

2003

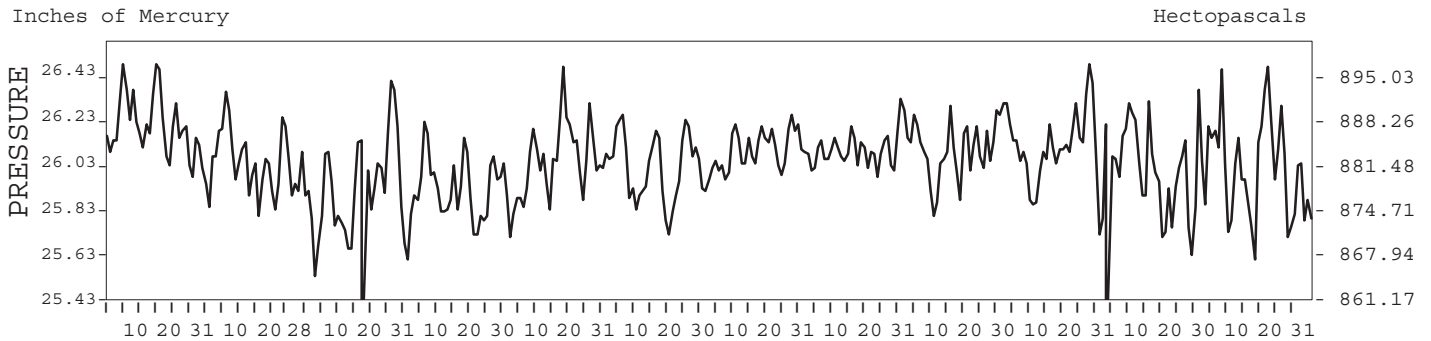
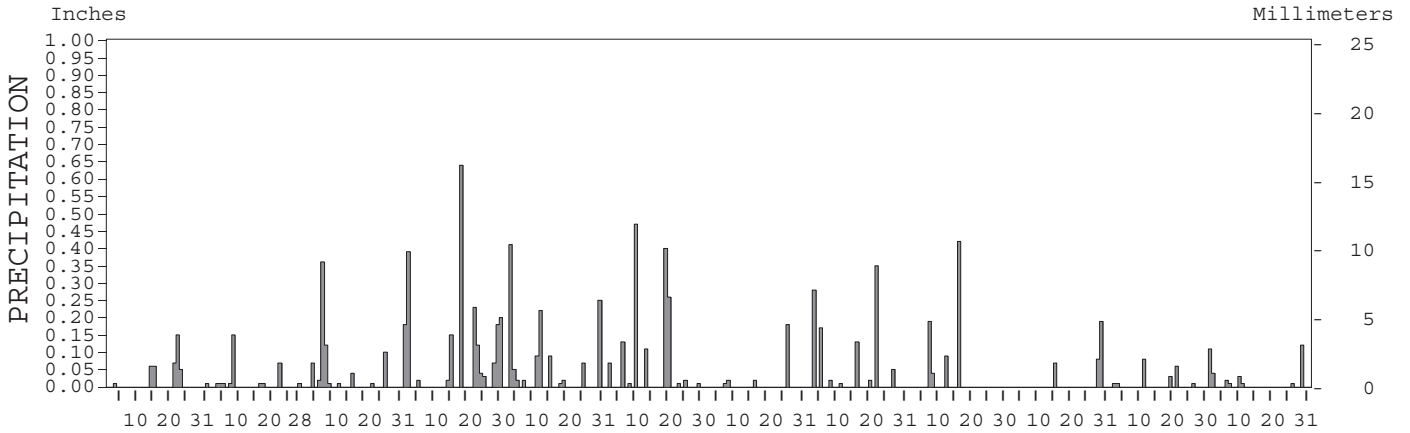
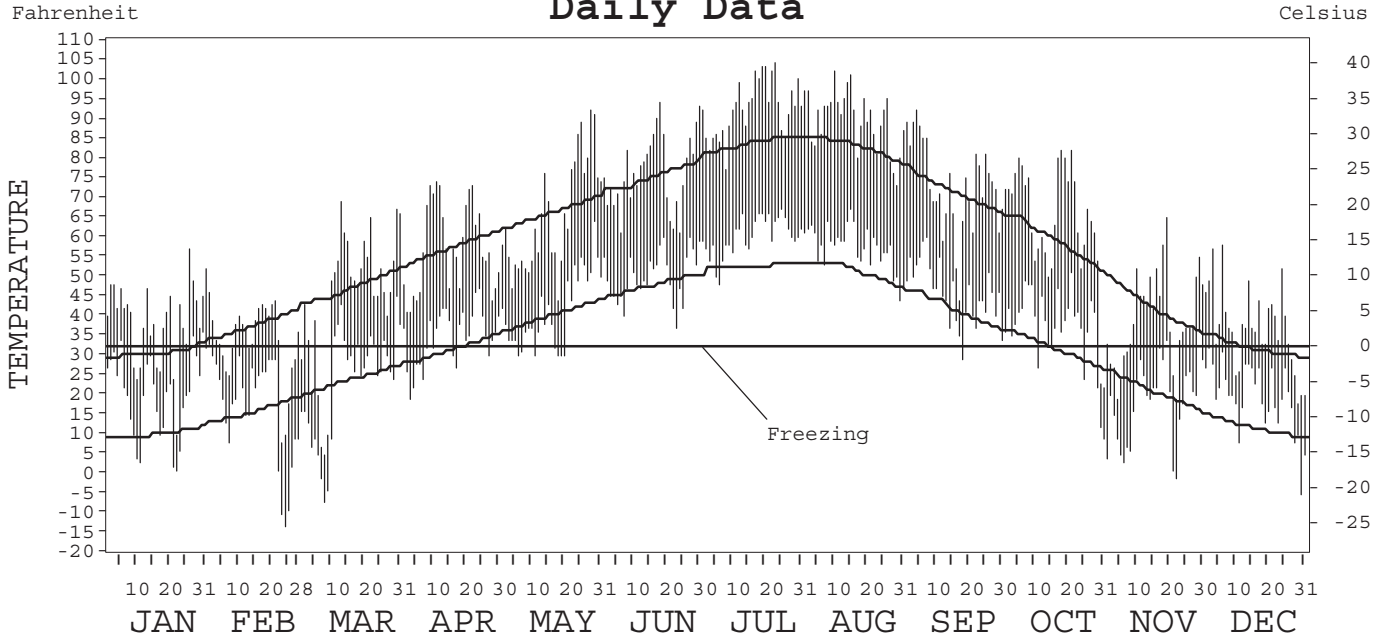
LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA
ANNUAL SUMMARY WITH COMPARATIVE DATA



ISSN 0198-3024

HELENA,
MONTANA (HLN)

Daily Data



I CERTIFY THAT THIS IS AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, AND IS COMPILED FROM RECORDS ON FILE AT THE NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA CENTER.

