

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

LATITUDE: 35° 36' N
LONGITUDE: 105° 12' W
ELEV. (GROUND): 6470 Ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION: LAS VEGAS
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	32° and below	Max.		Min.		
																				32° and below	0° and below	32° and below	0° and below	
(a)	30	30	30	30	--	30	--	30	30	30	--	30	30	--	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	(a)	
Jan.	48.4	16.3	32.2	72	1950	-24	1949	1020	0.64	1.55	1948	6.0	30.5	1939	14.0	1934	2	0	2	29	2	2	Jan.	
Feb.	51.5	20.1	35.8	78	1949	-29	1933	820	0.47	0.90	1948	5.2	27.4	1948	9.0	1948	1	0	1	26	1	1	Feb.	
Mar.	56.4	24.7	40.5	88	1943	-10	1931	760	0.78	2.30	1946	6.4	33.0	1941	24.0	1946	2	0	1	25	*	*	Mar.	
Apr.	64.9	32.3	48.5	83	1943+	-3	1945	500	0.91	1.66	1931	3.7	28.0	1958	18.0	1958	2	0	*	15	*	*	Apr.	
May	72.0	40.9	56.7	92	1951	20	1953	270	1.81	1.89	1932	0.6	7.0	1935	7.0	1935	4	*	0	3	0	0	May	
June	82.7	48.6	65.6	100	1952	32	1947+	60	1.79	1.97	1938	0	0	--	0	--	4	4	0	*	0	0	June	
July	84.9	53.2	69.0	99	1951	41	1955	10	2.58	2.19	1937	0	0	--	0	--	6	5	0	0	0	0	July	
Aug.	83.6	52.7	68.2	98	1948	39	1941	20	2.59	2.30	1946	0	0	--	0	--	6	4	0	0	0	0	Aug.	
Sept.	78.2	45.2	61.9	94	1939	25	1946	120	2.20	3.87	1942	0.5	9.0	1936	5.6	1936	4	1	0	1	0	0	Sept.	
Oct.	69.2	35.4	52.2	90	1940	15	1945	400	1.06	2.70	1954	0.5	5.0	1960	5.0	1960	2	*	0	11	0	0	Oct.	
Nov.	57.4	22.5	40.2	86	1940	-14	1957	740	0.60	1.10	1946	3.4	23.0	1946	14.0	1940	2	0	1	26	1	1	Nov.	
Dec.	50.8	18.1	34.5	80	1939	-14	1957	950	0.44	1.00	1943	4.4	15.3	1960	10.5	1947	1	0	2	29	1	1	Dec.	
Year	66.7	34.2	50.5	100	June 1952	-29	Feb. 1933	5670	16.17	3.87	Sept. 1942	30.7	33.0	Mar. 1941	24.0	Mar. 1946	36	14	7	165	5	5	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 LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO

Las Vegas, county seat of San Miguel County, is located in the west-central portion of the county on the eastern slope of the Sangre de Cristo mountains. These mountains, lying west and northwest of the city from 30 to 50 miles distant, rise to peaks 7,000 to 13,000 feet above sea level. From northeast through southeast to southwest the general terrain has a gradual downward slope to the Mora, Canadian, and Pecos river valleys. Its equitable climate and nearness to mountain lakes and streams make Las Vegas a favorite vacation spot. Ranching, farming, and railroading are the chief occupations in the area. New Mexico Highlands University is located in the city.

Weather records in the Las Vegas area were begun in 1893 and have been continued with only minor interruption ever since. Only the most recent 30 years of records are summarized in this publication. The only extreme value of interest noted in records prior to 1931 was a minimum of -31° in February 1905, a reading lower than any other during the last 30 years.

The Las Vegas climate is continental in character, with moderately cold winters and mild, pleasant summers. Because of the prevalent sunshine, winter daytime readings generally are near 50°, but nighttime readings fall below the freezing mark much of the time from November through March. There is, however, an average of only five days a year when readings drop below zero, and only about seven days when the high temperature fails to go above 32°. Summers are cool, with less than 15 days with a reading of 90° or higher. Only once in recorded weather history has the temperature reached 100°.

With approximately 16 inches of annual precipitation, the climate is considered semiarid. However, since 76 per cent of this annual moisture normally falls during the summer growing season (May through October), there is sufficient rain to develop some crops and to provide good grazing during the average year. Winter, with only 24 per cent of the year's moisture, normally has no more than two days a month with as much as one-tenth inch of precipitation. Much of this winter precipitation falls as snow. Some of the more severe storms produce in 24 hours up to two feet, which may lie on the ground for some time. Usually, however, there is little snow cover in the area, although nearby mountains may carry a snow cover throughout the winter.

