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 29° 33' N
LONGITUDE 104° 21' W
ELEV. (GROUND) 2590 ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION PRESIDIO, TEXAS

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1941-1970

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	32° and below	Min.: 32° and below	0° and below	Month
(a)	29	29	29	29		29		15	30	30		30	30		15		15	15	15	15	15	
Jan	66.4	33.4	49.9	88	1943	4	1962	470	0.41	0.96	1960	0.1	2.5	1947	0		1	0	*	16	0	Jan
Feb	73.4	37.7	55.6	93	1962+	11	1956+	286	0.21	0.62	1966	T	T	1951	1	1956	1	1	0	8	0	Feb
Mar	81.3	43.9	62.6	105	1946	20	1942	134	0.15	0.78	1970	0	0		0		*	6	0	2	0	Mar
Apr	90.7	53.3	72.0	106	1961	30	1960	10	0.21	0.98	1941	0	0		0		*	21	0	*	0	Apr
May	98.2	62.2	80.2	114	1951	38	1970	1	0.61	1.96	1941	0	0		0		1	29	0	0	0	May
Jun	103.4	70.7	87.1	117	1960+	50	1946	0	1.26	1.95	1947	0	0		0		2	29	0	0	0	Jun
Jul	102.1	72.6	87.4	116	1958	59	1946	0	1.35	2.10	1945	0	0		0		3	31	0	0	0	Jul
Aug	100.8	71.2	86.0	114	1951	59	1962	0	1.23	2.03	1958+	0	0		0		3	30	0	0	0	Aug
Sep	95.1	66.0	80.6	112	1952	45	1945	2	1.51	3.01	1958	0	0		0		3	25	0	0	0	Sep
Oct	86.7	54.9	70.8	102	1965	28	1967	24	0.99	1.81	1941	0	0		0		2	12	0	*	0	Oct
Nov	74.4	40.9	57.7	92	1965+	21	1969+	217	0.35	1.09	1963	0.1	3.0	1969	0		1	*	0	3	0	Nov
Dec	66.7	34.0	50.4	87	1954+	17	1969+	429	0.33	1.13	1947	*	0.2	1946	0		1	0	0	14	0	Dec
Year	86.6	53.4	70.0	117	June 1960+	4	Jan. 1962	1573	8.61	3.01	Sept. 1958	0.2	3.0	Nov. 1969	1	Feb. 1956	18	184	*	43	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 PRESIDIO, TEXAS

When Mexico won its independence from Spain, a village on the Rio Grande called La Junta, though still deep in Mexican territory, became an important trade portal with the United States. The community fort, known as Presidio del Norte, was located north of the river. Following the Texas War for Independence and the subsequent U.S.-Mexican War, the Rio Grande became the international boundary, and the location of the presidio (fort) became the nucleus for a new Texas community. Today the Mexican town south of the river is called Ojinage. The Texas town north of the river is Presidio, a market center for irrigated Valley crops, and the southern terminus of the Santa Fe Railroad which connects with the National Railways of Mexico.

Ojinaga is the eastern terminus for one of the most spectacular train trips on the North American continent, via El Ferrocarril Chihuahua al Pacifico - (The Chihuahua to the Pacific Railroad). The route climbs and twists through the soaring Sierra Madre Mountains, utilizing 73 tunnels and 27 bridges over its 572-mile distance. The trip requires about 24 hours one-way. The train skirts the shoulders of towering peaks, while below are green tropical valleys and waterfalls. Brief photo stops are made along the way, such as at Barrancas del Cobre (Copper Canyon).

From Presidio eastward to Lajitas stretches El Camino del Rio, the popular name for F.M. 170, a modern highway that follows the twisting bed of the Rio Grande, on the Texas side. It is a spectacular drive over mountains and through canyons in a land of primitive grandeur.