Thomas R. Karl

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION	NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA, AND INFORMATION SERVICE	NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA CENTER ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA	DIRECTOR NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA CENTER
---	---	---	---

METEOROLOGICAL DATA FOR 2003

HELENA, MT (HLN)

LATITUDE: 46° 36' 20" N LONGITUDE: 111° 57' 49" W ELEVATION (FT): GRND: 3864 BARO: 3867 TIME ZONE: MOUNTAIN (UTC + 7) WBAN: 24144

	ELEMENT	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR	
TEMPERATURE °F	MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM	38.5	33.5	44.8	57.2	65.3	76.5	92.5	89.5	72.8	64.0	39.1	37.1	59.2	
	HIGHEST DAILY MAXIMUM	57	46	69	74	92	94	104	102	93	82	65	58	104	
	DATE OF OCCURRENCE	26	01	13	11	28	18	23	10	05	21+	19	06	JUL 23	
	MEAN DAILY MINIMUM	20.2	17.0	23.5	34.7	41.2	49.9	60.2	57.4	45.7	37.2	18.4	19.5	35.4	
	LOWEST DAILY MINIMUM	1	-13	-7	19	30	37	48	44	29	9	-1	-5	-13	
	DATE OF OCCURRENCE	22	24	08	03	20+	23	06	30	18	31	22	30	FEB 24	
	AVERAGE DRY BULB	29.4	25.3	34.2	46.0	53.3	63.2	76.4	73.5	59.3	50.6	28.8	28.3	47.4	
	MEAN WET BULB	26.1	22.3		39.0	44.6	51.6	57.2	57.5	47.6		24.6	24.9		
	MEAN DEW POINT	20.1	15.8		30.8	35.6	41.7	41.7	45.9	37.0		16.7	19.0		
	NUMBER OF DAYS WITH:														
	MAXIMUM ≥ 90°	0	0	0	0	2	3	20	17	1	0	0	0	0	43
	MAXIMUM ≤ 32°	7	10	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8	7	7	40
	MINIMUM ≤ 32°	28	27	21	11	7	0	0	0	1	6	28	31	31	160
MINIMUM ≤ 0°	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	8	
H/C	HEATING DEGREE DAYS	1096	1104	951	562	389	113	0	8	208	442	1081	1128	7082	
	COOLING DEGREE DAYS	0	0	0	0	31	66	359	276	43	2	0	0	777	
RH	MEAN (PERCENT)	70	68	59	60	55	49	31	42	48	49	63	71	55	
	HOUR 05 LST	77	74	70	74	71	70	48	59	64	60	70	77	68	
	HOUR 11 LST	69	67	53	55	47	40	27	37	43	43	61	72	51	
	HOUR 17 LST	60	59	47	44	41	34	19	29	32	37	54	65	43	
	HOUR 23 LST	73	71	64	66	61	55	33	43	51	53	67	72	59	
S	PERCENT POSSIBLE SUNSHINE														
W/O	NUMBER OF DAYS WITH:														
	HEAVY FOG (VISBY ≤ 1/4 MI)	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	
	THUNDERSTORMS	0	0	0	1	4	6	3	9	4	0	0	0	27	
CLOUDINESS	SUNRISE-SUNSET: (OKTAS)														
	CEILOMETER (≤ 12,000 FT.)														
	SATELLITE (> 12,000 FT.)														
	MIDNIGHT-MIDNIGHT: (OKTAS)														
	CEILOMETER (≤ 12,000 FT.)														
	SATELLITE (> 12,000 FT.)														
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH:															
CLEAR															
PARTLY CLOUDY															
CLOUDY															
PR	MEAN STATION PRESS. (IN.)	26.17	26.02		25.89	26.02	26.01	26.07	26.08	26.09		26.00	26.00		
	MEAN SEA-LEVEL PRESS. (IN.)	30.31	30.15		29.90	30.01	29.94	29.97	29.99	30.05		30.11	30.11		
WINDS	RESULTANT SPEED (MPH)	3.2	3.8		2.6	4.6	3.6	2.9	2.4	4.1		5.1	3.6		
	RES. DIR. (TENS OF DEGS.)	27	28		27	29	29	31	28	28		26	26		
	MEAN SPEED (MPH)	4.9	5.8	8.0	6.4	8.0	8.1	8.1	6.1	7.0	7.5	7.0	5.4	6.9	
	PREVAIL. DIR. (TENS OF DEGS.)	26	26	27	26	27	27	29	25	27	26	26	27	27	
	MAXIMUM 2-MINUTE WIND:														
	SPEED (MPH)	37	31	33	32	36	36	41	43	36	45	43	31	45	
	DIR. (TENS OF DEGS.)	26	27	26	25	26	26	27	27	29	28	25	25	28	
	DATE OF OCCURRENCE	30	17+	23	13	25	19	23	22	12	29	18	17	OCT 29	
	MAXIMUM 5-SECOND WIND:														
	SPEED (MPH)	46	40	43	38	43	43	48	58	46	54	56	40	58	
DIR. (TENS OF DEGS.)	25	27	27	25	26	26	24	24	28	29	27	25	24		
DATE OF OCCURRENCE	30	16	23	13+	25	19+	23	22	12	29	17	17	AUG 22		
PRECIPITATION	WATER EQUIVALENT:														
	TOTAL (IN.)	0.41	0.29	0.74	2.27	1.25	1.49	0.23	1.03	0.74	0.34	0.20	0.35	9.34	
	GREATEST 24-HOUR (IN.)	0.19	0.16	0.43	0.64	0.43	0.64	0.18	0.35	0.42	0.27	0.08	0.15	0.64	
	DATE OF OCCURRENCE	21-22	07-08	07-08	18	03-04	19-20	26	22	16	28-29	11	01-02	JUN 19-20	
	NUMBER OF DAYS WITH:														
	PRECIPITATION ≥ 0.01	7	9	9	13	11	10	4	8	4	3	6	8	92	
PRECIPITATION ≥ 0.10	1	1	3	8	3	5	1	4	2	1	0	2	31		
PRECIPITATION ≥ 1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
SNOWFALL	SNOW, ICE PELLETS, HAIL:														
	TOTAL (IN.)														
	GREATEST 24-HOUR (IN.)														
	DATE OF OCCURRENCE														
	MAXIMUM SNOW DEPTH (IN.)														
	DATE OF OCCURRENCE														
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH:															
SNOWFALL ≥ 1.0															

