

Stage-discharge relation is the relation between gage height and the amount of water flowing in a channel, expressed as volume per unit of time.

Control designates a feature downstream from the gage that determines the stage-discharge relation at the gage. This feature may be a natural constriction of the channel, a long reach of the channel, or an artificial structure.

Contents is the volume of water in a reservoir. Unless otherwise indicated, volume is computed on the basis of a level pool and does not include bank storage.

The drainage area of a stream at a specified location is that area, measured in a horizontal plane, which is so enclosed by a topographic divide that direct surface runoff from precipitation normally would drain by gravity into the river above the specified point. Figures of drainage area given herein include all closed basins, or noncontributing areas, within the area unless otherwise noted.

WSP is used as an abbreviation for "Water-Supply Paper" in references to previously published reports.

DOWNSTREAM ORDER OF LISTING GAGING STATIONS

Beginning with the series of reports for the water year ending September 30, 1951, the order of listing gaging-station records was changed. In this report, in a downstream direction along the main stem all stations on a tributary entering above a main-stem station are listed before that station. If a tributary enters between two main-stem stations, it is listed between them. A similar order is followed in listing stations on first rank, second rank, and other ranks of tributaries. To indicate the rank of any tributary on which a gaging station is situated and the stream to which it is immediately tributary, each indentation in the listing of gaging stations in the table of contents of this report represents one rank. This downstream order and system of indentation show which gaging stations are on tributaries between any two stations on a main stem and the rank of the tributary on which each gaging station is situated.

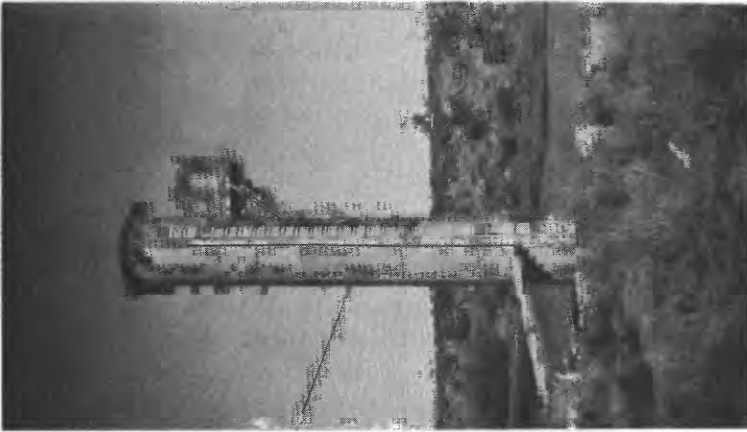
The order of listing used before the publication of the 1951 report listed first all stations on the main stem from headwaters toward mouth, then all stations on the uppermost tributary to the main stem from the tributary's source to mouth, and then all stations from source to mouth of the uppermost tributary to the tributary.

EXPLANATION OF DATA

The base data collected at gaging stations consist of records of stage and measurements of discharge. In addition, observations of factors affecting the stage-discharge relation, weather records, and other information are used to supplement base data in determining the daily flow. The records of stage are obtained either from direct readings on a nonrecording gage or from a water-stage recorder that gives a continuous record of fluctuations. Measurements of discharge are made with a current meter by the general methods adopted by the Geological Survey on the basis of experience in stream gaging since 1888. These methods are described in Water-Supply Paper 888 and are also outlined in standard textbooks on the measurement of stream discharge. Typical structures in use at gaging stations are shown in figure 1.

