

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

In cooperation with
Cotton Economic Research and
Bureau of Business Research of
The University of Texas at Austin

CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES NO. 20-41

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION HONDO, TEXAS

LATITUDE 29° 21' N
 LONGITUDE 99° 08' W
 ELEV. (GROUND) 901 ft.

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1941-1970

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 Depth	Year		90° and above	32° and below	32° and below	0° and below	
(a)	30	30	30	30		30		15	30	30		30	30	15		15	15	15	15			
Jan	62.8	38.6	50.7	90	1943	4	1949	499	1.72	3.00	1941	0.1	2.5	1944	0		3	0	*	12	0	Jan
Feb	66.9	42.3	54.6	92	1959+	4	1949	342	2.22	5.55	1941	0.2	3.8	1966	1	1961	4	*	*	5	0	Feb
Mar	73.9	47.4	60.7	101	1946	22	1965+	212	1.48	2.45	1949	*	0.3	1948	0		3	1	0	2	0	Mar
Apr	82.0	57.4	69.7	102	1951	34	1961+	37	2.77	3.03	1966	0			0		4	4	0	0	0	Apr
May	87.3	64.5	75.9	103	1967	42	1954	3	3.67	8.38	1970	0			0		5	13	0	0	0	May
Jun	94.1	70.6	82.4	108	1953+	52	1970	0	2.72	4.20	1943	0			0		3	25	0	0	0	Jun
Jul	97.8	72.1	85.0	110	1954	63	1968	0	1.65	3.77	1948	0			0		3	30	0	0	0	Jul
Aug	98.4	71.4	84.9	111	1962	60	1962+	0	2.43	4.44	1946	0			0		3	29	0	0	0	Aug
Sep	91.7	66.8	79.3	107	1952+	44	1942	2	3.89	5.55	1945	0			0		5	21	0	0	0	Sep
Oct	83.1	57.5	70.3	100	1956	33	1957	40	3.00	6.18	1959	0			0		4	6	0	0	0	Oct
Nov	72.3	46.5	59.4	94	1949	20	1959+	207	1.41	2.41	1964	0.1	1.5	1957	0		4	*	0	3	0	Nov
Dec	65.5	39.9	52.7	93	1955	8	1950	394	1.50	4.32	1965	0.1	2.0	1947	0		4	0	0	8	0	Dec
Year	81.3	56.3	68.8	111	Aug 1962	4	Feb 1949+	1736	28.46	8.38	May 1970	0.5	3.8	Feb 1966	1	Feb 1961	45	129	*	30	0	Year

(a) Average length of record, years.

+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

† Trace, an amount too small to measure.

* Less than one half.

** Base 65°F

THE CLIMATE OF HONDO, TEXAS

Located 40 miles west of San Antonio, on U.S. 90, Hondo is the county seat and commercial center of Medina County. Also, it is a manufacturing and agribusiness center. Plants make bathroom fixtures, soil conditioner, and repair aircraft. A hospital and rest-home are located at Hondo, and most recently, the National Weather Service has established a meteorological observatory here.

Medina County is rolling terrain with scenic hills in the north; fertile valleys in the south. Lake Medina is located in the northeast corner of the county, on the Medina River, which flows through the northeast and east central portion. Elevations range from 1,700 to 2,400 feet above mean sea level.

The economy is based on agribusiness, tourism, oil and manufacturing. Agricultural activities include cattle ranching and feeding; and the production of broom corn, grains and truck crops. Minerals include oil, gas and brick clay.

Medina County is a leading deer county. Scenic drives, historic sites and fishing furnish other recreation.

Hondo has a subtropical climate with relatively dry winters and hot humid summers. The climate also is essentially monsoonal in character with a reversal in the prevailing wind circulation between warm and cool seasons. Influenced by Polar Continental air masses; November through February, northerly winds predominate during this period. In the warmer months of the year, April through September, southeasterly winds are persistent, with Tropical Maritime air masses from off the Gulf of Mexico controlling the weather in the area. March and October are transitional months. Average annual rainfall at Hondo is 28.46 inches. Heaviest amounts fall during the April-June and September-October periods. Mid-summer is relatively dry. Both monthly and annual rainfall is quite

variable. A total of 58.73 inches fell at Hondo in 1935, the wettest year of record, while only 11.92 inches fell in 1954, the driest year.

