



North Dakota Monthly Climate Summary

April 2019

Volume: 13, No: 4

Precipitation

North Dakota State Climate Office: Your Resource for Climate Information

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Based on the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), the statewide average April precipitation was 1.17 inches, which was 0.68 inch more than last month, 0.67 inch more than in April 2018 but 0.05 inch less than the 1981-2010 average, making it the 59th driest April in the 125-year period of record. It was the driest April since 2018 (Table 1). The numbers less than 100 in Figure 1 below are shaded in yellow, orange and red to depict the region with below-average rainfall. In contrast, the numbers that are greater than 100 in the same figure are shaded in green, blue and purple to depict the region with above-average rainfall in April. The greatest monthly precipitation accumulation was 2.35 inches, recorded in Larimore, Grand Forks County. The greatest 24-hour precipitation was 1.55 inches, recorded in Ellendale, Dickey County, on April 12. The greatest monthly snowfall accumulation was 13.1 inches, recorded in Ashley, McIntosh County. The greatest 24-hour snowfall was 12 inches, recorded in Ellendale, Dickey County on April 12. Based on historical records, statewide April precipitation showed no long-term trends since 1895. The highest and lowest April precipitation for the state ranged from 3.71 inches in 1986 to 0.11 inch in 1987 (Figure 2). It shows how volatile North Dakota's precipitation can be from one year to the next.

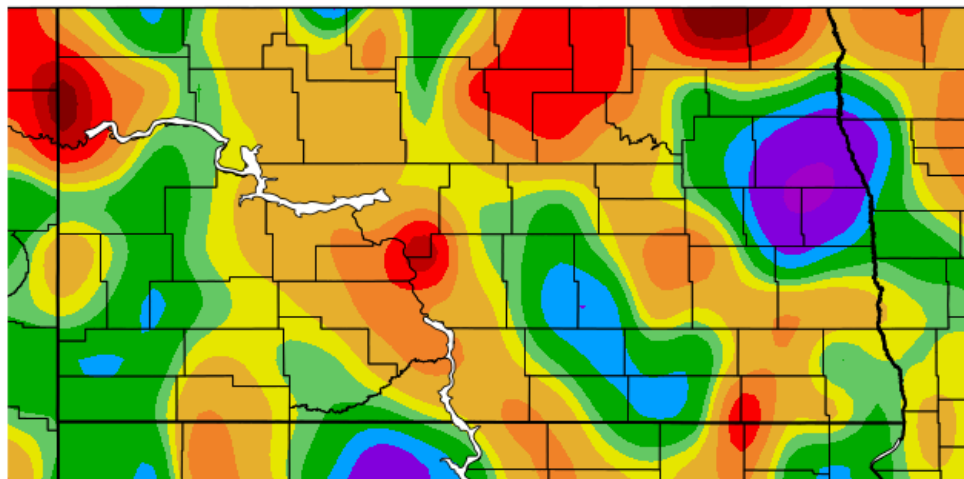


Figure 1. April 2019 precipitation percent of normal for North Dakota. (High Plains Regional Climate Center)



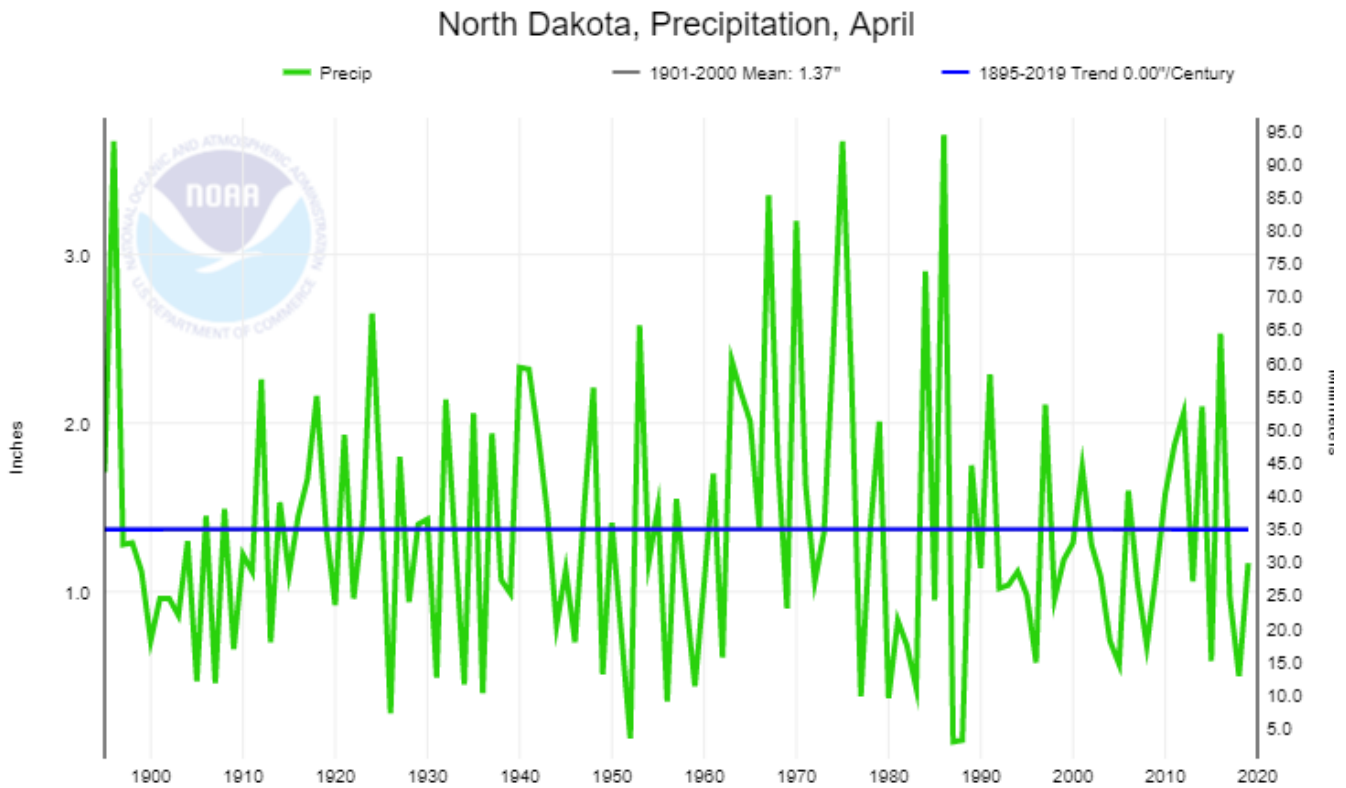
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April Precipitation Statistics

