

For release            By Major A. H. Thiessen  
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Inches or millibars! We used to say average pressure of the atmosphere at sea level was 29.92 inches of mercury in a barometer or about 14.7 pounds per square inch. But an inch is a unit of length, and, since the atmosphere presses down upon the earth, that is, exerts a force, it seems more reasonable to express amount of pressure in some unit of force. A common unit of force is the pound. But weather men have selected the "millibar" as the unit of atmospheric pressure more in line with scientific units. The average pressure at sea level is about 1015 millibars. So, in general, pressure in a storm area, or cyclone, is less than 1015 millibars as will be noted on all weather maps.

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