

December 2025 Monthly Weather Summary

Temperature Overview

December monthly temperatures averaged **3 to 5 degrees colder than normal** across most of the local area, with a deep upper trough bringing well below normal temperatures (and multiple rounds of winter precipitation) for the first half of the month. The upper level pattern transitioned to more of a zonal flow for the latter portion of December, allowing for milder temperatures through the Christmas holiday. The cold start was still significant enough to lead to all primary climate stations recording their coldest December since 2010 despite the milder finish. Among the primary climate stations, Salisbury saw the largest negative departure from normal, recording an average temperature of 4.7° below normal while Richmond was the “warmest” at 3.4° below normal. December typically experiences a few dates with a daily minimum in the 50s, but 2025 saw many stations not recording a single daily minimum temperature above the 30s: Salisbury’s warmest low of 36° was the coldest outside of 35° in 1989 and 1909. As for highs, Elizabeth City, NC was the only place to reach 70° during the month. Overall, the relative warmth observed during the second half of the month kept 2025 from being cold enough to rank among the top 10 coldest Decembers on record despite a first half that was the coldest since 1989 and the 5th to 7th the coldest in over 100 years at Richmond, Norfolk, and Salisbury. Elizabeth City’s high of just 33° on the 15th tied 1958 for a daily record low maximum, but otherwise, no daily temperature records were tied or broken.

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Precipitation/Snowfall Overview

Total precipitation was once again ***below normal*** for the month of December, with most locations receiving about 50 to 75 percent of the normal precipitation amount. In spite of the overall dry pattern, ***snowfall was above normal*** for most of the area due to the colder than normal temperatures. The month did start off rather wet as low pressure moved northeast from the Gulf coast on the morning of the 2nd, before pushing off the mid-Atlantic coast that afternoon. With the exception of Richmond, this was the wettest day of the month as most locations observed from 0.75" to 1.25" of rainfall. Strong and cold high pressure became anchored over the Midwest and northeast states over the next few days, setting the stage for a mostly snow event on the 5th as another low pressure system affected the local area. With temperatures staying much colder than average, yet another system brought snow to the region on the 8th, this one being snow all the way to the coast in southeast Virginia and northeast North Carolina. Richmond recorded 4.0" of snow, enough to set a daily record for the date and Elizabeth City's 1.1" of snow was also a record. The greatest snowfall totals were observed across portions of south central and interior southeast Virginia, where amounts averaged from 5.0 to 7.0". Conditions generally turned rather dry after that with only brief light precipitation events over the remainder of the month. The one exception was with some locally heavy rainfall on the 19th, primarily across metro Richmond as a warm front lifted north through the area.

The following table on page 3 shows detailed temperature and precipitation statistics for December 2025 at many locations within the Wakefield CWA. On page 4, daily average temperature departures are shown at Richmond and Norfolk for December, followed by December precipitation maps (page 5), 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 (December):

