U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LUTHER H. HODGES, Secretary
WEATHER BUREAU
F. W. REICHELDERFER, Chief

CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES NO. 81-22

DECENNIAL CENSUS OF UNITED STATES CLIMATE—

MONTHLY NORMALS OF TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND HEATING DEGREE DAYS

NEVADA

LIBRARY
APR 5 - 1962
WEATHER BUREAU

WASHINGTON, D. C.:1962

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office
Washington 25, D. C. - Price 5 cents

PREFACE

The climatological standard normals presented in this publication are based on records for the 30-year period 1931-1960 inclusive. For the first time, normals have been computed for substations and divisions using a base period identical to that used for first-order stations.

Previous normals were published in Weather Bureau Technical Paper No. 31, "Monthly Normal Temperatures, Precipitation, and Degree Days," and were based on records for the period 1921-1950. Earlier sets of normals are described in [1].

This is the first series of publications resulting from the project "The Decennial Census of United States Climate, 1960." The project is a continuation of earlier censuses of the climate of the United States that date back to the early 19th Century and are described in [2]. Future publications of this project will be listings of daily normals of temperature, and degree days; summaries of hourly observations; and listings of monthly divisional averages of temperature and precipitation.

Units used in this publication are degrees F. for temperatures, and inches for precipitation. The heating degree day normals are derived from the monthly normal temperatures, and are computed on the standard base of 65°F. Monthly normals of less than 5 degree days are shown as zero.

Standard Normals for Weather Bureau First Order Stations

A normal of a climatological element is an arithmetic mean for a specific period of record which estimates the true mean of the element at the current exposure of the meteorological instrument measuring the element. The true mean is the mean of all possible observations (population) at the current exposure. It is from this population that future observations will come, not from values in the past record. This is what makes it important to obtain an estimate of this mean. The true mean can never be known exactly but must be estimated from a sample of the past record ([3] p. 53 section 4. 3). The normals presented here are estimates of the true mean obtained from the 30-year sample record 1931-1960. They are called standard normals because they conform to the World Meteorological Organization standard for climatological normals.

If no exposure changes have occurred at a station the normal is estimated by simply averaging the 30 values from the 1931-1960 record. Since it is next to impossible to maintain a multiple purpose network of meteorological stations without having exposure changes, it is first necessary to find and evaluate these changes and then make adjustments for them if necessary.

Heterogeneities in record due to exposure changes are found in two ways: by determining them from the station histories and by use of statistical tests. The statistical test when standardized for the purpose is easy to apply and will often find heterogeneities which are not defined by the station histories as well as those which have been so determined. Two statistical tests were employed: one for temperature and the other for precipitation. These are described in [4].

After the periods of heterogeneity have been determined, adjustments are applied to remove the heterogeneities introduced into the mean. This is done by comparing the record at the base station, for which the normal is desired, to the record at a supplementary station with a homogeneous period which covers the heterogeneous period at the base station. The difference method is applied to the monthly average maximum and minimum temperatures and the ratio method to the monthly total precipitation. A weighted average of the various partial means of the adjusted and unadjusted record is then prepared to give the normal. Brief discussions of the methods of adjustment are found in [3] (p. 49, section 4. 24).

Normal heating degree days are derived by the method described in [5].

Normals for Substations and Divisions

Normals for substations were computed somewhat differently than those for first-order stations. Monthly substation normals are the simple arithmetic averages of the monthly values of temperature and precipitation for the period 1931-1960. These were computed for only those substations that were active during the entire period and no attempt was made to adjust for minor changes in location of the observing site, or for changes in the time of observation. Normals were not computed for substations that were moved a significant distance during the 1931-1960 period. Missing values in the data series were estimated by methods described in [6]. Substations whose locations were essentially unchanged during the 1931-1960 period are identified in the tables.

Monthly divisional normals are the means of the monthly divisional averages of temperature and precipitation for the period 1931-1960. In calculating the monthly divisional averages, all of the stations in the division that furnished both temperature and precipitation data during the particular month were used. The averages therefore were obtained from a variable station sample. As a result, the divisional normals often differ from the averages of the normals for stations in the division.

