

**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

LATITUDE 30° 44' N  
 LONGITUDE 99° 13' W  
 ELEV. (GROUND) 1,586 ft.

**CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY**

STATION MASON, TEXAS

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1942-1970

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	Max.			Min.	
																			32° and below	32° and below		0° and below	0° and below
(a)	13	13	13	13		13		14	29	29		28	28		14		14	14	14	14			
Jan	60.1	31.9	46.0	88	1969+	7	1970	584	1.44	3.00	1968	0.9	8.7	1947	T	1958	2	0	1	17	0	Jan	
Feb	62.6	35.8	49.2	92	1957	15	1967	446	1.61	1.72	1960	0.8	12.0	1966	8	1966	3	*	*	11	0	Feb	
Mar	69.6	41.7	55.7	96	1967	18	1962	310	1.26	2.56	1970	0.1	2.0	1965	-		2	1	1	6	0	Mar	
Apr	79.9	53.0	66.5	100	1963	27	1970	77	2.49	2.70	1956	0	0		0		4	3	0	1	0	Apr	
May	84.6	59.6	72.1	104	1963	36	1970	15	3.67	3.55	1963	0	0		0		5	7	0	0	0	May	
Jun	91.4	66.5	79.0	108	1969+	46	1964	1	2.40	7.95	1943	0	0		0		3	21	0	0	0	Jun	
Jul	96.0	69.1	82.6	106	1957	54	1970+	0	1.63	3.95	1967	0	0		0		2	29	0	0	0	Jul	
Aug	96.3	68.5	82.4	109	1962	51	1967	0	2.10	3.50	1964	0	0		0		3	28	0	0	0	Aug	
Sep	88.7	63.2	76.0	104	1959	42	1967	5	3.02	7.45	1952	0	0		0		4	16	0	0	0	Sep	
Oct	79.1	51.4	65.3	96	1962+	28	1957	94	2.16	7.16	1969	T	T	1954	0		3	3	0	5	0	Oct	
Nov	69.6	41.4	55.5	90	1965	14	1970	294	1.32	2.52	1942	0.2	3.0	1957	T	1959	3	*	*	*	0	0	Nov
Dec	62.3	34.1	48.2	84	1966+	11	1963	514	1.16	1.98	1952	*	0.5	1967	0		2	0	*	14	0	Dec	
Year	78.4	51.4	64.9	109	Aug. 1962	7	Jan. 1970	2340	24.26	7.95	June 1943	2.0	12.0	Feb. 1966	8	Feb. 1966	36	108	2	54	0	Year	

(a) Average length of record, years.

+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

\* Less than one half.

\*\* Base 65°F

# For the period 1957-1970

THE CLIMATE OF MASON, TEXAS

Located in the rugged scenic Hill Country, 110 miles west-northwest of Austin, Mason is noted for hunting, fishing and camping. A large population of white tailed deer and wild turkey attract hunters to the area each fall and winter, while fishing in the beautiful Llano River is a year-round popularity. Bluebonnets and other wild flowers blanket the surrounding hillsides and valleys during the spring. Besides being a tourist center, Mason is the county seat and commercial center for Mason County.

Mason County is hilly, ranching country which drains to the Llano and San Saba Rivers. Beef cattle, goats and swine provide about 90 percent of agricultural income. Peanuts is the leading crop. Hunting leases are an important source of income. Elevations within Mason County range from 1,300 to 2,200 feet above mean sea level.

Mason has one of the most ideal year-round climates found anywhere within the contiguous United States. At latitude below 31° north, it is far enough south to escape harsh winters. At an elevation near 1,600 feet and a distance of about 250 miles inland from the coast, Mason escapes the hot humid summers characteristic of many southern climates. Summer temperatures are more characteristic of the southern High Plains than of Central Texas. Smog is unknown and severe storms are rare. Total annual precipitation averages 24.26 inches. Yearly amounts have varied from 39.50 inches in 1880 to only 11.73 inches in 1951. Prevailing winds are southerly during all months. Relative humidity is fairly uniform throughout the year, but varies considerably during the day. Mean annual relative humidity, at noon Central Standard Time is 55 percent in January, 50 percent in April, 44 percent in July and 53 percent in October. Mason receives about 65 percent of the total possible sunshine annually.

Winter: Temperatures are mild. Polar air masses move through the area and give the climate a continental flavor, characterized by abrupt changes in temperature. These colder air masses undergo considerable warming by the time they reach the Hill Country, but disrupt briefly the prevailing southerly flow. The average daily

temperature maximum in January is 60°F, sufficiently mild for most outdoor activities. There is often considerable cloudiness in the morning, with the overcast breaking up about noon, followed by sunshine and warmer temperatures during the afternoon. Winter is a comparatively dry season. Precipitation is often in the form of light rain or drizzle. Snowfall is usually of little or no consequence. A few rare, exceptionally heavy snows, such as occurred in February, 1966, bias the snowfall data, and render the mean (or average) an unreliable statistic in estimating expected snowfall.