NORMALS, MEANS, AND EXTREMES

HELENA, MT (HLN)

LATITUDE: 46° 36' 20" N LONGITUDE: 111° 57' 49" W ELEVATION (FT): GRND: 3864 BARO: 3867 TIME ZONE: MOUNTAIN (UTC + 7) WBAN: 24144

ELEMENT		POR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
TEMPERATURE °F	NORMAL DAILY MAXIMUM	30	30.5	37.3	46.8	56.9	65.9	75.0	83.4	82.5	71.0	58.4	41.5	31.5	56.7
	MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM	52	30.3	36.7	44.6	55.8	65.8	74.1	83.8	82.6	71.0	58.5	42.0	32.6	56.5
	HIGHEST DAILY MAXIMUM	63	72	69	77	86	93	100	105	105	99	87	75	64	105
	YEAR OF OCCURRENCE		2000	1995	1978	1992	2001	1988	2002	1969	1967	2001	1999	1980	JUL 2002
	MEAN OF EXTREME MAXS.	56	52.6	55.3	64.4	75.3	83.8	90.8	96.1	95.4	89.0	77.7	62.0	53.0	74.6
	NORMAL DAILY MINIMUM	30	9.9	15.6	23.5	31.2	39.8	47.5	52.3	50.8	41.2	31.2	20.3	11.3	31.2
	MEAN DAILY MINIMUM	52	9.9	15.6	22.0	30.1	39.9	47.4	52.8	50.8	41.5	31.5	20.6	12.7	31.2
	LOWEST DAILY MINIMUM	63	-42	-42	-30	1	17	30	36	28	18	-8	-39	-38	-42
	YEAR OF OCCURRENCE		1957	1996	1955	1954	1954	1999	1971	1992	1970	1991	1959	1964	FEB 1996
	MEAN OF EXTREME MINS.	56	-17.9	-9.5	-5	16.5	27.7	36.4	42.9	40.4	27.8	15.3	-1.0	-13.2	13.7
	NORMAL DRY BULB	30	20.2	26.4	35.1	44.1	52.9	61.2	67.8	66.7	56.1	44.8	30.9	21.4	44.0
	MEAN DRY BULB	56	19.4	25.9	32.9	43.3	52.6	60.6	68.2	66.7	56.2	45.1	31.5	22.2	43.7
	MEAN WET BULB	51	17.1	22.5	27.2	35.7	43.6	50.2	54.6	53.5	46.1	37.5	27.4	19.7	36.3
	MEAN DEW POINT	51	9.9	15.3	19.0	26.0	34.3	41.7	44.5	43.0	37.0	29.2	20.5	13.4	27.8
	NORMAL NO. DAYS WITH:														
MAXIMUM ≥ 90°	30	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	2.4	7.7	7.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.7	
MAXIMUM ≤ 32°	30	14.2	8.1	3.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	6.1	14.5	47.3	
MINIMUM ≤ 32°	30	29.5	26.7	27.4	16.9	3.6	0.2	0.0	*	3.4	16.9	26.8	29.6	181.0	
MINIMUM ≤ 0°	30	8.6	4.5	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	2.0	6.3	22.5	
H/C	NORMAL HEATING DEG. DAYS	30	1397	1093	932	634	384	157	42	56	283	631	1018	1348	7975
	NORMAL COOLING DEG. DAYS	30	0	0	0	0	3	39	122	100	13	0	0	0	277
RH	NORMAL (PERCENT)	30	70	67	62	55	55	54	48	49	54	60	67	71	59
	HOUR 05 LST	30	73	74	74	72	73	73	68	70	73	74	74	74	73
	HOUR 11 LST	30	68	63	54	46	45	44	40	42	47	53	63	68	53
	HOUR 17 LST	30	63	54	45	38	39	38	31	31	35	42	58	66	45
	HOUR 23 LST	30	72	70	67	60	61	59	52	54	59	64	70	73	63
S	PERCENT POSSIBLE SUNSHINE	55	47	56	61	59	61	64	78	75	68	60	44	42	60
W/O	MEAN NO. DAYS WITH:														
	HEAVY FOG (VISBY ≤ 1/4 MI)	63	1.9	1.2	1.8	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	1.4	2.4	10.1
	THUNDERSTORMS	63	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.0	4.0	7.4	8.5	7.5	1.8	0.3	0.1	0.0	30.9
CLOUDINESS	MEAN:														
