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TEMPERATURE NORMALS, AVERAGES, AND EXTREMES IN THE YUKON TERRITORY AND THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

The following tables contain monthly and annual normals and averages of mean daily temperatures and extreme maximum and minimum temperatures for those stations in the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories that were in operation during the complete 1951 to 60 decade. The values of mean daily temperature have been obtained by averaging the mean daily maximum and mean daily minimum temperatures.

In keeping with international recommendations that 30 years of continuous records are necessary to give a reliable mean value for temperature, the averages are classed as normals at stations where the uninterrupted record of observation extends over the full 30-year period 1931 to 60. Although records date back to the turn of the century at scattered localities in the Subarctic, the history of climatological observations in the Arctic is not as long, and throughout this vast area only a handful of stations have continuous records from 1931.

The temperature values are classed as averages at those stations where the period of record is more than 10 but less

than 30 years. Included in this class are the many stations that were established in the Subarctic in support of military air routes to Europe and Asia during World War II, and the stations on the islands of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago that were established jointly by the governments of Canada and the United States in the late 1940's. Although no adjustments have been made to these data at this time they will be standardized to the 1931-60 normal period in future publications of the Meteorological Branch of the Canada Department of Transport.

To facilitate climatic comparisons over a homogeneous period, the decadal values of average maximum, minimum, and mean temperatures for all stations in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory having complete records during the 1951 to 60 decade are now available in the Climatic Data Sheets of the Meteorological Branch. These Data Sheets also list average values of temperature for sections of the North not previously covered, and include short-term records from the Distant Early Warning line of radar stations.

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Table 1. Location of stations.

	<i>Latitude North</i> °	<i>Longitude West</i> °	<i>Height above sea-level feet</i>		<i>Latitude North</i> °	<i>Longitude West</i> °	<i>Height above sea-level feet</i>
Yukon Territory				Eureka	80 00	85 56	8
				Fort Good Hope	66 15	128 38	251
				Fort Good Hope 2	66 15	128 38	214
Aishihik A	61 39	137 29	3170	Fort McPherson	67 26	134 53	150
Dawson	64 04	139 26	1062	Fort Norman	64 54	125 30	300
Haines Junction	60 45	137 35	2030				
Mayo Landing	63 36	135 53	1625	Fort Providence*	61 20	117 40	523
Snag A	62 22	140 24	1925	Fort Reliance	62 43	109 06	539
				Fort Resolution*	61 10	113 41	549
Teslin A	60 10	132 45	2300	Fort Simpson*	61 52	121 21	422
Watson Lake A	60 07	128 49	2248	Fort Smith A*	60 01	111 58	665
Whitehorse A	60 43	135 04	2289				
Northwest Territories				Frobisher Bay A	63 45	68 33	68
				Hay River	60 52	115 57	529
				Holman Island	70 30	117 38	30
				Isachsen	78 47	103 32	83
				Mould Bay	76 14	119 20	50
Aklavik	68 14	135 00	30				
Alert	82 30	62 20	205	Norman Wells A*	65 17	126 48	209
Arctic Bay	73 00	85 18	36	Nottingham Island	63 07	77 56	54
Baker Lake	64 18	96 00	30	Pond Inlet	72 43	77 30	10
Cambridge Bay*	69 06	105 08	74	Port Radium	66 05	118 02	628
				Resolute A*	74 43	94 59	209
Chesterfield	63 20	90 43	13				
Clyde	70 27	68 33	10	Resolution Island	61 18	64 53	127
Coppermine	67 49	115 05	28	Wrigley A	63 12	123 25	511
Coral Harbour A	64 12	83 22	193	Yellowknife A*	62 28	114 27	682
Ennadai Lake	61 08	100 55	1065	Yellowknife Hydro	62 40	114 15	523

A — indicates that the observations are taken at an airport.

* — indicates that the observation site has been relocated, but the data are considered homogeneous for the period of record.

Table 2. Monthly and annual normals of mean daily temperature (°F.).
(Based on the period 1931-1960.)

Station	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year	Years of record
Yukon Territory														
Dawson	-17.6	-11.1	5.7	29.4	46.6	56.9	59.8	54.5	43.5	26.4	2.5	-12.9	23.6	30
Mayo Landing	-13.3	-5.5	11.3	31.0	46.3	55.7	58.4	53.4	43.4	28.4	5.2	-10.0	25.4	30
Northwest Territories														
Aklavik	-19.9	-17.7	-8.6	9.2	30.7	48.9	56.5	50.7	38.1	19.4	-3.8	-16.6	15.6	30
Chesterfield	-24.8	-25.6	-13.7	2.4	21.1	36.7	47.9	47.3	37.0	21.6	0.3	-15.4	11.2	30
Coppermine	-19.4	-22.1	-14.5	1.0	21.9	38.1	48.7	47.1	36.6	19.5	-3.9	-15.3	11.5	29
Fort Good Hope 2	-23.3	-19.4	-7.7	14.4	38.9	55.0	59.4	53.4	40.6	21.5	-5.3	-19.7	17.3	30
Fort Norman	-18.6	-13.2	-1.4	18.8	41.4	55.5	59.9	54.8	42.8	25.2	-0.3	-14.8	20.8	27
Fort Simpson	-15.8	-10.0	4.8	25.8	46.3	57.2	62.0	57.9	46.2	29.9	6.3	-10.9	25.0	30
Fort Smith A	-13.8	-8.0	6.1	27.0	45.6	55.3	61.1	57.5	46.2	32.3	11.0	-6.3	26.2	30
Hay River	-12.2	-7.8	3.8	23.6	40.8	51.6	59.8	57.7	46.8	33.1	11.2	-6.2	25.2	30
Nottingham Island	-12.8	-12.9	-3.7	9.9	25.1	35.5	42.8	42.5	35.0	25.7	12.1	-2.6	16.4	29
Resolution Island	-0.2	-0.5	6.4	15.4	26.9	33.6	37.8	38.2	35.0	29.1	21.3	9.4	21.0	30