Spring: The weather continues to change rapidly during March but becomes more uniform in April and May as cool fronts become weaker. Precipitation increases significantly in April as thundershowers become more frequent. The morning cloudiness breaks up earlier than in winter. The profusion of wild flowers creates a riot of color in spring and transforms the Hill Country into landscapes of unforgettable beauty.

Summer: Afternoon temperatures are often hot, but nights are pleasant--typical of the southern High Plains. There is little variety in the day-to-day weather except for an occasional thundershower. Total monthly rainfall decreases in mid-summer with July being one of the driest months.

Fall: Daytime temperatures continue warm in September and few cool fronts reach the area, but precipitation increases as weather disturbances occasionally move eastward from the Gulf of Mexico. Cool fronts are more frequent, and the variety of weather increases in October. November is normally a dry month. The combination of moderate temperatures, low wind velocities, and the frequent intrusion of mild, dry polar air make the fall a most delightful season in the Hill Country.

The warm season (freeze free period) at Mason averages 217 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 April 3 and November 6, respectively.

MASON, TEXAS

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1957	50.5	59.7	59.6	64.4	70.7	78.2	84.3	84.1	76.0	63.7	53.5	52.7	66.5
1958	47.2	48.4	51.9	64.4	72.8	81.1	84.0	83.2	77.5	65.6	57.5	48.2	65.1
1959	48.7	52.2	59.2	63.9	75.0	80.2	80.2	82.3	80.1	67.1	50.5	51.3	65.9
1960	48.6	47.6	55.6	68.3	72.7	82.5	83.0	81.4	76.9	71.0	59.1	45.8	65.9
1961	47.0	54.6	61.6	66.7	74.6	77.4	78.8	80.0	76.5	67.0	53.1	49.5	65.6
1962	43.2	58.2	53.6	64.6	74.6	78.3	86.4	87.4	77.0	69.9	56.6	40.5	66.5
1963	—	—	63.5	72.4	74.4	—	—	84.6	77.0	69.9	56.6	40.5	—
1964	44.1	44.1	54.8	68.1	75.2	80.0	85.1	84.5	76.1	62.2	57.3	47.0	64.7
1965	49.0	43.9	48.7	57.5	71.2	77.6	81.7	81.4	78.0	63.5	60.1	49.9	64.4
1966	38.7	43.4	55.1	64.7	70.8	77.4	83.8	80.4	74.9	61.5	58.4	45.9	62.9
1967	46.9	45.9	63.1	72.1	71.3	81.4	82.2	79.2	71.7	63.6	55.5	46.3	64.9
1968	43.6	43.7	51.7	63.7	68.6	76.8	80.0	81.6	72.8	67.4	53.3	47.3	62.5
1969	49.2	48.5	49.3	65.7	69.8	79.9	83.3	82.1	74.5	63.8	53.1	48.0	63.9
1970	41.8	50.0	51.6	65.7	68.7	76.0	80.7	81.5	75.7	62.0	53.4	54.3	63.5

STATION HISTORY

Rainfall observations were taken at Fort Mason, beginning in April 1852. These continued off-and-on through April 1883, but the record is incomplete, and missing entirely for the Civil War years, when the Fort was probably deactivated. A Mr. Harry Beirschwale maintained personal rainfall records at Mason from February 1912 through February 1947. A copy of these are on file at the Climatologist for Texas' office in Austin.

The National Weather Service (then U.S. Weather Bureau) established a rainfall station at Mason on October 20, 1941. Temperature equipment was added on December 1, 1956. Throughout its history, the station has remained within a distance of 1.1 miles from the Mason Post Office building. It was moved to its present location, at the Mason Veterinary Hospital, one mile southeast of the Post Office, on June 14, 1963. Daily temperature and precipitation data are published monthly in Climatological Data - Texas. Station index number: 41-5650-06.

Climatologist for Texas  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
3600 Manor Road, Austin, Texas 78723

