

December 2012 Weather in Review

December 2012 was one of the warmer and drier Decembers of record. Several fast moving cold fronts brought strong north and northwest wind the night of the 9th to the daytime on the 10th; the night of the 19th to the daytime on the 20th; December 25th; and again December 28th. Although the trend of more frequent rainfall events showed up in December, they left very little rain. December also brought widespread freeze events in wake of the dry cold fronts on December 11th, December 12th; December 20th; December 25th; December 26th; December 27th and December 29th.

December 2012 began on track to become one of the warmer Decembers of record from December 1st to December 9th; however, as the storm track came further south, weather patterns shifted to more periods of cooler days in wake of strong cold fronts from the night of Sunday, December 9th and during the day on Monday, December 10th through the end of the month. These strong cold fronts brought wind gusts between 35 and 55 mph initially with the cold front, and windy conditions for a day after frontal passage. Widespread freezes in December 2012 over the Hill Country and South Central Texas followed the freeze events in November that were limited to the Hill Country and a few low lying areas of Central Texas. In December 2012 the coldest daily lows since December of 2011 were observed. The strong northwest winds associated with the fast moving cold fronts brought a brief period of dust on the night of December 9th and early morning of December 10th; on the night of December 19th and early morning of December 20th; and during the afternoon on December 25th.

There were a few rapid warming trends in December 2012, that made a few days seem more like the Spring. The first 9 days of December were much warmer than usual, followed by cooler days December 10th to December 13th. Record daily highs were reached December 1st at Austin. A warming trend from December 14th to December 19th brought record highs to Austin, Del Rio, and San Antonio on December 18th and 19th. The record highs on December 19th were in advance of the strong cold front that came the night of December 19th to the morning of December 20th, with wind gusts between 35 and 55 mph. A brief warming trend followed from December 22nd to December 24th, and then conditions turned colder December 25th in wake of the cold front that came across the area. These warming trends made the month around 4 to 5 degrees warmer than usual for December. The warmest days of December came on the 18th and 19th, when highs were in the low to mid 80s. Overall December 2012 at Austin Mabry was the 9th warmest December since 1854; at Del Rio a tie with December 1965 for the 9th warmest December since 1905; and at San Antonio December 2012 was the 10th warmest December since 1885.

December 2012 began with dry conditions; however, rainfall began slowly pickup some December 9th and 10th through the end of the month. On the last day of the month, December 31st, more widespread rains came to the area. Even though the frequency of rain events increased in December, rainfall amounts were light, and the month ended with rainfall much below normal for December, continuing a dry trend that began in October and November. The dryness across the area helped to increase the day to day temperature changes from the warming trends to the colder days in wake of the strong cold fronts. December 2012 tied with December of 1922, 1966 and 2003 for the 5th driest December at Del Rio with 0.04 inches of rain; the 11th driest December at Austin Mabry with 0.31 inches of rain; the 21st driest at Austin Bergstrom with 0.83 inches of rain; and the 19th driest at San Antonio with 0.37 inches of rain. The rain amount from October 2012 to December 2012 was the 3rd driest October to December at Austin Mabry, with 1.27 inches of rain,

since 1856. At Del Rio October to December 2012, with 0.15 inches of rain, was the 3rd driest October to December since 1906 (Records for Del Rio began in December 1905). At San Antonio October to December 2012 rainfall of 3.04 inches was the 25th driest October to December at San Antonio since 1871.

December 2012 Summary					
Location	Average Temperature	Average High	Average Low	Warmest/Coolest	Rainfall
Austin Mabry	57.4 +4.9	68.9 +6.2	45.8 +3.5	84 on 19th 27 on 26th	0.31 -2.09
Austin Bergstrom	54.7 +4.3	68.9 +5.3	40.6 +3.4	84 on 1st and 19th 21 on 27th and 30th	0.83 -1.42
Burnet	53.8 +5.0	65.5 +5.9	42.2 +4.1	83 on 18th 23 on 26th	0.12 -1.89
Del Rio	56.4 +4.0	68.5 +4.5	44.4 +3.6	85 on 18th 29 on 11th	0.04 -0.61
Hondo	55.8 +3.9	70.0 +5.8	41.6 +1.9	84 on 18th 23 on 12th and 21st	0.25 -0.89
New Braunfels	56.0 +3.7	69.6 +5.8	42.5 +1.7	84 on 19th 25 on 27th	0.31 -1.86
San Antonio International Airport	57.1 +4.2	68.8 +8.4	45.4 +3.7	82 on 19th 27 on 21st	0.37 -1.54
San Antonio Stinson	57.2 +4.3	69.4 +5.2	45.0 +3.5	84 on 18th 27 on 21st	0.19 -1.69

[Click Here](#) to see more details on December 2012 weather.

The revised outlook for January 2013 from the Climate Prediction Center issued December 31st for South Central Texas calls for the average monthly temperature for January 2013 to have a 40 percent chance of being warmer than normal; a 33.3 percent chance of near normal; and a 26.7 percent chance of cooler than normal temperatures for January. The outlook for rain in January 2013 showed a 33.3 to 40 percent chance of being wetter than usual; a 33.3 percent chance of near normal rainfall; and a 26.7 to 33.3 percent chance of drier than normal rain for January 2013. The 90 Day Outlook from January 2013 to March 2013 shows a 40 to 50 percent Chance of being warmer than usual from January to March; a 33.3 percent chance of being near normal; and a 16.7 to 26.7 percent chance of being cooler than normal. The January 2013 to March 2013 90 Day rainfall outlook over South Central Texas shows Equal Chances of being wetter; drier; or near normal for rainfall from January to March. [Click Here to See the Latest One Month Outlook from the Climate Prediction Center.](#) The table below lists information on Climate Normals for the month of January for Austin, Del Rio and San Antonio.

January Climate Information Referencing 1981 to 2010 Normals

Location	Normal Monthly Temp.	Normal High	Normal Low	All time High	All time Low	Normal Rainfall	All Time Driest	All Time Wettest
Austin/Mabry	51.5	61.5	41.5	90	-2	2.22	0	9.21
Austin/Bergstrom	49.2	62.1	36.3	89	-5	2.23	0.02	10.53
Del Rio	52.2	63.8	40.6	92	12	0.72	Trace	4.12
San Antonio	51.8	62.9	40.7	89	0	1.76	Trace	8.52