Th imate of Presidio is arid sub-tropical. Rainfall averages 8.61 inches annually, an amount insufficient for any growth except desert vegetation. Irrigation is necessary for crops and gardens. Dry periods of several months' duration without appreciable rainfall are not unusual. In an average year, 62 percent of the total precipitation occurs in the four month period, June through September. Showers of 0.10 inch or more occur about once every ten days during this period. Very little rain falls during the three-month period, February through April.

The area receives abundant sunshine during all seasons, averaging 70 percent of the total possible in winter, 80 percent in spring, 79 percent in summer and 75 percent in fall. In this arid region, mean monthly relative humidity, measured at noon, c.s.t., is estimated at 45 percent in January, 38 percent in April, 40 percent in July and 45 percent in October.

Winter daytime temperatures are quite mild. Because of radiational cooling in this dry climate, temperatures drop sharply at night, so that freezes occur on about one-half the nights during December and January. Snowfall is quite rare; no measurable amount of snow fell during the 17-year period, 1952-1968.

Summer daytime temperatures are high, almost always above 90°F, and maxima of 100°F or above are common. Summer nights are pleasant, with minima usually in the low seventies. The low summer humidity permits evaporative-type home air conditioners to operate efficiently, and this type is widely used. Automotive air conditioning is recommended for travel.

Spring and fall are both delightful seasons in the Presidio area, as temperatures are moderate and ideal for any sort of outdoor activity. Late spring is particularly beautiful, since the desert vegetation is in bloom at this time.

The warm season (freeze free period) at Presidio averages 238 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 20 and November 13, respectively.

PRESIDIO, TEXAS

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1941	51.4	57.0	59.4	69.8	77.5	82.4	82.8	82.4	79.5	71.6	57.4	51.2	68.5
1942	50.7	55.2	59.4	69.9	78.8	86.1	86.0	83.0	77.2	71.0	62.0	53.0	69.4
1943	51.2	58.4	64.4	73.4	79.5	84.2	84.6	88.8	76.9	68.6	57.1	50.4	69.8
1944	47.0	59.4	60.4	67.2	77.5	86.0	86.2	84.4	76.8	71.1	58.0	49.6	68.6
1945	54.6	58.6	65.4	68.4	79.6	84.6	84.3	84.2	78.8	67.7	58.2	48.6	69.4
1946	47.5	55.3	64.3	76.0	79.2	85.6	86.8	88.1	82.0	72.0	55.5	50.8	70.3
1947	46.4	53.0	61.3	68.4	80.0	86.8	88.9	83.4	80.2	74.5	56.6	48.3	69.0
1948	46.8	58.5	61.1	75.8	82.0	89.8	88.0	87.4	80.1	69.0	52.9	53.1	70.4
1949	45.8	56.4	66.3	68.2	82.2	88.9	87.0	83.2	82.2	70.4	57.4	51.0	69.9
1950	57.2	60.2	64.4	73.3	79.8	88.4	87.6	85.7	80.6	72.8	57.3	51.4	71.6
1951	48.5	53.8	62.0	69.9	80.4	88.5	88.7	88.9	83.0	74.8	56.5	53.2	70.7
1952	54.8	54.1	60.4	70.5	79.5	89.1	85.4	90.6	82.6	69.1	56.7	48.6	70.1
1953	52.6	55.5	67.6	72.3	78.4	-	89.3	87.0	79.0	-	-	-	-
1954	-	-	63.6	-	-	88.8	87.8	85.3	83.4	72.1	57.3	50.9	-
1955	48.4	53.6	63.3	72.0	79.9	86.3	87.2	86.1	81.6	69.8	56.5	50.5	69.6
1956	51.3	53.1	64.1	-	84.2	90.1	89.1	86.3	80.1	72.7	55.5	50.1	-
1957	54.9	64.2	62.4	71.2	78.2	-	91.1	88.5	82.6	69.0	54.5	51.8	-
1958	47.2	55.8	60.2	71.4	81.0	91.1	91.0	87.5	81.2	68.3	58.2	48.5	70.1
1959	50.9	56.5	60.3	70.7	80.5	88.7	87.1	88.1	82.9	71.5	55.0	50.2	70.2
1960	49.3	52.3	64.2	72.8	80.7	90.1	86.5	85.6	82.1	73.7	59.9	45.9	70.3
1961	47.4	52.9	63.9	73.0	81.8	84.6	86.0	84.2	82.2	71.3	54.2	51.8	69.4
1962	46.0	59.9	60.5	73.7	83.5	87.9	87.7	88.2	81.6	73.5	59.5	49.8	71.0
1963	46.4	54.2	65.9	76.1	82.6	-	88.9	86.1	81.2	73.1	58.3	48.9	-
1964	45.2	49.1	62.5	71.7	81.1	85.5	89.0	88.1	81.8	69.3	59.8	49.0	69.3
1965	54.7	52.8	60.3	74.4	81.1	86.7	89.5	86.0	81.4	69.5	65.4	54.5	71.4
1966	47.9	50.7	64.3	72.8	81.1	86.9	90.9	83.2	80.8	68.2	62.1	49.3	69.9
1967	48.9	55.2	68.4	77.0	78.8	86.2	86.8	82.9	77.1	69.8	60.3	48.7	70.0
1968	50.6	56.5	59.5	70.4	80.3	86.8	82.9	83.6	77.2	73.2	57.6	48.9	69.0
1969	54.0	55.6	58.1	74.4	79.4	87.6	87.7	88.4	82.1	-	57.2	52.9	-
1970	50.0	55.6	60.4	71.3	77.2	83.2	86.4	85.8	79.2	64.8	54.9	-	-

