# LOW VISIBILITY AIRPORT WINDROSE SUMMARIES

By ROBERT W. KNIGHT

Technical Development Note No. 22

July 1940



CIVIL AERONAUTICS AUTHORITY WASHINGTON, D. C.

A LOCA

# CIVIL AERONAUTICS AUTHORITY

Technical Development Note No. 22

# LOW VISIBILITY AIRPORT WINDROSE SUMMARIES

By ROBERT W. KNIGHT Chief, Air Transport Section

JULY 1940

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON: 1940

# CONTENTS

| SU <b>MMARY</b>                           | V<br>V |
|---|--------|
| DESCRIPTION                               | 1      |
| Basic data                                | 1      |
| Visibility groups                         | 2      |
| Wind classifications and directions       | 2      |
| Wind percentages                          | 2      |
| Causes of restricted visibility           | 8      |
| Airport layouts.                          | 8      |
| Ceilings                                  | 8      |
| DISCUSSION                                | 4      |
| RECAPITULATION BY STATES                  | 4      |
| APPENDIX                                  | 5      |
| WINDROSE CHARTS (Alphabetically by States | 3)     |

# Low Visibility Airport Windrose Summaries

#### SUMMARY

This report of wind and climatic conditions during periods of restricted visibility, covers the 5-year period from 1934 to 1938, inclusive. Observations were made by the United States Weather Bureau, and under its supervision, the Works Progress Administration compiled the data. This detailed information was then tabulated and analyzed by the

Civil Aeronautics Authority, and a suitable type of windrose chart was developed to portray the results pictorially, and show other important data in convenient reference form. These charts are intended for use in planning airport runways, extensions, and air navigation facilities, including instrument landing systems.

#### DESCRIPTION

Surface windroses of a large number of airports have been available for the past several years, and this information has enabled airport engineers to design airports and plan runway directions advantageously in accordance with the prevailing winds at each location. Such data have been quite sufficient up to the present.

With the advent of reliable instrument landing equipment, however, it now becomes necessary to determine the direction and velocity of prevailing winds during conditions of restricted visibility as a separate study, since these are not necessarily in agreement with surface winds under other conditions of weather. By the use of such information it is possible to plan new airport runways, runway extensions, instrument landing systems, and other air navigation facilities so that they may be used to best advantage for badweather approaches and landings.

The logical method of determining probable wind velocities and directions during conditions of reduced visibility is, of course, to analyze the available weather records. Through the cooperation of the United States Weather Bureau, and the Works Projects Administration, such an analysis has been made possible. This study has been in progress for approximately a year, during which time about seven million weather observations were reviewed. The weather data were tabulated on summary sheets by those agencies for the Civil Aeronautics Authority. The information was then plotted by the Authority in the form of the charts contained herein.

Because of the mass of data necessary for compilation in the conduct of this study, and the constant airport construction work, it is entirely probable that the charts contain some errors in spite of our best efforts to avoid them. As far as the weather data are concerned, it is believed that any errors will be negligible, few, if any, exceeding 1 percent.

This report contains charts covering most of the airports in the United States for which weather data were available. The States are listed alphabetically and the cities of each follow in alphabetical order. The number of airports included in the study was limited only by the availability of sufficient data for each location; therefore, omission of certain cities was due to the lack of such data, or of sufficient data to draw any worthwhile conclusions. It is believed preferable to eliminate the chart for an airport entirely rather than to present a distorted picture due to insufficient data or the occurrence of only one or two conditions of restricted visibility during a period of several years. Charts for C. A. A. Intermediate Fields are being compiled separately for use of the Authority as are the charts for certain airports in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and other possessions of the United States.

#### Basic data

This low visibility windrose study covers a 5-year period from 1934 to 1938, inclusive, utilizing the full number of 24 daily observations wherever available. In some cases the weather reporting service was not in operation for the entire period, or fewer observations were taken daily, but in most cases this information is indicated. Some of the data covering smaller airports where there were no aerological stations were taken from the city weather offices. In cases where weather stations were in operation at airports for only a portion of the period of study, the data represent a combination of observations, at both the stations and the city offices.

In the upper left corner of each chart is shown the number of observations taken daily (if not too variable), the total number of observations for the period, and the frequency of occurrence of low visibility conditions. The number given for daily observations, where shown, was the schedule for that location. In some cases the totals are more, and in others less than the schedule would total for the given period, but these variations would appear to have little if any effect on the value of the findings.

These data are analyzed and grouped in various ways in an effort to make them readily usable for airport planning. All categorical classifications of any data of this type made during the period of study when visibility was one-half mile or less, 50 percent of them were during conditions when the wind was 5 m. p. h. or less, and that the same conditions prevailed during 60 percent of the observations when visibilities were from three-fourths mile to 1 mile.

Each circle on the chart represents 1 percent. There are 15 circular lines in addition to the center circle on the majority of charts, which allow room to indicate up to 15 percent, because this is ample for most airport locations and it was desirable that the charts be kept within a convenient limit. A few charts have 30 circular lines or several additional lines representing 30 percent to accommodate cases of very high percentages.

The length of a vector depends upon the percentage of wind from that direction in each visibility group. By adding the percentages of all winds in group I to the percentage of calms for that group, shown in the center circle, the total amounts to 100 percent, which accounts for all observations in that group. The same applies to group II.

In cases when the vector extensions would be too long (percentage above 15 percent) they are doubled back as, for example, on the chart of Billings, Mont. On this chart the percentage of winds from the north amounts to 27 percent during group II visibility conditions (light cross-hatching), divided as follows: Winds of 6-10 m. p. h., 7½ percent; winds of 11-20 m. p. h., 14½ percent, and winds in excess of 20 m. p. h., 5 percent.

In the case of Cheyenne, Wyo., the north vector, showing winds amounting to 30 percent during group II conditions, was extended as well as doubled back, because of lack of space. Since space permitted, the north wind vector of group I was not extended, but doubled back only, and represents a total of 21 percent.

#### Causes of restricted visibility

The causes for restricted visibility are fog, smoke, rain, dust, and snow. Other causes, such as haze, or a combination of causes, such as fog and smoke, may have been responsible for the condition in some cases, but the pre-

dominant factor was selected by the Weather Bureau for each such occurrence.

Summary tables reduced to percentages are listed on all charts separately for each visibility group, showing the above causes of low visibility conditions and wind velocities for each cause. Thus it is possible to readily determine the most probable winds to be encountered during each of the five conditions. It will be noted that the higher velocities are generally associated with dust and snow, and the lower velocities or calms are usually prevalent during the presence of fog.

Groups I and II are combined in a table at the lower left corner of the chart which lists the occurrences during calms (0-5 m. p. h.) of each cause for each of the 12 months during the entire period. From this table the number of occurrences and causes therefore can be quickly ascertained for any month of the year over the period. Totals are given by months and by causes.

#### Airport layouts

Each chart is provided with a sketch of the airport with the most recent information available pertaining to dimensions and development. In some cases recent improvements may not be shown, but the layouts given contain the latest data available at the time this report was compiled.

In the majority of cases the weather data were obtained from the airports represented on the charts. In some cases such as Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia, the data were obtained from the existing airports nearby, but the sketches show airports proposed, under construction, or recently completed. Because of the close proximity of these fields it is believed that the data are essentially correct, and the new or proposed airports are illustrated for purposes of planning.

True north on the airport sketches corresponds to true north on the windroses.

#### Ceilings

The ceilings, or height of the overcast covering each observation during the period of study would have been desirable, but, be-

# APPENDIX

# NOTICE

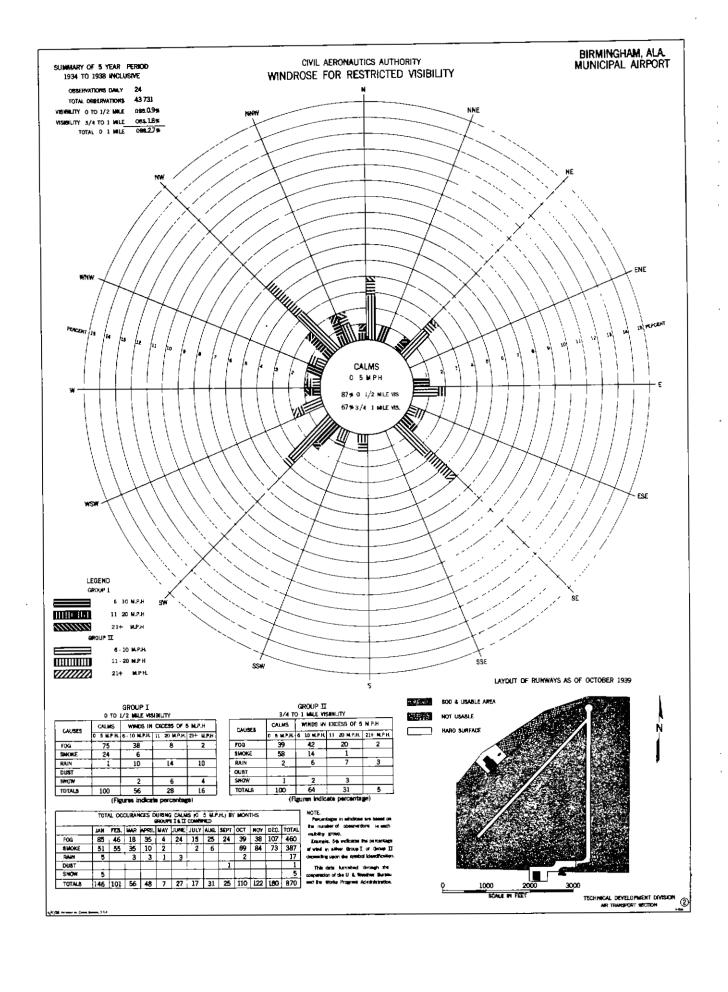
In order to interpret the following charts properly, the foregoing text should be carefully studied.