Annual substation and divisional normals are the averages of the 12 monthly temperature normals and the sums of the 12 monthly precipitation normals.

References

1. U. S. Weather Bureau, "History of Climatological Publications," Key to Meteorological Records Documentation No. 4. 1, Washington, D. C., 1958.

2. H. E. Landsberg, "The Decennial United States Census of Climate 1960 and Its Antecedents," Key to Meteorological Records Documentation No. 6. 2, U. S. Weather Bureau, Washington, D. C., 1960.

3. U. S. Weather Bureau, Climatology at Work, Gerald L. Barger, ed., Washington, D. C., 1960.

4. H. C. S. Thom, "Tests of Significance for Temperature and Precipitation Normals," U. S. Weather Bureau Manuscript, 1961.

5. H. C. S. Thom, "The Rational Relationship Between Heating Degree Days and Temperature," Monthly Weather Review, Vol. 82, No. 1, January 1954.

6. U. S. Weather Bureau, Administrative Manual, Vol. III, Chap. C-05, paras. C-0509 and C-0510.

NOTES

1. Station Names

In Table I, "AP" after the city name indicates "airport station" "CO" indicates "city office station." Figures and letters following the station name indicate a rural location, and refer to the distance and direction of the station from the nearest post office.

# indicates a station whose location has been essentially unchanged during the period 1931-1960.

H indicates the ground elevation of the station in feet above sea level, as of December 31, 1960.

G indicates the elevation at hygrothermometer site (where different from "H").

T indicates the height of the thermometer in feet above the ground as of December 31, 1960.

/NO TEST/ indicates that significant difference tests were not made.

2. Table Content

* indicates that the departure of the 1951-60 record from the 1921-50 normal is statistically significant, but through the adjustments for changes in location and exposure the absolute difference between old and new normals may even in these cases be very small.

T in the data tables indicates a monthly precipitation amount of only a trace.

February monthly normals are for a 28-day month.

TABLE I - NORMALS FOR FIRST ORDER STATIONS

NEVADA

STATION		JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	ANNUAL
#ELKO AP	H5075 T 5													
MAX TEMP		35.1	40.4	48.6*	60.1	69.2*	78.8	90.8*	88.8*	79.5	65.8	49.3	39.1	62.1
MIN TEMP		10.0*	15.6	22.2*	28.5	34.8	41.1	48.3	44.9	36.2	28.0*	19.0*	13.7*	28.5
AVG TEMP		22.6*	28.0	35.4*	44.3	52.0*	60.0	69.6*	66.9*	57.9	46.9*	34.2*	26.4*	45.4
DEG DAYS		1314*	1036	918*	621	409*	192	9*	34*	225	561*	924*	1197*	7440
PRECIP		1.16	.89	.83	.82	.96	.71	.40	.30	.34	.75*	.88*	1.01	9.05
ELY AP	H6257 T 6													
MAX TEMP		36.8	39.8	47.2*	57.6	66.7*	77.2	86.8*	85.1*	76.9	63.1	49.1	40.8	60.6
MIN TEMP		8.7	13.3	19.7*	27.5	33.8	40.0	48.1	47.1	38.1	28.7*	18.2*	12.7	28.0
AVG TEMP		22.8	26.6	33.5*	42.6	50.3*	58.6	67.5*	66.1*	57.5	45.9*	33.7*	26.8	44.3
DEG DAYS		1308	1075	977*	672	456*	225	28*	43*	234	592*	939*	1184	7733
PRECIP		.78	.70	.85	.95*	.85	.50	.65	.49*	.56	.73*	.59	.68	8.33
LAS VEGAS AP	H2162 T 5													
MAX TEMP		55.2	60.4	68.6	78.6	87.9	98.2	104.5*	102.0*	95.3	81.1	66.0	57.2	79.6
MIN TEMP		32.0	36.1	42.0*	51.4*	59.6*	68.5	75.8	73.4	65.6	53.1	39.9	32.9*	52.5
AVG TEMP		43.6	48.3	55.3*	65.0*	73.8*	83.4	90.2*	87.7*	80.5	67.1	53.0	45.1*	66.1
DEG DAYS		673	473	326*	99*	6*	0	0	0	0	74	372	617*	2640
PRECIP		.53	.44*	.35	.23	.08*	.04*	.50	.48	.34	.20	.31*	.40*	3.90
RENO AP	H4404 T 6													
MAX TEMP		46.6	50.8	57.3*	65.4	72.5*	81.3	91.4*	90.3*	83.2	71.0	57.7	49.3	68.1
MIN TEMP		17.2*	21.4	24.6	29.5	34.3	38.8	44.9	42.7	37.4	29.4	20.8	17.4	29.9
AVG TEMP		31.9*	36.1	41.0*	47.5	53.4*	60.1	68.2*	66.5*	60.3	50.2	39.3	33.4	49.0
DEG DAYS		1024*	808	746*	526	370*	190	41*	73*	171	458	771	982	6160
PRECIP		1.19	1.02	.68	.54*	.52	.37*	.27	.17*	.23	.51	.57	1.08	7.15
WINNEMUCCA AP	H4299 T 5													
MAX TEMP		39.7*	44.8*	53.0	63.2	71.7	80.3	92.0	89.7	80.4*	67.2*	52.3*	43.3*	64.8
MIN TEMP		14.7	19.7*	23.0*	28.5*	35.6*	42.7*	49.9*	45.4*	36.8*	28.2*	19.3*	16.2*	30.0
AVG TEMP		27.2*	32.3*	38.0*	45.9*	53.7*	61.5*	71.0*	67.6*	58.6*	47.7*	35.8*	29.8*	47.4
DEG DAYS		1172*	916*	837*	573*	363*	153*	0	34*	210*	536*	876*	1091*	6761
PRECIP		1.05	.94	.81	.82	.94	.76	.27	.15	.34	.81	.80	.94	8.63

