

January 2026 Monthly Weather Review

Temperature Overview

Despite a well above normal start to the month, all long-term climate sites ended January with below normal average monthly temperatures. The month started off with a ridging pattern that brought south/southwesterly flow and much warmer temperatures to the region, with many areas reaching roughly between 5-15°F above normal January 6-11th. January 9th/10th saw average temperatures 15-25°F above normal, which was the result of a warm front lifting through the area on Friday morning bringing warm and humid conditions to the local area both Friday, January 9th, and Saturday, January 10th. Record highs were set/tied at Norfolk on the 9th (74°F) and the 10th (75°F), respectively, while Richmond saw a record high minimum of 55°F on the 10th. A strong cold front moved through late on January 10th/early January 11th that broke us out of our warm spell. A few weak fronts allowed for some subtle temperature variations, but overall, near normal average temperatures prevailed (+/- a few degrees) through the 18th. A strong push of Arctic air arrived on January 19th behind a front, and remained in place through nearly the remainder of the month. The exception was on the 22nd ahead of an approaching winter storm. From January 24th through January 31st, the Arctic airmass was locked in, with average temperatures dropping to 10-20°F during this timeframe. Record low maximums were set at both Richmond (21°F), Elizabeth City (27°F), and Salisbury (22°F) on January 31st in the wake of a coastal low that brought wintry weather to SE VA and NE NC. Looking at how the average temperatures during the last week of January ranked out of all final week of January throughout history, all long-term climate sites ranked within the top 10 coldest; Richmond: #7 (21.7°), Norfolk: #8 (26.9°F), Elizabeth City: #4 (27.9°F), and Salisbury: #5 (20.4°F).

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Precipitation & Snow/Ice Overview

Though most areas saw total precipitation amounts between 1.5-3.5", January 2026 precipitation was generally below normal across the region. With warmer temperatures during the first half of the month, many areas saw their greatest rainfall as opposed to snowfall, with a few climate sites recording their highest daily rainfall total on either the 10th or 11th as a cold front moved through the area. Though more rain sporadically fell during the month, most areas saw their highest daily rainfall on the 25th. As a plume of deep moisture moved across the region, and several disturbances, including a southern stream shortwave, took advantage of the excess precipitable water which allowed for this to be an unusually long duration winter event, with precipitation for 24-30 hours straight. The event started off as snow then started to transition to sleet/freezing rain for most of the local area, while SE VA and NE NC transitioned to rain. This made for an interesting event where some climate sites recorded both their highest daily rainfall and highest daily snowfall for the month due to this precipitation transition. A detailed summary of this event can be found here:

https://www.weather.gov/akq/Jan24252026_SnowSleetSummary. Northeast North Carolina and portions of far southeast Virginia saw the brunt of their snowfall on January 31st as a coastal low moved up the Carolina coast, with Edenton measuring 1.4" and Elizabeth City measuring 4.0". There was a very sharp snowfall gradient, so a majority of the area outside of NE NC and SE/S VA did not receive much, if any, snowfall during this event. A detailed summary of this event can be found here: https://www.weather.gov/akq/Jan312026_SnowSummary.

The following table on page 3 shows detailed temperature and precipitation statistics for January 2025 at many locations within the Wakefield CWA. Page 4 shows national temperature departures and rankings. On page 5, daily high temperature departures are shown at Richmond and Norfolk, 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 (January):