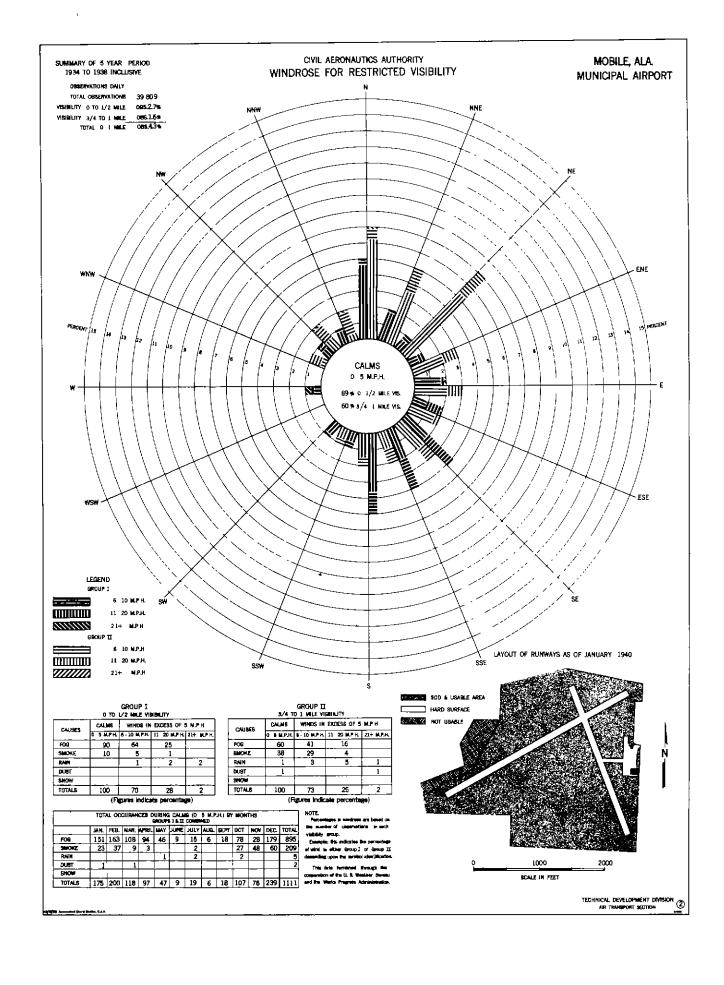
### **ALABAMA**

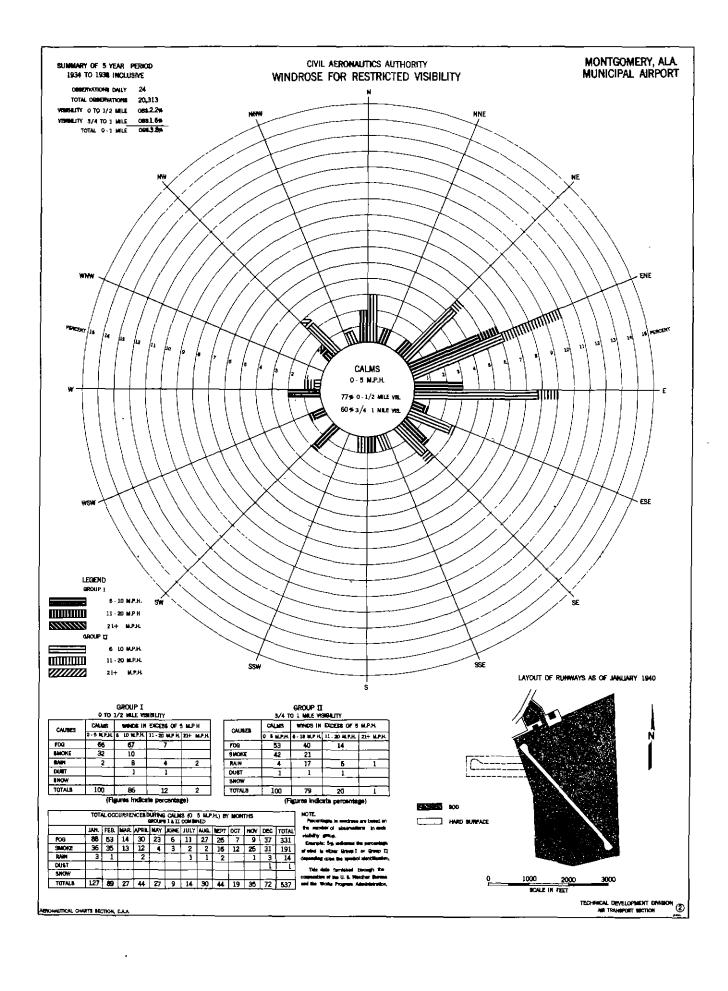
Birmingham

Mobile

Montgomery







# ARIZONA

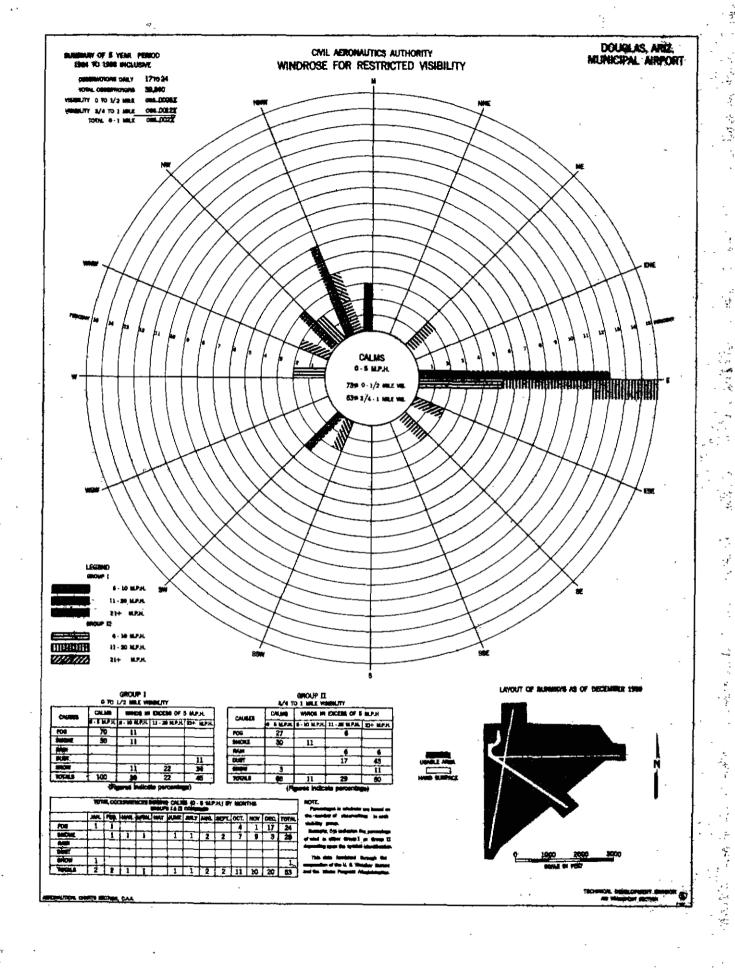
Douglas

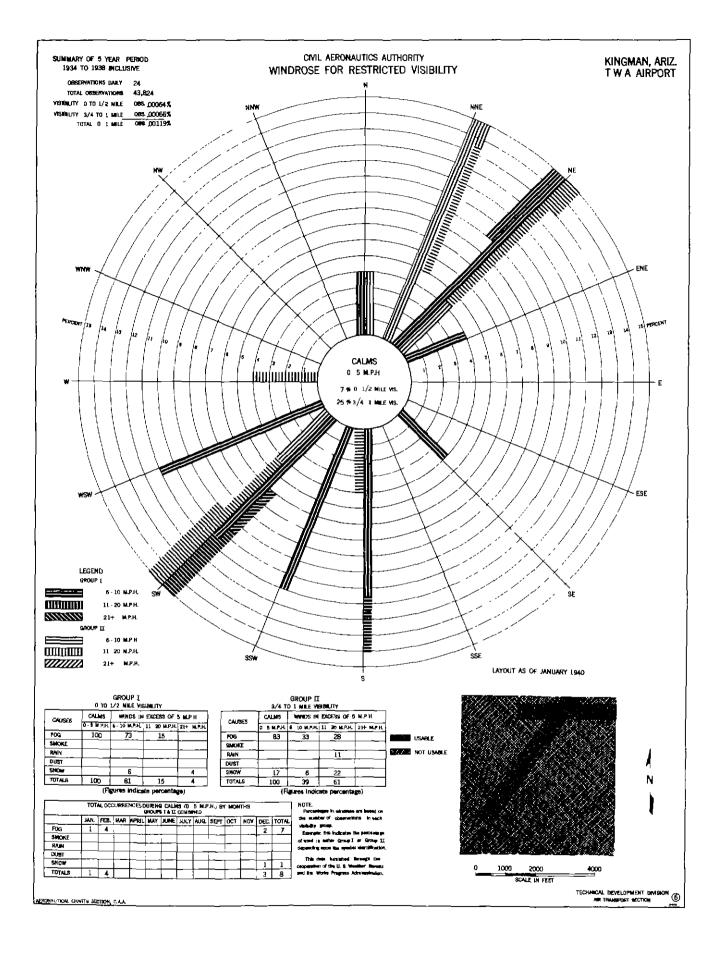
Kingman

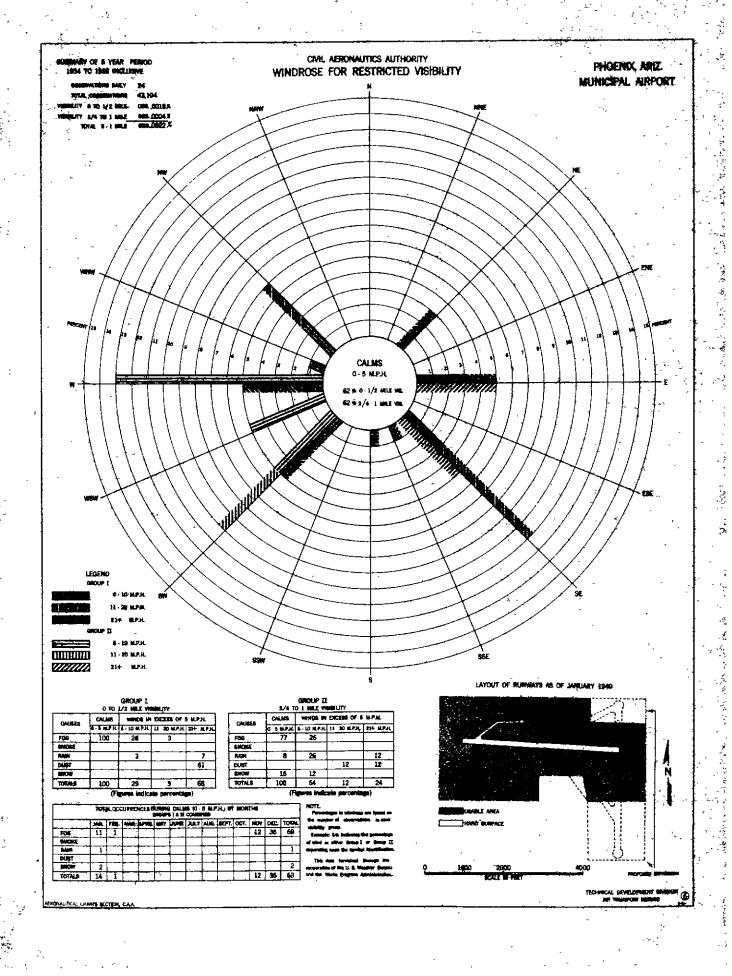
Phoenix

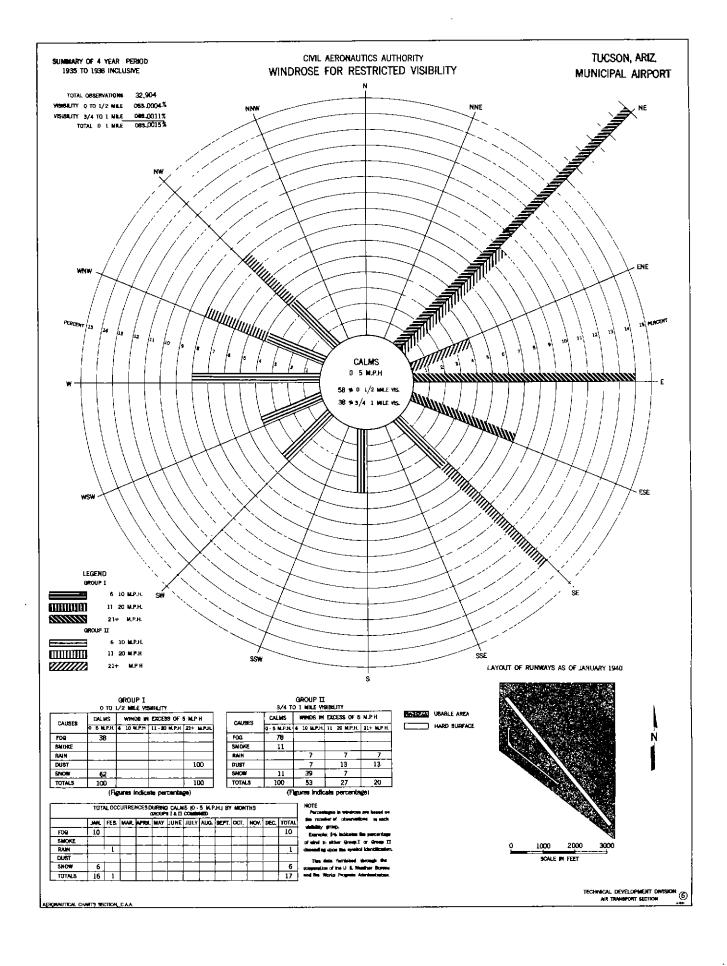
Tueson

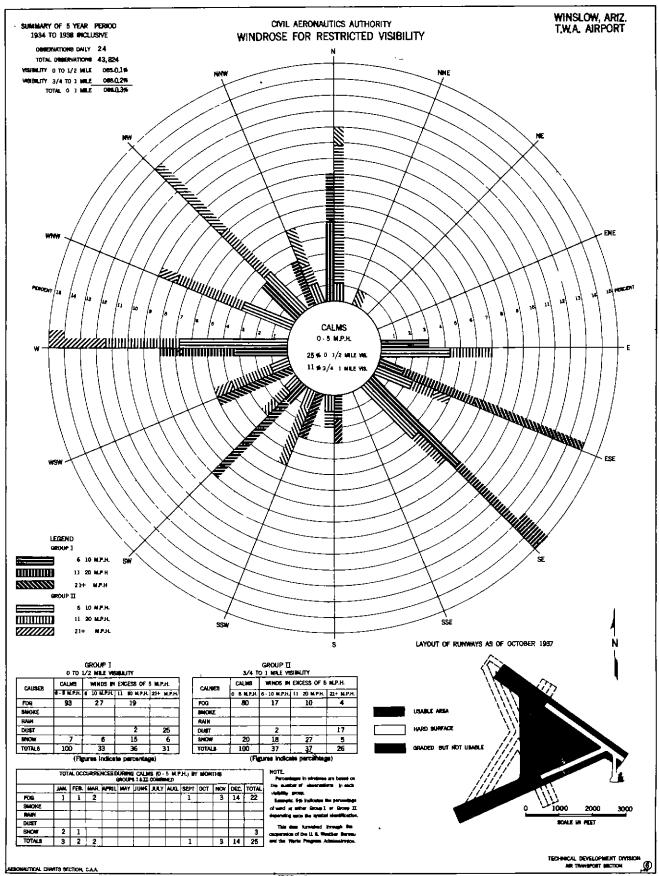
Winslow









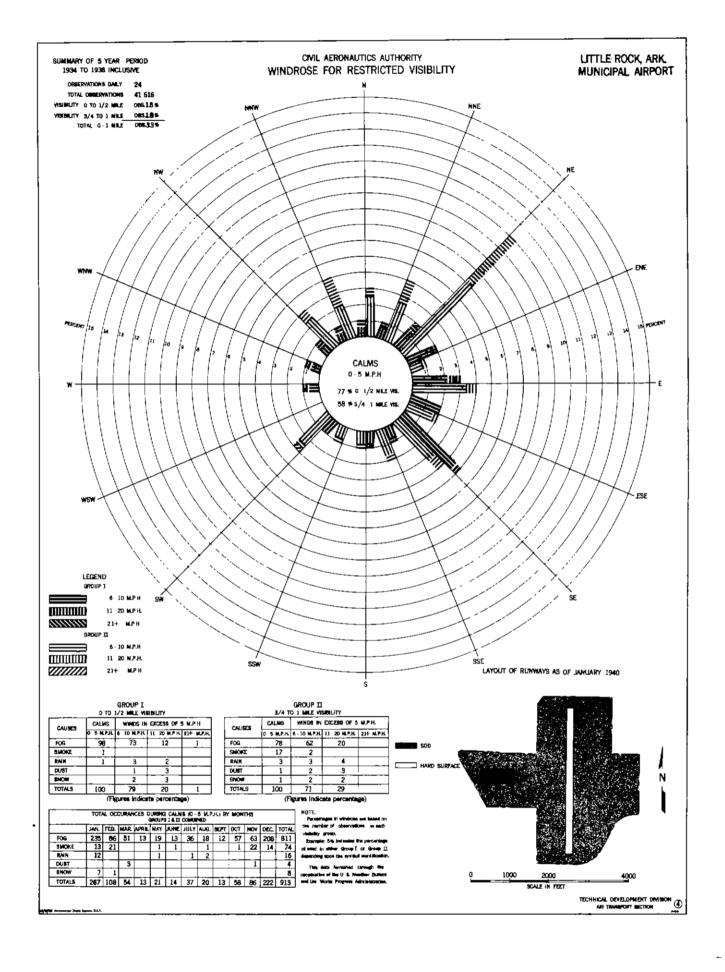


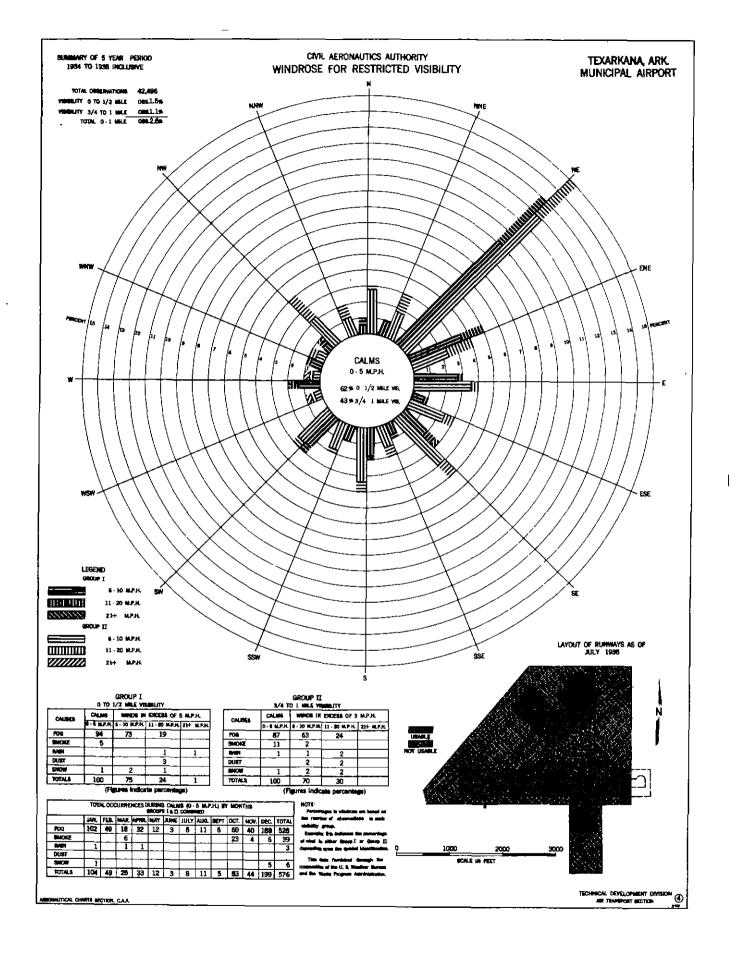
FAA Library

# ARKANSAS

Little Rock

Texarkana





# **CALIFORNIA**

Bakersfield

Burbank

Fresno

Long Beach

Los Angeles

Oakland

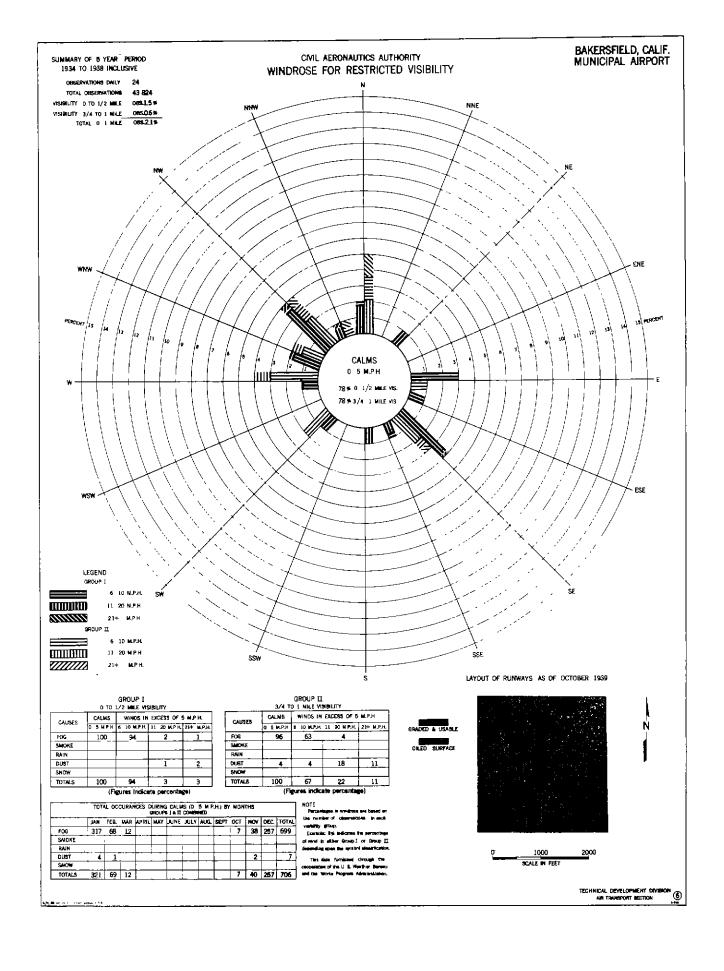
Redding

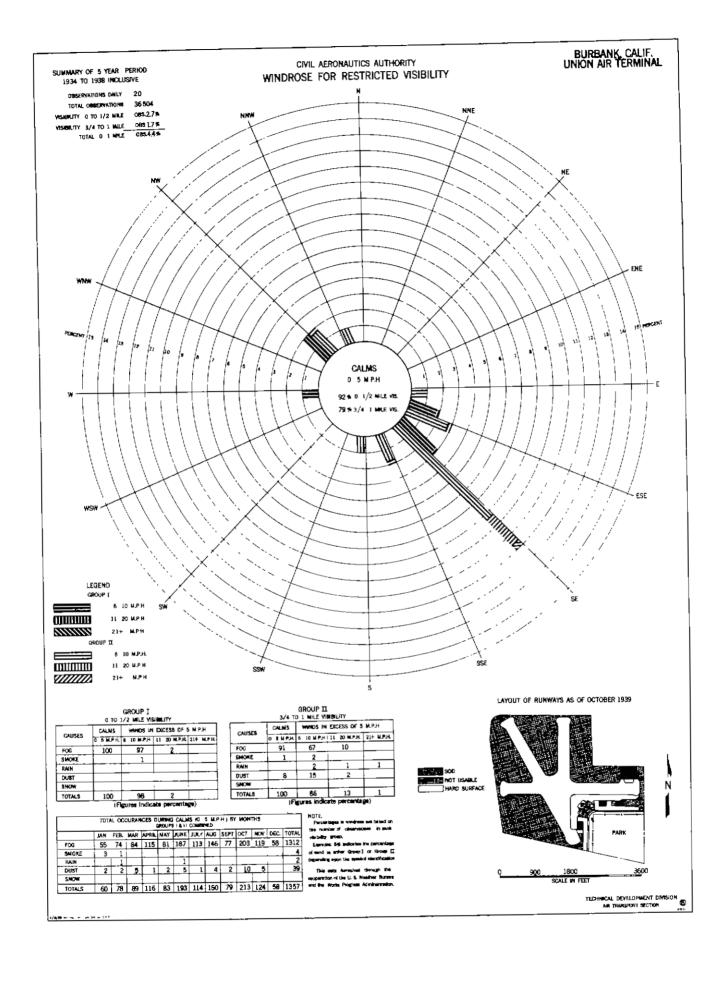
Sacramento

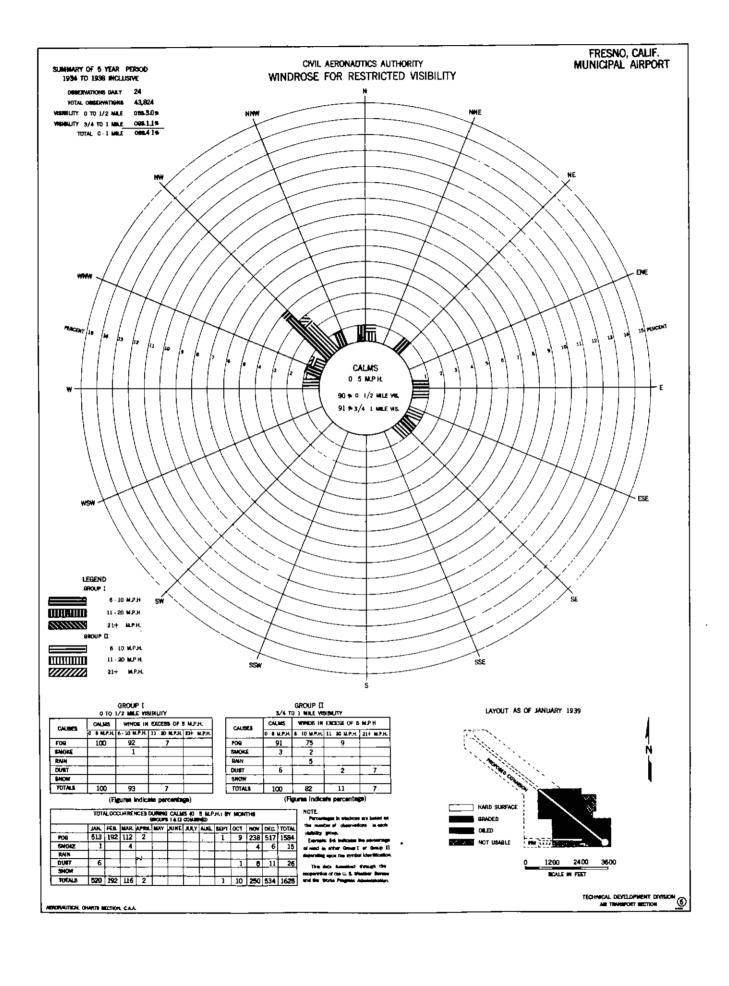
San Diego

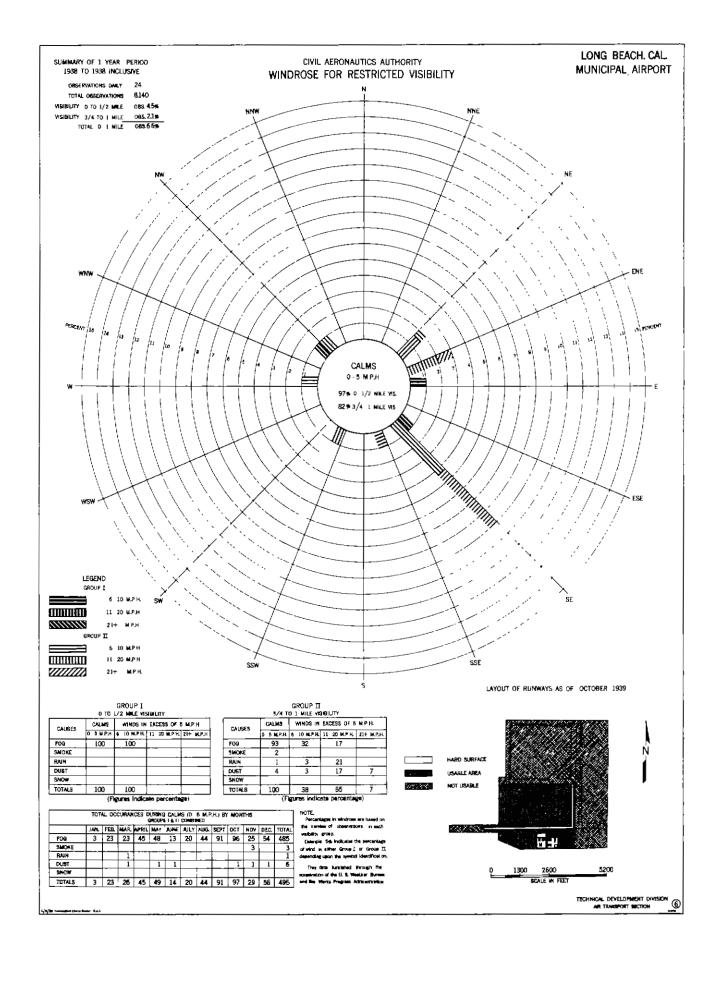
San Francisco

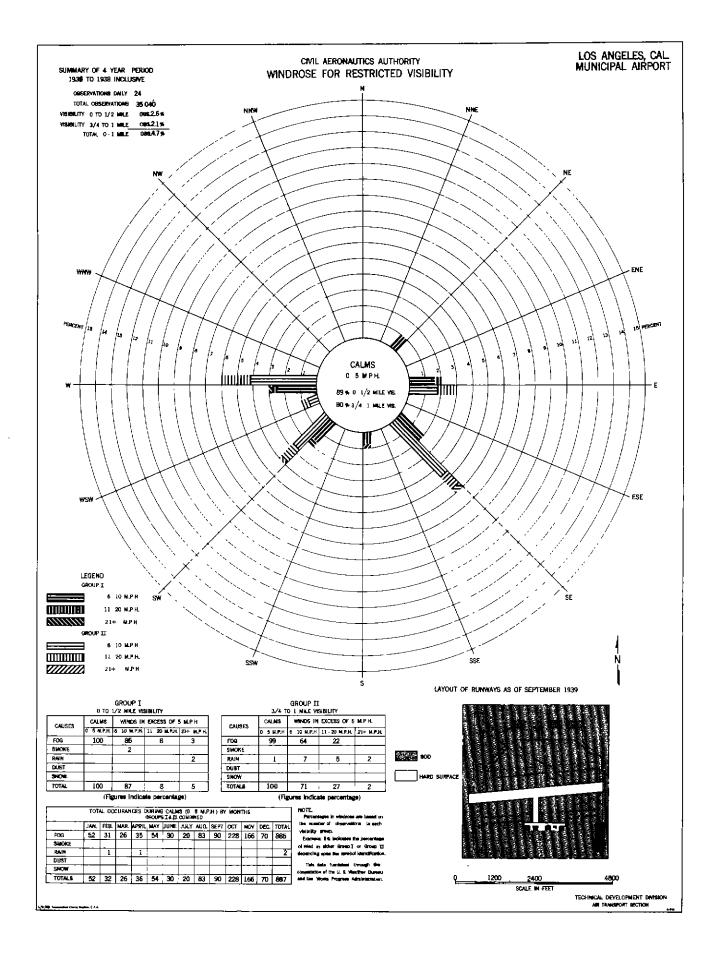
Santa Barbara

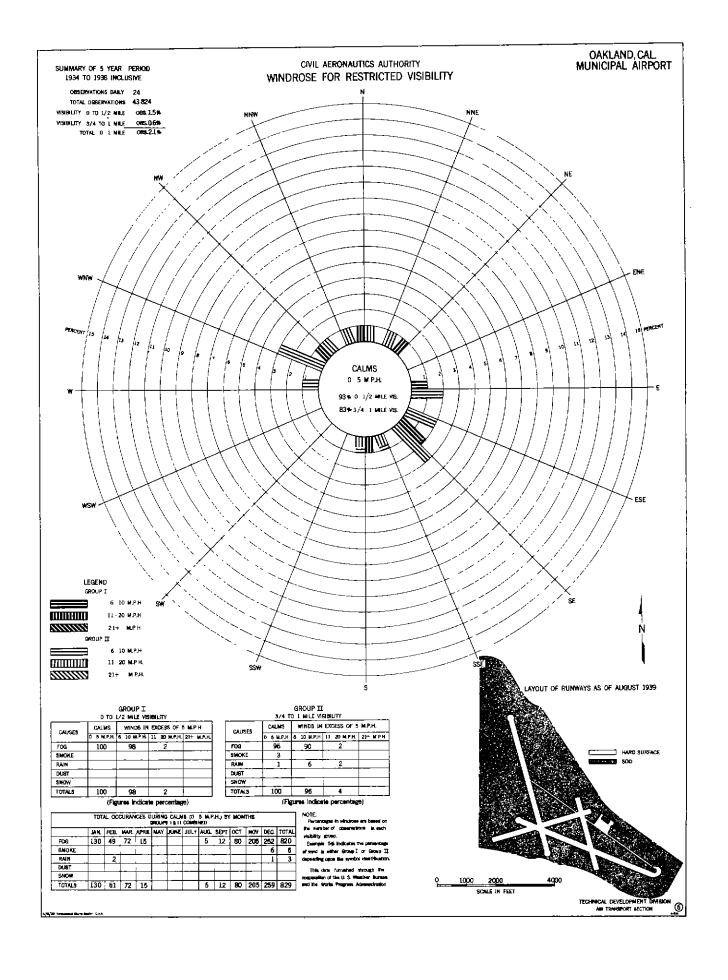


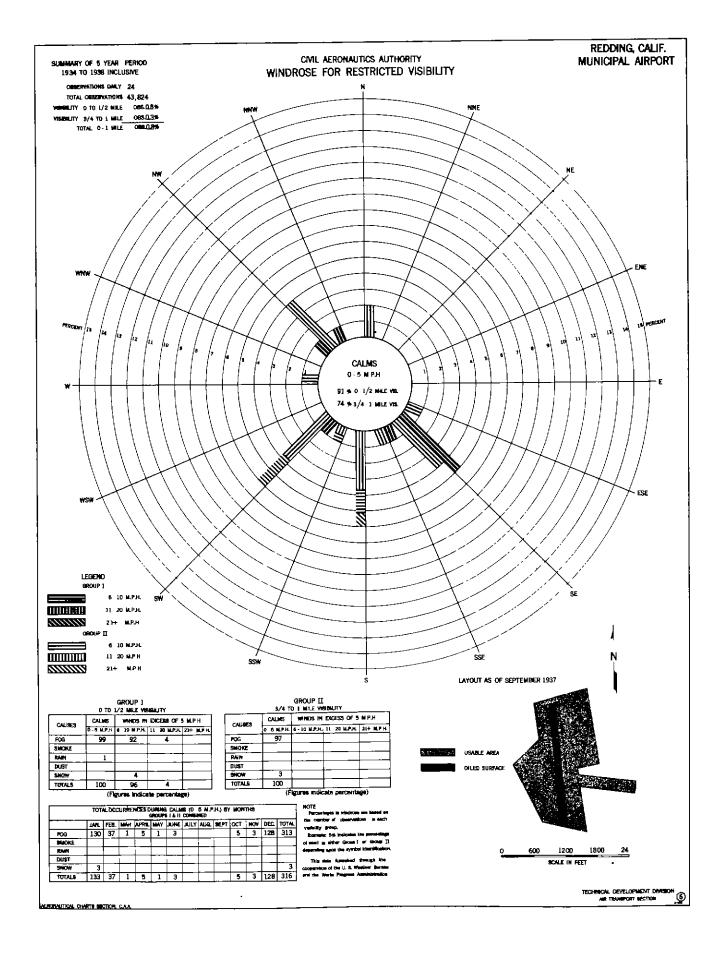


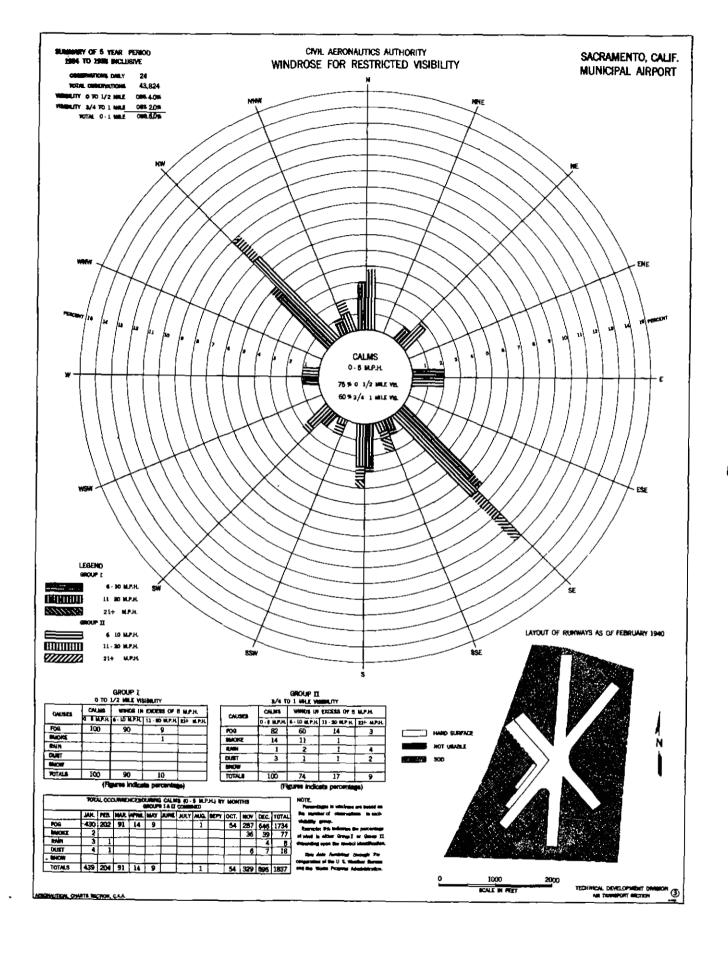


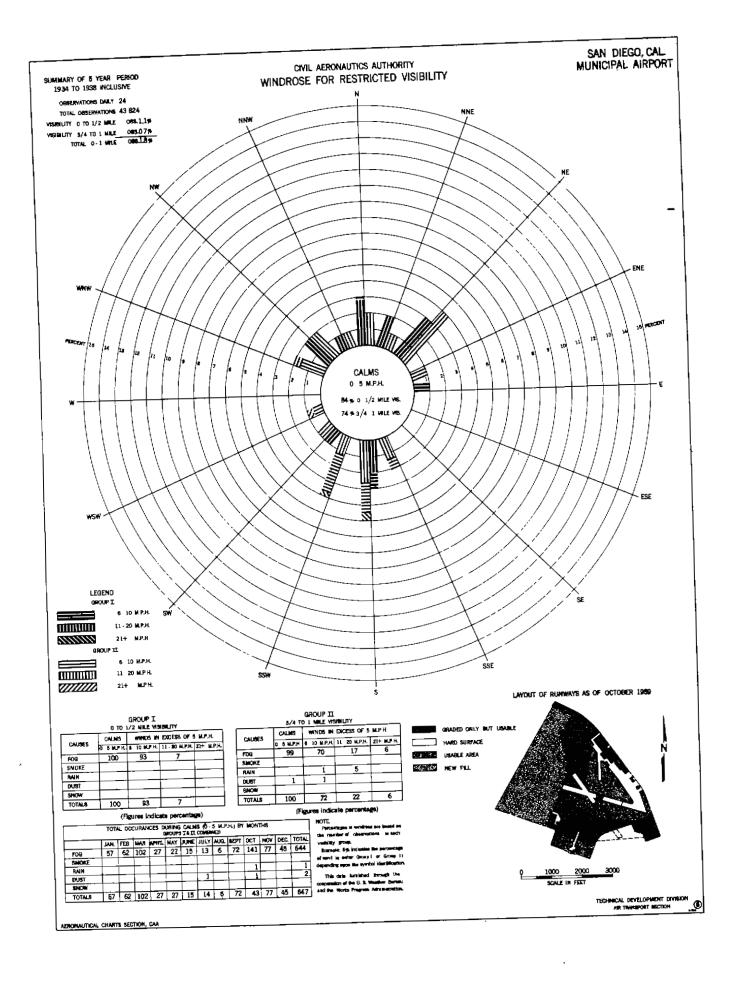


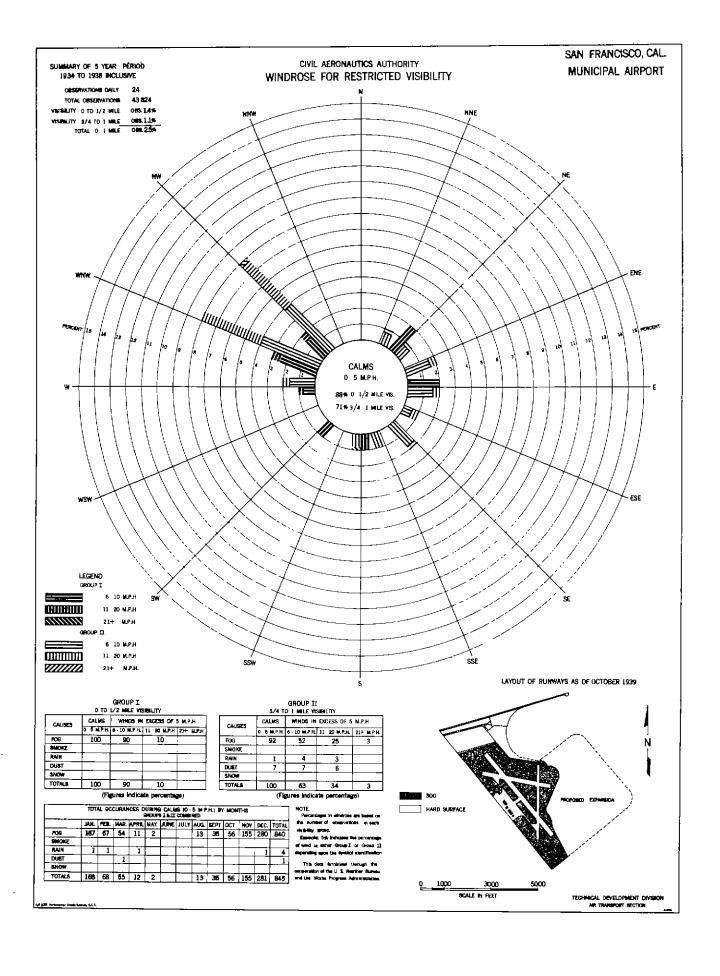


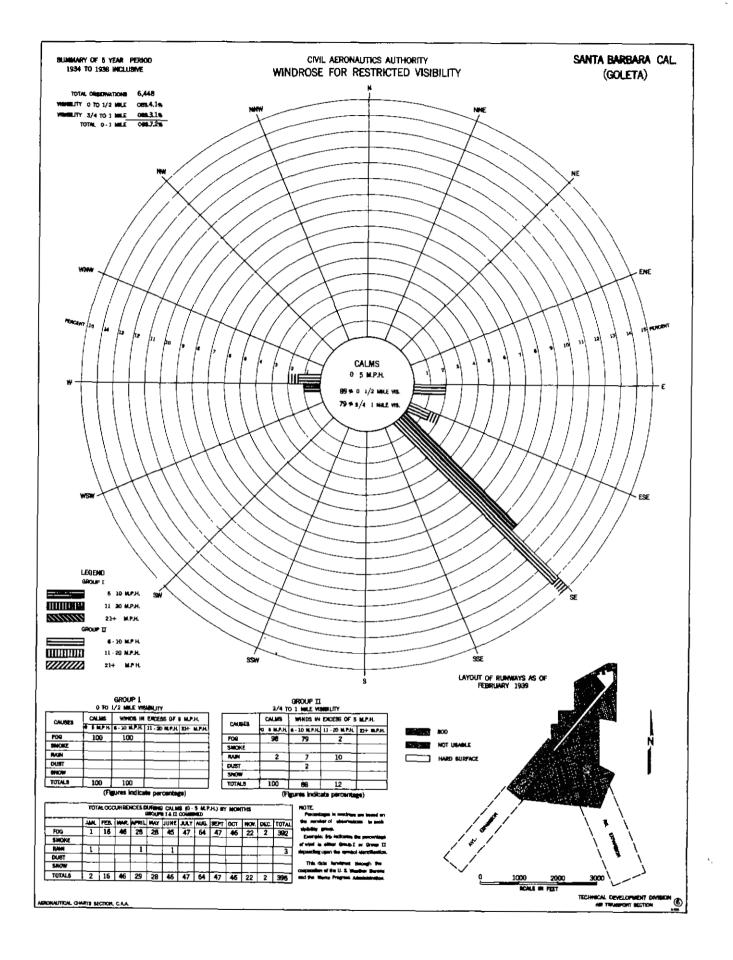










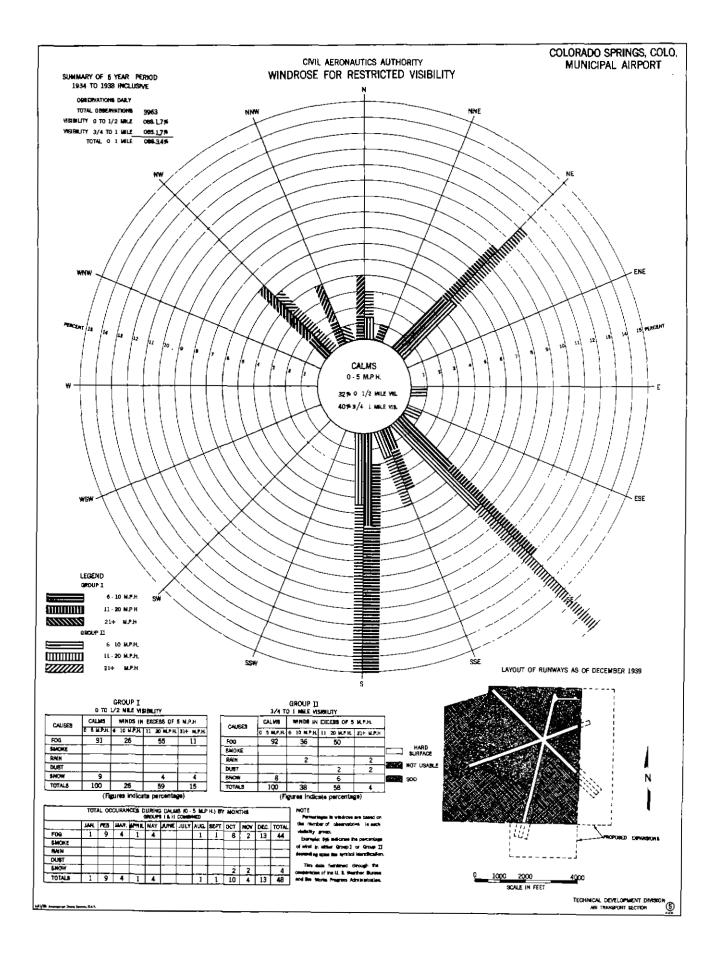


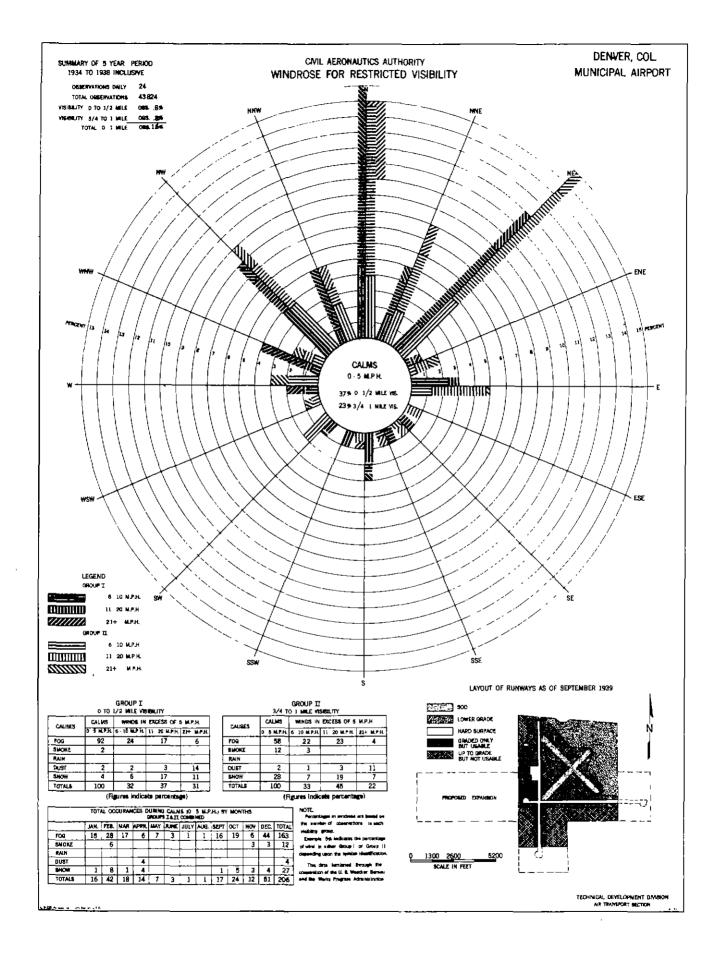
# **COLORADO**

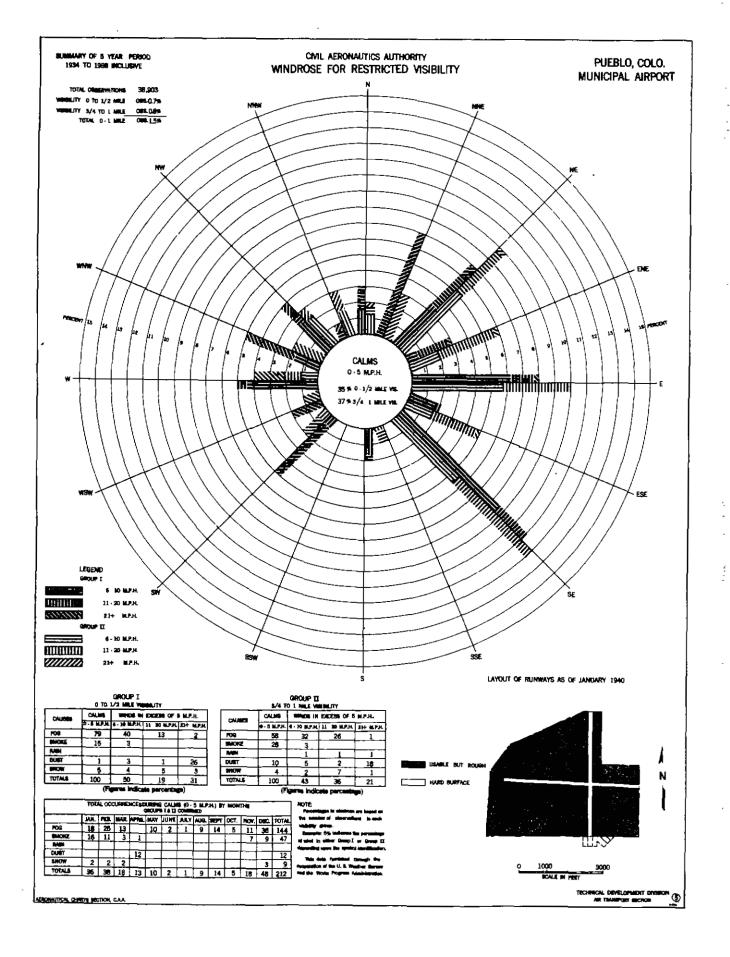
Colorado Springs

Denver

Pueblo