TABLE II - NORMALS BY CLIMATOLOGICAL DIVISIONS

TEMPERATURE (°F)

STATIONS (By Divisions)	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	ANNUAL
NORTHWESTERN													
CARSON CITY	32.0	36.1	41.5	48.1	55.1	62.3	69.7	67.9	61.4	51.4	40.3	34.4	50.0
#FALLON EXP STATION	30.5	35.9	42.4	50.4	57.6	64.9	72.7	70.2	62.4	51.9	39.5	32.7	50.9
#IMLAY	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
#LAHONTAN DAM	32.1	36.9	43.8	52.3	60.2	68.4	78.0	76.0	67.0	55.5	42.2	35.0	54.0
LOVELOCK	30.4	35.9	42.6	50.9	58.9	66.5	75.1	72.5	64.6	53.1	40.0	33.2	52.0
MINDEN	30.8	35.7	41.0	48.1	55.0	62.2	69.4	67.6	60.9	51.1	39.7	33.8	49.6
#OROVADA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PARADISE VALLEY 1 NW	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
RENO AP	31.9	36.1	41.0	47.5	53.4	60.1	68.2	66.5	60.3	50.2	39.3	33.4	49.0
SAND PASS	30.1	35.7	42.6	50.4	57.6	65.2	73.3	71.0	63.6	52.8	39.6	32.9	51.2
SMITH 1 N	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
WINNEMUCCA AP	27.2	32.3	38.0	45.9	53.7	61.5	71.0	67.6	58.6	47.7	35.8	29.8	47.4
YERINGTON	31.0	36.0	41.8	49.4	56.1	63.0	70.3	68.4	61.3	51.0	39.1	32.5	50.0
DIVISION	29.8	34.4	40.4	48.2	55.5	63.1	71.8	69.5	61.8	51.1	39.0	32.6	49.8
NORTHEASTERN													
#AUSTIN	28.4	30.8	35.8	43.8	51.4	60.0	70.2	68.6	61.0	49.6	37.7	32.2	47.5
#ELKO AP	22.6	28.0	35.4	44.3	52.0	60.0	69.6	66.9	57.9	46.9	34.2	26.4	45.4
ELY AP	22.8	26.6	33.5	42.6	50.3	58.6	67.5	66.1	57.5	45.9	33.7	26.8	44.3
JIGGS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
#LAMOILLE PH	25.8	28.6	35.0	43.3	50.9	58.6	68.9	67.0	57.7	48.1	35.8	28.9	45.7
MC GILL	26.3	29.6	35.7	44.7	53.0	62.3	71.2	69.4	60.9	49.2	36.6	30.3	47.4
#MONTELLO	23.6	28.7	37.3	46.7	55.0	63.2	72.2	69.4	59.8	48.6	34.7	27.1	47.2
#OWYHEE	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
DIVISION	24.8	28.7	35.5	44.2	52.0	60.0	69.2	67.0	58.3	47.7	35.2	28.4	45.9
SOUTH CENTRAL													
#ADAVEN	29.0	31.4	37.7	46.2	53.8	62.6	70.2	68.3	61.8	50.4	39.1	32.7	48.6
CALIENTE	30.4	36.2	43.8	52.3	60.3	68.6	76.0	74.0	66.2	54.1	41.6	33.9	53.1
MINA	32.1	36.8	43.3	51.8	60.3	69.5	78.2	75.7	66.5	54.3	41.4	34.4	53.7
DIVISION	30.9	35.1	41.5	49.9	57.8	66.3	74.3	72.3	64.6	53.0	40.6	33.8	51.7
EXTREME SOUTHERN													
ALAMO	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
#BEATTY	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
#BOULDER CITY	45.7	49.6	56.7	65.6	73.8	82.7	89.1	86.9	81.2	68.8	55.2	47.9	66.9
LAS VEGAS AP	43.6	48.3	55.3	65.0	73.8	83.4	90.2	87.7	80.5	67.1	53.0	45.1	66.1
SEARCHLIGHT	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
DIVISION	42.8	46.8	53.6	62.3	70.3	78.7	85.7	83.7	77.0	64.9	51.8	44.9	63.5

