

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

LATITUDE: 33° 20' N  
LONGITUDE: 105° 40' W  
ELEV. (GROUND): 6755 Ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION: RUIDOSO  
NEW MEXICO

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD: 1942 - 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 90° and above	Temperatures		32° and below	32° and below 0° and below					
	Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Record highest	Year	Record lowest					Year	Year	Year		Year	Year			Max.	Min.			
(a)	19	19	19	19	--	19	--	19	19	19	--	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	(a)			
Jan.	48.8	17.4	33.1	74	1944	-21	1949	990	1.09	0.81	1960	11.0	30.1	1946	11.2	1951	4	0	2	28	2	Jan.	
Feb.	52.0	18.4	35.2	72	1951	-26	1951	830	1.11	1.54	1959	7.1	26.3	1956	11.2	1948	3	0	1	26	1	Feb.	
Mar.	57.0	22.4	39.8	76	1946	-8	1948	780	1.43	1.49	1955	8.2	30.9	1958	9.3	1952	3	0	*	26	*	Mar.	
Apr.	66.1	27.9	46.9	84	1960	5	1949	540	0.80	1.29	1942	3.2	23.4	1949	10.0	1942	2	0	0	23	0	Apr.	
May	74.3	33.5	53.9	92	1951	15	1953	340	0.87	1.78	1954	0.2	3.0	1951	3.0	1951	2	*	0	16	0	May	
June	83.4	42.1	62.8	97	1951	25	1955+	90	1.88	3.75	1944	0	0	--	0	--	4	4	0	3	0	June	
July	82.2	48.0	65.1	95	1957+	36	1955+	40	4.84	2.85	1946	0	0	--	0	--	10	3	0	0	0	July	
Aug.	80.4	47.1	63.8	92	1944	32	1950	80	4.02	2.23	1946	0	0	--	0	--	9	1	0	*	0	Aug.	
Sept.	77.1	39.3	58.2	91	1948	22	1948	210	1.91	1.48	1944	0.1	2.5	1945	2.5	1945	4	*	0	5	0	Sept.	
Oct.	67.9	30.4	49.2	82	1956	11	1945	490	1.26	1.20	1955	0.2	3.8	1958	2.0	1958	3	0	*	20	0	Oct.	
Nov.	57.7	20.0	38.9	74	1949	-17	1957	780	0.63	1.23	1951	4.1	18.4	1957	8.0	1957	2	0	*	26	1	Nov.	
Dec.	50.9	17.0	33.9	72	1950	-24	1953	960	1.41	1.39	1948	9.6	23.0	1942	10.0	1943	3	0	1	28	1	Dec.	
Year	66.5	30.3	48.4	97	June 1951	-26	Feb. 1951	6130	21.25	3.75	June 1944	43.7	30.9	Mar. 1956	11.2	Jan. 1951+	49	8	4	201	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 RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO

Ruidoso lies in the mountain valley of the Rio Ruidoso, a small mountain stream rising in the Sierra Blanca mountains. The surrounding country is mountainous and wooded. To the west the Sierra Blanca range rises to elevations well above 10,000 feet, with Sierra Blanca Peak (at 12,000 feet) the highest point in southeastern New Mexico. Eastward the rough, broken foothills slope down to the Pecos river valley some 50 miles distant. Ruidoso is primarily a resort city. The exceptionally mild summer climate, combined with majestic mountain scenery, pine-covered hills, and clear mountain streams, attracts thousands of vacationers, and in winter the snow-covered slopes bring many winter-sports enthusiasts.

Ruidoso, with more than 20 inches of moisture a year, is situated in one of the more humid sections of New Mexico. Summers are cool in this mountain valley. Daytime readings in midsummer average in the low 80s, with a normal summer including only eight days when the mercury reaches 90°. No official reading of 100° has been recorded there. Summer nights are cool; the temperature usually falls to the high 40s by early morning. Freezing temperatures have been recorded in every month except July. Summer also produces much of the year's moisture, with 42 per cent of the annual amount normally falling in July and August, practically all of it occurring during brief afternoon and early-evening thundershowers. During these two months rains of one-tenth inch or more can be expected on about one day out of three.

Winter temperatures, with unusually large diurnal temperature ranges, are moderate for this elevation. The daily temperature range in January averages over 40°, and a rise of 50° or more from the early morning low to the midafternoon high is not un-

common. Daytime shade temperatures in midwinter average about 50°, and on only four days in the normal winter does the temperature fail to go above freezing. Temperatures fall rapidly after sundown, and freezing night temperatures are common from early October to mid-May. However, below-zero readings occur on an average of only five nights during the winter. Most winter precipitation falls as snow, which averages more than 40 inches a winter. The winter period, however, has fewer days with precipitation; and snowfalls of one inch or more can be expected only on about one day in 10. In spring, the driest season, rain or snow of any consequence falls on an average of only two days a month.

This area has somewhat less sunshine than the nearby valley regions and probably averages about 60 per cent of that possible throughout the year. Winters are generally quite sunny. Mornings during summer months are normally clear and bright, with shower activity developing in the afternoons. Because of the mild temperatures, relative humidity averages considerably higher than in the lower desert regions; but hot, humid weather is unknown. Winds are generally light, as the area is well protected by surrounding mountains. The growing season is short--about 100 days. While some fruit and gardens are grown in the valleys, most agriculture in the area is confined to summer grazing of livestock on the verdant mountain ranges.

