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 31° 03' N
LONGITUDE 104° 50' W
ELEV. (GROUND) 4030 ft.

STATION VAN HORN, TEXAS

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

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)	27	27	27	27		27		15	30	30		30	30		15		15	15	15	15	15	
Jan	59.0	29.9	44.5	79	1967+	-7	1962	611	0.54	1.00	1958	1.2	7.0	1962+	2	1962	1	0	*	19	0	Jan
Feb	64.0	32.9	48.5	87	1962	5	1951	468	0.29	0.75	1956	0.6	9.2	1956	4	1956	1	0	*	13	0	Feb
Mar	70.3	38.4	54.4	94	1946	9	1948	334	0.24	0.94	1945	0.2	3.0	1969+	T	1969+	1	*	0	8	0	Mar
Apr	79.8	47.7	63.8	100	1954	25	1948	90	0.35	1.05	1941	T	T	1949+	0		1	2	0	*	0	Apr
May	88.1	55.5	71.8	105	1951	33	1967	9	0.59	1.51	1959	0	0		0		1	16	0	0	0	May
Jun	95.2	64.4	79.8	112	1969	45	1964	*	0.92	1.30	1966	0	0		0		3	25	0	0	0	Jun
Jul	94.5	66.5	80.5	108	1951	53	1946	0	1.75	2.00	1941	0	0		0		4	26	0	0	0	Jul
Aug	93.2	65.3	79.3	108	1969	46	1966	1	1.82	7.00	1966	0	0		0		4	24	0	0	0	Aug
Sep	87.7	59.2	73.5	104	1948	33	1970	9	1.71	3.00	1941	0	0		0		4	14	0	0	0	Sep
Oct	79.0	48.5	63.8	96	1965	28	1970	92	0.97	2.01	1960	0	0		0		2	2	0	*	0	Oct
Nov	67.2	36.4	51.8	85	1952	10	1948	327	0.54	2.00	1969	0.2	-	1969	7	1969	2	*	0	7	0	Nov
Dec	59.5	30.3	44.9	79	1951	0	1953	596	0.51	1.25	1969	1.1	13.0	1969	7	1969	2	0	0	19	0	Dec
Year	78.1	47.9	63.0	112	June 1969	-7	Jan. 1962	2537	10.23	7.00	Aug. 1966	3.3	-	1969	7	Dec. 1969+	26	109	*	66	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 VAN HORN, TEXAS

Van Horn was established in the mid-1800's at the crossroads of the historic Bankhead Highway and the Old Spanish Trail. It continues to be a primary highway junction of Interstate 10 and U.S. 90. Van Horn is located in a broad basin devoted to irrigated farming, surrounded by the Van Horn, Sierra Diablo, and Apache Mountains. Mining includes talc, sulfer and marble, plus undeveloped indications of copper, uranium and feldspar. Van Horn is a popular stop for both east-west and north-south travelers; camping areas may be found in the nearby foot-hills and mountains; hunters find white-tailed deer, mule deer, pronghorn antelope and upland game birds, in season. The elevation of Van Horn is 4030 feet above mean sea level.

Culberson County contains Texas' highest mountains. The entire county is over 3,000 feet. Guadalupe Mountains National Park is being developed in the northwestern part of the county. The county is divided into large cattle ranches which provide most of its agricultural income; some irrigated cotton, sorghums, onions and cabbage are grown. Businesses are agriculturally oriented, except for some mineral industries. Van Horn is the county seat and ranching center of Culberson County.

Van Horn has a subtropical steppe climate with low summer humidity. Mean annual total precipitation is 10.23 inches with 52 percent of this amount falling within the three-month period, July, August and September. The three-month period, February, March and April is the driest, with precipitation averaging less than one-third inch per month. Monthly and annual precipitation totals are extremely variable. The wettest year of record (since 1939) is 1941, when a total of 27.27 inches fell, while only 4.98 inches fell in 1948, the driest year. A total of 9.53 inches fell in August, 1966. Periods of several weeks with no measurable precipitation are not uncommon.

Van Horn receives abundant sunshine; an estimated 73 percent of the total possible in winter, 80 percent in spring, 79 percent in summer and 78 percent in fall. The mean relative humidity, at noon, c.s.t., is estimated at 44 percent in January, 30 percent in April, 40 percent in July and 38 percent in October.

Winter: The season is characterized by fair, dry weather, generally with mild days and cool nights. Prolonged cold spells are infrequent, occurring only when exceptionally strong outbreaks of cold Polar air sweep southward across the area. Cloudiness associated with cold fronts is usually brief so that warm sunshine moderates temperatures rapidly. Heavy snows have occurred in the Van Horn area, but are so rare that they have little importance. The lowest temperature of record is -7°F, and occurred January 11, 1962.

Summer: Daytime temperatures are warm, but usually not excessive. Humidities are very low, and showers occur about three or four times each month. Rapid cooling takes place immediately after sundown, resulting in pleasantly cool nights throughout the summer. Evaporative-type home air conditioners are effective for cooling during the day, but not needed at night. Automotive air conditioning is recommended for daytime travel.

