

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

LATITUDE: 33° 43'N
LONGITUDE: 108° 47'W
ELEV. (GROUND): 5832 Ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION: RESERVE
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	32° and below	0° and below		Max.	Min.
(a)	17	17	17	17	--	17	--	17	30	30	--	30	30	--	30	--	30	17	17	17	17	17	(a)	
Jan.	51.0	15.2	33.1	70	1951+	-22	1960	990	1.11	1.66	1952	6.3	22.0	1939	9.0	1942+	3	0	1	29	1	Jan.		
Feb.	55.6	17.7	36.8	76	1957	-5	1953	790	0.86	1.72	1940	2.7	12.2	1948	8.0	1937	3	0	0	27	1	Feb.		
Mar.	61.1	21.8	41.4	80	1956	4	1951	730	1.12	2.14	1954	1.7	9.1	1948	7.0	1931	3	0	0	28	0	Mar.		
Apr.	71.0	27.5	49.7	93	1946	10	1945	460	0.67	1.15	1958	T	1.0	1944	1.0	1944	2	*	0	24	0	Apr.		
May	79.2	33.9	56.6	100	1951	17	1950	270	0.42	0.71	1957	0.1	2.0	1935	2.0	1935	2	2	0	13	0	May		
June	88.8	42.5	65.9	102	1956+	26	1950	40	0.75	1.66	1952	0	0	--	0	--	2	15	0	2	0	June		
July	90.4	52.4	71.4	104	1958+	36	1955	0	2.10	1.42	1959	0	0	--	0	--	7	19	0	0	0	July		
Aug.	87.2	51.2	69.2	99	1956+	36	1956	0	2.72	1.51	1957	0	0	--	0	--	7	10	0	0	0	Aug.		
Sept.	84.8	41.2	63.2	102	1948	26	1955+	90	1.60	1.72	1937	0	0	--	0	--	4	7	0	2	0	Sept.		
Oct.	73.6	32.2	53.0	91	1950	17	1953+	370	1.31	1.80	1959	T	T	1958	T	1958	3	*	0	17	0	Oct.		
Nov.	61.5	19.9	40.3	79	1949	-2	1956	740	0.66	1.20	1940	1.7	16.0	1931	10.0	1933+	2	0	*	26	*	Nov.		
Dec.	54.1	14.5	34.2	80	1958	-11	1951	950	1.00	1.34	1951	3.1	13.0	1960	8.0	1960	2	0	*	30	1	Dec.		
Year	71.5	30.8	51.2	104	July 1958+	-22	Jan. 1960	5430	14.32	2.14	1954	15.6	22.0	1939	10.0	Nov. 1933+	40	53	1	198	3	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 RESERVE, NEW MEXICO

Reserve, county seat of Catron County in southwest New Mexico, is located in west-central Catron about 20 miles from the Arizona border. Situated in the rather narrow valley of the San Francisco river, Reserve is surrounded by rough mountains: the San Francisco and the Saliz to the west and the southwest and the Tularosa range, part of the Continental Divide, to the east. The San Francisco river, a tributary of the Gila, here runs north to south. Nearby surrounding areas are generally wooded and, with their streams, attract many sportsmen. The principal agricultural activity is ranching, with some lumbering and mining being carried on in the mountains.

Intermittent weather records were made in Reserve between 1906 and 1909. In 1916 precipitation records were begun at the Ranger Station; in 1944 standard thermometers were added. This summary incorporates the most recent 30 years of precipitation record (1931 through 1960) and 17 years of temperature record (1944 to 1960).

Reserve has a mild, semiarid continental climate. The elevation, of nearly 6,000 feet, results in summers that are moderately cool for a locality so far south. Only July has an average maximum temperature above 90°. Normally, slightly more than 50 summer days have highs of at least 90°, but in an average year only one or two days get readings as high as 100°. Marked cooling after sun-down brings cool summer nights. Even the midsummer temperature drops to the low 50s during most nights, and once in a while it barely misses the freezing point. Summer is the rainy season, with frequent thundershowers from July through October producing more than half the annual moisture. These showers are generally brief; prolonged rainy periods are practically unknown.