Record high value: 3.71 inches in 1986
 Record low value: 0.11 inch in 1987
 Trend: 0 inch per century

April 2019 value: 1.17 inch
 1981-2010 average: 1.22 inch
 Monthly ranking: 59th driest
 Record length: 125 years

Figure 2. Historical April precipitation time series for North Dakota.

Table 1. North Dakota April Precipitation Ranking Table.

Period	Value	Normal	Anomaly	Rank	Wettest/Driest Since	Record Year
April 2019	1.17"	1.22"	- 0.05	59th driest 67th wettest	Driest since 2018 Wettest since 2016	1987 1986



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Temperature

The official state average April temperature was 41.7 F, which is 21 F warmer than last month and 8.5 F warmer than in April 2018. The average April temperature was 0.7 F cooler than the 1981-2010 average, which made it the 56th warmest or 70th coolest April in the 125-year period of record. It was the warmest April since 2017 (Table 2). The negative numbers in Figure 3 are shaded in green and blue to depict the region with cooler than average temperatures in April. In contrast, the positive numbers in red and orange depict the region with warmer than average temperatures in April. The state's highest and lowest daily temperatures ranged from 82 F on April 21 in Ashley, McIntosh County, to 12 F on April 4 in Drake, McHenry County. Based on the historical records, the state average April temperature showed no long-term trend since 1895. The highest and lowest monthly state April average temperatures ranged from 50.2 F in 1987 to 31.2 F in 2013 (Figure 4).

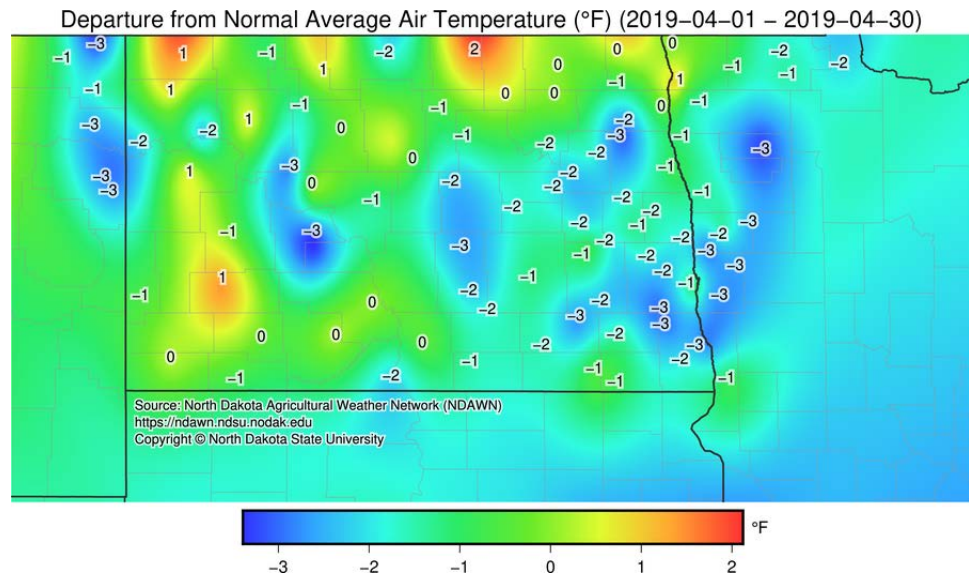


Figure 3. April 2019 temperature departure from normal for North Dakota. (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network)



