

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

LATITUDE: 32° 16' N  
LONGITUDE: 107° 45' W  
ELEV. (GROUND): 4331 Ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION: DEMING  
NEW MEXICO

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD: 1930 - 1960

Month	Temperature (°F)								** Mean degree days	Precipitation Totals (Inches)							Mean number of days					Month	
	Means				Extremes					Mean	Greatest daily	Year	Snow, Sleet					Temperatures					
	Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Record highest	Year	Record lowest	Year	Precip. .10 inch or more					Maximum monthly	Year	Greatest daily	Year	90° and above		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) a		
Jan.	55.3	25.7	40.6	79	1950	- 4	1947	760	0.40	0.87	1936	0.9	9.0	1947	5.5	1946	2	0	1	25	*	Jan.	
Feb.	60.9	29.3	45.1	81	1957	7	1946	560	0.61	0.75	1949	0.6	6.5	1956	3.5	1956	2	0	*	18	0	Feb.	
Mar.	67.4	34.1	50.7	88	1943	15	1949	440	0.33	0.64	1945	0.3	6.0	1958	6.0	1958	1	0	0	12	0	Mar.	
Apr.	76.5	41.8	59.1	98	1943	20	1945+	200	0.30	1.25	1941	0	0	--	0	--	1	1	0	3	0	Apr.	
May	85.3	49.4	67.4	105	1951	28	1953+	40	0.25	0.81	1952	0	0	--	0	--	1	10	0	*	0	May	
June	95.3	59.5	77.5	108	1952	41	1955+	0	0.46	1.60	1933	0	0	--	0	--	1	26	0	0	0	June	
July	95.1	65.6	80.4	110	1951	51	1955	0	1.63	2.21	1957	0	0	--	0	--	4	26	0	0	0	July	
Aug.	92.9	64.3	78.6	106	1944	52	1940+	0	1.61	1.45	1959	0	0	--	0	--	4	24	0	0	0	Aug.	
Sept.	88.1	57.3	72.8	103	1948	39	1945	0	1.27	1.95	1958	0	0	--	0	--	3	14	0	0	0	Sept.	
Oct.	78.0	46.0	62.0	95	1956+	27	1956+	130	0.76	1.60	1933	0	0	--	0	--	2	1	0	1	0	Oct.	
Nov.	64.9	32.9	48.8	84	1935+	8	1938	490	0.30	0.64	1944	0.1	3.5	1931	3.0	1931	1	0	0	15	0	Nov.	
Dec.	57.2	26.8	42.0	77	1958+	- 1	1953	710	0.55	0.85	1930	0.4	7.0	1960	3.0	1960	2	0	*	25	*	Dec.	
Year	76.4	44.4	60.4	110	July 1951	- 4	Jan. 1947	3330	8.47	2.21	July 1957	2.3	9.0	Jan. 1947	6.0	Mar. 1958	24	102	1	99	*	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 DEMING, NEW MEXICO

The city of Deming, county seat of Luna County, is located near the center of the county in southwestern New Mexico and is the hub both of extensive ranch country and of an irrigated area where cotton, truck, feed, and other crops are grown. Deming is situated on a rolling, sandy plain, extending east, south, and westward with little interruption except for the Florida mountains, a small group about 12 miles south-southeast. To the west the terrain rises gradually to the Continental Divide some 30 miles away but only a few hundred feet higher. About 15 miles to the north and northwest are the foothills of the Black and the Mimbres mountains. The plains country is covered with natural grasses and sagebrush, except where farming is carried on under irrigation.

Although rainfall records began in the Deming area in 1869 and temperature records in 1905, this summary covers only the most recent 30 years of complete record. The record for 1943 was not used in obtaining means, as it is incomplete; but it was used in obtaining temperature extremes.

With an average annual rainfall of less than nine inches, Deming's climate is classified as "arid continental." July through September are the "rainy" months: normally, during this period 52 per cent of the year's rain falls, practically all of it during brief but occasionally heavy showers and thunderstorms. Prolonged rainy periods are practically unknown. Fall, winter, and spring are normally dry; an average of only one or two days a month get as much as one-tenth inch of rain. There is some snow in the winter, but it ordinarily melts nearly as fast as it falls or--at the most--lies for only a few hours.

Summers are characterized by moderately warm days. Maxima are usually in the 90s, at times rising to 100° or higher. The elevation, the prevalence of clear skies--especially at night--and the dry desert air cause rapid radiation after sundown, so that most nights are comfortably cool. Maximum temperatures usually av-

erage highest during June. In July and August frequent afternoon thundershowers tend to hold down daytime temperatures. Winters are mild and sunny. Daytime temperatures during the coldest months average well up in the 50s; and, although minima usually drop below freezing, only three times in 50 years have below-zero readings been recorded.