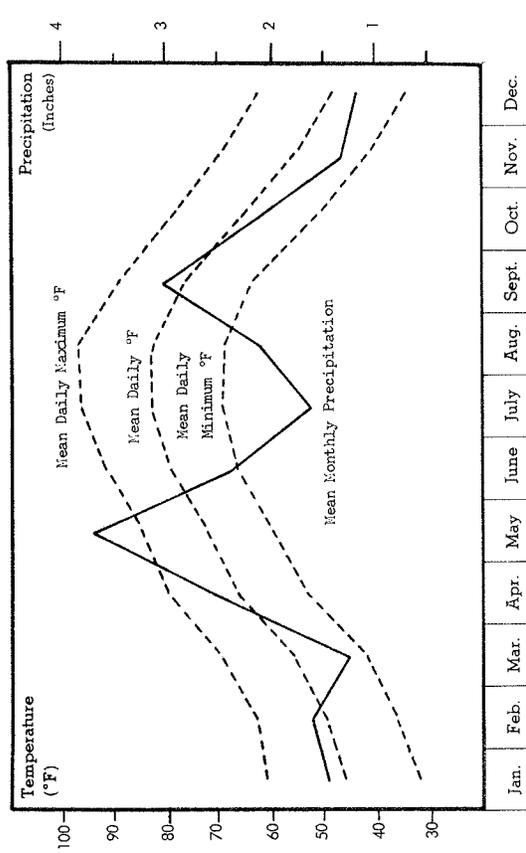
Single copies of this summary are available without charge from the Bureau of Business Research, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712. Quantity rates upon request.

MASON, TEXAS

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1942	0.05	0.21	0.36	5.15	1.82	6.32	0.48	3.97	1.73	3.19	2.52	0.86	26.66
1943	0.05	0.05	1.24	1.96	3.94	8.11	1.67	T	6.55	0.30	1.82	2.36	28.38
1944	3.53	3.84	1.92	0.85	8.38	1.22	0.55	4.34	2.09	0.98	2.39	2.01	32.10
1945	2.15	3.31	2.53	2.71	1.16	2.05	2.95	1.84	—	1.24	0.31	1.40	—
1946	2.11	1.37	0.69	2.81	4.63	1.49	0.02	1.05	4.03	2.52	0.66	1.10	22.48
1947	4.74	0.22	2.87	1.34	2.20	1.14	0.30	2.83	1.39	0.99	2.04	—	—
1948	0.23	1.70	0.67	2.94	3.20	3.03	5.37	2.12	1.24	0.86	—	—	—
1949	3.04	2.98	—	5.18	4.16	2.74	3.14	1.47	3.04	3.78	0	2.51	—
1950	1.03	2.10	0.05	3.25	3.71	1.17	3.03	3.45	4.48	0.16	T	0	22.43
1951	T	1.20	2.41	0.80	1.62	2.24	0.10	1.44	1.66	0.12	0.05	0.09	11.73
1952	0.06	0.37	1.39	3.17	6.17	0.92	0.68	T	10.09	0	3.16	3.20	29.21
1953	1.13	0.42	1.31	1.60	3.86	0.19	1.16	3.86	1.41	2.93	0.15	0.13	18.15
1954	0.35	0.06	0.13	2.09	2.59	1.49	1.71	0.34	1.90	0.56	0.16	0.06	11.44
1955	1.25	1.71	0.25	0.40	4.54	2.40	1.95	3.04	3.31	1.05	0.46	0.29	20.65
1956	0.38	1.21	0	2.89	3.73	0.40	0.18	T	2.33	0.92	0.35	0.81	12.75
1957	0.64	1.66	1.71	5.94	5.67	1.58	T	0.25	2.33	8.09	4.03	0.32	32.22
1958	2.83	2.82	1.95	0.90	2.03	3.35	0.26	3.20	4.12	3.61	0.73	0.94	26.74
1959	0.02	2.12	0	3.44	2.88	4.70	2.93	1.74	2.00	4.16	0.72	3.54	27.95
1960	1.36	1.80	1.49	1.87	2.00	0.10	6.90	3.21	0.59	3.99	1.75	4.32	28.18
1961	2.39	1.97	0.63	1.07	10.09	2.00	2.00	1.36	1.49	2.59	1.41	0.40	25.60
1962	0.17	0.42	0.42	3.48	2.88	2.50	0.93	0	2.30	1.97	0.97	0.86	16.90
1963	0.09	0.70	1.34	1.20	6.67	1.91	0.76	0.49	1.24	0.37	2.77	0.43	17.97
1964	2.02	1.09	2.49	1.19	2.28	0.08	0.13	5.13	9.12	1.74	2.21	0.61	28.09
1965	3.29	2.94	0.27	1.26	4.58	1.67	1.65	1.15	2.70	1.53	1.97	2.88	24.89
1966	0.78	2.18	0.56	3.96	2.52	1.22	0.11	7.08	4.11	0.15	0	0.04	22.71
1967	0.22	0.94	1.06	2.03	4.67	0	4.00	0.95	3.48	0.08	4.20	1.01	25.82
1968	6.82	2.13	2.63	5.21	4.89	1.84	0.52	0.95	3.48	0.08	2.50	1.24	32.29
1969	0.24	1.10	1.91	4.29	3.32	5.18	3.62	2.89	1.23	10.91	0.51	0.66	35.86
1970	0.45	4.18	3.28	0.46	5.27	0.53	0.28	0.36	3.87	1.45	0	0.05	20.18

Monthly Temperatures and Precipitation



T - Trace