



# North Dakota Monthly Climate Summary

April 2021

Volume 15, No. 4

## Precipitation

North Dakota State Climate Office: Your Resource for Climate Information



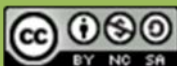
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Based on the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), the statewide average April precipitation was 0.6 inch, which was 0.46 inch greater than last month but 0.19 inch less than in April 2020. It was 0.6 inch less than the 1991-2020 average, making it the 20th driest April in the 127-year period of record (Table 1).

The counties shaded in brown in Figure 1 indicate drier-than-average conditions in April 2021. In contrast, the counties shaded in green indicate wetter-than-average conditions in April 2021. A white shading indicates near-average conditions. The numbers inside the counties are the precipitation rankings, with 1 being the lowest ranking (driest) and 127 being the highest ranking (the wettest)

The greatest monthly precipitation accumulation was 3.16 inches, recorded in Lingerwood, Richland County. The greatest monthly snowfall accumulation, on the other hand, was 6.5 inches, recorded in Crosby, Divide County. Based on historical records, statewide April precipitation showed a slight negative long-term trend of 0.05 inch during the last century. The lowest and highest April precipitation for the state during this period ranged from 0.11 inch in 1987 to 3.71 inches in 1986 (Figure 2). It shows how quickly the conditions can switch from one extreme to another between two consecutive years.

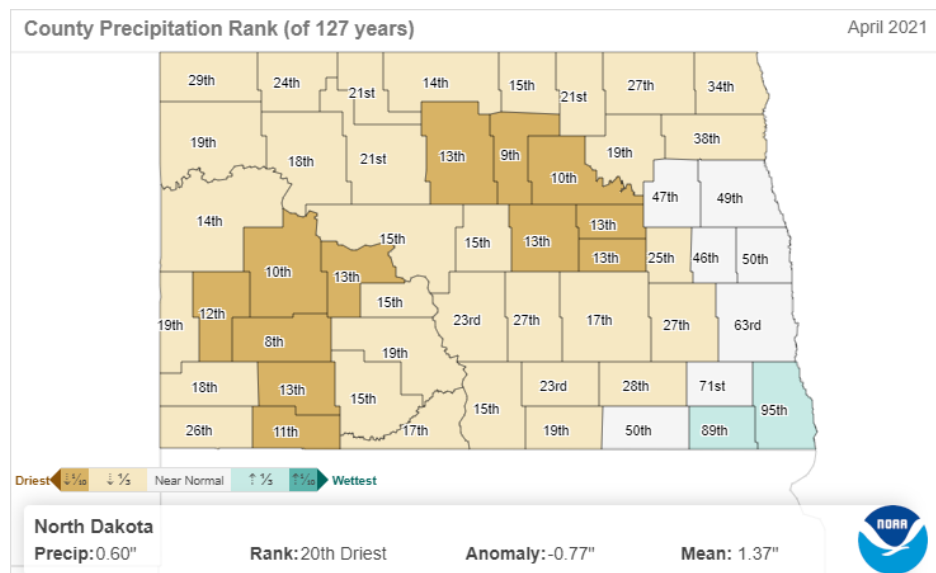


Figure 1. April 2021 county precipitation ranking map of North Dakota. (National Centers for Environmental Information, NOAA)