The average date of the last spring freeze is April 2; the average date for the first temperature of 32° or lower in the fall is November 2; therefore, the average growing season is 214 days--approximately seven months. Sunshine, relative humidity, and wind records are not available for Deming. However, records for nearby locations apparently render the following information applicable to the Deming area:

This city is located in a section of the United States noted for abundance of sunshine: at Deming approximately 80 per cent of the possible sunshine is experienced during the year. Winters are especially noted for their almost unbroken clear skies and sunny weather. As may be expected in an arid climate, humidities are low, ranging over the year from around 60 per cent during cool morning hours to 30 per cent in late afternoons. During the spring and early summer, afternoon humidities are considerably lower, averaging 15 per cent to 25 per cent and sometimes as low as 5 per cent. Winds average around 10 miles per hour for the year, and the prevailing direction is westerly. Late winter and spring are the windiest, with hourly averages rising to about 12 miles per hour. Occasionally during these months moderate-to-strong winds bring much blowing dust.

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Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1930	39.5	48.4	48.1	62.9	63.4	80.6	78.7	77.8	72.0	60.6	46.8	37.5	59.7
1931	38.9	45.4	50.6	59.8	70.4	79.8	81.8	78.2	75.8	65.6	49.6	41.0	61.4
1932	39.0	49.7	50.8	61.1	70.1	78.6	82.6	81.3	72.9	61.0	51.8	41.8	61.7
1933	40.9	42.4	55.2	64.5	62.0	72.3	77.8	74.9	72.4	62.2	51.2	43.8	59.1
1934	39.2	46.6	53.2	62.5	71.2	75.6	80.2	78.8	71.8	62.7	49.0	42.5	61.1
1935	41.6	42.4	50.0	58.8	61.4	76.4	80.5	76.4	70.2	63.1	49.0	42.4	59.4
1936	42.6	46.4	53.9	62.0	71.6	80.6	81.9	81.2	72.7	61.2	47.8	43.2	62.1
1937	38.4	45.8	49.6	59.5	65.0	72.6	78.8	80.7	71.6	60.6	48.6	40.6	59.4
1938	41.3	48.4	51.5	56.4	64.3	75.9	75.7	76.3	68.9	62.0	42.8	41.8	58.8
1939	38.2	35.2	49.5	57.2	67.2	75.7	78.0	77.0	72.2	57.6	46.5	46.2	58.4
1940	37.1	43.2	50.8	55.6	67.0	74.5	78.8	76.2	72.6	59.3	45.1	43.8	58.7
1941	40.7	46.4	47.2	52.0	66.2	73.4	78.1	76.8	71.0	61.1	49.5	42.2	58.7
1942	41.6	41.0	47.4	57.5	65.6	76.6	79.6	75.8	68.6	57.8	50.4	42.6	58.8
1944	38.0	46.0	50.8	58.0	69.0	75.4	82.4	81.2	73.2	64.5	49.4	43.4	60.9
1945	44.2	49.1	48.6	56.4	68.4	75.8	83.2	82.6	74.8	63.6	52.4	39.2	61.6
1946	35.0	39.7	48.8	61.0	63.4	76.9	76.6	76.6	71.5	60.3	48.0	44.5	58.5
1947	37.0	48.6	52.9	60.3	70.2	75.1	82.4	79.1	75.6	65.2	46.1	39.6	61.0
1948	39.6	44.8	49.0	62.5	70.9	80.2	83.1	82.3	75.4	62.6	44.7	44.0	61.6
1949	34.9	43.7	51.9	59.5	68.4	78.2	80.5	78.2	73.3	59.2	52.4	40.4	60.1
1950	43.3	48.5	53.1	62.4	67.6	79.8	78.8	78.5	71.1	67.2	51.9	46.5	62.4
1951	41.7	44.8	51.5	57.7	68.8	75.6	84.3	80.3	75.8	63.8	48.1	43.6	61.3
1952	45.8	43.8	47.4	59.0	68.4	77.8	80.3	80.1	72.4	63.5	45.8	39.5	60.3
1953	45.5	45.0	52.9	59.6	63.1	79.8	81.8	79.1	73.2	60.8	50.1	35.8	60.5
1954	43.2	49.2	51.0	65.0	70.2	78.9	81.4	77.2	75.5	64.1	51.5	41.8	62.4
1955	38.8	41.7	51.9	58.5	66.9	75.8	77.6	77.3	73.2	62.9	51.1	45.6	60.1
1956	45.2	40.7	52.1	57.0	70.1	81.7	80.8	77.3	75.0	63.4	44.9	41.2	60.8
1957	46.4	53.9	52.0	59.1	64.8	78.6	82.5	78.2	70.5	59.1	46.0	42.8	61.2
1958	39.0	47.9	46.5	57.5	69.9	81.5	82.1	79.4	71.4	60.9	54.4	44.1	61.2
1959	43.5	43.6	50.5	61.1	68.4	79.1	80.7	78.1	72.8	62.4	48.2	42.1	60.9
1960	36.7	42.3	53.8	58.9	68.0	80.8	79.6	80.1	75.4	60.6	50.9	37.9	60.5

