

# Climatology of the United States

## No. 20

### 1971-2000

**Station: ALTON 6 ESE, KS**

**COOP ID: 140201**

**Climate Division: KS 2**

**NWS Call Sign:**

**Elevation: 1,620 Feet Lat: 39° 26N**

**Lon: 98° 51W**

### Temperature (°F)

Mean (1)				Extremes										Degree Days (1) Base Temp 65		Mean Number of Days (3)					
Month	Daily Max	Daily Min	Mean	Highest Daily(2)	Year	Day	Highest Month(1) Mean	Year	Lowest Daily(2)	Year	Day	Lowest Month(1) Mean	Year	Heating	Cooling	Max >= 100	Max >= 90	Max >= 50	Max <= 32	Min <= 32	Min <= 0
Jan	39.0	12.5	25.8	80	1990	11	35.9	1986	-24	1985	12	13.1	1979	1216	0	.0	.0	8.8	9.1	30.6	4.1
Feb	45.9	16.5	31.2	87	1972	29	40.3	1976	-22	1985	1	18.2	1978	946	0	.0	.0	12.3	6.0	26.2	2.7
Mar	55.6	26.0	40.8	94	1946	31	46.4	1986	-17	1960	3	33.7	1996	751	0	.0	.2	21.3	1.5	21.5	.7
Apr	66.6	36.5	51.6	106	1989	23	59.8	1981	9	1994	7	45.4	1983	408	5	.1	.9	27.5	.1	9.0	.0
May	75.4	48.3	61.9	105	1939	23	68.0	1977	21	1953	14	55.1	1995	160	62	.1	2.1	30.8	.0	1.1	.0
Jun	87.0	58.7	72.9	113	1988	21	79.6	1988	33	1998	6	67.2	1982	23	258	2.6	13.1	30.0	.0	.0	.0
Jul	93.0	64.9	79.0	116	1940	25	84.9	1980	41	1990	14	73.4	1992	0	432	6.8	21.8	31.0	.0	.0	.0
Aug	90.5	61.8	76.2	113	1984	28	83.8	1983	38	1949	31	69.4	1992	10	357	4.0	18.9	31.0	.0	.0	.0
Sep	82.3	51.8	67.1	112	1947	3	72.6	1998	18	1984	30	61.1	1993	65	127	1.3	9.2	29.9	.0	.9	.0
Oct	70.7	38.4	54.6	103	1947	5	58.4	1974	6	1997	27	49.4	1976	330	6	.1	1.1	29.6	.1	7.2	.0
Nov	53.2	25.1	39.2	88+	1980	6	47.2	1999	-10	1940	13	30.6	1985	775	0	.0	.0	18.7	1.7	22.8	.4
Dec	42.2	16.1	29.2	82	1964	23	34.5	1991	-31	1989	23	12.1	1983	1113	0	.0	.0	10.3	5.1	30.0	2.2
Ann	66.8	38.1	52.5	116	Jul 1940	25	84.9	Jul 1980	-31	Dec 1989	23	12.1	Dec 1983	5797	1247	15.0	67.3	281.2	23.6	149.3	10.1

+ Also occurred on an earlier date(s)

@ Denotes mean number of days greater than 0 but less than .05

Complete documentation available from: [www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/normal/usnormals.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/normal/usnormals.html)

Issue Date: February 2004

(1) From the 1971-2000 Monthly Normals

(2) Derived from station's available digital record: 1939-2001

(3) Derived from 1971-2000 serially complete daily data

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### Precipitation (inches)