Spring and fall are exceptionally pleasant seasons in the Van Horn area. The weather is characterized by mild, sunny days, and crisp, cool nights.

At Van Horn, the mean length of the warm season (freeze free period) is 224 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 1 and November 11, respectively. In an average year, free water (lake) evaporation exceeds precipitation by about 56 inches.

VAN HORN, TEXAS
Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1942	-	-	-	-	-	80.4	79.8	76.5	69.7	62.0	54.6	47.9	-
1943	45.0	51.6	55.7	66.4	71.2	79.0	78.9	82.7	70.6	61.0	49.8	43.7	63.0
1944	42.4	50.4	53.2	60.9	71.2	80.7	82.0	79.2	70.4	63.4	51.2	42.1	62.3
1945	45.6	50.4	55.1	60.8	70.1	76.5	78.0	79.4	74.2	61.6	54.1	45.5	62.6
1946	41.0	47.8	55.8	66.8	70.2	80.0	80.0	80.9	74.2	66.1	49.5	45.4	63.1
1947	38.7	45.2	53.0	60.1	71.4	79.2	81.0	77.9	73.3	67.2	50.1	43.2	61.7
1948	40.8	49.4	52.2	68.1	74.1	81.8	81.7	81.3	73.7	62.0	47.9	48.9	63.5
1949	35.3	48.0	56.8	59.2	72.0	80.0	79.8	77.2	72.6	60.6	54.0	44.0	61.6
1950	50.0	52.0	56.1	64.7	70.8	79.7	78.2	-	73.6	68.5	51.8	47.5	-
1951	42.9	47.8	52.6	60.0	71.5	81.0	82.3	81.3	74.8	66.0	50.6	47.5	63.2
1952	49.0	47.6	50.5	61.1	70.2	80.4	77.3	82.0	72.4	63.3	48.6	43.5	62.2
1953	49.5	46.2	58.2	63.3	69.8	83.8	83.0	80.1	73.9	62.7	51.4	39.1	63.4
1954	47.9	51.3	54.6	67.8	71.5	80.4	82.3	80.0	78.5	65.5	53.2	44.3	64.8
1955	41.8	45.6	55.4	63.6	70.3	78.2	79.0	77.4	73.7	63.9	54.0	48.4	62.6
1956	48.4	46.6	55.9	60.2	74.9	81.5	79.5	77.7	74.1	66.0	47.8	44.6	63.1
1957	50.4	56.7	56.2	61.0	68.8	78.6	81.4	79.1	71.6	60.7	48.7	47.5	63.4
1958	42.3	50.1	50.8	62.4	72.4	82.7	84.0	81.5	73.3	61.1	54.0	46.0	63.4
1959	47.2	49.2	53.1	62.9	73.3	80.0	80.0	80.8	76.9	64.7	49.5	46.5	63.6
1960	44.9	44.2	55.6	64.9	71.7	82.6	79.0	79.0	74.9	66.1	54.6	39.7	63.1
1961	42.3	47.6	55.3	63.7	73.4	78.6	79.7	78.7	75.1	65.1	47.9	47.2	62.9
1962	41.4	54.6	51.9	67.2	75.1	79.0	79.9	81.8	73.7	65.3	53.7	45.3	64.1
1963	42.5	48.5	56.2	67.0	74.1	79.8	81.8	77.5	72.9	65.5	52.3	43.5	63.5
1964	40.9	42.1	53.2	63.0	72.3	78.2	81.3	80.1	73.5	62.2	52.2	46.2	62.1
1965	49.4	46.0	51.9	66.9	71.5	79.3	82.8	78.2	74.3	63.4	58.9	48.0	64.2
1966	41.1	43.5	56.7	64.0	72.4	78.2	84.2	76.0	73.9	61.7	57.6	44.5	62.8
1967	44.7	47.5	59.9	68.2	70.4	77.6	80.1	77.2	69.7	64.1	52.3	42.0	62.8
1968	44.1	48.7	52.7	60.5	71.6	79.0	77.9	77.2	71.9	66.1	51.4	44.8	62.2
1969	51.4	50.3	49.1	66.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	51.1	44.9	-
1970	-	-	-	63.3	72.8	-	78.7	77.2	71.2	59.1	-	-	-

STATION HISTORY

Rainfall observations were made at Van Horn in 1891 and 1892, but records are incomplete, and of little value. Rainfall observations were begun again in January 1939; temperature observations were started in June 1942. Throughout its history, the station has been located within one mile of the Van Horn post office. On January 14, 1971, the station was moved to its present location, 0.3 mile north of the post office, at the home of the observer, Mr. Douglas Wofford. Station equipment consist 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: 41-9295-05.

