

April 2026 Monthly Weather Summary

Temperature Overview

The above normal temperatures in March continued through most of April- many of the long-term climate sites, as well as select COOP sites, recorded Aprils that ranked among the top 5 warmest for average temperature. It was a little cooler relative to normal over the eastern shore, keeping Salisbury just outside the top 10. As was the case with March, the ongoing drought led to the daily maximum temperatures showing the greater departures, generally between 4-7°F above normal for maximum temperatures, while average minimum temperatures were between 2-5°F above normal. Of note, when averaged together, the back-to-back warmth of March/April ranks as the 2nd warmest on record for average temperature at Richmond and Norfolk, behind only 1945, and 3rd warmest at Elizabeth City, trailing just 2012 and 1945.

The month began very warm with highs mostly ranging through the 80s for several days with an upper-level ridge in place across the eastern US, keeping cooler air confined to the upper Midwest. A cold front crossed the local area on the 6th bringing near to slightly cooler than normal temperatures for a few days. This was short-lived however, as an even stronger upper-level ridge of high pressure that had been in place across the southwest US moved east and became anchored off the southeast coast into the middle of the month. High temperatures on the 15th set daily records at Richmond (93°), Norfolk (91°), and Salisbury (89°). Norfolk and Richmond both hit 92° on the 16th; an additional daily record at Norfolk. For the month, the 3 days reaching 90°+ at Richmond was the most in April since 2009. For the final 2 weeks of the month, temperatures were more variable and trended closer to average. There was a notable cool spell from the 20th through the 22nd as strong high pressure moved south from the upper Midwest and centered over the local area on the morning of the 21st. This allowed for low temperatures in the upper 20s and lower 30s across much of the region away from the immediate coast. A daily record low of 29° was tied at Salisbury; Richmond dropped to 33 at the Airport but many of the Co-op stations dipped to 32° or colder. Temperatures went above normal for a few days thereafter, before ending on a cool note. All in all, April 2026 featured the typical variability of spring, but with the warm days outnumbering the cooler days, as well as showing greater departures.

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Precipitation & Snow Overview

In addition to the warmth, April 2026 was also a very dry month compared to normal. Most of the long-term climate sites, as well as select COOP sites, recorded Aprils that ranked among the top 10 driest on record. Richmond received less than 1.00" for the entire month (0.98"), making this the driest April since 1991 and the 6th driest on record. Norfolk was similarly dry, recording just 1.00" for the month, tied with 2010 as the 8th driest April. While the Salisbury and Elizabeth City stations did not rank among the top 10 driest Aprils, both still recorded only about 50% of normal April precipitation and rank as the 6th and 8th driest year to date (through April 30th) respectively. Notable among the co-op stations, Williamsburg recorded a mere 0.26" for the month, ranking as the driest April on record (period of record back into the early 1950s). Ashland was nearly as dry, recording just 0.61", ranking as the 2nd driest April in the 92-year period of record. Ashland's year to date total (through April 30th) of 7.69" also ranks as 2nd driest, trailing only 1916 (6.21").

There were only 2 significant rainfall events for the month: the first occurring on the 5th when a locally heavy area of rain passed across northeast North Carolina and far southeast Virginia, bringing a narrow swath of 1-2" of welcome rainfall. Farther to the northwest, rainfall amounts were generally 0.50" or less from this event. The 2nd event was on the 25th and 26th, when an area of low pressure stalled across southern Virginia, with cool high pressure northeast of the region. This brought a prolonged period of moderate rain to portions of south central and southeast Virginia where local amounts averaged around 1.00". Outside of these events, rainfall was generally spotty and light, and as a result, drought conditions worsened across the entire region.

The following table on page 3 shows detailed temperature and precipitation statistics for April 2026 at many locations within the Wakefield CWA. On page 4 and 5, daily average temperature departures are shown at Richmond (4) and Norfolk (5), followed by monthly precipitation maps (page 6), with daily records set during the month at our 4 main long-term sites on the last page.

