

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU
In Cooperation with the UNM Bureau of Business Research

LATITUDE: 34° 24' N
LONGITUDE: 103° 12' W
ELEV. (GROUND): 4280 Ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION: CLOVIS
NEW MEXICO

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD: 1931 - 1960

Month	Temperature (°F)									** Mean degree days	Precipitation Totals (Inches)							Mean number of days					Month
	Means			Extremes							Mean	Greatest daily	Year	Snow, Sleet				Precip. .10 inch or more	Temperatures				
	Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Record highest	Year	Record lowest	Year	Mean	Maximum monthly					Year	Greatest daily	Year	90° and above		Max.		Min.		
																			32° and below	32° and below	0° and below	0° and below	
(a)	30	30	30	30	--	30	--	30	30	30	--	30	30	--	30	--	30	30	30	30	30	(a)	
Jan.	51.0	23.8	37.4	77	1950+	- 4	1959+	860	0.55	1.60	1939	2.4	8.0	1946+	8.0	1946	2	0	2	28	*	Jan.	
Feb.	55.8	26.8	41.3	81	1940+	-17	1951	660	0.41	0.69	1956	1.0	4.7	1933	4.0	1940	1	0	1	21	*	Feb.	
Mar.	62.4	31.8	47.2	90	1943	- 4	1958	550	0.49	1.45	1941	0.7	5.2	1934	5.0	1934	1	*	1	15	*	Mar.	
Apr.	72.1	41.3	56.7	99	1936	14	1945	270	0.92	1.77	1941	0.3	2.8	1949	2.8	1949	2	1	*	4	0	Apr.	
May	80.6	50.7	65.6	101	1938	27	1954	80	2.51	3.45	1936	0.2	4.5	1935	2.4	1935	4	5	0	*	0	May	
June	90.8	60.1	75.4	106	1942+	41	1955	0	2.29	2.80	1941	0	0	--	0	--	4	19	0	0	0	June	
July	93.3	63.7	78.5	109	1940	51	1954	0	2.64	3.46	1960	0	0	--	0	--	5	23	0	0	0	July	
Aug.	92.2	62.7	77.4	110	1944	48	1956	0	2.62	4.36	1932	0	0	--	0	--	4	22	0	0	0	Aug.	
Sept.	85.3	55.0	70.2	105	1939+	31	1945	40	2.10	5.26	1957	0	0	--	0	--	3	10	0	*	0	Sept.	
Oct.	74.3	44.3	59.3	98	1951	24	1949+	220	1.89	3.65	1942	0.2	5.0	1936	5.0	1936	3	1	0	2	0	Oct.	
Nov.	60.9	31.4	46.3	85	1932+	0	1952	560	0.46	1.46	1935	0.6	5.6	1931	5.6	1931	1	0	1	17	*	Nov.	
Dec.	53.0	25.8	39.4	78	1948+	- 4	1950	790	0.59	1.88	1943	2.4	11.3	1931	7.4	1931	2	0	2	26	*	Dec.	
Year	72.6	43.1	57.9	110	Aug. 1944	-17	Feb. 1951	4030	17.47	5.26	1957	7.8	11.3	Dec. 1931	8.0	Jan. 1946	32	81	7	113	1	Year	

* Less than one half.

** Base 65° F (estimated).

(a) Average length of record, years.

† Trace, an amount too small to measure.

+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

‡ Partial year's record considered.

CLIMATE OF CLOVIS, NEW MEXICO

The city of Clovis is located in the extreme southeastern portion of Curry County in east-central New Mexico near the State's east border. Founded by the Santa Fe Railway engineers in 1906 and incorporated in 1909, it is the county seat. Clovis is surrounded by the Eastern New Mexico High Plains, gently rolling and generally level except for breaks along various watercourses. The area is one of extensive farming and stock raising; and cotton, truck, and feed crops are grown under irrigation pumped from abundant underground water supplies, while winter grains and summer feed crops are raised in dry-land farming areas. Stock raising plays an important part in the area economy, and Clovis is one of the largest livestock markets and commercial feeding centers in the Southwest. Clovis Air Force Base, a permanent installation, is located adjacent to the city.