Although the mean temperature in January is only slightly above freezing, winter days are usually quite mild, with shade temperatures reaching the low 50s on most days. The strong nighttime cooling experienced in this mountain valley makes winter nights rather cold, with minima below freezing the general rule from mid-October until early May. However, there are on an average only three days a year when temperatures fall below the zero mark. Part of the winter precipitation falls as snow, but it seldom lies on the ground for more than a day or two. Generally, there is little wind accompanying these winter snowstorms and little drifting of snow in this area.

Sunshine, wind, and humidity records are not available for Reserve; but certain general information is applicable. Located in the sunniest section of the country, this area probably receives somewhat less sunshine than the desert regions, but should have approximately 70 per cent of the possible sunshine during the year. Relative humidity averages close to 55 per cent, ranging from about 75 per cent in the cooler hours to less than 30 per cent during spring afternoons. Hot, humid weather does not normally occur in this region. The protected location indicates generally light winds, and tornadoes have never been reported in this section of New Mexico. The growing season averages somewhat less than four months, beginning with June 4, the average date of the last freezing temperature in the spring, and ending with September 29, the average date for the first freeze in the fall.

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Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1944	33.6	35.6	40.2	46.4	55.9	64.0	70.7	70.0	62.4	54.7	40.1	34.0	50.6
1945	33.0	37.9	39.8	46.5	55.2	61.2	72.3	71.4	63.6	55.5	41.0	33.5	50.9
1946	32.1	35.3	42.0	55.6	55.1	67.4	71.0	70.8	65.0	50.6	39.7	36.8	51.8
1947	31.9	38.8	43.2	49.0	59.8	64.6	72.9	69.3	63.2	54.1	37.6	32.2	51.5
1948	33.0	35.9	38.1	51.3	57.7	66.4	71.0	69.7	64.6	53.7	36.5	36.4	51.2
1949	28.9	34.6	41.1	50.0	56.5	64.7	70.7	68.0	64.4	51.0	45.6	31.3	50.6
1950	34.5	39.5	42.9	51.3	55.7	65.2	70.3	67.4	60.5	57.8	44.3	38.1	52.3
1951	33.0	36.2	40.5	47.0	56.8	62.8	72.7	70.5	63.5	52.7	42.3	34.1	51.0
1952	36.5	36.3	38.3	50.1	58.3	65.9	69.8	70.7	63.3	54.1	37.0	32.3	51.1
1953	37.7	34.5	44.7	49.5	52.3	68.0	72.3	68.9	63.4	51.4	41.8	31.3	51.3
1954	33.9	41.2	43.0	55.0	57.9	64.6	73.0	68.8	65.8	56.3	43.7	33.2	53.0
1955	30.7	32.3	42.7	47.3	56.5	64.3	69.9	69.6	63.0	54.5	41.8	37.3	50.8
1956	37.5	32.9	43.0	48.2	59.2	69.7	71.1	67.3	65.5	53.3	36.1	32.4	51.4
1957	36.6	45.0	43.3	48.3	53.7	66.7	73.3	67.2	61.1	49.6	37.0	36.4	51.6
1958	31.4	40.7	38.5	48.8	60.1	68.7	71.2	70.2	63.4	50.9	39.4	35.9	51.6
1959	33.0	35.1	38.2	51.5	54.6	67.6	70.6	66.1	57.1	48.3	38.5	33.1	49.5
1960	24.7	32.0	43.9	49.0	56.1	67.8	71.2	71.2	65.2	52.2	42.4	32.5	50.7