	SUNRISE-SUNSET (OKTAS)	1			9.6		8.8	4.8							
	MIDNIGHT-MIDNIGHT (OKTAS)	1		3.2			8.8	4.8							
	MEAN NO. DAYS WITH:														
CLEAR	1	1.5	2.0	2.0			8.0	2.0	11.0	7.0	1.0		6.0		
PARTLY CLOUDY	1	1.0	5.0	1.0		6.0	5.0	1.0	3.0	5.0	7.0		2.0		
CLOUDY	1	3.0	3.0	12.0		23.0	6.0			4.0	7.0		3.0		
PR	MEAN STATION PRESSURE (IN)	31	26.02	26.01	25.94	25.97	25.96	25.99	26.04	26.05	26.07	26.06	26.02	26.02	26.01
	MEAN SEA-LEVEL PRES. (IN)	52	30.17	30.12	30.03	29.98	29.95	29.93	29.96	29.96	30.03	30.09	30.12	30.15	30.04
WINDS	MEAN SPEED (MPH)	40	8.8	9.3	10.5	10.8	11.0	11.8	11.8	11.5	10.3	9.6	9.7	9.4	10.4
	PREVAIL. DIR (TENS OF DEGS)	23	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
	MAXIMUM 2-MINUTE:														
	SPEED (MPH)	9	46	51	47	41	44	52	52	46	52	51	43	44	52
	DIR. (TENS OF DEGS)		29	26	28	28	29	18	24	26	26	28	25	28	26
	YEAR OF OCCURRENCE		1997	1999	2001	1997	1996	1999	2002	1999	1999	1999	2003	1995	SEP 1999
	MAXIMUM 5-SECOND:														
SPEED (MPH)	9	55	64	56	49	55	60	58	59	64	61	56	57	64	
DIR. (TENS OF DEGS)		28	26	28	27	25	19	25	26	26	26	27	29	26	
YEAR OF OCCURRENCE		2000	1999	2000	1997	2001	1999	2002	1999	1999	1999	2003	1995	SEP 1999	
PRECIPITATION	NORMAL (IN)	30	0.52	0.38	0.63	0.91	1.78	1.82	1.34	1.29	1.05	0.66	0.48	0.46	11.32
	MAXIMUM MONTHLY (IN)	63	2.78	1.20	1.62	3.00	6.09	4.74	4.70	4.23	3.37	2.68	1.50	1.48	6.09
	YEAR OF OCCURRENCE		1969	1986	1982	1975	1981	1944	1993	1974	1965	1975	1950	1977	MAY 1981
	MINIMUM MONTHLY (IN)	63	T	0.02	0.02	0.10	0.29	0.08	0.08	0.02	0.08	0.02	0.04	0.01	T
	YEAR OF OCCURRENCE		1987	1991	1959	1977	1979	1985	1973	1988	1972	1978	1969	1997	JAN 1987
	MAXIMUM IN 24 HOURS (IN)	63	0.77	0.58	1.01	1.25	2.31	1.78	2.26	1.86	1.61	1.01	0.82	0.51	2.31
	YEAR OF OCCURRENCE		1969	1953	1957	1951	1981	1979	1983	1974	1980	2000	1959	1982	MAY 1981
	NORMAL NO. DAYS WITH:														
PRECIPITATION ≥ 0.01	30	7.5	6.3	8.1	8.6	11.4	10.4	8.1	7.7	6.3	5.7	6.7	7.3	94.1	
PRECIPITATION ≥ 1.00	30	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	
SNOWFALL	NORMAL (IN)	30	8.2	5.7	6.8	4.6	0.9	0.*	0.*	0.3	1.2	2.8	5.4	7.4	43.3
	MAXIMUM MONTHLY (IN)	57	35.6	19.7	21.6	20.6	12.7	2.7	T	6.2	13.7	11.0	32.9	22.8	35.6
	YEAR OF OCCURRENCE		1969	1959	1955	1967	1967	1969	1993	1992	1965	1969	1959	1967	JAN 1969
	MAXIMUM IN 24 HOURS (IN)	57	11.5	11.7	8.7	12.9	12.5	2.7	T	6.2	13.3	7.4	21.5	10.7	21.5
	YEAR OF OCCURRENCE		1969	1993	1955	1960	1967	1969	1993	1992	1957	1969	1959	1991	NOV 1959
	MAXIMUM SNOW DEPTH (IN)	46	23	15	15	8	8	T	0	0	10	6	19	14	23
	YEAR OF OCCURRENCE		1969	1975	1969	1986	1967	1969			1965	1969	1978	1985	JAN 1969
NORMAL NO. DAYS WITH:															
SNOWFALL ≥ 1.0	30	2.7	1.7	2.1	1.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.4	1.0	1.6	2.0	13.3	