Situated near the southwestern edge of the Great Plains, Clovis has a semiarid continental climate, little influenced by the topography except for an occasional upslope movement of air in the winter, which may produce low cloudiness, rain, and possible icing for several hours. Otherwise, winters are dry and sunny with mild daytime temperatures but night minima usually well below freezing. Few of the cold arctic outbreaks which sweep across the northern plains in winter penetrate so far south and west, so that there are on an average only seven days a year when shade temperatures remain below freezing. In the 30 years of record summarized here, only 23 days had minimum readings of zero or below. Winter precipitation totals average about one-half inch per month, with less than 20 per cent of the year's moisture falling in the November-April period. Some of this precipitation falls as snow; yet the average in December and January, the snowiest months, is only 2.4 inches, and snow seldom lies on the ground more than a few hours.

Summer is the rainy season, with 80 per cent of the year's moisture falling during the May-September months. Much of this precipitation comes during brief but sometimes heavy thundershowers, accompanied by considerable lightning, some hail, and briefly strong winds. Throughout 40 years of tornado records for New

Mexico only two small tornadoes have been recorded in the Clovis area: the first on June 10, 1932, caused property damage estimated at \$15,000; the other on September 17, 1944, caused damage estimated at \$25,000. No deaths or injuries resulted. Although July and August are the rainiest months, only four or five days each month bring as much as one-tenth inch of rain. Daytime temperatures in June, July, and August average above 90°, but only 12 days a year on an average have temperatures of 100° or higher. Daily readings range from quite high levels to ones averaging 30° lower than the highs.

Clovis has an average growing season of 195 days, beginning with April 15, the average date of the last freeze, and ending on October 28, the average date of the first freeze. Sunshine, relative humidity, and wind records are not available for Clovis. The following information is taken from records at stations in that general area and are considered applicable to Clovis: the sun normally shines between 70 per cent and 80 per cent of the possible hours, with winter months usually clear and sunny; relative humidities range from about 70 per cent in early morning to about 40 per cent in late afternoon and are usually much lower during periods of high or low temperatures, thereby making such extremes less uncomfortable; wind velocities average about 12 miles per hour, with the prevailing direction being southerly and southwesterly. Late winter and spring are the windiest seasons, with occasional gusts ranging from 30 to 40 miles per hour, bringing considerable dust for several hours.

Although weather records began in Clovis in June 1911, only the years 1931 through 1960 are included in this summary. (See Station History at left.) The roof exposures in effect from September 1944 to February 1951 probably resulted in minimum temperature readings slightly higher than a ground exposure would have given. Extreme values are published for the 30-year period, but the following extremes were noted in earlier records:

(Continued Under Precipitation Table)