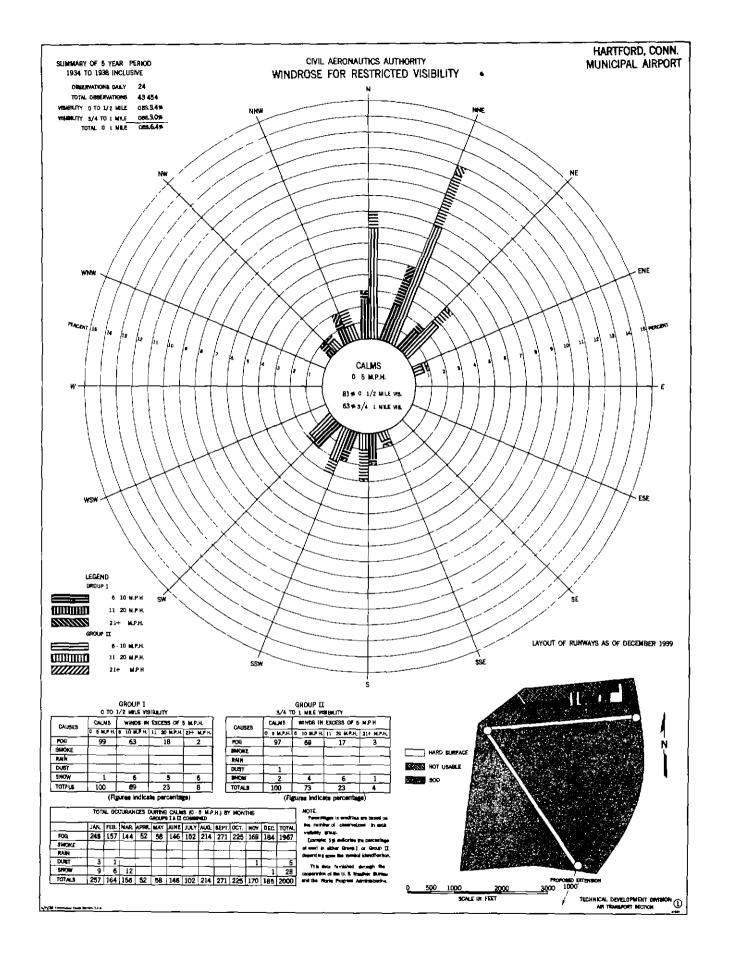


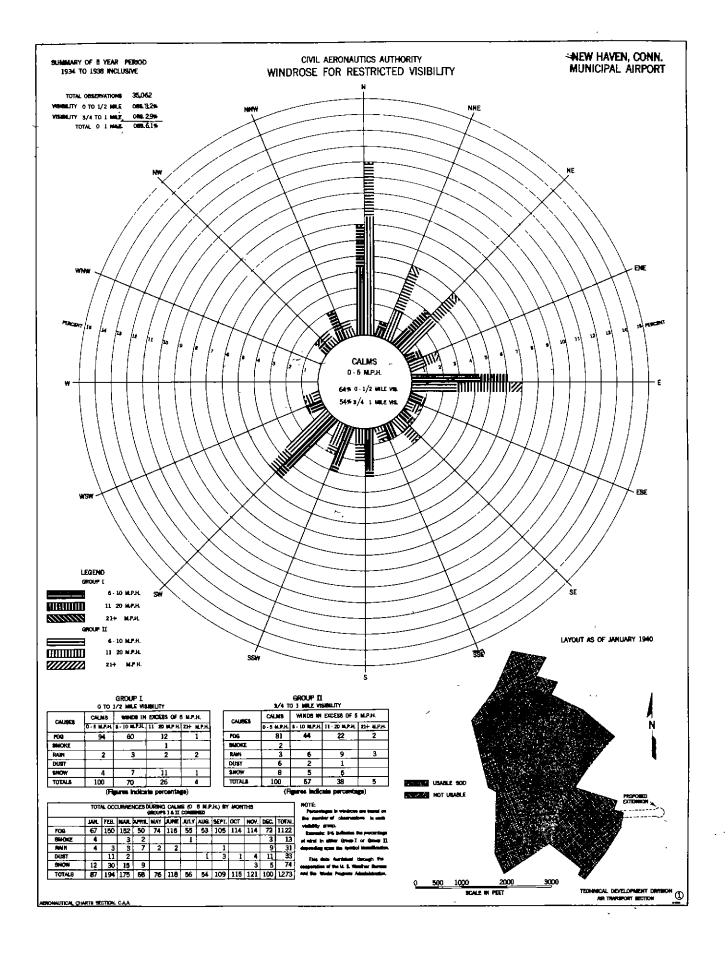
# CONNECTICUT

Hartford

A, -2.0

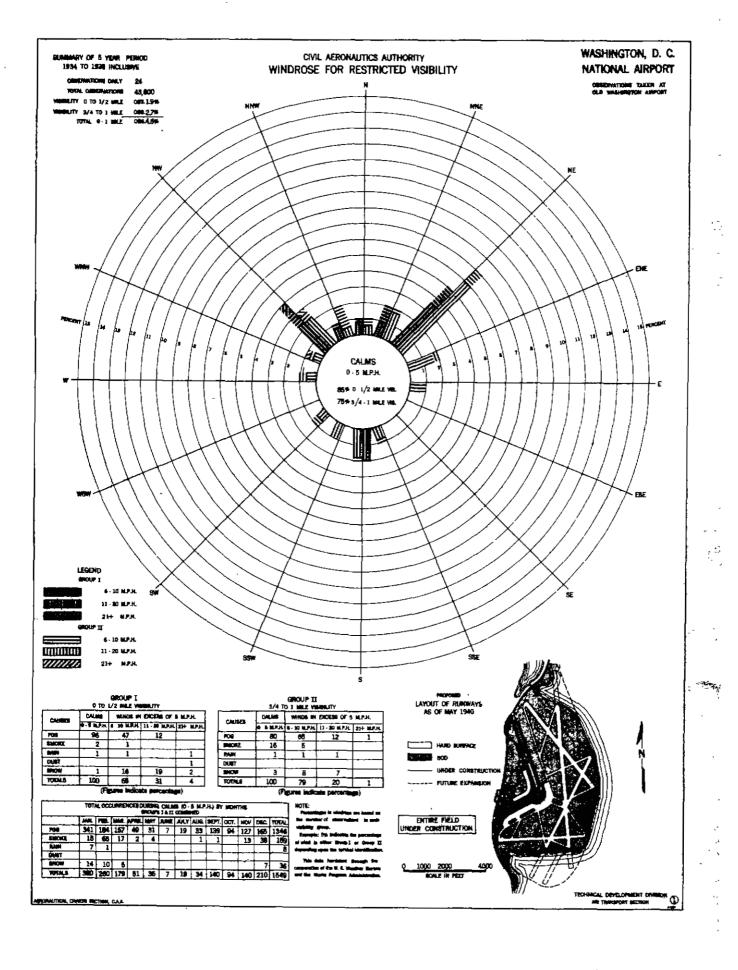
New Haven





# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington



#### FLORIDA

Daytona Beach

Jacksonville

Key West

Lakeland

Miami

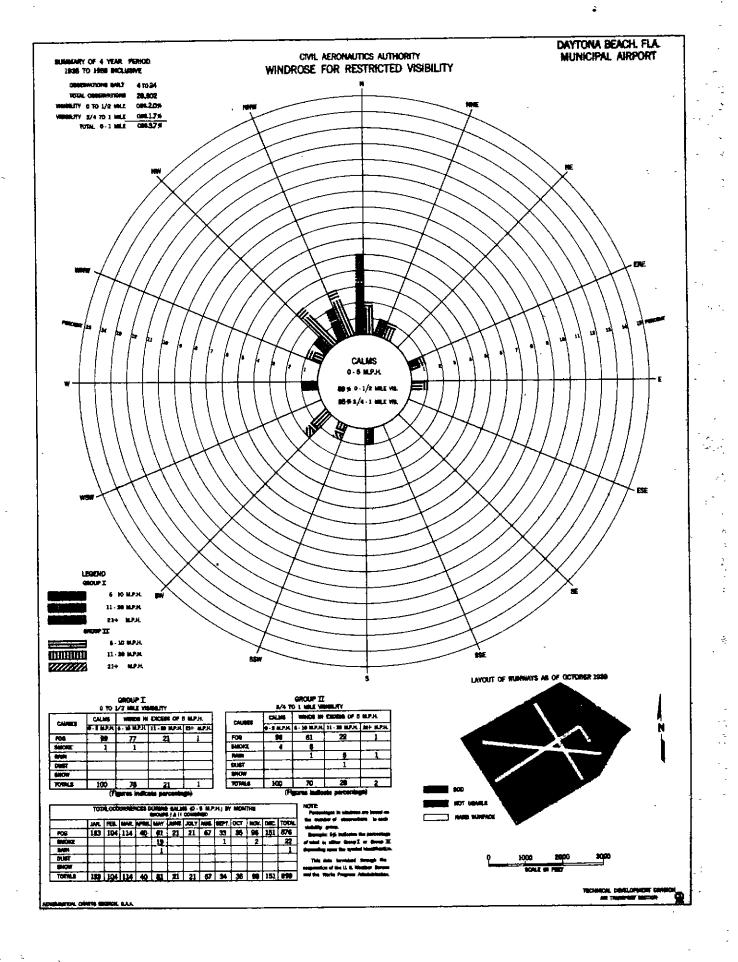
Orlando

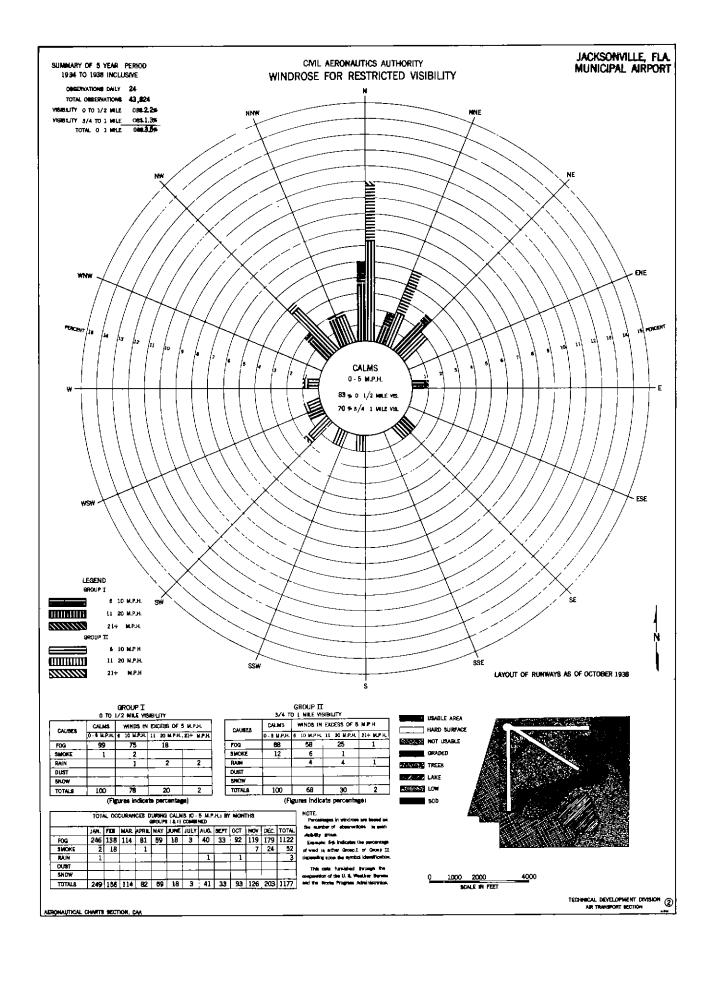
Pensacola

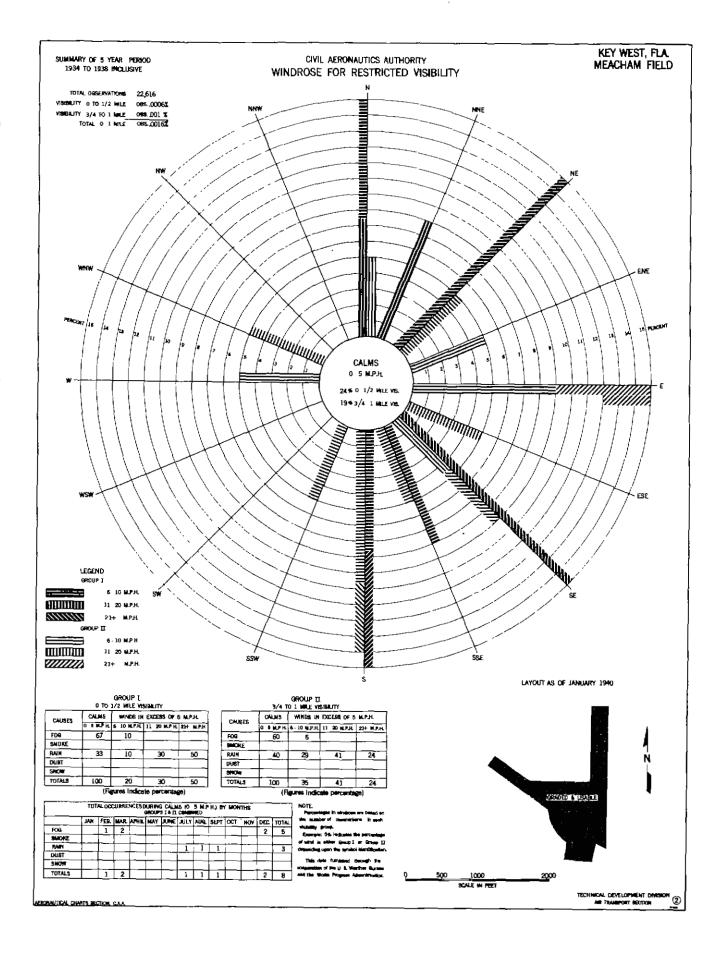
Tampa

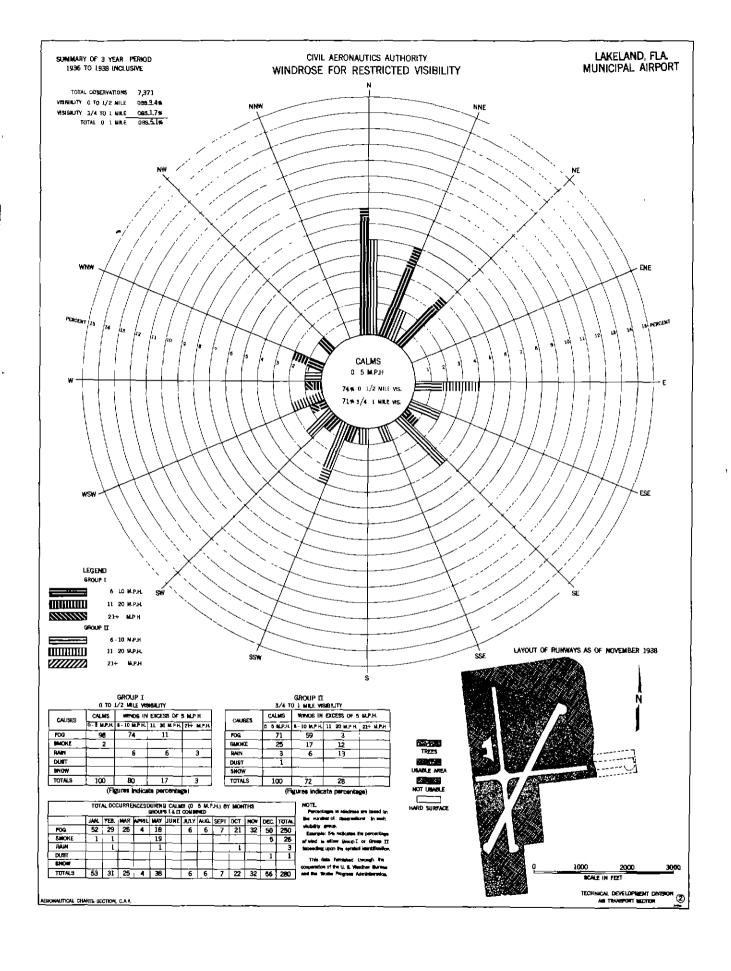
Vero Beach

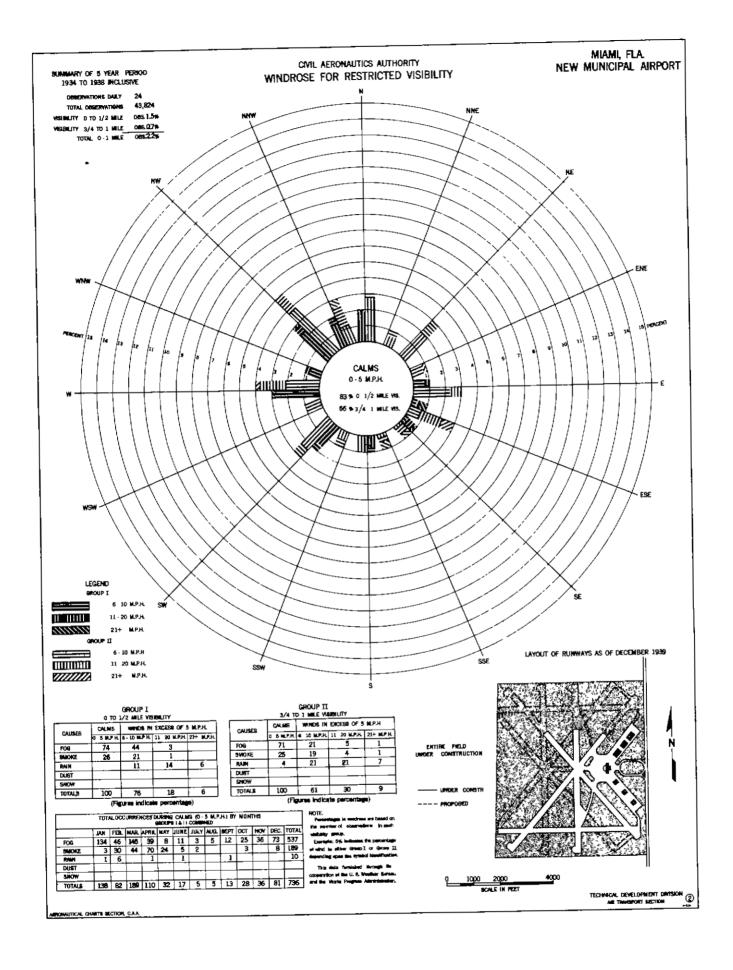
West Palm Beach

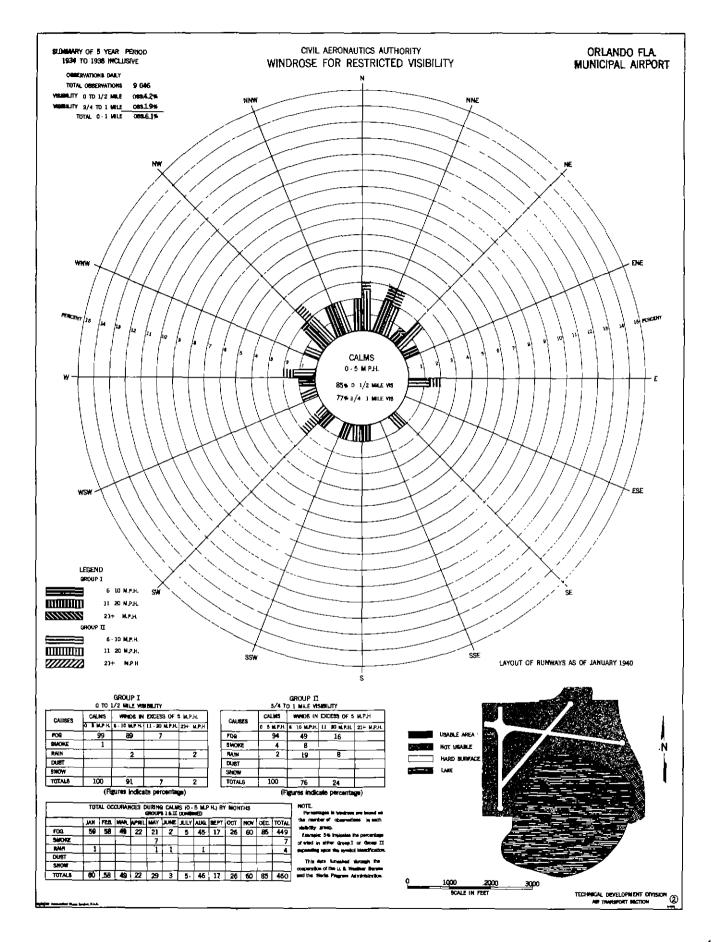




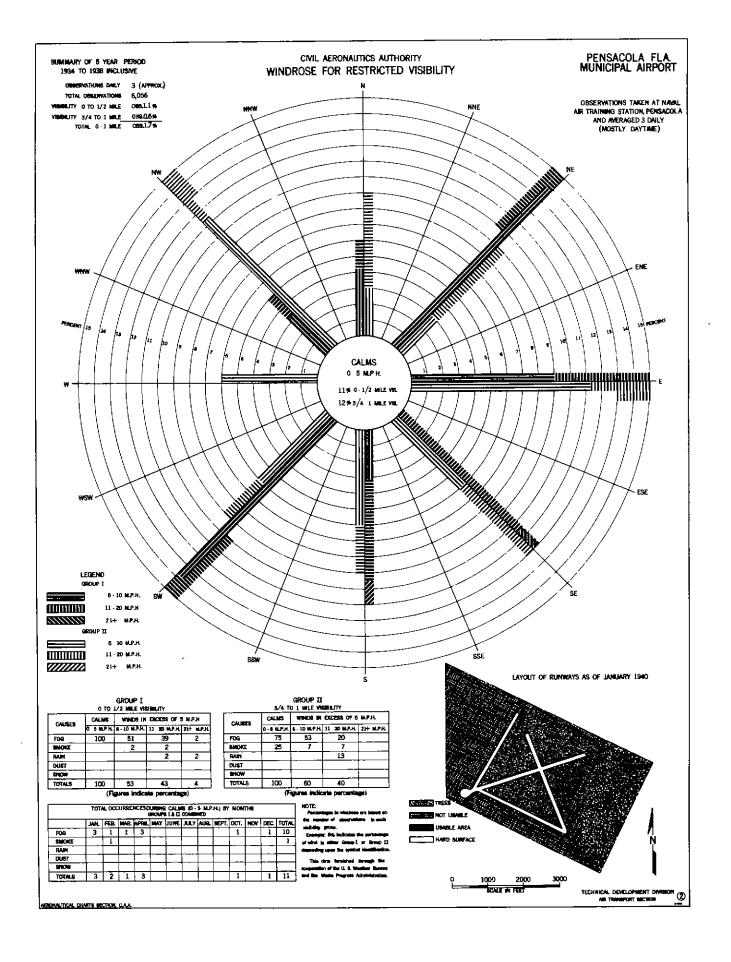


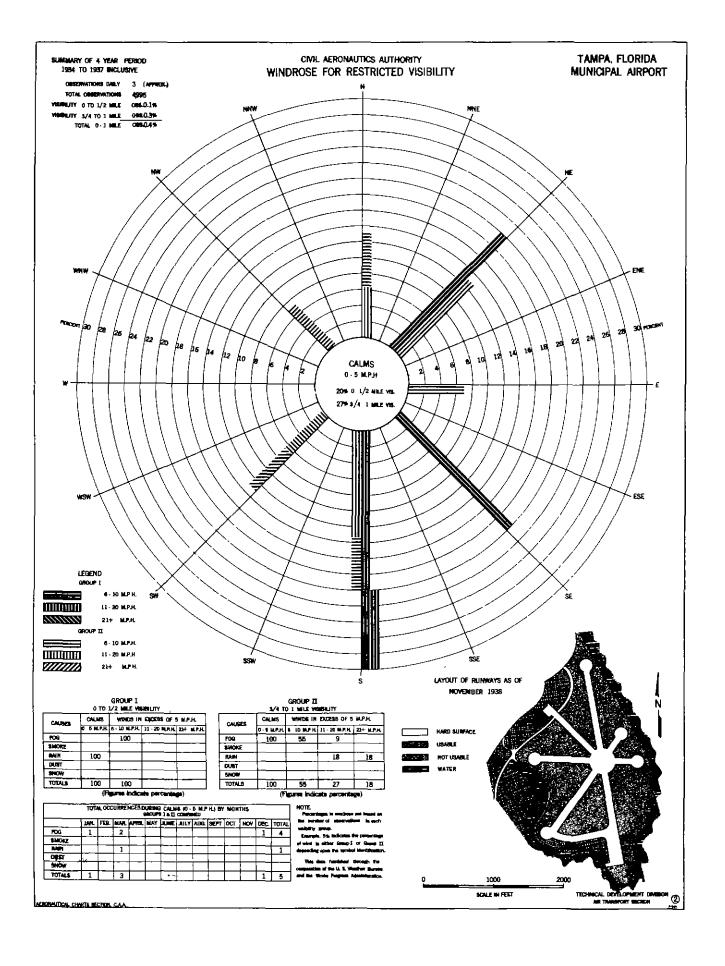


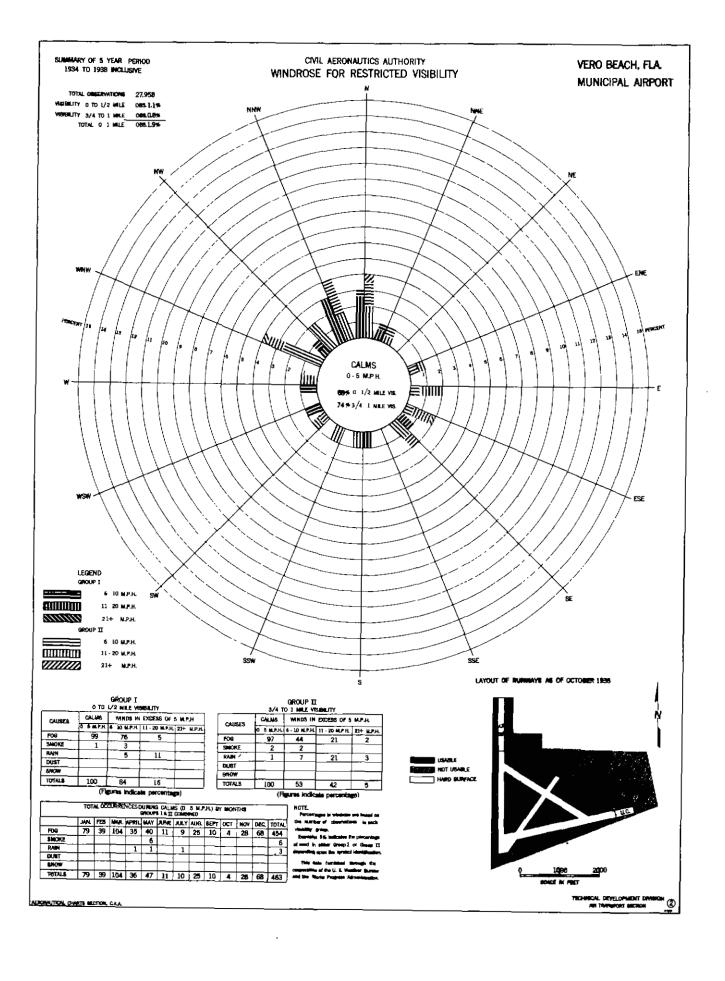


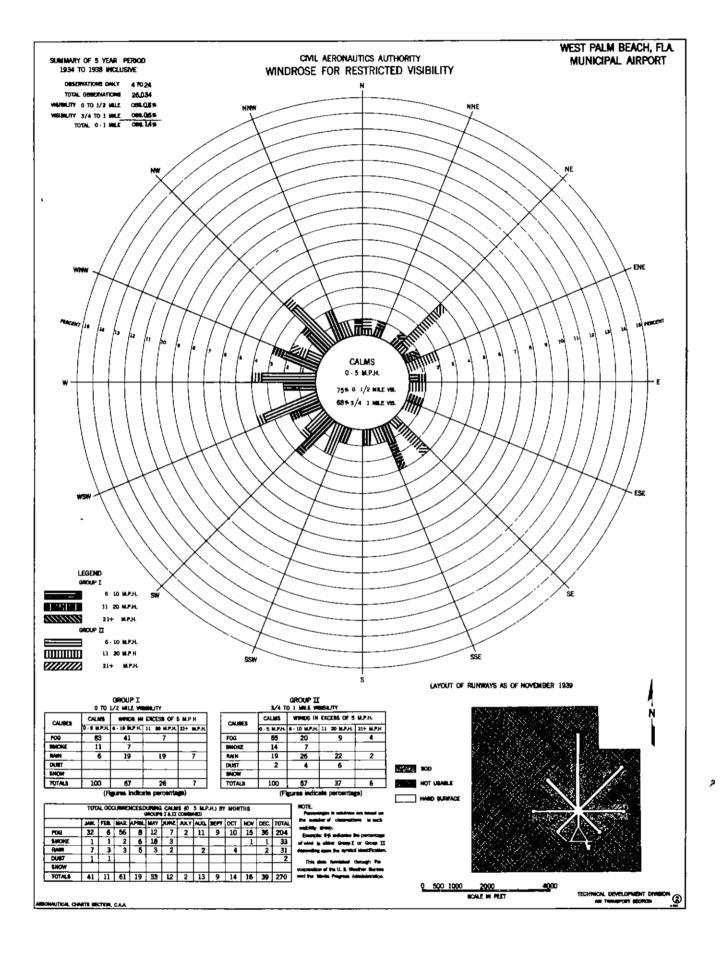


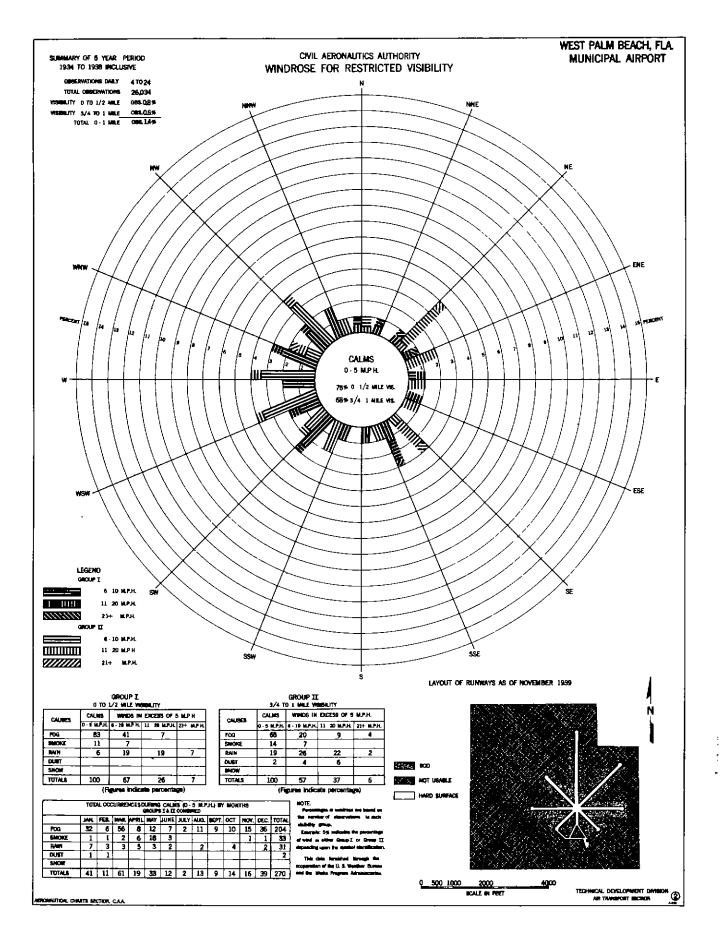
⇗







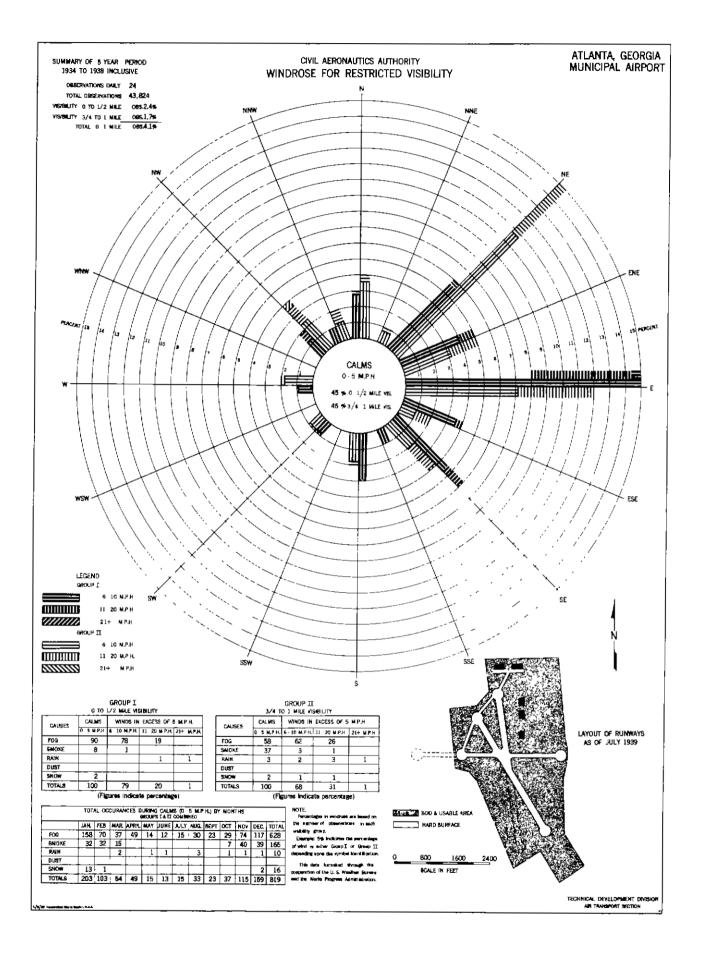


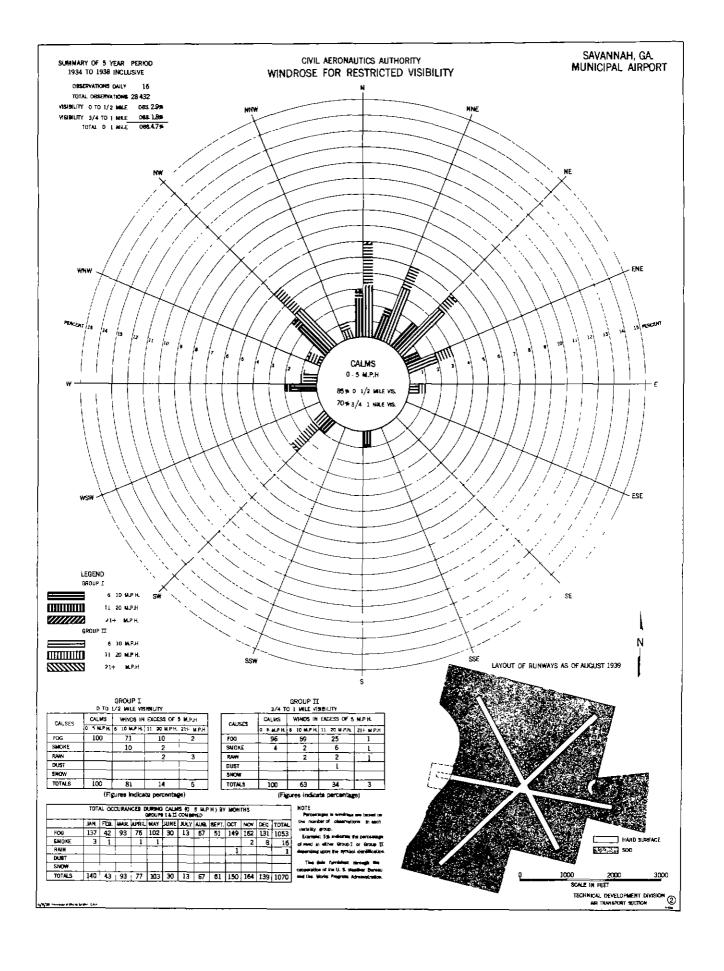


# **GEORGIA**

Atlanta

Savannah





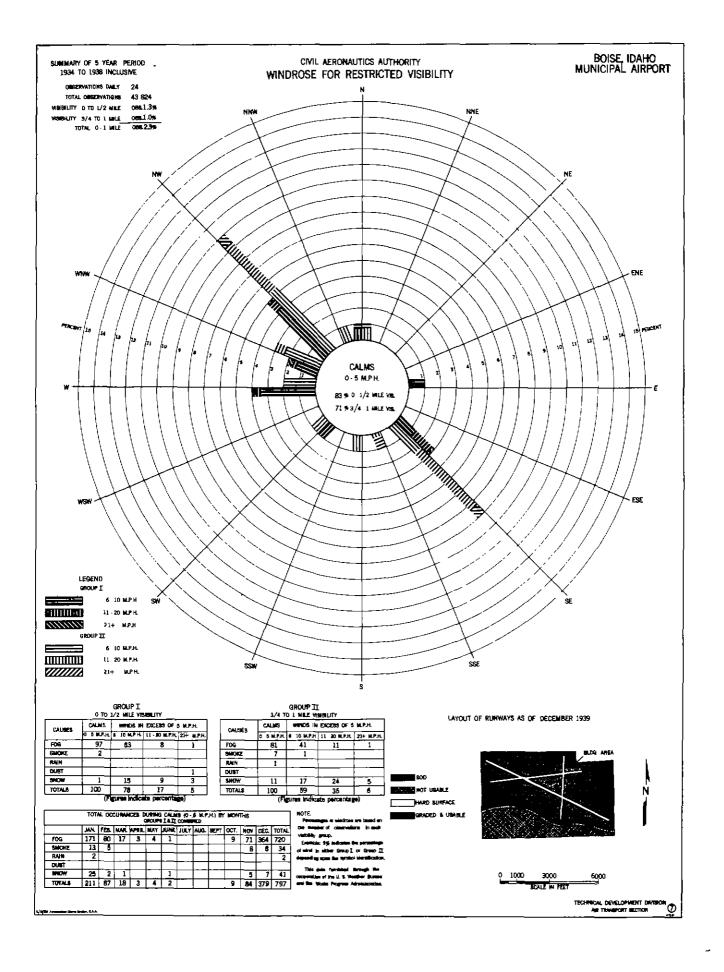
# IDAHO

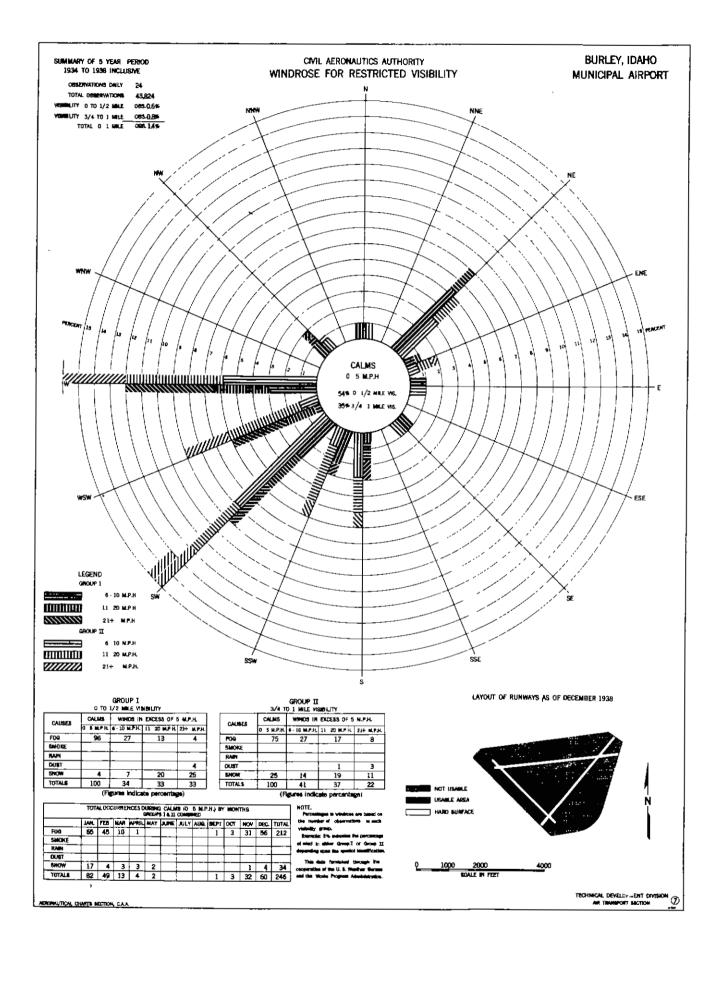
Boise

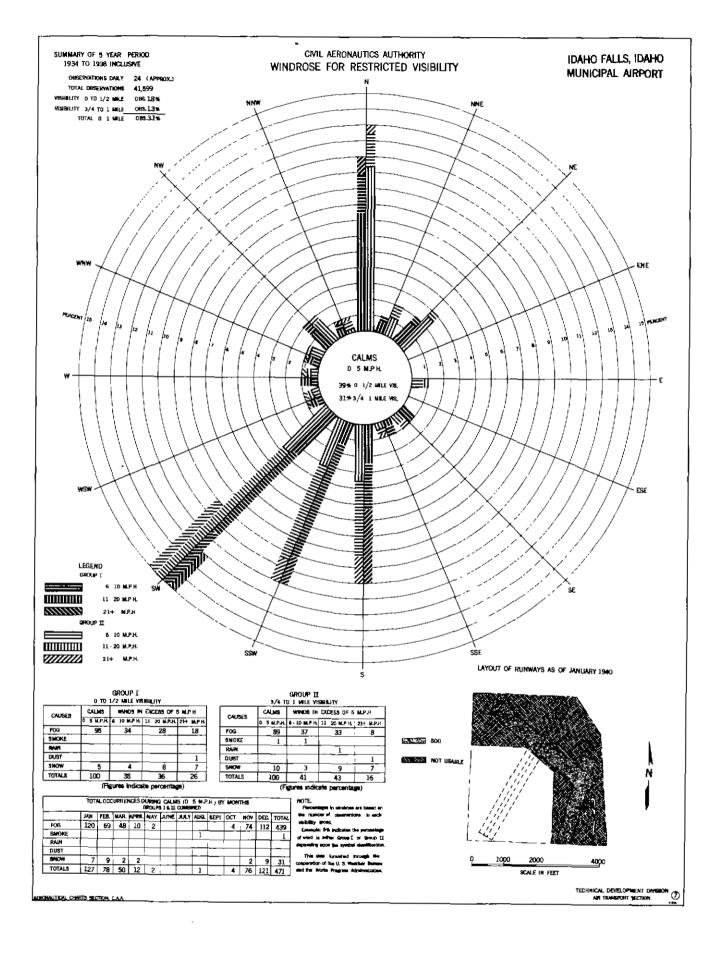
Burley

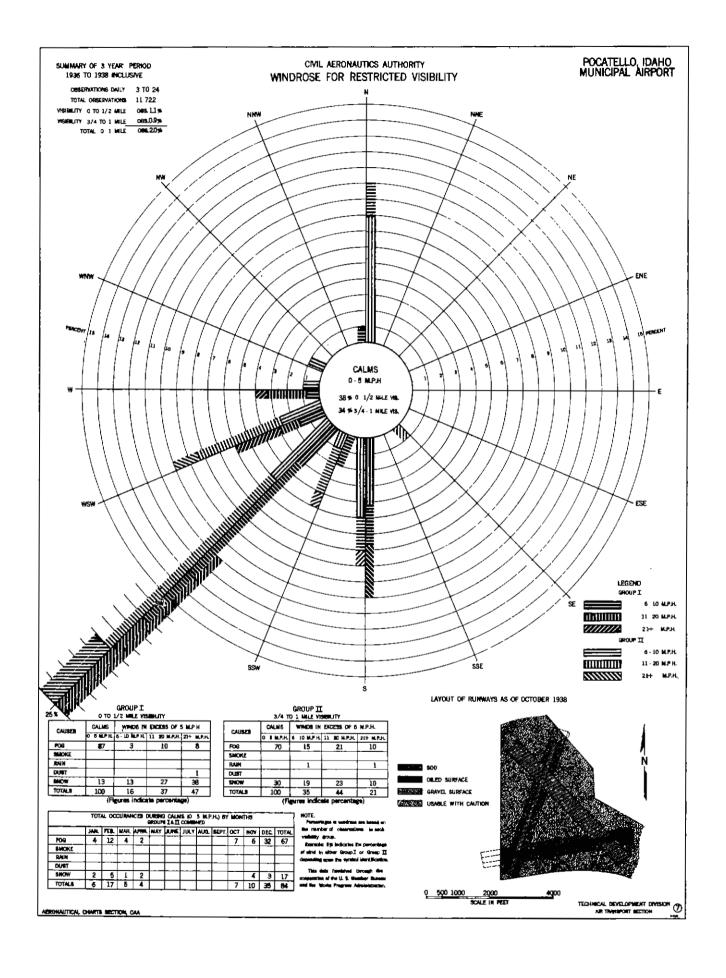
Idaho Falis

Pocatello









# ILLINOIS

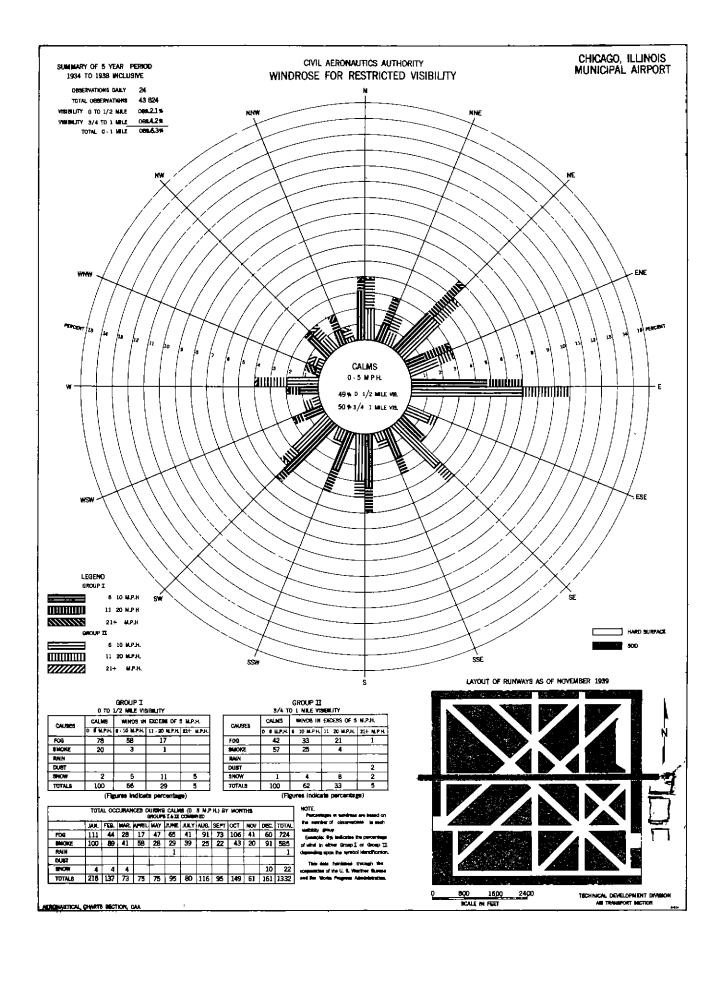
Chicago

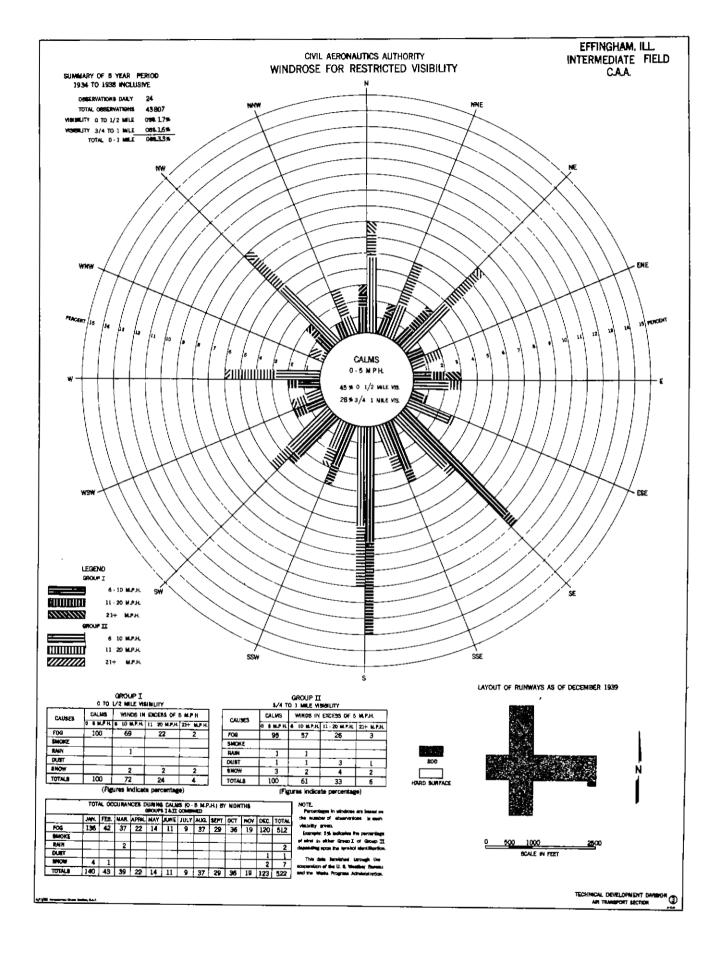
Effingham

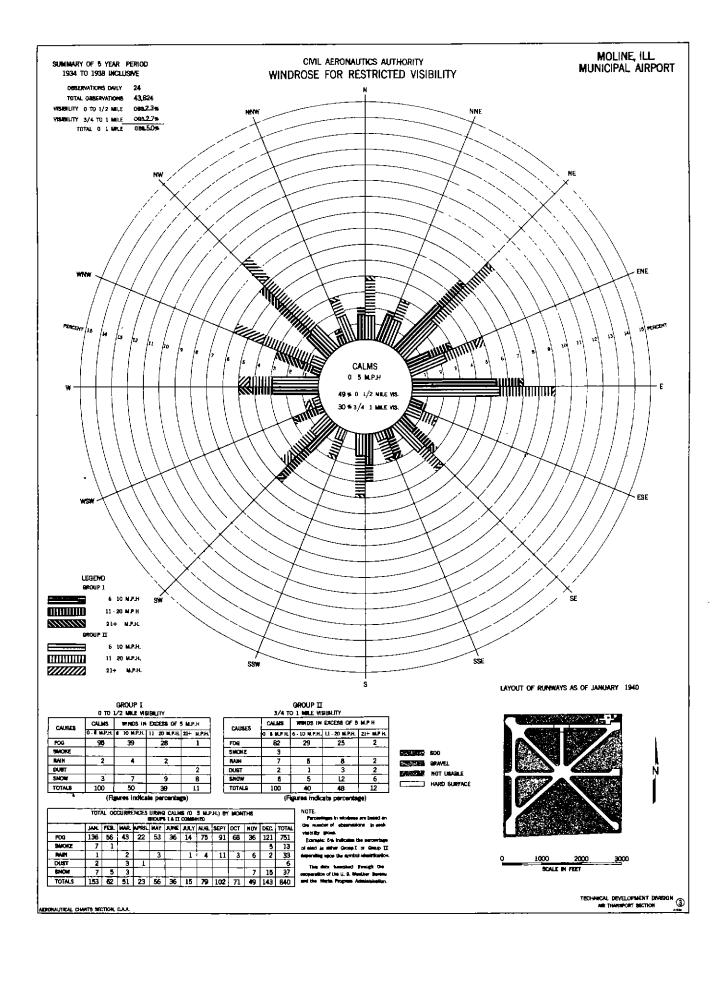
Moline

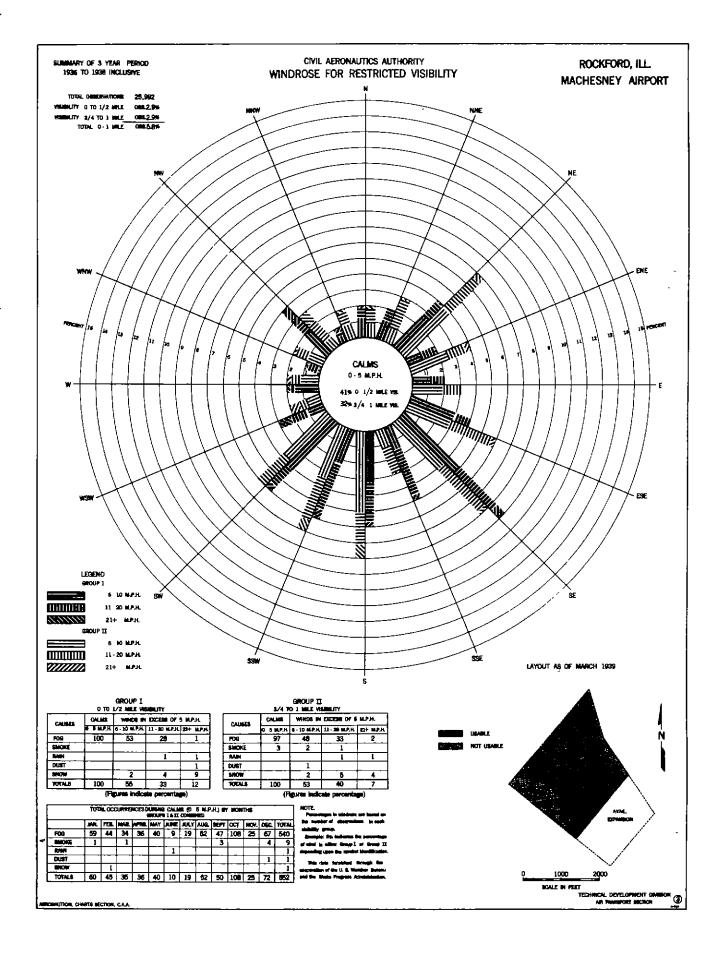
