

## December 2009 Weather In Review

After mild weather for most of November, much colder conditions came the night of Sunday, November 29th to Monday, November 30th. The colder than usual conditions persisted through most of December 2009. The cold weather in the first week of December brought several cold days from Tuesday the 1st through Saturday the 5th. The coldest daytime highs for December 4th of record was observed at Austin, Del Rio, and San Antonio on Friday, December 4, 2009. In addition, a trace of snow was observed at Austin during the morning of December 4th. The coldest lows in December 2009 came the 5th, with a hard freeze producing lows in the teens across the Hill Country to the 20s over South Central Texas. The December 5th, 2009 lows were the coldest for the year at many locations, including Austin Mabry, San Antonio and Del Rio. It was a tie for the 2nd coldest at Austin Bergstrom with February 3, 2009. The coldest low for 2009 at Austin Bergstrom came on January 14, 2009.

A brief warming trend with mostly cloudy days followed the 6th to the 8th, followed by another cold front the 9th, that left another stretch of cold days from the 9th through Saturday the 12th. A warming trend followed on Sunday the 13th, one of the warmer days of the month, followed by cloudiness the 14th to the 15th, and more cold weather the 16th to the 17th. A warming trend followed the 18th to the 23rd. The 23rd was one of the warmer days of the month also, in advance of another strong cold front that came the night of the 23rd to the early morning of Thursday the 24th. December 23rd was the warmest day in December at Austin Mabry, with 74, and Austin Bergstrom with a high of 75.

Showers and thunderstorms developed in the evening and night of the 23rd to the early morning hours of the 24th. These storms formed ahead of a fast moving and strong cold front that swept across the region in the morning of the 24th. This brought windy and cold conditions in the day on the 24th, as winds gusted to near 40 to near 50 mph. In addition on the morning to early afternoon of the 24th, snow flurries were observed over the eastern part of the Hill Country just west of Austin and from Northwest Austin to parts of Williamson County. The colder than usual conditions continued the 25th, followed by a warming trend in the daytime on the 26th and 27th, as a dry airmass came across the region from the west.

A wave of colder air came across South Central Texas from the north and northeast the night of the 27th to Monday, December 28th, bringing cooler afternoon highs on Monday the 28th. A late December precipitation making weather system brought moderate amounts precipitation on the 29th. Mostly cold rain fell on the 29th, with highs in the upper 30s to near 40 across the Hill Country to 40s across South Central Texas. A mix of rain and snow was observed across the Hill Country in the morning. From San Antonio to New Braunfels to Austin and Georgetown, the cold rain was briefly mixed with sleet in the morning of the 29th. By the afternoon and evening the precipitation changed to rain.

A warming trend with sunny afternoons came the 30th and 31st, followed by cooler conditions in the late afternoon through the evening of December 31st. Highs on December 31st rose to the 70s at many locations, except for upper 60s to near 70 over the

**northern Hill Country. December 31st was the warmest day in December at Del Rio, Hondo, New Braunfels, San Antonio, San Antonio Stinson and Uvalde.**

**December 2009 ended as a tie for the 15th coolest December at Austin Mabry with December 1865 since 1854; a tie for the 4th coolest at Austin Bergstrom with December 1989 since 1942; the 8th coolest December at San Antonio since 1885; and the 12th coolest December at Del Rio since 1905. The cooler than usual December temperatures in 2009 followed the hottest summer of record at Austin, Del Rio, and San Antonio.**

**The coolest Decembers at Austin, Del Rio, and San Antonio are listed below.**

**The coolest Decembers at Austin Mabry from 1854 to 2009 follow.**

- 1. December 1859 40.9**
- 2. December 1983 41.9**
- 3. December 1898 42.9**
- 4. December 1876 43.4**
- 5. December 1989 44.3**
- 6. December 1909 44.6**
- 7. December 1914 44.7**
- 8. December 1872 and 1878 45.0**
- 9. December 1963 45.1**
- 10. December 2000 45.4**
- ...**
- 15. December 1865 and 2009 47.5...4.6 degrees below normal.**

**The coolest Decembers at Austin Bergstrom from October 1942 to 2009 follow.**

- 1. December 2000 43.9**
- 2. December 1983 45.3**
- 3. December 1963 45.5**
- 4. December 1989 and 2009 46.1...6.8 degrees below normal**
- 5. December 1997 47.5**

**The coolest Decembers at San Antonio from 1885 to 2009 follow.**

- 1. December 1983 43.0**
- 2. December 1989 43.4**
- 3. December 1963 45.7**
- 4. December 1914 46.3**
- 5. December 2000 46.4**
- 6. December 1898 47.4**
- 7. December 1909 47.8**
- 8. December 2009 48.3...4.1 degrees below normal**
- 9. December 1905 48.5**
- 10. December 1944 48.9**

**The coolest Decembers at Del Rio from 1905 to 2009 follow.**

- 1. December 1989 44.3**
- 2. December 1983 44.6**
- 3. December 1914 45.6**
- 4. December 1963 45.8**
- 5. December 1905 46.4**
- ...**
- 10. December 2000 48.0**
- ...**
- 12. December 2009 49.0...3.4 degrees below normal.**

**The warmest highs and coldest lows for December 2009 are listed below.**

| <b>Location</b>            | <b>Warmest Day</b>   | <b>Coldest Low</b>  |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Austin Bergstrom</b>    | <b>75 on Dec. 23</b> | <b>19 on Dec. 5</b> |
| <b>Austin Mabry</b>        | <b>74 on Dec. 23</b> | <b>25 on Dec. 5</b> |
| <b>Burnet</b>              | <b>72 on Dec. 13</b> | <b>20 on Dec. 5</b> |
| <b>Del Rio</b>             | <b>72 on Dec. 31</b> | <b>27 on Dec. 5</b> |
| <b>Hondo</b>               | <b>77 on Dec. 31</b> | <b>21 on Dec. 5</b> |
| <b>New Braunfels</b>       | <b>75 on Dec. 31</b> | <b>21 on Dec. 5</b> |
| <b>San Antonio</b>         | <b>76 on Dec. 31</b> | <b>23 on Dec. 5</b> |
| <b>San Antonio Stinson</b> | <b>76 on Dec. 31</b> | <b>24 on Dec. 5</b> |