U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Environmental Science Services 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 28° 38' N
LONGITUDE 96° 38' W
ELEV. (GROUND) 19 ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION PORT LAVACA, TEXAS

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1947-1968

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 Depth	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)	22	22	22	22		22		13	22	22		22	22				13	13	13	13	13	
Jan	63.7	43.7	53.7	85	1951	11	1949	404	2.10	2.32	1964	*	0.8	1949			4	0	*	5	0	Jan
Feb	66.4	47.1	56.8	92	1954	16	1951	271	2.96	2.96	1952	0.4	5.0	1960			6	0	0	2	0	Feb
Mar	71.6	52.8	62.2	89	1967	25	1948	149	1.61	2.98	1948	T	T	1949			2	0	0	1	0	Mar
Apr	79.2	62.6	70.9	96	1955	39	1954	18	2.80	3.94	1962	0	0				3	*	0	0	0	Apr
May	85.2	69.2	77.2	101	1949	51	1952	3	3.21	3.50	1953	0	0				4	4	0	0	0	May
Jun	90.8	74.0	82.4	99	1956	58	1964	0	5.34	13.68	1960	0	0				5	20	0	0	0	Jun
Jul	93.4	75.5	84.5	105	1954	68	1952	0	1.85	4.82	1961	0	0				3	28	0	0	0	Jul
Aug	93.6	74.8	84.2	107	1962	57	1951	0	4.16	5.40	1947	0	0				5	27	0	0	0	Aug
Sep	89.6	71.3	80.5	105	1965	51	1948	0	5.60	7.01	1967	0	0				6	18	0	0	0	Sep
Oct	83.2	63.0	73.1	93	1956	36	1957+	15	3.94	5.38	1959	0	0				4	4	0	0	0	Oct
Nov	73.5	53.0	63.3	95	1963	27	1959+	119	2.42	2.59	1963	0	0				4	*	0	1	0	Nov
Dec	66.7	46.5	56.6	89	1948	22	1950	295	2.57	3.52	1956	0	0				5	0	0	2	0	Dec
Year	79.7	61.1	70.4	107	Aug. 1962	11	Jan. 1949	1274	38.56	13.68	Jun. 1960	0.4	5.0	Feb. 1960			51	101	*	11	0	Year

(a) Average length of record, years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

** Base 65°F

+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

* Less than one half.

THE CLIMATE OF PORT LAVACA, TEXAS

Located on the west side of Lavaca Bay, the resort city of Port Lavaca is an important center for commercial and pleasure fishing. Its deep water port, one of the newest on the Gulf coast, has opened Port Lavaca to more diversified industries. While tourism is the most important business, seafood processing, oyster shell, and employment in aluminum, starch, box, and petrochemical plants make significant contributions to the economy. Port Lavaca is the county seat of Calhoun County. The land is sandy and flat, and broken by bays. Cotton, rice and sorghums are the chief sources of agricultural income. Minerals produced are oil, gas, shell and lime. Indianola State Park is located on Matagorda Bay, about 14 miles southeast of Port Lavaca. The Aransas National Wildlife Refuge lies just across San Antonio Bay, south of Calhoun County.

The climate of Port Lavaca is humid subtropical with warm summers. Also, it is predominately maritime, being controlled largely by the warm Gulf of Mexico source region. The prevailing winds are southeasterly to south-southeasterly during all months. Daytime temperatures are warmer in winter than at inland locations while sea breezes in summer prevent daytime highs from becoming as warm as those observed farther inland. Precipitation averages 38.56 inches annually. Peak rainfall periods are late spring and early fall. March and July are relatively dry months. Seasonal variations in relative humidity are samll. Diurnally, the changes in relative humidity are more significant. The mean annual relative humidity is 88 percent at 6:00 a.m., 60 percent at noon, and 65 percent at 6:00 p.m., Central Standard Time. In an average year, the area receives approximately 64 percent of the total possible sunshine. Thunderstorms occur on about 41 days each year, and the mean annual lake evaporation is estimated at 55 inches.

Winters at Port Lavaca are quite mild. Polar Canadian air masses that push southward across Texas and out over the Gulf in winter produce days of cool, cloudy, rainy weather but these rarely last more that 48 to 72 hours. The polar air masses undergo considerable warming by the time they reach the coast. The average daily temperature maxima in winter is 65.6°F, the average daily minima is 45.8°F. Freezing temperatures, usually confined to an hour or two near sunrise, occur on an average of 11 nights each year. Cloudiness is more prevalent in winter, limiting available sunshine to about 50 percent of the total possible. Precipitation is most often in the form of slow, gentle rains.

Spring temperatures are quite pleasant. The early morning cloudiness, so characteristic of winter, dissipates more quickly in the spring. March is a relatively dry month, but thundershower activity increases in April and May. Spring weather is rather changeable, but moderate.