Rockford

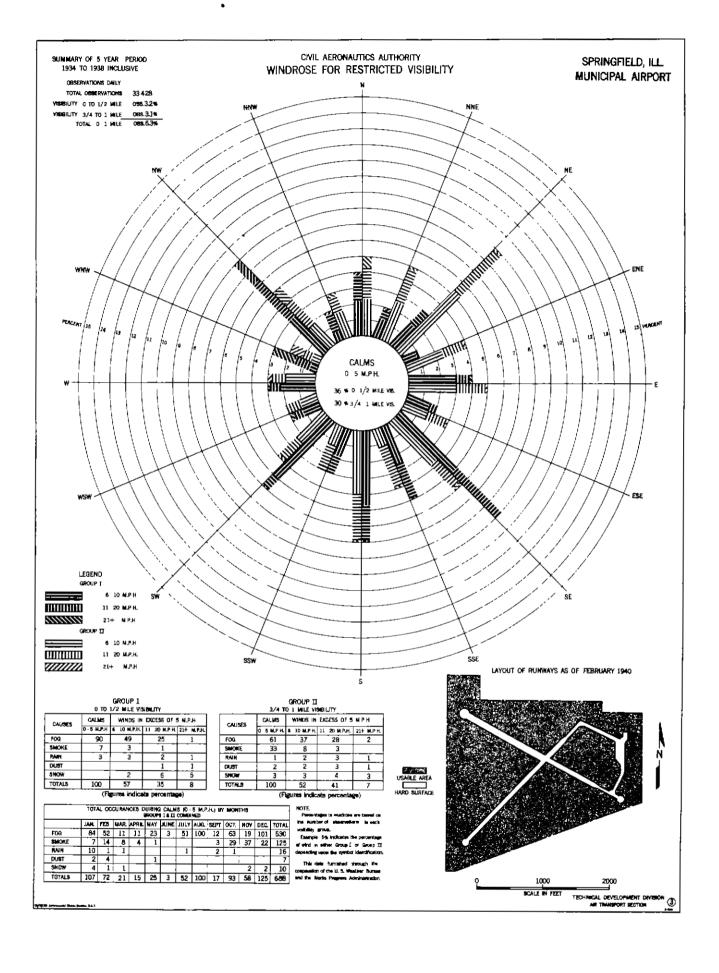
Springfield











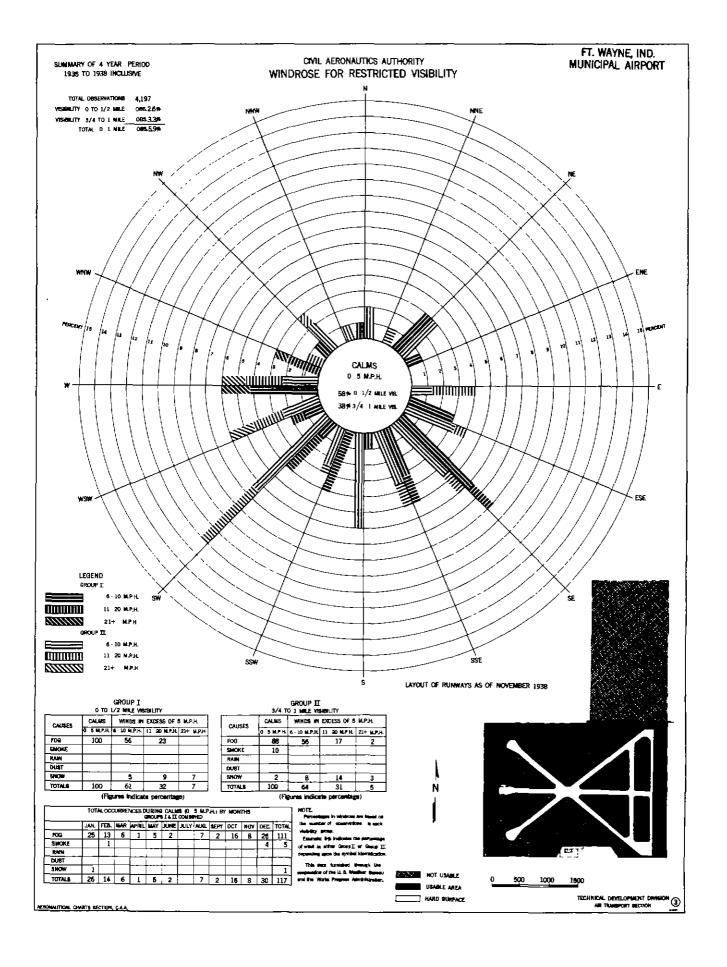
# INDIANA

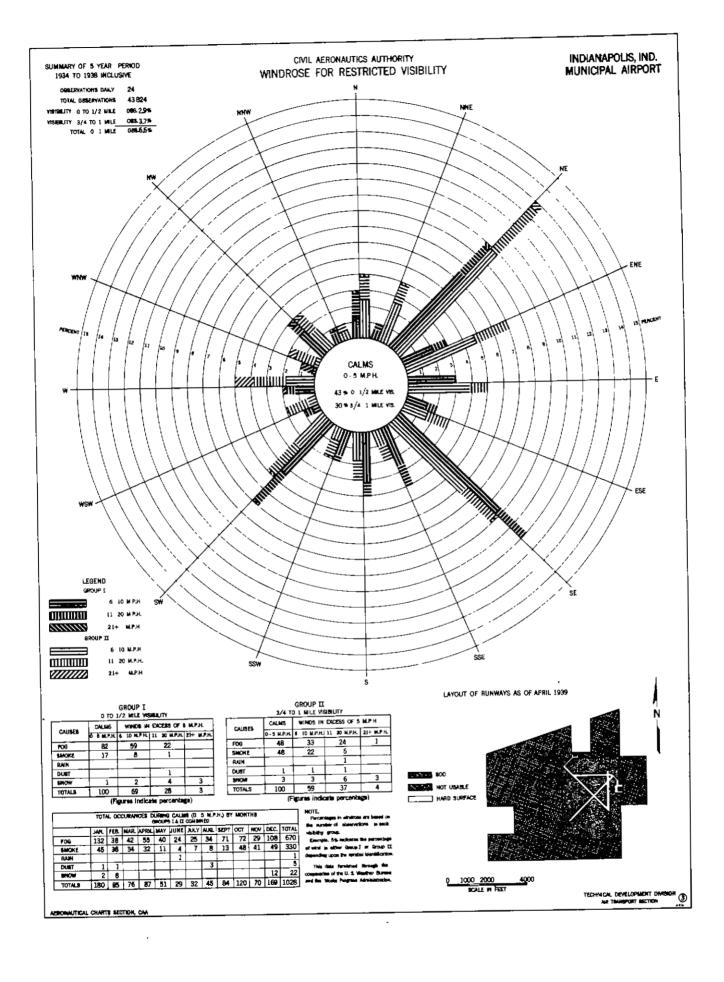
Fort Wayne

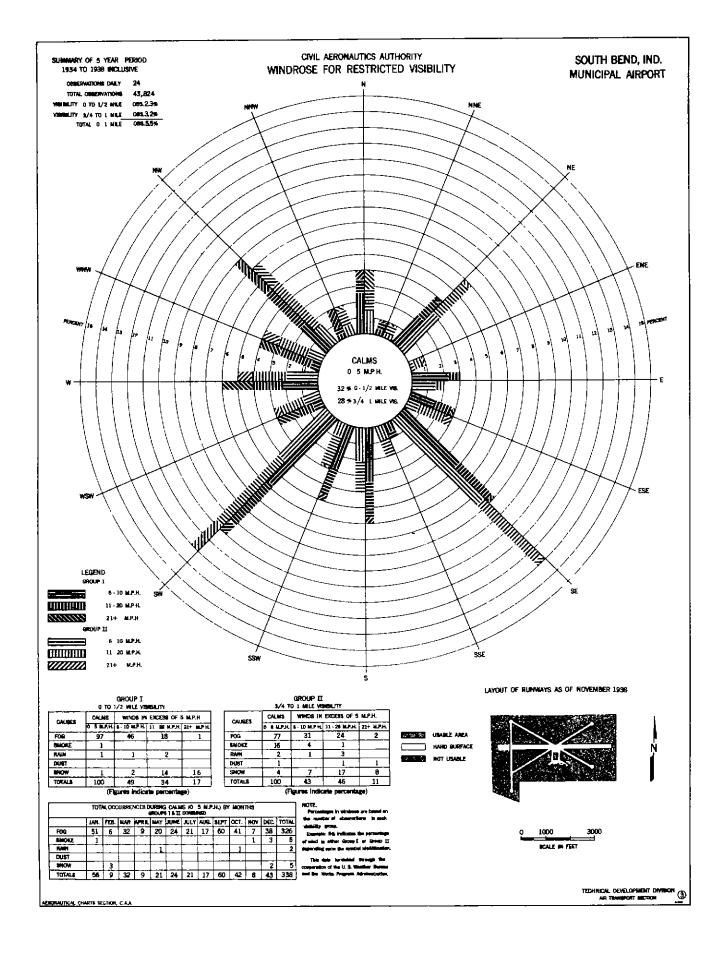
Indianapolis

South Bend

The second of th





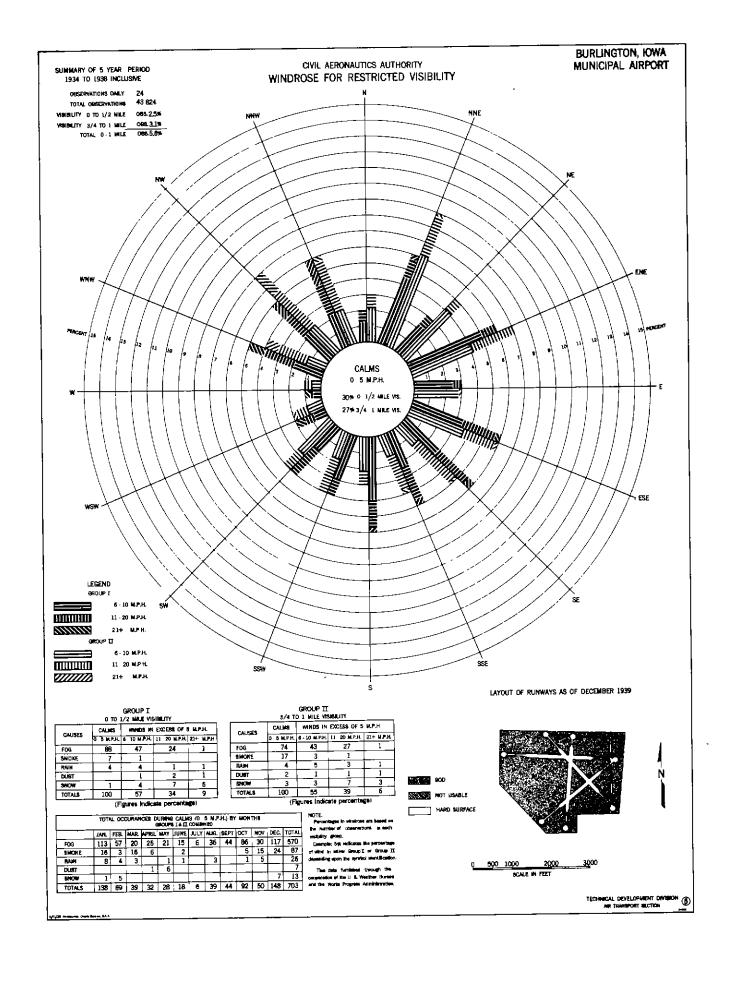


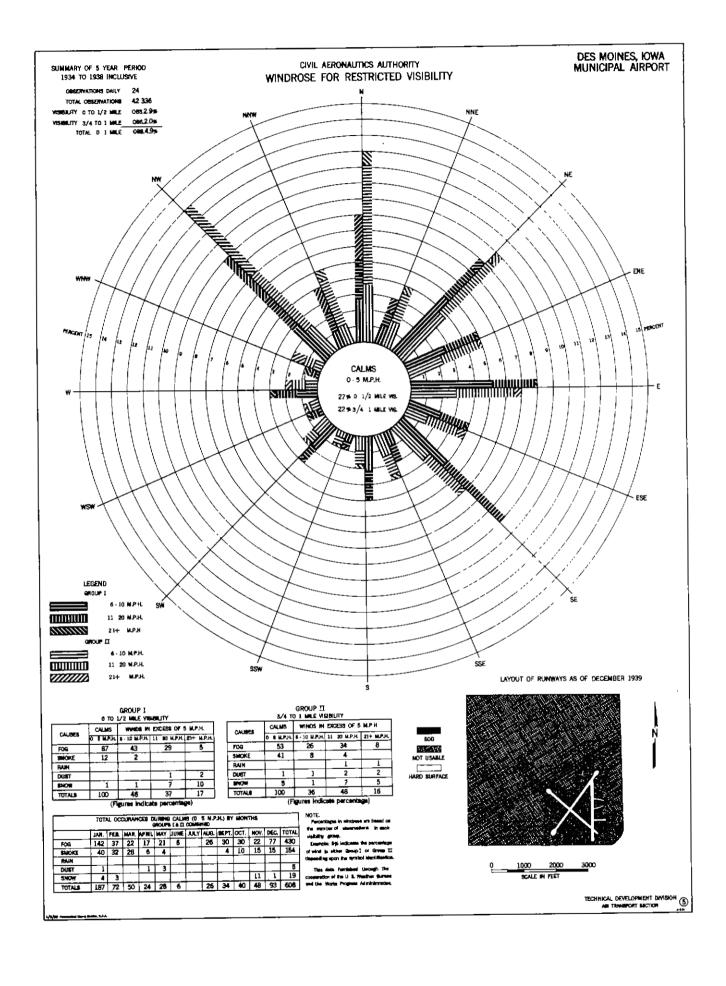
#### **IOWA**

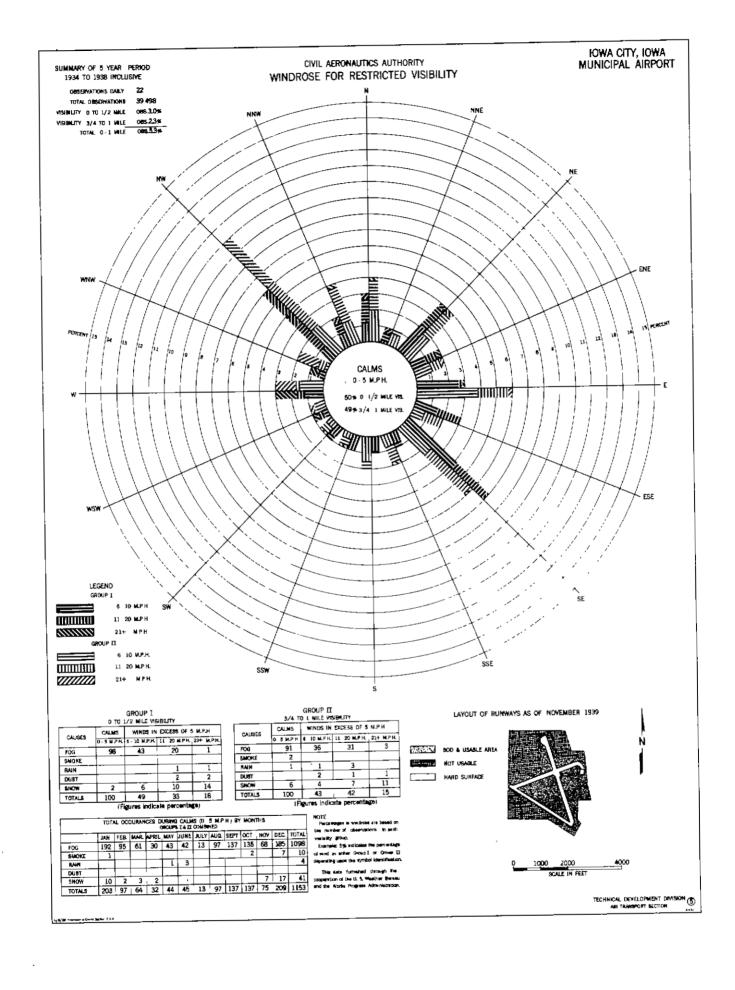
Burlington

Des Moines

Iowa City

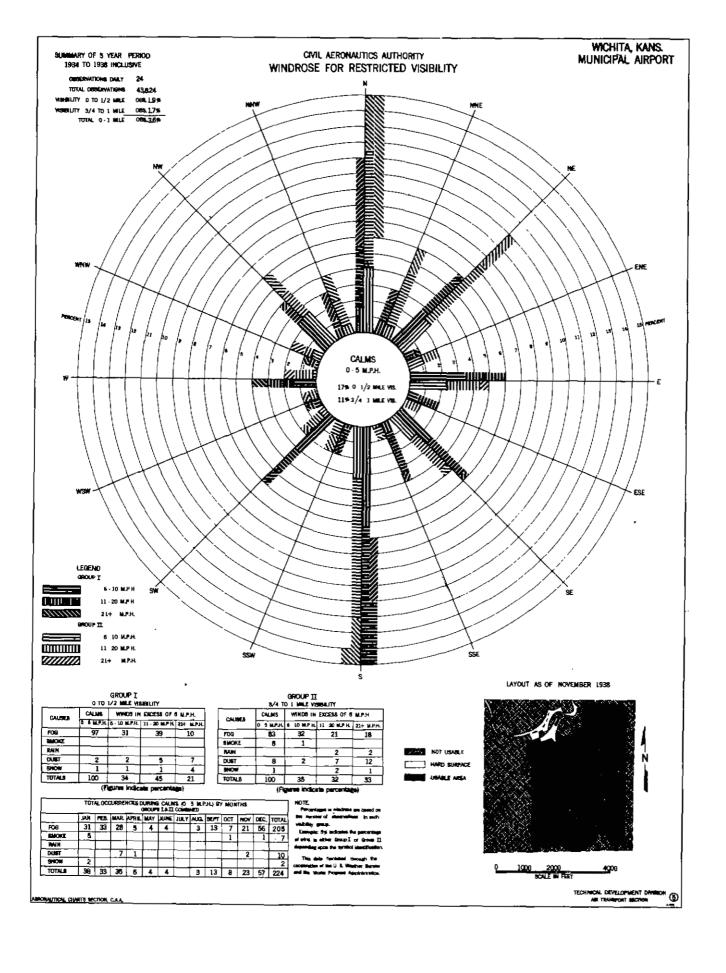






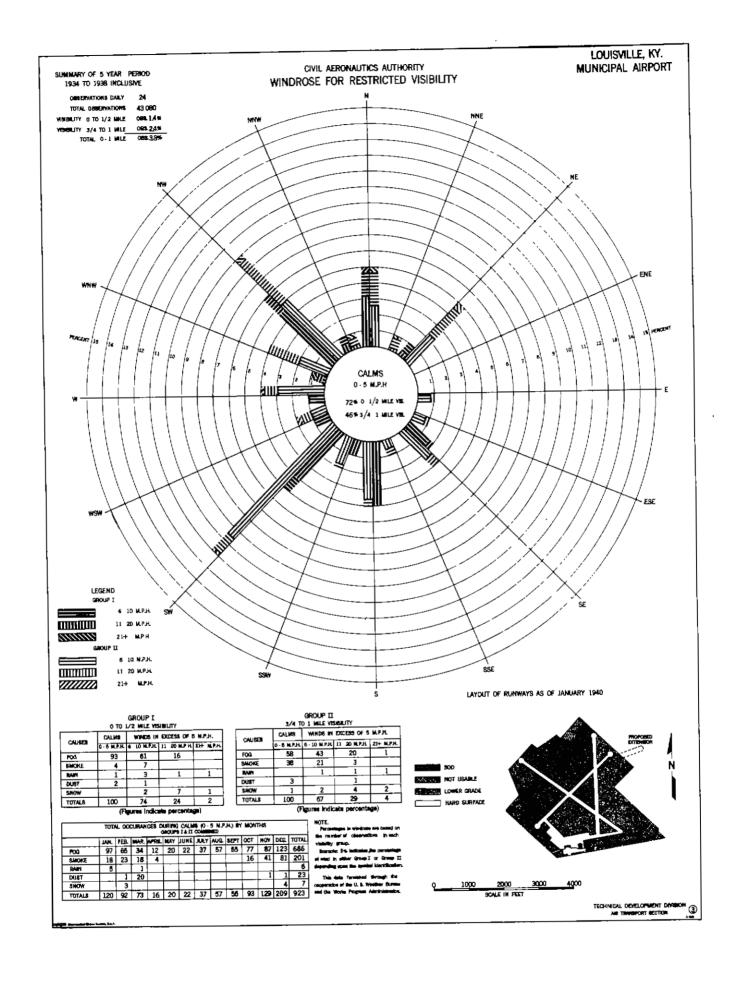
# KANSAS

Wichita



## KENTUCKY

Louisville



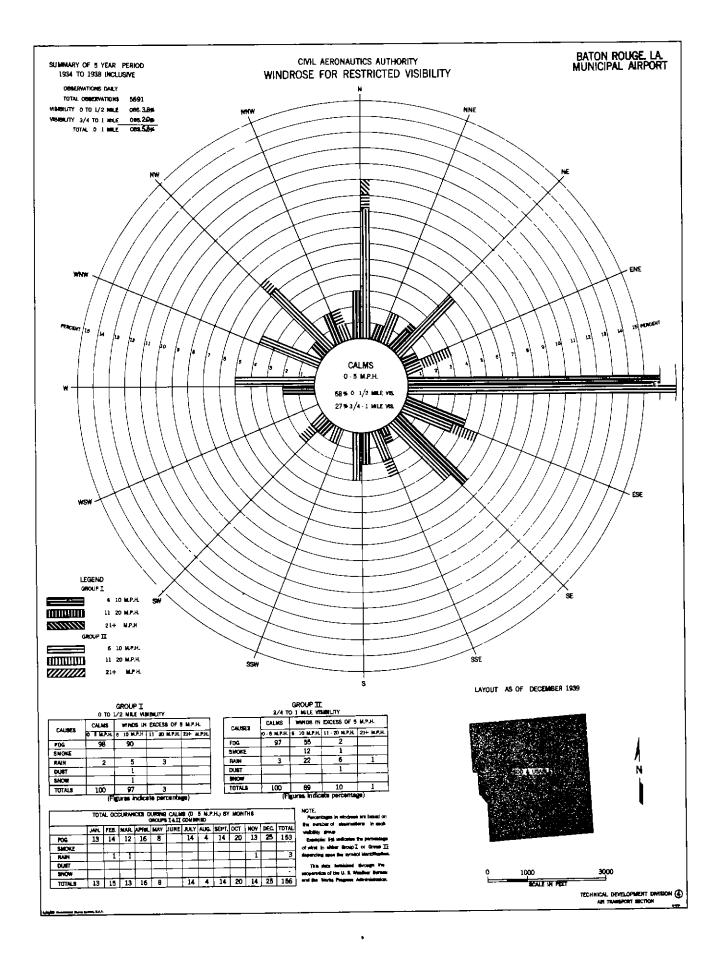
## LOUISIANA

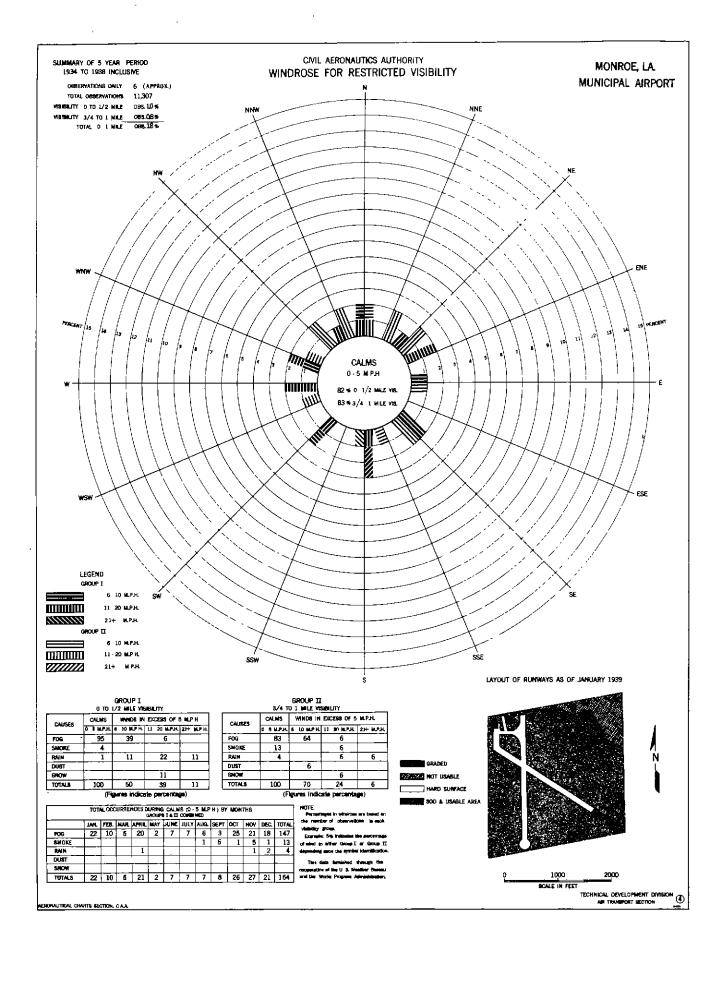
Baton Rouge

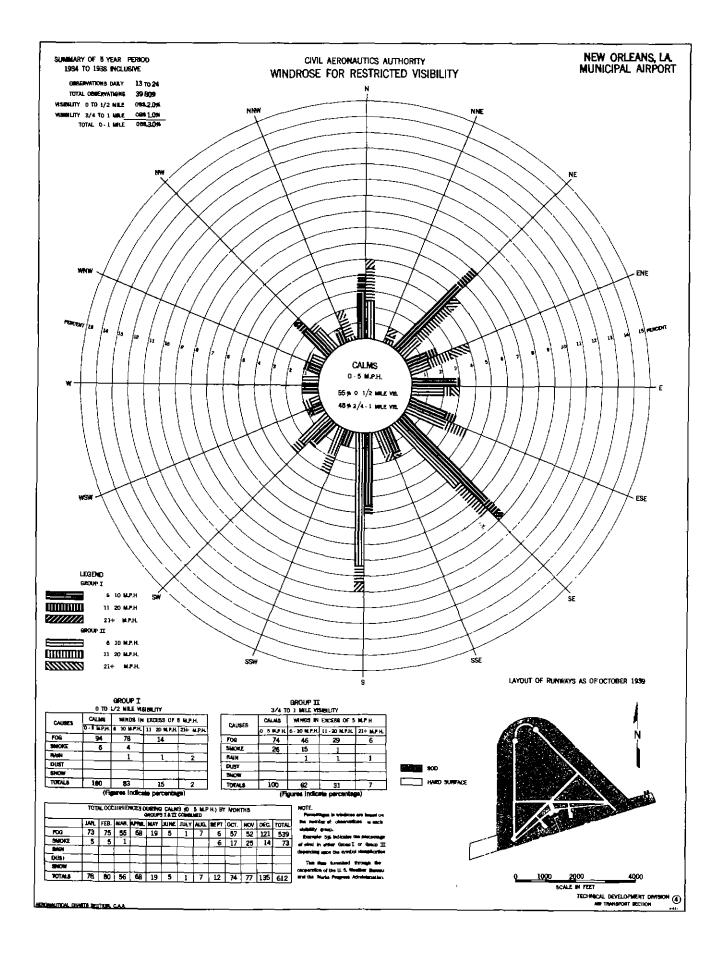
Monroe

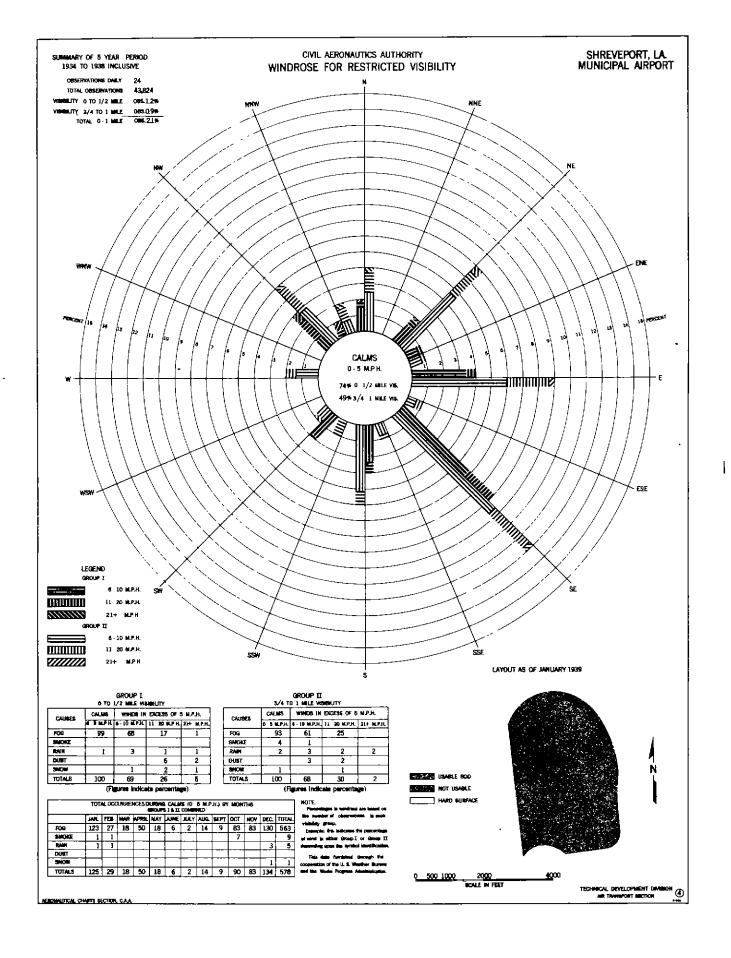
New Orleans

Shreveport





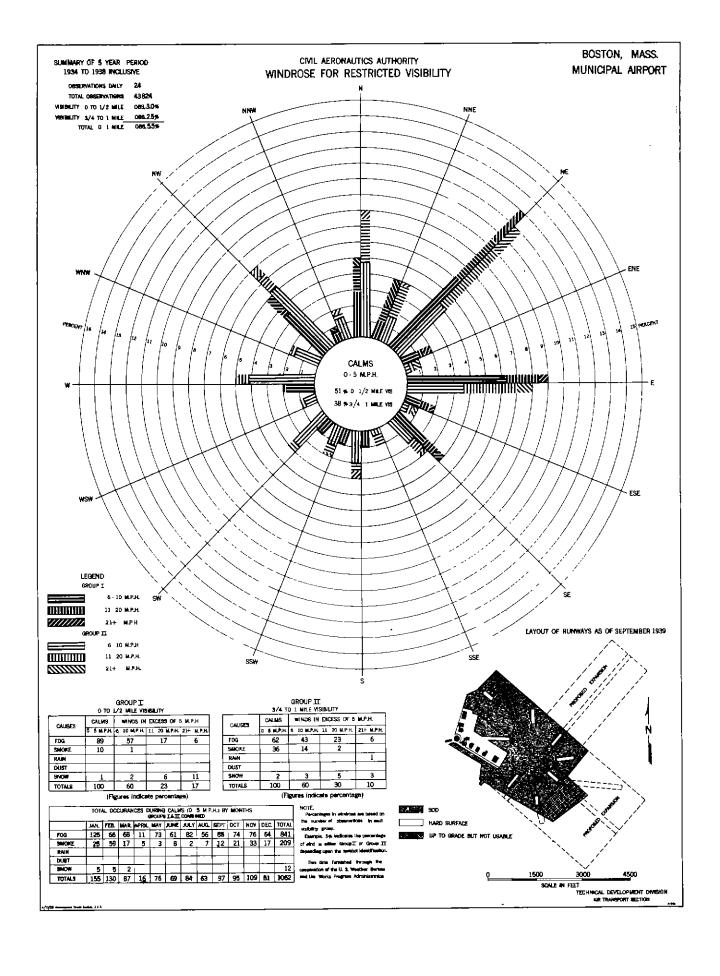


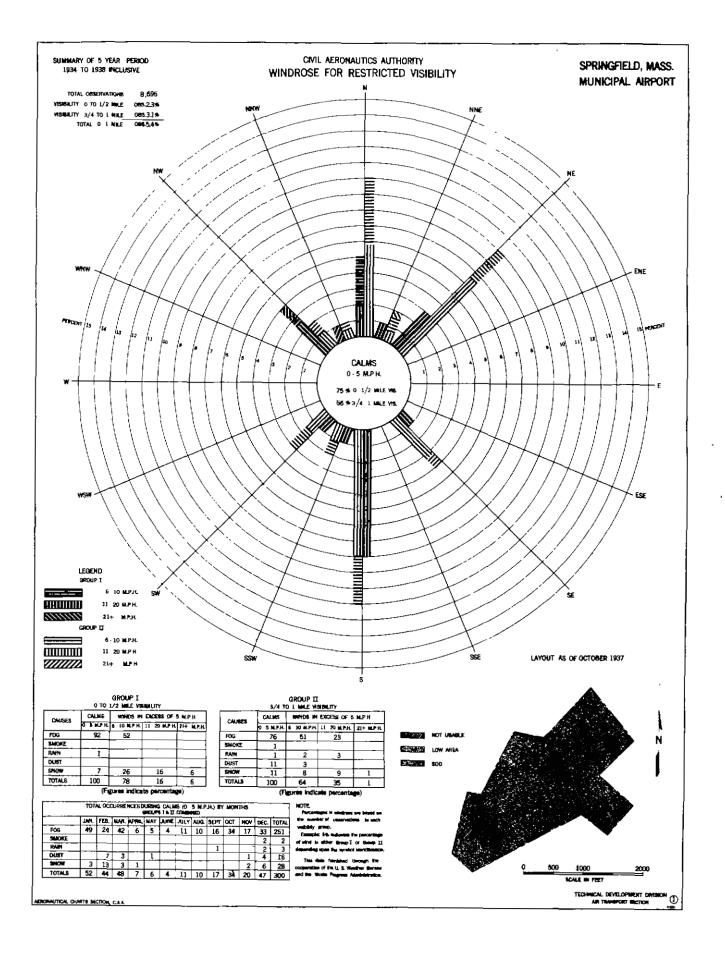


# MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

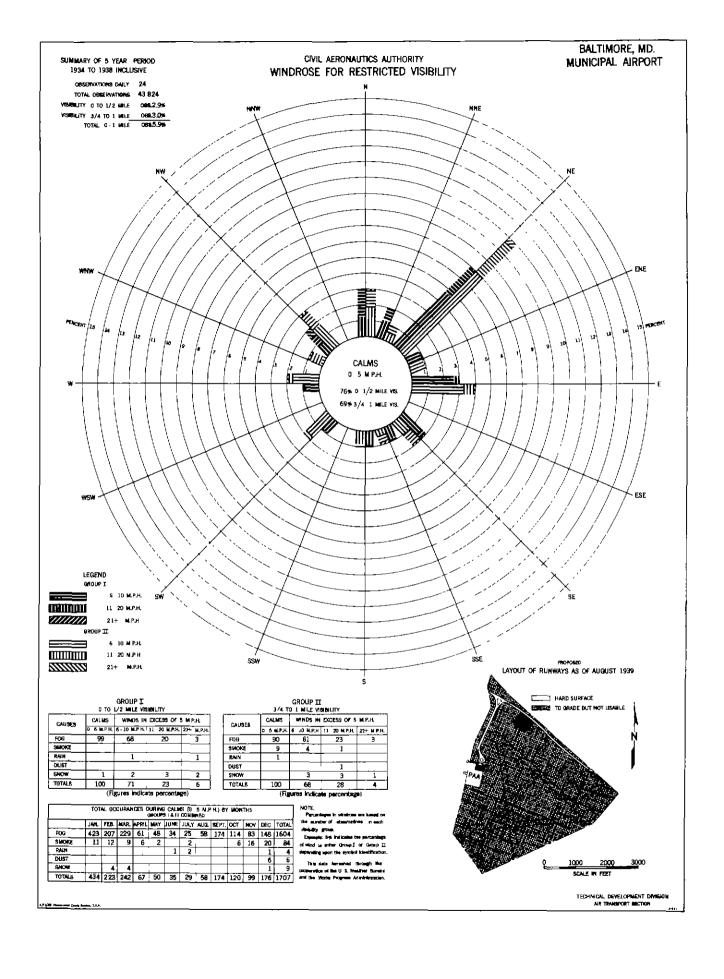
Springfield





# MARYLAND

Baltimore



## MAINE

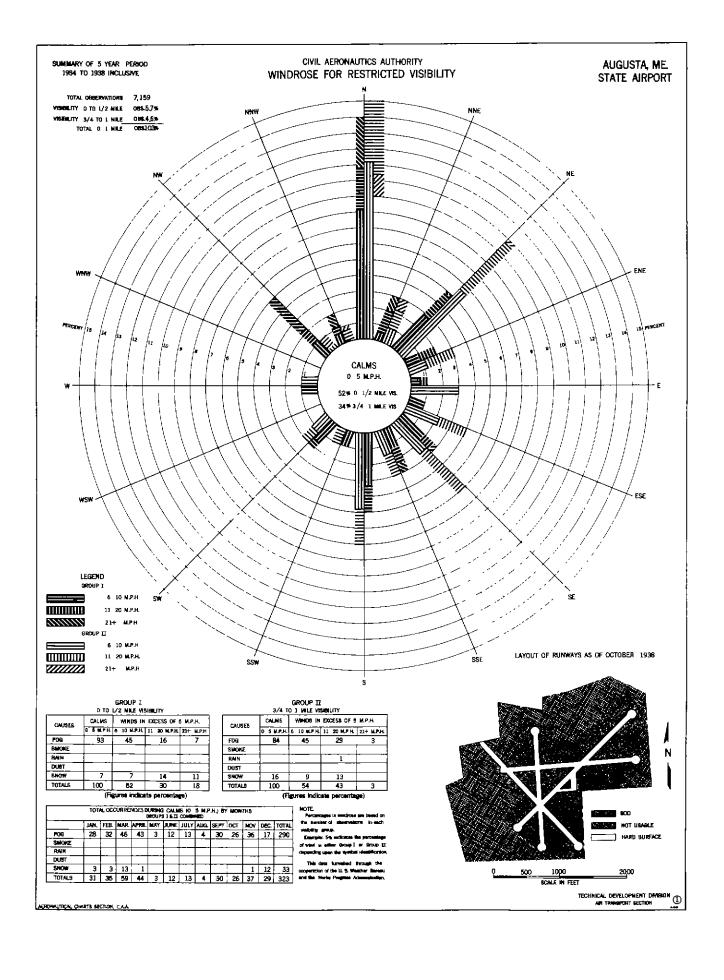
Augusta

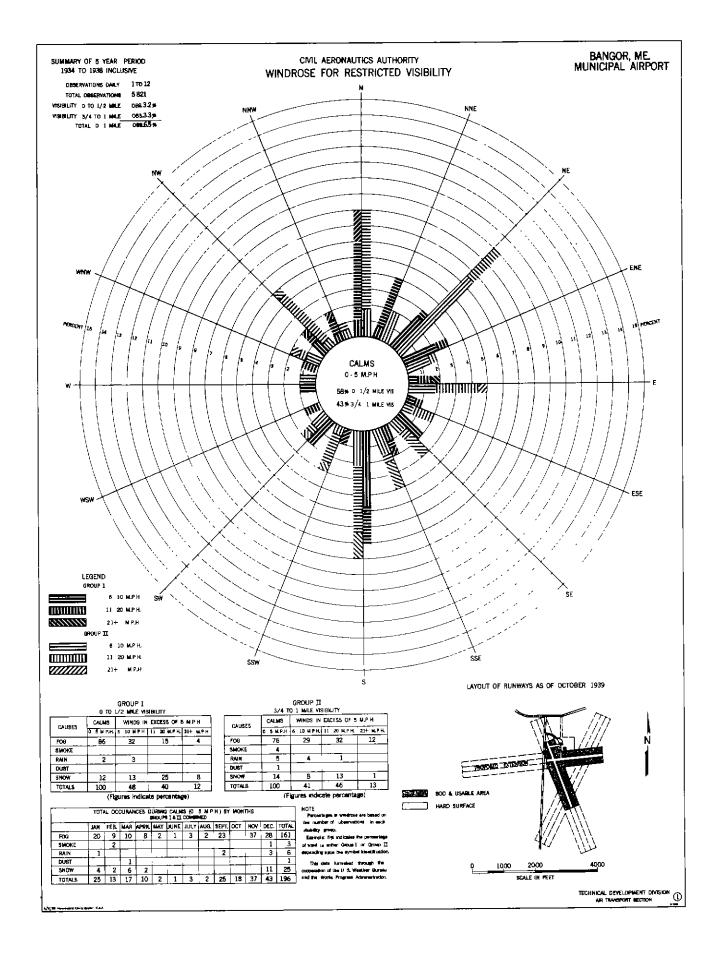
Bangor

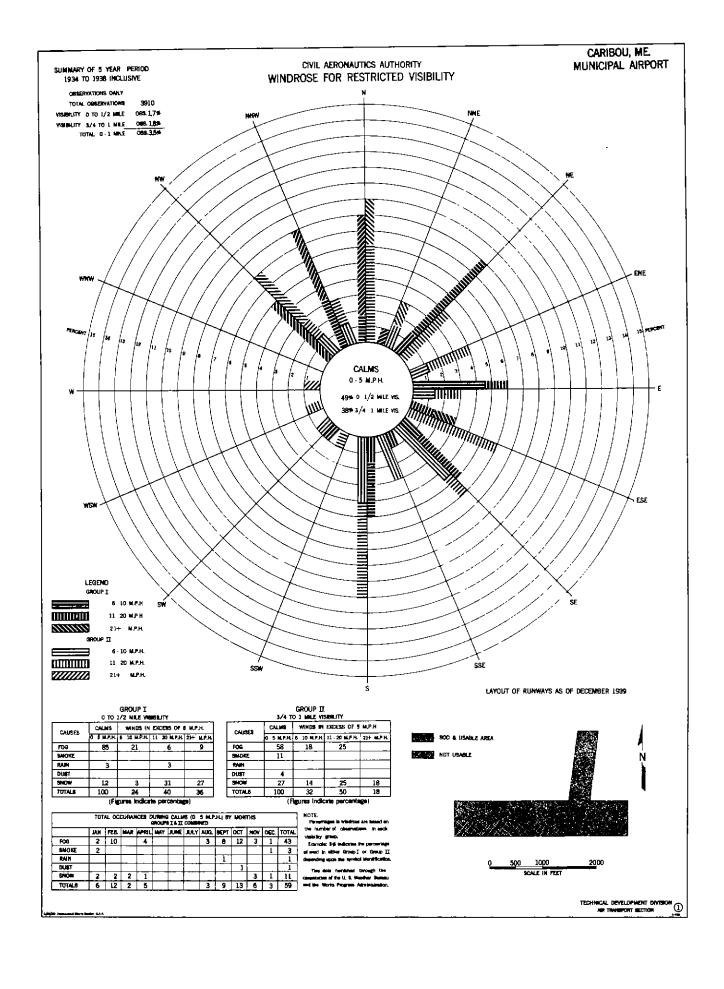
Caribou

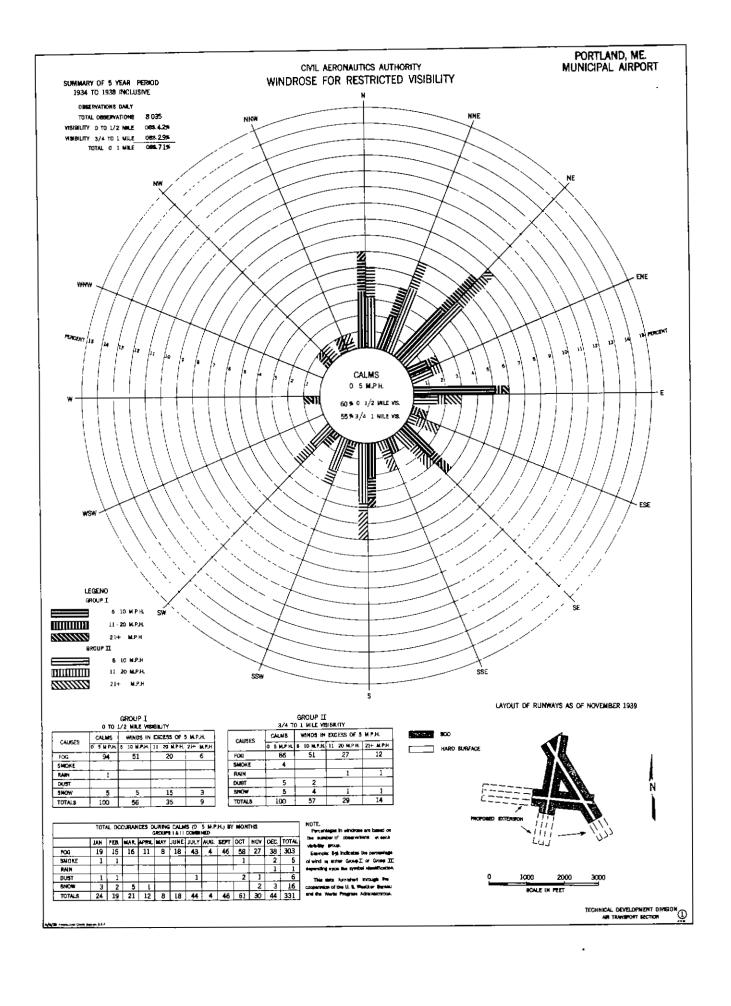
Portland

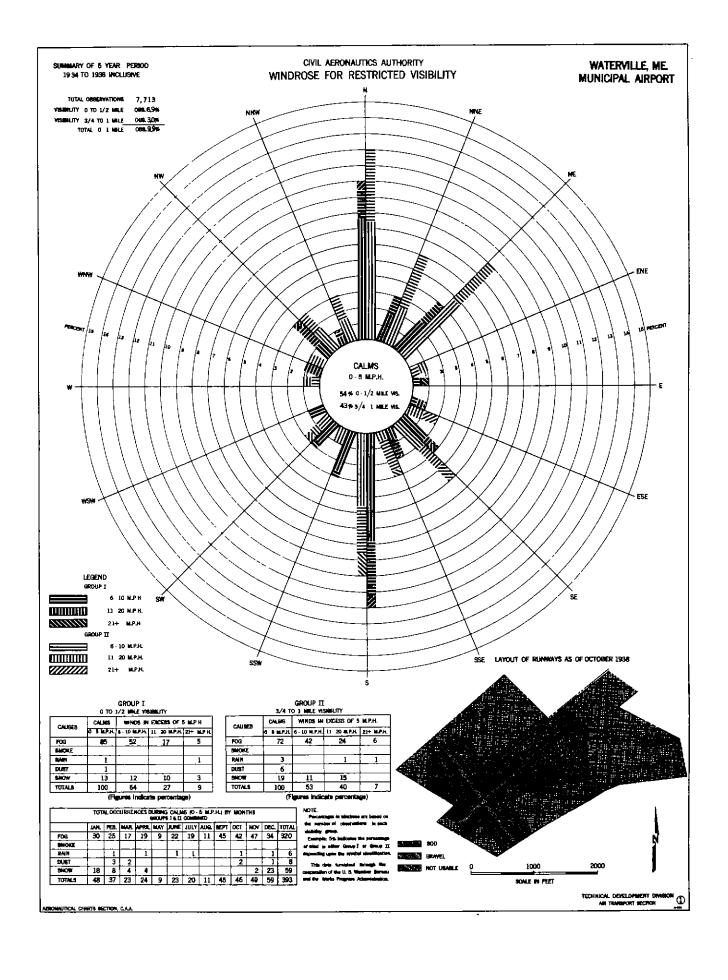
Waterville











# **MICHIGAN**

Detroit (City Airport)