Wind records made at the airport at Las Vegas show an average hourly velocity for the year of 11.9 miles per hour. Generally, March is the windiest month, with velocities averaging 15.1 miles per hour. Prevailing winds at the airport blow from the south and southwest. Winds above 24 miles are experienced only 7 per cent of the time. The relative humidity is moderately low, ranging from about 65 per cent in the early morning hours to around 30 per cent during the warmer part of the day in the warmer months. Sunshine is approximately 75 per cent of that possible for the year. The growing season averages about 154 days; the average date of the last springtime freezing temperature is May 8, and the average date of the first temperature of 32° in the fall is October 9.

G. F. VON ESCHEN
State Climatologist
Weather Bureau Airport Station
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1931	30.9	36.3	36.4	47.6	54.5	66.3	68.2	65.7	63.6	52.0	39.0	33.4	49.5
1932	27.6	39.0	37.8	49.6	55.4	62.8	69.0	67.5	59.4	49.4	41.8	27.4	48.9
1933	34.6	30.7	43.1	45.5	55.9	65.2	70.0	66.6	65.0	54.0	42.6	40.6	51.2
1934	32.1	40.4	45.2	50.9	60.4	67.1	73.2	71.5	61.6	55.1	40.8	34.7	52.8
1935	36.8	35.2	43.2	48.6	51.8	65.0	68.2	67.0	59.2	51.0	40.4	33.4	50.0
1936	31.6	37.6	43.1	49.6	58.2	69.8	70.8	71.5	62.0	50.1	40.0	34.0	51.5
1937	25.7	35.2	36.9	49.0	58.1	64.4	68.7	71.0	63.4	50.2	37.4	30.9	49.2
1938	28.0	35.4	42.5	43.5	55.0	64.6	67.4	68.3	61.2	52.8	39.4	38.4	49.7
1939	34.6	33.0	43.3	49.1	56.4	65.3	72.4	74.0	65.8	57.0	41.2	36.3	52.4
1940	30.6	33.7	42.4	51.1	58.3	65.4	70.6	67.8	67.2	57.6	40.3	38.1	51.9
1941	32.3	38.0	37.6	44.8	57.8	61.4	65.4	64.3	60.2	50.0	41.4	37.0	49.2
1942	33.9	29.9	38.4	50.0	56.6	65.2	67.2	66.4	59.1	50.1	45.4	38.2	50.0
1943	33.8	41.2	44.6	52.4	58.4	65.8	69.6	70.4	61.4	50.0	39.8	27.9	51.3
1944	25.9	34.4	40.1	44.8	55.9	64.6	68.1	68.6	60.5	52.2	40.6	34.6	49.2
1945	33.1	40.0	41.4	45.3	57.3	63.2	68.0	68.6	60.2	53.0	44.7	33.8	50.7
1946	33.4	35.8	42.2	53.2	54.8	66.5	68.6	68.8	63.6	49.2	39.0	37.6	51.1
1947	32.6	36.4	40.6	50.4	57.8	64.8	69.9	68.7	64.4	54.6	36.0	32.6	50.7
1948	30.2	30.6	32.0	52.3	57.4	65.5	68.4	70.8	62.6	55.0	36.4	36.3	49.8
1949	22.7	35.3	43.3	47.9	57.6	64.9	69.2	67.3	63.7	51.0	48.4	34.7	50.5
1950	38.7	39.6	41.3	52.5	57.6	67.0	68.4	66.7	60.4	60.6	45.6	42.6	53.4
1951	33.8	37.2	42.4	49.0	58.7	65.6	72.9	69.9	63.6	54.0	40.1	36.5	52.0
1952	39.0	38.0	38.1	49.2	58.0	70.9	68.6	70.4	61.8	52.9	35.2	32.0	51.2
1953	40.5	32.9	44.2	51.1	55.5	69.2	70.1	67.7	61.6	51.7	42.9	29.7	51.4
1954	35.0	42.2	38.8	52.0	57.8	66.2	70.6	66.7	62.2	52.9	41.6	33.2	51.6
1955	29.8	30.5	40.9	46.1	54.3	61.8	67.5	66.5	61.3	52.0	42.1	37.2	48.2
1956	36.5	31.9	41.7	45.9	59.3	68.1	68.2	66.1	62.7	51.6	35.5	33.2	50.1
1957	35.4	41.5	40.5	44.6	53.1	65.6	70.0	65.4	67.9	48.7	30.2	35.9	49.1
1958	28.7	37.5	33.2	43.4	57.9	65.3	68.9	67.1	60.1	49.5	41.3	36.1	49.1
1959	30.2	33.2	37.9	47.0	56.0	64.6	66.9	67.2	59.3	49.6	37.7	31.7	48.5
1960	27.3	30.0	41.6	49.4	55.1	65.6	66.1	66.2	61.4	49.3	40.2	26.1	48.3