STATION HISTORY

Rainfall observations began at Presidio in April 1881, but were discontinued the following year. The station was not re-established until October 1927, and rainfall data are complete since that time, except for four months missing data in 1953. Temperature observations began again in November 1927, but records are incomplete prior to January 1930. Prior to July 1, 1969, the climatological station was located at Harper Hardware Store, 0.2 mile west of the post office. Mr. Oliver Harper was the observer. Upon Mr. Harper's retirement from observational duties, Mr. Ted Millington was appointed cooperative weather observer, and the station was relocated to the site of his grocery store, 1.5 mile east-southeast of the post office. Station equipment consists of a cotton region shelter, maximum and minimum thermometers and a standard 8-inch, non-recording rain gage. Daily temperature and precipitation data are published monthly in Climatological Data - Texas. Station index number: 41-7262-05.

Climatologist for Texas
National Weather Service
3600 Manor Road, Austin, Texas 78723
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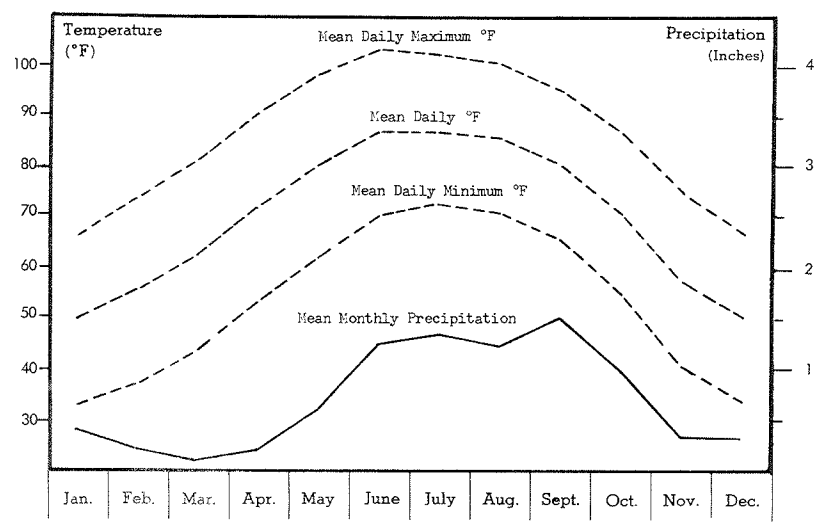
Single copies of this summary are available without charge from the Bureau of Business Research, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712. Quantity rates upon request.

