U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU

In Cooperation with the UNM Bureau of Business Research

LATITUDE: 34° 46' N
LONGITUDE: 106° 45' W
ELEV. (GROUND): 4840 Ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION: LOS LUNAS
NEW MEXICO

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD: 1922 - 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	32° and below	Min.: 32° and below	0° and below	Month
(a)	30	30	30	30	--	30	--	30	30	30	--	30	30	--	30	--	30	30	30	30	30	(a)
Jan.	48.9	16.2	32.6	71	1950	- 9	1948+	1000	0.25	0.92	1935	1.1	7.0	1948	4.0	1925	1	0	1	30	*	Jan.
Feb.	55.6	21.6	38.7	75	1945ϕ	-10	1951	740	0.26	0.77	1940	0.7	3.5	1948	3.0	1940	1	0	*	26	*	Feb.
Mar.	63.0	27.8	45.4	88	1950	4	1939+	610	0.38	1.15	1929	0.8	7.5	1932	4.0	1932	1	0	*	24	0	Mar.
Apr.	72.4	36.2	54.3	94	1928	15	1945+	320	0.39	1.11	1931	T	T	1957+	T	1957+	1	*	0	9	0	Apr.
May	81.5	44.2	62.6	99	1951	24	1953	120	0.58	1.40	1940	T	1.0	1935	1.0	1935	2	5	0	1	0	May
June	92.0	53.7	72.8	103	1957	35	1953.	0	0.60	1.50	1927	0	0	--	0	--	2	23	0	0	0	June
July	94.1	60.3	77.2	106	1934	43	1946ϕ	0	1.08	1.20	1927	0	0	--	0	--	2	27	0	0	0	July
Aug.	90.9	58.4	74.7	101	1938+	42	1953	0	1.33	1.29	1923	0	0	--	0	--	3	22	0	0	0	Aug.
Sept.	84.5	49.3	66.9	98	1945	29	1953	40	0.85	1.36	1955	0	0	--	0	--	2	7	0	*	0	Sept.
Oct.	73.5	37.0	55.4	89	1956	18	1956	300	0.71	1.35	1957	0	0	--	0	--	2	0	0	10	0	Oct.
Nov.	59.1	23.4	41.3	78	1955+	3	1956+	710	0.35	1.12	1944ϕ	0.8	5.1	1931	5.0	1922	1	0	*	27	0	Nov.
Dec.	48.8	17.9	33.1	68	1954	- 6	1953	990	0.37	0.80	1926	1.3	8.0	1932+	8.0	1926	1	0	1	30	1	Dec.
Year	72.0	37.2	54.6	106	July 1934	-10	Feb. 1951	4830	7.15	1.50	June 1927	4.7	8.0	Dec. 1932+	8.0	Dec. 1926	19	84	2	157	1	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 LOS LUNAS, NEW MEXICO

Los Lunas, county seat of Valencia County, is located in the eastern part of the county in the Rio Grande valley, which is several miles wide in this area and runs in a general north-south direction. Several miles to the east the Manzano mountains border the valley; to the west the terrain rises to a rolling, broken mesa. Truck crops, fruit, and feed are raised in the valley under irrigation from the Rio Grande.

Weather records were begun in the Los Lunas area in April 1889 and were continued until March 1941. Observations were resumed in May 1944, but records were rather intermittent until 1950 when fairly continuous readings were again begun. The complete years of record beginning in 1922 were used to compile a full 30-year record for this summary. Partial years of record within the period were considered in determining extreme values.

With an annual average precipitation of less than eight inches, Los Lunas has an arid continental climate. From November through April the monthly precipitation ranges from one-fourth inch to less than one-half inch, and an average of only one day a month gets one-tenth inch or more. Summer produces the most rainfall: 46 per cent of the year's precipitation comes during the July-September period. However, in August, the wettest month, there normally are only three days with rainfall of one-tenth inch or more. Some snow usually falls each winter; but individual storms seldom produce more than an inch or two of snow, which rarely lies on the ground for more than a few hours. Occasionally, hail accompanies the more active summer thundershowers, causing some damage to farm crops.

Summers in Los Lunas are moderately warm. Maximum temperature averages above 90° from June through August. Most summers include a day or two when for a short time the high temperature exceeds 100°. As a result of the normally dry air and the valley location, considerable cooling occurs at night, and minimum temperature readings in the low 60s are the rule in midsummer. Practically all summer rainfall is associated with brief afternoon and evening thundershowers, which further alleviate the heat. Winters are mild, dry, and sunny. The brilliant sunshine during most of the winter months brings mild daytime temperatures, averaging near 50° in the coldest month. On only about two days each winter does the temperature fail to rise above the freezing mark. Below-zero minima occur on an average of only once each winter; however, minima ordinarily fall below freezing from late October until early April..

