U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU

In Cooperation with the UNM Bureau of Business Research

LATITUDE: 32° 21' N
LONGITUDE: 108° 42' W
ELEV. (GROUND): 4245 Ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION: LORDSBURG
NEW MEXICO

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD: 1931 - 1960

Month	Temperature (°F) Means: Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Extremes: Record highest	Year	Record lowest	Year	** Mean degree days	Precipitation Totals (Inches): Mean	Greatest daily	Year	Snow, Sleet: Mean	Maximum monthly	Year	Greatest daily	Year	Mean number of days: Precip. .10 inch or more	Temperatures: Max. 90° and above	Max. 32° and below	Min. 32° and below	Min. 0° and below	Month
(a)	23	23	23	23	--	23	--	23	30	30	--	30	30	--	30	--	30	23	23	23	23	(a)
Jan.	58.9	27.2	43.1	79	1911	- 9	1913	680	0.79	0.96	1949	1.6	15.0	1949	10.0	1949	3	0	*	24	*	Jan.
Feb.	63.1	30.5	46.8	85	1957	8	1956+	510	0.90	1.20	1953	0.9	5.5	1939	5.0	1933	3	0	0	18	0	Feb.
Mar.	69.8	35.9	52.8	93	1907	14	1951	380	0.61	1.00	1937	0.4	7.0	1958	5.0	1958	2	*	0	9	0	Mar.
Apr.	78.4	41.8	60.0	93	1948	23	1912	180	0.33	0.86	1941	0.1	1.0	1949	1.0	1949+	1	1	0	2	0	Apr.
May	86.8	49.1	67.8	104	1958+	27	1912	50	0.13	0.64	1929	T	T	1944	T	1944	1	11	0	*	0	May
June	95.9	59.5	77.9	108	1960	41	1955	0	0.45	1.98	1952	0	0	--	0	--	1	27	0	0	0	June
July	96.4	65.4	80.9	110	1958	50	1912	0	1.51	1.60	1953	0	0	--	0	--	4	28	0	0	0	July
Aug.	93.9	63.6	78.8	106	1960	48	1954	0	2.21	2.75	1957	0	0	--	0	--	5	25	0	0	0	Aug.
Sept.	90.6	57.5	74.1	104	1948	36	1913	0	1.32	3.08	1941	0	0	--	0	--	3	19	0	0	0	Sept.
Oct.	80.0	45.8	62.6	94	1956+	23	1906	120	0.75	1.20	1937	0	0	--	0	--	2	2	0	1	0	Oct.
Nov.	67.6	32.8	50.2	84	1910	9	1912	440	0.49	1.06	1934	0.6	6.0	1957	6.0	1957	2	0	*	15	0	Nov.
Dec.	58.4	26.4	42.4	75	1958+	2	1953	700	0.64	0.74	1937	0.7	7.0	1937	7.0	1937	2	0	0	25	0	Dec.
Year	78.3	44.6	61.5	110	July 1958	- 9	Jan. 1913	3060	10.13	3.08	Sept. 1941	4.3	15.0	Jan. 1949	10.0	Jan. 1949	29	113	*	94	*	Year

* Less than one half.

** Base 65° F (estimated).

(a) Average length of record, years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

\+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

ϕ Partial year's record considered.

CLIMATE OF LORDSBURG, NEW MEXICO

Lordsburg, the county seat of Hidalgo County in the extreme southwestern corner of New Mexico, is located in the northern portion of the county approximately 20 miles from the Arizona border. The city is situated on slightly rolling desert land on the western slope of the Continental Divide. To the south stand the low Pyramid mountains with peaks 5,000 to 6,000 feet above sea level. To the northeast about 15 miles distant lie the foothills of the Big Burro mountains. The surrounding country is primarily grazing land, although a few miles to the southwest cotton is raised under irrigation from wells.

Precipitation records at Lordsburg, with only minor breaks, date from November 1881. Temperature records were made from November 1904 to September 1914 and from December 1946 to date. The last 30 years of precipitation and the complete years of temperature records were used in this summary.

The average annual precipitation is slightly over 10 inches, classifying the area as semiarid. However, the median annual precipitation during the 77 years of complete record is slightly more than nine inches, so that for all practical purposes the climate can be considered arid. Considering the entire period of record, one can espect less than seven inches of moisture annually in one year out of four and more than 11 inches annually only in one year out of four. Half the yearly moisture normally falls in the summer months July through September, producing good stands of native grasses on surrounding range lands. The large annual and diurnal temperature ranges and the distinct seasonal temperature changes are characteristic of a continental climate.