PRECIPITATION (inches) 2003 HELENA, MT (HLN)

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL
1974	0.66	0.23	0.38	0.76	2.07	0.34	0.49	4.23	0.22	0.51	0.30	0.26	10.45
1975	1.26	0.72	0.88	3.00	1.95	2.83	3.89	2.47	0.47	2.68	0.48	0.31	20.94
1976	0.26	0.38	0.41	1.34	0.87	2.74	0.29	1.58	1.82	0.04	0.30	0.04	10.07
1977	0.65	0.13	1.11	0.10	1.82	1.37	1.37	0.72	1.93	0.17	0.48	1.48	11.33
1978	0.96	0.61	0.31	0.94	1.20	0.44	2.83	0.59	1.11	0.02	1.19	0.76	10.96
1979	0.77	0.72	1.34	2.26	0.29	2.75	0.32	0.79	0.12	0.38	0.06	0.59	10.39
1980	0.62	0.74	0.88	0.63	4.32	3.16	1.92	0.28	2.57	1.21	0.32	0.40	17.05
1981	0.15	0.10	1.10	0.75	6.09	1.15	1.78	0.10	0.90	0.82	0.54	0.33	13.81
1982	0.80	0.58	1.62	0.54	1.77	2.99	0.49	0.74	2.74	0.35	0.31	1.05	13.98
1983	0.24	0.07	0.36	0.29	1.79	2.20	3.48	2.67	1.56	0.35	0.26	0.76	14.03
1984	0.17	0.15	0.49	1.45	1.03	2.14	0.11	1.11	0.73	0.74	0.47	0.41	9.00
1985	0.16	0.38	0.32	0.46	0.75	0.08	0.10	2.64	2.11	0.76	0.84	0.35	8.95
1986	0.32	1.20	0.49	1.08	0.83	1.56	1.37	1.84	2.45	0.03	0.54	0.38	12.09
1987	T	0.03	1.19	0.76	1.90	1.50	2.88	0.38	0.80	0.05	0.12	0.42	10.03
1988	0.27	0.50	0.45	1.32	1.82	1.50	0.36	0.02	2.09	0.69	0.69	0.32	10.03
1989	1.42	0.82	1.35	0.72	1.00	1.43	1.55	1.61	1.31	0.54	0.26	0.48	12.49
1990	0.47	0.14	0.91	0.43	1.54	0.92	0.40	2.57	0.11	0.11	0.36	0.47	8.43
1991	0.27	0.02	0.90	0.75	1.71	3.27	0.72	0.70	1.26	0.65	0.88	0.79	11.92
1992	0.29	0.10	0.60	0.55	0.64	2.36	1.06	1.01	0.09	1.87	0.19	0.57	9.33
1993	0.80	1.03	0.56	1.63	1.71	3.14	4.70	2.79	1.25	0.71	0.36	0.13	18.81
1994	0.20	0.40	0.32	1.45	1.23	0.84	0.71	0.47	0.09	1.14	0.55	0.07	7.47
1995	0.20	0.08	0.49	1.15	3.09	2.93	1.51	0.33	1.59	0.10	0.62	0.28	12.37
1996	0.55	0.11	0.58	0.70	2.42	1.20	1.27	0.89	0.51	0.04	0.84	0.61	9.72
1997	0.28	0.10	0.10	0.20	2.35	2.43	1.25	1.79	0.31	1.62	0.13	0.01	10.57
1998	0.49	0.12	0.39	0.64	2.27	3.03	2.96	0.50	0.82	0.14	1.07	0.14	12.57
1999	0.38	0.26	0.02	1.05	2.19	2.15	0.41	1.92	0.54	0.39	0.13	0.10	9.54
2000	0.26	0.32	0.26	0.73	0.98	1.42	0.73	0.43	0.54	2.12	0.36	0.23	8.38
2001	0.27	0.17	0.44	1.39	1.23	2.11	1.94	0.43	1.38	0.54	0.13	0.28	10.31
2002	0.04	0.29	0.52	0.61	1.86	4.36	1.61	1.32	1.22	0.16	0.50	0.05	12.54
2003	0.41	0.29	0.74	2.27	1.25	1.49	0.23	1.03	0.74	0.34	0.20	0.35	9.34
POR= 122 YRS	0.69	0.51	0.72	1.00	1.87	2.19	1.16	0.99	1.14	0.76	0.61	0.61	12.25

WBAN : 24144

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE (°F) 2003 HELENA, MT (HLN)

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL
1974	18.1	32.8	33.9	46.0	48.6	64.9	70.4	61.5	53.5	45.8	34.7	27.7	44.8
1975	21.1	13.7	28.8	32.9	48.6	56.9	69.2	61.2	54.1	43.3	29.9	26.0	40.5
1976	24.9	29.5	30.4	43.2	54.1	56.6	67.6	64.8	57.9	44.9	33.8	28.7	44.7
1977	18.0	34.1	32.4	46.9	50.4	63.6	66.3	63.6	56.3	45.6	31.2	20.7	44.1
1978	16.9	22.8	38.8	47.7	53.2	63.2	67.2	65.5	57.9	46.5	22.7	15.2	43.1
1979	1.1	20.1	34.7	42.7	53.2	62.0	69.2	67.7	61.3	47.8	29.0	28.2	43.1
1980	14.3	25.3	31.3	49.0	55.4	59.8	67.3	62.9	56.8	45.4	34.9	26.9	44.1
1981	28.4	29.7	38.0	46.4	52.8	58.9	67.7	69.5	58.8	43.8	36.4	25.3	46.3
1982	16.5	23.7	33.9	40.5	50.9	61.2	68.6	69.1	55.5	44.9	27.4	22.7	42.9
1983	30.6	35.3	38.3	43.1	51.5	60.2	66.0	70.8	53.5	46.0	34.7	5.5	44.6
1984	27.3	32.4	37.2	43.5	52.8	60.0	70.0	69.8	52.3	41.7	33.1	11.6	44.3
1985	12.3	18.8	33.4	46.9	56.2	63.3	75.0	63.1	49.6	42.3	12.6	15.0	40.7
1986	25.5	21.8	42.9	43.3	53.6	66.4	64.2	68.0	51.2	45.3	29.0	18.6	44.2
1987	23.3	31.9	37.0	50.2	55.9	64.4	66.2	62.8	59.9	46.8	34.7	24.7	46.5
1988	18.8	29.1	36.1	47.1	55.5	68.4	71.3	68.6	56.4	50.3	33.8	23.1	46.5
1989	24.5	6.1	27.6	44.5	51.7	62.2	72.0	64.3	55.6	45.1	36.8	23.8	42.9
1990	28.8	26.9	34.9	45.8	51.0	61.5	69.4	68.4	63.6	45.3	37.4	14.0	45.6
1991	19.0	37.5	35.3	43.8	52.8	59.5	70.8	72.8	58.4	43.3	29.8	22.9	45.5
1992	23.7	34.2	42.7	47.7	57.5	64.9	64.3	64.7	56.7	46.7	32.8	14.7	45.9
1993	12.3	15.0	36.4	44.3	57.3	58.5	59.5	61.5	54.0	43.8	26.8	30.0	41.6
1994	29.8	20.7	39.4	45.6	56.2	62.7	69.0	69.9	61.6	44.3	28.3	23.6	45.9
1995	22.7	30.5	30.7	42.0	49.7	57.4	65.8	65.2	55.7	42.8	34.3	22.7	43.3
1996	9.9	21.1	25.7	48.2	48.2	61.3	68.3	66.6	55.5	43.8	23.1	16.6	44.2
1997	13.3	28.2	36.9	38.4	53.2	60.1	65.8	65.4	58.8	44.1	31.2	24.4	43.3
1998	21.2	31.0	32.8	44.8	53.9	55.1	69.8	68.6	61.9	43.8	34.5	24.5	45.2
1999	26.8	32.4	37.1	40.8	50.2	58.8	65.3	68.4	52.9	45.8	39.2	28.1	45.5
2000	25.0	28.8	38.6	47.0	54.9	62.4	72.1	69.6	56.4	44.6	22.0	16.2	44.8
2001	20.1	17.6	35.4	44.0	59.2	64.1	72.0	74.7	64.6	48.4	39.2	24.5	47.0
2002	29.6	30.3	25.2	43.0	53.4	62.8	72.4	64.0	59.1	40.4	34.6	28.1	45.2
2003	29.4	25.3	34.2	46.0	53.3	63.2	76.4	73.5	59.3	50.6	28.8	28.3	47.4
POR= 123 YRS	20.0	24.8	32.6	43.6	52.4	60.0	67.9	66.5	55.9	45.4	32.3	23.6	43.7

