi	79.2	3.4	85	53.9	-1.7	36	66.5	0.8	3	0.61	38%	0.58	50	103
Dallas-Fort Worth	75.1	8.3	86	50.7	5.3	33	62.9	6.7	3	0.31	14%	0.29	118	63
Del Rio	77.9	6.2	87	49.9	0.9	34	63.9	3.5	0	0.00	0%	0.00	87	61
El Paso	71.9	5.5	81	41.1	2.7	24	56.5	4.1	0	0.00	0%	0.00	253	5
Galveston	78.4	9.1	84	M	M	M	M	M	3	1.96	58%	M	M	M
Houston	77.1	4.7	84	47.3	-2.3	30	62.2	1.2	3	1.53	40%	1.26	114	35
Lubbock	70.8	7.6	82	38.0	1.5	23	54.4	4.6	0	0.00	0%	0.00	313	1
Midland	72.0	5.8	84	41.0	2.1	23	56.5	3.9	0	0.00	0%	0.00	250	3
Port Arthur	74.5	3.2	82	49.5	-1.7	32	62.0	0.8	2	1.23	25%	0.93	123	39
San Angelo	74.1	5.9	83	44.1	1.5	27	59.1	3.7	0	0.00	0%	0.00	185	14
San Antonio	76.7	4.8	84	49.4	0.6	31	63.0	2.6	1	0.05	2%	0.05	98	46
Victoria	79.7	6.3	86	50.2	-2.2	34	65.0	2.1	4	0.33	13%	0.30	71	77
Waco	75.3	6.5	84	48.6	2.0	32	62.0	4.3	3	0.29	12%	0.20	120	39
Wichita Falls	72.5	8.3	83	45.4	4.8	29	58.9	6.5	0	0.00	0%	0.00	195	23
Shreveport, LA	72.5	4.5	81	45.0	-0.3	31	58.8	2.1	4	0.52	12%	0.47	189	9

* ***Bold italics*** indicate a monthly record.

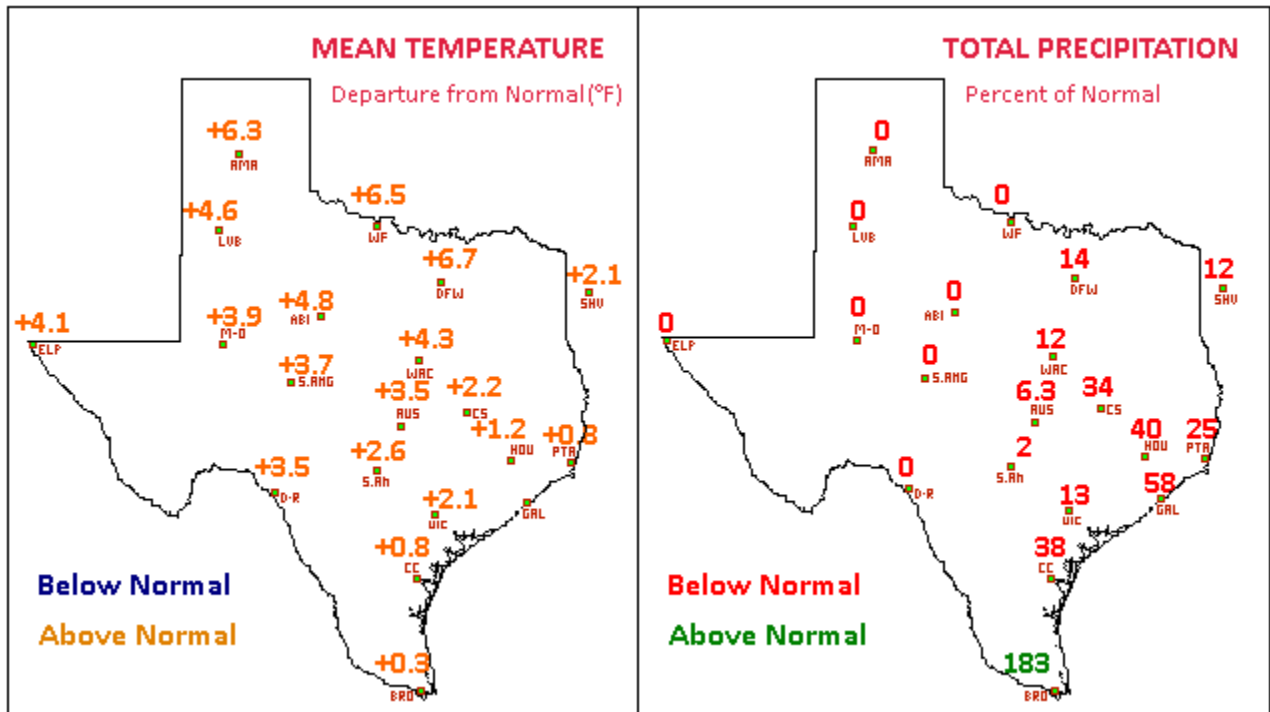
* Complete temperature data were unavailable. Temperatures are rounded to the nearest whole degree.

