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### Expert Group- Weather and Climate in Sargodha, Pakistan



Figure 1:Developed using Google Maps

In Pakistan, agriculture is the largest sector of the economy, and all of Pakistan's people depend on farmers for their food. The main crops that are produced are wheat, sugarcane, rice, and maize. Of all the crops grown here, however, wheat is the biggest agricultural crop by far. The Sargodha region is known for being a major grain producer, and the main crop grown in this region is wheat. The season for growing wheat begins in February and runs through the beginning of August. As there is not always enough precipitation to water wheat crops throughout the growing season, wheat farmers will irrigate their wheat crops by flooding their fields with water.

Sargodha is the 11th largest city in Pakistan. It is also known as the City of Eagles. There are approximately 1.5 million people who live in this city (as of the last census in 2017), with another 3.9 million people living in the outlying towns. The Sargodha region includes 60 towns which lay on mostly flat fertile plains, and the Jhelum river flows on the western and northern sides of the region. It is 189m/ above sea level.

#### Weather and Climate:

Sargodha is known as a local steppe climate. A steppe is a dry, grassy plain that is found in temperate climates, between the tropics and the polar regions. In the U.S., steppe climate zones are found in the Midwest, in states such as Kansas. Steppe climates are semi-arid, meaning that they receive about 25-50 cm/10-20 inches of precipitation per year. In the summer months, it can get extremely hot, and the winters are fairly mild.

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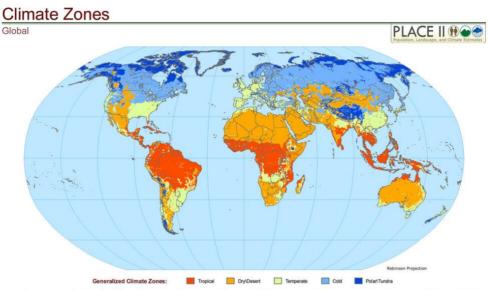


Figure 2: Global Climate Zones/Image credit: Creative Commons

The graph below helps to show what the climate is like in Sargodha, Pakistan. Weather and climate are different. Weather helps you decide what to wear when you go outside, and climate helps you know which clothes to have ready for possible weather conditions during that season. Weather is what is happening outside right now in the atmosphere. Climate is an average of the weather conditions over the past, and usually includes at least 30 years of weather data to determine these typical conditions.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sep- tember	October	November December	
Avg. Temperature (°C)	11.8	14.5	19.9	25.4	30.2	34.1	32.4	31.1	29.9	25.3	18.2	13.1
Min. Temperature (°C)	3.7	6.7	12.3	17.5	22	26.9	27.2	26.3	23.7	17	9.2	4.2
Max. Temperature (°C)	19.9	22.3	27.5	33.3	38.4	41.3	37.7	36	36.2	33.6	27.3	22
Avg. Temperature (°F)	53.2	58.1	67.8	77.7	86.4	93.4	90.3	88.0	85.8	77.5	64.8	55.6
Min. Temperature (°F)	38.7	44.1	54.1	63.5	71.6	80.4	81.0	79.3	74.7	62.6	48.6	39.6
Max. Temperature (°F)	67.8	72.1	81.5	91.9	101.1	106.3	99.9	96.8	97.2	92.5	81.1	71.6
Precipitation / Rainfall	17	21	29	22	25	24	105	114	28	8	5	12
(mm)												

The precipitation varies 109 mm | 4 inch between the driest month and the wettest month. The average temperatures vary during the year by 22.3 °C | 72.1 °F.

Figure 3: Sargodha Weather by Month/ Image Credit: Climate-Data.org

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#### Resources:

Encyclopedia Britannica: Sargodhahttps://www.britannica.com/place/Sargodha

- Pakistan Bureau of Statistics: http://www.pbs.gov.pk/
- National Geographic: Steppe climate, https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/steppe/