Detroit (Wayne County Airport)

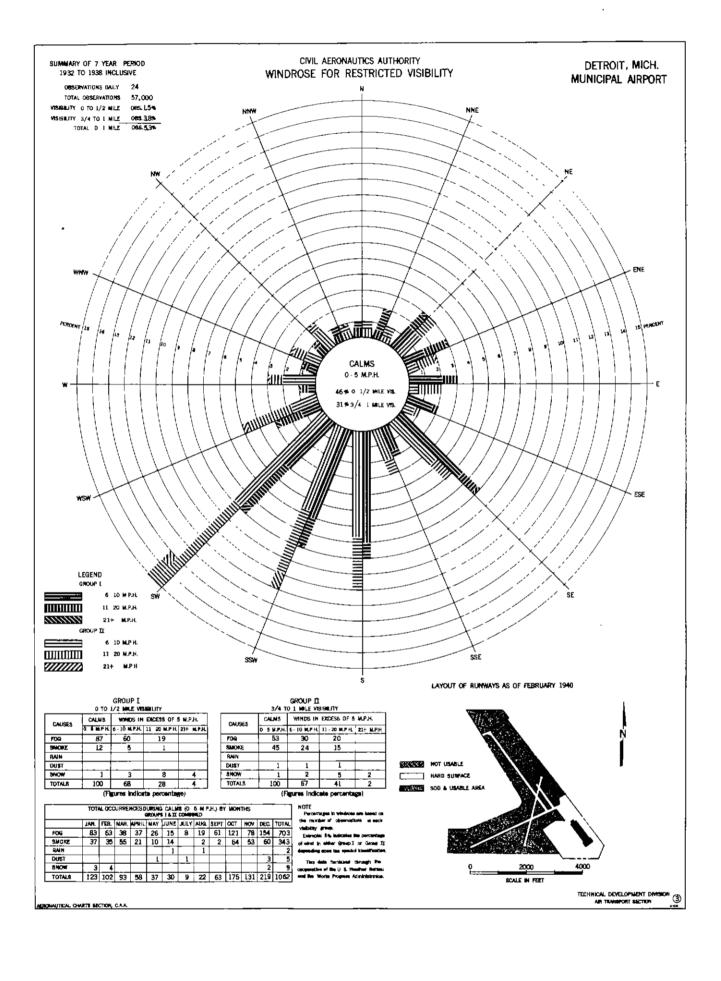
Flint

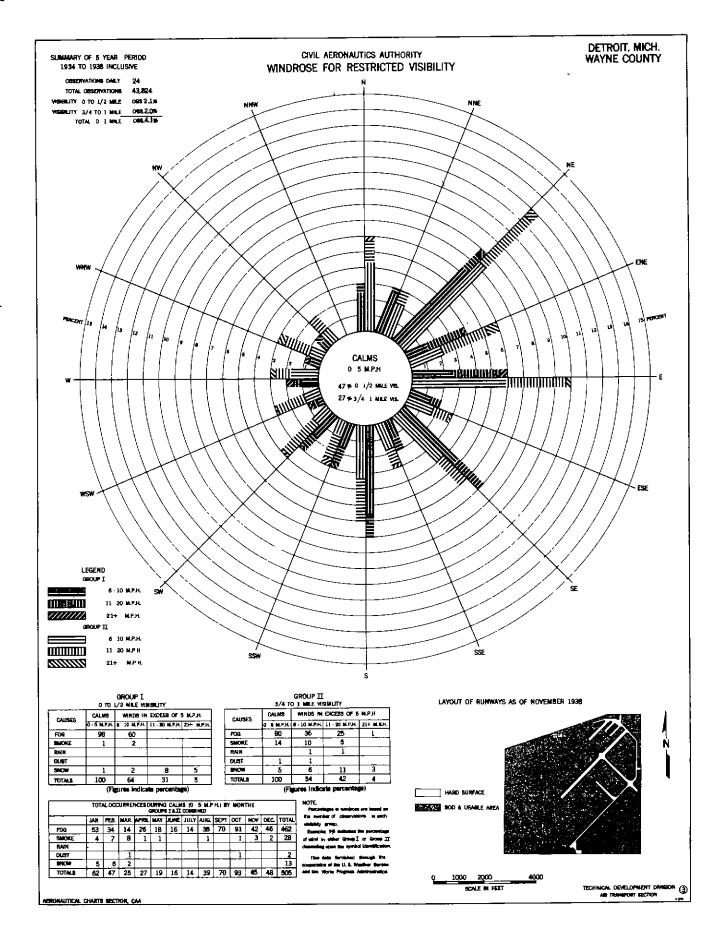
Grand Rapids

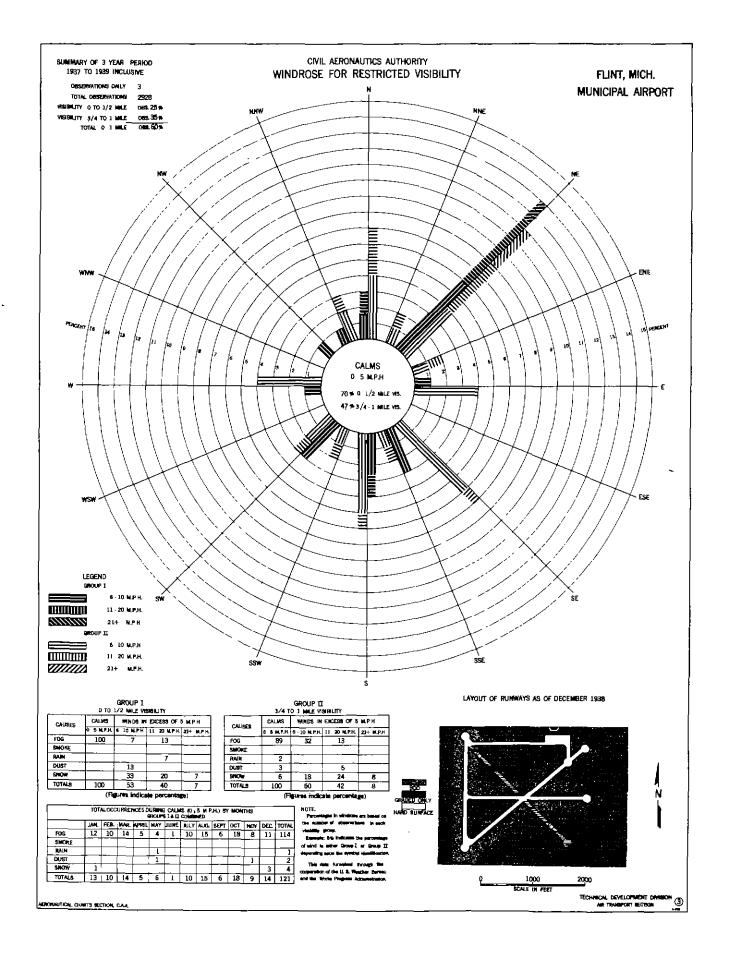
Lansing

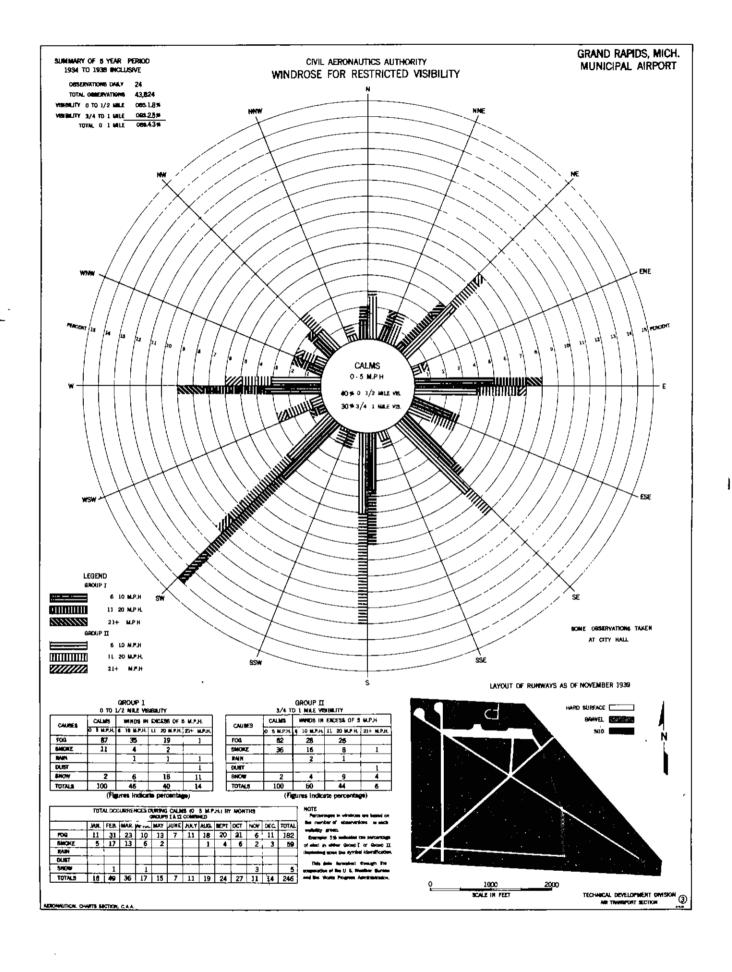
Muskegon

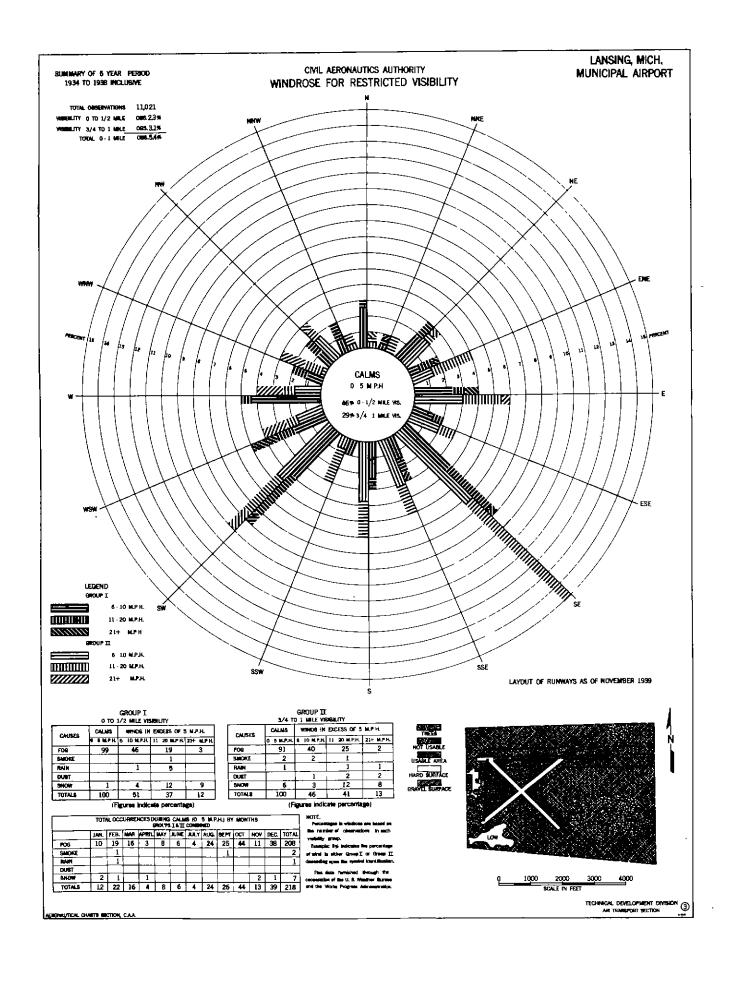
Sault Ste. Marie

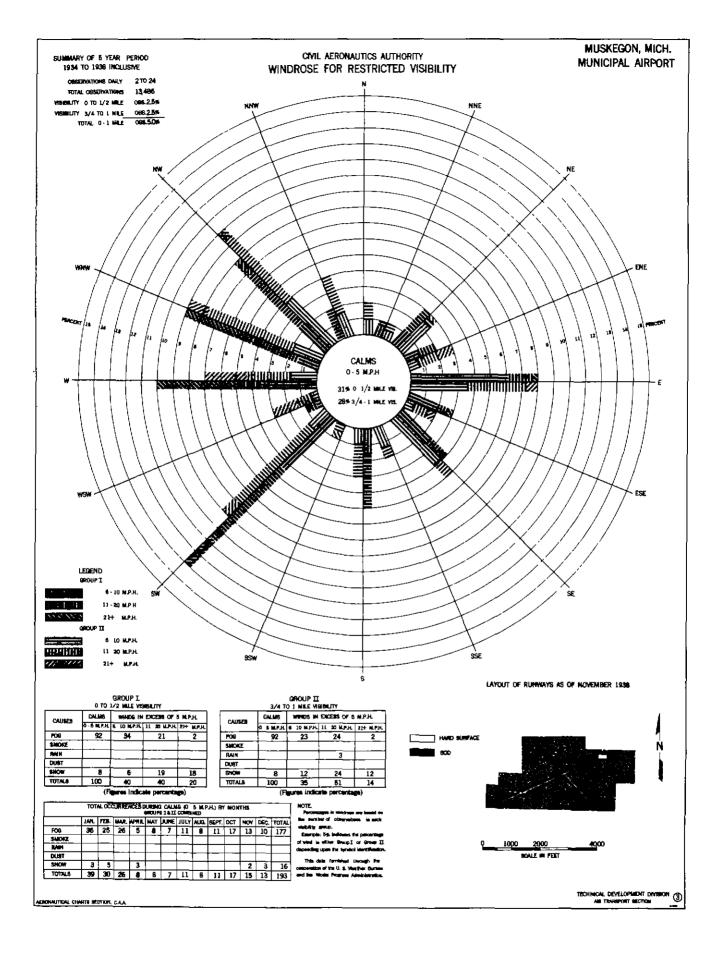


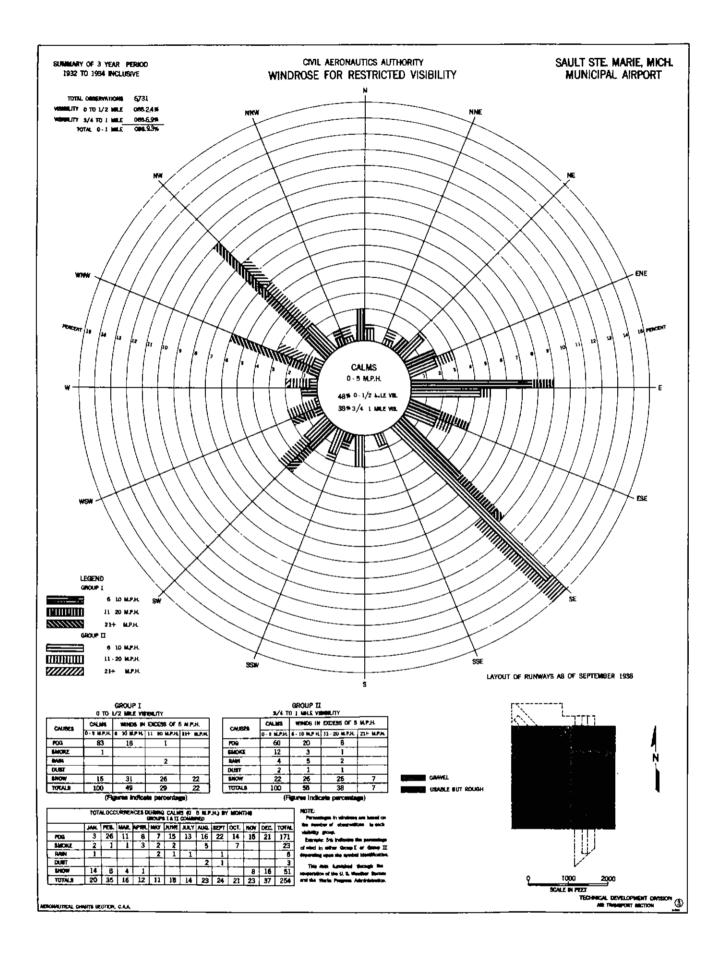










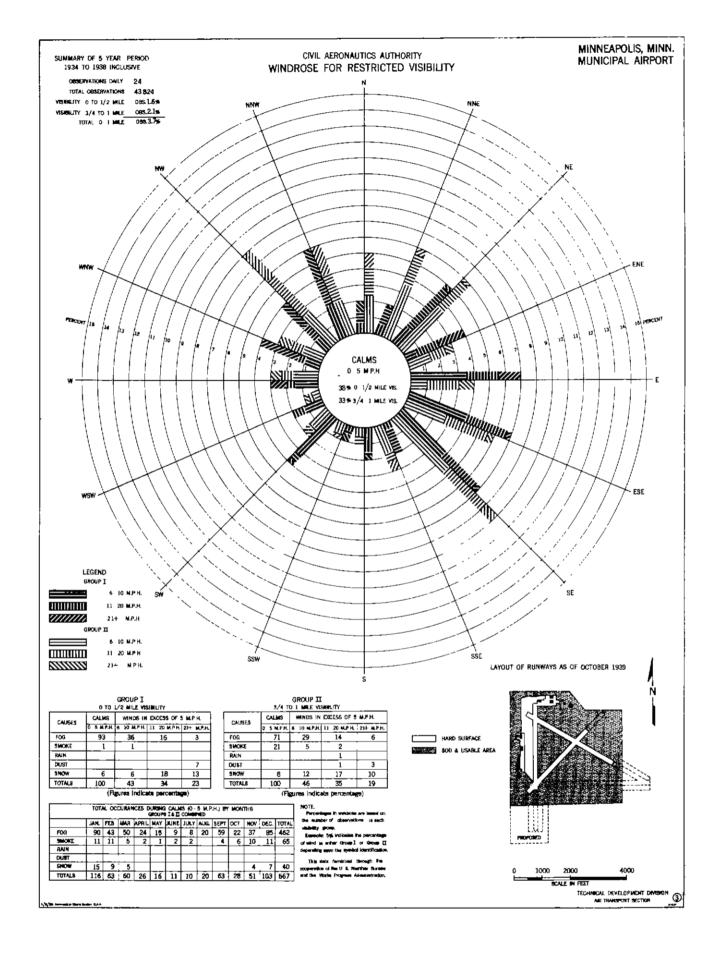


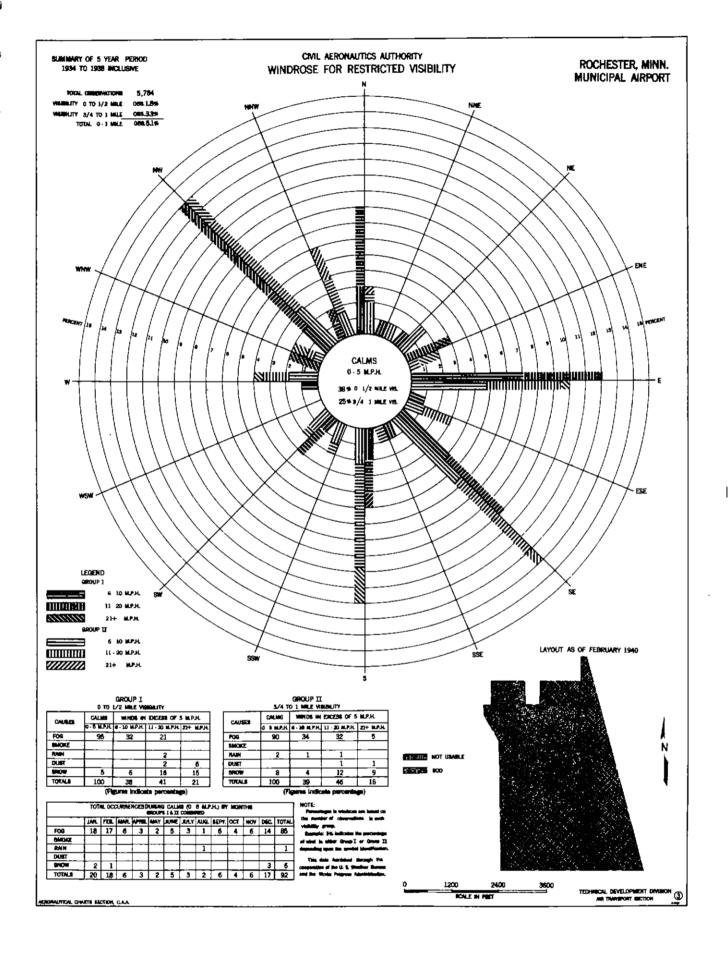
#### **MINNESOTA**

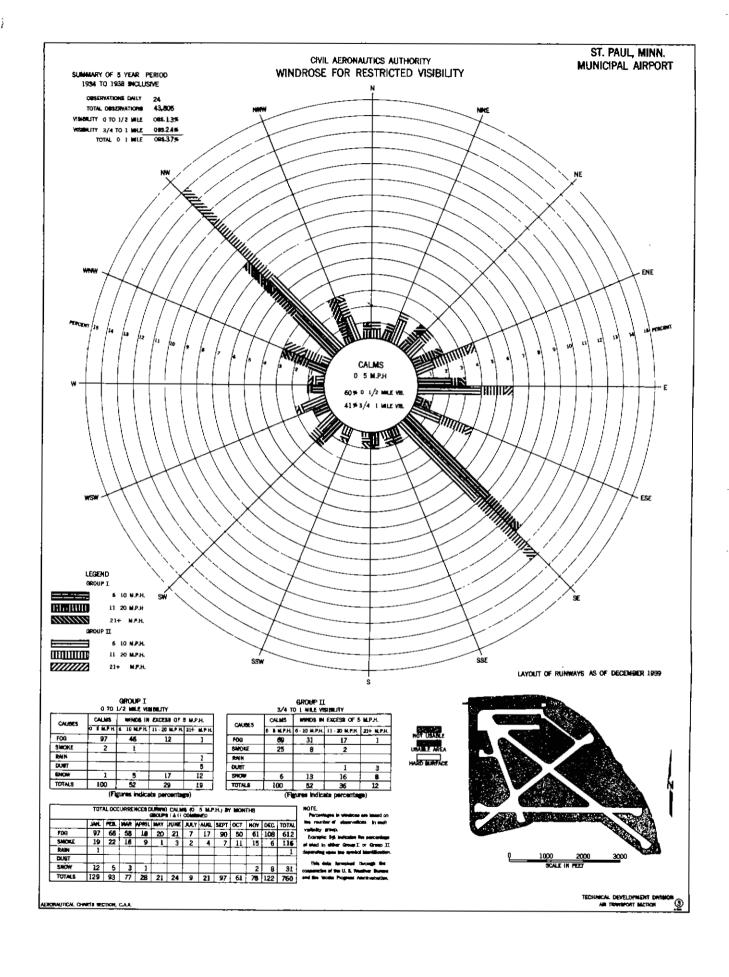
Minneapolis

Rochester

St. Paul



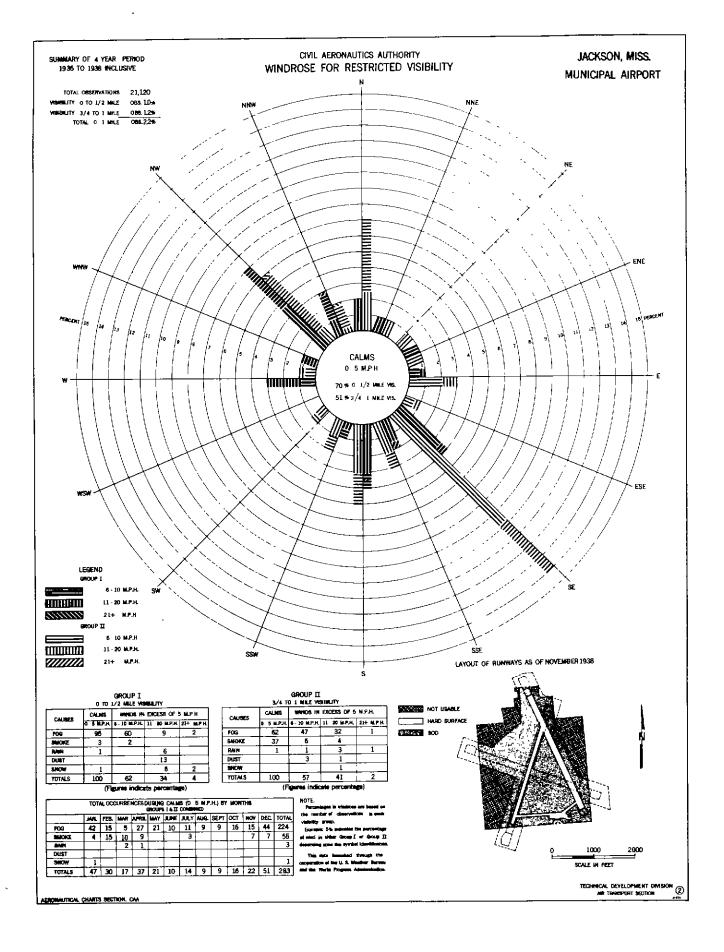


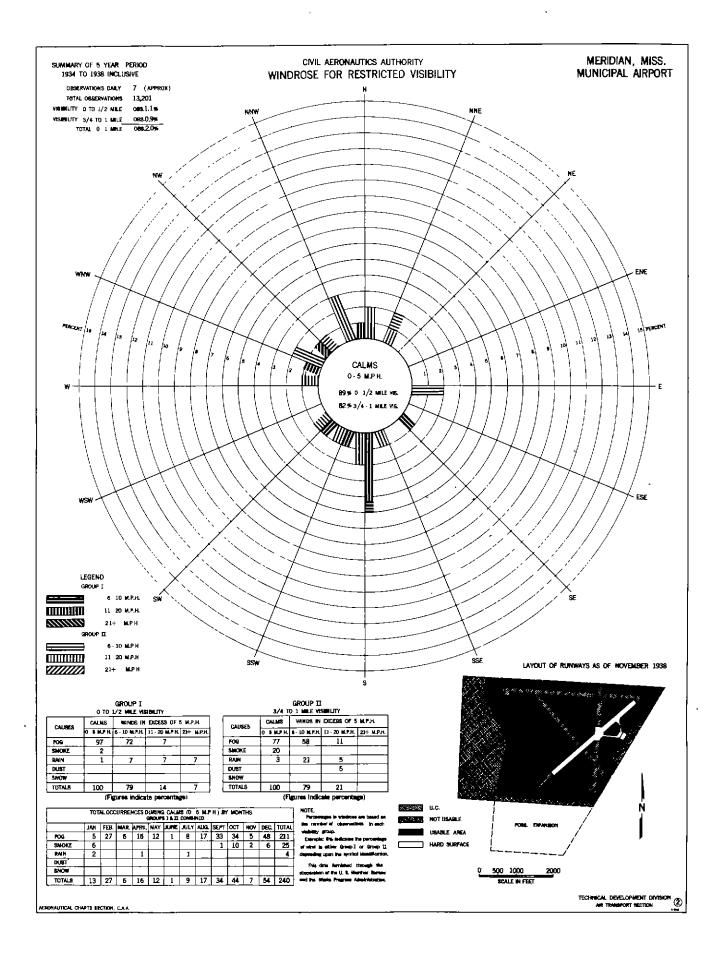


# MISSISSIPPI

Jackson

Meridian





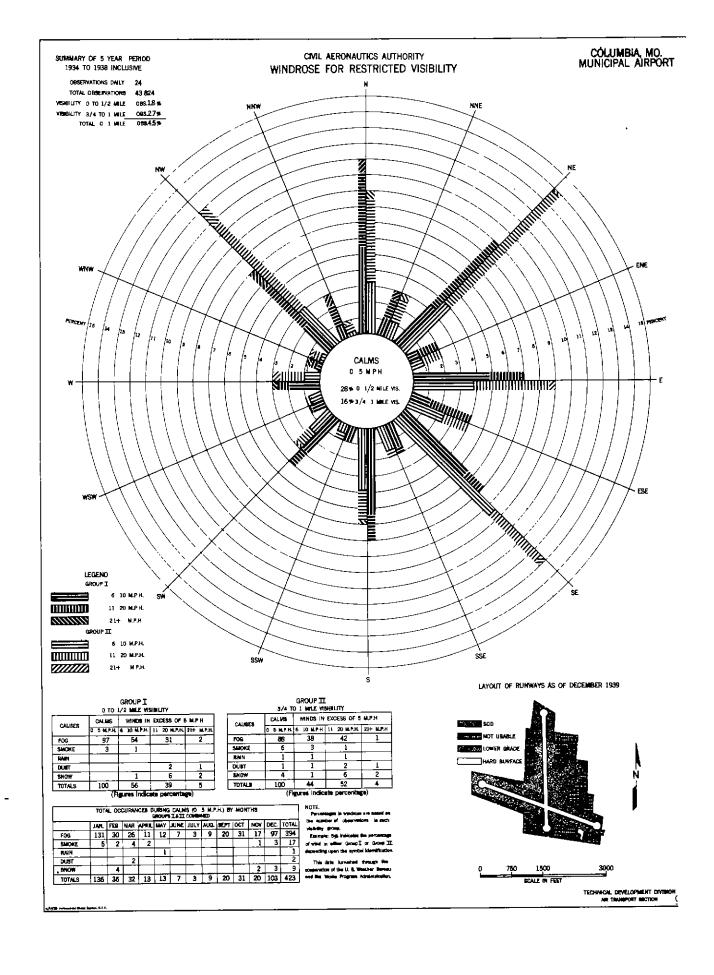
## MISSOURI

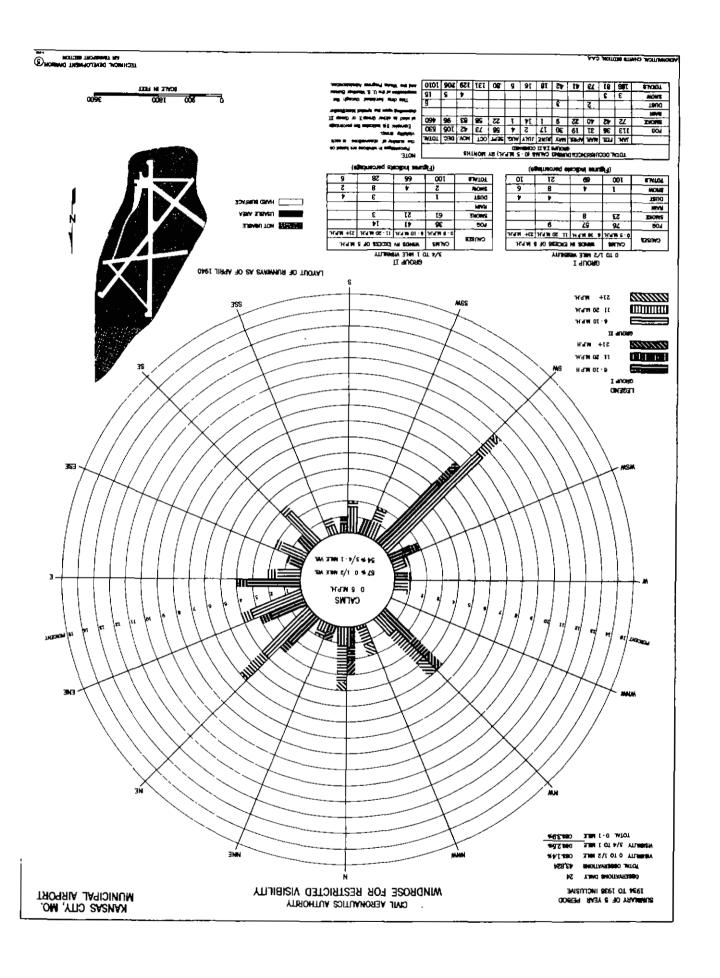
Columbia

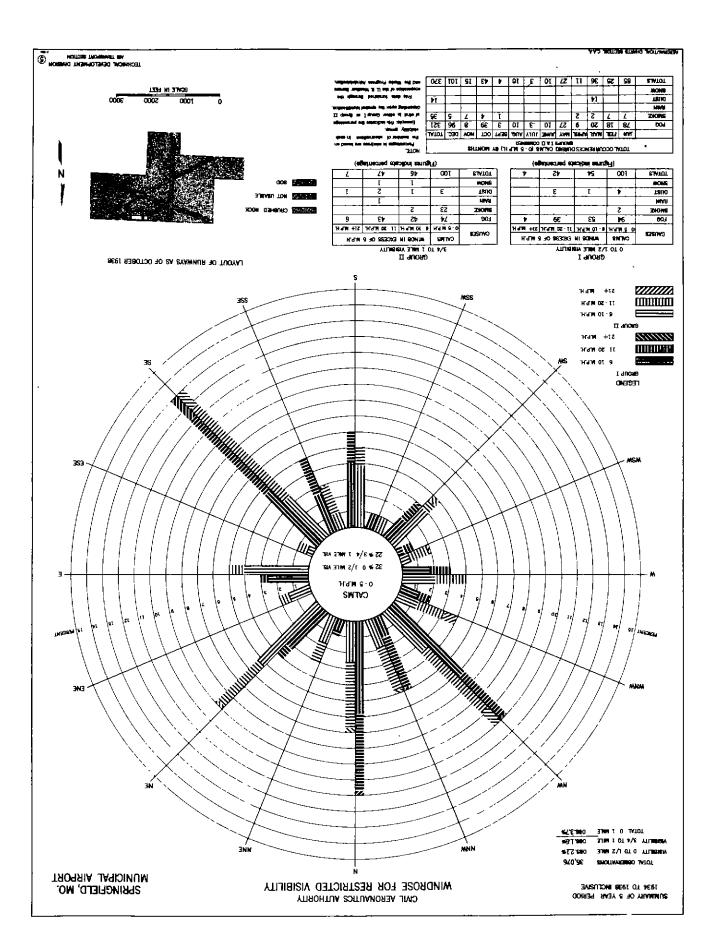
Kansas City

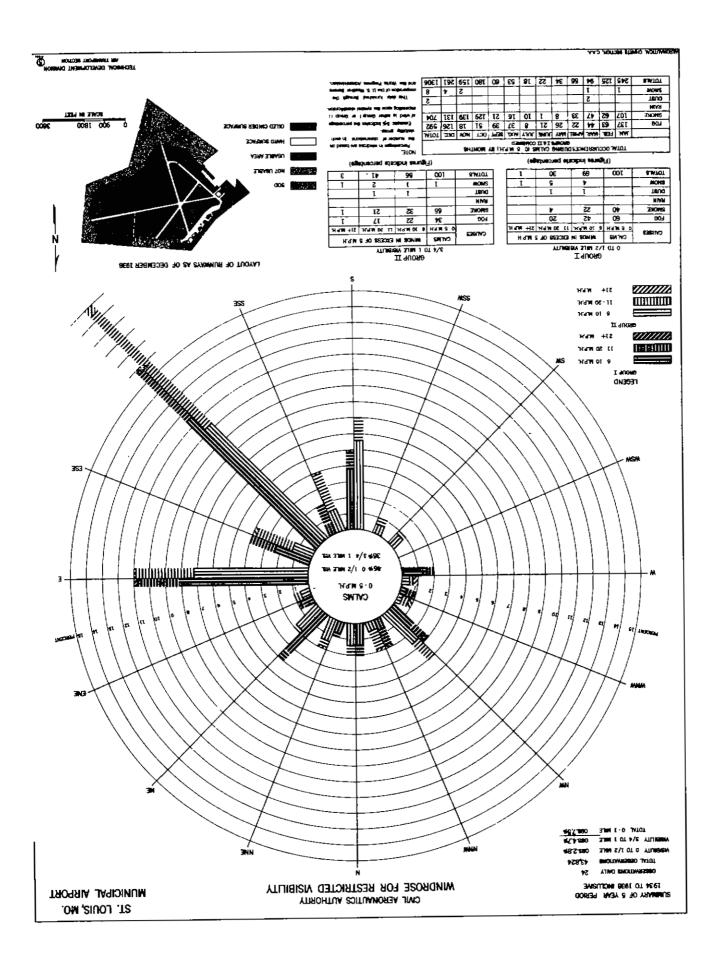
Springfield

St. Louis









# MONTANA

The state of the s

Billings

Butte

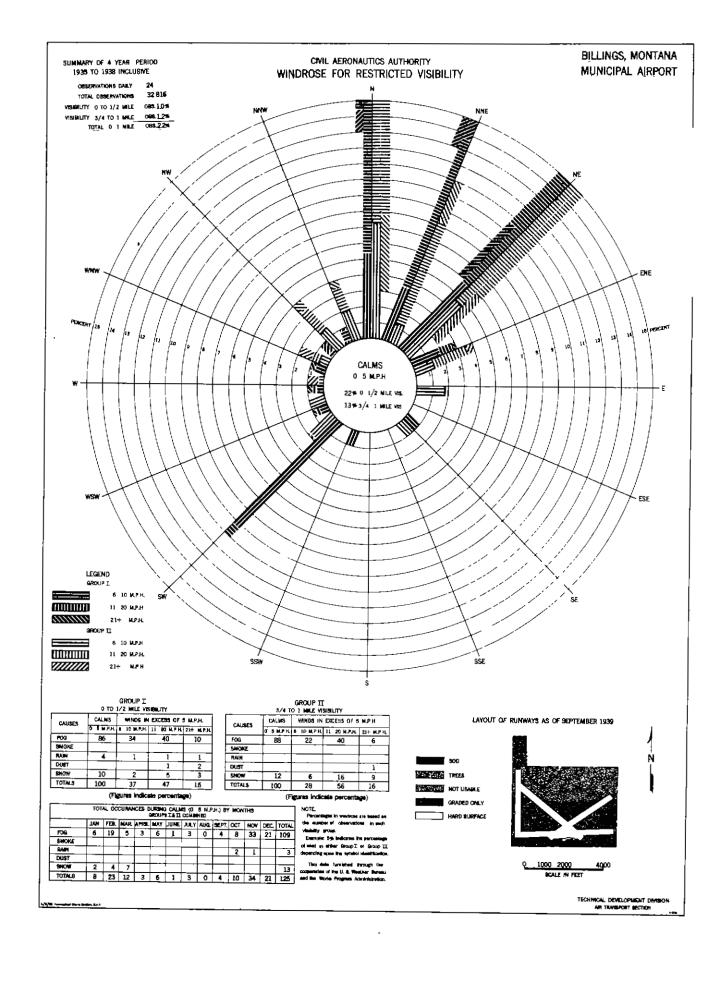
Great Falls

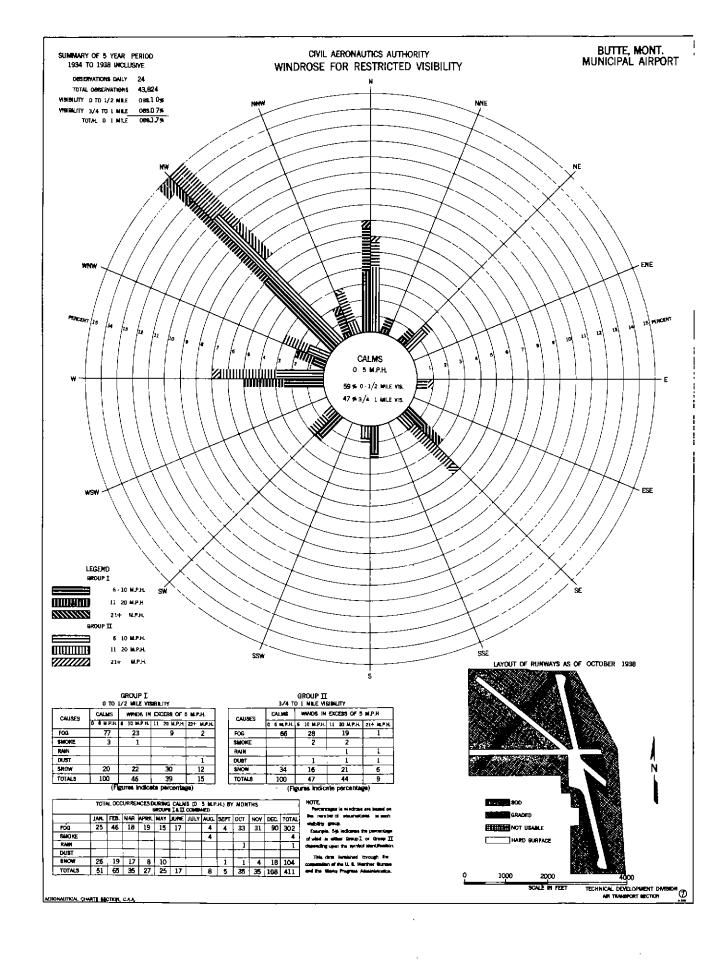
Helena

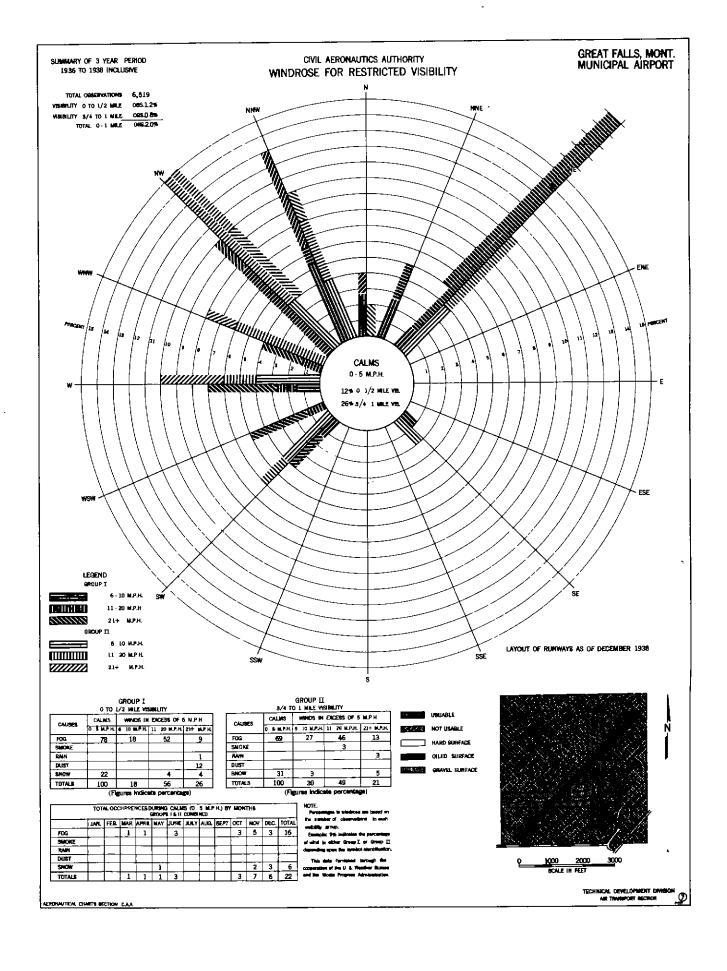
Lewistown

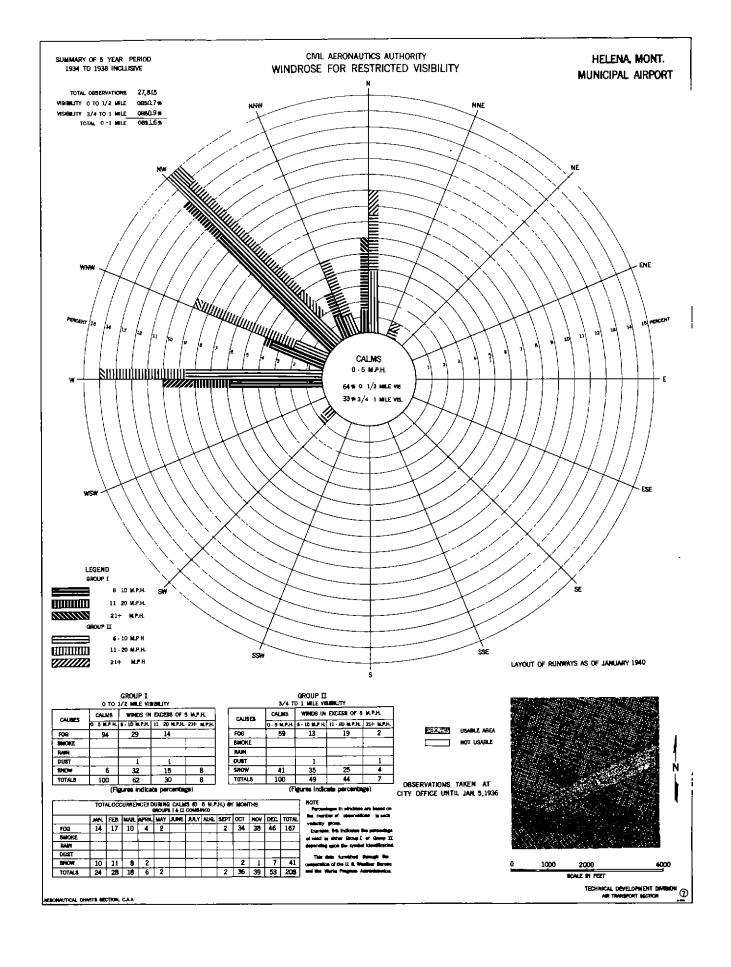
Miles City

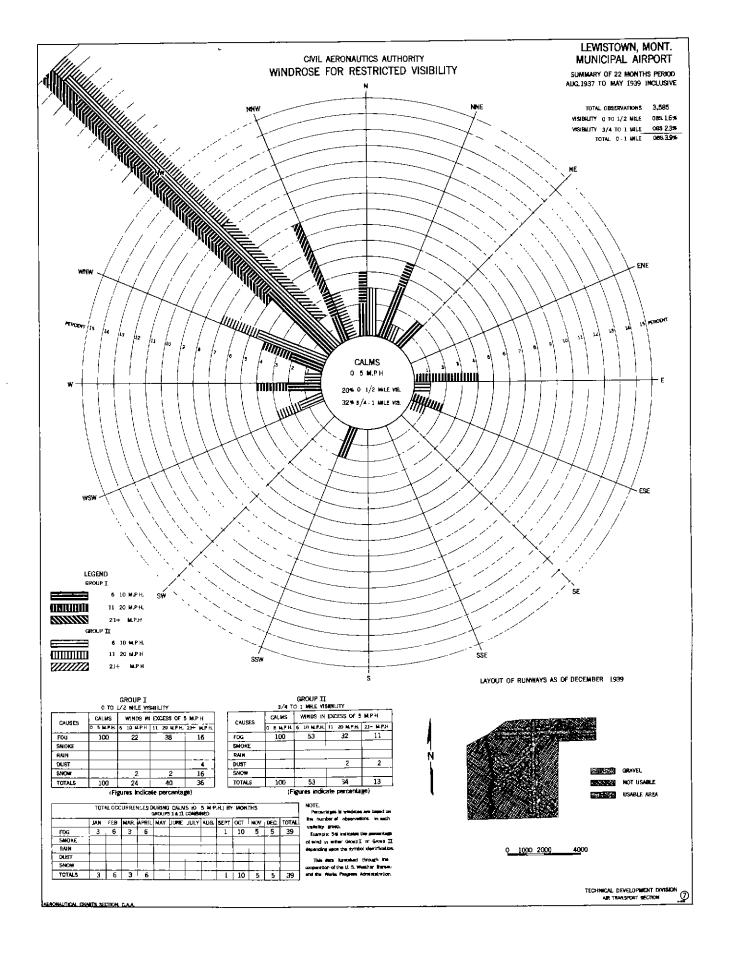
Missoula

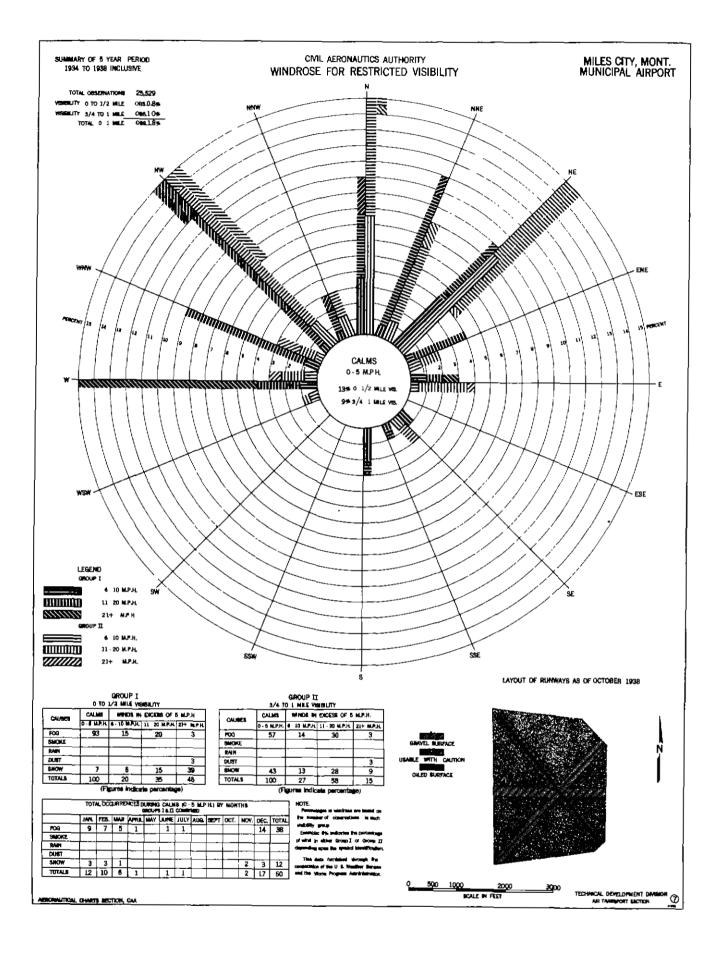


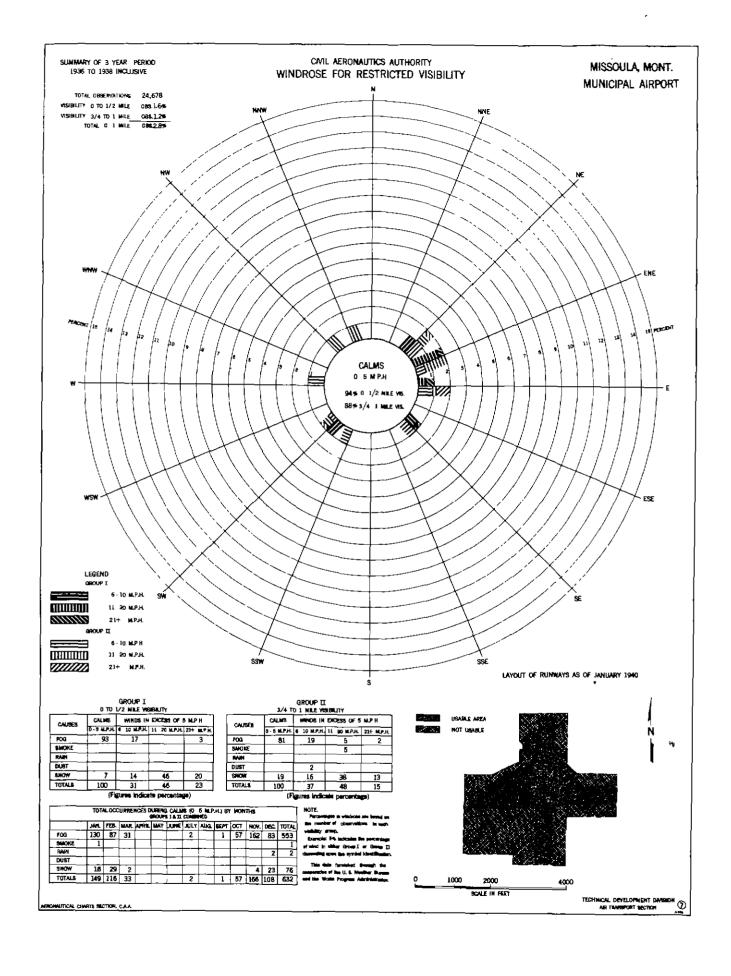










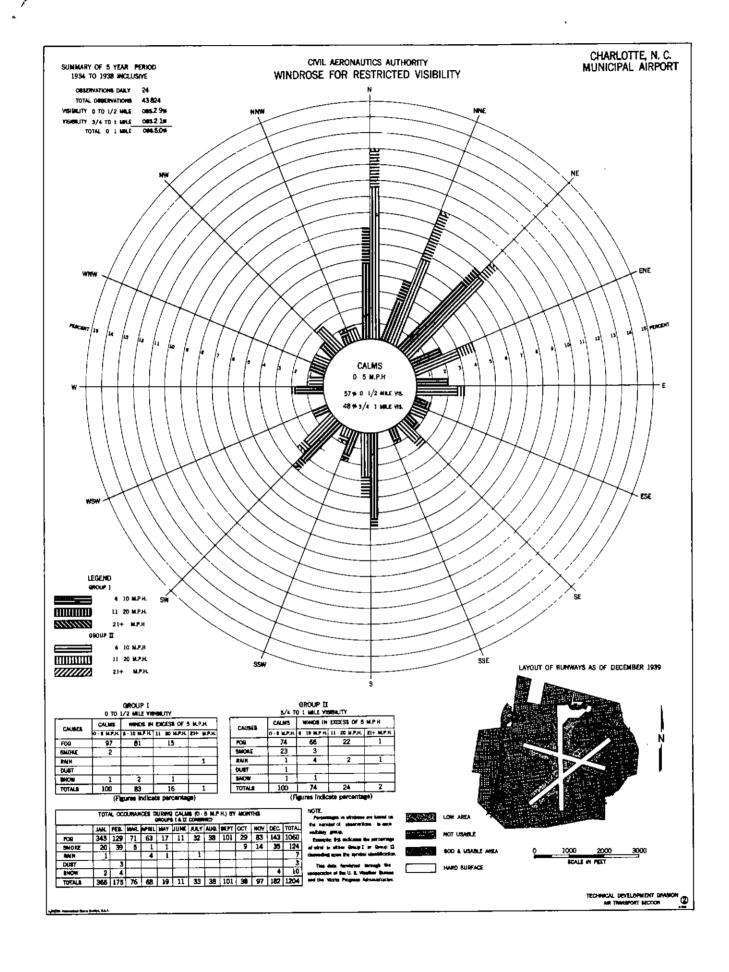


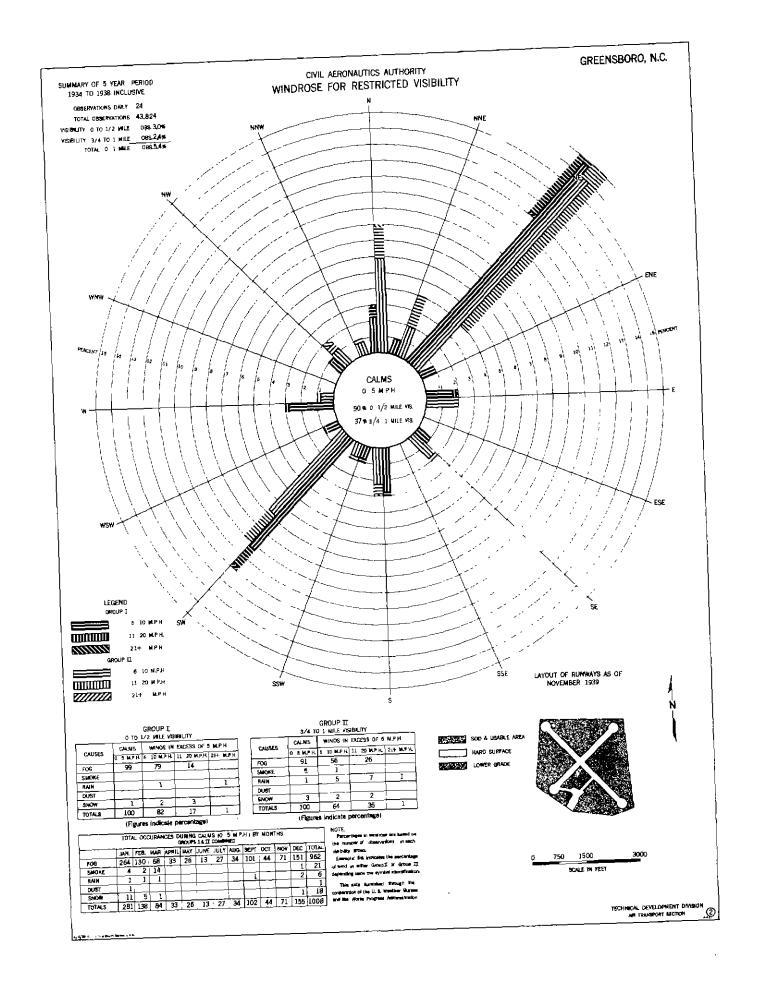
### NORTH CAROLINA

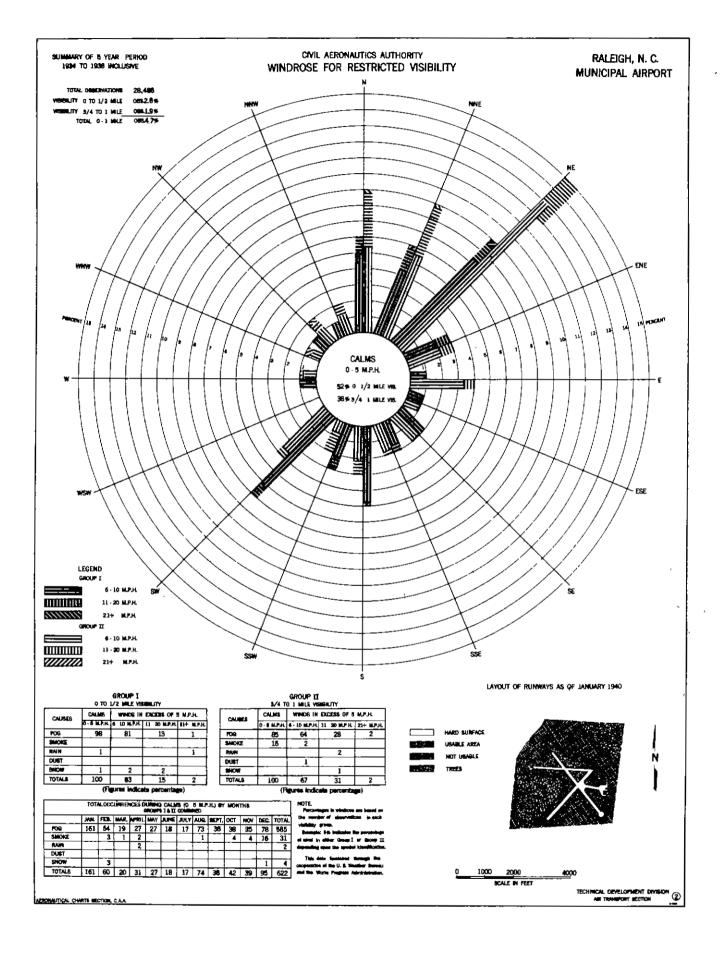
Charlotte

Greensboro

Raleigh





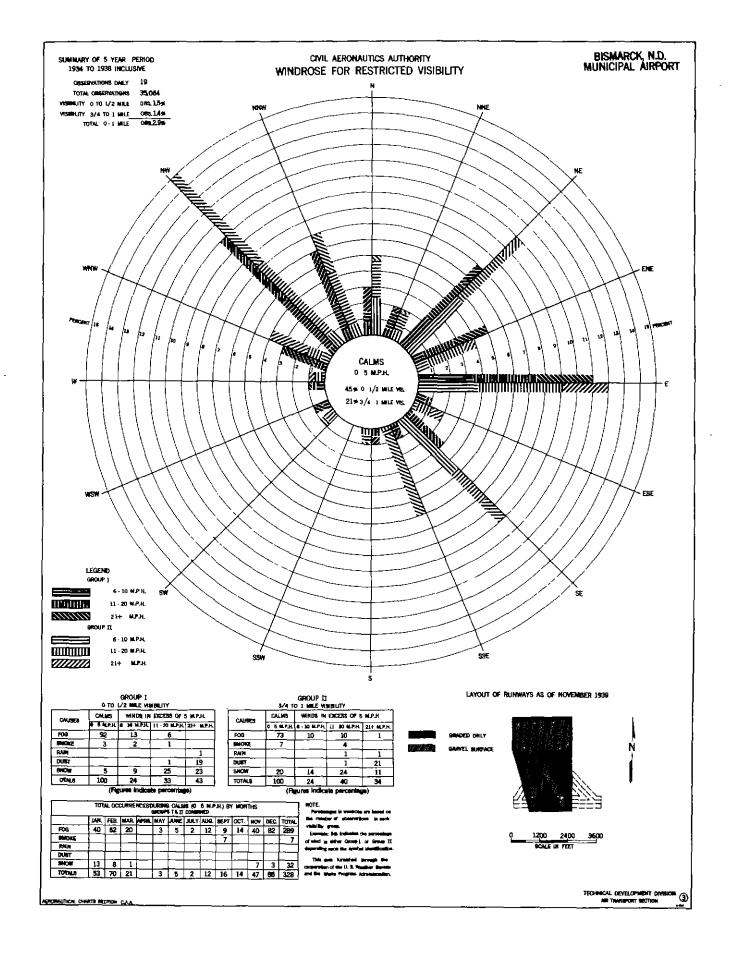


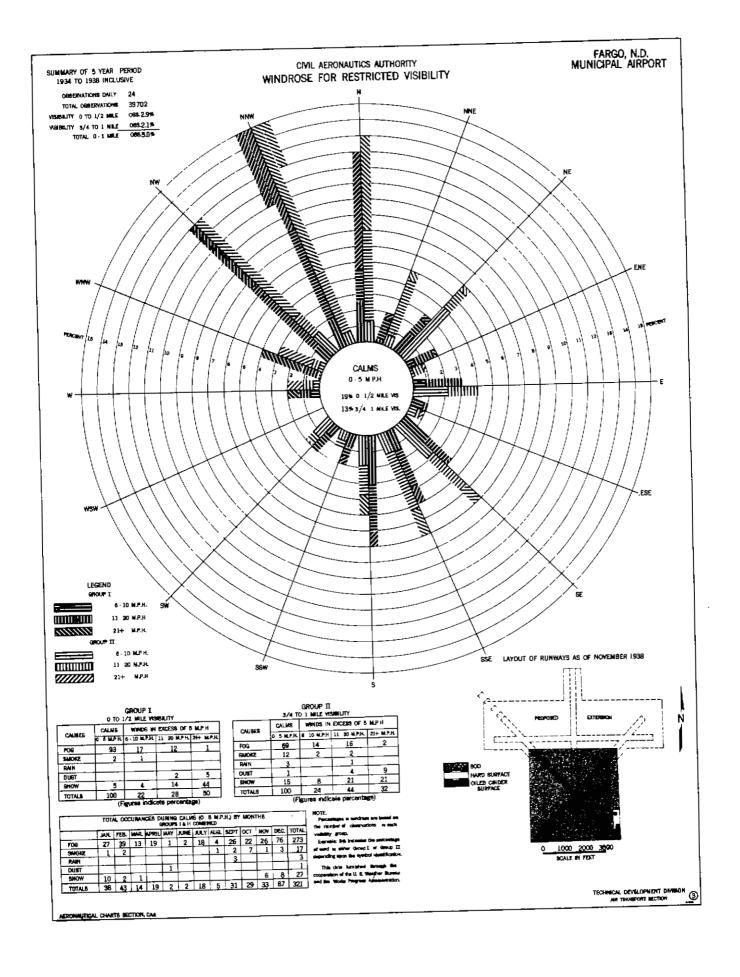
### NORTH DAKOTA

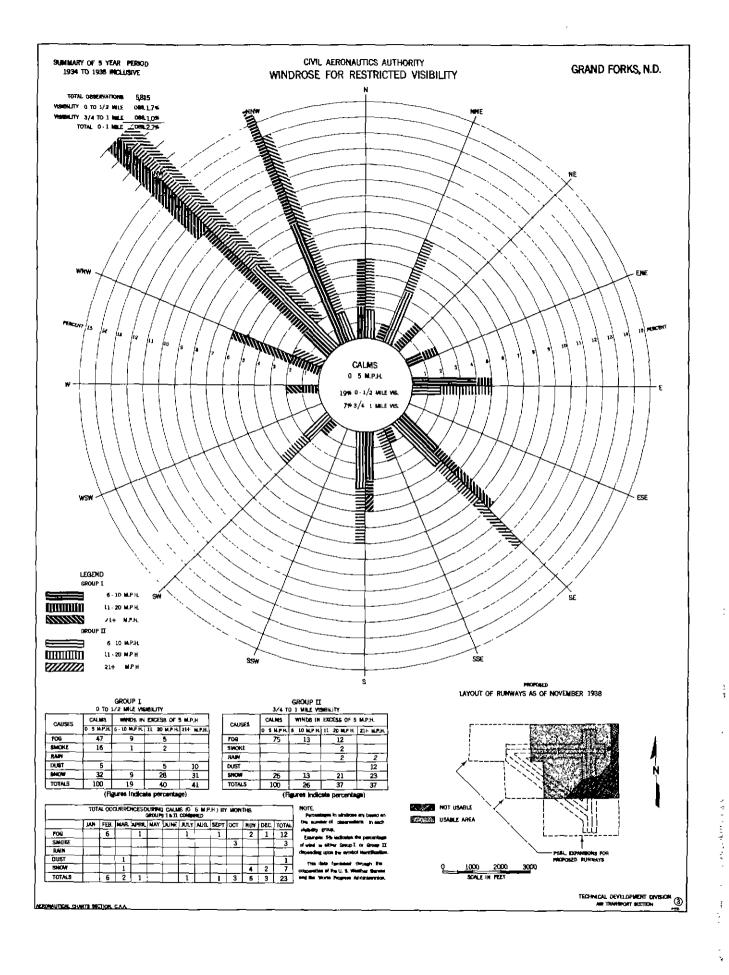
Bismarck

Fargo

Grand Forks





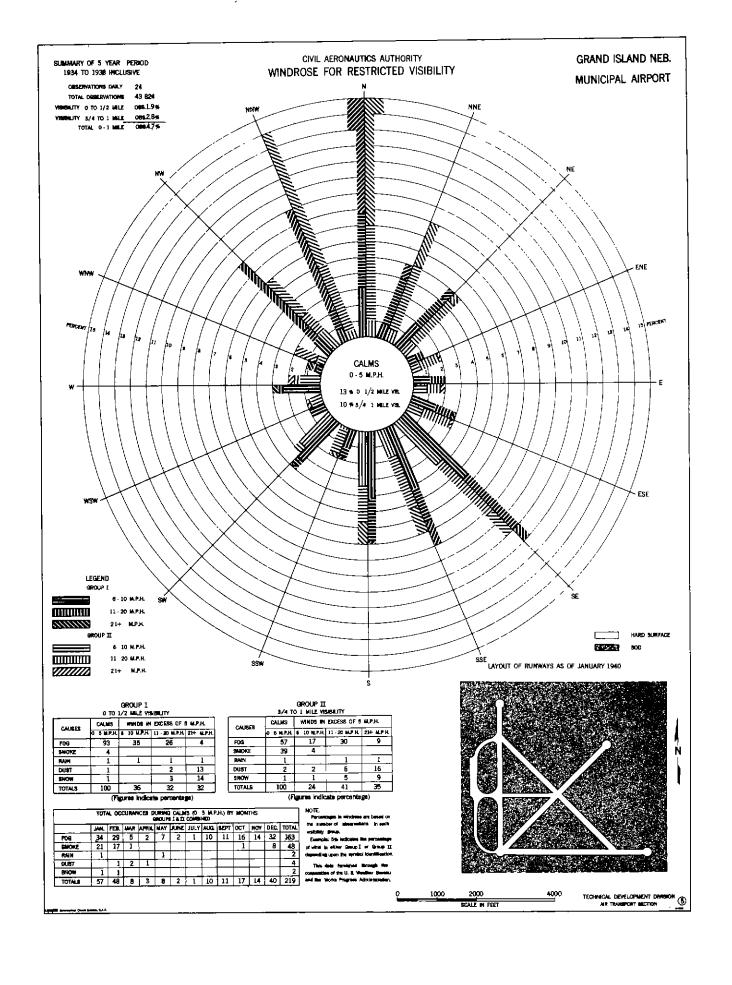


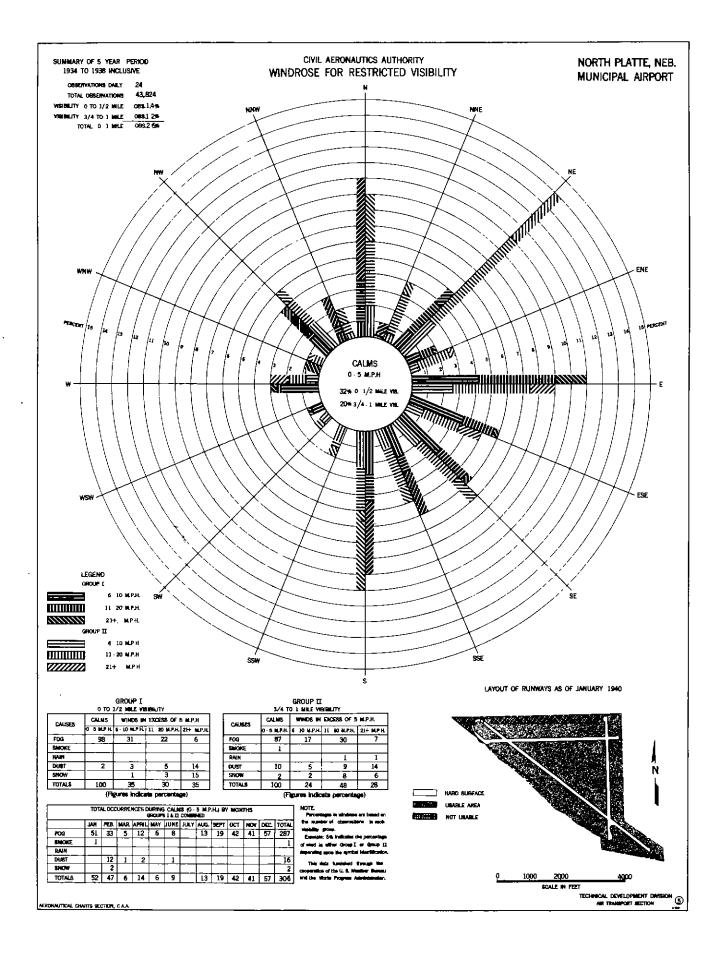
### NEBRASKA

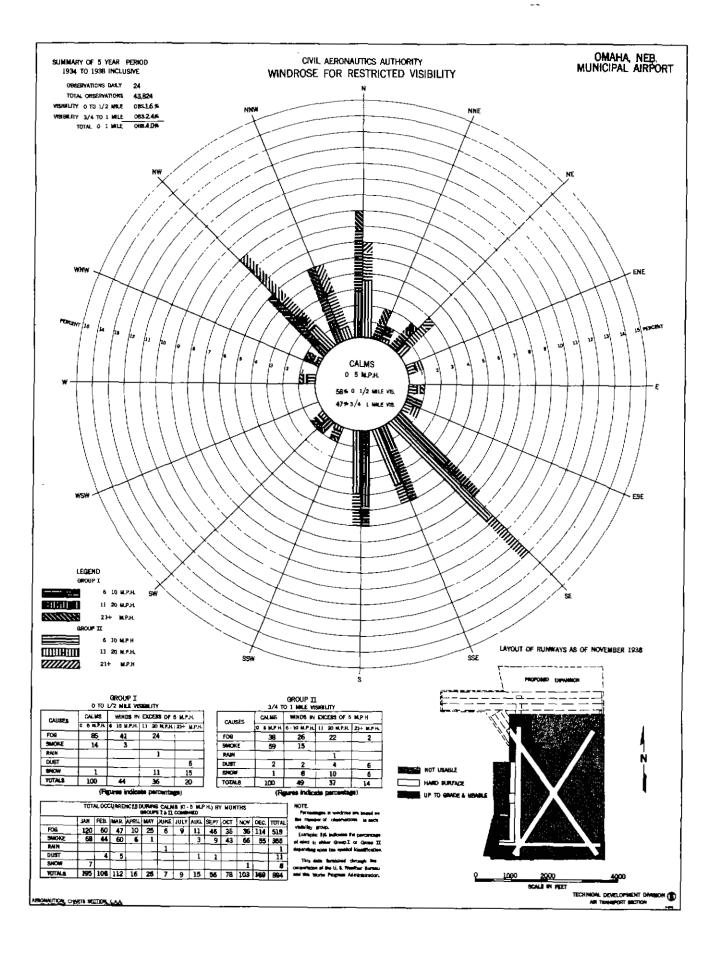
**Grand Island** 

North Platte

Omaha



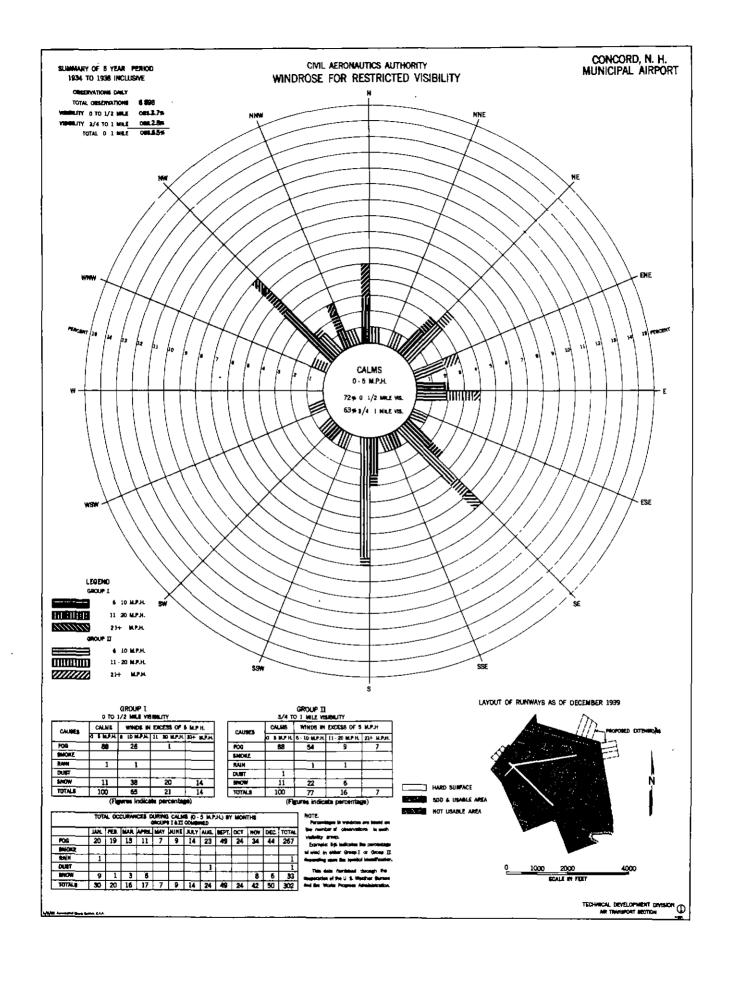


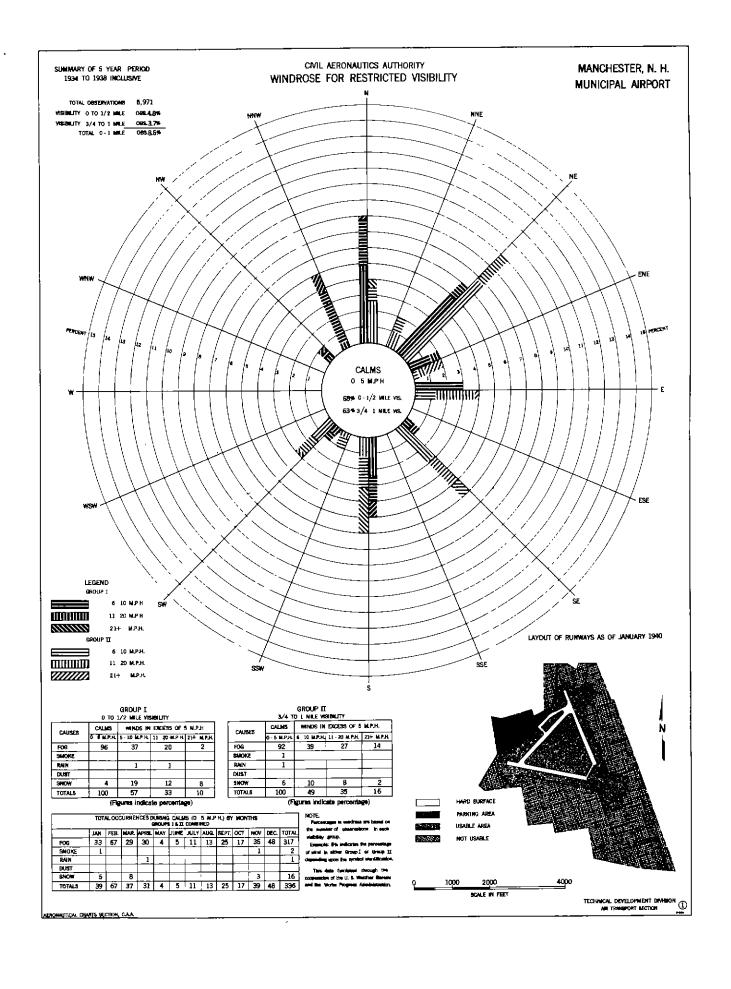


#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Concord

Manchester

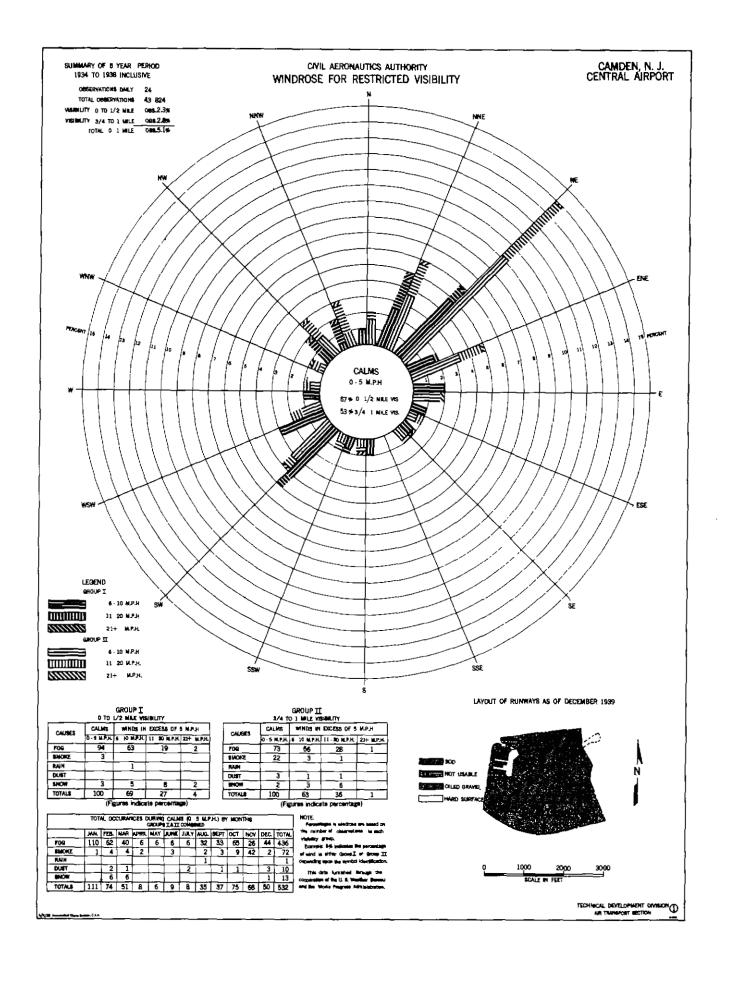


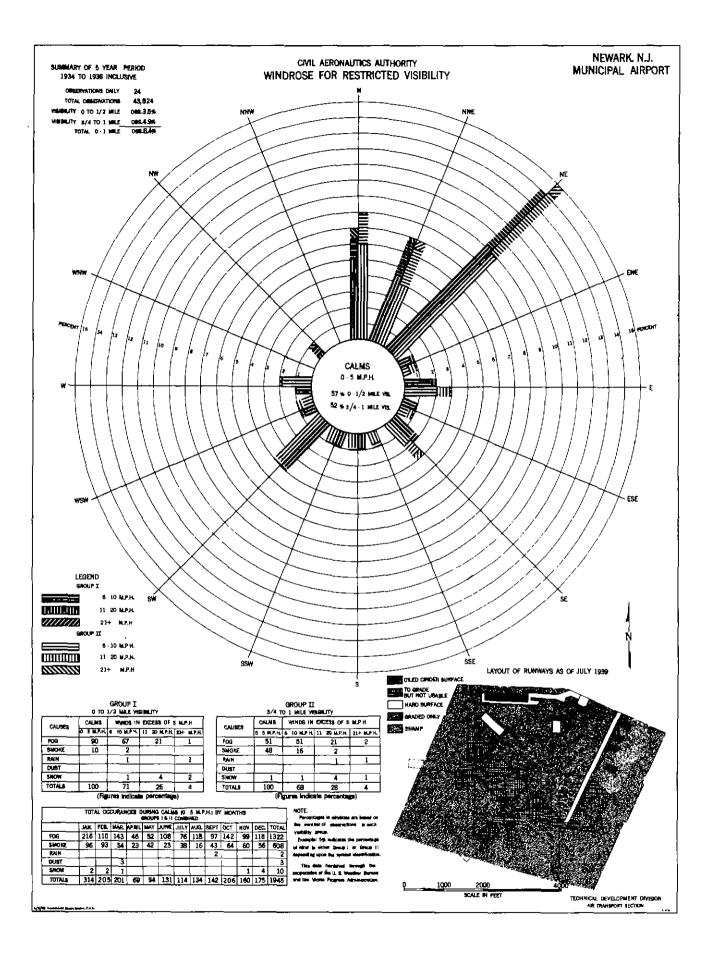


### **NEW JERSEY**

Camden

Newark

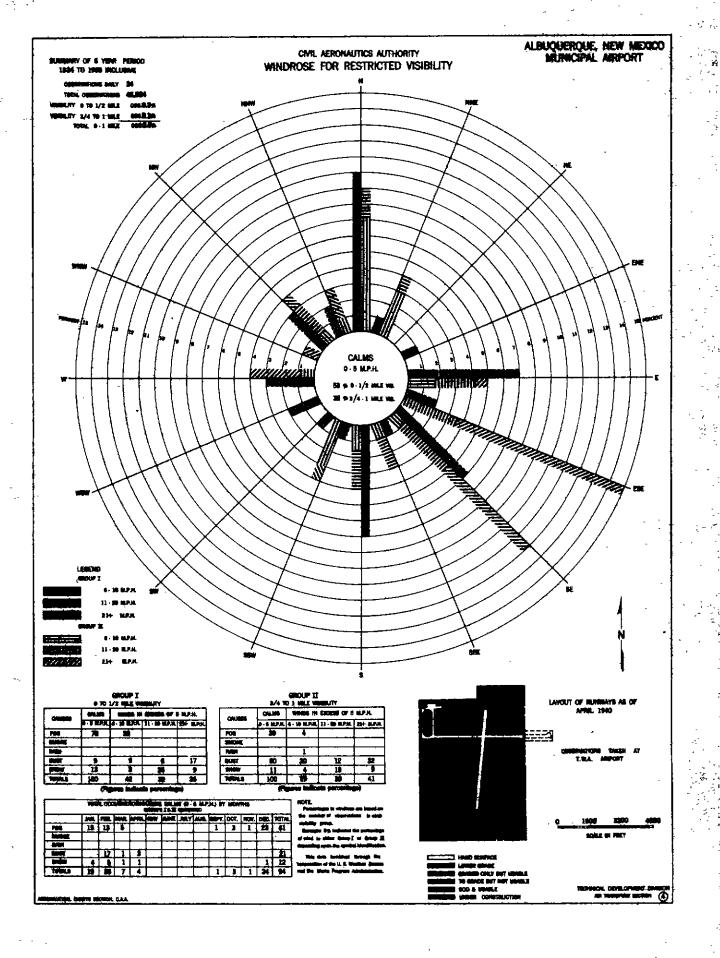


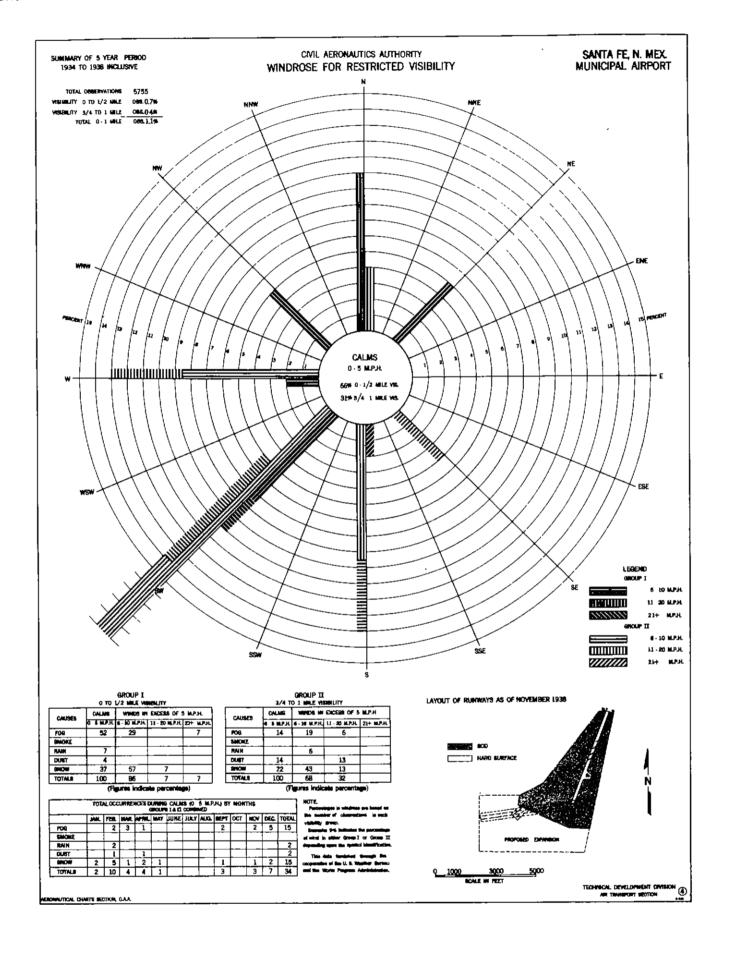


#### **NEW MEXICO**

Albuquerque

Santa Fe





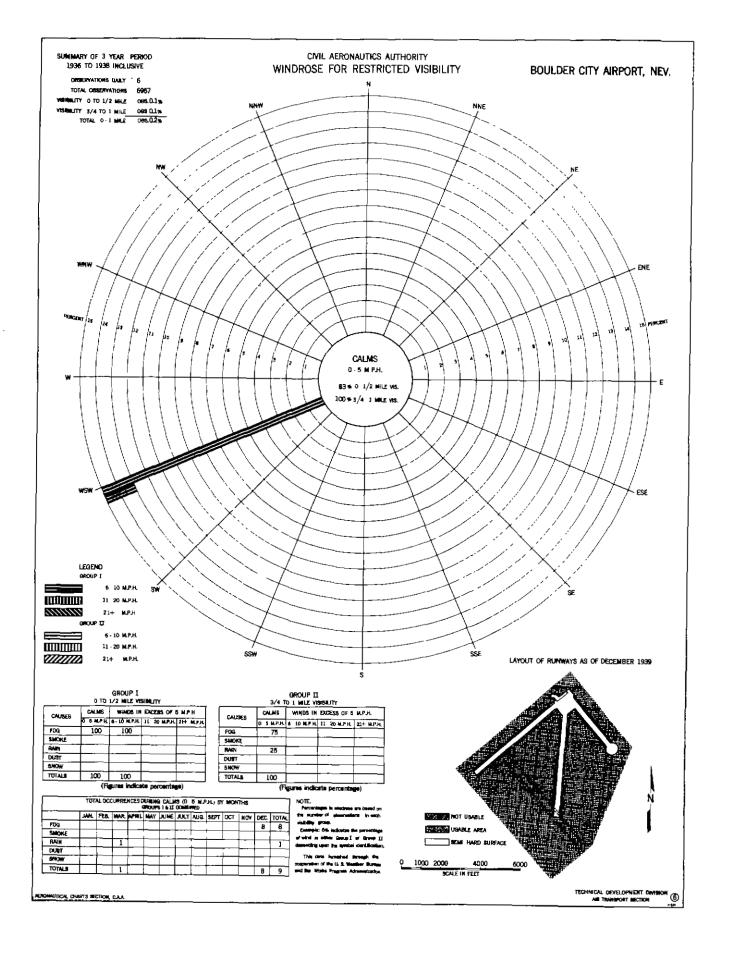
#### **NEVADA**

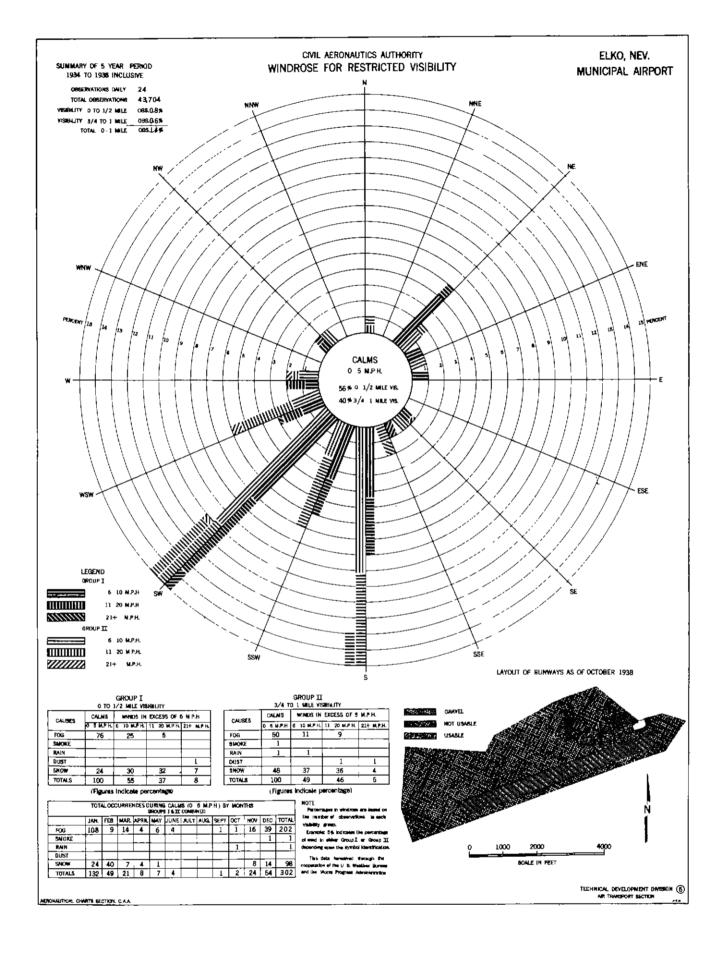
**Boulder City** 

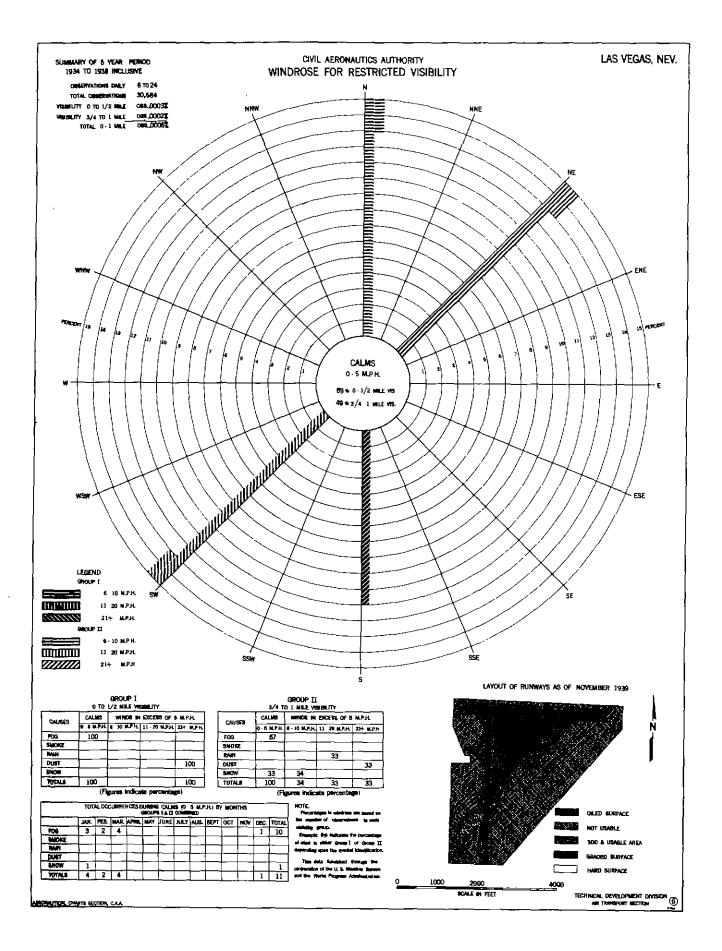
Elko

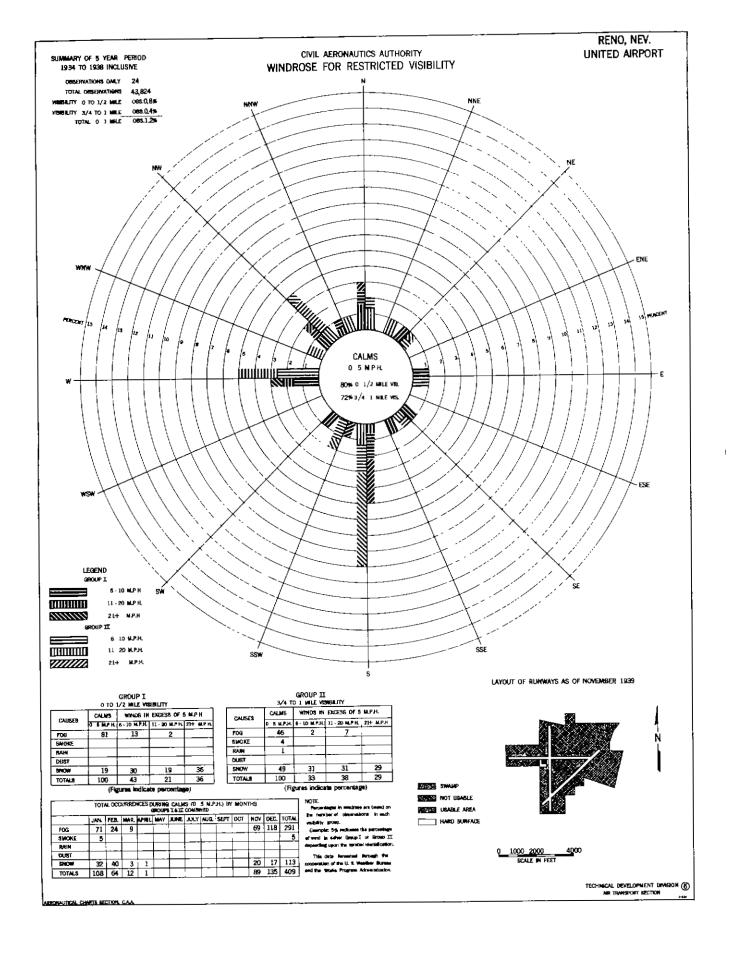
Las Vegas

Reno









### **NEW YORK**

Albany

Buffalo

Elmira

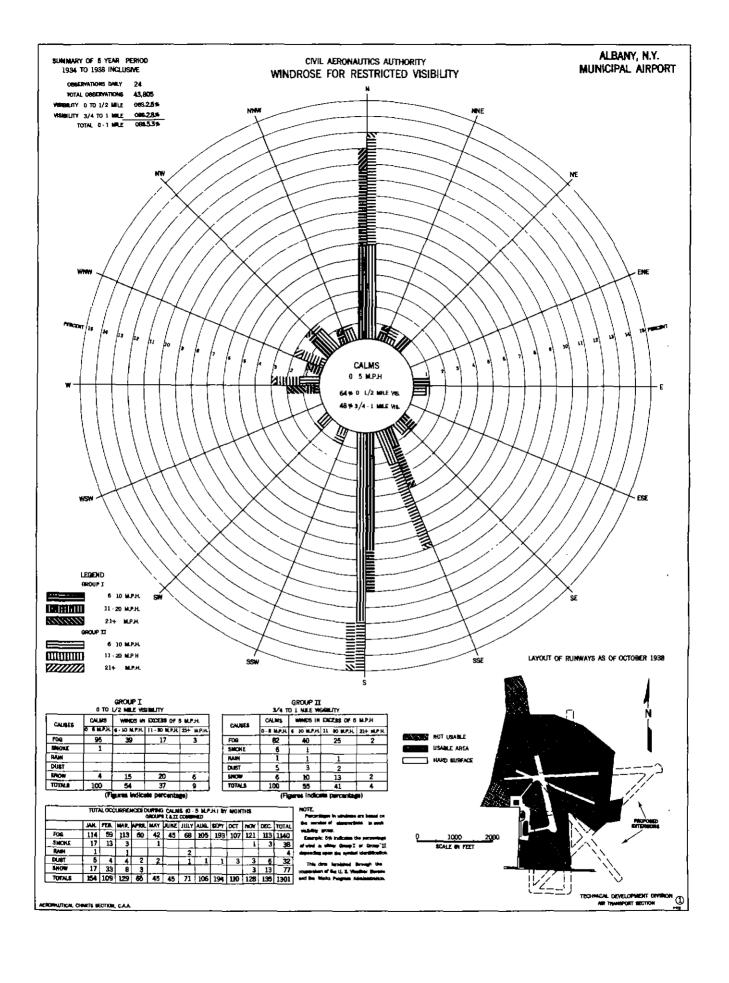
New York (Floyd Bennett)