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Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1942	35.1	32.2	38.0	46.2	53.9	61.6	64.6	62.8	56.7	48.4	42.4	37.0	48.2
1943	35.4	38.4	40.2	48.5	55.7	61.2	63.3	66.1	57.6	46.6	37.9	30.4	48.4
1944	29.4	35.3	37.2	43.3	52.7	63.0	65.0	64.6	57.0	49.0	38.0	32.8	47.3
1945	31.8	36.5	38.8	44.7	56.2	59.4	64.4	64.4	57.6	49.2	41.6	32.8	48.1
1946	28.6	34.5	41.0	50.2	52.6	64.0	63.9	64.0	60.8	50.9	38.2	37.0	48.8
1947	28.6	35.9	40.4	45.6	56.5	61.6	65.5	63.6	59.1	50.6	36.0	30.1	47.9
1948	31.8	34.7	35.7	50.4	55.5	62.4	64.9	64.2	57.2	48.2	34.9	37.6	48.1
1949	26.1	33.8	41.2	44.4	52.9	62.3	64.3	61.8	58.6	46.4	42.0	32.2	47.2
1950	37.6	37.9	42.2	48.3	53.1	62.8	64.8	61.1	58.3	52.6	41.6	36.4	49.5
1951	32.2	35.7	40.0	44.1	54.0	60.5	67.8	64.3	58.3	51.0	39.0	35.0	48.5
1952	39.2	38.4	36.7	45.4	53.4	63.9	63.3	65.3	57.1	48.4	36.1	33.4	48.1
1953	38.3	32.5	42.3	47.4	52.2	64.1	66.4	63.4	56.9	47.7	40.4	28.7	48.4
1954	36.4	38.7	39.8	49.7	54.4	61.9	65.9	63.7	60.2	51.6	40.3	33.6	49.7
1955	30.5	32.0	40.7	46.3	52.8	59.7	63.4	62.9	59.4	49.7	41.0	36.5	47.9
1956	36.2	29.6	40.1	44.0	54.7	64.2	64.0	62.3	58.5	49.8	35.1	33.1	47.6
1957	37.4	42.6	40.6	45.7	51.5	62.4	66.6	63.7	56.4	48.2	36.2	36.0	49.0
1958	28.6	37.4	35.6	45.2	54.7	65.0	66.8	65.6	59.2	47.3	39.9	35.7	48.5
1959	34.5	35.3	38.7	48.2	54.1	64.2	65.0	65.1	58.6	49.4	38.3	34.6	48.8
1960	29.4	32.3	45.3	51.8	55.2	65.1	64.8	66.0	60.3	49.3	42.1	30.6	49.3

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1942	.44	1.44	.40	3.49	.05	2.28	4.30	7.37	1.89	2.73	0	3.35	27.95
1943	.97	0	1.60	.54	1.51	2.74	5.38	2.35	.95	1.14	.78	1.71	19.67
1944	1.86	.64	1.24	.77	.80	3.75	5.10	3.94	2.67	.43	1.57	1.34	23.11
1945	1.03	.21	1.60	.21	0	.18	1.94	4.89	.83	.78	T	1.01	12.48
1946	2.01	.24	1.54	.24	.47	2.17	5.97	7.27	2.92	.64	.53	.81	24.81
1947	1.08	.54	.75	.61	1.36	.69	1.30	3.54	1.11	.76	1.42	1.34	14.50
1948	.58	2.61	1.82	.37	1.94	3.66	5.58	1.12	.92	1.48	.02	2.59	22.68
1949	2.52	2.18	.55	1.68	.39	1.46	4.80	4.94	3.20	1.81	.12	2.35	25.42
1950	.74	.37	.04	.08	.10	2.24	10.86	2.41	4.69	.32	T	T	21.85
1951	.88	1.12	2.30	1.26	.24	1.10	3.41	5.57	1.31	1.59	1.63	2.53	21.94
1952	.77	1.01	3.60	1.52	.20	1.82	3.74	4.27	1.95	0	1.44	1.23	21.55
1953	.14	.97	1.76	1.04	.71	1.83	6.11	3.00	.57	.68	.66	1.27	18.74
1954	.74	.12	1.64	.13	2.42	.67	2.99	5.11	3.86	1.73	.01	.55	18.97
1955	1.12	.86	3.12	.17	.61	.64	5.12	2.87	1.60	1.77	.04	.59	18.51
1956	.43	2.06	T	.26	.57	1.78	4.43	3.28	.56	1.05	T	.29	14.71
1957	1.36	1.24	1.25	.72	1.37	1.45	4.88	6.44	.45	3.24	1.70	.27	24.57
1958	1.41	1.95	4.58	1.09	1.35	2.46	3.56	1.94	5.15	1.41	1.22	.39	26.51
1959	.05	1.56	.39	.42	.94	2.18	5.27	6.18	.06	.64	.01	1.81	18.51
1960	2.75	.81	.17	.02	.69	1.88	4.33	1.15	.59	1.29	.15	1.90	15.73

## STATION HISTORY

The weather station was established in December 1941 with C. A. Culver acting as observer until September 1942. From October 1942 to December 1944 the following observers served: I. M. Wingfield, Jack Hull, T. S. Barcus, and Josie T. Nelson. In June 1945 Mr. Culver again took over the operation of the station and has maintained excellent records since that time. The equipment has been at several locations, all within a short distance of the Post Office and varying only 20 feet in elevation.