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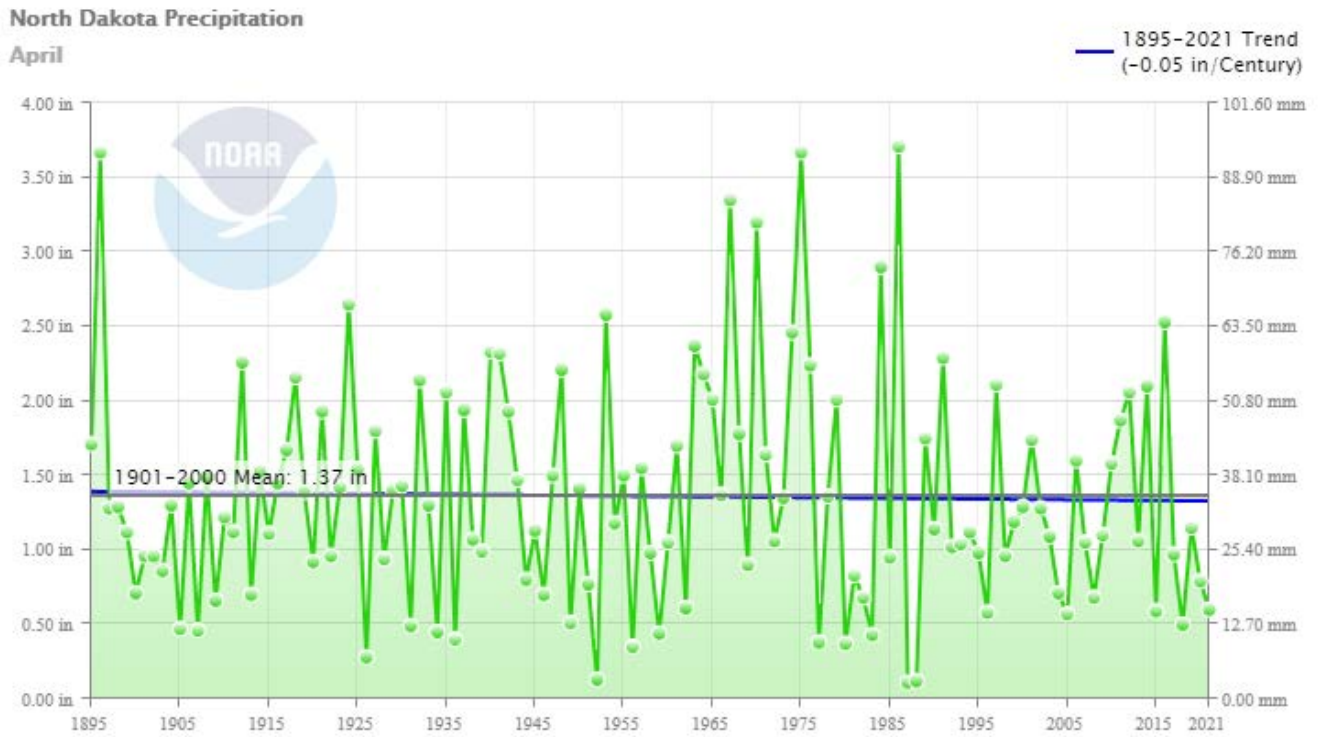


Figure 2. Historical April precipitation time series for North Dakota. (NCEI, NOAA)

Table 1. North Dakota April Precipitation Ranking Table.

Period	Value	Normal	Anomaly	Rank	Wettest/Driest Since	Record Year
April 2021	0.6"	1.25"	-0.65"	20th driest 108th wettest	Driest since 2018 Wettest since 2020	0.11" (1987) 3.71" (1986)



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## Temperature

The official state average April temperature was 40.6 F, which is 4.7 degrees warmer than last month and 3 degrees warmer than in April 2020. The average April temperature, however, was 0.6 degrees cooler than the 1991-2020 average, making it the 52nd coldest April in the 127 years of record (Table 2).

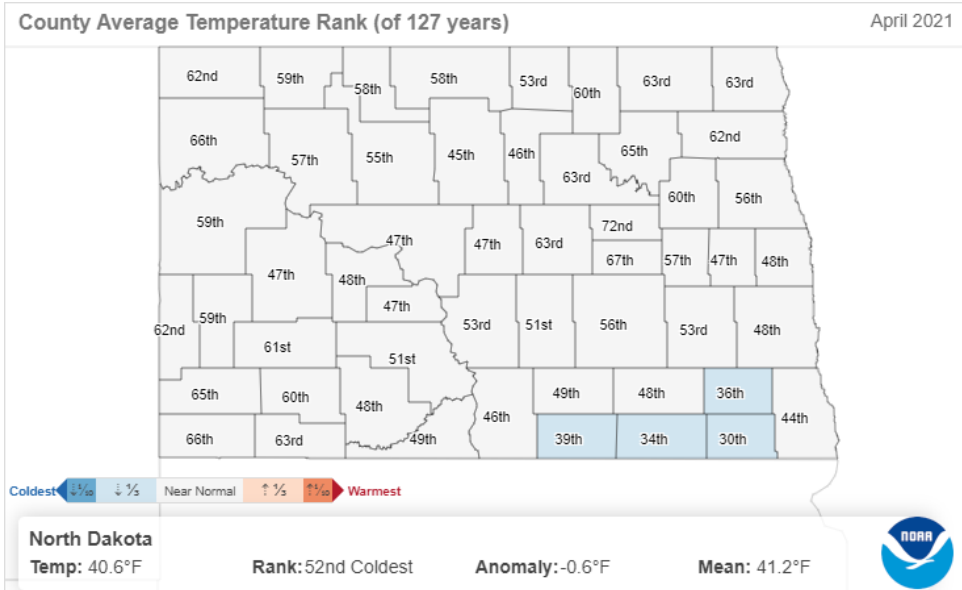


Figure 3. April 2021 county temperature ranking map of North Dakota. (National Centers for Environmental Information, NOAA)

The counties shaded in blue in Figure 3 indicate cooler-than-average conditions. White shading indicates near-average conditions. The numbers inside the counties are the temperature rankings, with 1 being the lowest ranking (coldest) and 127 being the highest ranking (the warmest).