*HDD - Heating degree-day: Refer to the Monthly Average chart for a definition

T = Trace (<0.005")

*CDD - Cooling degree-day: Refer to the Monthly Average chart for a definition

M: Information not available.



CLIMATIC AVERAGES FOR DECEMBER

Station	TMAX		TMIN		Precipitation (In.)			Mean Number of Days in Month				
	Avg.	Record	Avg.	Record	Avg.	Gr'st Mon. Total	Gr'st 24 hr. Total	TMAX > 90°F	TMIN < 32°F	Days PRCP ≥ 0.01"	HDD*	CDD*
Abilene	57.0	89	33.9	-7	1.0	6.69	2.62	0.0	13.5	4.8	605	0
Amarillo	50.1	83	23.7	-8	0.4	4.52	3.11	0.0	26.7	4.1	871	0
Austin	62.0	90	41.2	4	1.9	16.14	6.19	0.0	5.1	7.6	426	10
Brownsville	71.7	94	52.4	16	1.3	6.95	5.69	0.0	0.9	6.8	177	87
College Station	61.5	89	41.2	2	2.8	12.66	7.54	0.0	6.4	7.7	434	13
Corpus Christi	68.3	91	48.4	13	1.3	9.80	6.81	0.1	1.5	6.8	261	53
Dallas-Fort Worth	57.5	90	36.3	-1	1.8	8.75	4.22	0.0	9.6	6.5	566	5
Del Rio	63.5	90	40.6	10	0.6	3.93	2.40	0.0	4.5	5.5	407	7
El Paso	57.5	80	30.7	-5	0.6	3.94	1.76	0.0	17.9	3.9	648	0
Galveston	61.9	81	50.9	14	3.5	10.28	5.43	0.0	0.8	9.7	289	22
Houston	64.7	85	42.2	7	3.5	14.38	4.14	0.0	4.9	9.2	374	18
Lubbock	54.1	83	27.2	-2	0.5	2.80	1.12	0.0	23.4	4.2	756	0
Midland	58.4	85	30.8	-1	0.6	3.30	1.58	0.0	17.2	3.4	632	0
Port Arthur	64.2	86	44.3	12	4.8	17.98	9.98	0.0	3.9	9.3	352	21
San Angelo	59.0	91	33.0	-4	0.8	3.98	2.71	0.0	14.0	4.1	589	0
San Antonio	63.5	90	40.8	6	1.5	13.96	6.90	0.0	5.8	7.6	409	12
Victoria	66.0	88	45.2	9	2.0	6.97	6.12	0.0	3.0	8.1	322	31
Waco	59.3	91	37.3	-4	1.9	11.76	7.98	0.0	9.7	6.1	524	6
Wichita Falls	54.9	88	30.8	-7	1.3	6.93	2.98	0.0	17.9	5.3	688	0
Shreveport, LA	58.5	84	37.3	5	4.1	15.55	3.35	0.0	9.9	9.3	535	8

Records are at the current site, other records may have occurred at previous sites.

*CDD - Cooling degree-day: The difference between the mean individual daily temperature and 65°F, with one CDD resulting for each degree above the standard 65°F during one day.

*HDD - Heating degree-day: The difference between the mean individual daily temperature and 65°F, with one HDD resulting for each degree below the standard 65°F during one day.

All times given for sunrise, sunset, and moon phase times are calculated for the intersection of Meridian 99°10' W and parallel 31°23' N, which is the approximate geographic center of the state.

Climate-related Agricultural Information

<http://agnews.tamu.edu>

Past Weather Events in December

December 1-5, 1913: Rainstorm. This caused the second major Brazos River flood, and caused more deaths than the storm of 1899. It formed over Central Texas and spread both southwest and northeast with precipitation of 15 inches at San Marcos and 11 inches at Kaufman. Floods caused loss of 177 lives and \$8,541,00 damage.

December 30-31, 1978: Ice Storm. North Central Texas. Possibly the worst ice storm in 30 years hit Dallas County particularly hard. Damage estimates reached \$14 million, and six deaths were storm-related.

December 24, 1982: Rains of up to 15 inches occurred in Southeast Texas.

December 1982: Heavy Snow. El Paso recorded 18.2 inches of snow, the most in any month there.

December 18-31, 1991: Flooding, entire state. The month of December was one of the wettest in Texas since records began in 1888. Rainfall amounts, from the Hill Country into North Central Texas totaled 12 to 16 inches over the four-day period of Dec. 18-21. Eleven people died as a result of the flooding, and more than \$50 million dollars in damages were incurred.

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