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1931	40.1	44.0	45.9	55.4	63.8	77.9	78.6	75.0	75.1	61.3	47.9	39.3	58.7
1932	34.6	48.0	42.7	58.2	66.7	74.1	79.6	76.9	67.6	56.6	46.3	27.0	56.5
1933	38.3	31.4	44.9	50.0	61.7	73.6	79.3	77.0	74.4	62.4	48.8	46.3	57.4
1934	40.7	43.0	48.6	61.0	70.7	79.8	83.6	81.0	69.7	64.2	50.5	41.6	61.4
1935	43.0	44.8	51.6	57.8	62.0	74.5	79.0	78.0	67.2	60.2	46.2	38.0	58.4
1936	34.0	40.8	53.5	59.6	68.7	78.7	80.0	80.6	69.0	56.8	44.4	40.6	58.9
1937	32.8	40.2	42.7	57.9	68.4	75.4	80.9	81.5	72.1	60.0	46.8	38.2	58.0
1938	39.4	42.3	49.2	57.6	67.4	75.2	78.0	80.0	71.4	60.6	46.8	40.4	59.0
1939	37.2	35.2	50.7	57.0	67.6	78.2	79.8	76.4	72.6	58.9	45.0	41.4	58.3
1940	32.7	41.5	51.1	57.0	68.7	75.3	83.1	76.4	63.0	63.0	43.0	42.9	59.0
1941	38.6	43.6	44.4	56.8	66.0	72.6	78.0	77.6	70.3	59.9	48.4	40.5	58.0
1942	37.5	39.3	49.0	59.1	67.9	77.8	80.8	77.8	69.8	58.6	52.8	43.0	59.2
1943	41.6	49.0	51.2	65.3	67.8	79.4	81.8	85.4	72.3	60.8	46.5	38.9	61.7
1944	38.4	45.4	50.4	57.8	68.4	78.4	80.6	81.2	71.0	58.0	46.3	35.4	59.3
1945	38.2	42.6	49.0	51.3	66.2	72.2	76.1	77.4	69.5	57.5	48.2	37.2	57.2
1946	34.9	41.6	50.2	61.6	62.2	75.0	78.6	77.4	69.9	60.8	46.0	42.3	58.4
1947	34.8	36.9	42.8	52.2	65.3	74.0	77.6	75.4	70.8	61.8	40.1	37.7	54.9
1948	31.0	36.2	39.5	52.2	65.2	74.2	77.4	75.7	69.0	56.7	41.9	41.4	55.6
1949	26.4	39.9	48.5	54.7	65.3	72.5	76.8	73.7	67.9	56.4	52.5	35.7	55.9
1950	41.9	44.7	46.8	56.3	64.3	74.3	73.7	73.3	66.0	63.3	47.3	40.0	57.6
1951	36.0	40.2	45.3	54.8	64.0	72.5	78.6	77.7	69.5	59.3	43.5	38.6	56.7
1952	40.9	42.6	45.2	55.4	65.1	77.9	76.2	78.4	67.5	57.8	41.3	38.3	57.3
1953	45.4	40.2	52.2	55.5	63.5	80.0	79.2	75.8	70.7	59.9	47.8	36.1	58.9
1954	40.5	48.4	46.5	61.3	63.4	75.5	80.5	76.9	71.9	59.8	49.4	41.9	59.7
1955	37.3	37.8	47.1	56.6	62.9	71.2	75.5	70.7	59.1	46.6	42.1	41.9	56.9
1956	40.4	35.6	49.5	54.9	68.6	76.7	77.2	75.0	71.5	61.4	44.2	41.7	58.0
1957	38.0	47.9	47.1	52.3	61.6	71.9	78.3	75.8	66.1	55.5	41.7	43.7	56.7
1958	36.0	41.6	40.1	52.6	67.0	75.5	78.2	77.3	69.1	56.2	48.2	39.3	56.8
1959	36.6	39.0	46.3	55.1	65.6	74.4	74.6	76.1	70.5	55.1	42.1	39.9	56.3
1960	33.6	34.6	44.3	58.2	63.6	74.6	74.0	75.2	69.0	57.5	48.3	33.8	55.6

STATION HISTORY

A Clovis climatological substation was established three blocks east-northeast of the Post Office on June 14, 1911. The instruments were sheltered on the roof of a small shed with the floor about 10 feet above ground. Mr. J. H. Barry was the first observer, continuing the records without a break through September 1944. On May 12, 1942, the equipment was moved to a ground exposure at the same site. On October 1, 1942, the Soil Conservation Service began monthly reports from its own standard equipment exposed on the roof of the SCS office about one-quarter mile north-northeast of the Post Office. This exposure was about 20 feet above ground. This station was made the official Clovis station on October 1, 1944, and was used until February 20, 1951, when the equipment was again moved to a ground installation at 1312 Prince Street some nine tenths of a mile northeast of the Post Office. Mr. Karl Kramer of the Soil Conservation Service has continued the records at this site.