December 2025 Temperature Summary Data												* also on other dates			All Normals are 1991-2020				
Site	Avg Max		Avg Min		Avg Temp		Daily Highs			Daily Mins			Remarks						
	("F)		("F)		("F)		Actual		Date	Actual		Date	Actual		Date	Actual		Date	
	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	
Richmond	47.9	-3.6	28.9	-3.2	38.4	-3.4	64	*29th	-8	31	9th	-4	39	24th	-12	15	15th	-3	Coldest since 2010
Norfolk	49.8	-4.9	33.1	-4.5	41.5	-4.6	68	29th	-5	32	15th	-5	45	19th	-10	19	15th	-5	Coldest since 2010
Salisbury	45.7	-4.1	26.1	-5.3	35.9	-4.7	62	*29th	-7	30	15th	-3	36	19th	-15	17	15th	1	Coldest since 2010
Wallop Island	47.4	-3.1	28.8	-4.7	38.1	-3.9	65	*29th	-3	31	15th	-3	38	23rd	-12	19	15th	0	Coldest since 2010
Elizabeth City	51.9	-3.7	31.1	-5.4	41.5	-4.5	72	29th	-2	33	15th	-6	42	5th	-13	16	15th	-6	Coldest since 2010
Ashland, VA	47.4	-2.5	27.1	-3.1	37.2	-2.9	64	29th	-6	31	9th	-2	41	29th	-9	10	15th	-5	Coldest since 2010
Cape Charles, VA	48.0	-2.9	31.9	-3.7	39.9	-3.4	65	29th	-5	31	15th	-5	41	19th	-12	21	15th	-2	Coldest since 2010
Louisa, VA	47.0	-1.1	27.5	-0.6	37.2	-0.9	65	*25th	-4	31	9th	-2	44	19th	-3	7	15th	-5	Coldest since 2022
Wakefield, VA	49.4	-3.7	27.2	-4.2	38.3	-4.0	65	*29th	-7	34	15th	-2	36	23rd	-15	11	15th	-6	Coldest since 2010
Williamsburg, VA	48.7	-3.9	29.0	-5.1	38.8	-4.6	65	29th	-7	33	15th	-3	38	24th	-15	16	15th	-4	Coldest since 2010
Edenton, NC	51.8	-3.5	32.9	-4.9	42.3	-4.2	66	*29th	-5	32	15th	-8	50	19th	-4	17	15th	-6	Coldest since 2010
December 2025 Precipitation & Snowfall Summary Data												* also on other dates			All Normals are 1991-2020				
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.)		(in.)		
	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Act	Date	Act	Dep	Act	Dep	Act	Dep	Daily	Date	Storm	Date	
Richmond	3.16	-0.35	8	-2	5	-1	1.40	19th	6.0	4.2	2	1	2	1	4.0	8th	4.0	8th	Snowiest since 2018
Norfolk	2.35	-0.93	9	-1	5	-1	1.13	2nd	0.8	-0.3	1	0	0	0	0.8	8th	0.8	8th	Snowiest since 2010
Salisbury	2.03	-1.56	6	-5	4	-3	0.98	2nd	1.1	0.2	2	1	0	0	0.6	14th	0.6	14th	Snowiest since 2017
Wallop Island	1.84	-1.91	9	-2	4	-3	0.93	2nd	0.7	-1.0	2	1	0	0	0.6	5th	0.6	5th	Snowiest since 2017
Elizabeth City	1.89	-1.22	10	0	6	0	0.74	2nd	1.1	1.1	1	1	1	1	1.1	8th	1.1	8th	Snowiest since 2010
Ashland, VA	2.49	-1.23	7	-2	5	-2	1.15	2nd	8.2	5.2	4	3	2	1	4.0	8th	4.7	8-9th	Snowiest since 2018
Cape Charles, VA	2.18	-1.36	10	0	4	-2	1.11	2nd	N/A	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Louisa, VA	1.86	-1.47	5	-5	5	-1	0.89	2nd	5.1	1.8	3	2	2	1	3.2	5th	3.2	5th	Snowiest since 2018
Wakefield, VA	2.02	-1.71	9	-2	4	-3	0.84	2nd	7.4	6.3	2	1	2	2	6.5	8th	6.5	8th	Snowiest since 2010
Williamsburg, VA	1.79	-2.01	8	-3	5	-2	0.75	2nd	4.5	3.6	2	1	2	2	3.4	8th	3.4	8th	Snowiest since 2018
Edenton, NC	2.52	-0.97	9	1	7	1	1.00	2nd	M		M		M						

* "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 & Norfolk, VA (December)

December 2025: Richmond, VA

Observed Average Temperature Departure from Normal (°F)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 38.0° 45.1°	2 36.5° 44.8°	3 36.5° 44.6°	4 38.5° 44.3°	5 34.0° 44.1°	6 34.5° 43.8°	
7 37.5° 43.6°	8 30.0° 43.3°	9 24.0° 43.1°	10 38.0° 42.9°	11 36.0° 42.7°	12 33.5° 42.5°	13 38.5° 42.2°
14 28.0° 42°	15 24.0° 41.8°	16 33.5° 41.6°	17 44.5° 41.4°	18 46.0° 41.2°	19 48.0° 41°	20 37.5° 40.9°
21 43.5° 40.7°	22 36.5° 40.5°	23 50.0° 40.3°	24 51.0° 40.2°	25 48.0° 40°	26 40.5° 39.9°	27 43.5° 39.7°
28 42.0° 39.6°	29 49.0° 39.4°	30 33.0° 39.3°	31 36.5° 39.2°			

NWS Wakefield - Richmond

December 2025: Norfolk, VA

Observed Average Temperature Departure from Normal (°F)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 43.0° 49.1°	2 49.0° 48.9°	3 38.0° 48.7°	4 38.0° 48.5°	5 41.0° 48.3°	6 40.0° 48.1°	
7 36.5° 47.9°	8 36.5° 47.6°	9 34.0° 47.4°	10 41.5° 47.2°	11 41.0° 47°	12 34.5° 46.8°	13 42.5° 46.7°
14 35.0° 46.5°	15 25.5° 46.3°	16 31.5° 46.1°	17 45.0° 45.9°	18 50.0° 45.7°	19 56.0° 45.5°	20 42.5° 45.3°
21 47.5° 45.1°	22 39.0° 45°	23 45.5° 44.8°	24 49.0° 44.6°	25 50.0° 44.4°	26 42.0° 44.3°	27 43.5° 44.1°
28 44.0° 43.9°	29 53.0° 43.8°	30 34.5° 43.6°	31 36.5° 43.5°			