January 2026 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)		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	45.8	-2.0	25.9	-2.9	35.9	-2.4	69	7th	-1	21	31st	-7	55	10th	5	9	29th	-2		
Norfolk	48.6	-2.1	31.0	-2.6	39.8	-2.4	75	10th	3	26	31st	-4	58	10th	5	19	27th	0		
Salisbury	43.0	-2.5	22.8	-5.2	32.9	-3.9	66	*11th	-2	22	*31st	-4	50	10th	1	5	30th	-3		
Wallop Island	43.9	-2.3	25.8	-3.7	34.8	-3.1	64	7th	-2	23	31st	-4	48	10th	1	12	30th	0		
Elizabeth City	50.2	-2.1	29.5	-3.6	39.9	-2.8	74	9th	2	27	31st	-6	54	10th	0	17	*30th	1		
Ashland, VA	44.4	-2.4	23.6	-3.6	34.0	-3.0	68	7th	-1	18	25th	-9	50	10th	1	4	29th	-4		
Cape Charles, VA	45.7	-0.9	29.8	-2.3	37.8	-1.6	67	10th	0	26	31st	-3	54	10th	5	17	*31st	-1		
Corbin, VA	41.5	-3.5	20.8	-5.5	31.1	-4.6	66	7th	-1	19	24th	-7	44	10th	-2	4	28th	-3		
Crozier, VA	44.9	-1.0	23.3	-2.6	34.1	-1.8	70	8th	0.6	19	25th	-9	43	10th	-4	9	29th	2		
Painter, VA	46.4	-1.8	28.4	-2.0	37.4	-1.9	67	11th	0	24	31st	-6	53	10th	1	12	30th	-2		
Wakefield, VA	48.2	-1.6	25.0	-3.2	36.6	-2.4	73	10th	2	19	31st	-11	60	10th	9	8	*29th	-1		
Williamsburg, VA	47.3	-1.8	27.5	-3.1	37.4	-2.4	70	9th	-1	22	31st	-8	59	10th	8	13	27th	0		
Edenton, NC	49.8	-2.6	31.7	-2.7	40.8	-2.6	69	7th	-1	28	31st	-7	54	10th	1	17	30th	1		
January 2026 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	3.43	0.20	5	-5	3	-3	1.91	10th	3.0	-0.7	2	0	1	0	2.5	25th	3.0	24-25th		
Norfolk	1.82	-1.59	4	-7	3	-3	0.87	25th	3.1	-0.1	3	1	1	0	2.0	31st	2.0	31st		
Salisbury	2.52	-0.99	5	-6	3	-4	1.42	25th	2.9	0.4	1	-1	1	0	2.9	25th	2.9	25th		
Wallop Island	2.40	-0.75	5	-6	3	-3	1.52	25th	1.6	-1.9	3	1	1	0	1.3	25th	1.5	24-25th		
Elizabeth City	2.04	-1.26	7	-2	5	-1	0.76	18th	4.0	N/A	1	0	1	1	4.0	31st	4.0	31st		
Ashland, VA	2.87	-0.42	6	-4	4	-3	1.34	25th	5.0	-0.9	3	0	1	-1	4.5	25th	4.7	25-26th		
Cape Charles, VA	2.44	-0.93	5	-5	3	-3	1.31	25th	M		M		M		M		M			
Corbin, VA	2.37	-0.91	3	-5	2	-4	1.35	26th	6.3	2.7	3	1	2	1	4.0	25th	6.0	25-26th		
Crozier, VA	2.02	-1.25	7	-1	3	-3	1.30	11th	3.6	0.6	3	2	1	0	3.0	25th	3.5	25-26th		
Painter, VA	3.50	-0.05	5	-6	5	-2	1.41	10th	2.9	-0.5	1	-1	1	0	2.9	25th	2.9	25th		
Wakefield, VA	1.66	-2.17	6	-4	3	-4	0.64	25th	3.2	-0.3	3	1	3	2	1.2	25th	2.2	24-25th		
Williamsburg, VA	2.30	-1.47	7	-4	3	-4	0.86	25th	1.6	-0.1	3	2	1	0	1.2	25th	1.5	24-25th		
Edenton, NC	2.01	-1.49	6	-3	4	-3	0.83	18th	1.4	0.5	1	0	1	0	1.4	31st	1.4	31st		

* “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.