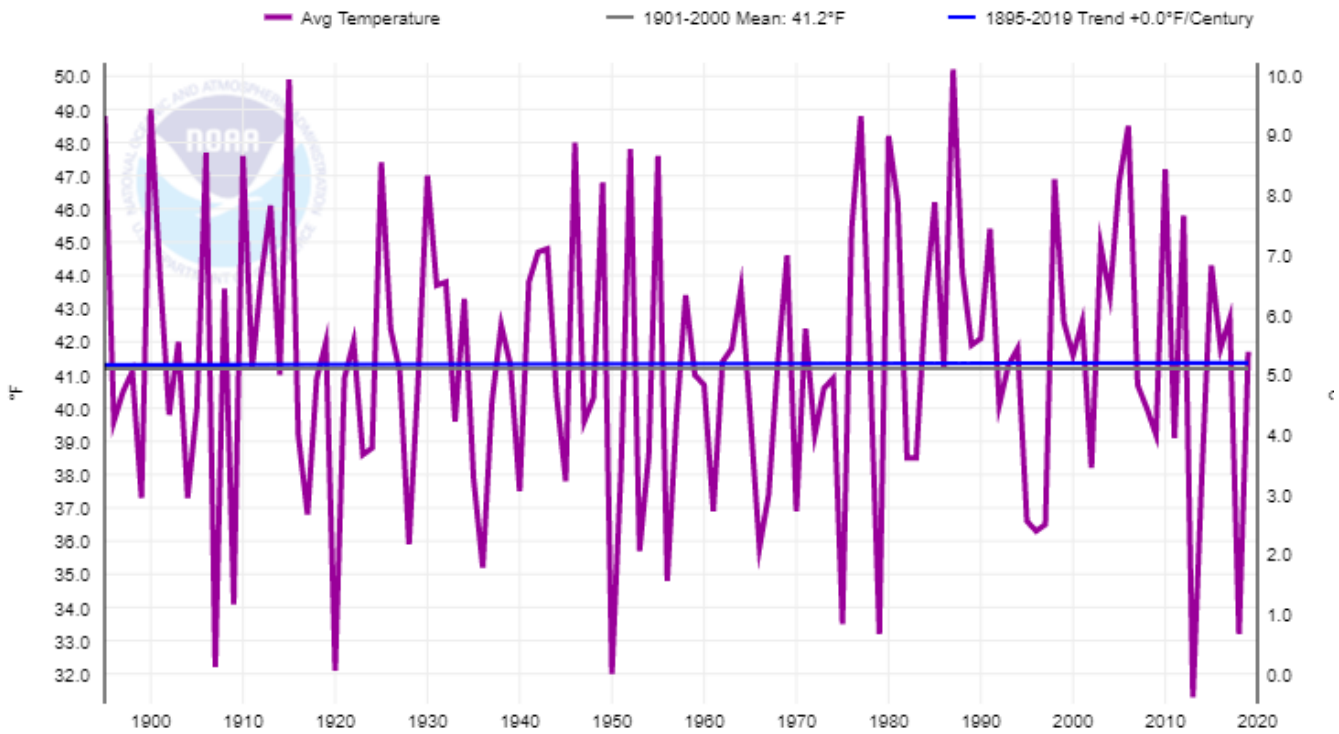


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North Dakota, Average Temperature, April



April Temperature Statistics
 Record high value: 50.2 F in 1987
 Record low value: 31.3 F in 2013
 Trend: 0.0 F per decade

April 2019 value: 41.7 F
 1981-2010 average: 42.4 F
 Monthly ranking: 56th warmest
 Record length: 125 years

Figure 4. Historical April temperature time series for North Dakota.

Table 2. North Dakota April Temperature Ranking Table.

Period	Value	Normal	Anomaly	Rank	Warmest/Coollest Since	Record Year
April 2019	41.7	42.4	- 0.7	70th coolest 56th warmest	Coollest since 2018 Warmest since 2017	2013 1987



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Storm Reports: NDAWN's highest 10-meter peak gust in April was 50 mph, recorded at the Carrington weather station in Foster County on April 25, 2019.

Daily Record Events in April: Across the observation network of weather stations with at least 30 years of history, a total of six daily high and 12 daily low-temperature-related records were set or tied. A total of 20 highest daily precipitation-related records were set or tied. Details of the records are in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Summary of daily records broken or set in North Dakota in April. (NCEI Daily Weather Records)

<i>Category</i>	Number of Records
<i>Highest daily max. temp.</i>	1
<i>Highest daily min. temp.</i>	5
<i>Lowest daily max. temp.</i>	12
<i>Lowest daily min. temp.</i>	0
<i>Highest daily precipitation</i>	6
<i>Highest daily snowfall</i>	14
Total	38

The Highlight of the Month*

*A highest daily snowfall record of 11.6 inches was set in **Ashley** on **April 12**, breaking the previous record for that date by 3.6 inches, which was set in 1979 (years on record: 122).*

*The records in this box may be different from the record on Pages 1 and 3 due to the fact that this page only includes records for stations with at least 30 years of history.

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