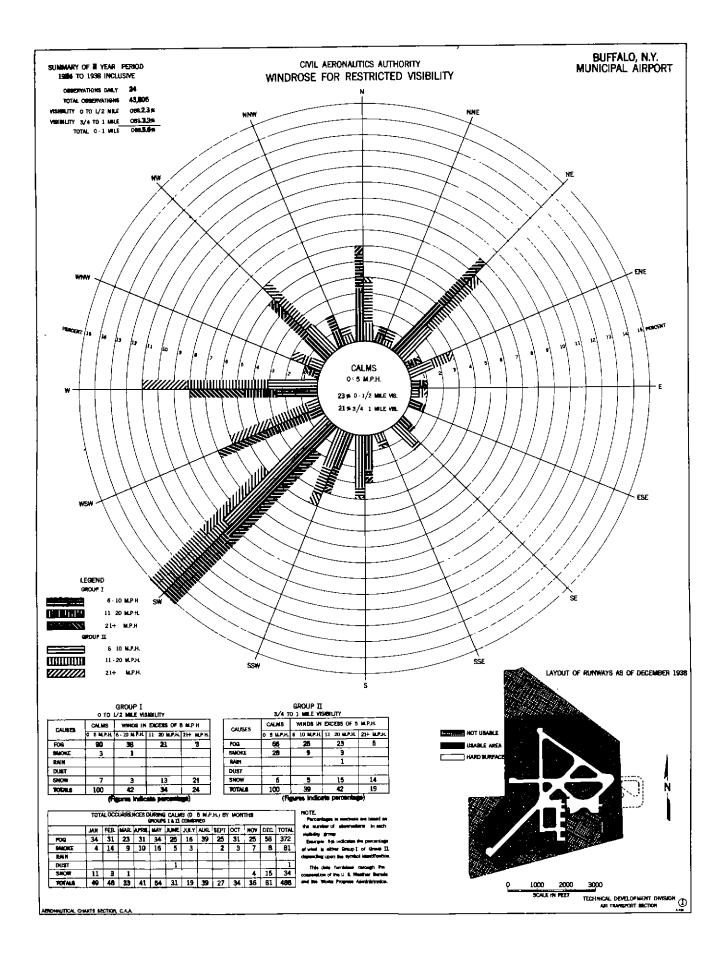
New York (LaGuardia)