Tabular Summary of Data for Selected Climate Sites (April):

April 2026 Temperature Summary Data <small>* also on other dates All Normals are 1991-2020</small>																			
Site	Avg Max		Avg Min		Avg Temp		Daily Highs					Daily Mins					Remarks		
	(°F)		(°F)		(°F)		Warmest (°F)			Coldest (°F)		Warmest (°F)			Coldest (°F)				
	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Date	Dep	Actual	Date	Dep	Actual	Date	Dep	Actual		Date	Dep
Richmond	76.7	6.3	49.4	3.0	63.1	4.7	93	15th	5	56	26th	5	64	17th	1	33	*21st	1	3rd Warmest April
Norfolk	74.3	4.3	54.5	4.4	64.4	4.3	92	16th	5	50	8th	0	66	*17th	1	42	8th	5	4th Warmest April
Salisbury	70.3	4.2	45.9	1.8	58.1	3.0	89	15th	5	50	8th	1	63	16th	1	29	*21st	1	
Wallops Island	68.1	3.8	48.4	2.5	58.3	3.2	87	15th	5	47	8th	-2	62	15th	4	33	10th	1	***5th Warmest***
Elizabeth City	75.1	4.3	53.1	3.7	64.1	4.0	88	*18th	2	52	8th	-1	65	16th	0	39	20th	5	5th Warmest April
Ashland, VA	76.2	5.1	49.8	4.6	63.0	4.9	89	*16th	2	61	20th	10	65	4th	3	28	21st	-1	***2nd Warmest***
Cape Charles, VA	69.8	5.1	52.5	5.0	61.2	5.1	87	16th	5	47	8th	-2	68	16th	5	35	21st	1	***2nd Warmest***
Crozier, VA	75.3	7.2	43.8	1.1	59.6	4.2	92	16th	5	54	27th	5	62	16th	3	26	7th	-1	***4th Warmest***
Wakefield, VA	78.3	6.9	49.5	4.3	63.9	5.6	93	*16th	6	58	8th	7	65	14th	2	29	21st	1	***2nd Warmest***
Williamsburg, VA	76.0	6.0	51.5	3.8	63.8	4.9	92	*16th	5	55	8th	2	65	*16th	1	34	9th	2	***2nd Warmest***
Edenton, NC	76.6	4.4	54.3	3.7	65.5	4.1	89	15th	4	57	8th	3	65	17th	0	38	21st	4	***3rd Warmest***

April 2026 Precipitation & Snowfall Summary Data <small>* also on other dates All Normals are 1991-2020</small>																			
Site	Total Pre		# Pre Days		# Pre Days		Greatest		Total Snow		# Snow Days		# Snow Days		Greatest		Remarks		
	(in.)		(≥0.01")		(≥0.10")		(in.)		(in.)		(≥0.1")		(≥1.0")		(in.)				
	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Act	Date	Act	Dep	Act	Dep	Act	Dep	Daily	Date		Storm	Date
Richmond	0.98	-2.20	8	-3	4	-3	0.33	25th											6th Driest April
Norfolk	1.00	-2.37	6	-4	3	-3	0.52	5th											8th Driest April
Salisbury	1.73	-1.69	8	-3	2	-5	0.93	5th											
Wallops Island	0.36	-2.76	5	-6	1	-5	0.24	5th											***Driest April on record***
Elizabeth City	1.54	-1.62	6	-3	3	-3	0.94	5th											
Ashland, VA	0.61	-2.80	5	-5	2	-5	0.22	*5th											***2nd Driest***
Cape Charles, VA	2.27	-1.10	9	-2	3	-3	0.87	13th											N/A
Crozier, VA	1.10	-2.95	5	-3	3	-3	0.48	6th											***5th Driest***
Wakefield, VA	0.54	-3.22	6	-4	2	-5	0.30	25th											***2nd Driest***
Williamsburg, VA	0.26	-3.72	5	-5	1	-6	0.15	25th											***Driest April on record***
Edenton, NC	1.40	-1.87	5	-3	4	-2	0.59	6th											

* **“Dep”= Departure** from the 30-year normals (1991-2020). Temperature departures are shaded orange for 1 F or more warmer than average (dark red for 4 F or greater anomalies) and blue for 1 F or more cooler than average (dark blue for 4 F or more below normal). Similarly, precipitation departures are shaded green for 0.50” or more wetter than average (dark green for 2.00” or more) and tan for 0.50” or more drier than average (dark brown for 2.00” or more drier). Snowfall departures are shaded purple for 1” or more above average and tan for 1” or more below average. *****Rankings in Remark section are included for Co-op sites where a complete period of record is of sufficient duration. N/A in Remarks section indicates sites with a shorter period of record, leading to rankings being of less significance**

Daily Average Temperature Departures at Richmond, VA (April)