HEATING DEGREE DAYS (base 65°F) 2003 HELENA, MT (HLN)

YEAR	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL
1974-75	16	130	338	588	905	1149	1355	1429	1114	954	501	235	8714
1975-76	14	119	322	666	1045	1199	1236	1023	1064	649	331	257	7925
1976-77	15	45	219	615	928	1120	1449	862	1005	535	443	90	7326
1977-78	52	92	270	593	1008	1367	1485	1175	806	512	361	87	7808
1978-79	32	60	244	564	1263	1540	1979	1250	930	665	359	128	9014
1979-80	11	15	127	528	1072	1138	1566	1148	1039	473	304	164	7585
1980-81	25	81	242	602	899	1175	1127	986	832	552	371	191	7083
1981-82	21	16	195	650	853	1227	1497	1153	959	726	428	136	7861
1982-83	30	16	304	618	1120	1306	1059	828	823	649	417	152	7322
1983-84	76	0	351	584	901	1842	1164	941	856	640	380	174	7909
1984-85	2	7	377	716	954	1654	1625	1291	973	538	266	97	8500
1985-86	3	105	455	696	1571	1545	1218	1202	677	645	380	42	8539
1986-87	66	23	409	602	1077	1432	1288	923	862	437	276	77	7472
1987-88	75	104	163	556	901	1241	1426	1034	889	529	297	63	7278
1988-89	10	13	282	449	934	1292	1251	1650	1156	610	407	107	8161
1989-90	0	92	274	611	839	1268	1116	1058	925	573	426	177	7359
1990-91	15	31	78	604	823	1579	1420	767	914	630	373	159	7393
1991-92	2	0	220	666	1053	1297	1273	884	687	513	237	94	6926
1992-93	68	141	246	564	960	1552	1631	1397	879	617	228	214	8497
1993-94	179	122	323	652	1139	1080	1080	1236	783	576	268	128	7566
1994-95	18	17	110	633	1095	1275	1307	963	1059	681	465	222	7845
1995-96	37	61	293	683	912	1303	1703	1268	1210	510	127	127	8543
1996-97	15	53	286	651	1251	1494	1596	1026	865	793	361	152	7704
1997-98	49	53	189	642	1006	1252	1352	942	990	600	336	293	7272
1998-99	2	8	158	650	909	1248	1176	905	859	718	451	188	6997
1999-00	79	20	354	590	767	1136	1232	1043	814	535	308	119	8286
2000-01	16	13	279	625	1283	1504	1385	1319	912	625	212	113	7037
2001-02	11	0	66	511	766	1249	1093	968	1229	652	366	126	7266
2002-03	1	52	201	755	904	1138	1096	1104	951	562	389	113	7266
2003-	0	8	208	442	1081	1128							

WBAN : 24144

COOLING DEGREE DAYS (base 65°F) 2003 HELENA, MT (HLN)

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL
1974	0	0	0	0	0	102	190	31	0	0	0	0	323
1975	0	0	0	0	0	1	154	12	0	0	0	0	167
1976	0	0	0	0	0	14	102	45	10	0	0	0	171
1977	0	0	0	0	0	57	101	54	13	0	0	0	225
1978	0	0	0	0	3	37	109	85	37	0	0	0	271
1979	0	0	0	0	1	45	152	103	21	0	0	0	322
1980	0	0	0	0	14	14	104	25	4	0	0	0	161
1981	0	0	0	0	0	15	109	165	16	0	0	0	305
1982	0	0	0	0	0	30	147	151	25	0	0	0	353
1983	0	0	0	0	4	16	115	186	12	0	0	0	333
1984	0	0	0	0	10	31	165	163	4	0	0	0	373
1985	0	0	0	0	2	55	318	54	0	0	0	0	429
1986	0	0	0	0	35	91	45	123	1	0	0	0	295
1987	0	0	0	0	3	66	122	41	15	0	0	0	247
1988	0	0	0	0	8	170	211	132	30	0	0	0	551
1989	0	0	0	0	0	30	222	82	0	0	0	0	334
1990	0	0	0	0	0	77	159	142	42	0	0	0	420
1991	0	0	0	0	0	2	188	250	29	0	0	0	469
1992	0	0	0	0	10	96	55	140	3	0	0	0	304
1993	0	0	0	0	2	24	15	23	0	0	0	0	64
1994	0	0	0	0	1	67	146	176	16	0	0	0	406
1995	0	0	0	0	0	5	71	73	24	0	0	0	173
1996	0	0	0	0	0	25	125	109	9	0	0	0	295
1997	0	0	0	0	1	13	81	71	12	0	0	0	178
1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	161	124	72	0	0	0	357
1999	0	0	0	0	0	10	93	132	0	0	0	0	235
2000	0	0	0	0	2	50	245	165	27	0	0	0	489
2001	0	0	0	0	41	94	237	308	61	0	0	0	741
2002	0	0	0	0	15	71	238	29	30	0	0	0	383
2003	0	0	0	0	31	66	359	276	43	2	0	0	777

SNOWFALL (inches) 2003 HELENA, MT (HLN)