The mean length of the warm season (freeze free period) at Hondo is 263 days. The mean dates of the last occurrence of 32°F or below in the spring, and the first occurrence of 32°F or below in the fall, are March 6 and November 24, respectively. Hondo receives approximately 54 percent of the total possible sunshine in winter, 60 percent in spring, 75 percent in summer and 67 percent in fall. Relative humidity, at noon Central Standard Time, averages 58 percent in January, 56 percent in April, 48 percent in July and 55 percent in October. In an average year, evaporation exceeds precipitation by 36 inches; mean annual free water (lake) evaporation is 62 inches.

Hondo winters are pleasantly mild. Cool spells are brief, and temperatures dip to freezing or below only on about one-third of the nights during the cool season. Freezing temperatures, when they occur, most often are confined to an hour or two before sunrise. The lowest temperature of record at Hondo is 4°F, and occurred January 31-February 1, 1949.

Summer weather is consistently hot; however, low afternoon humidity helps to alleviate the heat. Also, evaporative type home air conditioners are effective for cooling about 90 percent of the time during July and August. Automotive air conditioning is recommended for travel. The highest temperature of record at Hondo is 112°F, and occurred July 9, 1939.

The traditional spring and fall periods, March-May and September-November, are delightfully pleasant at Hondo. Warm weather carries over into September, but temperatures are not so hot as in August. Mild sunny days and crisp cool nights characterize October and November.

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1941	56.2	54.0	56.4	67.6	75.0	79.5	83.6	85.1	80.8	74.6	58.0	55.3	68.9
1942	51.0	51.0	59.3	69.3	75.8	83.7	83.0	82.0	75.9	70.4	62.6	55.0	68.8
1943	52.4	57.6	61.0	72.1	77.0	80.6	84.0	86.0	76.6	66.9	57.8	50.2	68.5
1944	52.4	57.6	61.0	69.5	73.2	82.1	86.6	85.4	79.1	70.6	60.9	51.8	69.1
1945	52.6	55.4	67.2	75.2	81.8	81.8	84.6	85.4	80.9	68.4	63.0	51.8	69.6
1946	46.0	55.4	67.2	76.2	83.6	85.7	86.6	83.8	79.2	71.4	61.0	55.8	69.9
1947	48.7	50.1	63.9	74.4	80.5	83.6	84.2	86.2	77.7	70.0	59.2	56.1	70.2
1948	47.6	57.7	61.7	77.3	81.0	84.0	84.0	82.7	81.0	70.0	61.0	55.0	68.6
1949	50.9	57.0	60.3	68.8	77.6	81.3	84.4	84.1	79.1	72.9	60.0	52.4	69.4
1950	51.0	57.0	60.3	68.8	77.6	81.3	84.4	84.1	79.1	72.9	60.0	52.4	69.4
1951	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1952	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1953	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1954	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1955	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1956	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1957	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1958	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1959	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1960	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1961	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1962	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1963	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1964	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1965	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1966	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1967	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1968	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1969	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9
1970	57.8	57.7	59.8	67.1	74.4	82.4	87.7	86.6	80.2	73.6	56.9	50.8	68.9

STATION HISTORY

Rainfall observations began at Hondo in August 1877. The station closed in March 1882, then was reactivated in April 1899. Rainfall records are complete from this date on. Temperature observations began on April 1, 1901, and records are complete except for a few gaps in those of the early years. From April 1899 to the present, the climatological station at Hondo has been located within one-half mile of the Post Office. Mr. Walter H. Knorr, the present Cooperative Weather Observer, was appointed on October 1, 1956. The station is located at Mr. Knorr's residence, 600 feet east-southeast of the Post Office. Station equipment consists of a cotton region shelter, maximum and minimum thermometers, and a standard 8-inch rain gage. Daily temperature and precipitation data are published monthly in Climatological Data-Texas. Station Index Number: 41-4254-06.

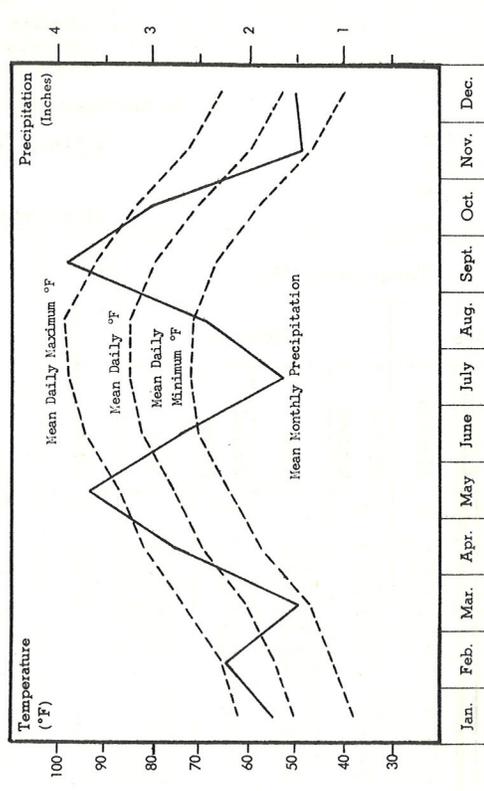
ESSA State Climatologist for Texas
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Single copies of this summary are available without charge from the Bureau of Business Research, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712. Quantity rates upon request.

