

LATITUDE 38° 32' N
 LONGITUDE 106° 00' W
 ELEV. (GROUND) 7050 ft. msl

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION SALIDA, COLORADO

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1886-1954

Month	Temperature (°F)								Mean degree days (Base 65°)	Precipitation Totals (Inches)						Mean number of days						Month
	Means			Extremes						Mean	Greatest daily	Year	Snow, Sleet, Hail			Precip. .10 inch or more	Temperatures					
	Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Record highest	Year	Record lowest	Year	Mean					Maximum monthly	Year	Greatest daily		Year	Max.		Min.		
																		90° and above	32° and below	32° and below	0° and below	
(a)	46	46	46	46		46		46	51	51		46	46	46	46	46	30	30	30	30	30	
Jan.	42.9	12.5	27.7	65	1950	-35	1919	1156	0.49	1.00	1905	5.0	20.3	1948	13.0	1948	1	0	3	29	4	Jan.
Feb.	45.6	14.9	30.3	71	1932	-33	1951	972	0.68	1.65	1911	7.9	40.5	1911	18.0	1911	2	0	2	27	3	Feb.
Mar.	51.8	20.9	36.4	77	1900	-20	1948	887	0.81	1.46	1944	7.6	37.5	1944	14.0	1919	2	0	*	28	1	Mar.
Apr.	60.5	28.4	44.5	80	1952 ^f	-12	1945	615	1.39	2.50	1932	6.6	42.8	1945	23.0	1932	3	0	*	22	*	Apr.
May	68.8	35.2	52.0	88	1934	13	1944	403	1.07	1.74	1938	2.5	17.0	1938	16.0	1938	3	0	0	11	0	May
June	78.0	41.9	60.0	98	1916 ^f	23	1937 ^f	174	0.94	2.48	1949	0.1	3.0	1912	3.0	1912	3	1	*	1	0	June
July	84.4	47.5	66.0	97	1940	30	1902	16	1.71	2.47 ^f	1952 ^f	T	0		T	1945	6	3	0	0	0	July
Aug.	82.6	45.8	64.2	100	1902	31	1944 ^f	74	1.45	1.89	1932	T	T	1954	T	1954	5	2	0	*	0	Aug.
Sept.	76.4	38.2	57.3	92	1953 ^f	14	1908	243	0.93	1.62	1909	0.7	21.0	1936	13.5	1936	3	*	0	6	0	Sept.
Oct.	65.8	28.4	47.1	84	1910 ^f	-4	1932	555	0.92	2.00	1906	3.3	31.0	1906	12.1	1932	2	0	*	23	*	Oct.
Nov.	53.8	19.5	36.7	80	1937	-20	1931	849	0.63	1.60	1907	5.4	31.8	1909	16.0	1909	2	0	1	27	1	Nov.
Dec.	43.8	13.0	28.4	70	1900	-26	1899	1135	0.58	1.20	1913	7.0	34.0	1913	14.0	1918 ^f	2	0	5	30	5	Dec.
Year	62.9	28.9	45.9	100	Aug. 1902	-35	Jan. 1919	7060	11.60	2.50	Apr. 1932	46.1	42.8	Apr. 1945	23.0	Apr. 1932	34	6	11	204	14	Year

(a) Average length of record, years.

+ Also on ^{earlier} ~~later~~ dates, months or years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

* Less than one half.

CLIMATE OF THE STATION

Salida is located at an elevation of approximately 7000 feet in the narrow valley of the Arkansas River, and is almost completely surrounded by high mountains. About 20 miles to the west the Continental Divide rises to an average elevation well over 12,000 feet, with many peaks above 14,000 feet. To the north and east mountains rise above 10,000 feet. The valley narrows sharply to a canyon a few miles below the city, while upstream the valley varies in width from about 5 to 15 miles to the headwaters of the Arkansas near Leadville.

Yearly precipitation totals vary considerably, - from 17.78 inches in 1949 to 7.26 inches in 1950, with an average of 11.60 inches for the 46 years of record. Locally heavy summer thundershowers have left up to 2.50 inches of rain. Average yearly snowfall totals 46.1 inches, and monthly amounts as great as 42.8 inches have been recorded (April 1948). The greatest 24-hour snowfall was 23 inches in April 1932.

The climate at Salida is characterized by cool summers with a precipitation maximum during July and August, and cold relatively dry winters. Summer maxima average in the 80s and minima in the 40s, with an average daily range during July and August of 37 degrees. 90 degree temperatures are quite rare; only on six days a year, on the average, does the mercury pass the 90 degree mark. Winter maxima (December, January, and February) average in the 40s and minima 12.5° to 15°. The absolute temperature extremes recorded during the 46 years of record are -35° in January 1919, and 100° in August 1902. The mean daily minimum varied from 12.5° in January to 47.5° in July. The mean maximum ranges from 42.9° in January to 84.4° in July. Freezing temperatures have been recorded every month of the year.