Daily Average Temperature Departures at Richmond & Norfolk, VA

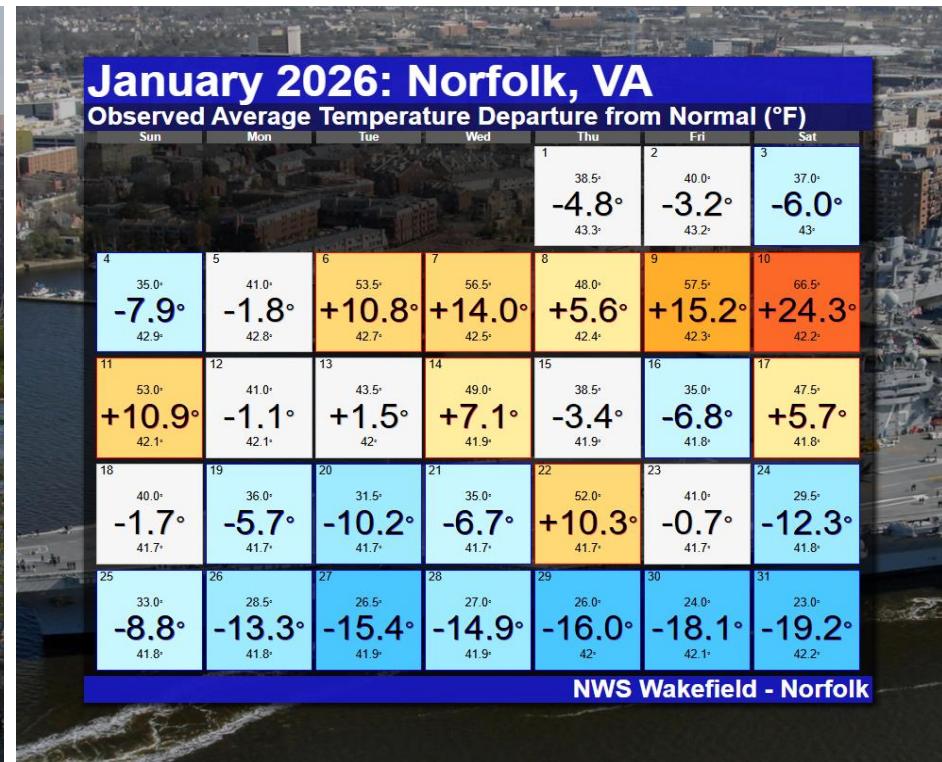
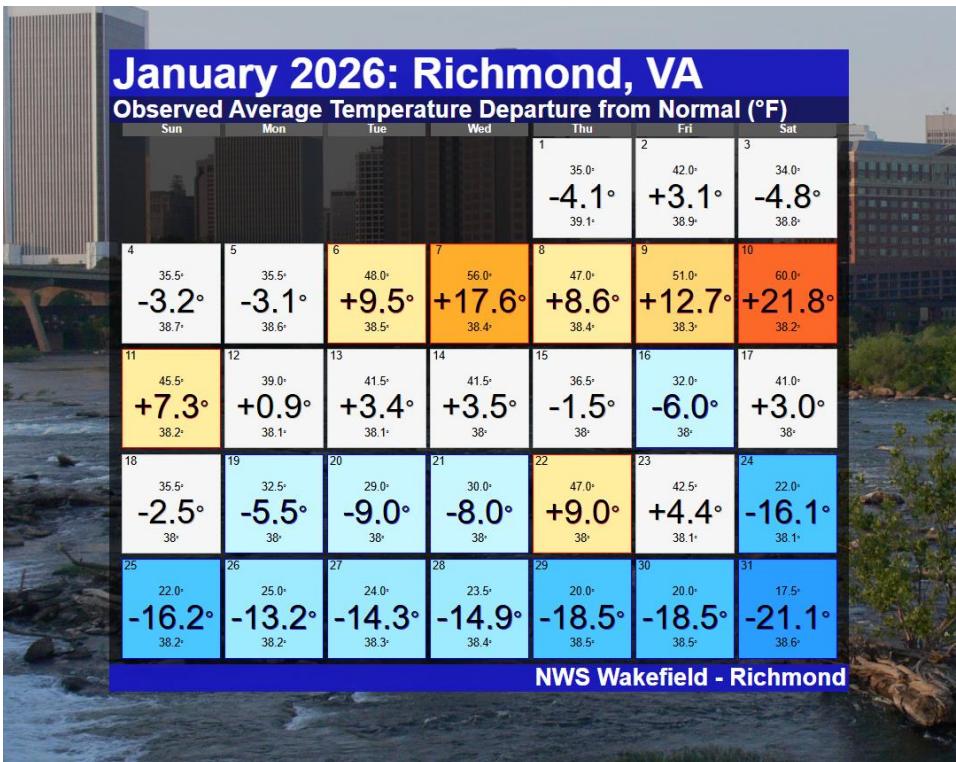