## STATION HISTORY

Early published bulletins carry Deming rainfall records for the years between 1869 and 1873. We have no information regarding the source of these early records. The assumption is that they were made by army personnel at some nearby post and that the original records are on file in the National Archives. Since April 1, 1882, records have been made by the agent of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Some of the early records were obtained from instrumental equipment belonging to the railroad, but are considered standard as to type of equipment and exposure. Indications are that the equipment has been exposed on the ground near the depot throughout the period of record made by the railroad.

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1930	T	0.52	0.83	T	0.45	T	3.67	1.84	T	0.07	0.48	0.85	8.71
1931	0.40	2.18	T	1.67	T	0.58	1.44	1.42	1.31	0.07	0.33	0.38	9.79
1932	0.12	0.39	0.39	T	T	0.05	2.53	1.16	1.11	1.41	0.00	1.54	8.70
1933	0.42	1.03	0.04	0.25	0.05	3.24	1.08	1.05	1.82	2.84	0.15	0.00	11.97
1934	0.00	0.28	0.60	0.18	0.50	0.93	0.99	2.71	0.05	0.88	0.35	0.21	7.68
1935	0.58	1.02	0.10	0.08	0.63	0.48	0.33	2.41	2.81	T	0.64	0.58	9.66
1936	1.09	0.73	0.37	0.57	1.15	0.29	0.15	1.23	2.06	0.45	1.10	0.70	9.89
1937	0.32	0.72	0.83	0.00	1.10	0.60	0.70	0.28	3.60	2.20	0.15	1.11	11.61
1938	0.30	0.40	0.48	0.00	0.00	1.17	1.92	T	3.53	0.00	0.00	1.55	9.35
1939	0.25	0.40	0.22	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.80	1.35	2.43	1.22	0.50	0.52	8.00
1940	0.28	0.83	0.10	0.52	1.09	0.66	0.33	0.13	0.33	0.15	0.51	0.80	5.73
1941	1.51	1.46	0.67	1.87	0.79	0.22	1.17	1.52	3.41	1.17	0.30	1.00	14.89
1942	0.23	0.35	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	1.57	3.80	2.44	0.40	0.00	1.14	10.24
1944	0.22	0.46	0.00	0.12	0.07	1.45	2.64	2.69	3.63	0.73	1.96	0.07	14.04
1945	0.25	0.00	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.71	0.00	1.75	0.00	0.00	5.35
1946	1.31	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.18	0.12	0.96	1.29	1.56	1.46	0.27	0.01	7.79
1947	0.59	0.11	0.37	T	0.15	0.72	0.64	1.61	0.07	0.00	0.61	0.59	5.46
1948	0.22	1.26	0.07	0.01	0.00	0.20	0.75	0.04	0.41	0.82	0.00	1.48	5.26
1949	1.36	1.25	0.07	0.00	0.02	0.20	2.35	1.92	2.03	0.72	0.03	0.67	10.62
1950	0.20	0.06	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.21	4.76	0.39	1.22	0.94	0.00	0.00	7.83
1951	0.06	0.06	0.56	1.15	0.04	0.65	1.92	1.99	0.00	1.84	0.47	0.34	8.29
1952	0.00	0.29	0.60	0.51	0.86	0.65	1.92	1.99	0.66	0.00	0.30	0.59	8.37
1953	0.01	1.24	0.22	0.07	0.23	0.09	1.61	0.47	0.06	0.41	0.10	0.11	4.39
1954	0.15	0.01	0.22	0.00	0.23	0.72	1.42	2.08	0.54	1.18	0.00	0.07	6.62
1955	0.79	0.09	0.39	0	0.12	0.06	2.63	2.77	0.07	0.04	0.15	0	7.11
1956	0.41	0.36	0	0	0	T	1.07	0.62	0.02	0.07	0.06	0.15	2.76
1957	0.96	0.58	0.36	0.29	0.38	0.11	3.91	3.45	0.03	1.45	0.39	0.05	11.96
1958	0.24	1.93	1.79	1.12	0.34	0.27	3.04	2.84	6.38	1.46	0.08	0	19.49
1959	0.24	0.02	0	0	0	0	0.81	3.68	0	0.58	0.20	0.20	5.73
1960	0.59	0.25	T	0	T	0.05	1.61	0.27	0.31	0.84	0.11	1.07	5.10