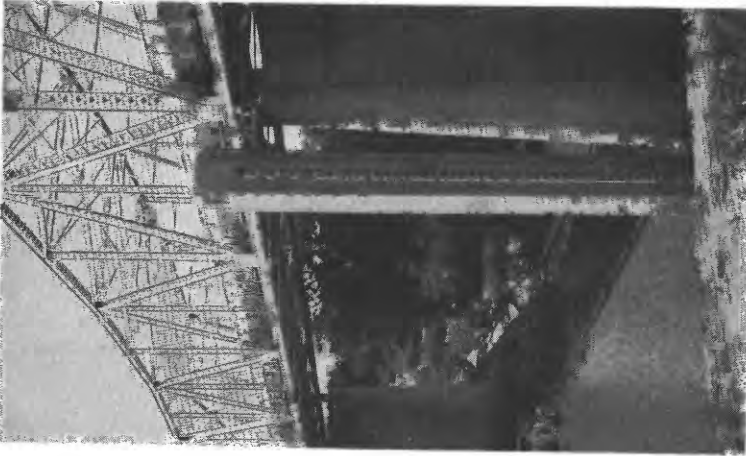


A. SABINE RIVER NEAR GLADEWATER, TEX.



B. PECOS RIVER AT RED BLUFF, N. MEX.

FIGURE 1.—GAGING-STATION STRUCTURES.



C. COLORADO RIVER NEAR SAN SABA, TEX

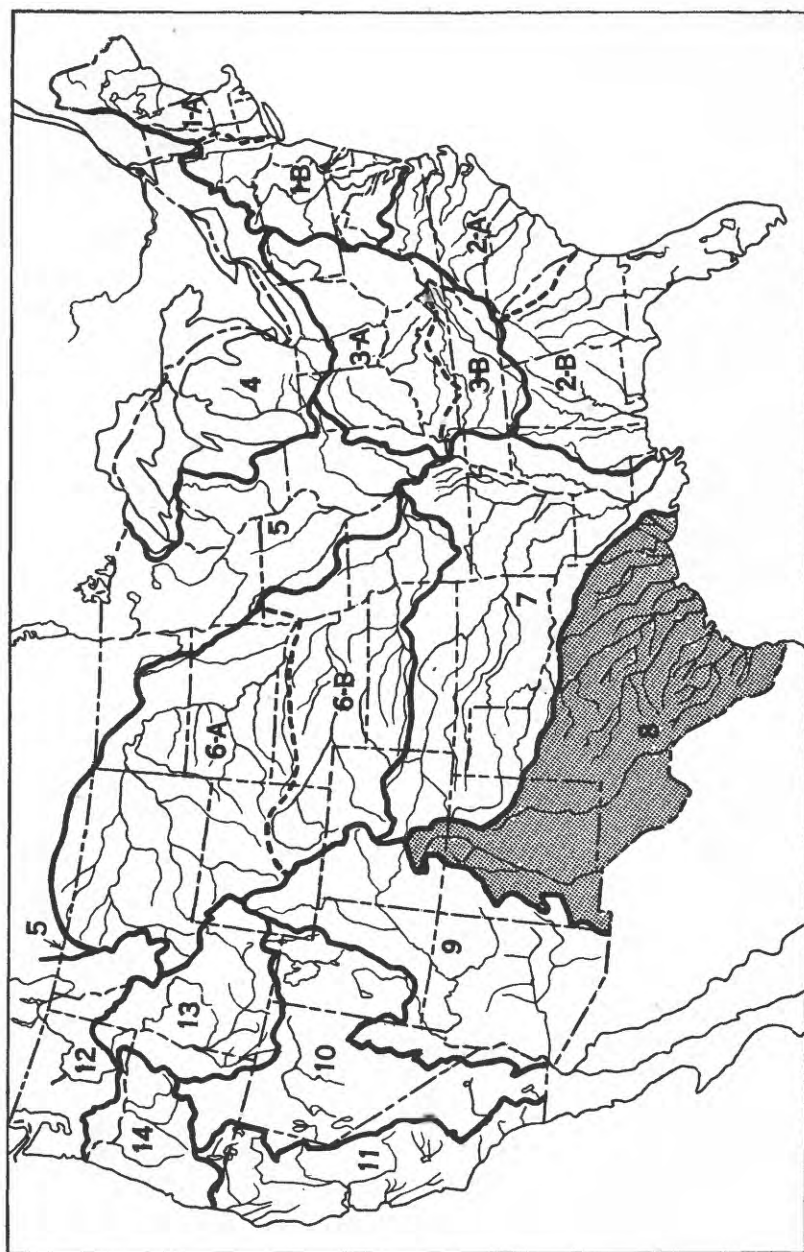


Figure 2.--Map of the United States showing areas covered by the 18 annual volumes on surface-water supply. The area covered by this report is shaded.