Table 3. Monthly and annual averages of mean daily temperature (°F.).
(Based on a period of record of 10 to 25 years.)

Yukon Territory														
Aishihik A	-6.2	0.4	10.4	24.1	40.5	50.2	53.5	49.8	40.9	26.3	8.4	-4.1	24.5	17
Haines Junction	-5.6	2.0	15.9	29.4	42.1	50.8	53.8	50.6	42.4	28.2	10.9	-2.6	26.4	16
Snag A	-18.5	-8.7	7.7	26.6	44.6	54.0	57.0	52.2	41.1	22.0	-1.0	-16.3	21.7	17
Teslin A	-3.0	4.8	17.9	30.3	43.6	53.0	56.2	52.8	45.1	32.9	17.6	4.2	29.6	17
Watson Lake A	-11.5	-1.5	14.0	31.3	45.9	55.7	59.1	55.3	46.3	32.3	9.2	-7.4	27.4	22
Whitehorse A	-0.6	6.7	18.3	31.7	45.5	54.6	57.5	54.3	46.3	33.3	17.2	4.9	30.8	18

Table 3. (continued)

Station	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year	Years of record
Northwest Territories														
Alert	-25.5	-27.4	-27.3	-11.1	11.7	31.8	39.1	33.4	14.9	-3.7	-14.5	-22.4	-0.1	10
Arctic Bay	-21.4	-25.7	-17.7	-3.5	19.0	36.0	43.0	41.0	29.6	13.2	-6.4	-17.0	7.5	23
Baker Lake	-27.2	-27.0	-15.4	2.5	21.5	39.0	51.3	50.0	37.1	18.5	-4.0	-18.8	10.6	10
Cambridge Bay	-26.8	-30.0	-21.3	-6.9	15.3	35.1	46.9	44.3	31.7	11.7	-10.9	-22.0	5.6	20
Clyde	-16.6	-19.6	-14.6	-0.5	20.2	34.2	40.6	39.4	32.2	20.4	1.6	-12.3	10.4	18
Coral Harbour A	-22.7	-21.3	-11.0	3.7	21.0	36.1	47.0	45.7	33.7	17.6	1.7	-12.6	11.6	17
Ennadai Lake	-24.8	-20.0	-9.1	8.4	25.8	43.1	54.3	53.1	39.5	22.2	1.6	-13.9	15.0	11
Eureka	-34.0	-36.1	-34.4	-17.2	14.2	37.1	42.4	38.6	19.7	-6.7	-22.5	-32.6	-2.6	13
Fort Good Hope	-22.0	-19.8	-4.7	14.1	39.0	55.2	60.5	54.7	41.5	22.5	-3.3	-17.9	18.3	15
Fort McPherson	-19.9	-16.2	-6.8	12.5	34.3	52.1	58.4	52.8	39.3	20.4	-3.9	-15.7	17.3	21
Fort Providence	-16.1	-11.1	5.1	23.6	43.6	54.6	60.9	58.2	46.8	31.5	9.7	-8.4	24.9	16
Fort Reliance	-21.4	-17.6	-4.5	14.3	33.8	46.6	55.2	55.3	43.7	27.0	7.0	-11.6	19.0	12
Fort Resolution	-14.9	-10.4	1.9	22.0	42.0	52.9	60.2	57.5	45.7	31.6	12.4	-7.1	24.5	22
Frobisher Bay A	-15.7	-13.9	-6.7	7.4	26.4	38.5	46.2	44.4	36.0	23.5	9.8	-4.9	15.9	18
Holman Island	-19.2	-23.7	-14.8	0.5	21.2	38.7	45.3	44.0	32.8	16.1	-3.9	-13.5	10.3	18
Isachsen	-31.4	-33.8	-30.1	-13.0	11.1	31.3	38.5	34.3	16.7	-2.6	-18.9	-26.8	-2.1	12
Mould Bay	-28.4	-31.8	-26.0	-9.3	12.5	31.6	38.8	34.9	20.6	0.6	-15.9	-24.8	0.2	12
Norman Wells A	-18.7	-15.3	-1.5	18.3	41.4	56.2	60.7	55.5	42.9	24.8	0.3	-14.8	20.8	17
Pond Inlet	-24.1	-28.2	-20.6	-5.6	17.6	34.7	41.5	40.7	30.8	14.8	-6.9	-19.6	6.3	22
Port Radium	-16.1	-16.1	-3.2	13.7	34.5	48.0	53.5	51.6	41.5	26.2	5.7	-9.2	19.2	20
Resolute A	-26.3	-29.8	-24.3	-8.9	13.5	33.0	40.3	37.4	23.9	5.8	-11.4	-20.2	2.8	13
Wrigley A	-19.1	-12.6	4.1	24.8	45.2	57.0	61.4	56.9	44.6	27.1	2.6	-13.9	23.2	14
Yellowknife A	-17.9	-14.6	-0.1	17.8	39.3	53.3	60.6	57.4	44.9	29.7	7.2	-11.0	22.2	18
Yellowknife Hydro	-19.1	-15.5	-1.0	17.1	37.8	51.1	58.4	55.0	43.4	28.7	6.6	-11.8	20.9	18