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1941	4.01	7.08	4.96	5.40	2.58	5.19	2.55	0.74	6.73	3.10	0.68	1.05	44.07
1942	0.30	1.60	0.53	5.20	1.60	0.53	6.01	5.07	4.87	6.59	0.31	0.75	34.83
1943	0.86	0.25	1.35	2.05	6.09	6.51	4.21	0	6.44	2.05	2.22	1.46	31.43
1944	2.69	1.80	3.10	1.18	6.84	2.86	0.27	7.64	0.35	1.44	3.01	1.21	32.46
1945	2.99	2.35	1.87	4.58	2.10	4.09	0.65	5.03	7.19	1.44	0.48	1.22	29.57
1946	1.62	1.61	1.35	4.45	1.89	1.36	0.86	5.03	3.98	3.81	1.37	2.32	29.65
1947	3.07	0.36	1.33	0.60	2.31	2.66	0.36	4.89	0.36	0.63	1.33	1.08	18.98
1948	0.25	2.04	0.51	2.40	1.39	7.96	4.85	0.50	5.37	2.07	0.98	0.50	28.82
1949	2.83	3.61	3.84	1.27	3.79	5.02	1.08	4.15	2.25	6.82	T	2.46	39.90
1950	2.66	1.85	0.22	1.27	3.79	3.97	2.26	4.27	4.09	6.23	0.20	0.10	24.91
1951	-	2.16	2.69	0.52	10.75	2.58	0.10	1.10	4.50	0.33	1.26	0.22	24.56
1952	0.09	1.28	2.04	1.45	3.02	3.89	1.46	0.01	4.65	0	3.47	2.32	24.56
1953	0.03	1.28	1.45	0.70	0.73	0.24	0.63	2.84	7.25	4.33	0.08	1.05	20.61
1954	0.42	0.02	0.06	1.15	2.44	3.08	0.52	0.64	0.10	1.91	1.50	0.08	11.92
1955	1.47	2.32	0.74	1.18	7.49	1.43	1.38	1.55	1.22	0.42	2.17	0.84	21.21
1956	1.90	0.76	0.18	0.12	0.37	0.22	1.68	2.88	0.86	2.55	2.17	0.85	15.54
1957	0.55	1.40	2.57	7.70	7.41	1.91	0	1.69	3.75	7.27	2.92	1.43	35.09
1958	6.15	3.50	1.23	2.01	2.69	2.61	1.14	1.68	11.67	7.27	0.42	1.17	41.60
1959	1.20	2.52	2.04	1.36	2.83	3.79	1.73	0.94	2.98	8.59	1.70	1.24	30.68
1960	1.60	1.47	2.04	0.28	0.29	1.90	1.12	1.65	1.09	8.04	1.47	4.86	32.37
1961	1.62	3.58	0.28	0.28	4.61	1.58	0	1.76	0.48	6.92	1.74	1.14	27.36
1962	0.69	3.26	0.89	0.62	0.89	1.89	0	1.22	2.60	0.26	1.84	1.75	17.85
1963	0.32	3.26	0.09	4.12	2.07	1.41	0.44	0.85	1.67	1.96	1.84	0.85	18.90
1964	2.52	2.42	1.85	2.27	3.55	4.49	0.72	1.76	3.61	2.06	0.70	0.07	29.46
1965	0.40	6.00	2.00	4.92	4.98	0.75	0.13	0.59	2.23	3.53	0.76	7.00	30.80
1966	2.02	2.41	0.48	3.92	6.40	0.64	0.22	8.36	4.43	0.51	0	0.07	29.46
1967	0.17	0.96	1.47	5.28	1.12	0.05	1.36	3.71	8.94	2.98	3.12	1.17	30.33
1968	5.32	2.31	1.95	3.64	3.81	1.05	3.26	0.62	5.76	0.38	1.99	1.82	31.91
1969	1.11	3.14	1.69	2.18	5.84	2.25	0.36	3.32	2.39	5.27	1.28	3.47	32.30
1970	1.13	3.78	1.39	0.91	11.66	1.23	2.30	2.91	4.75	0.59	0.03	0.28	30.96

Monthly Temperatures and Precipitation



Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.