

Table 1 Altitude, minimum and maximum temperature of selected cities in the three targeted provinces

City/province	Altitude (m) ^a	Minimum average annual temperature ^a (°C)	Maximum average annual temperature ^a (°C)	No. of frosty days during the year ^a	Population according to 2011 census ^b
Karaj city/Alborz	1300	1.2	26.0	50	2 412 513
Hamedan/Hamedan	1741	3.3	19.1	111	651 821
Mahabad/Western Azerbaijan	1320	4.2	19.3	99	215 489

^aSource: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karaj>; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamadan>; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urmia>.

^bSource: Statistical Centre of Iran (http://www.sci.org.ir/SitePages/report_90/ostani/ostani_population_report_final_permission.aspx).