Table 4. Temperature extremes (°F.).

<i>Station</i>	<i>Years of record</i>	<i>Highest recorded temperature</i>		<i>Lowest recorded temperature</i>		<i>Station</i>	<i>Years of record</i>	<i>Highest recorded temperature</i>		<i>Lowest recorded temperature</i>	
Yukon Territory						Eureka	13	67 July	16, 1950	-63 March	4, 1948
Aishihik A	17	87 June	18, 1950	-70 Feb.	2, 1947	Fort Good Hope	15	94 July	4, 1954	-68 Feb.	4, 1947
Dawson	62	95 June	18, 1950*	-73 Feb.	3, 1947	Fort Good Hope 2	51	95 July	11, 1920	-69 Feb.	4, 1947*
Haines Junction	16	88 July	13, 1946	-65 Feb.	1, 1947*	Fort McPherson	44	92 Aug.	7, 1919	-67 Feb.	3, 1947
Mayo Landing	36	95 June	18, 1950	-80 Feb.	3, 1947	Fort Norman	48	94 June	10, 1937	-66 Feb.	4, 1947
Snag A	17	89 July	3, 1958*	-81 Feb.	3, 1947	Fort Providence	16	97 Aug.	5, 1953	-58 Feb.	1, 1947
Teslin A	17	89 June	17, 1950	-63 Jan.	30, 1947	Fort Reliance	12	87 July	27, 1950	-59 Jan.	30, 1953
Watson Lake A	22	93 June	17, 1950	-74 Jan.	31, 1947	Fort Resolution	37	92 July	24, 1950	-63 Jan.	21, 1922
Whitehorse A	18	91 July	9, 1951	-62 Jan.	31, 1947	Fort Simpson	54	97 July	17, 1941	-69 Feb.	1, 1947
						Fort Smith A	47	103 July	18, 1941	-71 Dec.	26, 1917
Northwest Territories						Frobisher Bay A	18	76 July	24, 1954	-49 Jan.	24, 1953*
Aklavik	34	93 July	12, 1926	-62 Feb.	5, 1947	Hay River	64	96 July	8, 1906	-62 Jan.	23, 1906
Alert	10	68 July	8, 1956	-54 March	25, 1960*	Holman Island	18	78 July	21, 1948	-50 Feb.	17, 1954
Arctic Bay	23	75 July	8, 1939	-57 Feb.	10, 1946	Isachsen	12	66 July	6, 1957	-65 March	16, 1956
Baker Lake	14	82 Aug.	15, 1951	-58 Feb.	27, 1955*	Mould Bay	12	60 July	5, 1960	-63 Dec.	29, 1948
Cambridge Bay	24	76 Aug.	4, 1935	-63 Jan.	3, 1935	Norman Wells A	17	89 July	13, 1949*	-66 Feb.	4, 1947
Chesterfield	39	86 Aug.	9, 1948	-60 Jan.	6, 1935	Nottingham Island	32	73 July	18, 1936	-42 Feb.	12, 1931
Clyde	18	71 July	5, 1948	-49 Jan.	17, 1952	Pond Inlet	30	77 July	21, 1922	-64 Feb.	6, 1955
Coppermine	29	87 July	7, 1936	-58 Feb.	2, 1947	Port Radium	22	87 June	26, 1955	-54 Jan.	18, 1943
Coral Harbour A	17	79 Aug.	7, 1948	-61 Jan.	19, 1953	Resolute A	13	61 July	11, 1954	-61 March	16, 1956
Ennadai Lake	11	85 July	21, 1956	-55 Feb.	28, 1955	Resolution Island	32	61 Aug.	28, 1930	-36 Jan.	9, 1930
						Wrigley A	15	95 July	19, 1951*	-57 Jan.	20, 1952
						Yellowknife A	18	86 July	12, 1951*	-60 Feb.	1, 1947*
						Yellowknife Hydro	18	87 June	23, 1955*	-65 Feb.	4, 1947*

*More than one occurrence — most recent date given.