PRESIDIO, TEXAS

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1941	0.82	0.57	0.05	1.40	5.37	2.37	2.85	1.93	3.79	3.63	0.07	0.58	23.43
1942	0	0.09	0.02	0.08	0.07	1.74	0.35	3.14	2.40	0.29	0.32	0.16	8.66
1943	0.24	0	0.17	0.03	0.99	1.05	3.08	0.21	3.15	0.02	0.47	1.53	10.94
1944	1.00	0.18	0.08	0	1.01	2.97	1.20	3.03	3.66	0.01	0.70	1.00	14.84
1945	0.10	0	0.06	0.08	0.07	0	3.76	0.78	0.66	4.31	0	0	9.82
1946	1.42	0.01	0	0.11	0.69	0.42	0.10	0.14	1.29	2.05	0.07	0.25	6.55
1947	1.07	0.04	0.26	0	0.66	2.55	0	0.93	1.47	0.37	0.24	1.35	8.94
1948	0.07	0	0	0.18	0	0.73	2.08	0.56	0.59	1.47	0.65	0.12	6.45
1949	1.05	0	0	1.13	0.06	0.24	1.41	2.37	0.20	0.94	0	0.47	7.87
1950	0.17	0.18	0	0.08	0.11	0.57	2.33	0.29	3.10	0.57	0	-	-
1951	0.15	0.04	0.65	0	0.30	0.74	1.08	0.31	0.01	T	0	0.22	3.50
1952	0.30	0.12	0.07	0.62	0.23	0.78	2.27	0.04	0	0	0.57	0.46	5.46
1953	0	0	0.45	0	0.03	-	1.20	0.43	0.19	-	-	-	-
1954	0.13	0.03	0.02	0.41	0.77	1.87	0.38	2.18	0.13	0.40	0	0	6.32
1955	0.10	0	0	0.45	0.32	0.93	1.28	1.40	1.44	0.42	0.28	0	6.62
1956	0.34	0.11	0	0.03	0	0.19	0.08	0.59	0.03	0.06	0	0.21	1.64
1957	0.20	0.27	0.02	0.13	0.60	0.15	0.32	0.21	0.04	1.82	0.33	0.29	4.38
1958	1.28	1.05	0.17	0	0.02	0.87	1.53	2.56	4.40	1.90	0.22	0	14.00
1959	0	0.40	0	0.43	2.15	1.09	0.34	0.85	0.94	0.65	0.61	0.22	7.68
1960	1.55	0	0.09	0.02	0	0.59	1.85	0.39	0	0	1.14	0.31	5.94
1961	1.19	0.05	0	T	0.68	3.68	0.14	1.80	0.37	0.36	0.34	0	8.61
1962	0.16	0.15	0	0.02	0	1.35	1.72	0.13	3.52	1.42	0.37	0.72	9.56
1963	0.01	0.04	0	0.85	1.19	0.65	0.52	1.38	1.14	0.74	1.23	0	7.75
1964	0	0	0.02	0.11	0.37	2.48	0.40	0.88	1.08	0.03	0	0.81	6.18
1965	0.40	0.54	0.02	0	0.77	1.23	0.27	0.70	2.39	0	0.01	0.44	6.77
1966	0.11	0.75	0.10	0	0.64	0.89	1.15	4.22	0.45	1.98	0	0	10.29
1967	0.20	0.35	0.51	0	0	2.22	1.54	1.84	1.72	0.43	0.09	0.41	9.31
1968	0.21	0.17	0.56	0.16	0.57	0.04	4.25	1.82	0.82	0.24	2.01	0	10.85
1969	0.01	0.19	0	0	0.12	1.68	1.19	0.77	0.43	0.09	0.34	0.02	4.84
1970	0.02	0.85	1.23	T	0.55	2.46	1.69	1.08	5.91	1.47	0	0.04	15.30

T - Trace

Monthly Temperatures and Precipitation