		Precipitation Totals								Mean Number of Days (3)				Precipitation Probabilities (1)											
														Probability that the monthly/annual precipitation will be equal to or less than the indicated amount											
Means/Medians(1)		Extremes							Daily Precipitation				Monthly/Annual Precipitation vs Probability Levels												
													These values were determined from the incomplete gamma distribution												
Month	Mean	Median	Highest Daily(2)	Year	Day	Highest Monthly(1)	Year	Lowest Monthly(1)	Year	>= 0.01	>= 0.10	>= 0.50	>= 1.00	.05	.10	.20	.30	.40	.50	.60	.70	.80	.90	.95	
Jan	.60	.41	1.45	1962	26	1.96	1995	.00+	1997	3.4	1.8	.3	.0	.00	.06	.17	.27	.36	.47	.60	.75	.95	1.29	1.62	
Feb	.80	.64	1.49	1948	27	3.00	1971	.00+	1999	3.8	1.9	.4	.1	.00	.02	.10	.20	.33	.49	.69	.95	1.34	2.01	2.69	
Mar	2.21	1.66	3.20	1987	23	9.07	1973	.11	1994	6.5	4.0	1.4	.7	.13	.26	.53	.83	1.17	1.57	2.05	2.67	3.54	5.01	6.47	
Apr	2.58	2.27	3.50	1987	14	6.08	1984	.05	1989	7.1	5.0	1.7	.6	.60	.84	1.22	1.56	1.90	2.25	2.65	3.13	3.75	4.74	5.68	
May	4.02	3.91	6.15	1961	22	11.12	1995	.82	1997	10.2	7.3	2.4	1.1	1.12	1.50	2.08	2.58	3.08	3.59	4.17	4.84	5.72	7.10	8.39	
Jun	3.20	2.75	3.30	1993	23	7.85	1975	.62	1973	8.7	5.6	2.2	.8	.79	1.09	1.56	1.98	2.38	2.82	3.30	3.87	4.62	5.81	6.93	
Jul	3.91	3.52	4.16	1993	5	19.27	1993	.18	1975	8.1	5.8	2.5	1.2	.45	.75	1.30	1.84	2.42	3.07	3.83	4.78	6.06	8.17	10.23	
Aug	3.12	2.93	4.30	1974	14	9.11	1977	.19	1976	7.1	4.8	1.7	.9	.42	.68	1.12	1.56	2.01	2.51	3.10	3.81	4.78	6.36	7.89	
Sep	2.30	1.81	4.72	1961	12	8.92	1973	.43	1987	6.0	4.2	1.6	.7	.40	.61	.94	1.26	1.58	1.93	2.33	2.81	3.45	4.49	5.49	
Oct	1.63	1.32	3.40	1949	10	4.36	1986	.01	1975	4.9	3.2	.9	.4	.11	.21	.41	.63	.89	1.18	1.53	1.97	2.60	3.65	4.69	
Nov	1.60	1.12	3.33	1996	16	4.91	1996	.00	1989	4.9	3.1	.9	.4	.04	.15	.37	.60	.85	1.15	1.50	1.95	2.57	3.63	4.67	
Dec	.76	.54	1.27	1984	16	2.24	1973	.00+	1977	3.7	2.0	.5	.1	.00	.00	.14	.26	.39	.54	.72	.95	1.25	1.76	2.26	
Ann	26.73	25.01	6.15	May 1961	22	19.27	Jul 1993	.00+	Feb 1999	74.4	48.7	16.5	7.0	16.17	18.09	20.62	22.58	24.36	26.10	27.92	29.97	32.48	36.19	39.45	

+ Also occurred on an earlier date(s)

# Denotes amounts of a trace

@ Denotes mean number of days greater than 0 but less than .05

\*\* Statistics not computed because less than six years out of thirty had measurable precipitation

(1) From the 1971-2000 Monthly Normals

(2) Derived from station's available digital record: 1939-2001

(3) Derived from 1971-2000 serially complete daily data

Complete documentation available from:  
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Lat: 39°26N

Lon: 98°51W

Snow (inches)																							
Snow Totals															Mean Number of Days (1)								
Means/Medians (1)					Extremes (2)										Snow Fall >= Thresholds					Snow Depth >= Thresholds			
Month	Snow Fall Mean	Snow Fall Median	Snow Depth Mean	Snow Depth Median	Highest Daily Snow Fall	Year	Day	Highest Monthly Snow Fall	Year	Highest Daily Snow Depth	Year	Day	Highest Monthly Mean Snow Depth	Year	0.1	1.0	3.0	5.0	10.0	1	3	5	10
Jan	4.8	3.9	1	#	7.0	1985	10	16.0	1985	12	1974	11	8	1974	2.5	1.8	.5	.2	.0	9.0	4.8	2.3	.6
Feb	5.3	4.0	1	#	12.0	1971	22	16.1	1978	16	1978	14	7	1978	2.1	1.6	.6	.3	.1	8.2	4.6	2.8	.6
Mar	3.1	2.0	#	#	7.0	1975	10	10.0	1987	7	1975	10	1	1998	1.4	1.1	.4	.1	.0	2.9	1.1	.2	.0
Apr	.9	.0	#	0	8.0	1997	11	11.0	1997	11	1997	12	1	1997	.4	.4	.1	@	.0	.5	.1	.1	@
May	.0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0
Jun	.0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0
Jul	.0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0
Aug	.0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0
Sep	.1	.0	0	0	4.0	1985	29	4.0	1985	0	0	0	0	0	@	@	@	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0
Oct	.2	.0	#	0	5.0	1997	26	5.0	1997	5	1997	26	#+	1997	.1	.1	@	@	.0	.2	.1	@	.0
Nov	2.2	1.0	#	#	5.5	1992	25	9.0	1992	8	1992	27	2	1992	1.1	1.0	.2	@	.0	1.9	.7	.5	.0
Dec	4.3	3.5	1	#	8.0	1986	2	15.0	1973	8	1997	25	3	1973	1.9	1.5	.6	.1	.0	5.7	2.4	.3	.0
Ann	20.9	14.4	N/A	N/A	12.0	Feb 1971	22	16.1	Feb 1978	16	Feb 1978	14	8	Jan 1974	9.5	7.5	2.4	.7	.1	28.4	13.8	6.2	1.2