Zero temperatures occur on the average of fourteen times each winter. January has a record lowest temperature of -35°, February -33°, March -20°, April -12°, October -4°, November -20°, and December -26°. Heating degree days based upon four years of record total 6863 per year, and range from 1162 degree days in December to 21 in July.

A. W. Cook
 State Climatologist
 Weather Bureau Office
 Denver, Colorado

Year	Average Temperature (°F)												
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1903	28.2	18.5	36.2	43.2	49.9	57.4	64.6	64.4	55.0	47.1	39.0	28.4	44.3
1904	23.7	37.8	39.6	44.8	51.3	56.6	62.4	62.8	57.3	45.7	37.9	28.4	45.7
1905	27.7	29.8	39.6	41.6	50.0	61.2	62.4	63.8	56.2	44.8	37.4	21.8	44.8
1906	28.6	31.4	35.0	44.2	55.1	59.7	62.4	61.2	56.2	44.8	34.2	29.9	44.3
1907	31.8	39.0	43.3	45.0	47.9	57.1	65.6	62.8	56.2	49.1	34.0	30.4	46.8
1908	28.6	31.8	40.0	45.1	49.0	58.4	64.5	63.8	56.8	43.6	33.4	27.0	45.2
1909	33.7	29.2	35.6	40.3	48.7	60.9	67.5	66.5	55.8	48.1	37.8	28.4	45.4
1910	28.2	24.4	42.1	45.6	52.0	61.2	66.1	63.0	58.4	46.4	31.0	30.0	46.6
1911	36.4	24.9	42.1	44.0	52.0	61.0	63.2	61.2	57.4	43.4	31.2	19.2	44.3
1912	26.2	26.0	33.0	39.8	50.2	56.6	62.4	61.9	50.0	43.5	34.4	21.8	42.2
1913	23.8	25.6	34.4	44.8	53.4	59.4	64.2	65.2	54.2	44.0	40.2	15.8	43.8
1914	30.8	30.0	36.7	43.4	53.4	60.2	62.9	62.9	57.5	46.4	38.2	21.0	45.5
1915	23.2	30.8	33.5	46.7	48.6	58.4	64.0	60.8	55.8	47.2	36.6	29.6	44.6
1922	22.3	36.2	34.2	45.2	54.2	59.2	67.0	65.2	57.0	45.4	38.7	23.4	45.7
1933	28.2	24.4	38.6	41.4	50.1	62.5	66.2	64.1	60.6	49.8	39.7	37.3	46.9
1934	31.4	36.5	41.0	46.5	56.8	60.0	67.8	66.3	55.1	49.3	37.0	31.6	48.3
1935	31.8	32.6	37.0	45.7	48.2	61.8	65.9	64.2	56.8	46.2	36.0	28.2	46.1
1936	28.2	32.0	38.8	44.8	55.3	63.0	66.2	64.6	54.8	45.0	35.5	29.4	46.3
1937	20.2	29.3	33.4	43.0	52.6	60.7	66.0	66.0	59.7	47.8	40.7	31.4	45.9
1938	27.6	28.5	35.8	43.3	52.6	60.8	66.4	65.0	58.8	49.6	34.2	33.9	46.2
1945	29.6	34.5	38.1	40.8	54.2	58.6	65.9	65.7	57.4	50.0	39.4	28.6	46.9
1946	27.6	32.2	41.0	50.5	50.8	63.0	66.8	65.6	58.6	46.6	33.3	35.1	47.6
1947	28.0	32.0	36.8	44.2	54.6	58.6	66.6	65.7	59.0	50.6	31.8	27.2	46.3
1948	26.2	28.6	30.2	46.8	54.4	60.0	65.8	64.1	59.7	47.2	32.4	22.1	45.5
1949	21.8	30.0	38.1	45.5	52.6	59.4	65.4	62.7	57.5	46.6	44.0	30.6	46.2
1950	31.3	34.1	37.6	47.3	51.9	61.9	64.0	61.0	56.9	52.5	40.8	34.9	47.9
1951	28.7	36.6	36.8	44.7	53.3	58.3	67.9	64.0	57.7	46.3	34.0	30.7	46.3
1952	31.1	29.5	35.6	46.5	51.8	63.4	63.8	63.5	56.0	47.2	28.8	22.1	44.7
1953	33.6	38.7	36.2	41.3	48.9	61.4	63.5	62.1	56.7	45.6	37.2	28.8	45.4
1954	33.2	38.7	36.0	48.8	54.3	61.7	67.2	62.7	57.6	51.1	39.4	28.5	48.3