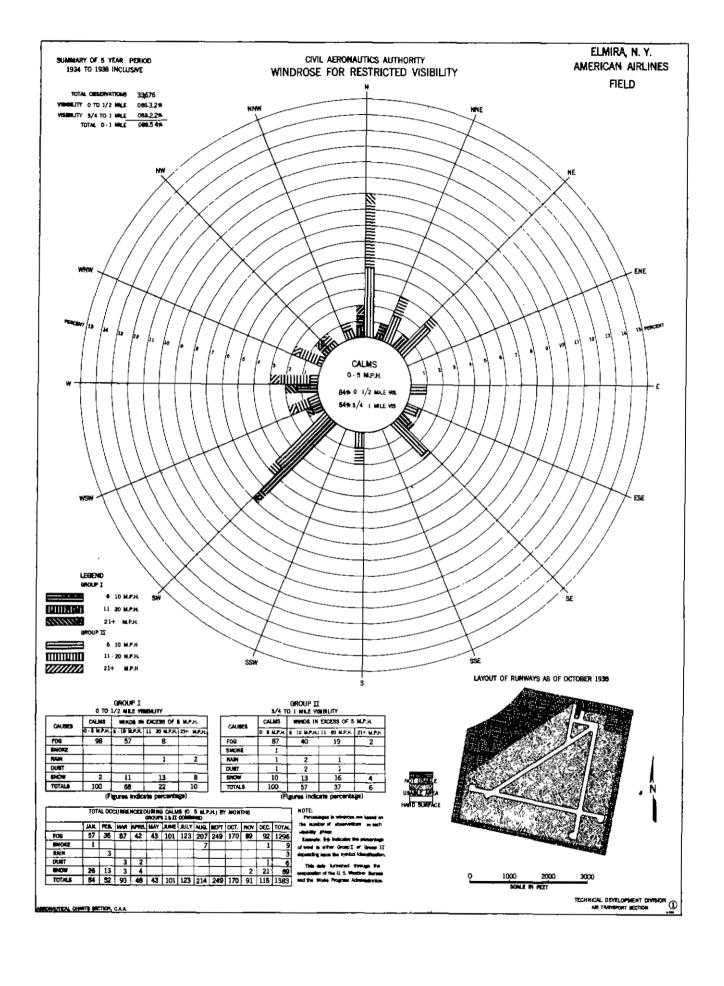
Rochester

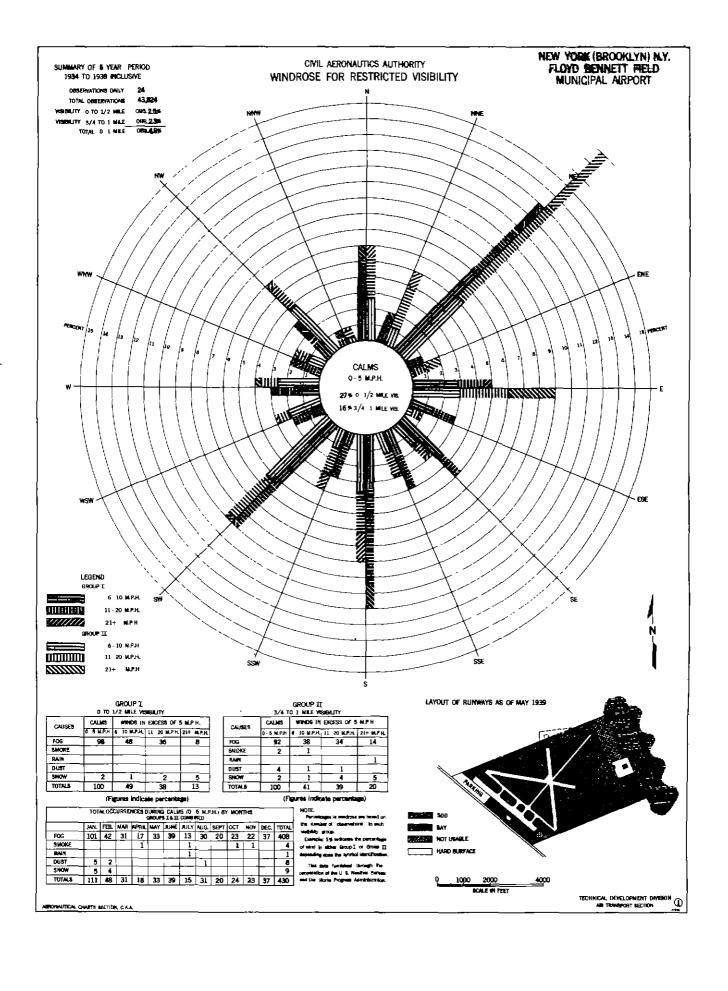
Syracuse

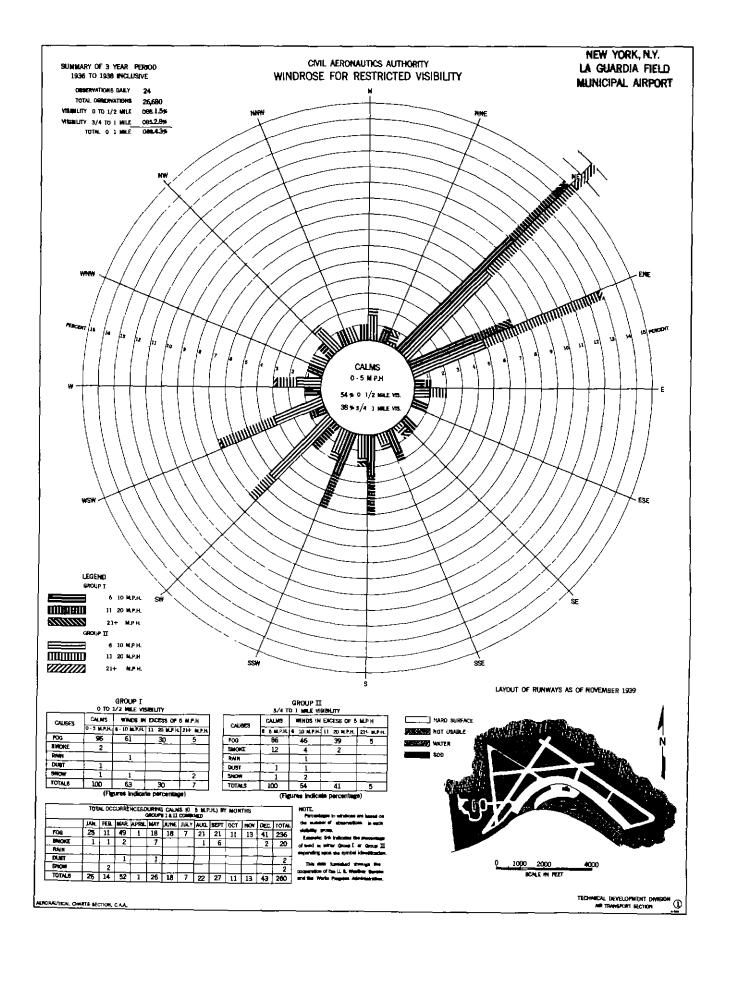
Utica

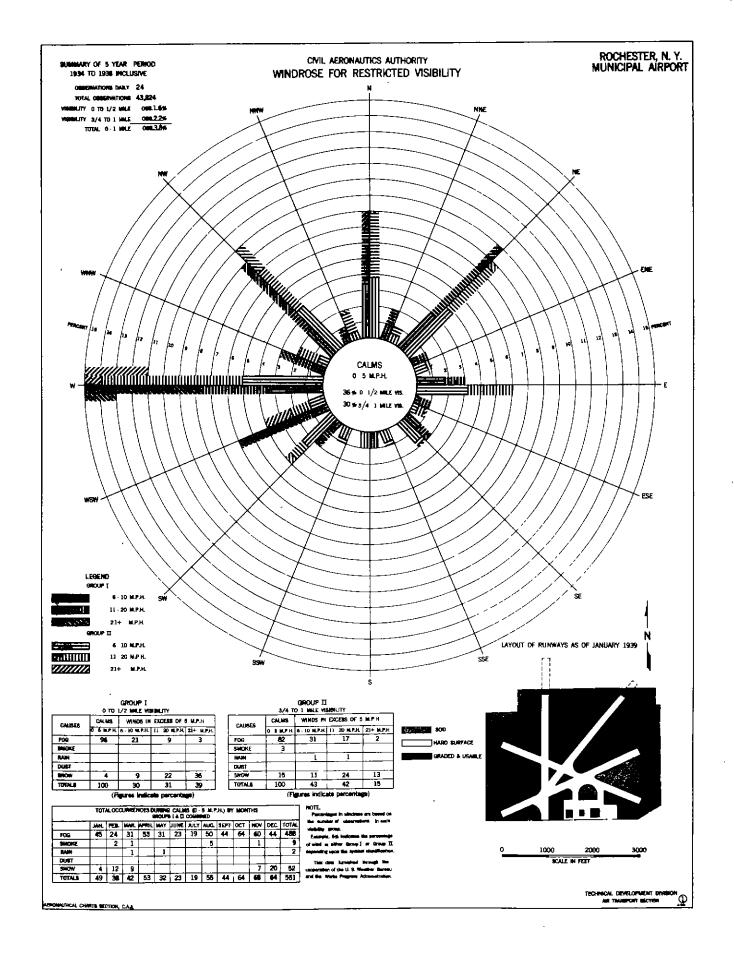


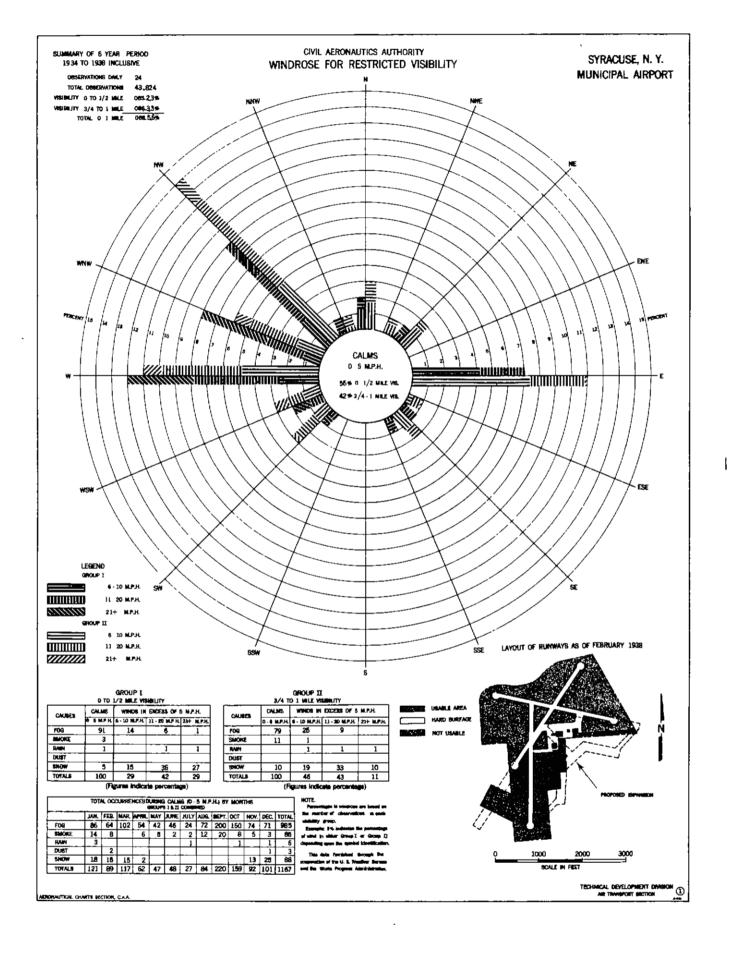


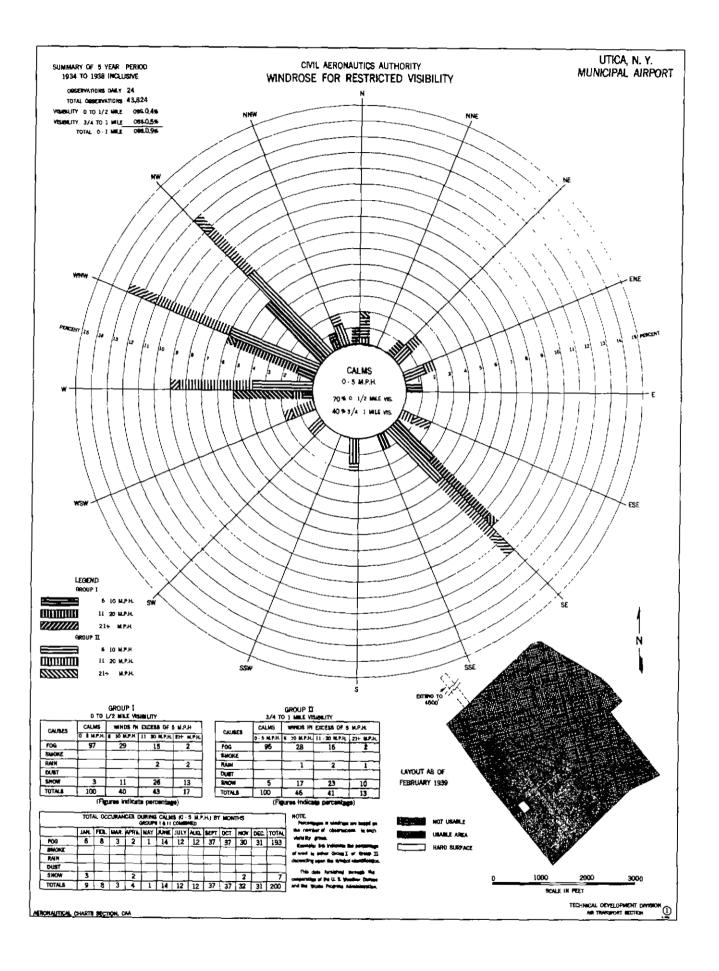












# ощо

Akron

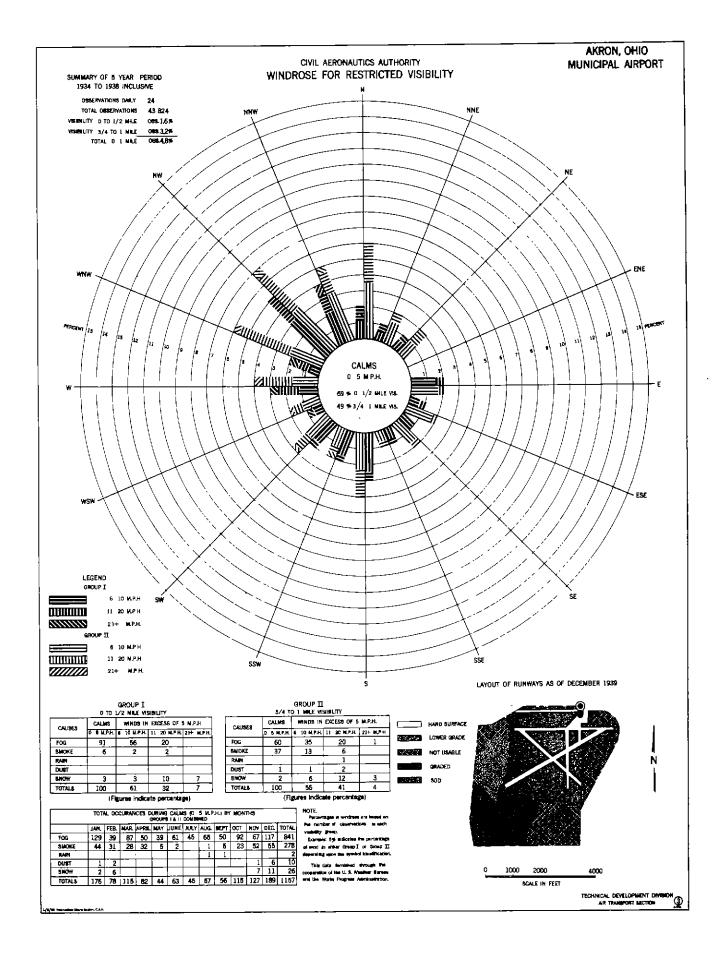
Cincinnati

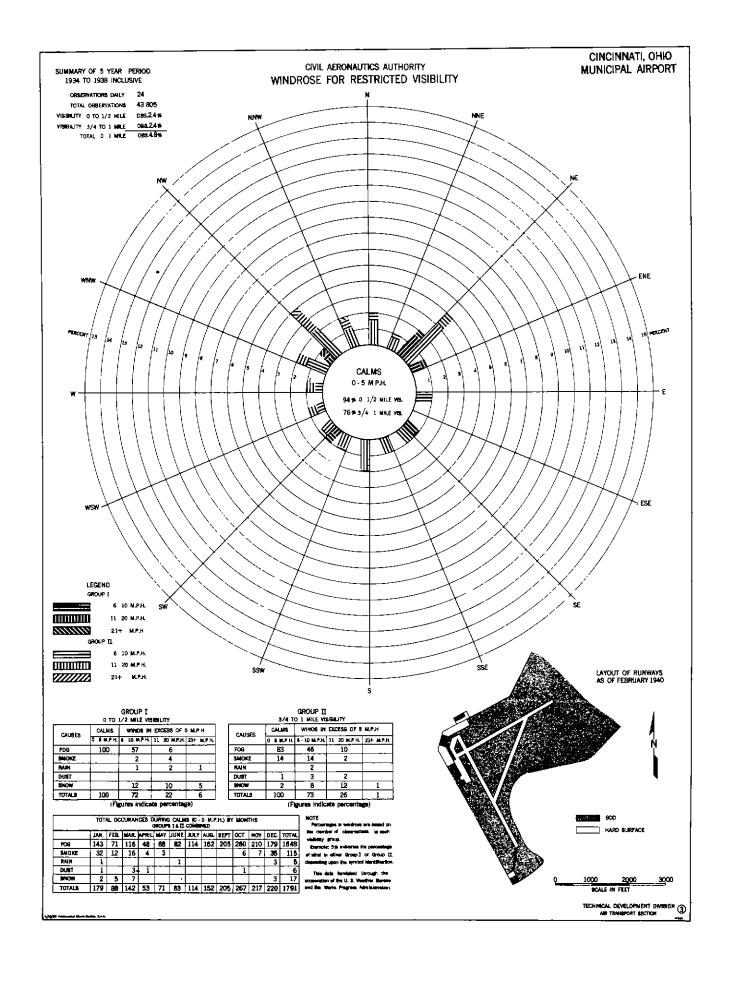
Cleveland

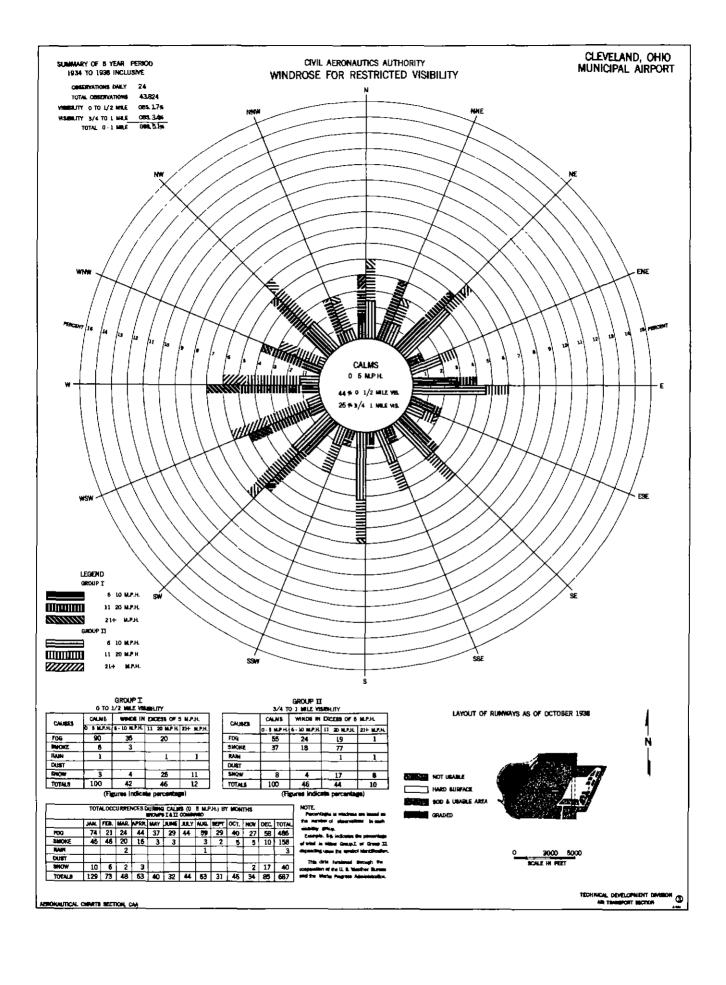
Columbus

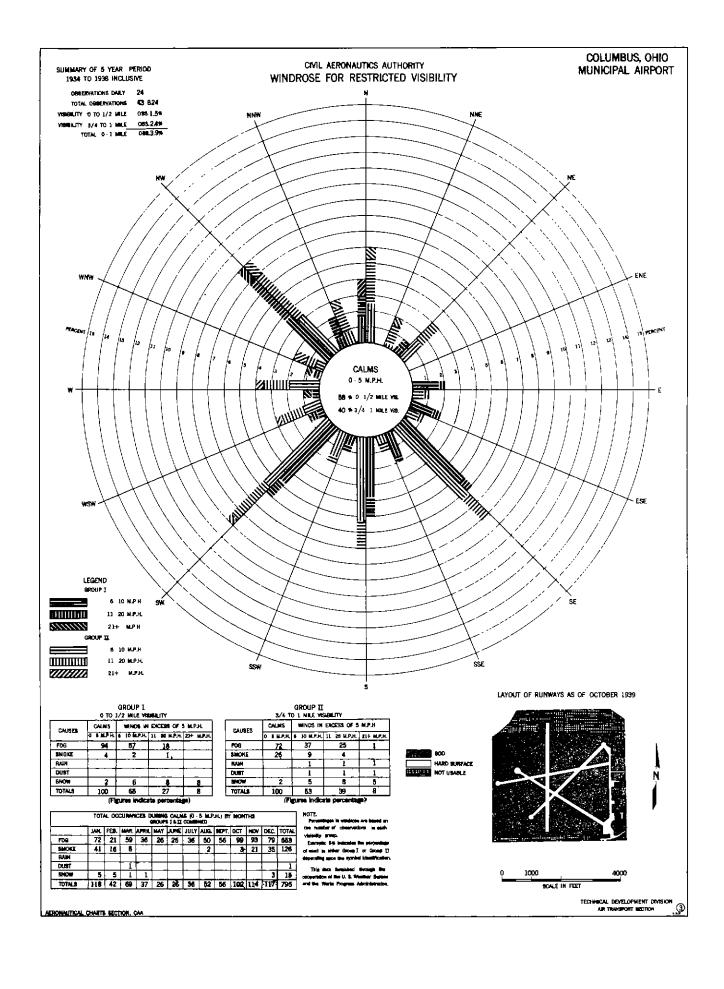
Dayton

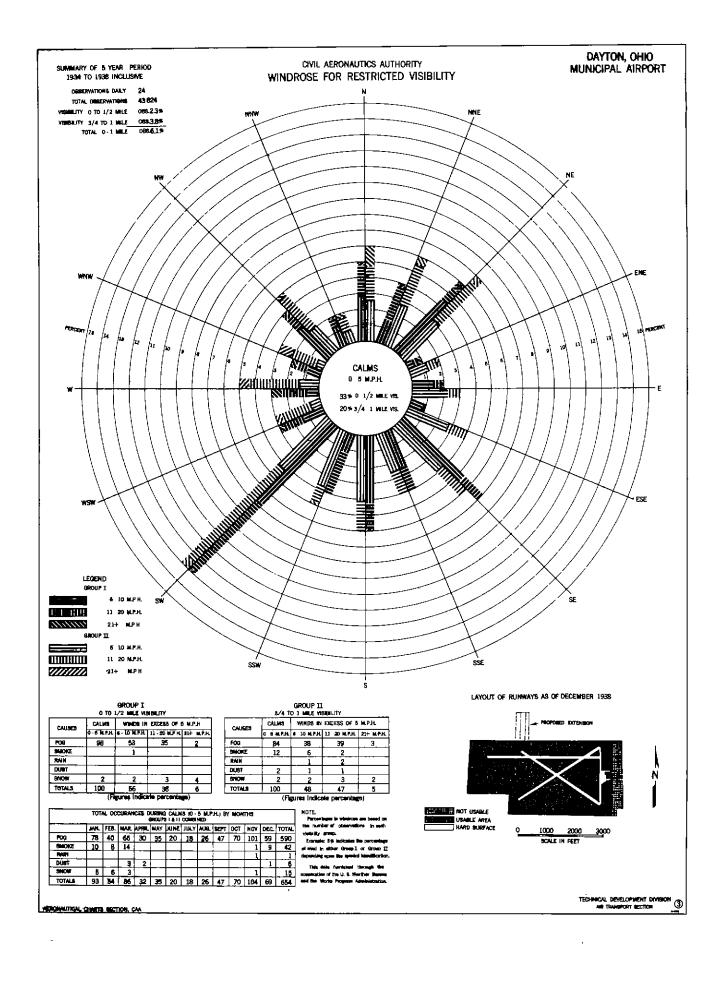
Toledo

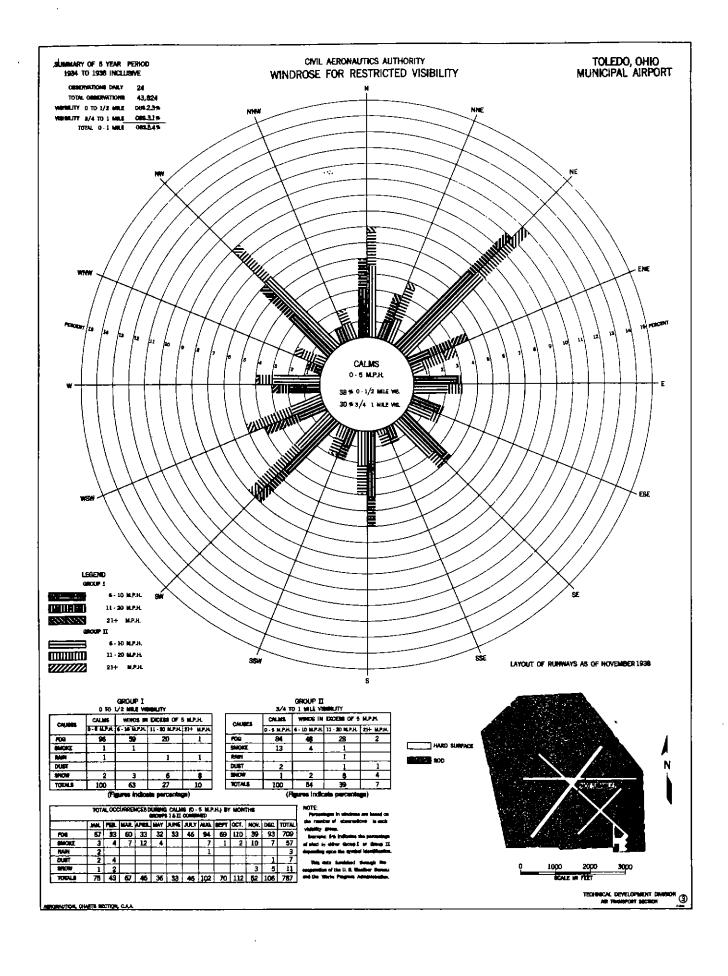








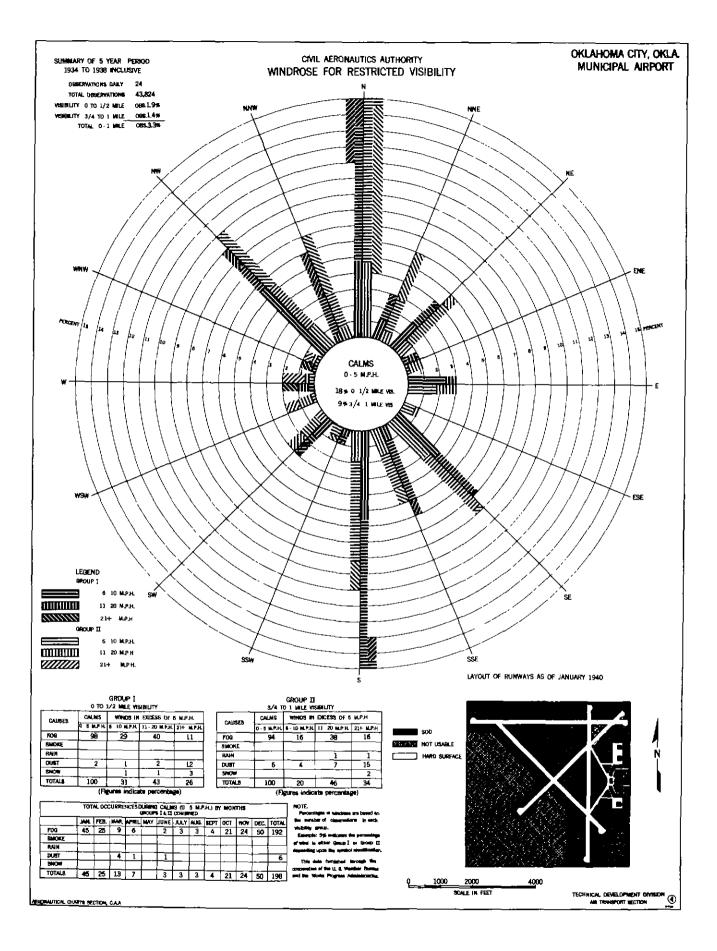


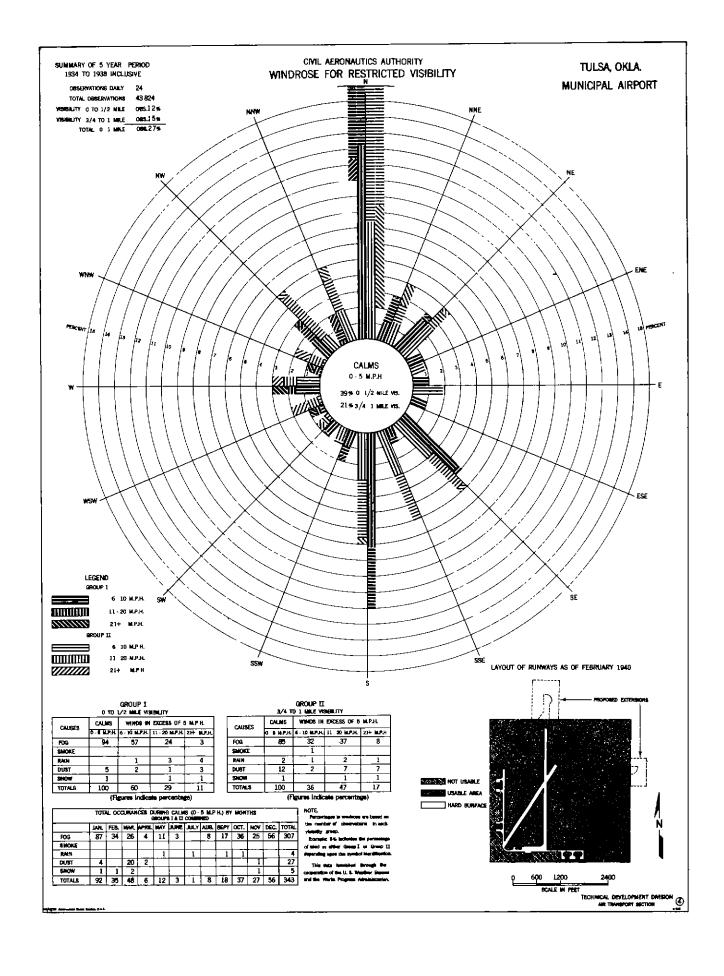


#### OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City

Tulsa





#### **OREGON**

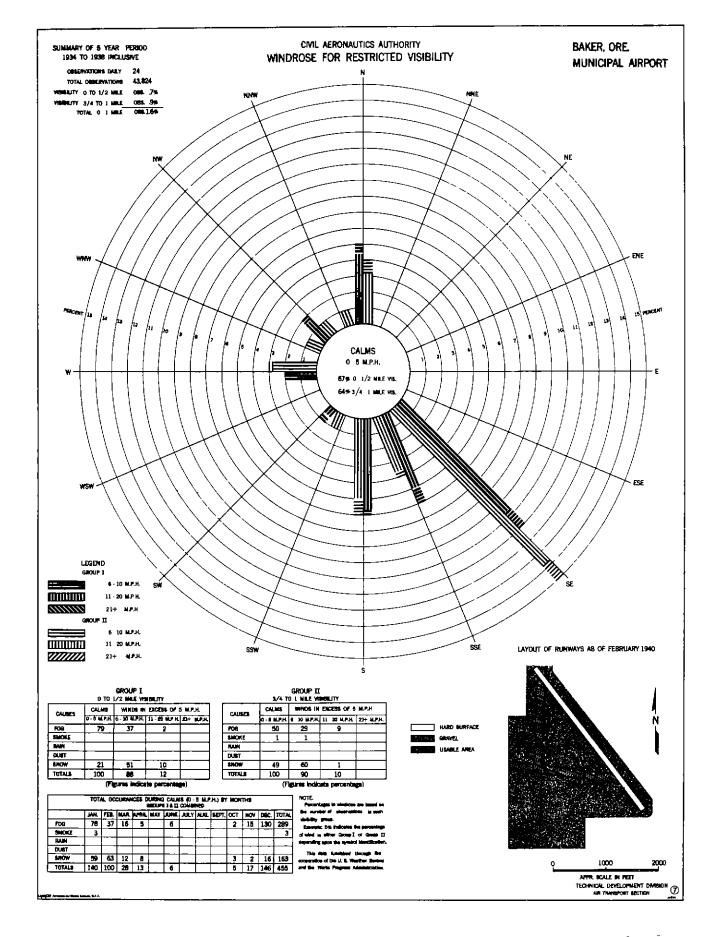
Baker

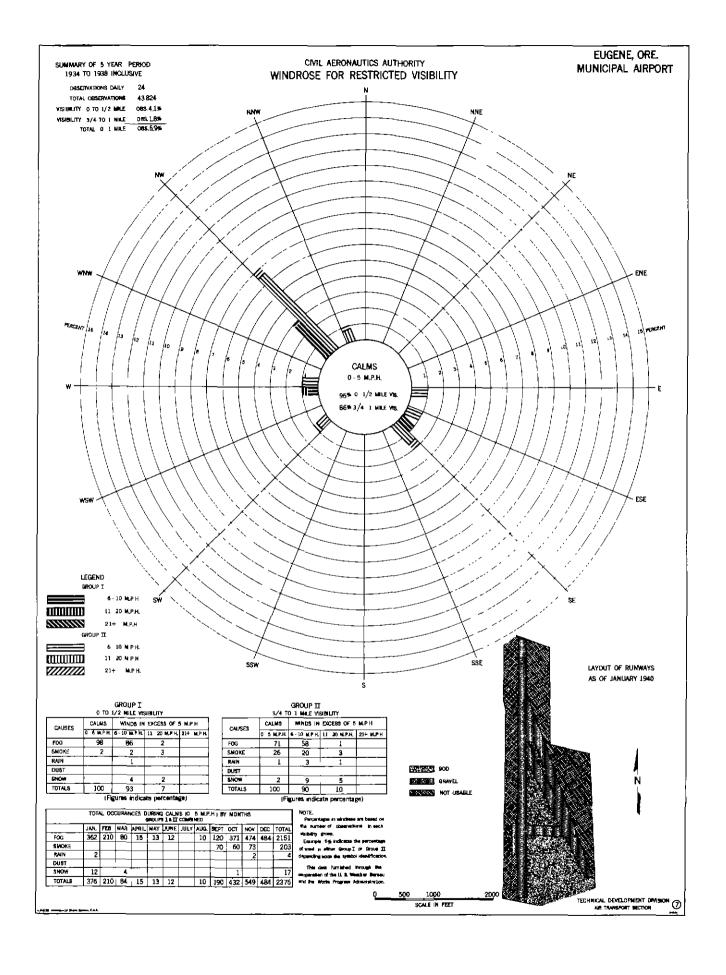
Eugene

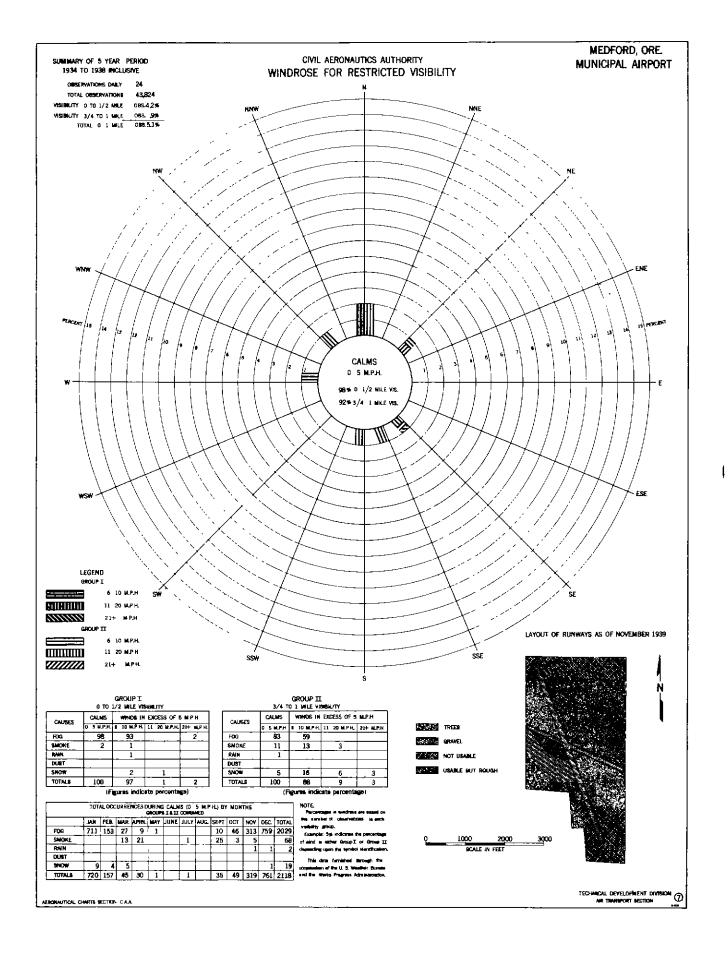
Medford

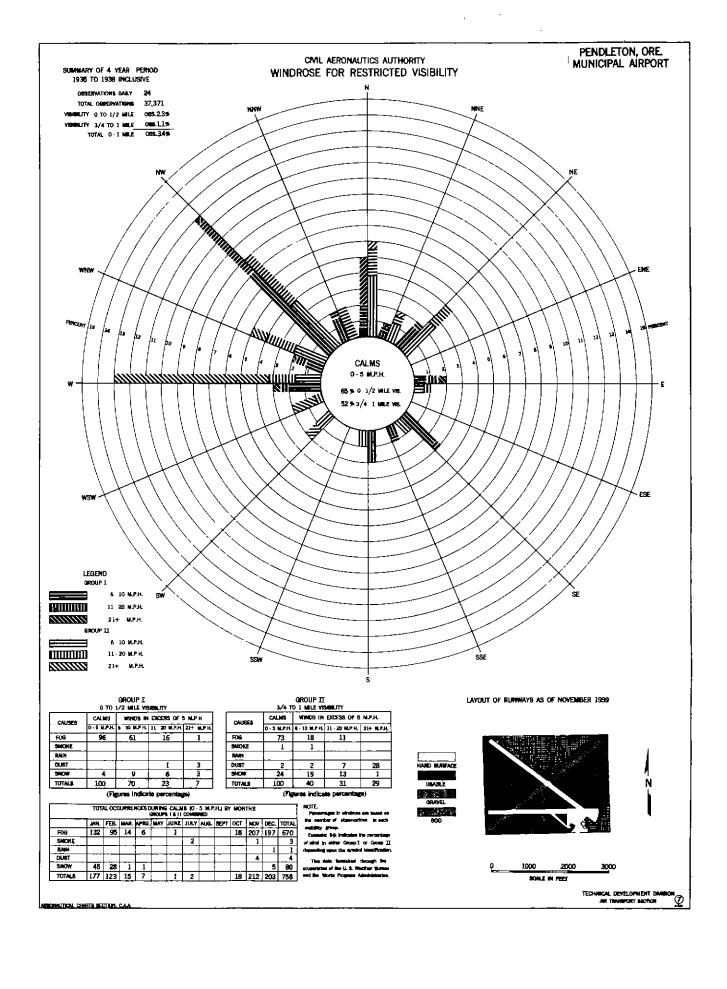
Pendleton

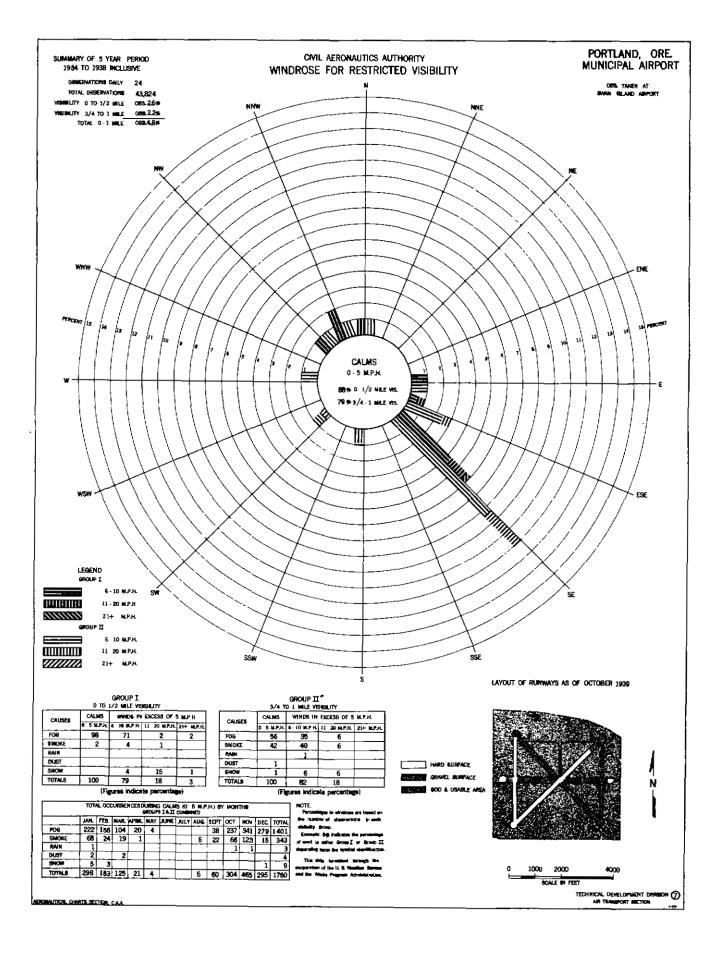
Portland











# PENNSYLVANIA

Allentown

Erie

Harrisburg

Kylertown

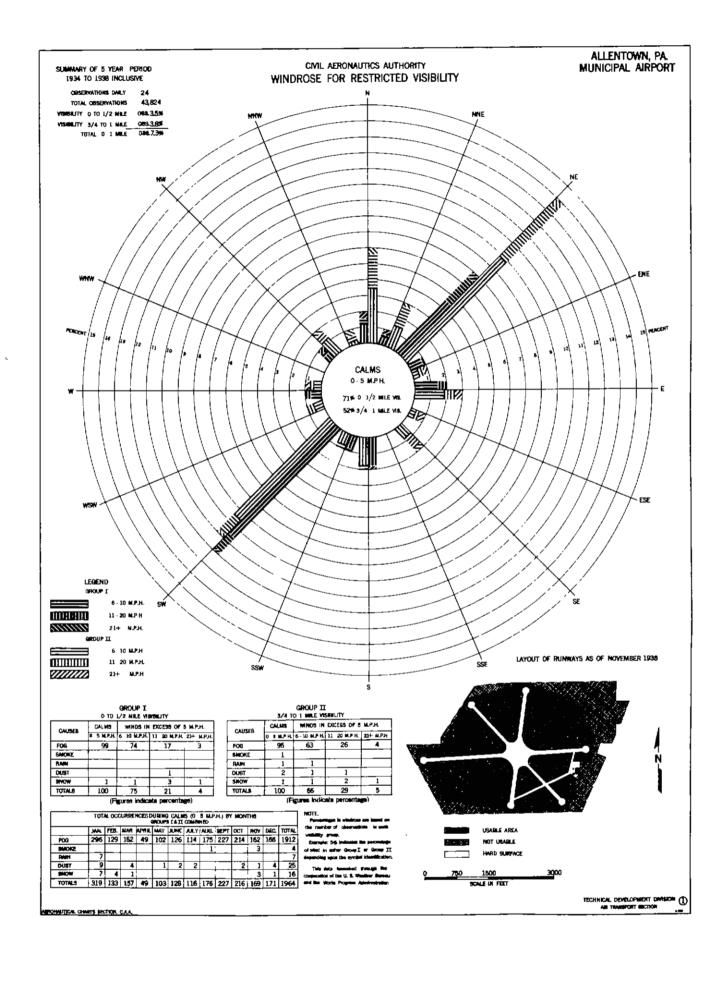
Philadelphia

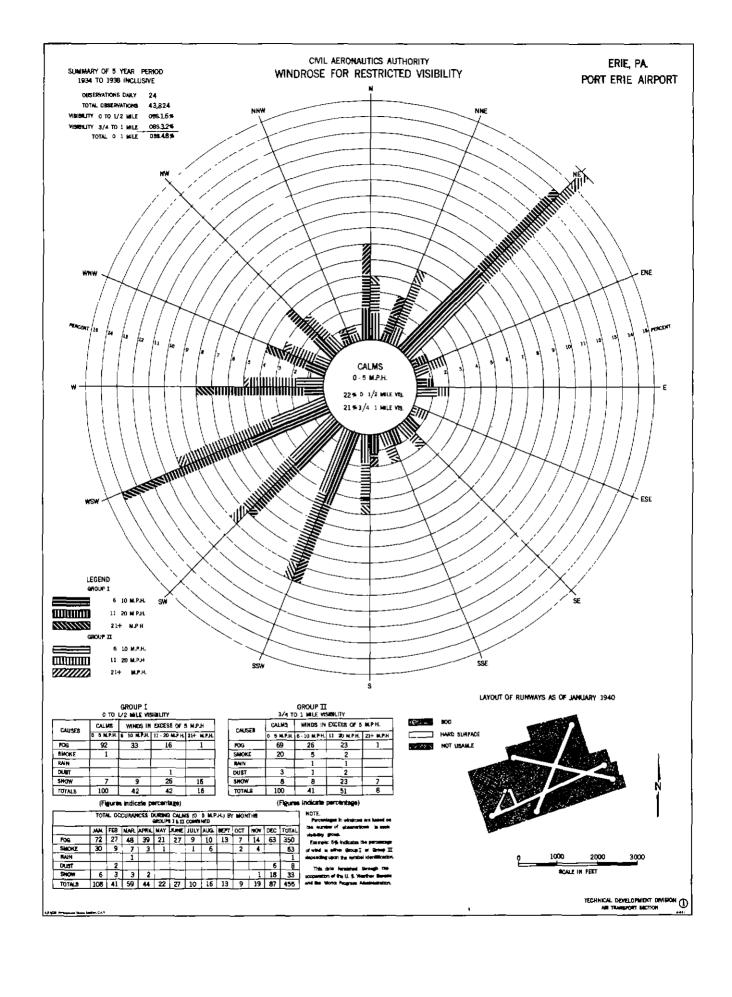
Pittsburgh

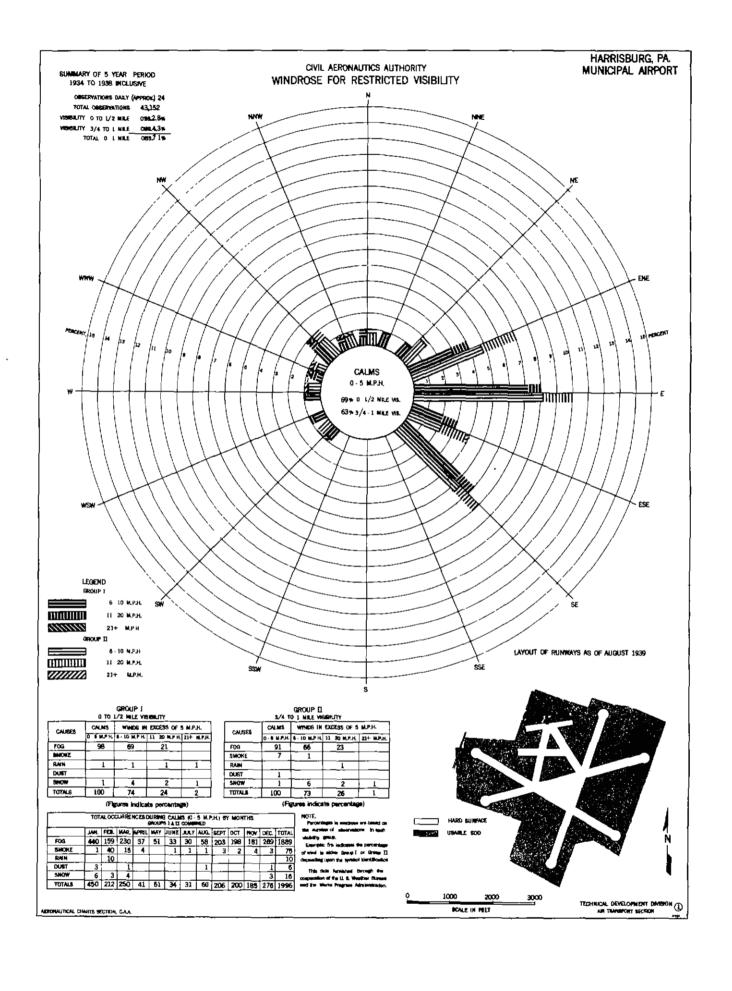
Sunbury

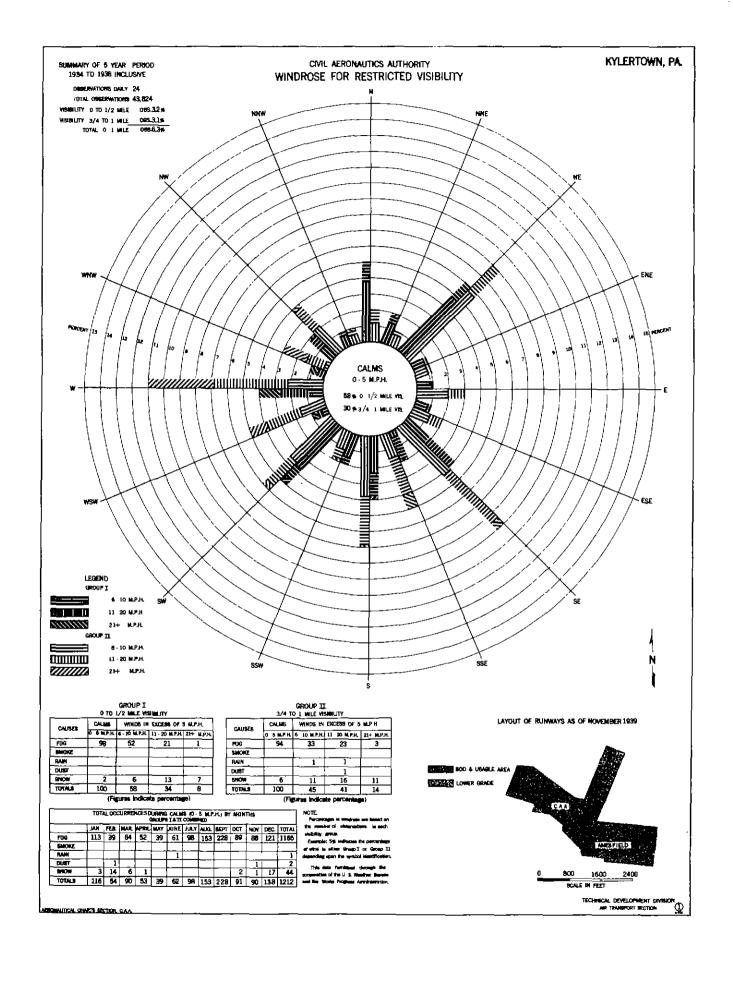
The second secon

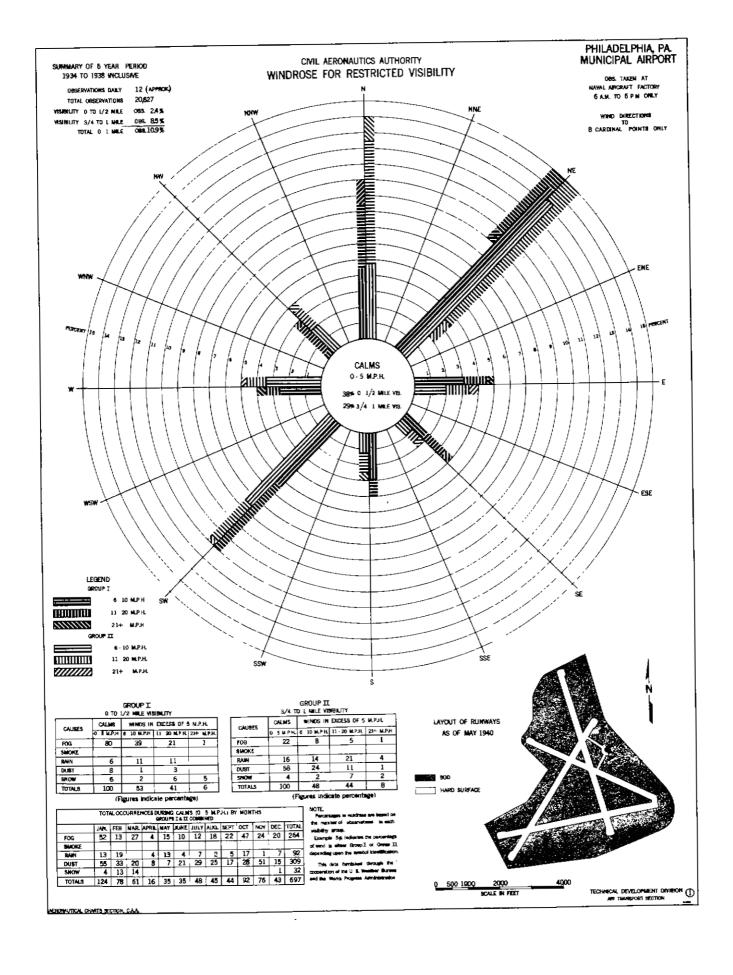
Wilkes Barre

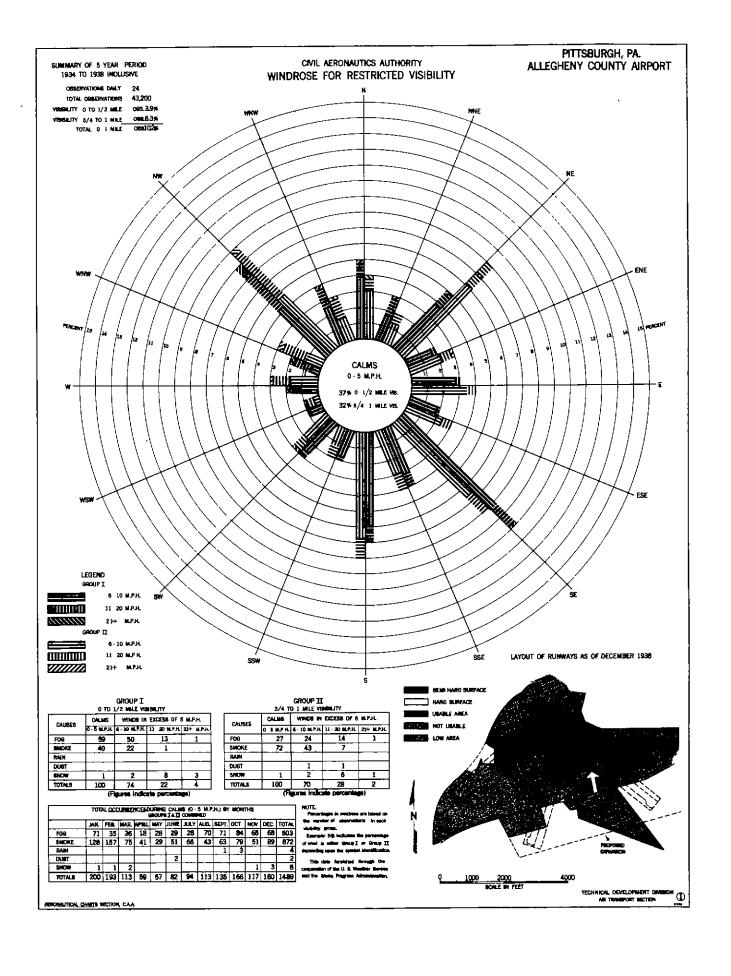


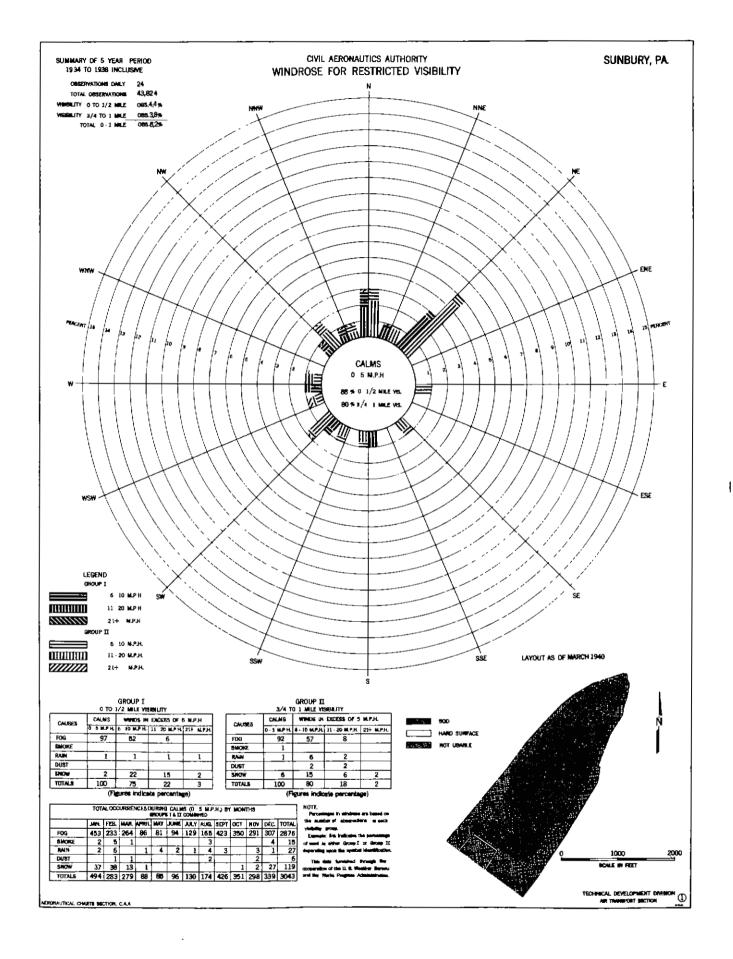


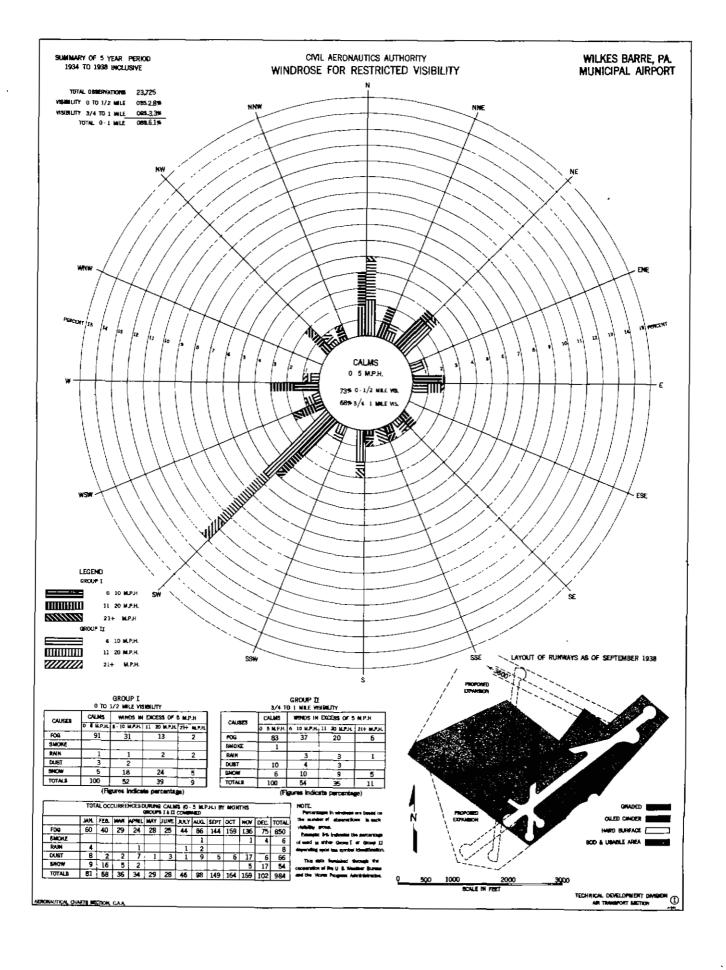






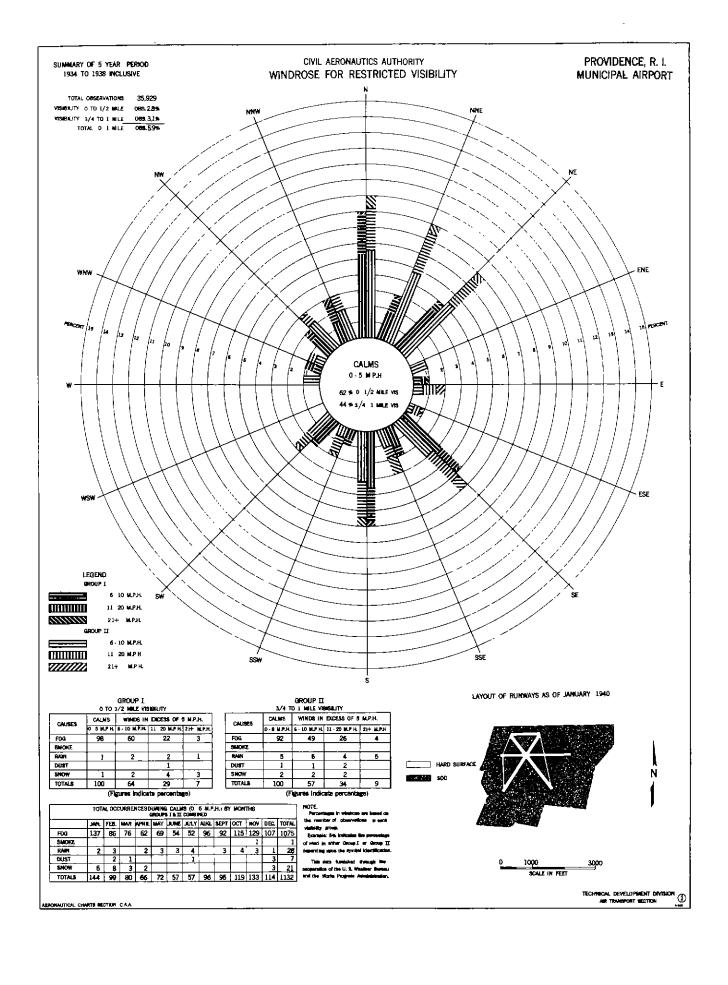






## RHODE ISLAND

Providence

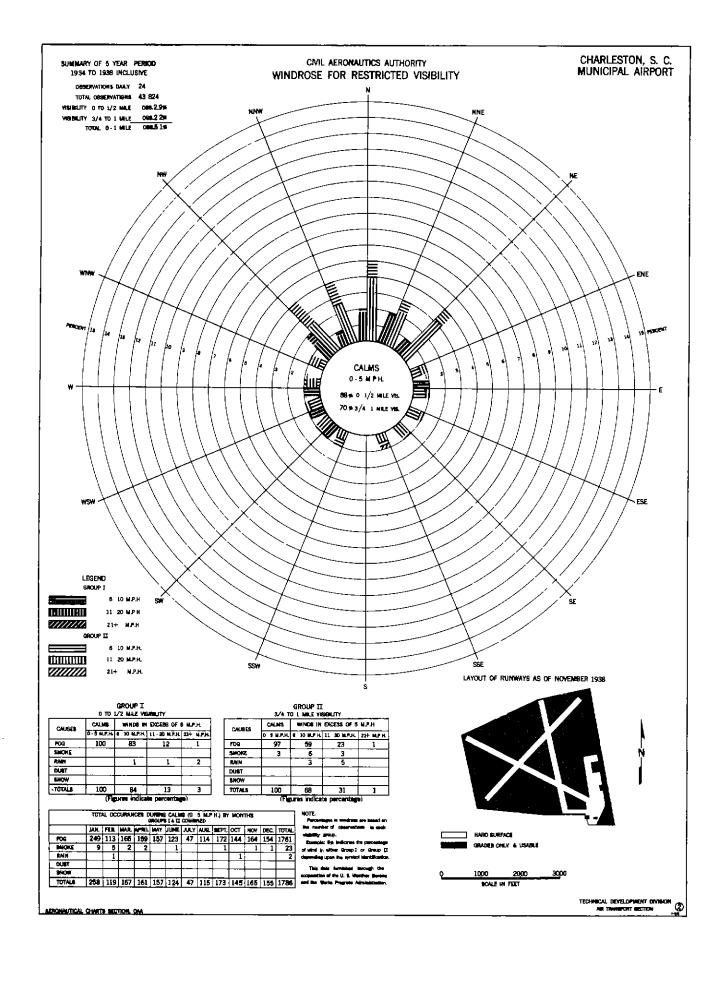


## SOUTH CAROLINA

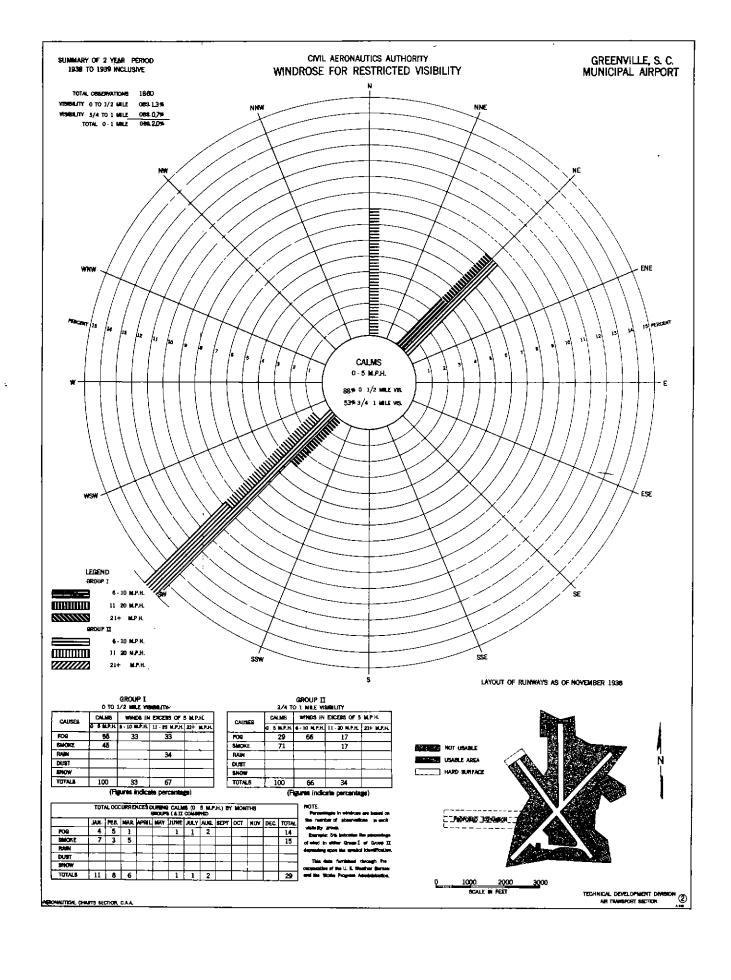
Charleston

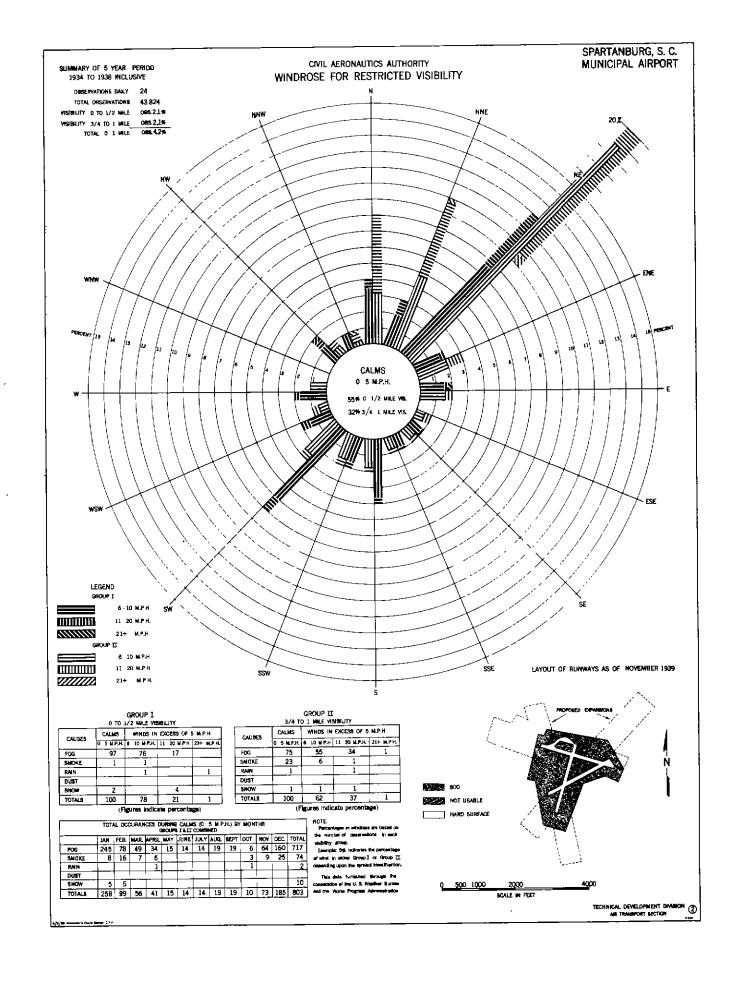
Greenville

Spartanburg



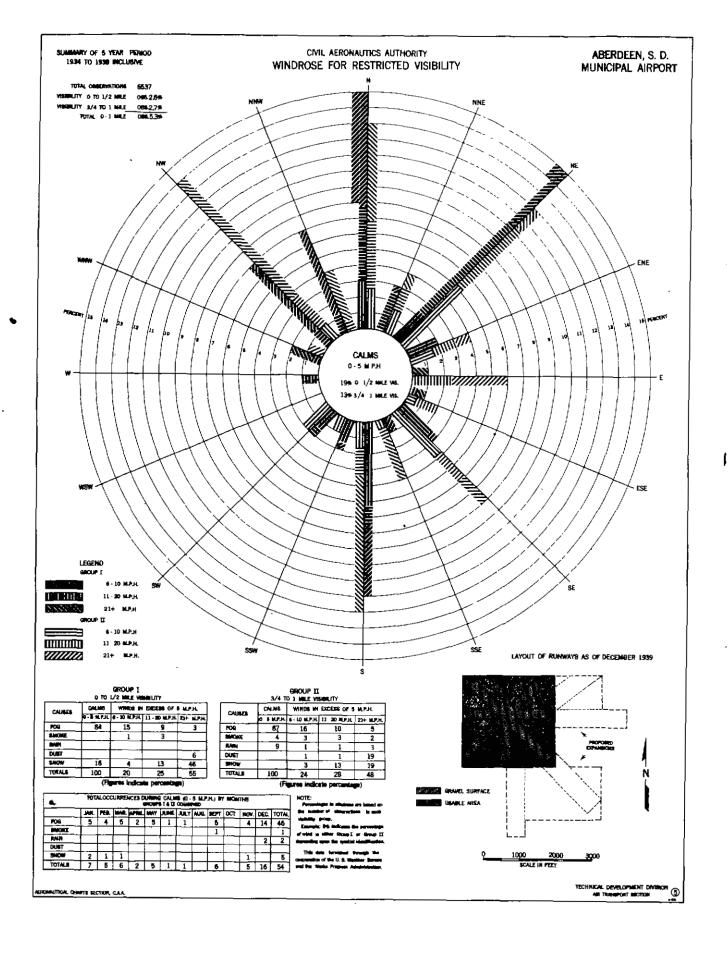
ş ¥





## SOUTH DAKOTA

Aberdeen



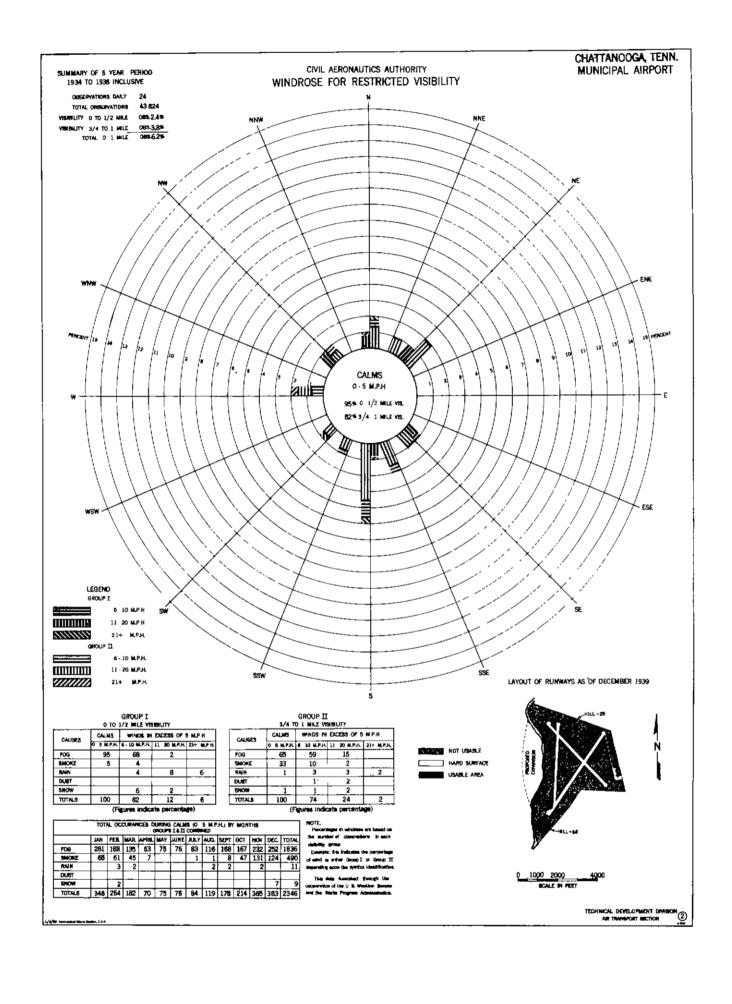
#### TENNESSEE

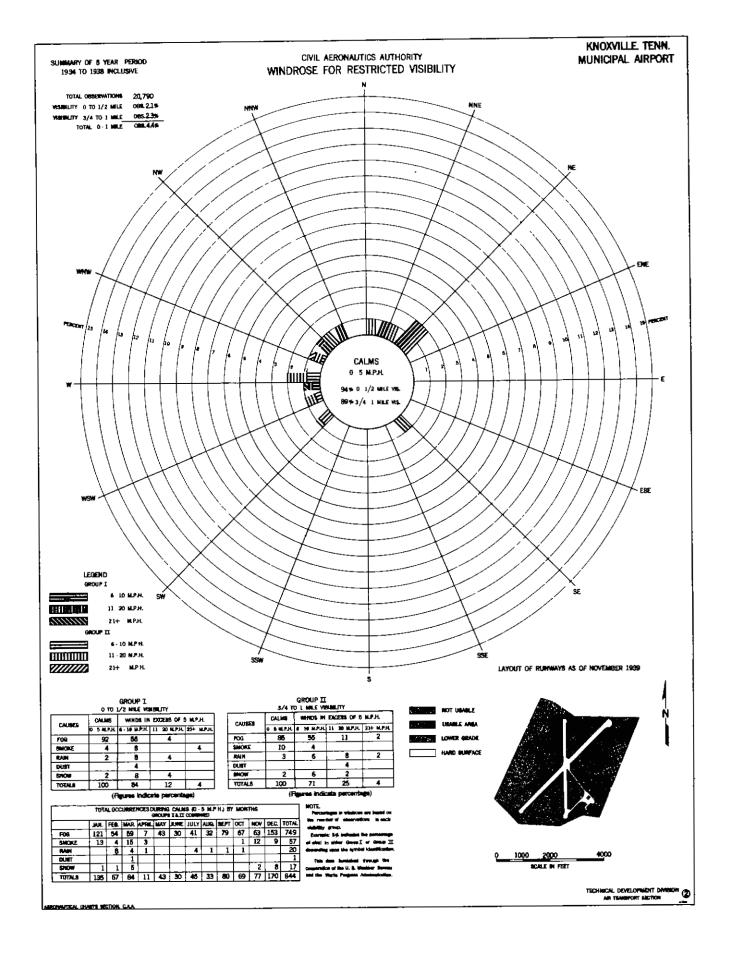
Chattanooga

Knoxville

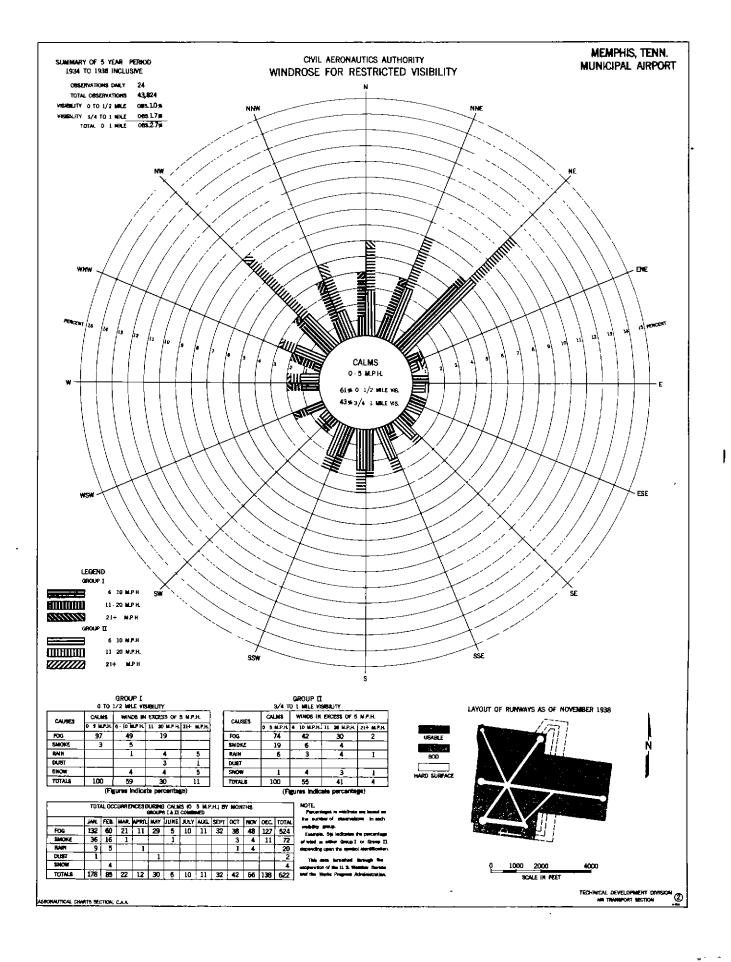
Memphis

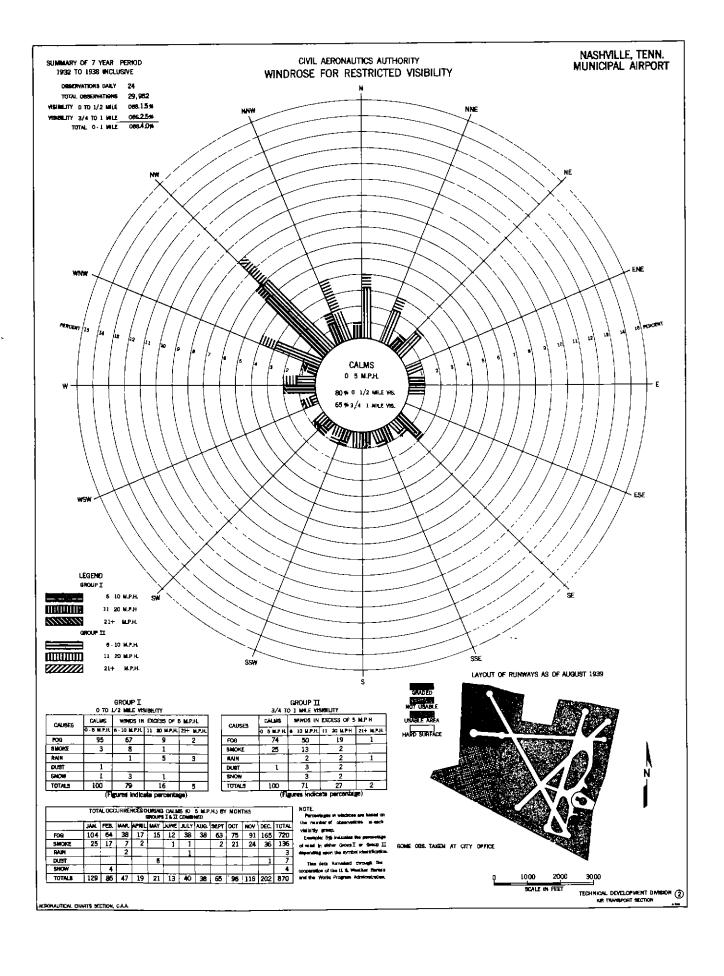
Nashville





...





