U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU
IN COOPERATION WITH McALLEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES NO. 20 — 41

LATITUDE 26° 12' N
LONGITUDE 98° 13' W
ELEV. (GROUND) 122

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION McALLEN, TEXAS

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1942-1961

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	Max. 32° and below	Min. 32° and below	Min. 0° and below	Month
(a)	20	20	20	20		20		20	20	20		20	20		20		20	20	20	20	20	
Jan	71.3	49.3	60.3	92	1950	22	1949	220	1.25	4.22	1958	T	T	1949+	T	1949+	3	1	*	2	0	Jan
Feb	75.5	52.8	64.2	96	1954	19	1951	100	1.13	2.18	1957	0.0	0.0		0.0		3	1	0	*	0	Feb
Mar	80.8	57.5	69.2	102	1954	31	1951	60	0.60	1.11	1948	0.0	0.0		0.0		2	5	0	*	0	Mar
Apr	86.1	63.8	75.0	105	1955	40	1944	0	1.82	6.10	1954	0.0	0.0		0.0		2	10	0	0	0	Apr
May	90.7	69.6	80.2	106	1948	50	1954+	0	1.64	2.13	1943	0.0	0.0		0.0		3	21	0	0	0	May
Jun	93.7	73.3	83.5	104	1942	61	1956+	0	2.08	4.75	1942	0.0	0.0		0.0		3	27	0	0	0	Jun
Jul	95.9	74.0	85.0	105	1946	65	1945	0	0.92	1.99	1955	0.0	0.0		0.0		2	30	0	0	0	Jul
Aug	96.4	73.7	85.1	104	1949	64	1958+	0	1.84	2.57	1960	0.0	0.0		0.0		3	29	0	0	0	Aug
Sep	92.5	71.0	81.8	102	1961+	50	1942	0	3.01	2.87	1948	0.0	0.0		0.0		5	23	0	0	0	Sep
Oct	86.8	64.2	75.5	100	1957	42	1957	0	2.39	4.63	1954	0.0	0.0		0.0		3	14	0	0	0	Oct
Nov	77.9	55.8	66.9	97	1947+	30	1959	70	0.93	1.67	1943	0.0	0.0		0.0		2	3	0	*	0	Nov
Dec	73.4	50.6	62.0	95	1950	26	1957+	160	0.70	2.18	1957	T	T	1958	T	1958	2	1	0	1	0	Dec
Year	85.1	63.0	74.1	106	May 1948	19	Feb 1951	610	18.31	6.10	Apr 1954	T	T	Dec 1958+	T	Dec 1958+	33	165	*	3	0	Year

(a) Average length of record, years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

** Base 65°F Estimated Degree Days

+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

* Less than one half.

THE CLIMATE OF McALLEN, TEXAS

McAllen is located in south central Hidalgo County in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The city lies on the fertile delta of the Rio Grande in the midst of an intensively cultivated citrus and vegetable growing area. It is located at the crossroads of the Lower Valley "main street," and the north-south highway from the United States to Monterrey, Mexico via way of Reynosa. Hidalgo County has the highest agriculture production of any county in Texas. The Gulf of Mexico lies approximately 70 airline miles east of McAllen, and Mexico only about 8 miles to the south.

The climate is semi-arid with an average of 18.31 inches of rainfall annually. Most rainfall is derived from thundershower activity, which reaches a peak in late spring, and again in early fall. September and October rainfall is increased by an occasional tropical low pressure center that moves inland up the Rio Grande Valley and brings intensive rainfall for a day or two. The least rainfall occurs in early winter and early spring.

Summer temperatures are rather warm with daytime highs generally in the middle nineties. Winters are pleasantly mild, with nighttime lows usually in the low fifties. Two years out of ten, on an average, the temperature never drops as low as 32° F in the spring; and four years out of ten, the temperature does not drop as low as 32° F in the fall. The growing season (freeze free period) is exceptionally long, averaging about 325 days. The average period between 28° F freezes is 353 days. However, there have been severe cold spells that caused extensive damage to crops, fruits, and vegetables, but these are quite rare. Severe freezes occurred January 29-February 3, 1951, and again January 9-12, 1962. A low of 19° F was recorded at McAllen, February 3, 1951; and a low of 17° F was recorded January 12, 1962.

Mean relative humidity is about 70 per cent annually, and varies little from month to month. Relative humidity increases eastward toward the Gulf of Mexico, and decreases westward toward Mexico and the middle Rio Grande Valley. Prevailing winds are southeasterly, off the Gulf of Mexico. Refrigerated air conditioning is recommended from about mid-April through mid-October.

McAllen is too far inland to be greatly concerned about hurricanes. These storms usually follow a north-south path just off shore, whenever they enter the West Gulf. The few that move inland over the Lower Valley or northern Mexico lose their intensity rapidly after crossing the coast line. However, excessive rainfall from such storms may cause localized flooding, if drainage is inadequate. Tornadoes or damaging hailstorms are quite rare.

The climate of McAllen and the surrounding area favors outdoor activity the year around. No measurable snow has fallen in McAllen during the 20-year period, 1942-1961. The mild winters attract a large number of tourists and retired people.

