



The Portland Jetport is located 2 3/4 miles west of the site of the former city office. The surrounding country is mostly open, rolling and sloping generally toward the Fore River, a body of brackish water about 1,000 feet wide at a distance of about 1/2 mile from the station and forming one boundary (north through east) of the field. The airport is about 5 1/2 miles west– northwest of the open ocean. A slight rise reaching an elevation of 100 feet, lying northwest of the field, cuts down the wind slightly from that direction. The older portion of the city is situated on a hill rising abruptly from sea level to 170 feet, 1 1/2 miles east of the airport and on the opposite side of the Fore River. A line of low hills southeast of the airport, near the ocean, which reach a maximum height of 160 feet, shuts off sight of the ocean from the airport. Sebago Lake with an area of 44 square miles is situated about 15 miles to the northwest and 45 miles farther are the White Mountains, averaging 3,000 to 5,000 feet in height. As a rule, Portland has very pleasant summers and falls, cold winters with frequent thaws, and disagreeable springs. Very few summer nights are too warm and humid for comfortable sleeping. Autumn has the greatest number of sunny days and the least cloudiness. Winters are quite severe, but begin late and then extend deeply into the normal springtime. Heavy seasonal snowfalls, over 100 inches, normally occur about each 10 years. True blizzards are very rare. The White Mountains, to the northwest, keep considerable snow from reaching the Portland area and also moderate the temperature. Normal monthly precipitation is remarkably uniform throughout the year. Winds are generally quite light with the highest velocities being confined mostly to March and November. Even in these months the occasional northeasterly gales have usually lost much of their severity before reaching the coast of Maine. Temperatures well below zero are recorded frequently each winter. Cold waves sometimes come in on strong winds, but extremely low temperatures are generally accompanied by light winds. The average freeze– free season at the airport station is 139 days. Mid– May is the average occurrence of the last freeze in spring, and the average occurrence of the first freeze in fall is late September. The freeze– free period is longer in the city proper, but may be even shorter at susceptible places further inland. Daily maximum temperatures at the present airport site agree closely with those near the former intown office, but minimum temperatures on clear, quiet mornings range as much as 15 degrees lower at the airport.

updated 2/01  
by ES