

Surface Water Supply of the United States 1957

Part 8. Western Gulf of Mexico Basins

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WATER-SUPPLY PAPER 1512

*Prepared in cooperation with the States
of Colorado, Louisiana, New Mexico,
and Texas, and with other agencies*



Cfs-day is the volume of water represented by a flow of 1 cubic foot per second for 24 hours. It is equivalent to 86,400 cubic feet, 1.983471 acre-feet, or 646,317 gallons, and represents a runoff of 0.0372 inch from 1 square mile.

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 1868. These methods are described in Water-Supply Paper 868 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. Colorado River near San Saba, Tex.



B. Rio Guadalupe at Box Canyon, near Jemez, N. Mex.



C. East Fork San Jacinto River near Cleveland, Tex.

FIGURE 1.—GAGING-STATION STRUCTURES.

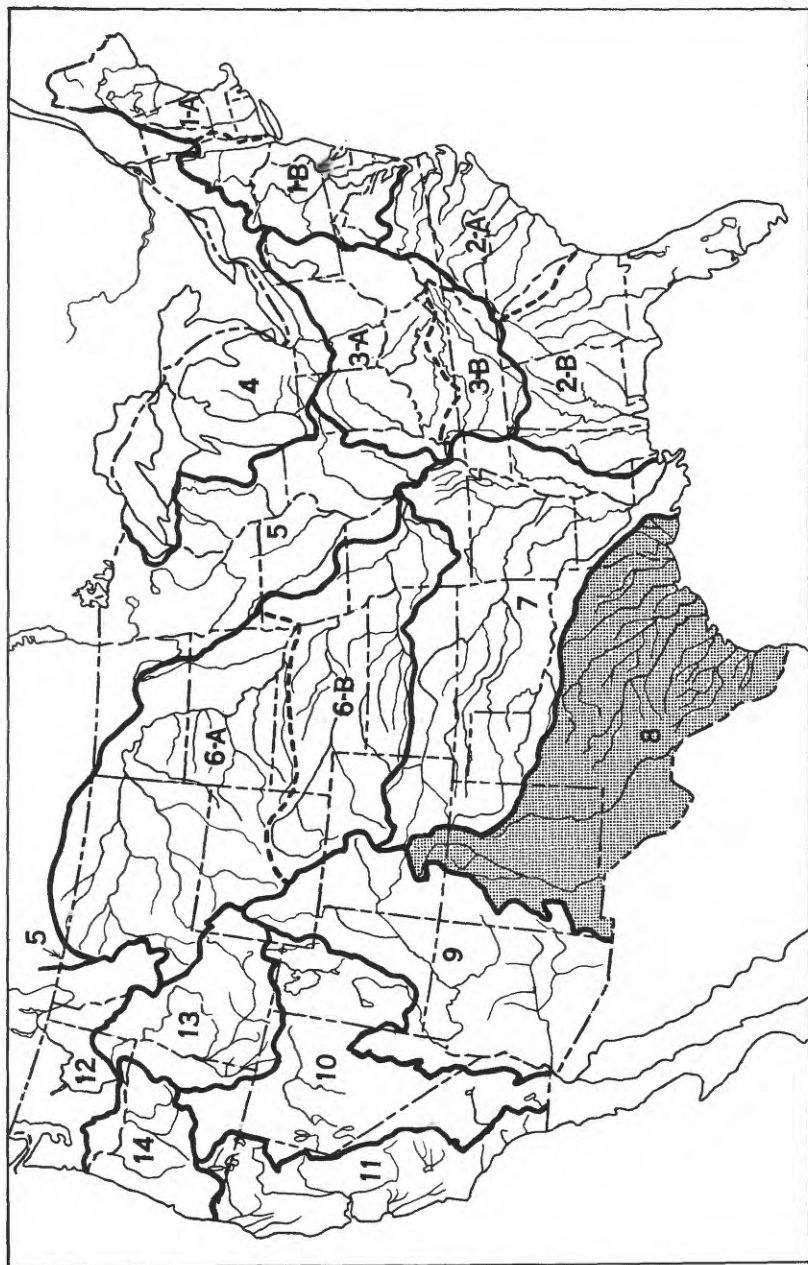


Figure 2.--Map of the United States showing areas covered by the 18 annual volumes on surface-water supply. The area covered by this report is shaded.

- Part 3. Ohio River basin, in two volumes:
 A, Ohio River basin except Cumberland and Tennessee River basins.
 B, Cumberland and Tennessee River basins.
4. St. Lawrence River basin.
 5. Hudson Bay and upper Mississippi River basins.
 6. Missouri River basin, in two volumes:
 A, Missouri River basin above Sioux City, Iowa.
 B, Missouri River basin below Sioux City, Iowa.
 7. Lower Mississippi River basin.
 8. Western Gulf of Mexico basins.
 9. Colorado River basin.
 10. The Great Basin.
 11. Pacific slope basins in California.
 12. Pacific slope basins in Washington and upper Columbia River basin.
 13. Snake River basin.
 14. Pacific slope basins in Oregon and lower Columbia River basin.

Water-supply papers and other publications of the Geological Survey containing data on the water resources of the United States may be purchased or consulted as follows:

1. Copies may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., who will, on application, furnish lists giving prices. A 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.
16th 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 on following page. The data for any particular gaging station will, in general, be found in the reports covering the years during which the station was maintained.