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1931	.68	1.28	2.71	3.62	.65	2.08	6.60	3.24	1.92	1.33	.38		24.49
1932	.70	.63	.26	.85	3.93	1.49	3.77	2.30	3.59	1.24	0	.52	19.28
1933	.15	.31	.56	.33	5.00	2.37	3.26	4.85	.40	.01	1.16		.35
1934	.96	.50	.05	.57	2.82	.25	1.57	1.85	.62	.49	1.46	0	10.94
1935	.94	.61	0	1.85	5.38	1.15	1.16	8.95	3.49	.77	1.17	.12	24.99
1936	.35	0	.06	.11	1.87	1.42	.94	1.31	3.00	.10	T	.29	9.45
1937	.30	.21	1.70	.81	2.07	3.42	3.07	.82	3.94	.06	0	.05	16.25
1938	.45	.96	.18	.15	.32	5.07	2.06	.95	6.07	0	.28	.72	17.21
1939	3.24	.40	1.01	1.29	.69	.81	3.76	.38	2.24	.77	.40	.41	15.40
1940	.37	.79	1.09	.20	4.20	.19	1.76	4.47	2.05	.41	1.58	.88	17.99
1941	.72	.50	3.69	1.61	3.90	2.86	2.78	5.63	7.03	3.08	.03	.26	32.29
1942	.25	.15	.50	2.81	.06	.61	2.38	2.89	8.03	1.73	0	1.40	20.81
1943	.26	T	.21	.08	.75	.35	2.87	2.27	.51	.54	.77	1.48	10.09
1944	1.10	0.26	.18	2.05	1.69	.59	2.82	.87	.40	2.00	.66	.43	13.05
1945	0.56	T	0	1.22	.40	1.85	.85	.84	3.71	.32	0	.25	10.00
1946	.19	.17	2.57	.31	1.10	.29	5.00	3.69	3.13	1.22	2.79	0	20.46
1947	.35	.35	.52	.10	1.81	2.25	.57	1.65	0.15	1.57	.53	.70	10.55
1948	2.37	2.83	1.44	T	2.66	5.94	.40	.01	0	.07	.22	.05	15.99
1949	2.35	.77	1.07	2.19	0.71	3.98	4.73	1.62	3.58	.16	0	0	21.16
1950	T	.06	.03	.25	.19	3.39	4.34	1.00	2.99	.10	.10	0	12.45
1951	T	.08	.86	.205	1.84	1.84	1.46	3.59	0.05	0	1.12	.23	11.28
1952	.34	1.06	.39	1.16	1.82	1.16	3.04	4.18	1.27	0	.98	.52	14.92
1953	T	.76	.35	T	1.79	1.11	1.98	2.95	.17	.67	1.62	.85	12.25
1954	.47	.08	.08	.05	1.44	.80	2.32	2.65	2.20	2.80	.14	1.11	14.14
1955	.20	.29	.07	.29	3.32	.80	1.68	1.40	2.25	.89	.01	.38	11.58
1956	.05	.25	.04	.01	1.00	.51	1.63	2.68	0	.04	.05	.03	6.29
1957	.36	.07	1.28	1.24	.68	1.49	3.46	4.92	.07	4.57	2.24	T	20.94
1958	.36	.54	2.60	2.70	1.44	1.10	1.65	2.36	2.22	1.07	.19	.22	16.45
1959	.36	.15	.03	.66	4.42	2.07	3.49	2.96	.34	2.11	.04	.94	17.57
1960	.31	.21	.78	T	.59	3.34	1.92	1.17	.72	3.75	.12	1.03	13.94

STATION HISTORY

Some early precipitation records were made between 1850 and 1890. No record is available as to the source of these records, but it is thought that they were made at a nearby Army Post. From December 1892 to June 1900, temperature and precipitation records were made near the Post Office in east Las Vegas, and the station was known as East Las Vegas. From November 1901 to November 1910 the equipment was on the roof of the Plaza Sanitarium building about 30 feet above ground level and one-third mile west of the Las Vegas Post Office. In January 1911 the station was located on the campus of Highlands University, where it remained until February 1953, with the records being kept by university personnel. In December 1953 the station was moved to the Radio Station KFVN transmitter, about three fourths of a mile east-northeast of the Post Office and some 50 feet higher, where the record was continued by Ernest N. Thwaites.