

2000

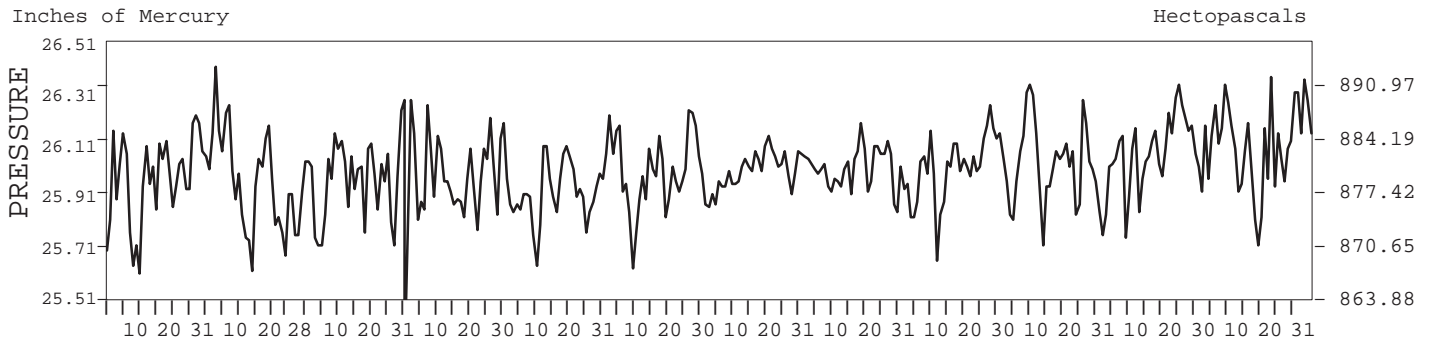
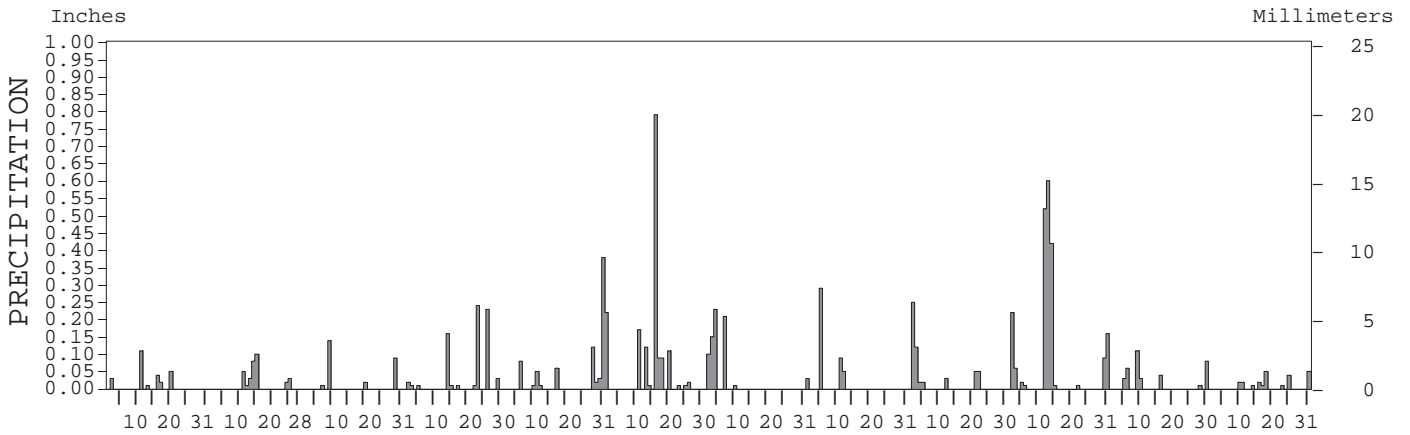
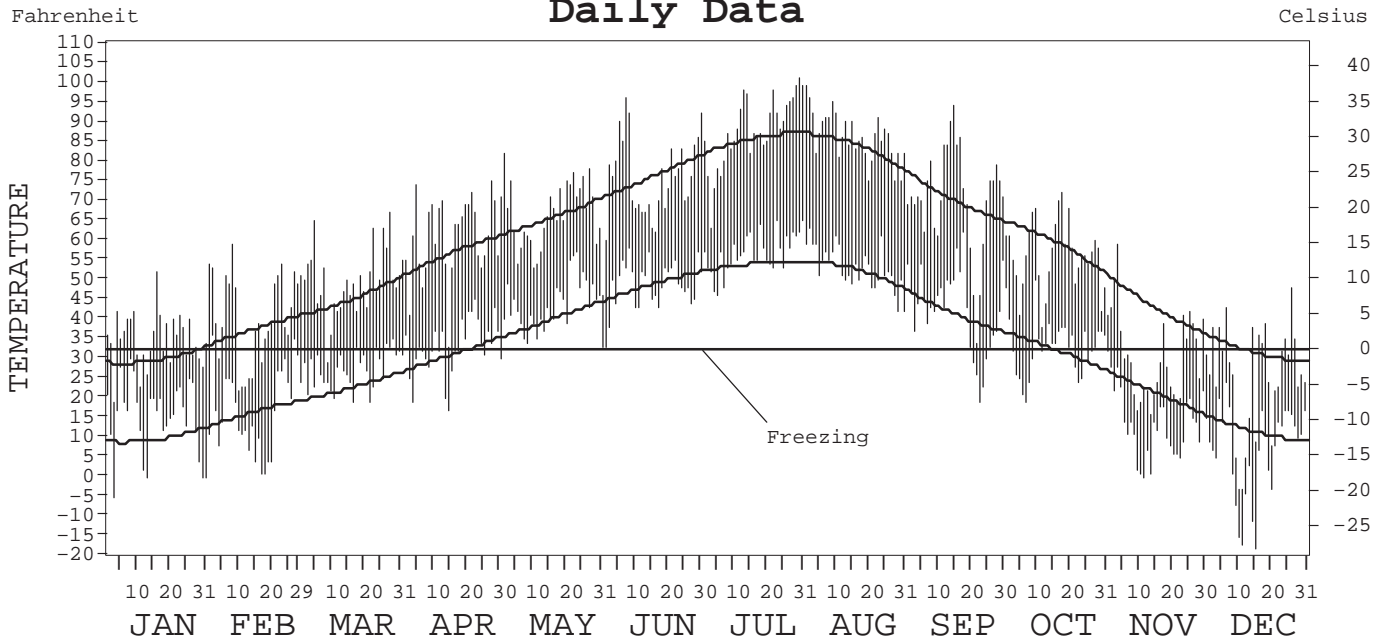
LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA ANNUAL SUMMARY WITH COMPARATIVE DATA