+ Also occurred on an earlier date(s) #Denotes trace amounts

@ Denotes mean number of days greater than 0 but less than .05

-9/-9.9 represents missing values

Annual statistics for Mean/Median snow depths are not appropriate

(1) Derived from Snow Climatology and 1971-2000 daily data

(2) Derived from 1971-2000 daily data

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<b>Freeze Data</b>									
<b>Spring Freeze Dates (Month/Day)</b>									
<b>Temp (F)</b>	<b>Probability of later date in spring (thru Jul 31) than indicated(*)</b>								
	<b>.10</b>	<b>.20</b>	<b>.30</b>	<b>.40</b>	<b>.50</b>	<b>.60</b>	<b>.70</b>	<b>.80</b>	<b>.90</b>
<b>36</b>	5/23	5/18	5/15	5/11	5/08	5/05	5/02	4/28	4/23
<b>32</b>	5/14	5/08	5/04	4/30	4/27	4/23	4/20	4/16	4/10
<b>28</b>	5/04	4/29	4/25	4/21	4/18	4/15	4/11	4/07	4/01
<b>24</b>	4/24	4/19	4/15	4/11	4/08	4/05	4/02	3/29	3/23
<b>20</b>	4/15	4/09	4/05	4/02	3/29	3/26	3/23	3/19	3/13
<b>16</b>	4/03	3/27	3/22	3/18	3/14	3/10	3/06	3/01	2/22
<b>Fall Freeze Dates (Month/Day)</b>									
<b>Temp (F)</b>	<b>Probability of earlier date in fall (beginning Aug 1) than indicated(*)</b>								
	<b>.10</b>	<b>.20</b>	<b>.30</b>	<b>.40</b>	<b>.50</b>	<b>.60</b>	<b>.70</b>	<b>.80</b>	<b>.90</b>
<b>36</b>	9/13	9/18	9/21	9/24	9/26	9/29	10/02	10/05	10/09
<b>32</b>	9/19	9/24	9/27	9/30	10/03	10/06	10/09	10/13	10/18
<b>28</b>	10/02	10/07	10/10	10/13	10/16	10/19	10/22	10/25	10/30
<b>24</b>	10/09	10/15	10/19	10/22	10/25	10/28	10/31	11/04	11/09
<b>20</b>	10/15	10/21	10/26	10/30	11/02	11/06	11/10	11/15	11/21
<b>16</b>	10/25	11/01	11/06	11/10	11/14	11/18	11/23	11/28	12/04
<b>Freeze Free Period</b>									
<b>Temp (F)</b>	<b>Probability of longer than indicated freeze free period (Days)</b>								
	<b>.10</b>	<b>.20</b>	<b>.30</b>	<b>.40</b>	<b>.50</b>	<b>.60</b>	<b>.70</b>	<b>.80</b>	<b>.90</b>
<b>36</b>	158	152	147	144	140	137	133	129	123
<b>32</b>	179	172	167	163	159	155	150	146	139
<b>28</b>	201	194	189	184	180	176	172	167	160
<b>24</b>	217	211	207	203	199	195	192	187	181
<b>20</b>	242	234	228	222	217	212	207	201	192
<b>16</b>	275	265	257	251	245	239	232	225	214

\* Probability of observing a temperature as cold, or colder, later in the spring or earlier in the fall than the indicated date.

**0/00** Indicates that the probability of occurrence of threshold temperature is less than the indicated probability.

Derived from 1971-2000 serially complete daily data

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### Degree Days to Selected Base Temperatures (°F)

Base	Heating Degree Days (1)												
	Below	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
65	1216	946	751	408	160	23	0	10	65	330	775	1113	5797
60	1061	808	596	273	78	6	0	2	20	198	625	958	4625
57	968	731	505	203	45	2	0	0	8	134	536	865	3997
55	907	678	448	162	29	1	0	0	3	99	479	803	3609
50	757	550	309	81	7	0	0	0	0	39	343	655	2741
32	291	198	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	213	781

Base	Cooling Degree Days (1)												
	Above	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
32	98	176	306	587	925	1225	1455	1370	1052	699	260	123	8276
55	1	13	7	59	241	536	742	657	366	85	3	0	2710
57	0	9	2	40	195	477	680	595	310	58	1	0	2367
60	0	2	0	20	135	391	587	503	232	29	0	0	1899
65	0	0	0	5	62	258	432	357	127	6	0	0	1247
70	0	0	0	0	22	150	285	226	57	1	0	0	741