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1931	.30	1.07	.45	2.22	.42	.56	1.60	1.78	2.87	.48	1.30	2.25	15.30
1932	1.23	2.14	.56	1.54	.37	.22	4.78	2.14	.83	1.07	0	.78	15.66
1933	1.02	.66	0	.80	.04	1.79	2.62	3.68	1.06	1.17	1.14	0	13.98
1934	.04	.36	.24	.87	.18	.28	1.88	3.63	1.27	0	.98	.92	11.05
1935	1.02	.89	1.10	.83	.87	.54	1.28	4.56	1.27	0	.31	.55	13.22
1936	.72	1.62	1.02	.32	.43	1.79	1.33	1.97	3.09	.87	1.19	.85	15.20
1937	1.50	1.34	1.42	0	1.13	1.00	1.56	1.10	2.31	1.07	0	.92	13.35
1938	.18	.85	3.00	.51	0	2.38	2.14	1.82	2.81	0	0	.81	14.50
1939	1.23	.85	1.82	1.10	.17	0	.66	2.52	1.16	1.05	.70	.30	11.56
1940	.78	2.54	.23	1.36	1.25	1.25	1.30	3.99	3.44	.74	2.32	3.12	21.30
1941	1.56	1.37	2.17	2.90	1.17	.94	2.15	2.35	4.13	2.60	1.97	1.25	24.56
1942	.96	.69	.26	.43	0	.13	.86	3.18	.92	1.95	0	1.18	10.56
1943	.63	.36	.70	.45	.07	1.22	2.58	4.45	2.84	.67	.05	.83	14.85
1944	1.04	.75	.90	.32	.52	.20	2.00	2.62	3.93	1.85	1.61	.86	16.60
1945	1.09	1.11	1.69	.08	T	.17	1.92	1.84	.39	2.19	0	.72	10.20
1946	1.69	.06	.72	.64	T	.37	1.63	2.23	2.41	1.76	.47	.92	12.90
1947	.42	.26	.06	.12	.79	.52	2.05	6.19	.45	1.42	1.34	1.16	14.78
1948	.59	2.48	1.96	T	.26	1.06	2.52	1.04	.76	.89	1.54	2.91	16.01
1949	3.30	.50	.64	.59	.37	.46	2.83	1.32	3.06	1.19	1.10	1.69	16.05
1950	.55	.72	.39	0	0	.17	2.90	.82	1.27	.60	0	.18	7.60
1951	1.22	.67	.63	1.08	.25	0	1.56	3.80	1.08	1.60	.65	2.23	14.77
1952	3.16	.32	1.94	1.10	.27	1.74	2.78	2.02	.38	0	.96	.17	14.84
1953	0	.76	2.51	.95	.16	.69	2.62	.72	.03	.26	.74	.07	9.51
1954	.57	.22	4.58	.02	.26	.12	1.30	1.99	.87	.99	0	.16	11.08
1955	2.16	.18	0	.15	.88	1.00	3.27	4.02	0	1.31	.02	.74	13.73
1956	1.01	.66	0	.14	.49	.93	2.27	1.45	.13	.70	.05	.14	7.97
1957	2.40	.77	1.00	.50	1.40	1.84	1.13	6.21	.06	3.52	1.10	.46	20.39
1958	.36	1.19	3.39	1.82	.32	.54	1.69	3.58	3.34	2.02	.61	T	18.86
1959	.23	1.24	.00	.39	.00	.39	4.48	2.77	.54	3.37	.74	2.52	16.67
1960	2.20	.19	.34	.02	.31	.32	1.20	1.73	.82	4.05	T	1.22	12.40

STATION HISTORY

The original station, known as Frisco, was established in December 1908 about two miles southwest of the Reserve Post Office and was closed in September 1909. In April 1916 the station was reactivated as a rainfall station at the Ranger Station, one and a half miles west of the Post Office, where it is still maintained. In March 1944 thermometers were added to the equipment and temperature records begun. Prior to April 1954 the station was known as the Hood Ranger Station.