Summers in this area are quite warm. Maximum summer temperatures average well above 90°; readings above 90° can be expected from mid-May until late September; readings of 100° or higher occur on about 15 days each year. The diurnal temperature range usually exceeds 30°, especially during periods of hot weather which are usually associated with clear, dry air conducive to rapid cooling after sundown. Also, most of the summer precipitation falls during brief, cooling afternoon and evening thundershowers, tending to alleviate the summer heat. As a result, summer nights are usually comfortably cool.

Winters are mild and dry. In January, the coldest month, daytime shade temperatures average around 60°; and on only 10 days in the 23 years of record did the temperature fail to rise above the freezing mark. Considerable cooling occurs during winter nights, and minimum temperatures fall below the freezing mark much of the time from mid-November through early March. However, only twice in 23 years has the minimum dropped below zero. Some of the winter moisture falls as snow--as much as 10 inches in a single storm. But such storms are rare, and usually little snow accumulates. Spring months are unusually dry: April, May, and June average only one day a month with as much as one-tenth inch of moisture.

Lordsburg, lying in the area of the country noted for abundant sunshine, probably receives almost 80 per cent of each year's possible sunshine. Relative humidities are low, averaging close to 45 per cent for the year and ranging from about 60 per cent in the early morning hours to around 30 per cent during the heat of the day. Readings below 20 per cent are common in the drier spring months. Wind records are not available; but the average hourly velocity for the year is probably about 10 miles per hour, with the spring months being slightly windier. The stronger winds generally blow from a westerly direction and may exceed 25 miles per hour for several hours and be accompanied during the drier periods of the year by considerable blowing dust. The average growing season at Lordsburg is approximately seven months, with the average date of the last freezing temperature in the spring being April 1 and that of the first freeze in the fall being November 5.

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Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1905	44.8	47.5	52.3	58.9	66.2	78.4	79.2	80.2	72.0	63.1	48.5	36.3	60.6
1906	41.3	49.3	55.2	59.0	66.6	75.5	81.2	76.2	73.9	60.0	51.4	47.6	61.4
1907	46.3	50.7	55.1	58.4	64.4	73.5	80.0	80.4	74.8	65.7	53.9	46.4	62.5
1908	45.4	46.3	55.3	61.2	64.8	76.2	80.1	77.3	73.8	59.2	51.7	44.3	61.3
1909	48.8	47.2	50.4	61.3	64.9	78.0	80.8	78.4	71.9	62.0	51.2	39.0	61.2
1910	43.5	44.4	56.6	61.4	70.7	78.6	82.2	81.5	77.3	62.8	51.8	43.2	62.8
1911	46.4	46.9	57.4	59.8	67.6	75.2	76.8	79.5	75.8	59.2	45.2	36.3	60.5
1912	41.2	43.6	51.8	54.2	64.9	75.2	77.0	74.7	69.8	59.0	47.6	37.8	58.1
1913	37.0	43.8	48.3	57.8	66.6	73.3	78.5	75.4	66.8	58.8	51.6	39.0	58.1
1947	36.9	48.8	53.1	58.8	71.6	76.7	82.4	79.0	75.3	64.6	47.4	39.8	61.2
1948	40.6	45.2	49.0	62.2	69.5	78.5	82.1	80.5	74.3	62.3	45.4	44.1	61.1
1949	35.2	44.8	53.9	60.4	68.5	77.3	80.5	79.3	75.4	60.6	53.2	42.5	61.0
1950	44.2	49.2	54.3	63.2	67.3	79.3	79.2	79.3	73.6	68.6	53.1	46.5	63.2
1951	42.1	45.0	51.9	59.3	68.8	76.3	84.3	80.6	77.0	65.0	50.5	44.9	62.1
1952	46.7	44.4	48.4	59.1	70.1	79.3	81.9	81.5	75.0	65.7	47.8	42.1	61.8
1953	46.1	45.8	54.4	60.2	63.9	79.8	82.0	80.4	75.3	63.1	52.0	39.0	61.8
1954	43.6	51.9	51.5	64.5	69.0	76.8	79.9	72.2	74.8	64.6	52.4	42.9	62.0
1955	39.2	41.9	51.2	58.5	66.4	76.4	79.6	79.4	73.2	64.3	51.4	46.1	60.6
1956	46.5	42.5	53.2	58.1	71.6	81.2	79.8	78.8	77.1	64.4	47.6	42.7	62.0
1957	47.4	55.2	53.8	61.4	68.3	80.8	84.9	77.4	71.7	61.4	47.2	45.2	62.9
1958	42.3	50.2	49.7	59.7	73.6	82.5	83.5	81.0	73.1	62.1	51.0	45.5	62.9
1959	46.2	47.8	52.5	61.4	67.6	82.1	82.2	77.0	74.0	62.5	49.4	44.0	62.2
1960	39.7	43.7	55.8	61.3	67.3	81.0	82.8	83.1	78.9	61.8	53.1	40.6	62.4