YEAR	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL
1974-75	0.0	0.0	T	1.5	0.8	2.7	15.2	10.7	12.3	15.4	0.2	0.0	58.8
1975-76	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	4.9	3.9	3.3	4.4	6.7	10.9	0.0	0.0	40.4
1976-77	0.0	0.0	0.0	T	2.9	0.9	13.8	0.8	14.1	0.5	1.0	0.0	34.0
1977-78	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	6.8	19.5	15.7	13.3	2.6	0.9	T	0.0	59.2
1978-79	0.0	0.0	T	T	22.1	13.8	11.7	7.2	12.4	9.3	T	T	76.5
1979-80	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.6	6.5	9.3	10.5	10.1	3.1	0.0	0.0	40.3
1980-81	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	1.2	3.8	2.7	2.1	3.3	0.1	T	0.0	16.9
1981-82	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.2	3.4	6.1	18.4	4.8	13.9	4.1	0.8	0.0	56.7
1982-83	0.0	0.0	6.5	0.5	4.1	11.3	3.2	0.2	2.2	1.1	9.9	0.0	39.0
1983-84	0.0	0.0	6.4	0.0	1.3	13.0	1.3	1.5	5.7	2.3	0.8	0.0	32.3
1984-85	0.0	0.0	6.3	9.0	5.7	7.5	3.9	6.2	4.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	43.4
1985-86	0.0	0.0	2.9	8.8	10.4	8.5	4.2	15.6	1.2	11.6	0.2	0.0	63.4
1986-87	0.0	0.0	0.0	T	7.6	5.0	0.2	0.2	9.1	4.3	3.8	0.0	30.2
1987-88	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.9	1.2	4.4	8.0	5.2	2.9	0.0	0.0	22.9
1988-89	0.0	0.0	5.9	1.5	6.0	5.0	23.0	13.0	20.7	7.9	3.5	T	86.5
1989-90	0.0	T	T	2.6	1.8	9.4	4.3	1.8	14.0	0.8	0.1	0.0	34.8
1990-91	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	8.6	11.6	5.9	0.8	12.2	5.6	0.4	0.5	46.6
1991-92	0.0	T	0.0	7.3	8.8	15.7	4.7	1.3	T	2.2	T	0.0	40.0
1992-93	T	6.2	T	8.6	1.5	11.8	10.2	17.9	2.3	2.5	T	0.2	61.2
1993-94	T	0.0	T	4.6	7.3	1.1	4.4	5.0	4.4	8.0	T	0.0	34.8
1994-95	0.0	T	0.0	T	8.6	2.0	0.3	1.6	8.1	0.0	0.0		
1995-96	T	0.0	T		7.4	2.7	14.2						
1996-97													
1997-98													
1998-99													
1999-00				T			3.9	5.7	2.3				
2000-01													
2001-02													
2002-03													
2003-													
POR= 56 YRS	T	0.1	1.5	2.3	6.3	8.2	8.6	6.0	7.3	4.8	1.4	0.1	46.6

WBAN : 24144

REFERENCE NOTES :

<p>PAGE 1: THE TEMPERATURE GRAPH SHOWS NORMAL MAXIMUM AND NORMAL MINIMUM DAILY TEMPERATURES (SOLID CURVES) AND THE ACTUAL DAILY HIGH AND LOW TEMPERATURES (VERTICAL BARS).</p> <p>PAGE 2 AND 3: H/C INDICATES HEATING AND COOLING DEGREE DAYS. RH INDICATES RELATIVE HUMIDITY W/O INDICATES WEATHER AND OBSTRUCTIONS S INDICATES SUNSHINE. PR INDICATES PRESSURE. CLOUDINESS ON PAGE 3 IS THE SUM OF THE CEILOMETER AND SATELLITE DATA NOT TO EXCEED EIGHT EIGHTHS(OKTAS).</p> <p>GENERAL: T INDICATES TRACE PRECIPITATION, AN AMOUNT GREATER THAN ZERO BUT LESS THAN THE LOWEST REPORTABLE VALUE. + INDICATES THE VALUE ALSO OCCURS ON EARLIER DATES. BLANK ENTRIES DENOTE MISSING OR UNREPORTED DATA. NORMALS ARE 30-YEAR AVERAGES (1971 - 2000). ASOS INDICATES AUTOMATED SURFACE OBSERVING SYSTEM. PM INDICATES THE LAST DAY OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH. POR (PERIOD OF RECORD) BEGINS WITH THE JANUARY DATA MONTH AND IS THE NUMBER OF YEARS USED TO COMPUTE THE MEAN. INDIVIDUAL MONTHS WITHIN THE POR MAY BE MISSING. WHEN THE POR FOR A NORMAL IS LESS THAN 30 YEARS, THE NORMAL IS PROVISIONAL AND IS BASED ON THE NUMBER OF YEARS INDICATED. 0.* OR * INDICATES THE VALUE OR MEAN-DAYS-WITH IS BETWEEN 0.00 AND 0.05. CLOUDINESS FOR ASOS STATIONS DIFFERS FROM THE NON-ASOS OBSERVATION TAKEN BY A HUMAN OBSERVER. ASOS STATION CLOUDINESS IS BASED ON TIME-AVERAGED CEILOMETER DATA FOR CLOUDS AT OR BELOW 12,000 FEET AND ON SATELLITE DATA FOR CLOUDS ABOVE 12,000 FEET. THE NUMBER OF DAYS WITH CLEAR, PARTLY CLOUDY, AND CLOUDY CONDITIONS FOR ASOS STATIONS IS THE SUM OF THE CEILOMETER AND SATELLITE DATA FOR THE SUNRISE TO SUNSET PERIOD.</p>	<p>GENERAL CONTINUED: CLEAR INDICATES 0 - 2 OKTAS, PARTLY CLOUDY INDICATES 3 - 6 OKTAS, AND CLOUDY INDICATES 7 OR 8 OKTAS. WHEN AT LEAST ONE OF THE ELEMENTS (CEILOMETER OR SATELLITE) IS MISSING, THE DAILY CLOUDINESS IS NOT COMPUTED. WIND DIRECTION IS RECORDED IN TENS OF DEGREES (2 DIGITS) CLOCKWISE FROM TRUE NORTH. "00" INDICATES CALM. "36" INDICATES TRUE NORTH. RESULTANT WIND IS THE VECTOR AVERAGE OF THE SPEED AND DIRECTION. AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IS THE SUM OF THE MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM TEMPERATURE DIVIDED BY 2. SNOWFALL DATA COMPRISE ALL FORMS OF FROZEN PRECIPITATION, INCLUDING HAIL. A HEATING (COOLING) DEGREE DAY IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE AVERAGE DAILY TEMPERATURE AND 65° F. DRY BULB IS THE TEMPERATURE OF THE AMBIENT AIR. DEW POINT IS THE TEMPERATURE TO WHICH THE AIR MUST BE COOLED TO ACHIEVE 100 PERCENT RELATIVE HUMIDITY. WET BULB IS THE TEMPERATURE THE AIR WOULD HAVE IF THE MOISTURE CONTENT WAS INCREASED TO 100 PERCENT RELATIVE HUMIDITY.</p> <p>ON JULY 1, 1996, THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BEGAN USING THE "METAR" OBSERVATION CODE THAT WAS ALREADY EMPLOYED BY MOST OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD. THE MOST NOTICEABLE DIFFERENCE IN THIS ANNUAL PUBLICATION WILL BE THE CHANGE IN UNITS FROM TENTHS TO EIGHTS(OKTAS) FOR REPORTING THE AMOUNT OF SKY COVER.</p>
---	--