## TEXAS

Abilene

Amarillo

Beaumont

Big Spring

Brownsville

Corpus Christi

Dallas

El Paso

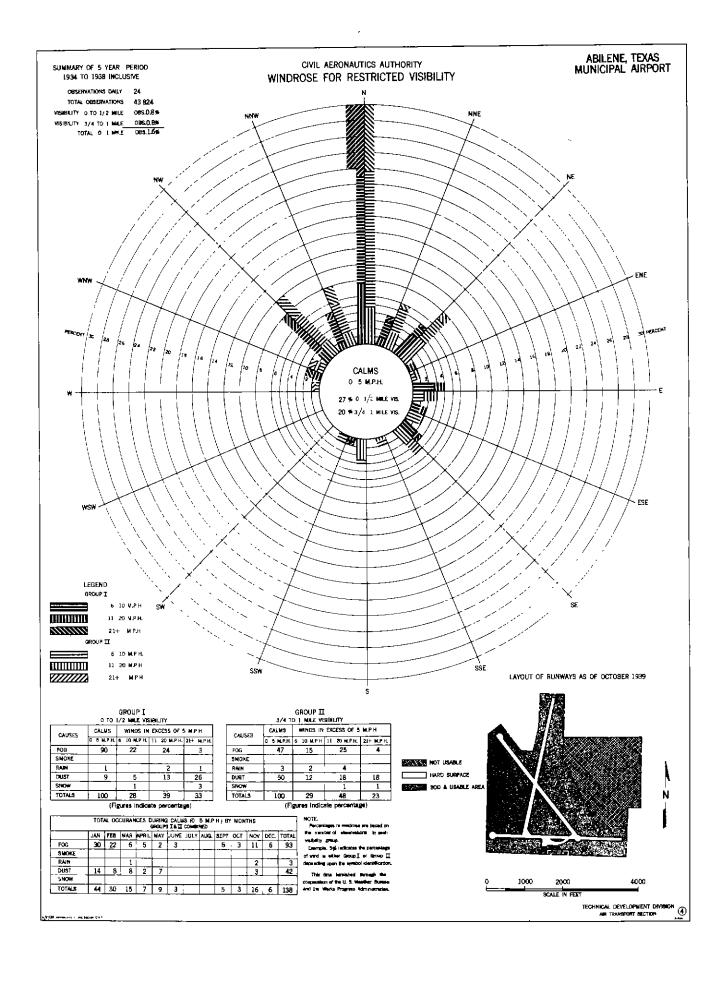
Fort Worth

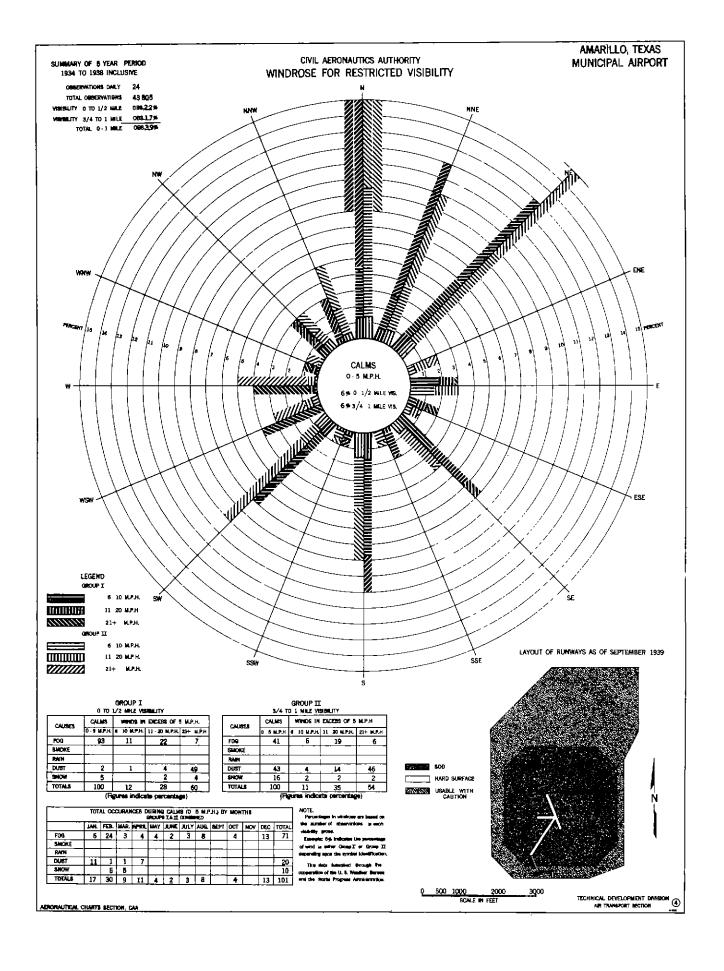
Houston

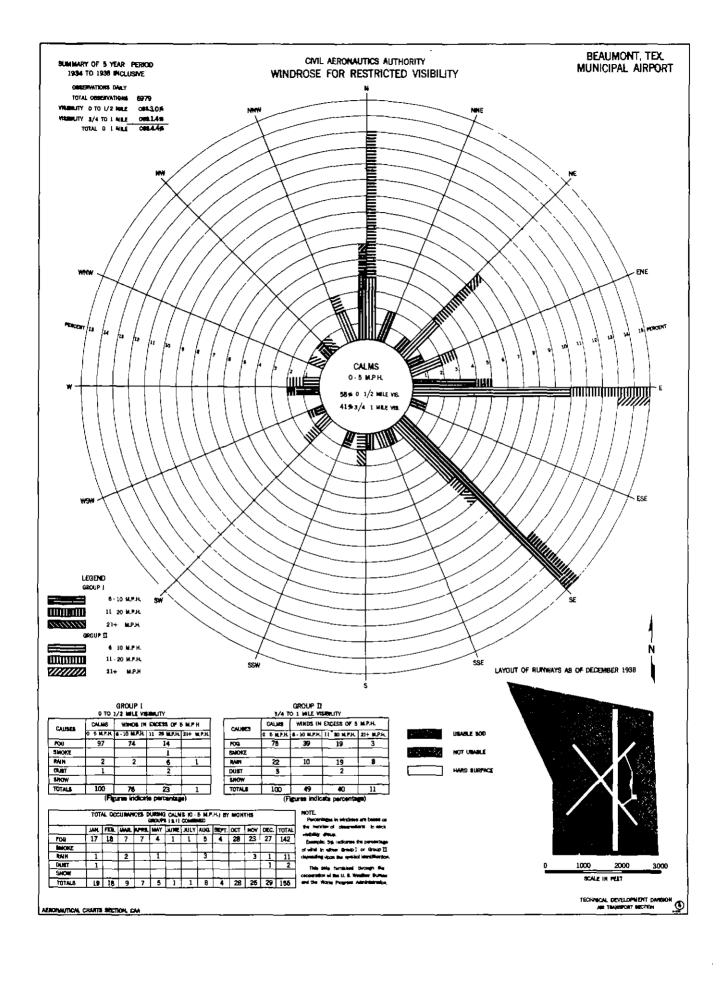
San Antonio

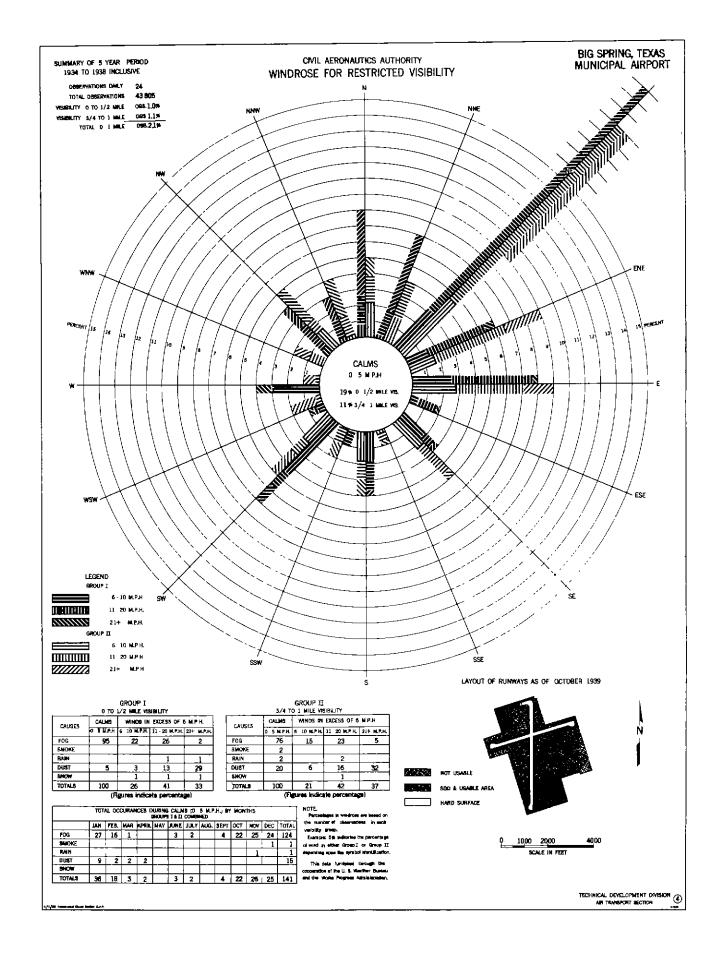
Waco

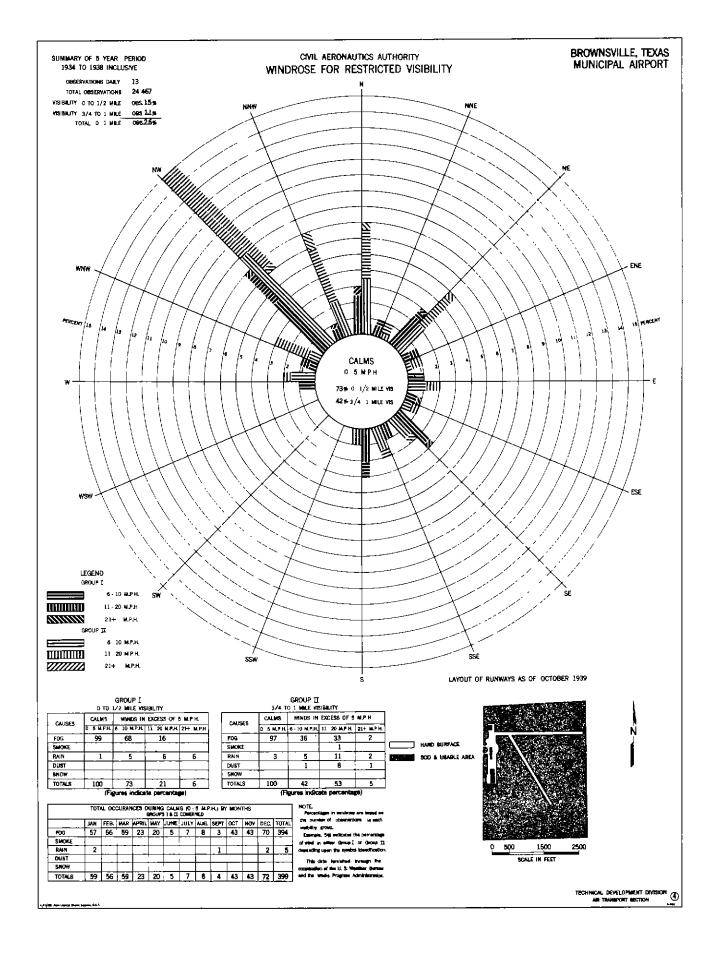
Wichita Falls

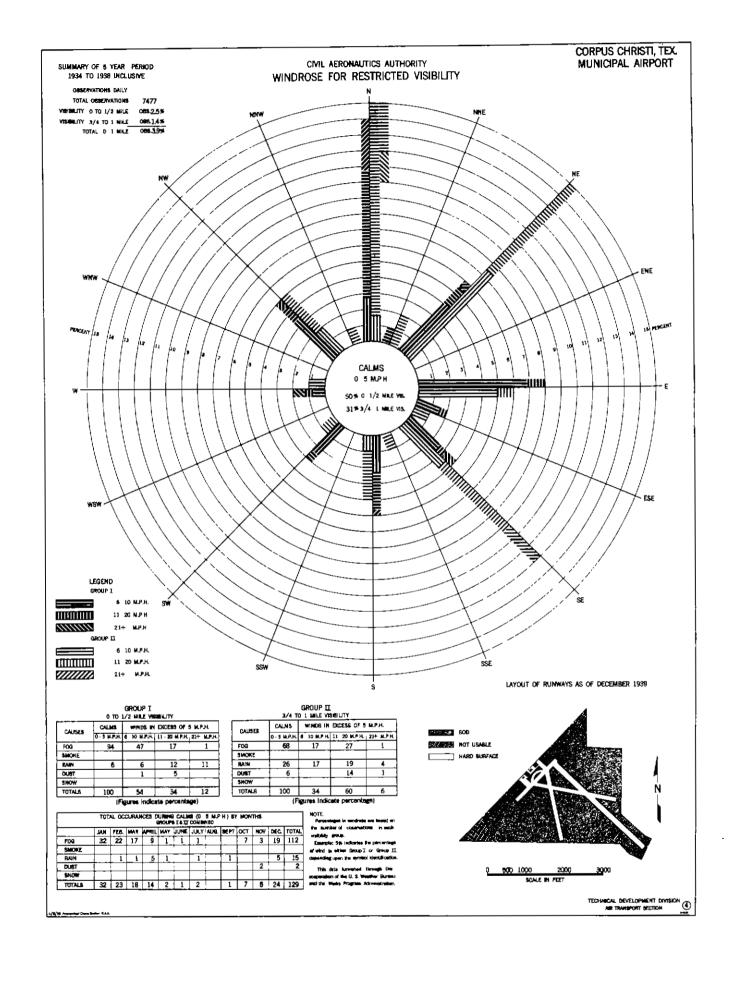


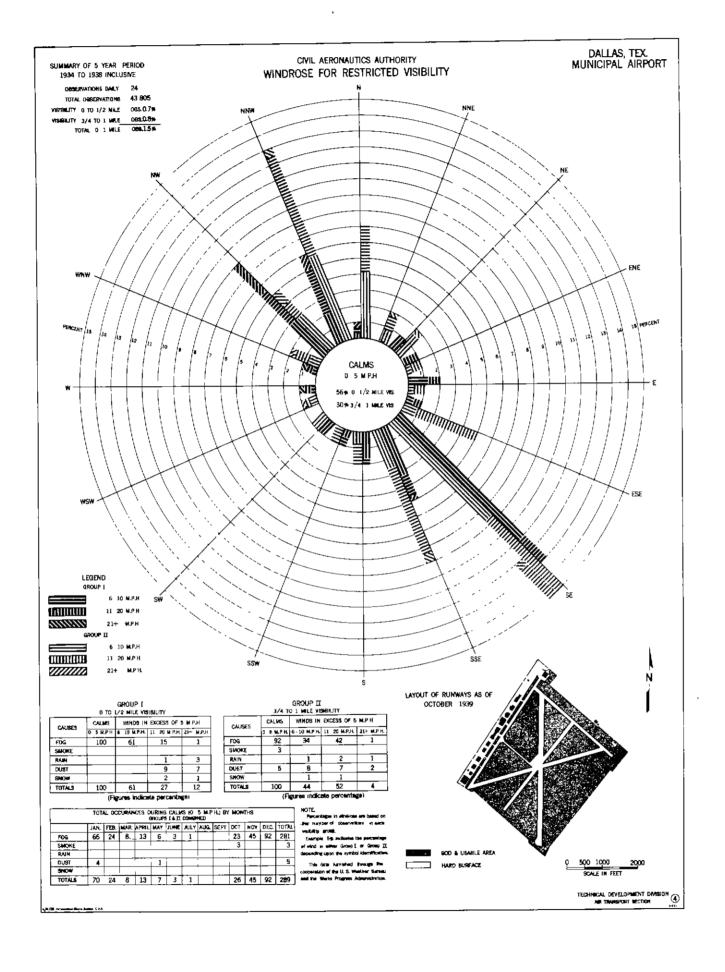


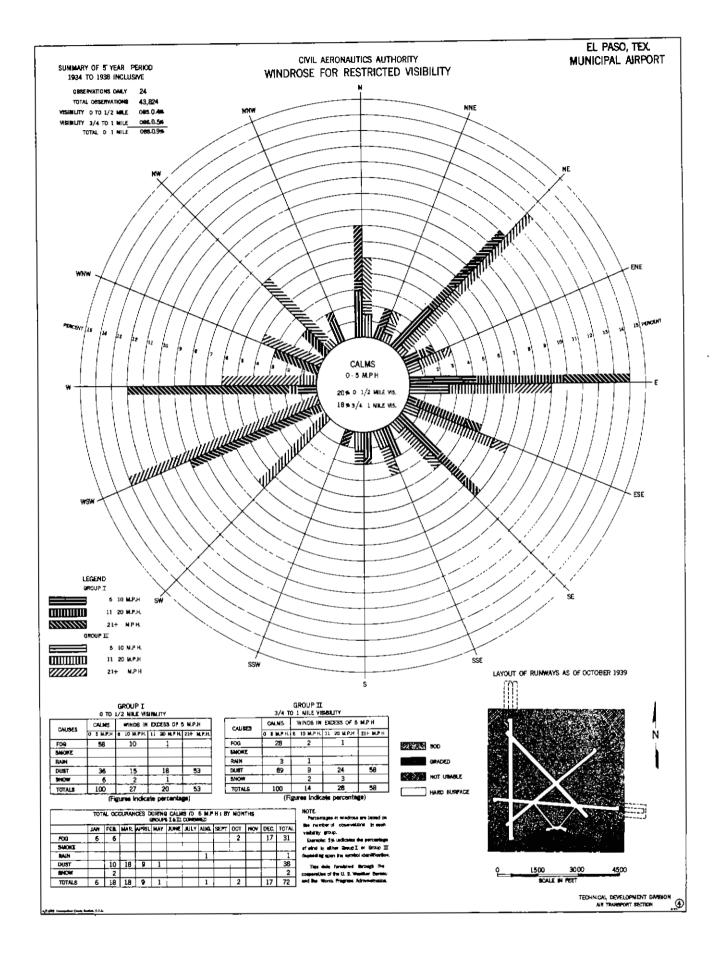


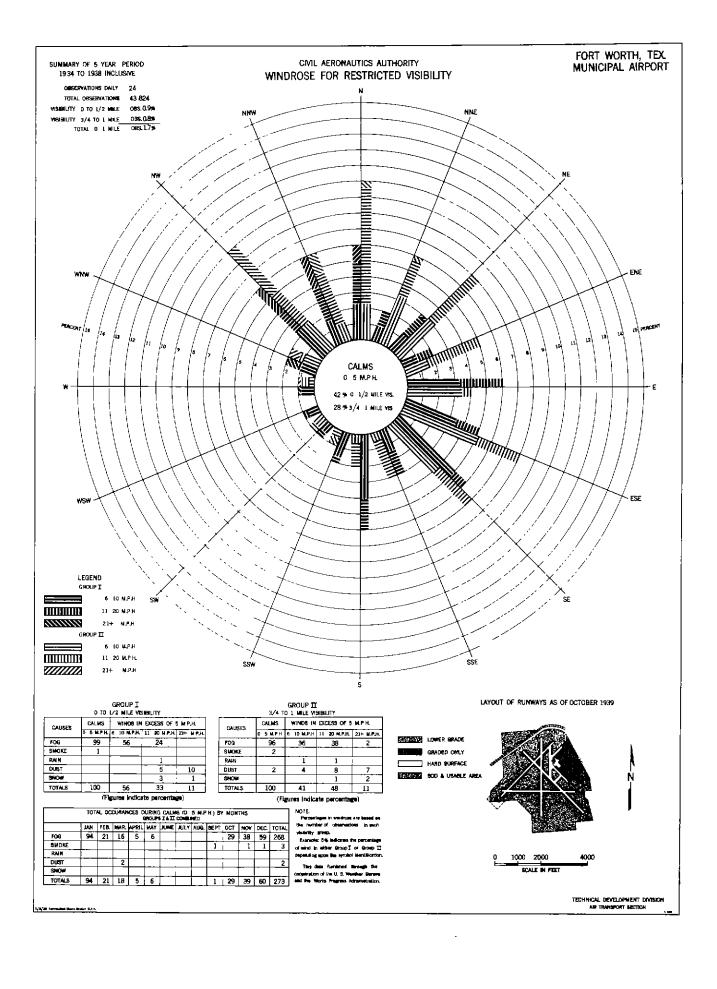


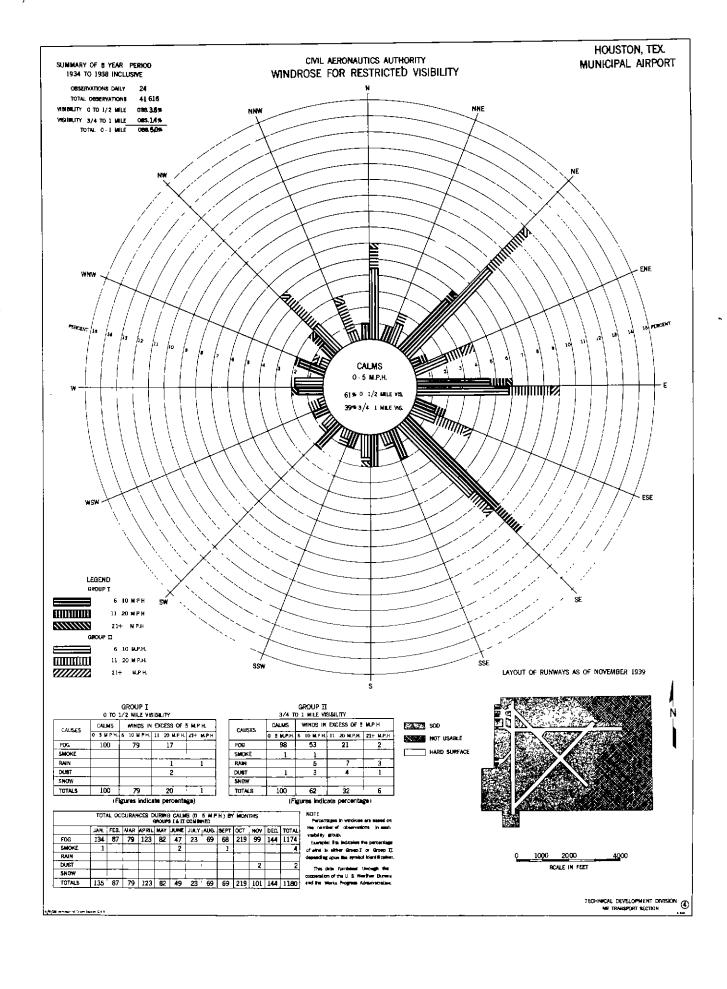


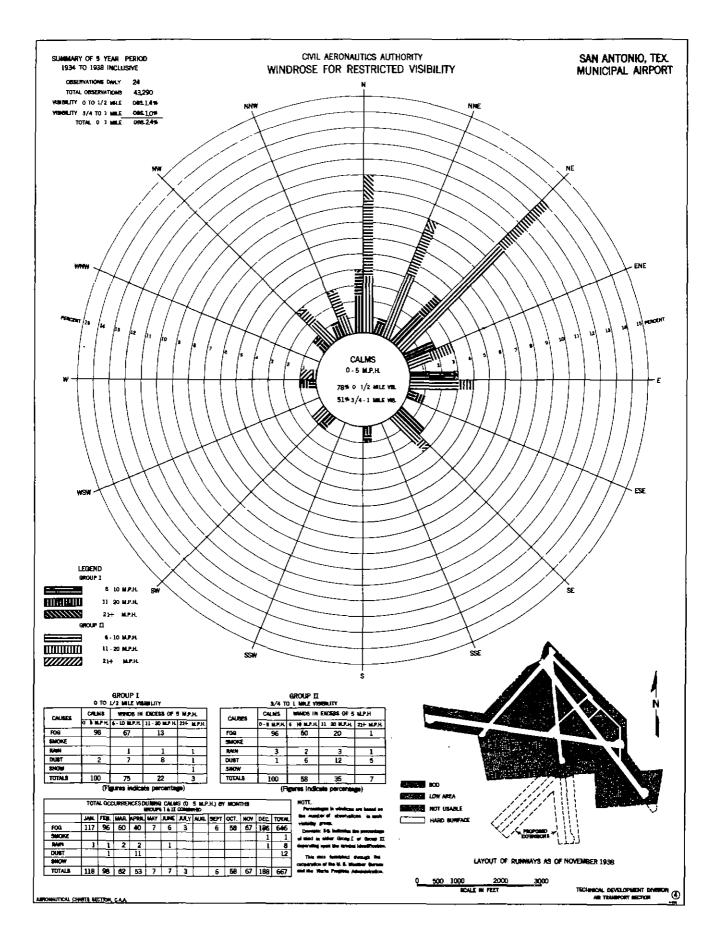


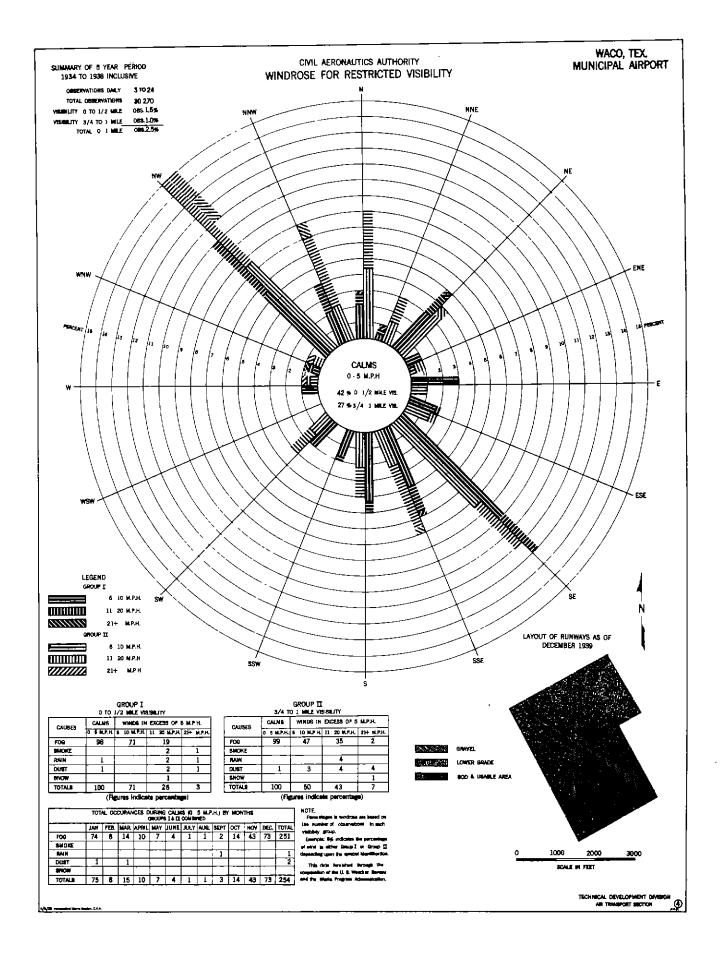


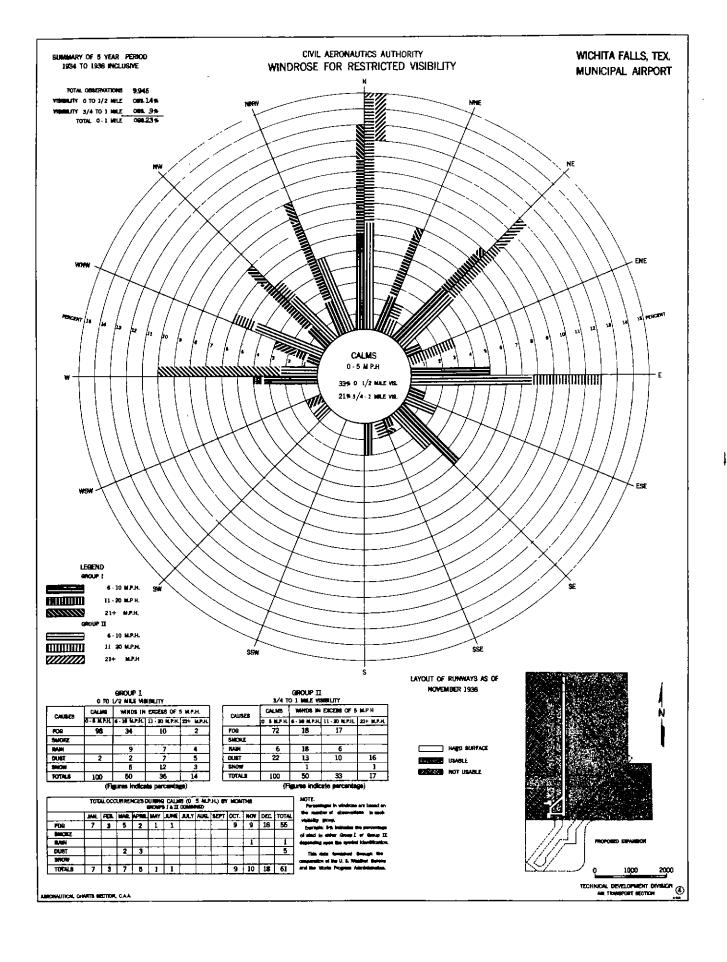






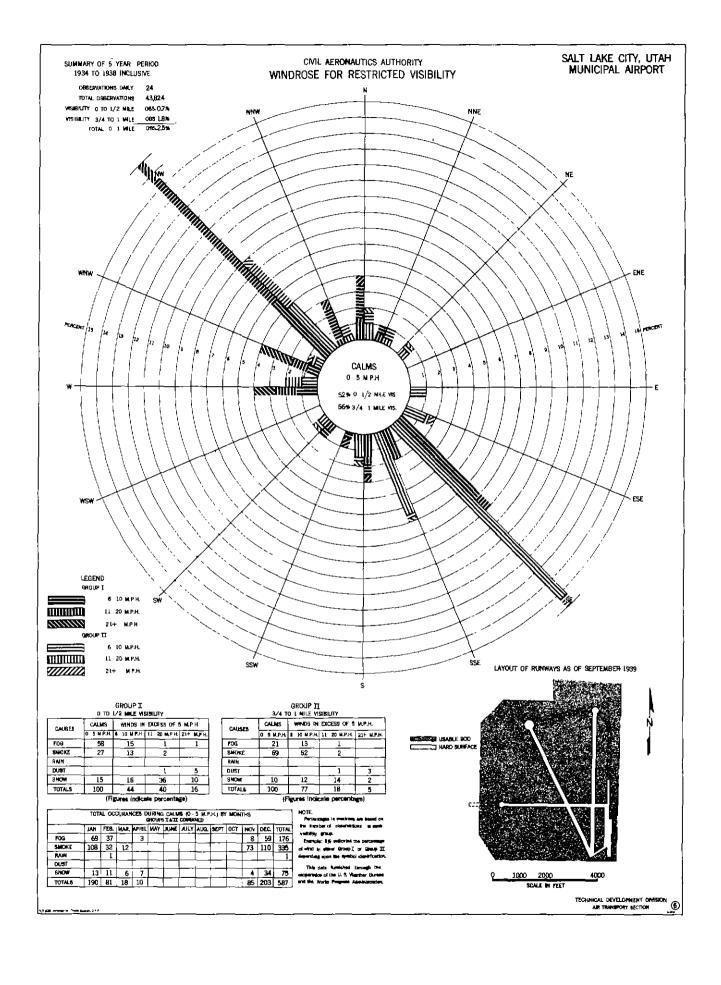






## UTAH

Salt Lake City

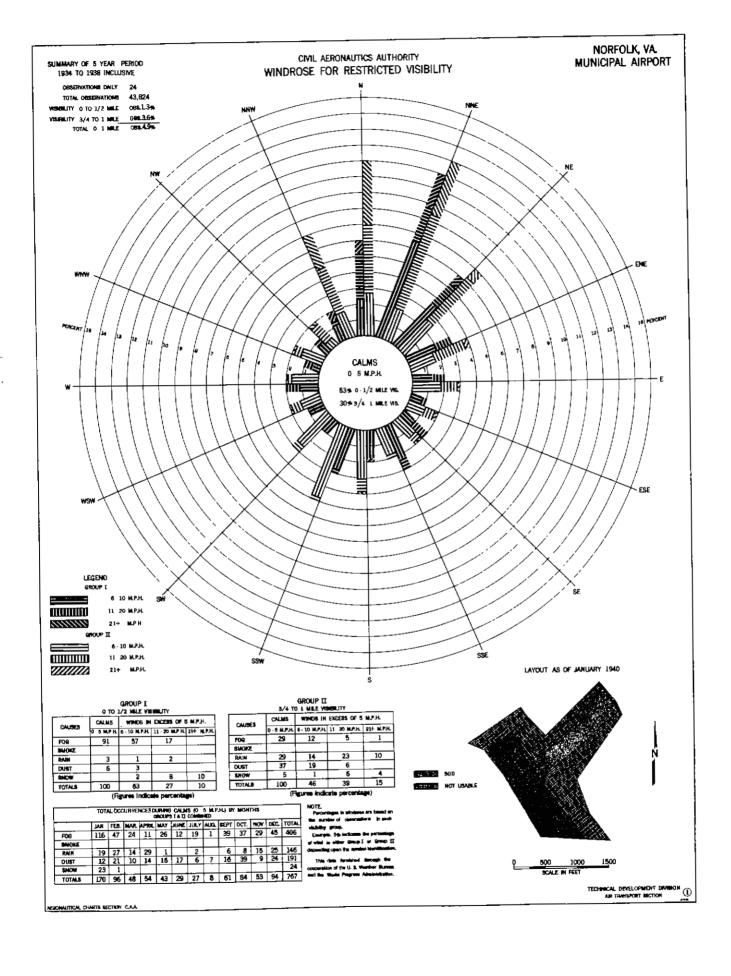


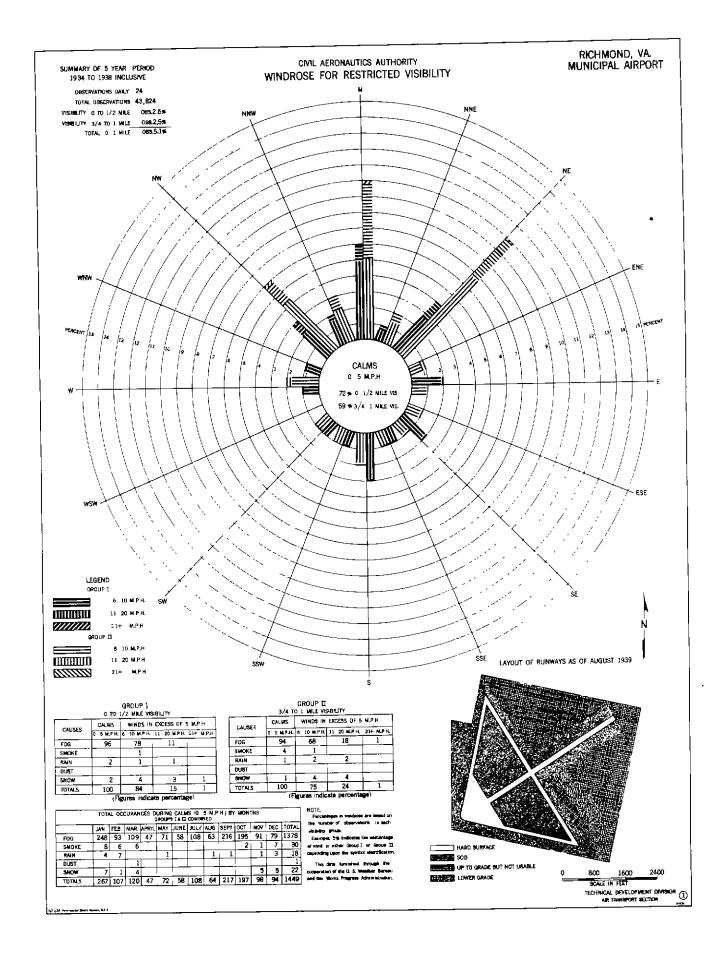
# VIRGINIA

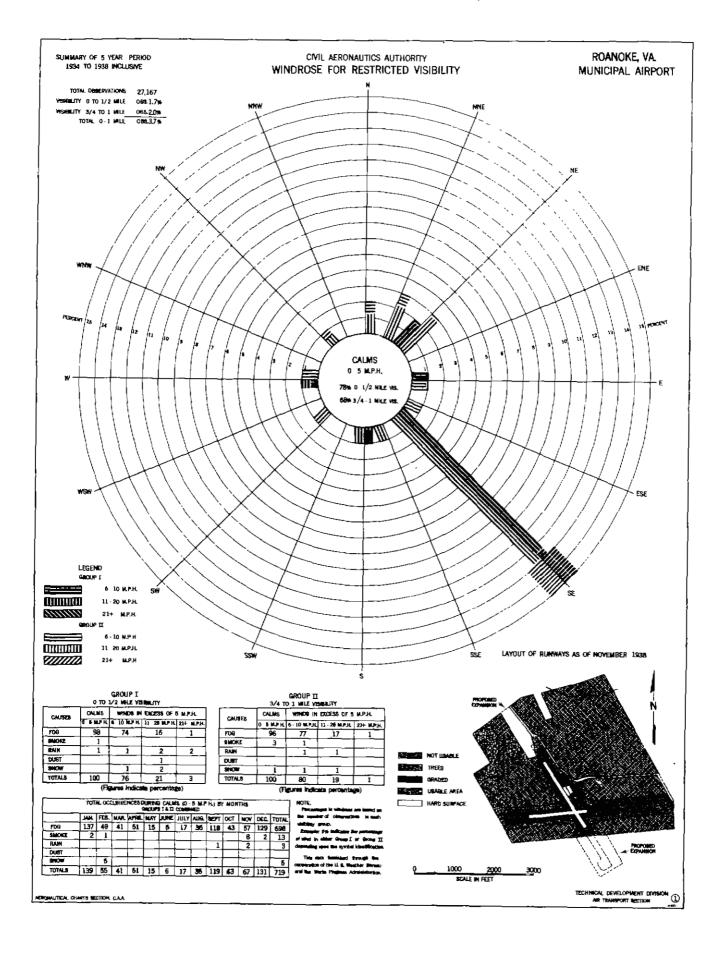
Norfolk

Richmond

Roanoke



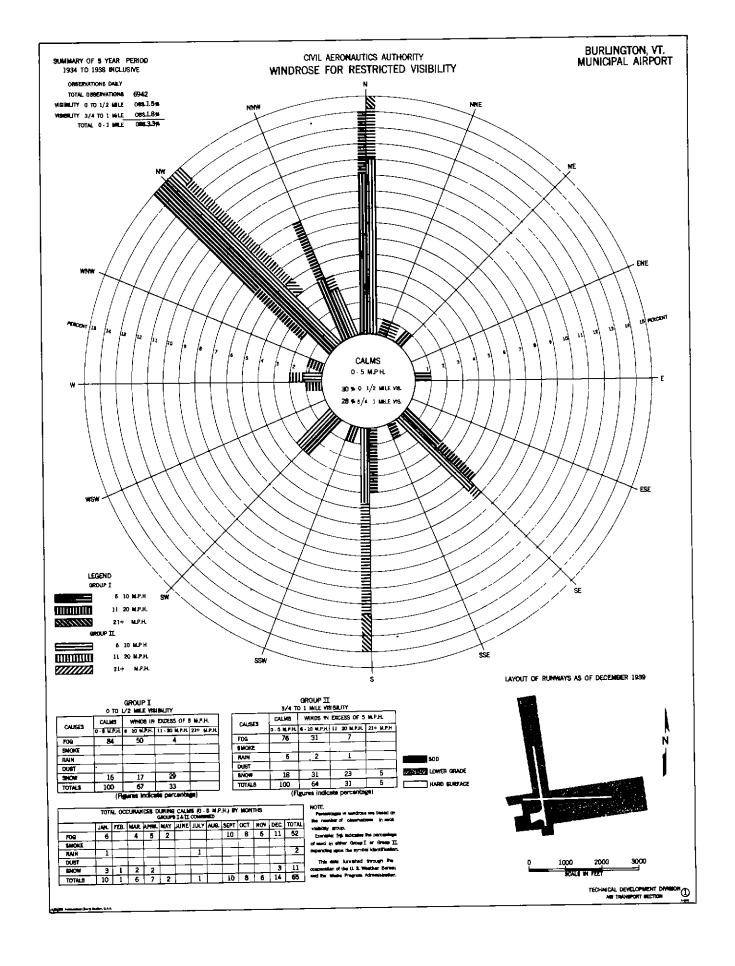


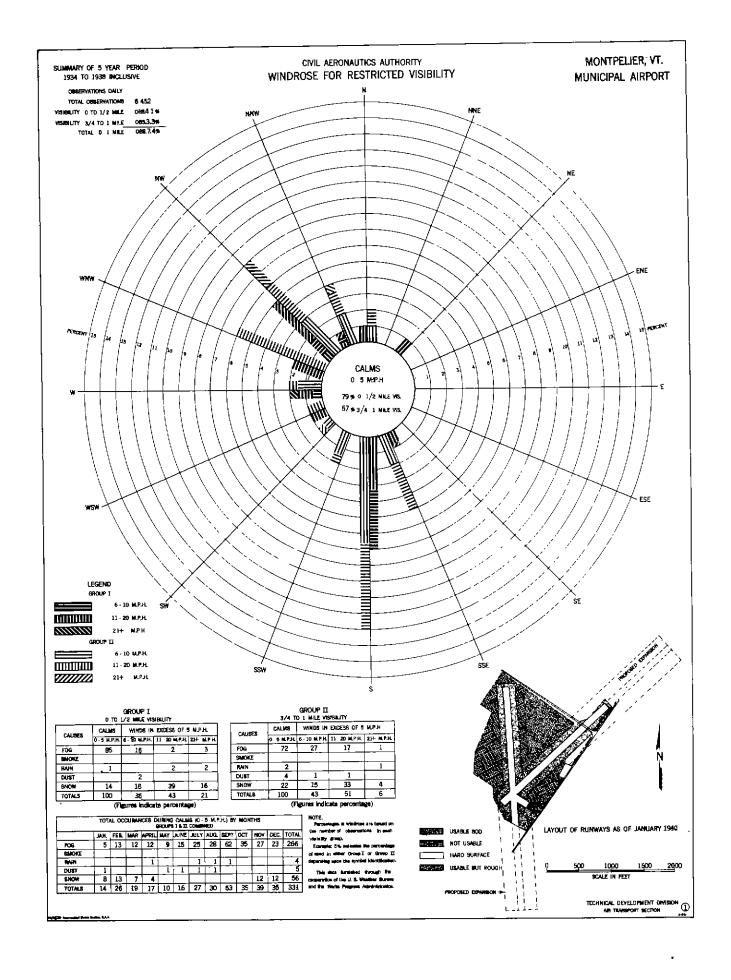


# VERMONT

Burlington

Montpeller





### WASHINGTON

Chehalis

North Dalles

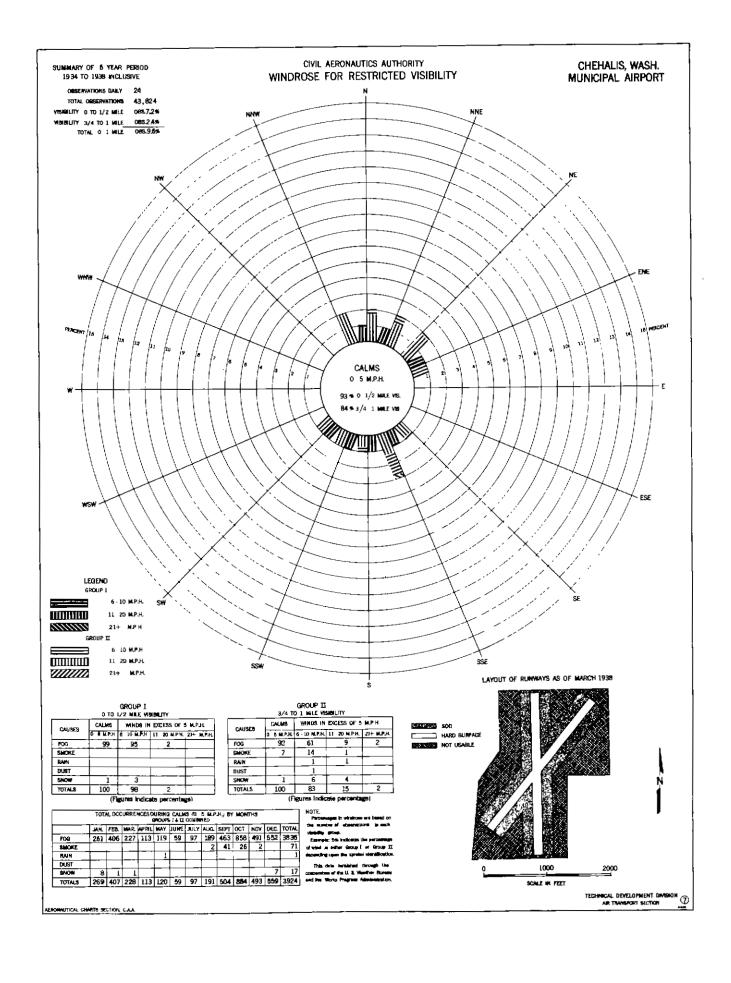
Pasco

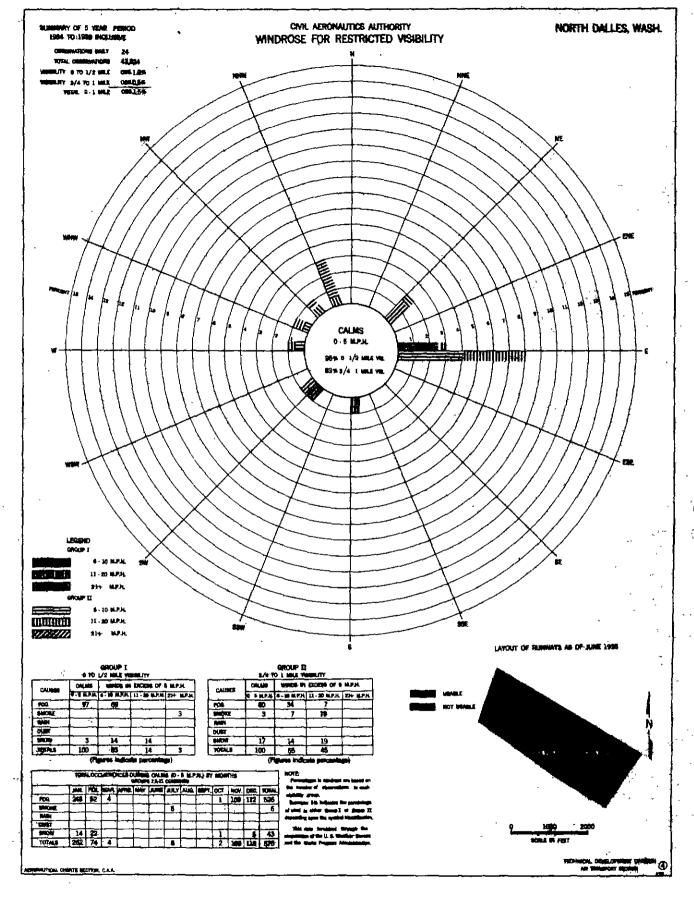
Seattle

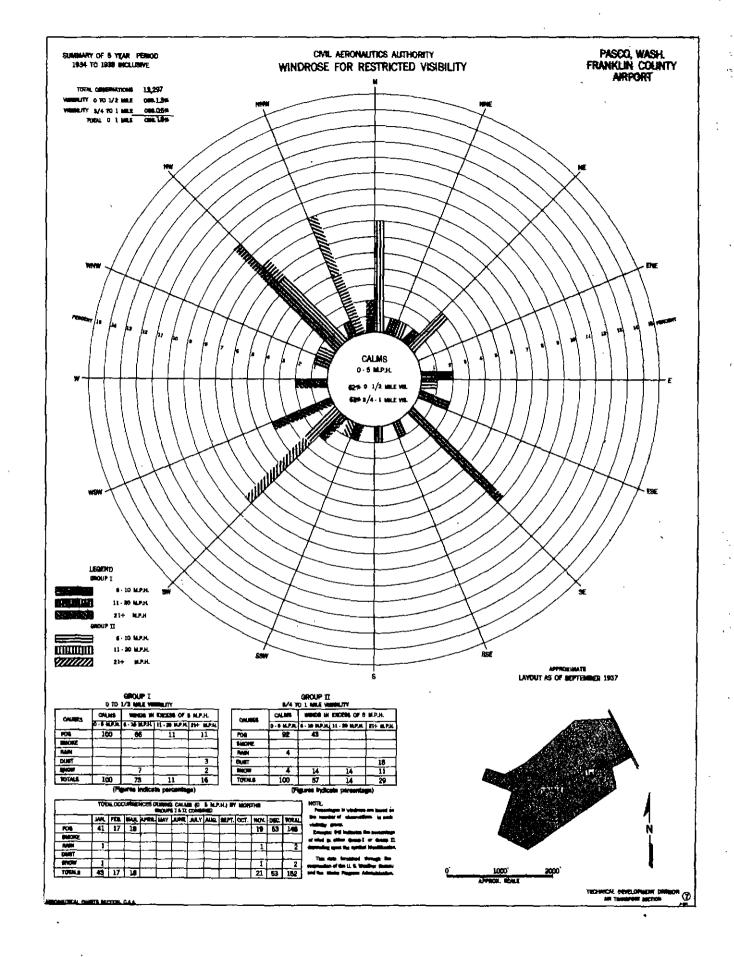
Spokane

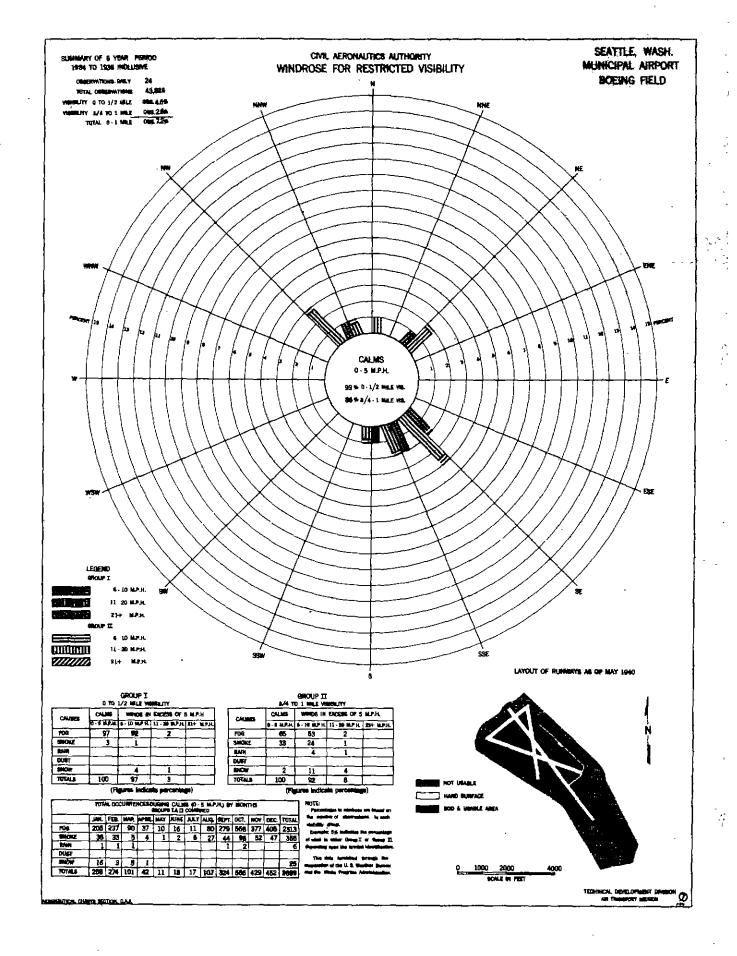
Tacoma

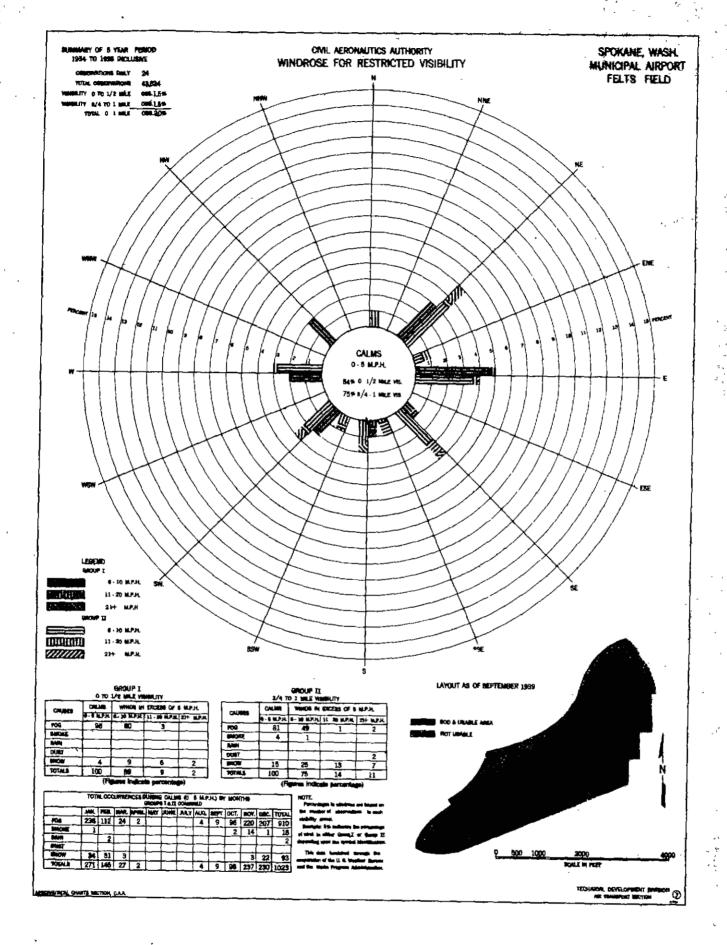
Wenatchee

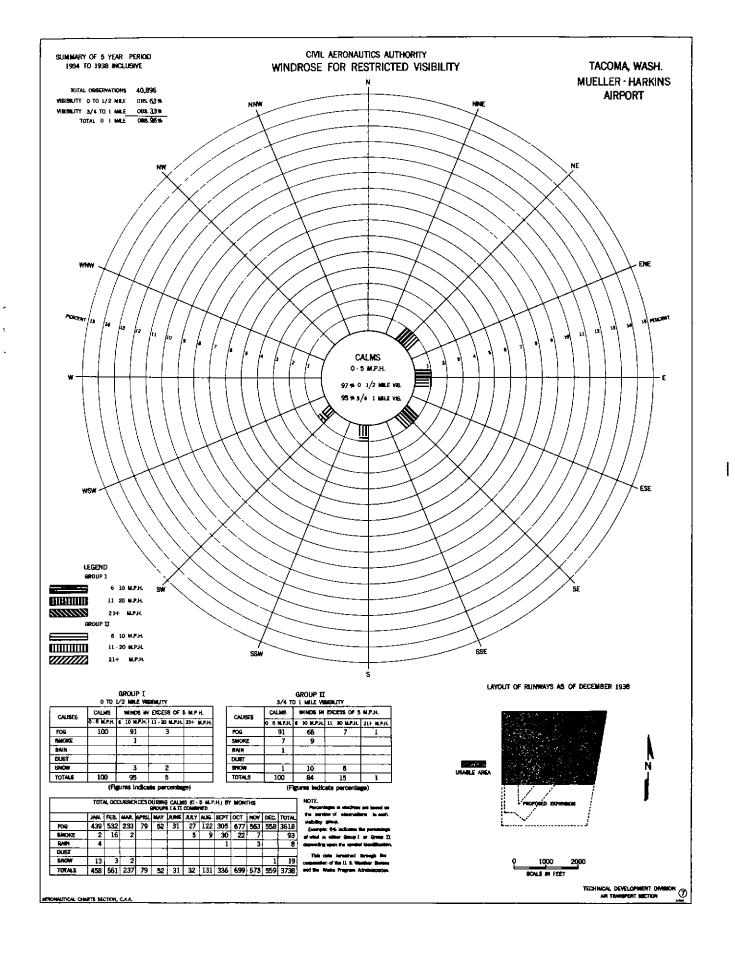


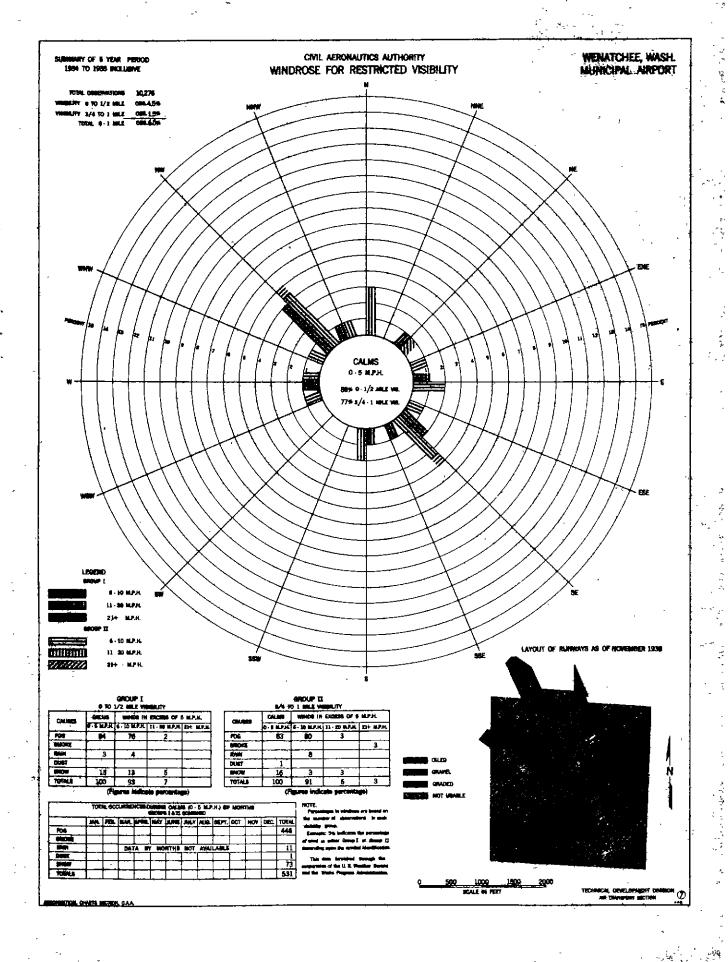










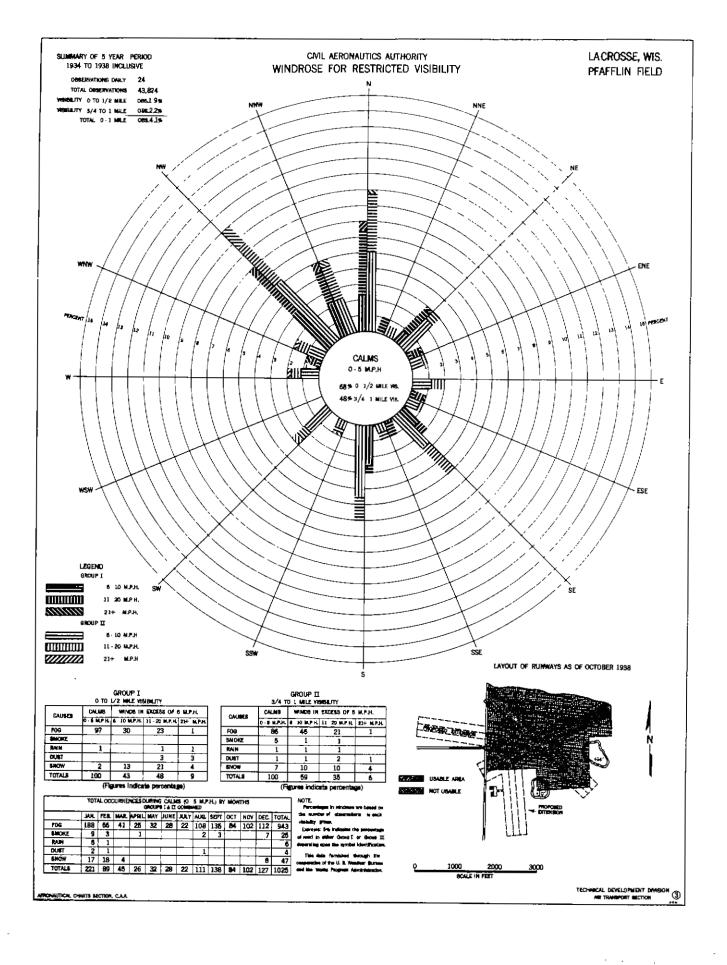


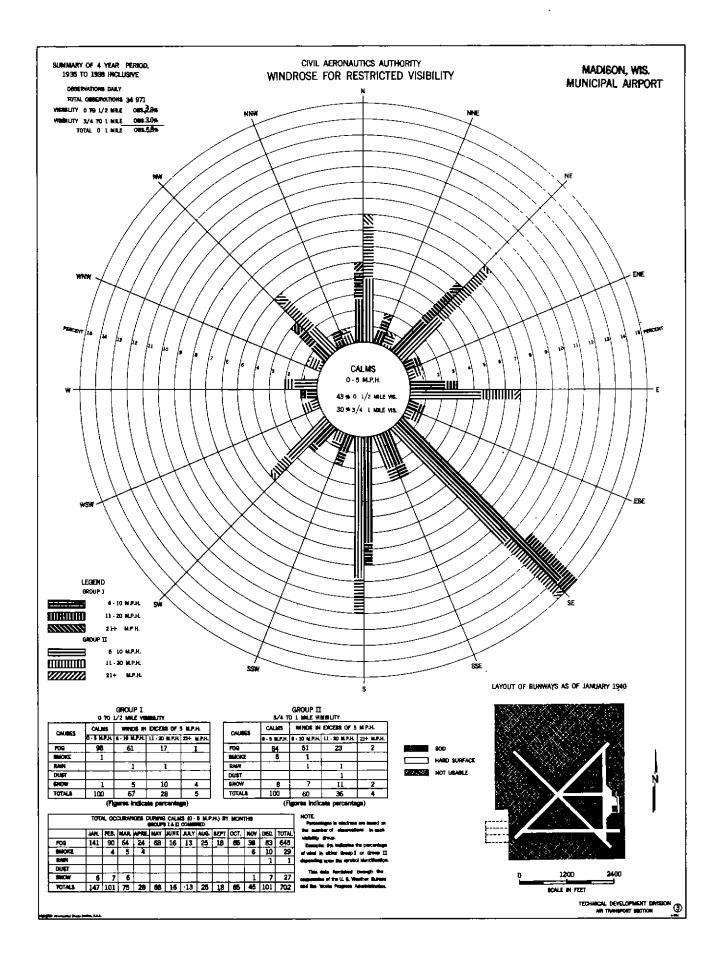
### WISCONSIN

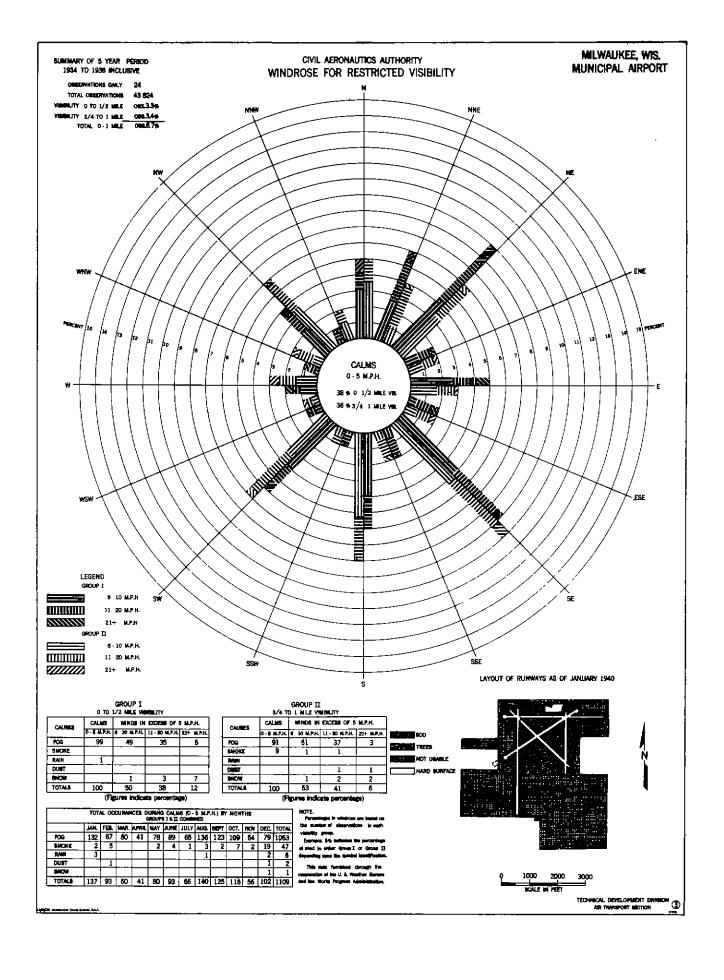
La Crosse

Madison

Milwaukee



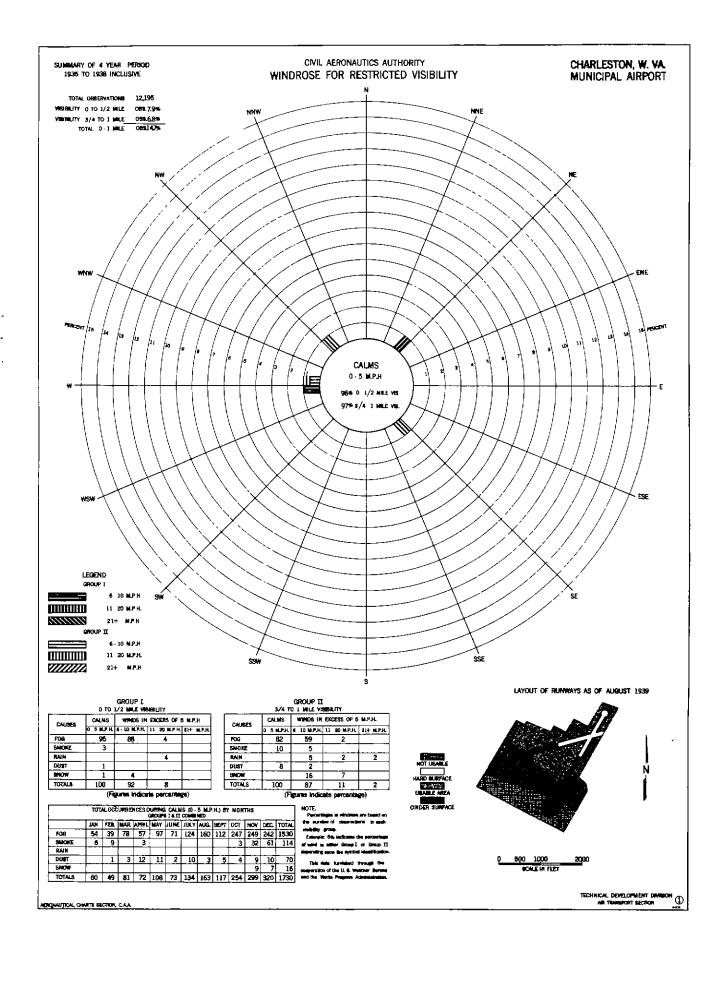


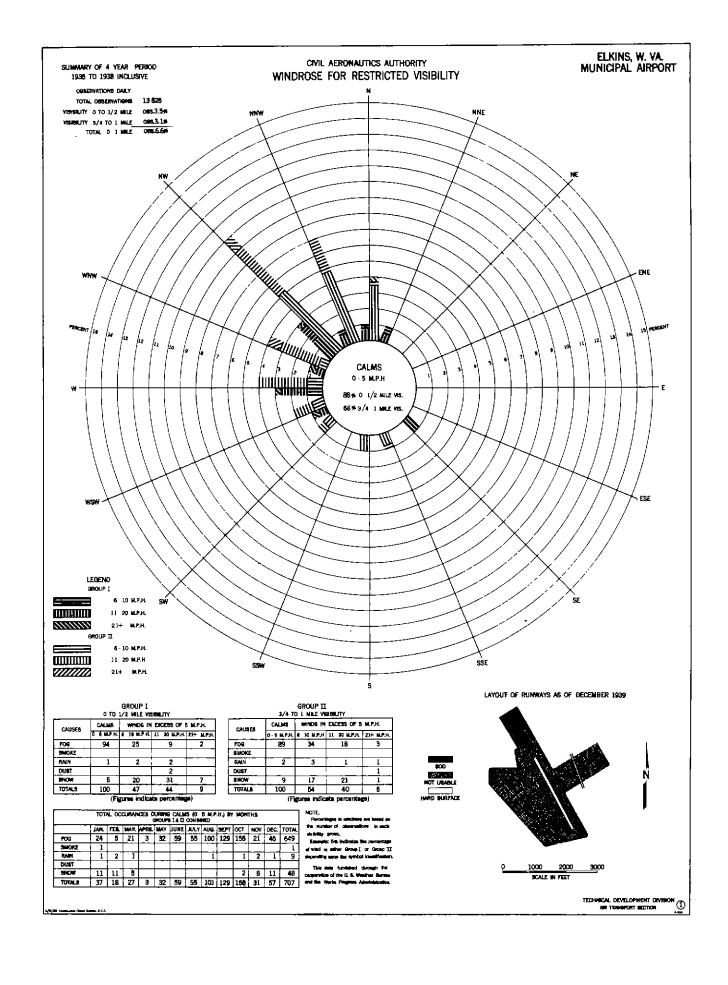


# WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

Elkins





# WYOMING

Casper

Cheyenne

Rock Springs

- - - O