Associated with the arid climate are much clear, sunny weather and rather low relative humidities. The sun shines more than 75 per cent of the daylight hours; and many months, especially in winter, get 80 per cent to 90 per cent of the possible sunshine. The relative humidity averages somewhat less than 50 per cent for the year, with readings below 20 per cent quite common during the warmer part of the day in late winter and spring. Winds probably average less than 10 miles per hour for the year, with late winter and spring being somewhat windier. Only a few days bring velocities exceeding 25 miles per hour, but occasionally such velocities result in some blowing dust. The Los Lunas area enjoys a growing season of approximately six months: the average date of the last freezing temperature in the spring is April 21, and the first freeze in the fall usually comes around October 19.

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Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1922	27.3	35.4	40.9	51.4	62.8	75.6	80.6	77.2	67.8	52.6	39.6	36.3	54.0
1923	35.0	36.4	42.8	54.8	65.8	73.6	77.6	73.6	62.9	52.4	43.4	34.7	54.4
1924	27.8	40.6	42.2	50.8	64.4	80.1	77.8	76.0	66.6	53.7	40.8	27.4	54.0
1925	24.7	40.3	47.4	55.2	67.8	76.6	76.8	74.2	66.8	55.2	40.4	31.8	54.8
1926	26.5	38.0	45.0	53.6	62.1	73.3	76.6	74.9	68.1	56.4	43.6	30.4	54.0
1927	36.4	45.4	46.2	53.9	61.0	72.2	78.6	72.9	66.6	56.2	44.8	28.7	55.2
1928	34.0	37.6	48.6	53.8	66.0	74.0	77.4	73.6	66.8	55.5	43.6	29.5	55.0
1929	32.5	33.2	44.8	53.2	62.8	73.8	78.2	74.8	66.7	56.0	38.0	34.0	54.0
1930	29.9	42.0	44.4	59.2	59.2	73.8	78.0	76.4	64.0	54.1	39.0	31.9	54.3
1931	29.9	40.2	44.4	56.2	62.8	73.9	79.2	73.8	71.0	58.6	40.8	32.8	55.3
1932	28.7	43.2	43.3	54.6	63.0	71.0	79.1	77.4	66.0	52.8	41.2	30.4	54.2
1933	31.0	32.8	46.8	49.2	58.2	73.4	77.0	73.0	68.8	56.5	43.3	36.7	53.9
1934	32.7	42.9	47.7	56.6	65.5	70.0	80.3	78.9	66.1	54.5	42.8	34.8	56.1
1935	35.1	37.2	44.4	52.9	57.1	70.2	76.2	73.4	63.4	55.0	40.6	33.2	53.2
1936	31.3	39.4	45.4	54.8	63.3	71.8	76.3	74.6	65.0	53.4	40.6	32.8	54.1
1937	25.2	36.8	41.0	51.4	61.7	69.2	76.4	75.8	68.6	57.2	44.8	35.5	53.6
1938	34.2	39.2	46.0	53.1	62.0	74.0	75.8	75.8	67.0	56.0	36.6	35.4	54.6
1939	32.8	29.6	45.5	55.9	65.2	73.4	76.3	74.8	70.4	53.2	42.5	36.8	54.7
1940	34.0	38.8	48.4	53.4	63.6	72.2	77.9	74.0	68.0	57.2	39.2	37.4	55.3
1945	34.9	42.1	44.7	50.1	63.0	67.6	76.0	76.4	66.8	56.5	42.0	27.4	54.0
1950	36.0	47.7	51.3	59.4	64.1	73.7	76.2	72.4	64.3	58.1	43.1	37.9	57.0
1951	34.6	38.1	45.0	55.0	64.6	70.3	79.4	73.9	69.0	55.8	39.5	34.5	55.0
1952	36.8	36.9	41.6	55.6	64.2	71.4	75.5	74.8	64.7	53.7	37.7	29.5	53.5
1953	36.5	34.0	45.6	52.5	57.4	70.5	74.5	70.4	64.3	52.1	39.8	26.6	52.0
1954	35.1	44.1	45.9	60.7	66.1	72.6	79.1	76.1	70.5	59.3	45.6	33.3	57.4
1955	31.6	32.6	46.5	54.1	62.5	71.9	75.6	75.6	69.7	58.0	44.0	37.7	55.0
1956	39.4	34.6	46.6	53.5	64.8	75.2	75.6	72.9	68.4	56.0	37.0	33.1	54.8
1957	39.6	48.0	47.7	53.8	60.9	72.4	77.7	74.2	66.2	56.2	40.3	35.7	56.1
1959	31.6	37.7	43.2	54.6	61.6	73.6	76.2	74.6	65.7	56.0	41.8	36.6	54.5
1960	31.8	35.8	48.3	55.6	61.8	72.7	75.3	74.5	68.1	53.4	44.0	30.9	54.4