NWS Wakefield - Norfolk

Figure 2: Daily Average Temperature Departures at RIC and ORF

Regional Precipitation Maps: December 2025

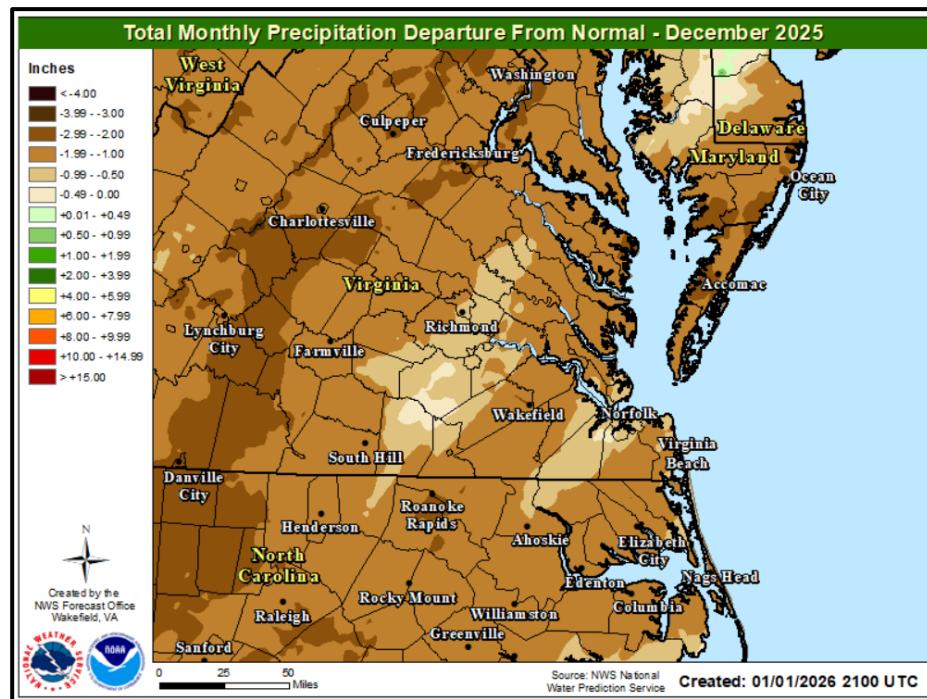
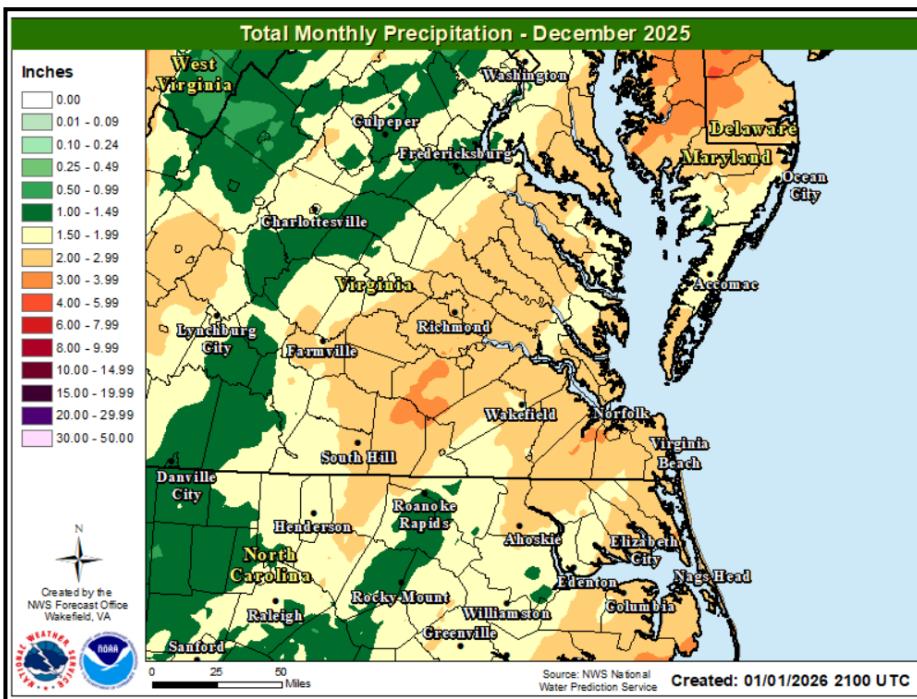


Figure 3: Total Precipitation for the month is shown in the map on the left. **Departure** from the 30-year normals (1991-2020) is shown on the map on the right.

Daily Records for Long Term Sites (December):

Norfolk, VA Records (Period of Record 152 yrs./1874-2025)

*tie

Record Highs: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set.

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Richmond, VA Records (Period of Record 129 yrs./1897-2025)

*tie

Record Highs: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set.

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Daily Snowfall: 4.0" (8th).

Salisbury, MD Records (Period of Record 119 yrs./1907-2025)

*tie

Record Highs: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set.

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Elizabeth City, NC Records (Period of Record 92 yrs./1934-2025)

*tie

Record Highs: none set.

Record Low Maximums: *33 (15th).

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set.

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Daily Snowfall: 1.1" (8th).