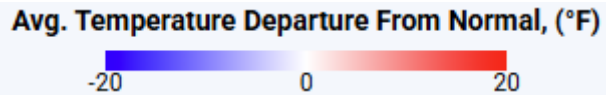
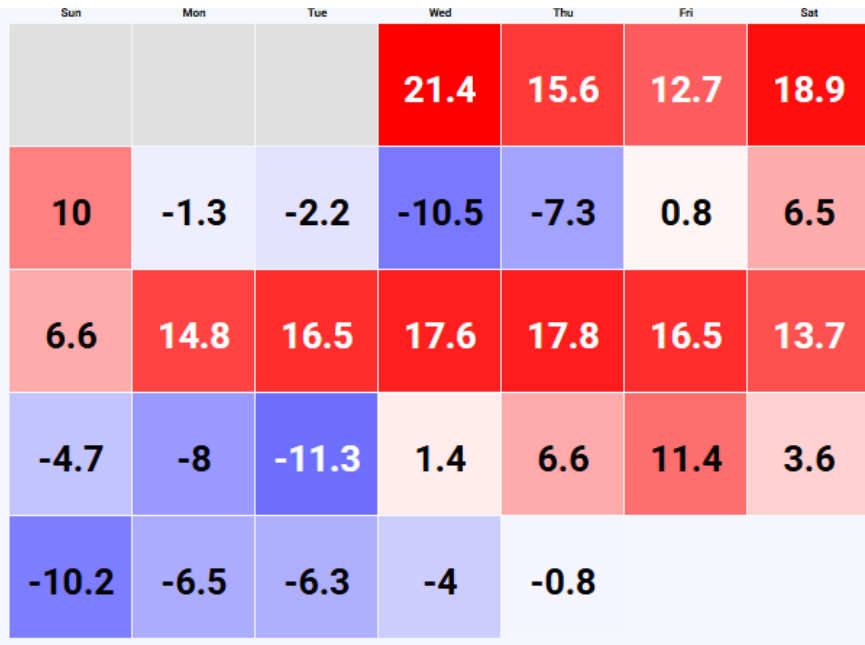


Figure 1: Daily Average Temperature Departures at RIC

Daily Average Temperature Departures at Norfolk, VA (April)