### Growing Degree Units (2)

Base	Growing Degree Units (Monthly)												Growing Degree Units (Accumulated Monthly)											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
40	14	57	182	406	701	1008	1221	1142	843	495	125	24	14	71	253	659	1360	2368	3589	4731	5574	6069	6194	6218
45	0	24	104	277	547	858	1066	987	694	352	63	4	0	24	128	405	952	1810	2876	3863	4557	4909	4972	4976
50	0	6	49	170	399	708	911	832	545	230	29	1	0	6	55	225	624	1332	2243	3075	3620	3850	3879	3880
55	0	1	19	89	257	558	756	677	403	130	7	0	0	1	20	109	366	924	1680	2357	2760	2890	2897	2897
60	0	0	4	43	147	413	601	522	276	57	0	0	0	0	4	47	194	607	1208	1730	2006	2063	2063	2063
Base	Growing Degree Units for Corn (Monthly)												Growing Degree Units for Corn (Accumulated Monthly)											
50/86	33	81	165	292	448	650	785	739	544	352	122	44	33	114	279	571	1019	1669	2454	3193	3737	4089	4211	4255

(1) Derived from the 1971-2000 Monthly Normals

(2) Derived from 1971-2000 serially complete daily data

**Note:** For corn, temperatures below 50 are set to 50, and temperatures above 86 are set to 86

Complete documentation available from:

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## Notes

- a. The monthly means are simple arithmetic averages computed by summing the monthly values for the period 1971-2000 and dividing by thirty. Prior to averaging, the data are adjusted if necessary to compensate for data quality issues, station moves or changes in station reporting practices. Missing months are replaced by estimates based on neighboring stations.
- b. The median is defined as the middle value in an ordered set of values. The median is being provided for the snow and precipitation elements because the mean can be a misleading value for precipitation normals.
- c. Only observed validated values were used to select the extreme daily values.
- d. Extreme monthly temperature/precipitation means were selected from the monthly normals data.  
Monthly snow extremes were calculated from daily values quality controlled to be consistent with the Snow Climatology.
- e. Degree Days were derived using the same techniques as the 1971-2000 normals.  
Complete documentation for the 1971-2000 Normals is available on the internet from:  
[www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/normal/usnormals.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/normal/usnormals.html)
- f. Mean "number of days statistics" for temperature and precipitation were calculated from a serially complete daily data set.  
Documentation of the serially complete data set is available from the link below:
- g. Snowfall and snow depth statistics were derived from the Snow Climatology.  
Documentation for the Snow Climatology project is available from the link under references.

## Data Sources for Tables

Several different data sources were used to create the Clim20 climate summaries. In some cases the daily extremes appear inconsistent with the monthly extremes and or the mean number of days statistics. For example, a high daily extreme value may not be reflected in the highest monthly value or the mean number of days threshold that is less than and equal to the extreme value. Some of these difference are caused by different periods of record. Daily extremes are derived from the station's entire period of record while the serial data and normals data were are for the 1971-2000 period. Therefore extremes observed before 1971 would not be included in the 1971-2000 normals or the 1971-2000 serial daily data set. Inconsistencies can also occur when monthly values are adjusted to reflect the current observing conditions or were replaced during the 1971-2000 Monthly Normals processing and are not reconciled with the Summary of the Day data.

- a. Temperature/ Precipitation Tables
  1. 1971-2000 Monthly Normals
  2. Cooperative Summary of the Day
  3. National Weather Service station records
  4. 1971-2000 serially complete daily data
- b. Degree Day Table
  1. Monthly and Annual Heating and Cooling Degree Days Normals to Selected Bases derived from 1971-2000 Monthly Normals
  2. Daily Normal Growing Degree Units to Selected Base Temperatures derived from 1971-2000 serially complete daily data
- c. Snow Tables
  1. Snow Climatology
  2. Cooperative Summary of the Day
- d. Freeze Data Table  
1971-2000 serially complete daily data

## References

- U.S. Climate Normals 1971-2000, [www.ncdc.noaa.gov/normal.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/normal.html)  
U.S. Climate Normals 1971-2000-Products Clim20, [www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/normal/usnormalsprods.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/normal/usnormalsprods.html)  
Snow Climatology Project Description, [www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/monitoring/snowclim/mainpage.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/monitoring/snowclim/mainpage.html)  
Eischeid, J. K., P. Pasteris, H. F. Diaz, M. Plantico, and N. Lott, 2000: Creating a serially complete, national daily time series of temperature and precipitation for the Western United States. J. Appl. Meteorol., 39, 1580-1591,  
[www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/special/serialcomplete\\_jam\\_0900.pdf](http://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/special/serialcomplete_jam_0900.pdf)