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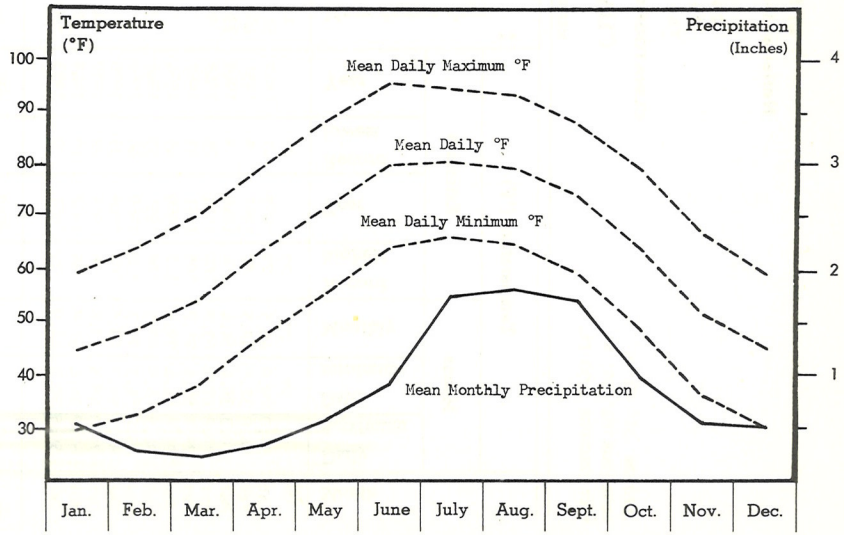
Single copies of this summary are available without charge from the Bureau of Business Research, the University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712. Quantity rates upon request.

VAN HORN, TEXAS
Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1941	0.85	0.87	0.53	1.90	2.15	1.91	4.52	5.05	7.05	2.25	0	0.19	27.27
1942	0	0	0	0.63	0.40	0.84	1.09	2.21	0.92	0.76	0.19	1.81	8.85
1943	0.55	0	0.07	0.04	0.24	0.94	3.60	0.40	1.08	0.01	0.45	1.29	8.67
1944	0.53	0.84	0.02	0	0.40	0.34	0.96	1.97	3.95	0.09	1.32	0.98	11.40
1945	0.18	T	0.96	0.16	0	T	2.87	1.21	0.58	3.14	0	T	9.10
1946	1.63	0	0.03	0.12	0.21	0.93	1.48	1.36	2.92	1.05	0.21	0.41	10.35
1947	0.63	T	0.41	0.04	1.75	0.34	0.82	1.66	0.59	0	0.62	0.22	7.08
1948	0.10	0.21	T	0.02	0.18	1.36	0.63	0.92	0.07	0.67	T	0.82	4.98
1949	3.39	0.28	T	1.15	1.79	0.43	2.08	1.19	3.28	1.63	0	0.78	16.00
1950	0.17	0.06	0.02	0.71	T	1.17	2.21	0	2.34	0.14	0	0	6.82
1951	0.10	0.14	0.60	0.41	0.66	0.17	1.46	1.00	0.62	0.03	T	0.09	5.28
1952	0.16	0.08	0.35	0.41	0.40	0.46	1.78	0.29	0.73	0	0.42	0.27	5.35
1953	T	0.04	0.04	0.08	0.17	0.66	1.93	1.05	T	2.17	0.01	0.04	6.19
1954	0.14	T	0.54	1.11	0.96	0.45	0.18	2.91	0.04	0.42	0	T	6.75
1955	0.97	T	0	0.01	0.04	0.09	3.71	0.60	0.83	1.93	0.02	T	8.20
1956	0.25	0.92	0	T	0.12	0.35	1.50	1.41	0.51	0.15	T	0.45	5.66
1957	0.12	0.98	0.21	T	0.54	0.27	1.91	1.96	0.39	2.28	0.45	0.18	9.29
1958	1.51	0.56	0.50	0.69	0.24	0.44	1.12	0.65	4.39	2.19	0.14	0	12.43
1959	0.07	0.10	0	0.07	2.47	0.92	1.07	0.52	0.13	1.41	1.44	0.37	8.57
1960	0.84	0.61	0.07	0.09	0.13	0.33	3.68	2.15	0.38	2.23	0.78	1.06	12.35
1961	1.42	0.25	0.19	T	0.11	1.22	0.62	0.89	0.83	0.75	0.82	0	7.10
1962	0.71	0.08	0.12	0.68	0.06	1.07	3.55	0.32	3.73	0.96	0.63	0.77	12.68
1963	0.11	0.55	T	T	0.59	0.27	1.51	3.97	1.07	0.79	0.25	0.13	9.24
1964	T	T	0.18	0.15	0.57	T	1.01	1.37	1.67	0.49	T	0.35	5.79
1965	0.35	0.47	0.11	0	2.18	1.68	0.40	3.66	0.29	0.05	0.18	0.61	9.98
1966	0.88	0.05	0.13	1.24	0.21	3.45	0	9.53	1.13	0.56	0	0	17.18
1967	0	0.01	0.60	0.24	0.08	3.32	0.65	0.89	1.62	0.12	0.45	0.42	8.40
1968	0.30	0.53	0.58	0.34	0.08	0.21	3.41	1.66	0.27	0.54	1.94	0.05	9.91
1969	0	0.13	0.17	0.06	0.92	0.55	1.03	2.15	4.83	1.37	5.80	4.00	21.01
1970	0.34	0.81	0.67	0	0	3.43	1.82	1.58	4.92	1.03	0	0.09	14.69

T - Trace

Monthly Temperatures and Precipitation