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1922	T	T	.40	.45	.40	.18	.20	.57	T	0	.94	.10	3.24
1923	.21	.13	.90	.85	.38	0	.72	2.09	1.01	1.21	1.35	.22	9.07
1924	T	.42	.64	.81	.15	T	1.57	1.16	0	.15	T	.93	5.83
1925	.40	.35	0	.10	.57	.95	.94	1.49	1.65	1.80	.12	0	8.37
1926	.22	.10	1.31	.51	1.01	.24	.60	.61	.56	1.10	.05	1.80	8.11
1927	0	T	T	T	0	3.12	2.67	2.30	1.16	.15	0	T	9.40
1928	0	.05	0	.46	2.19	.15	.38	4.91	0	1.25	.87	0	10.26
1929	T	.30	1.15	0	2.32	0	3.39	2.59	3.35	.65	.32	0	14.07
1930	.22	.08	.60	.26	T	T	3.08	.26	T	T	.48	.10	5.08
1931	.25	1.09	.45	3.28	.86	.32	.53	.35	1.83	.64	.74	.10	10.44
1932	.62	.75	1.03	.16	.97	1.26	1.02	1.91	.38	1.23	0	.82	10.15
1933	T	.30	.42	T	.35	2.76	.44	2.03	.28	.23	.49	0	7.30
1934	T	T	.12	.21	T	.12	.10	1.73	.34	.55	.41	.76	4.34
1935	.92	.22	T	.30	1.08	T	.15	1.67	.38	.16	1.04	.15	6.07
1936	.60	.17	0	.05	.37	.17	1.53	.42	1.82	T	0	T	5.13
1937	.06	.12	.56	.32	2.47	.99	.85	T	1.72	.35	0	.28	7.72
1938	.37	.22	.12	.05	0	.94	.43	T	2.22	T	.08	.24	4.67
1939	.52	.24	.82	.92	.39	.09	1.26	.46	1.19	.85	.71	.25	7.70
1940	.23	1.02	.05	.27	1.92	1.49	.79	1.56	1.39	.50	1.32	.54	11.08
1945	.30	0	.20	0	0	0	.35	.63	1.18	.32	0	.51	3.49
1950	.10	.25	T	.37	0	.86	1.64	.85	1.05	.11	0	0	5.23
1951	.76	.17	.45	.27	.10	0	.71	1.82	.14	.11	.16	.11	4.80
1952	.16	.34	.46	1.07	.28	1.31	.55	.97	.74	0	.08	.38	6.34
1953	0	.41	.75	.63	.05	.71	1.01	1.20	.02	.46	.49	.33	6.06
1954	.11	.01	.07	T	.17	.22	2.06	.48	1.19	.58	.18	.13	5.20
1955	.21	.04	T	.06	.32	.23	1.59	3.25	1.52	.33	0	.34	7.89
1956	.40	.26	0	0	.21	.21	.58	.63	0	.58	0	0	2.87
1957	.50	.70	.71	.30	.31	.13	1.67	.66	.24	1.89	.45	.62	8.18
1959	.19	T	.06	.12	.14	.21	.81	2.81	.04	2.68	.10	1.58	8.74
1960	.08	.02	.08	0	.52	1.22	.78	.43	.11	3.49	.08	.90	7.71

STATION HISTORY

The first weather station in this area was established in April 1889 about four miles north of the Belen Post Office and was known as Los Lunas Nr. Records were continued at this site by Richard Pohl until March 1941. In April 1944 the station was reactivated about one-fourth mile southwest of the Los Lunas Post Office, where the Rio Grande Produce Company took observations until March 1947. In October the equipment was moved one block east of the Post Office, and C. W. Carr took observations there until September 1948. From March 1949 to March 1954 the station was at the home of Dr. W. F. Wittwer, who acted as observer. It was then moved several hundred feet west, where Ernest F. Sinclair, Jr., continued the record until June 1958. Since January 1959 the records made at the State Experiment Farm, three miles south-southwest of Los Lunas, have been used as the official weather records for the community. All locations have had ground exposure of the equipment with no significant changes in elevation.