ISSN 0198-3024

HELENA,
MONTANA (HLN)

Daily Data



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NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION	NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA, AND INFORMATION SERVICE	NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA CENTER ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA	DIRECTOR NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA CENTER
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METEOROLOGICAL DATA FOR 2000

HELENA, MT (HLN)

LATITUDE: 46° 36' 20" N LONGITUDE: 111° 57' 49" W ELEVATION (FT): GRND: 3895 BARO: 3895 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	34.8	40.6	49.7	60.9	66.1	76.0	87.6	86.2	70.4	56.1	30.6	25.5	57.0	
	HIGHEST DAILY MAXIMUM	72	59	67	75	82	96	101	99	94	72	59	48	101	
	DATE OF OCCURRENCE	14	08	27	27	01	07	30	01	15	18	04	27	JUL 30	
	MEAN DAILY MINIMUM	15.2	17.0	27.5	33.0	43.6	48.8	56.6	53.0	42.3	33.0	13.3	6.9	32.5	
	LOWEST DAILY MINIMUM	-5	1	19	17	33	33	46	42	19	19	0	-18	-18	
	DATE OF OCCURRENCE	03	18+	21+	14	31	01	05	31+	23	07	12	16	DEC 16	
	AVERAGE DRY BULB	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	
	MEAN WET BULB	22.4	25.6	31.6		44.5	50.6	55.8	53.7	45.9	37.7	19.8	15.4		
	MEAN DEW POINT	16.7	20.0	21.7		33.3	40.6	42.8	40.1	35.9	30.7	14.8	10.9		
	NUMBER OF DAYS WITH:														
	MAXIMUM ≥ 90°	0	0	0	0	0	4	13	11	2	0	0	0	0	30
	MAXIMUM ≤ 32°	12	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	21	59	
	MINIMUM ≤ 32°	31	27	26	15	0	0	0	0	5	13	30	31	178	
MINIMUM ≤ 0°	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	12		
H/C	HEATING DEGREE DAYS	1232	1043	814	535	308	119	16	13	279	625	1283	1504	7771	
	COOLING DEGREE DAYS	0	0	0	0	2	50	245	165	27	0	0	0	489	
RH	MEAN (PERCENT)	71	71	56	51	48	49	38	38	52	65	75	78	58	
	HOUR 05 LST	76	82	71	68	64	68	54	55	68	81	80	80	71	
	HOUR 11 LST	68	71	49	43	39	43	33	35	43	60	71	78	53	
	HOUR 17 LST	66	57	41	36	38	33	26	23	37	48	70	76	46	
	HOUR 23 LST	78	74	58	56	53	52	41	37	56	69	78	79	61	
W/O	NUMBER OF DAYS WITH:														
	HEAVY FOG (VISBY ≤ 1/4 MI)	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	7	17	
	THUNDERSTORMS	0	0	0	2	0	1	8	3	1	0	0	0	15	
CLOUDINESS	SUNRISE-SUNSET: (OKTAS)														
	CEILOMETER (≤ 12,000 FT.)														
	SATELLITE (> 12,000 FT.)														
	MIDNIGHT-MIDNIGHT: (OKTAS)														
	CEILOMETER (≤ 12,000 FT.)														
	SATELLITE (> 12,000 FT.)														
PR	NUMBER OF DAYS WITH:														
	CLEAR														
	PARTLY CLOUDY														
	CLOUDY														
WINDS	MEAN STATION PRESS. (IN.)	25.98	25.96	25.99		25.93	26.01	26.02	26.01	26.03	26.03	26.10	26.12		
	MEAN SEA-LEVEL PRESS. (IN.)	30.14	30.10			29.92	29.98	29.95	29.95	30.03		30.29	30.34		
PRECIPITATION	RESULTANT SPEED (MPH)	4.2	3.3	7.1		6.0	4.2	1.4	3.0	4.2	3.1	3.0	3.0		
	RES. DIR. (TENS OF DEGS.)	26	27	27		28	28	29	29	28	28	27	28		
	MEAN SPEED (MPH)	6.4	5.7	9.2	8.4	9.3	8.6	6.9	6.6	7.5	5.4	4.3	4.2	6.9	
	PREVAIL. DIR. (TENS OF DEGS.)	26	28	27	27	27	28	25	26	27	26	27	27	27	
	MAXIMUM 2-MINUTE WIND:														
	SPEED (MPH)	43	29	46	37	32	33	39	36	40	29	35	35	46	
	DIR. (TENS OF DEGS.)	27	29	25	27	28	27	26	27	24	19	28	27	25	
	DATE OF OCCURRENCE	09	09+	14	05	11	05	02	24	15	20	04	17	MAR 14	
	MAXIMUM 5-SECOND WIND:														
	SPEED (MPH)	55	38	56	46	43	43	56	46	49	36	41	45	56	
DIR. (TENS OF DEGS.)	28	22	28	27	29	20	22	27	24	19	27	27	22		
DATE OF OCCURRENCE	09	01	14	05	11	08	26	24	15	20	04	17	JUL 26		
SNOWFALL	WATER EQUIVALENT:														
	TOTAL (IN.)	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	
	GREATEST 24-HOUR (IN.)	0.11	0.14	0.14	0.24	0.60	0.81	0.33	0.29	0.25	1.01	0.13	0.06	1.01	
	DATE OF OCCURRENCE	11	14-15	08	22	30-31	15-16	02-03	04	01	11-12	08-09	16-17	OCT 11-12	
	NUMBER OF DAYS WITH:														
	PRECIPITATION ≥ 0.01	6	7	4	10	10	10	6	3	7	11	7	9	90	
PRECIPITATION ≥ 0.10	1	1	1	3	3	4	4	1	2	5	1	0	26		
PRECIPITATION ≥ 1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
SNOWFALL	SNOW, ICE PELLETS, HAIL:														
	TOTAL (IN.)	3.9	5.7	2.3											
	GREATEST 24-HOUR (IN.)	2.2	2.0	2.1											
	DATE OF OCCURRENCE	11	15	08											
	MAXIMUM SNOW DEPTH (IN.)	2	4	2											
	DATE OF OCCURRENCE	16+	15	08											
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH:															
SNOWFALL ≥ 1.0	2	4	1												