PRECIPITATION (In.)

STATIONS (By Divisions)	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	ANNUAL
NORTHWESTERN													
CARSON CITY	2.17	1.75	1.14	.57	.49	.36	.23	.13	.30	.66	1.14	2.17	11.11
#FALLON EXP STATION	.54	.62	.48	.47	.59	.41	.18	.14	.22	.45	.34	.57	5.01
#IMLAY	.72	.67	.58	.59	.86	.66	.20	.12	.22	.63	.59	.72	6.56
#LAHONTAN DAM	.48	.55	.30	.35	.43	.36	.15	.11	.24	.37	.31	.47	4.12
LOVELOCK	.80	.69	.51	.52	.48	.61	.15	.16	.22	.54	.41	.59	5.68
MINDEN	1.37	1.27	.85	.54	.48	.43	.34	.21	.18	.53	.79	1.65	8.64
#OROVADA	1.19	1.18	1.06	1.26	1.64	1.16	.31	.12	.40	1.05	.96	1.15	11.48
PARADISE VALLEY 1 NW	1.38	1.10	.73	.69	.86	.76	.24	.17	.33	.67	.89	1.08	8.90
RENO AP	1.19	1.02	.68	.54	.52	.37	.27	.17	.23	.51	.57	1.08	7.15
SAND PASS	1.07	.84	.52	.47	.53	.51	.21	.07	.21	.46	.56	1.09	6.54
SMITH 1 N	.89	.97	.57	.46	.52	.52	.33	.26	.18	.48	.72	1.15	7.05
WINNEMUCCA AP	1.05	.94	.81	.82	.94	.76	.27	.15	.34	.81	.80	.94	8.63
YERINGTON	.59	.57	.38	.39	.57	.49	.24	.17	.26	.44	.46	.72	5.28
DIVISION	1.20	1.12	.81	.65	.74	.58	.25	.15	.28	.65	.74	1.13	8.30
NORTHEASTERN													
#AUSTIN	1.18	1.18	1.39	1.53	1.31	.83	.54	.43	.45	1.07	.87	1.11	11.89
#ELKO AP	1.16	.89	.83	.82	.96	.71	.40	.30	.34	.75	.88	1.01	9.05
ELY AP	.78	.70	.85	.95	.85	.50	.65	.49	.56	.73	.59	.68	8.33
JIGGS	1.19	1.07	1.12	1.45	1.44	.89	.45	.41	.51	.98	.99	1.18	11.68
#LAMOILLE PH	1.52	1.59	2.03	2.52	2.24	1.44	.67	.48	.77	1.39	1.54	1.63	17.82
MC GILL	.66	.63	.76	.98	.91	.59	.69	.69	.55	.71	.59	.61	8.37
#MONTELLO	.52	.39	.28	.56	.85	.65	.56	.51	.35	.47	.60	.56	6.30
#OWYHEE	1.42	1.17	1.30	1.30	1.79	1.19	.35	.26	.47	1.05	1.07	1.35	12.72
DIVISION	1.09	.96	1.06	1.16	1.20	.84	.53	.44	.50	.83	.88	1.04	10.53
SOUTH CENTRAL													
#ADAVEN	1.51	1.57	1.43	1.17	.81	.51	.95	1.02	.61	.97	.85	1.35	12.75
CALIENTE	.84	.80	.86	.71	.56	.39	.77	.96	.49	.88	.75	.87	8.88
MINA	.32	.26	.29	.42	.42	.26	.26	.29	.16	.40	.24	.32	3.64
DIVISION	.66	.67	.63	.66	.52	.29	.60	.56	.36	.62	.50	.65	6.72
EXTREME SOUTHERN													
ALAMO	.66	.69	.67	.57	.45	.15	.71	.69	.31	.51	.45	.63	6.49
#BEATTY	.60	.70	.48	.47	.23	.09	.20	.20	.19	.30	.43	.58	4.47
#BOULDER CITY	.70	.60	.52	.38	.18	.06	.56	.71	.46	.36	.41	.58	5.52
LAS VEGAS AP	.53	.44	.35	.23	.08	.04	.50	.48	.34	.20	.31	.40	3.90
SEARCHLIGHT	.89	.86	.78	.40	.18	.11	1.03	.96	.73	.51	.53	.90	7.88
DIVISION	.61	.63	.49	.35	.18	.10	.49	.52	.38	.37	.41	.57	5.10