Summer weather produces few surprises; ordinarily, there is little variety in the day-to-day pattern. Occasionally, slowly moving thunderstorms, or weather disturbances embedded in the tropical easterlies, dump excessive amounts of precipitation on the area. One such storm produced 13.68 inches of rain within a single 24-hour period at Port Lavaca in June, 1960. The season is one of abundant shunshine, the mean amount being about 75 percent of the total possible. The mid-summer period is relatively dry.

Fall is perhaps the most delightful season on the Texas Gulf coast, including Port Lavaca, of course. Temperatures are moderate. Rainfall increases, yet frequently, there are prolonged periods of mild, dry, sunny weather. Heavy rains may occur in early fall in association with tropical disturbances which move westward from the Gulf.

Tropical storms are a threat to the Texas coast in summer and fall, as they are to any section of the Gulf coast, but fortunately, severe storms are rare, and the probability of a storm of hurricane intensity causing severe damage to a particular location during a given season is exceedingly small.

The Port Lavaca area has an exceptionally long warm season (freeze free period) which averages 300 days. The mean dates of the last occurrence of 32°F or below in the spring and the first occurence of 32°F or below in the fall, are February 19 and December 16, respectively.

PORT LAVACA, TEXAS

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1947	-	50.8	56.6	69.4	76.2	82.4	83.2	82.4	79.9	75.7	60.9	56.4	-
1948	48.6	55.1	60.3	72.6	77.2	82.9	84.9	84.3	77.8	71.3	61.3	60.9	69.8
1949	51.1	59.4	63.7	66.8	78.7	82.7	83.6	82.2	80.9	72.9	63.8	60.3	70.5
1950	63.0	61.7	62.2	70.2	78.2	81.5	84.3	82.9	81.4	75.4	63.2	57.4	71.8
1951	55.6	57.4	64.9	68.6	76.2	82.7	84.9	85.9	80.8	74.5	61.2	59.6	71.0
1952	62.5	60.2	62.9	67.3	74.4	81.6	83.7	85.4	78.2	66.3	60.8	54.9	69.8
1953	58.5	-	69.4	71.7	77.3	83.9	84.6	83.3	74.0	73.7	62.3	52.7	-
1954	55.8	61.2	62.1	74.1	-	82.9	85.6	86.1	83.2	75.0	62.4	59.3	-
1955	55.8	58.0	64.4	73.1	78.8	81.0	84.9	84.3	81.7	73.3	63.1	56.7	71.2
1956	54.5	59.5	62.5	70.3	78.4	83.0	84.6	84.9	82.4	77.1	61.0	60.4	71.6
1957	57.4	65.2	63.1	68.9	77.3	82.1	85.6	85.2	79.4	69.2	62.0	59.1	71.3
1958	51.9	53.2	58.4	70.9	77.9	84.6	85.9	86.2	81.1	71.3	65.4	53.4	70.0
1959	50.5	56.0	61.2	66.5	78.3	83.3	84.0	83.7	80.9	73.2	57.2	56.9	69.3
1960	53.4	52.3	57.2	71.6	74.1	82.3	84.3	83.2	79.2	74.9	65.3	52.6	69.2
1961	49.1	57.3	65.5	68.7	77.4	81.0	82.8	82.1	80.4	72.9	61.4	56.9	69.6
1962	48.3	65.0	60.0	70.3	77.5	82.1	85.4	86.8	82.8	77.3	62.1	55.0	71.0
1963	47.9	54.0	66.5	76.0	78.4	82.5	84.6	84.7	81.5	76.4	67.2	49.6	70.8
1964	53.0	52.2	61.2	72.3	78.6	81.9	84.8	85.4	81.1	69.6	57.0	55.9	70.3
1965	57.3	54.4	58.2	72.2	77.7	83.1	85.6	84.0	82.5	71.0	70.0	59.5	71.3
1966	49.5	52.2	62.4	71.4	75.5	80.9	83.6	83.6	79.6	71.4	66.3	55.9	69.4
1967	53.2	55.4	67.1	76.6	76.3	83.4	84.0	81.1	78.2	71.1	65.7	55.4	70.6
1968	51.6	52.0	59.4	71.0	77.7	81.2	83.0	84.9	79.0	74.7	62.8	56.7	69.5