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1931	1.46	0.52	0.62	3.09	1.06	0.60	3.06	4.87	3.41	0.70	1.68	1.15	22.22
1932	0.57	0.49	0.32	1.17	2.45	4.00	1.27	7.38	3.38	0.46	0.00	0.86	22.80
1933	1.04	0.54	0.21	T	2.03	0.29	2.81	3.30	1.85	0.08	1.11	0.00	12.26
1934	T	0.32	0.97	1.73	0.93	1.53	2.19	1.30	0.67	0.69	0.86	0.08	11.77
1935	0.16	0.03	0.27	0.03	4.02	3.82	2.56	2.05	0.45	T	1.87	0.22	15.48
1936	0.80	0.10	0.00	T	7.00	1.98	0.69	0.61	6.88	0.99	0.00	0.00	30.35
1937	0.11	0.24	1.40	0.20	5.05	3.76	2.04	1.03	4.17	1.69	T	0.58	20.27
1938	0.52	0.55	0.96	T	0.98	3.45	3.66	1.23	3.46	5.00	0.00	0.11	20.32
1939	1.94	0.10	0.54	0.50	2.11	1.16	0.90	4.62	0.28	1.23	0.33	0.94	14.55
1940	0.26	0.31	T	0.95	2.62	1.01	0.45	1.51	0.48	0.86	1.76	0.11	10.32
1941	0.35	0.25	2.48	3.43	11.87	8.57	4.60	2.02	6.79	5.96	0.16	0.43	46.91
1942	T	0.59	0.03	2.64	0.79	1.30	1.87	7.01	0.64	6.27	0.00	1.19	22.33
1943	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10	1.01	0.48	0.91	0.89	0.87	0.10	0.60	2.62	7.58
1944	0.20	0.52	0.00	1.12	1.48	2.51	0.86	3.11	2.03	0.61	0.89	1.06	14.19
1945	0.59	0.26	0.17	0.16	0.33	T	2.79	1.48	3.02	0.69	T	0.04	9.53
1946	0.64	0.09	0.56	0.66	0.31	1.16	1.77	2.39	2.88	5.16	0.53	0.41	16.16
1947	0.65	0.09	0.56	1.32	3.23	0.06	1.15	2.36	0.24	0.42	0.76	1.06	11.90
1948	0.37	1.25	0.28	0.25	1.04	2.59	1.32	3.47	0.48	0.27	0.58	0.21	12.11
1949	1.23	0.65	0.29	0.52	5.58	5.29	2.07	3.82	1.53	2.44	0.13	0.57	24.12
1950	T	0.02	T	0.41	0.83	3.48	8.96	2.31	1.80	0.97	T	0.05	18.81
1951	0.70	0.74	0.19	0.12	3.52	2.31	1.86	1.09	0.20	1.86	0.38	0.57	13.54
1952	0.54	0.29	0.26	3.06	0.37	2.13	2.18	1.00	0.85	0.00	1.25	0.40	12.33
1953	0.68	0.29	0.71	1.09	1.09	0.03	2.82	3.23	0.00	1.61	0.37	0.30	12.22
1954	0.22	0.52	0.10	0.86	1.34	1.06	0.50	6.13	0.14	3.65	0.02	0.22	14.86
1955	0.30	T	0.01	0.80	2.10	2.68	4.37	0.58	1.49	0.43	0.02	0.03	12.79
1956	0.08	1.32	0.08	0.26	2.87	2.10	1.29	0.55	0.41	1.21	T	T	10.09
1957	0.15	0.49	1.66	1.08	5.05	0.06	0.36	3.51	5.26	3.00	0.74	T	21.36
1958	1.39	0.12	1.88	1.36	1.50	2.60	2.88	1.83	6.72	1.01	0.51	0.27	21.87
1959	0.05	0.12	0.23	0.37	1.53	6.09	3.86	2.64	0.25	2.48	0.07	2.18	19.87
1960	1.58	1.07	0.32	0.26	1.25	2.88	13.44	1.18	1.85	6.76	0	1.70	32.29

Climate (continued)

Record highest temperature:	Record lowest temperature:	Greatest daily precipitation:	Greatest monthly snowfall:
June	109°	1918	
January	- 8°	1919	
April	12°	1913	
June	36°	1919	
August	46°	1920	
October	13°	1917	
December	- 9°	1918+	
February	1.30	1912	
March	1.47	1919	
April	2.87	1915	
June	3.93	1923	
July	4.69	1921	
February	11.50	1913	
March	14.20	1915	
April	4.00	1919	
November	11.00	1923	
December	11.80	1923	

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