STATION HISTORY

The first weather reporting station in Salida was opened on January 1, 1886, and operated until April 30, 1887. After a lapse of more than ten years the station was reopened on October 1, 1897, and was in continuous operation until April 30, 1929. No records of weather for Salida are available for almost eight years following the closing of the station. The station was reestablished on April 1, 1931. D. Crawford served as observer from the first of December in 1935 until the station was taken over by the Chamber of Commerce on December 1, 1944. It has been maintained by that organization ever since.

Five different locations have been used since the station was first established in 1886, but all have been within the city limits of Salida. The present station is about one and one-half blocks west-northwest of the post office on the grounds of the Chamber of Commerce. Its elevation is 7050 feet above mean sea level.

Year	Total Precipitation (Inches)												
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1903	T	3.06	.57	.70	T	2.47	.99	.90	.38	1.02	0	.05	10.14
1904	.03	.36	1.51	1.69	1.28	1.78	1.57	2.50	2.72	4.0	.02	.50	14.36
1905	2.06	.39	1.48	4.06	4.9	1.0	.87	1.18	.62	.20	.90	.15	12.84
1906	4.47	T	2.31	3.41	1.4	T	1.85	1.28	2.37	3.91	1.65	.35	17.74
1907	1.00	.60	1.10	2.36	2.81	1.5	1.31	1.81	.74	.99	.75	.30	12.92
1908	.20	.87	.57	.25	1.15	.30	.70	2.11	.34	2.00	1.50	.20	10.19
1909	.50	.65	.72	.62	.68	.42	1.05	2.80	2.74	.36	1.59	1.59	15.46
1910	.77	2.00	.80	1.48	.79	.54	.87	1.85	.47	.90	.35	.45	12.30
1911	.05	4.05	1.45	4.49	1.11	1.70	3.68	1.14	.84	1.49	.50	.95	16.45
1912	T	1.30	.71	4.0	1.26	2.79	3.14	.67	1.10	.87	.15	.32	12.71
1913	.80	1.14	.08	1.01	1.15	4.48	1.75	1.19	.87	.84	.15	2.93	15.39
1914	.14	.28	1.10	1.24	1.62	1.80	3.05	.76	.56	1.23	0	1.71	13.49
1915	.57	1.16	.44	2.55	1.29	.79	2.50	2.42	1.76	.43	1.00	1.35	16.26
1922	.21	1.15	.32	2.88	.03	.50	.92	3.66	.13	1.33	.06	.35	10.54
1933	T	.81	.13	1.69	.97	1.65	1.48	.99	1.13	.24	1.21	.75	11.05
1934	.01	.41	.30	2.11	.54	.57	1.33	1.76	.73	0	.16	0	7.92
1935	.21	.28	.29	1.21	2.89	.02	1.85	1.16	1.85	.62	.27	.24	10.65
1936	.03	.14	.02	.27	1.50	1.11	2.33	2.65	1.86	.31	.01	.27	10.46
1937	.32	.27	.58	.79	1.23	.75	.93	1.77	.34	.06	.38	.27	7.32
1938	.98	.98	1.68	1.65	2.66	1.12	1.15	.53	2.76	2.20	.38	.79	16.88
1945	.35	.28	.49	3.64	.55	.48	3.45	2.41	.36	.56	.11	.11	12.68
1946	.49	.48	.90	1.02	.67	.41	1.37	1.31	.16	2.04	1.99	.07	10.91
1947	.30	.29	.46	1.05	2.03	2.14	1.12	1.69	.72	1.74	.32	.86	12.72
1948	1.22	2.04	1.52	1.14	1.92	.88	.97	1.12	.46	.55	.34	.65	12.81
1949	1.31	.27	1.21	.68	3.25	3.64	3.63	1.33	.62	1.84	T	0	17.78
1950	.12	1.10	.38	.46	.67	.97	1.85	.94	.67	.41	.57	.12	7.26
1951	.86	.48	1.45	.80	1.16	.36	.38	1.48	.11	.93	.49	.41	9.11
1952	.09	.03	.62	1.78	.97	.15	2.47	1.10	.80	0	.90	.35	9.24
1953	.02	.53	1.50	.69	1.92	.09	3.55	.50	.21	3.00	1.33	.65	14.09
1954	.08	.15	.26	.26	2.24	.17	1.88	1.01	.78	.40	.67	.55	8.55