PORT LAVACA, TEXAS

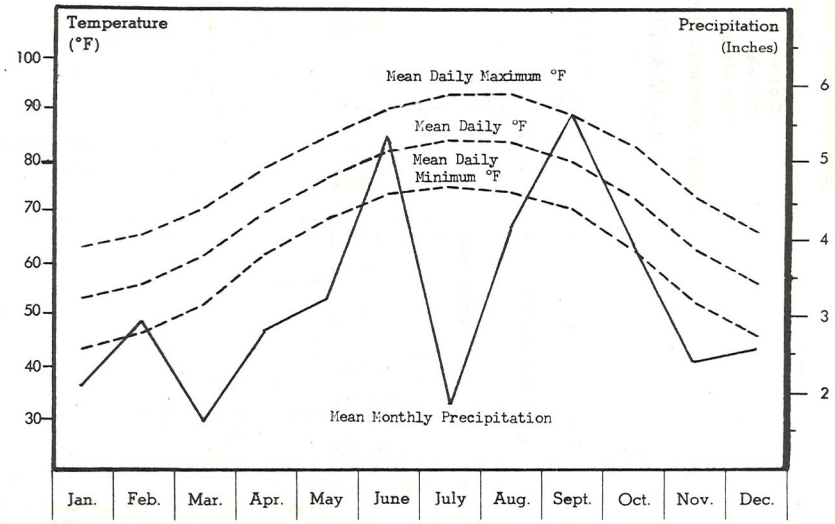
Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1947	-	0.66	1.91	3.98	4.67	1.06	0.92	9.89	0.78	2.30	5.73	2.61	-
1948	3.87	2.83	4.58	2.13	2.69	0.29	0.74	3.42	4.75	0.16	1.13	0.16	26.75
1949	1.84	6.01	1.78	8.78	0.68	1.32	4.33	2.59	3.39	15.75	0.84	4.16	51.47
1950	0.86	1.58	0.69	3.66	1.50	0.75	1.23	3.24	1.82	0	0	1.13	16.46
1951	0.92	0.82	4.73	1.35	5.94	0.53	1.67	0.50	11.78	3.97	2.08	1.10	35.39
1952	0.60	5.79	0.50	3.83	5.37	1.23	2.23	3.40	7.34	0	5.69	2.29	38.27
1953	0	4.75	0.71	0.45	7.04	4.39	1.21	8.63	0.68	5.30	1.28	2.28	36.72
1954	0.64	0.13	0.37	2.87	2.16	0.82	0.43	1.85	3.04	4.55	1.73	1.36	19.95
1955	2.52	3.39	0.30	0.75	3.18	1.75	1.21	3.88	7.17	0.33	0.68	1.40	26.56
1956	3.27	0.99	1.30	2.41	1.10	3.50	1.89	1.94	0	1.40	1.63	3.99	23.42
1957	0.55	2.72	4.68	9.32	5.04	7.55	0.38	1.73	9.12	4.78	4.19	0.15	50.21
1958	6.31	4.22	1.95	1.13	0.68	3.45	1.33	2.78	14.72	3.75	1.68	4.26	46.26
1959	0.52	6.58	0.72	2.64	1.50	5.87	0.98	13.54	4.14	11.95	1.25	1.98	51.67
1960	1.97	3.58	2.50	1.52	2.50	29.76	1.86	7.53	1.69	11.23	4.03	8.84	77.01
1961	2.77	4.66	0.52	3.85	0.63	5.31	6.38	5.25	7.18	0.44	4.78	1.06	42.83
1962	0.88	0.27	0.18	5.77	1.36	6.95	0.50	0.97	4.18	4.80	1.39	3.67	30.92
1963	0.53	1.93	0.27	0.49	0.42	6.76	1.16	1.61	2.19	0.30	6.56	2.55	24.77
1964	3.80	2.44	3.07	0.15	1.84	7.08	1.62	5.07	8.33	0.96	2.40	3.22	39.98
1965	2.09	3.89	1.57	0.41	2.92	3.24	0.30	2.33	2.61	2.80	2.13	5.92	30.21
1966	4.02	3.20	0.62	4.86	6.40	6.84	3.61	1.89	4.45	1.57	0.50	1.92	39.88
1967	2.60	1.52	0.59	0.05	4.34	0	3.12	8.11	18.88	8.32	1.53	0.54	49.60
1968	3.56	3.08	1.95	1.26	8.63	19.04	3.58	1.28	5.05	1.95	2.04	1.95	53.37

STATION HISTORY

Temperature and precipitation observations began at Port Lavaca in February 1869, but were discontinued in August of the following year. The station was reopened on February 1, 1901. Much data are missing from the period 1901 through 1946. Mr. Marsh F. Canion was appointed cooperative weather observer on April 20, 1940, and on January 17, 1947, the station was moved to a location 0.4 mile southwest of the Port Lavaca Post Office. The station has been moved several times, each new location being within 0.5 mile of the post office building. It is presently located at 213 North Colorado Street about one block north of the post office. Mr. L. Dean Holford is the cooperative observer, appointed February 19, 1969. Station equipment consists of a cotton region shelter, maximum and minimum thermometers, and a standard 8-inch rain gage. Temperature and precipitation data are published monthly in CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA-TEXAS, under the name Port Lavaca No. 2, index number 41-7182-08.

ESSA State Climatologist for Texas
Airport Administration Building
3600 Manor Road, Austin, Texas 78723
March 1970

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.

Monthly Temperatures and Precipitation