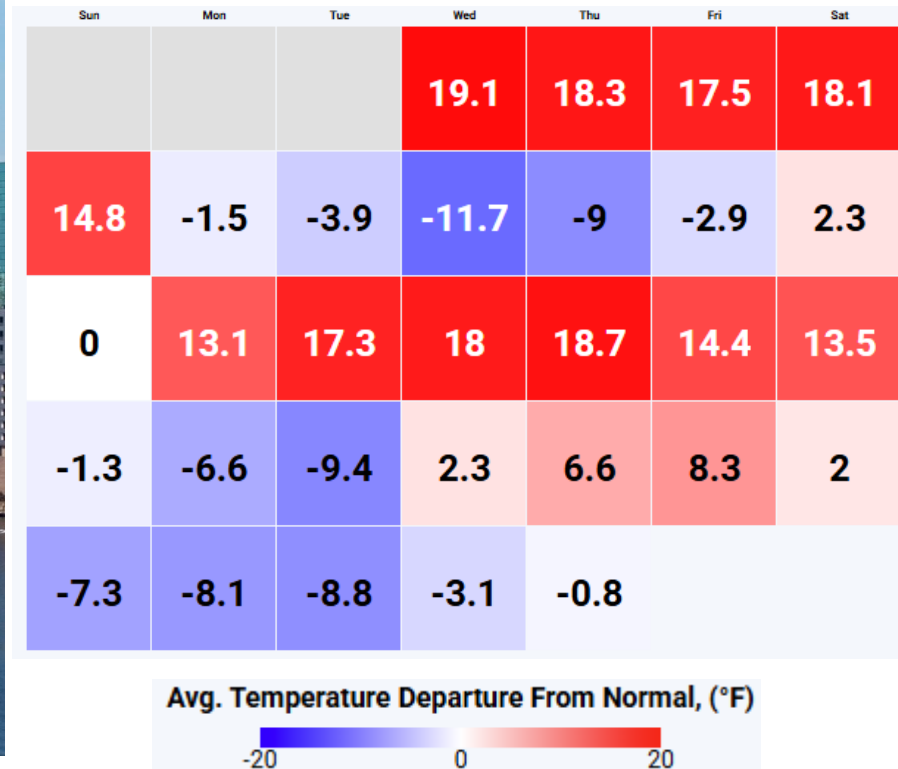


Figure 2: Daily Average Temperature Departures at ORF

Regional Precipitation Maps: April 2026

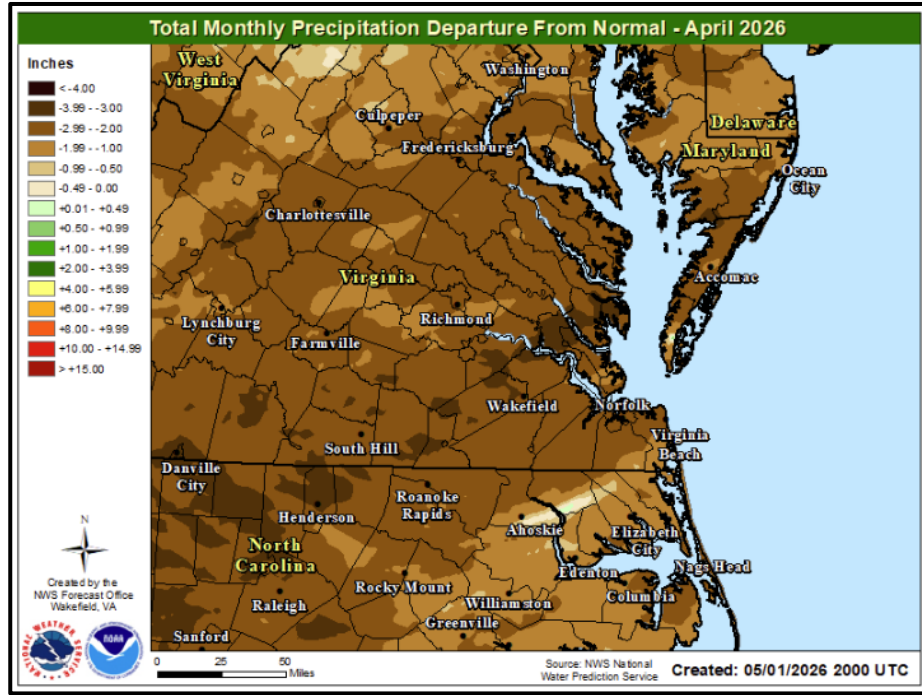
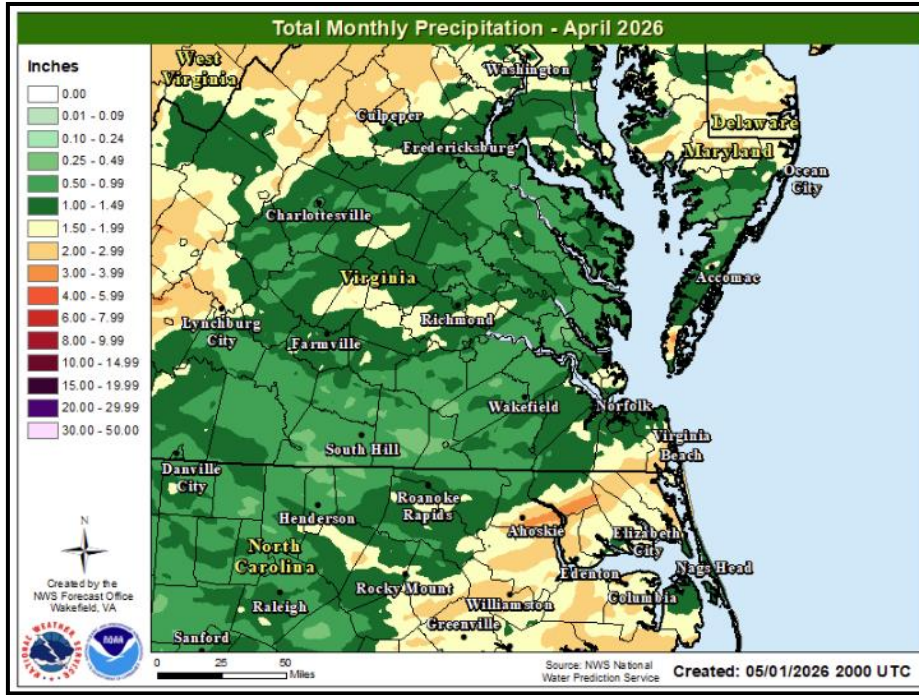


Figure 3: Total Precipitation for the month is shown in the map on the left. **Departure** from the 30-year normals (1991-2020) is shown on the map on the right.

Daily Records for Long Term Sites (April):

Norfolk, VA Records (Period of Record 153 yrs./1874-2026)

**tie*

Record Highs: 86° (1st), 91° (15th), 92° (16th).

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: 64° (2nd), *66° (16th).

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Richmond, VA Daily Records (Period of Record 130 yrs./1897-2026)

**tie*

Record Highs: 93° (15th).

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: *64° (17th)

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Salisbury, MD Daily Records (Period of Record 120 yrs./1907-2026)

**tie*

Record Highs: 89° (15th).

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: *29° (21st).

Record High Minimums: *63° (16th).

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Elizabeth City, NC Daily Records (Period of Record 93 yrs./1934-2026)

**tie*

Record Highs: none set.

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set.

Daily Precipitation: none set.