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1931	.65	2.35	.40	1.45	0	1.12	1.10	1.99	1.75	0	1.35	.75	12.91
1932	.87	.75	.45	.20	.40	T	4.45	2.07	.15	.10	0	1.82	11.26
1933	1.46	1.88	0	.14	.31	.48	.48	.84	2.68	.80	.30	T	9.37
1934	0	.60	.75	T	.04	.09	.60	1.62	.66	.62	1.14	.64	6.76
1935	.57	1.06	.46	0	.52	.86	.15	4.82	.96	0	.56	.70	10.66
1936	1.00	.83	.10	.04	T	T	.89	3.54	2.02	.32	.90	.54	10.18
1937	.48	1.77	1.42	0	.92	.80	1.08	1.30	1.22	3.04	0	1.40	13.43
1938	T	.64	1.12	T	0	.71	.49	.66	.58	T	0	1.51	5.71
1939	.17	.56	.46	.42	0	T	.99	1.65	2.54	.65	1.03	.58	9.05
1940	.46	2.29	.12	.69	.33	1.85	1.26	1.25	1.51	.41	1.20	.89	12.26
1941	1.12	1.44	1.08	1.46	.36	.67	1.55	3.53	4.96	1.52	.46	.66	18.81
1942	.45	1.00	.12	.35	0	.08	.64	3.62	1.67	1.52	0	1.30	10.75
1943	.64	.14	1.10	0	T	1.25	2.40	1.32	2.05	.28	.38	.44	10.00
1944	.80	1.12	.58	.36	.06	T	.89	3.76	2.47	1.50	1.53	.77	13.84
1945	1.23	.16	.43	.07	0	0	1.60	3.10	.32	2.00	0	.26	9.17
1946	1.36	0	.58	.44	.04	.87	1.18	2.27	.40	.70	1.08	.77	9.69
1947	.58	.15	.04	.25	.12	.42	.74	1.54	.19	.22	.82	.36	5.43
1948	.36	1.95	.74	0	.05	.10	1.34	.40	.87	1.03	0	1.23	8.07
1949	2.82	1.76	.28	.39	.05	.30	2.11	.77	1.87	.22	.10	.65	11.32
1950	.36	.38	.32	T	0	.23	2.03	0.07	1.78	.42	0	0	5.59
1951	1.06	.54	1.39	1.42	.10	T	.75	1.76	.03	1.76	.61	1.10	10.52
1952	.63	.05	1.16	1.32	T	2.25	1.23	2.17	.45	0	1.30	.63	11.19
1953	T	1.88	.61	.32	0	.10	3.74	.95	0	.13	.30	T	8.03
1954	.12	.46	.44	0	.20	0	.64	3.38	.74	0	0	0	5.98
1955	2.09	T	.30	0	0	.42	3.15	2.03	0	0	0	.10	8.09
1956	.40	.70	0	.15	0	.77	1.81	1.57	0	0	0	.14	5.54
1957	1.60	.51	.68	0	.40	0	2.45	8.28	.54	1.50	.96	.40	17.32
1958	.20	1.45	2.82	.38	T	.15	2.43	1.30	7.05	.83	.25	0	16.86
1959	0	.40	0	0	0	0	1.76	4.70	0	1.15	.47	1.00	9.48
1960	2.21	.30	.23	0	.01	.08	1.26	T	.19	1.85	0	0.53	6.66

STATION HISTORY

Precipitation records were begun at the railroad station in November 1881. Temperature records were made from November 1904 until September 1914 and were resumed in December 1946. All records were made by railroad personnel at the same site. Records indicate that the rain gage was on the top of a two-story building from July 1902 until April 1906. During the remainder of the period the equipment was at a ground exposure.