PRECIPITATION (inches) 2000 HELENA, MT (HLN)

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL
1971	1.38	0.63	0.41	0.58	1.77	0.93	0.56	1.22	0.89	0.39	0.34	1.02	10.12
1972	1.12	0.54	0.63	0.41	0.77	1.12	0.56	1.63	0.08	0.57	0.33	0.46	8.22
1973	0.22	0.13	0.05	0.66	1.08	0.73	0.08	0.56	0.43	0.66	1.03	0.63	6.26
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
POR= 119 YRS	0.69	0.51	0.71	0.97	1.87	2.17	1.14	0.97	1.12	0.76	0.61	0.61	12.13

WBAN : 24144

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE (°F) 2000 HELENA, MT (HLN)

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL
1971	19.0	28.5	31.9	41.5	51.4	57.0	63.2	69.0	49.7	42.0	33.6	15.6	41.9
1972	12.4	26.8	39.1	39.8	50.9	61.8	61.7	66.0	50.9	39.0	31.1	13.6	41.1
1973	17.7	22.8	36.0	40.3	52.9	61.2	68.9	66.8	54.4	45.8	24.5	28.2	43.3
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
POR= 120 YRS	19.8	24.8	32.7	43.6	52.3	60.0	67.8	66.3	55.8	45.4	32.2	23.6	43.7

HEATING DEGREE DAYS (base 65°F) 2000 HELENA, MT (HLN)

YEAR	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL
1971-72	91	22	454	707	936	1524	1628	1102	796	747	430	120	8557
1972-73	136	49	418	798	1010	1588	1465	1174	892	732	374	155	8791
1973-74	23	47	317	588	1208	1136	1452	897	956	564	500	99	7787
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	
1996-97	15	53	286	651	1251	1494	1596	1026	865	793	361	152	8543
1997-98	49	53	189	642	1006	1252	1352	942	990	600	336	293	7704
1998-99	2	8	158	650	909	1248	1176	905	859	718	451	188	7272
1999-00	79	20	354	590	767	1136	1232	1043	814	535	308	119	6997
2000-	16	13	279	625	1283	1504							

WBAN : 24144

COOLING DEGREE DAYS (base 65°F) 2000 HELENA, MT (HLN)

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL
1971	0	0	0	0	0	14	42	154	0	0	0	0	210
1972	0	0	0	0	2	30	42	89	0	0	0	0	163
1973	0	0	0	0	4	45	151	108	3	0	0	0	311
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	
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

SNOWFALL (inches) 2000 HELENA, MT (HLN)

YEAR	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	TOTAL
1971-72	0.0	0.0	T	0.8	4.6	14.5	14.9	3.3	4.5	3.8	T	0.0	46.4
1972-73	T	0.0	0.3	4.7	0.7	7.8	3.2	1.8	0.1	6.5	T	0.0	25.1
1973-74	0.0	0.0	1.3	7.2	12.5	7.2	9.9	5.9	2.2	1.5	0.2	0.0	47.9
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-													
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 (1961 - 1990). 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>
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2000 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 * REMARKS
						GROUND										
						SEA LEVEL	GROUND	WIND INSTRUMENT	EXTREME THERMOMETER	PSYCHROMETER	SUNSHINE SWITCH	TIPPING GAUGE BUCKET	WEIGHING RAIN GAGE	8 INCH RAIN GAGE	HYGROTHERMOMETER	
*NOTE: AIRPORT Radio Range Station CAA Administration Bldg. Helena Municipal AP NWS Building Helena Airport Helena Airport	3/27/36 11/20/36 5/24/79 11/01/94	11/20/36 5/24/79 11/01/94 Present	 4.0 mi. W 50' W NA	46°36' 46°36' 46°36' 46°36'	111°56' 112°00' 112°00' 111°58'	3820 e3828 3828 3895	12 a20 h20	5 s5 fs5 g5	5 s5 fs4 g4	%42 c3 f3 h42	b4 f5 g5 g5	3 f3 g4 g4	d4 h4 i4 S	No records. 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. Recommissioned 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. g. Relocated 5/16/79. h. Not relocated. i. Type change 11/27/84. ASOS commissioned 11/01/94.		

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* NOTES: For earlier station history see previous editions.