GPO 9 2 58 14

1963 REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES NO. 81-22
NEVADA
TABLE I — NORMALS FOR FIRST ORDER STATIONS

STATION	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
ELKO AP													
H5075 T 5													
MAX TEMP	35.1	40.4	49.0	60.1	69.2	78.8	90.8	88.8	79.5	65.8	49.3	39.1	62.2
AVG TEMP	22.6	28.0	35.6	44.3	52.0	60.0	69.6	66.9	57.9	46.9	34.2	26.4	45.4
DEG DAYS	1314	1036	911	621	409	192	9	34	225	561	924	1197	7433
LAS VEGAS AP													
G2162 T 4													
MAX TEMP	54.2	59.4	67.6	77.6	87.9	97.2	103.5	101.0	94.3	80.1	65.0	56.2	78.7
MIN TEMP	32.0	36.1	42.0	51.4	59.6	68.5	75.8	73.4	65.6	53.1	39.9	33.9	52.6
AVG TEMP	43.1	47.8	54.8	64.5	73.8	82.9	89.7	87.2	80.0	66.6	52.5	45.1	65.7
DEG DAYS	688	487	335	111	6	0	0	0	0	78	387	617	2709
RENO AP													
G4404 T 4													
MAX TEMP	44.6	49.8	57.3	65.4	71.5	80.3	89.4	88.3	81.2	69.0	55.7	47.3	66.7
MIN TEMP	16.2	21.4	25.6	30.5	36.3	39.8	45.9	42.7	36.4	29.4	20.8	16.4	30.1
AVG TEMP	30.4	35.6	41.5	48.0	53.9	60.1	67.7	65.5	58.8	49.2	38.3	31.9	48.4
DEG DAYS	1073	823	729	510	357	189	43	87	204	490	801	1026	6332

REVISIONS TO FIRST ORDER STATIONS IN TABLE I AFFECT THE SAME STATIONS IN TABLE II.

USCOMM-WB-Asheville, N.C. -3/31/64- 2000

LIBRARY
JUL 9 1964
WEATHER BUREAU