The state's lowest and highest daily temperatures ranged from 2 F on April 1 in Upham, McHenry County, to 86 F on April 30 at Sand Creek, Slope County. The state average April temperature showed a very small long-term trend of 0.1 degree during the last century based on the historical records. The lowest and highest monthly state April average temperatures during this period ranged from 31.3 F in 2013 to 50.2 F in 1987 (Figure 4).



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North Dakota Average Temperature  
April

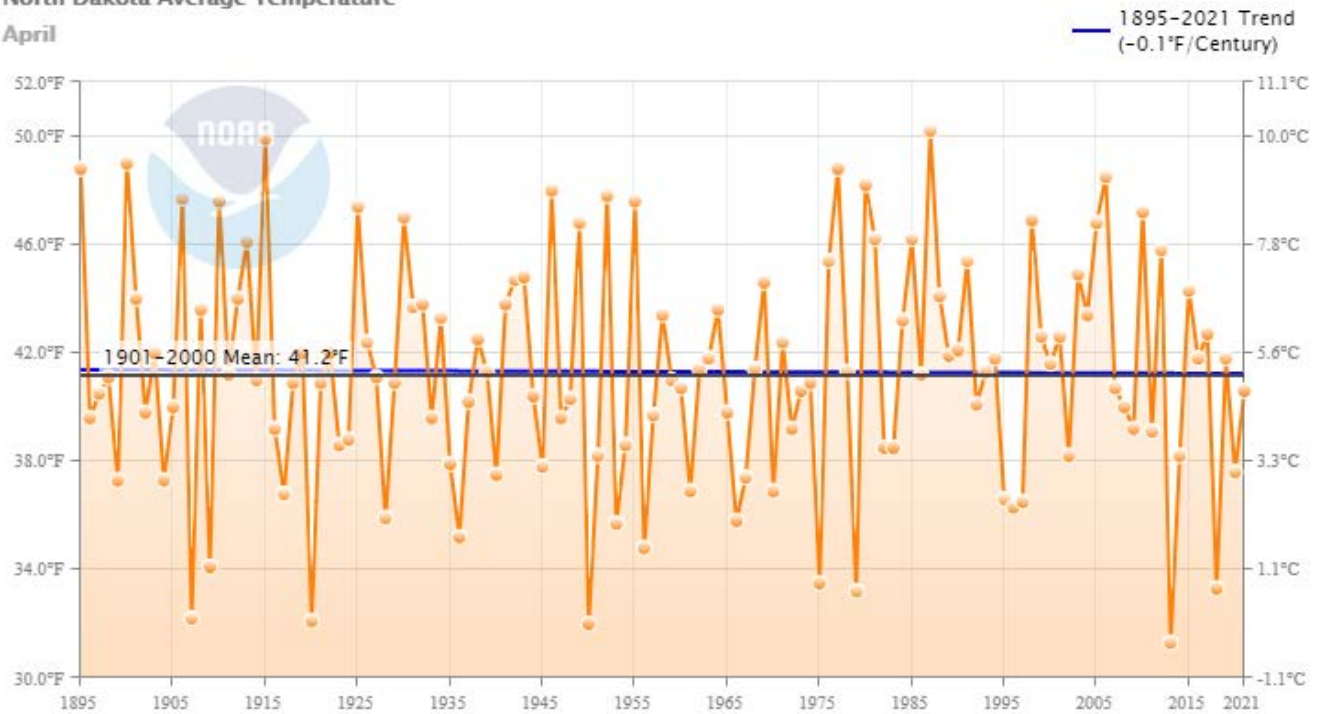


Figure 4. Historical April temperature time series for North Dakota. (NCEI, NOAA)

Table 2. North Dakota April Temperature Ranking Table.

Period	Value	Normal	Anomaly	Rank	Warmest/Coollest Since	Record Year
April 2021	40.3°	41.2°	-0.6°	52nd coolest 76th warmest	Coollest since 2020 Warmest since 2019	31.3 F (2013) 50.2 F (1987)



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**Daily Record Events in April:** Across the observation network of weather stations with at least 30 years of history, 102 daily high- but no daily low-temperature records were set or tied. Only a total of three highest daily precipitation-related records were set or tied. Details of the records are in Table 4.

*Table 4. Summary of daily records broken or set in North Dakota in April. (NCEI Daily Weather Records)*

Category	Number of Records
Highest daily max. temp.	23
Highest daily min. temp.	2
Lowest daily max. temp.	6
Lowest daily min. temp.	11
Highest daily precipitation	9
Highest daily snowfall	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>

## The Highlight of the Month\*

A lowest daily minimum temperature record of 12 degrees was broken in **New Salem on April 21**, exceeding the previous record that was set in 1936 by **1** degree. (years on record: 128).

\*The records in this box may differ from the record on Pages 1 and 3 because this page only includes records for stations with at least 30 years of history.

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