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McALLEN, TEXAS
Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1942	56.6	60.4	67.2	74.9	79.6	83.2	83.6	84.1	80.8	78.0	70.9	65.4	73.7
1943	58.6	67.6	68.2	76.0	80.8	82.8	86.5	85.8	79.8	71.4	64.0	59.4	73.4
1944	59.2	67.4	69.4	72.6	78.4	83.4	85.9	85.1	80.4	74.2	67.9	60.0	73.7
1945	62.6	66.8	76.8	76.0	79.6	85.4	85.8	85.7	M	M	M	M	-
1946	57.3	64.2	68.4	73.4	81.4	81.8	86.2	85.6	83.2	77.8	67.8	61.0	74.0
1947	56.8	56.6	65.6	75.0	80.2	85.2	86.0	82.0	82.2	79.0	67.6	61.4	73.2
1948	54.8	63.7	68.1	76.0	80.8	83.7	85.0	85.3	79.4	73.8	66.6	67.0	73.7
1949	57.1	65.1	70.0	72.2	81.7	84.8	85.8	85.1	82.8	76.6	68.5	66.3	74.7
1950	70.5	69.5	69.3	76.9	82.7	83.6	85.8	85.3	84.3	77.9	67.8	62.4	76.3
1951	61.5	63.3	69.1	74.1	79.7	84.8	85.3	85.1	82.4	77.2	65.8	66.0	74.5
1952	67.9	66.4	69.9	73.4	77.8	80.7	82.6	85.4	80.9	71.0	65.1	59.8	73.4
1953	64.0	63.2	76.3	77.8	80.5	86.4	86.2	85.0	81.0	74.8	66.0	57.1	74.8
1954	64.0	68.0	69.2	76.8	77.9	83.2	84.4	85.1	83.0	75.1	66.5	63.6	74.8
1955	60.3	63.5	71.3	77.7	82.0	82.5	82.8	84.8	80.8	72.9	65.9	62.0	73.9
1956	61.7	65.3	68.7	74.6	79.4	82.1	84.0	85.8	81.9	78.3	64.0	63.9	74.1
1957	65.9	70.1	69.7	74.8	80.7	83.0	85.7	86.0	81.6	75.0	64.9	64.1	75.1
1958	56.9	60.0	63.7	76.0	79.0	83.9	84.3	86.5	83.3	72.7	67.8	57.4	72.6
1959	56.5	60.5	64.9	71.8	81.6	82.6	84.5	85.4	84.5	76.5	61.8	62.5	72.8
1960	60.2	58.9	64.1	74.8	78.4	83.5	85.6	85.1	80.0	78.9	69.0	56.8	72.9
1961	53.8	62.5	73.1	73.6	81.0	83.1	83.8	83.7	81.4	74.9	65.7	62.9	73.3

M - Missing

McALLEN, TEXAS
Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1942	0.87	0.75	0.05	0.09	0.86	6.48	2.02	0.52	1.37	2.01	0	0.37	15.39
1943	2.17	0.10	0.48	1.02	3.74	0.04	0.06	T	5.95	1.46	3.02	1.12	19.16
1944	0.30	0.11	0.84	0.02	2.06	1.36	0.56	8.11	3.70	0.56	0.22	0.59	18.43
1945	2.03	0.74	0.71	2.49	1.66	0.35	0.23	3.99	1.62	2.07	T	0.72	16.61
1946	2.55	0.40	0.13	1.72	1.62	1.45	1.46	0.05	5.67	1.27	0.07	0.23	16.62
1947	0.86	0.27	0.01	1.96	2.60	0.71	1.26	6.78	T	0.17	1.19	1.01	16.82
1948	0.37	3.04	1.35	0.54	3.41	1.29	1.78	1.10	9.65	1.78	0.23	T	24.54
1949	1.39	2.49	0.59	3.67	0.77	0.65	0.77	0.73	1.34	2.69	0.53	0.62	16.24
1950	0.06	0.20	0.78	1.98	2.76	1.18	0.21	0.03	1.20	1.17	0.06	T	9.63
1951	M	0.04	1.18	0.44	2.49	5.08	0.50	1.02	5.75	0.97	0.56	0.03	-
1952	0.19	1.25	0.64	0.49	3.07	4.16	2.75	0.21	0.50	T	2.34	0.62	16.22
1953	0.87	1.17	0.45	0.75	1.36	0.04	0.28	4.37	0.43	4.55	0.55	0.97	15.79
1954	0.16	0.04	0.29	10.58	0.66	3.55	0.23	1.66	4.14	6.73	1.23	T	29.27
1955	0.92	0.48	0.11	0.11	0.16	0.06	2.33	0.68	3.76	0.78	1.01	0.07	10.47
1956	0.04	0.62	0.58	1.08	1.50	0.84	0.16	0.27	1.33	2.08	0.42	1.08	10.00
1957	0.28	2.94	1.70	3.81	2.13	1.91	0	0.74	1.05	0.29	2.65	2.59	20.09
1958	7.56	3.39	1.19	0.08	0.83	2.04	1.87	0.05	4.30	12.04	1.19	1.07	35.61
1959	1.48	2.38	0.15	1.19	0.08	2.78	0.15	1.41	0.28	3.28	1.47	0.17	14.82
1960	0.97	1.69	0.73	2.31	0.67	3.16	0.52	4.46	4.34	3.50	0.99	2.24	25.58
1961	0.67	0.55	T	2.00	0.31	4.50	1.20	0.63	3.82	0.33	0.91	0.43	15.35

T - Trace
M - Missing

STATION HISTORY - McALLEN, TEXAS

Maximum and minimum temperature and rainfall records began at McAllen, June 1, 1941, at a site 1.2 miles ENE of the Post Office. The station was moved 75 feet NW of the previous location to the City Water Plant, January 23, 1947. Data published in CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA-TEXAS beginning with June, 1948.

Observer	Began	Ended
C. V. Pulliam	June 1, 1941	May 30, 1945
F. M. Hamlin	May 31, 1945	June 30, 1955
Horace G. Skeans	July 1, 1955	May, 1956
City Water Plant	June, 1956	-

Robert B. Orton
State Climatologist
U. S. Weather Bureau
3600 Manor Road
Austin, Texas