list of Geological Survey publications may also be obtained by applying to the Director, Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

2. Sets of the reports may be consulted in the libraries of the principal cities in the United States.

3. Sets are available for consultation in the offices of the Water Resources Division of the Geological Survey. Addresses of the offices in the area covered by this report are given on page 2.

Early records of the flow of streams in the United States are published in the reports listed below. In many of these reports records for years earlier than those indicated have been included for some streams.

Streamflow data for the years 1884-1901, in reports of the Geological Survey

(A = Annual Report; B = Bulletin)

Report	Character of data	Year
10th A, pt. 2	Descriptive information only.	
11th A, pt. 2	Monthly discharge and descriptive information.....	1884 to September 1890.
12th A, pt. 2do.....	1884 to June 30, 1891.
13th A, pt. 3do.....	1884-92.
14th A, pt. 2	Monthly discharge.....	1888-93.
B 131.....	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, and ratings.....	1893-94.
16th A, pt. 2	Descriptive information only.	
B 140.....	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, ratings, and monthly discharge.	1895.
WSP 11.....	Gage heights.....	1896.
18th A, pt. 4	Descriptions, measurements, ratings, and monthly discharge..	1895-96.
WSP 15.....	Descriptions, measurements, and gage heights of streams east of the Mississippi River, and Missouri River and tributaries above Kansas River.	1897.
WSP 16.....	Descriptions, measurements, and gage heights of streams west of the Mississippi River, except Missouri River and tributaries above Kansas River.	1897.
19th A, pt. 4	Descriptions, measurements, ratings, and monthly discharge.	1897.
WSP 27.....	Measurements, ratings, and gage heights of streams east of the Mississippi River, and Missouri River and tributaries.	1898.
WSP 28.....	Measurements, ratings, and gage heights of streams west of the Mississippi River, except Missouri River and tributaries.	1898.
20th A, pt. 4	Monthly discharge.....	1898.
WSP 35 to 39.	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, and ratings.....	1899.
21st A, pt. 4	Monthly discharge.....	1899.
WSP 47 to 52.	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, and ratings.....	1900.
22d A, pt. 4.	Monthly discharge.....	1900.
WSP 65, 66...	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, and ratings.....	1901.
WSP 75.....	Monthly discharge.....	1901.

Reports on surface-water supply containing records from 1899 to date for drainage basins in this report are listed below. The data for any particular gaging station will, in general, be found in the reports covering the years during which the station was maintained.

Numbers of water-supply papers containing results of stream measurements in Western Gulf of Mexico basins, 1899-1953

Year	WSP	Year	WSP	Year	WSP	Year	WSP	Year	WSP
1899	37	1911	308	1923	568	1934	763	1944	1008
1900	50	1912	328	1924	568	1935	768	1945	1036
1901	66, 75	1913	358	1925	608	1936	806	1946	1058
1902	84	1914	388	1926	628	1937	828	1947	1086
1903	99	1915	408	1927	648	1938	856	1948	1118
1904	132	1916	438	1928	668	1939	878	1949	1148
1905	174	1917	458	1929	688	1940	898	1950	1178
1906	210	1918	477	1930	703	1941	928	1951	1212
1907-8	248	1919-20	508	1931	718	1942	956	1952	1242
1909	268	1921	528	1932	733	1943	976	1953	1282
1910	288	1922	548	1933	748				

The records at most of the stations discussed in these reports extend over many years. Discharge measurements at many points other than regular gaging stations have been made each year and are published under "Miscellaneous discharge measurements" at the end of each report. The streams and points of measurement are listed in the same order as the streams and gaging stations in the body of the report. An index of the records obtained before 1904 has been published in Water-Supply Paper 119.