2003 HELENA, MONTANA (HLN)

Helena is located on the south side of an intermountain valley bounded on the west and south by the main chain of the Continental Divide. The valley is approximately 25 miles in width from north to south and 35 miles long from east to west. The average height of the mountains above the valley floor is about 3,000 feet.

The climate of Helena may be described as modified continental. Several factors enter into modifying the continental climate characteristics. Some of these are invasion by Pacific Ocean air masses, drainage of cool air into the valley from the surrounding mountains, and the protecting mountain shield in all directions.

The mountains to the north and east sometimes deflect shallow masses of invading cold Arctic air to the east. Following periods of extreme cold, when the return circulation of maritime air has brought warming to most of the eastern part of the state, cold air may remain trapped in the valley for several days before being replaced by warmer air. During these periods of transition from cold-to-warm temperatures, inversions are often quite pronounced.

As may be expected in a northern latitude, cold waves may occur from November through February, with temperatures occasionally dropping to zero or lower.

Summertime temperatures are moderate, with maximum readings generally under 90 degrees and very seldom reaching 100 degrees. Like all mountain stations, there is usually a marked change in temperature from day to night. During the summer this tends to produce an agreeable combination of fairly warm days and cool nights.

Most of the precipitation falls from April through July from frequent showers or thunderstorms, but usually with some steady rains in June, the wettest month of the year. Like summer, fall and winter months are relatively dry. During the April to September growing season, precipitation varies considerably.

Thunderstorms are rather frequent from May through August. Snow can be expected from September through May, but amounts during the spring and fall are usually light, and snow on the ground ordinarily lasts only a day or two. During the winter months snow may remain on the ground for several weeks at a time. There is little drifting of snow in the valley, and blizzard conditions are very infrequent.

Severe ice, sleet, and hailstorms are very seldom observed. Since 1880, only a few hailstorms have caused extensive damage in the city of Helena.

In winter, hours of sunshine are more than would be expected at a mountain location.

Due to the sheltering influence of the mountains, Foehn (Chinook) winds are not as pronounced as might be expected for a location on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Strong winds can occur at any time throughout the year, but generally do not last more than a few hours at a time.

Based on the 1951-1980 period, the average first occurrence of 32 degrees Fahrenheit in the fall is September 18 and the average last occurrence in the spring is May 18.

STATION LOCATION

HELENA, MONTANA

LOCATION	Occupied From	Occupied To	Airline Distances and Directions from previous Location	LATITUDE NORTH	LONGITUDE WEST	ELEVATION ABOVE										AUTOMATIC OBSERVING EQUIPMENT *	* TYPE M = AMOS T = AUTOB S = ASOS W = AWOS REMARKS
						SEA LEVEL		GROUND									
						GROUND	TEMPERATURE	WIND INSTRUMENT	EXTREME THERMOMETER	PSYCHROMETER	SUNSHINE SWITCH	TIPPING BUCKET	RAIN GAUGE	WINDHOLE	8 INCH RAIN GAUGE		
*NOTE:																	
<u>AIRPORT</u>																	
Radio Range Station CAA	3/27/36	11/20/36		46°36'	111°56'	3820	12		5							No records.	
Administration Bldg. Helena Municipal AP	11/20/36	5/24/79	4.0 mi. W	46°36'	112°00'	e3828	a20	s5 fs5	s5 fs4	%42	c3 f3	b4 f5	3 f3	d4		CAA to 4/30/40. a. 35 feet to 10/28/43 and 44 feet to 9/20/61. b. Added 11/1/40. c. Removed prior to 1954. Re-commissioned 5/13/64. d. Commissioned 3350 feet NE of thermometer site 8/21/63. e. 3893 feet to 8/21/63. s. Standby after 8/21/63. f. Relocated 6/18/71. %. Commissioned 12/15/62.	
NWS Building Helena Airport	5/24/79	11/01/94	50' W	46°36'	112°00'	3828	h20	g5	g4	h42	g5	g5	g4	h4 i4		g. Relocated 5/16/79. h. Not relocated. i. Type change 11/27/84.	
Helena Airport	11/01/94	Present	NA	46°36'	111°58'	j3864								S		ASOS commissioned 11/01/94. j. Ground elevation.	

For Hard Copy Subscription:

Price and ordering information: NCDC Subscribing Service Center, 310 State Route 956, Building 300, Rocket Center, WV 26726.

INQUIRIES/COMMENTS CALL: Toll Free (866) 742-3322

Visit our Web Site for other weather data: www.ncdc.noaa.gov

Non-Subscription Request:

NCDC Customer Services;
Phone: 828-271-4800
Fax: 828-271-4876
Email: ncdc.orders@noaa.gov

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**FIRST CLASS
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
United States Department of Commerce
NOAA Permit No. G - 19**

* NOTES: For earlier station history see previous editions.