

Notable Weather & Climate in Nevada: April - June

## Temperature

In the April report, I hoped for a cool, wet spring. The odds weren't especially favorable, but northern Nevada did have a cool spring. It was cooler than usual in April and much cooler than normal in May. Several stations in northwestern Nevada set coldest May temperature records (granted those stations have only been around for 30-35 years). In southern Nevada, temperatures were near to above normal. In Clark, Lincoln, and Esmeralda Counties, as well as parts of Nye County, tempera-

Percent of 1981-2010 April - June average precipitation



WestWideDroughtTracker https://wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/





tures were slightly warmer than usual in April, near normal in May, and 2-4°F warmer than normal in June. Several stations tied or broke daily records in June. As part of a five-day streak with temperatures at or above 110°F, Laughlin hit 117°F. While that's hot, it's not a top-10 for Laughlin, where June temperatures have topped 120°F 17 times since 1988.





WestWideDroughtTracker https://wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/

## Precipitation

85

70

55

Most of the state did have a dry spring. From about Highway 50 south, April - June precipitation was less than 40% of normal. Some parts of the state received less than 20% of the usual spring precipitation. Far northern Nevada got near normal precipitation. In far northern Washoe County, there was even a little more precipitation than usual.

The less-than-spectacular winter followed by normal to dry spring conditions means that much of Nevada is still behind in water-year precipitation. Most of the state has gotten less than 75% of normal precipitation since the start of the 2022 water year in October. Parts of Clark county have gotten less than a third of the usual precipitation. Over the last three water years, there are on-going

deficits. According to <u>SC-ACIS</u>, Las Vegas has gotten 6.4" of rain since October 1, 2019. It should have gotten 11.5". Elko has gotten 20.6" instead of the expected 28.7". Reno has gotten 13.9" of the usual 21.4". As a result, the US Drought Monitor continues to show a state entirely in drought.



WestWideDroughtTracker <u>https://wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/</u> drought.

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Climate Prediction Center, https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/

It's summer in Nevada, so mostly that means hot. Let's hope for more breaks in the heat than last year. It may be somwhat warmer than usual this summer. In western and southern Nevada, there are 40 - 50% chances that temperatures will be above normal and roughly 20% chances of cooler than normal temperatures. In eastern Nevada, the odds of a warmer than normal temperature are between 50 and 60%, with only about 10 - 15% chances of cooler than normal temperatures. As for rain, well. There are roughly equal chances of dry, normal or wet conditions this summer.

## In depth - forecasting summer rain in Nevada

Forecasting summertime rain over the US Southwest is not easy. In much of the region, summer rain is associated with the North American Monsoon. Many factors contribute to how strong the monsoon is in any given year. Within a summer, there are wet and dry weeks and storms can be spotty. All that makes rainfall itself hard to model.

Over the last five summers, <u>CPC</u> July - September (JAS) outlooks for southern Nevada have been Equal Chances (EC) three times and slightly favored wet conditions once. In 2019, the forecast was EC over the west side of southern Nevada, but wet conditions were slightly favored along the east side of the region. What happened those years? Summer 2020 was notably dry. Many places got tiny amounts

	JAS outlook	Overton	McCarran Airport	Searchlight	Mt. Charleston
2021	EC	1.20	0.63	2.12	5.53
2020	EC	0.02	Т	0.00	1.67
2019	EC/lean wet	Т	0.28	0.91	1.91
2018	lean wet	2.98	0.87	1.35	9.13
2017	EC	1.69	0.79	5.61	9.26

Data from SC-ACIS, http://scacis.rcc-acis.org

of rain, sometimes too little to measure (this is known as a trace amount or T). At Overton, 2019 was drier than 2020 (both were pretty dry, so I'm splitting hairs ranking them). What about wet years? Some stations, like Overton and Harry Reid (McCarran) Airport, were wettest in the summer of 2018 when forecasts indicated the potential for a wet summer. The other stations were wettest in 2017.

Is there any hope of better forecasting? Yes! Researchers with the National Center for Atmospheric Research and the Bureau of Reclamation found that forecasts of humid days actually do a better job predicting summer rainfall than forecasts of rainfall. And they can make a forecast as early as April. Want to learn more? check out the <u>press release</u> or the <u>paper</u> (it's open access).