Figure 2: Daily Average Temperature Departures at RIC and ORF

Regional Precipitation Maps: January 2026

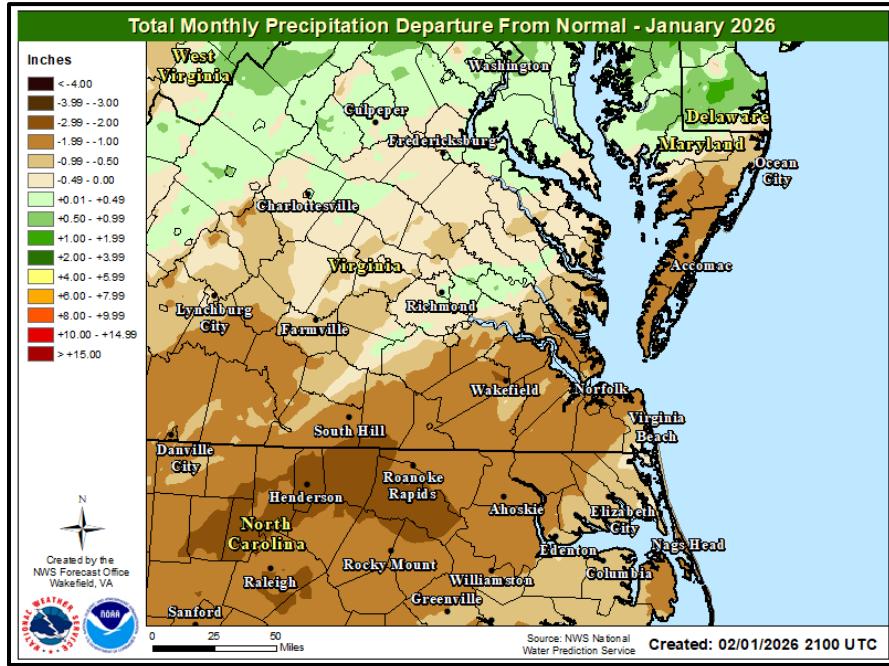
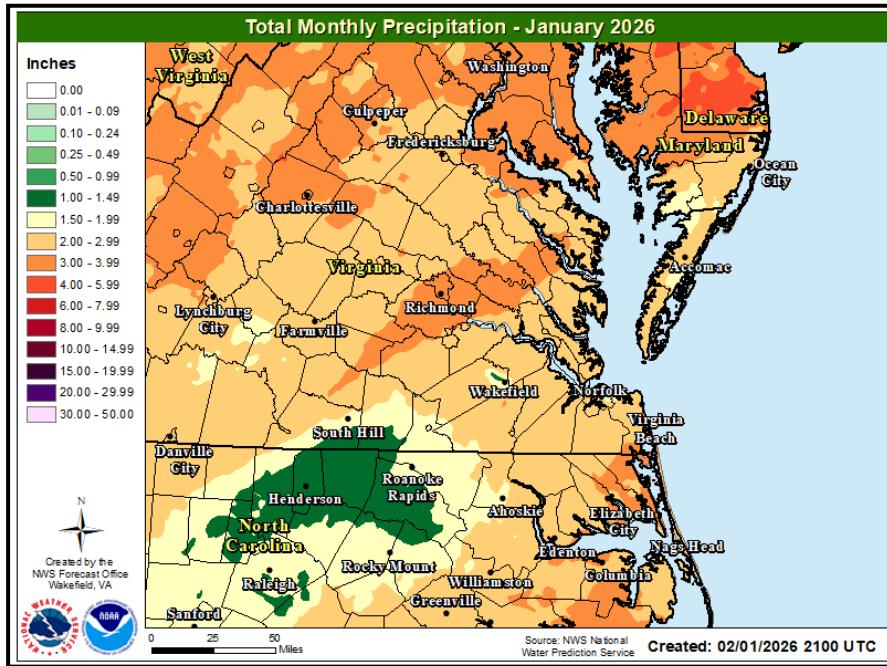


Figure 3: Total Precipitation for the month is shown in the map on the left. **Departures** from the 30-year normals (1991-2020) are shown on the map on the right.

Daily Records for Long Term Sites (January):

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

*tie

Record Highs: 74° (9th), *75° (10th).

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: 58° (10th).

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Daily Snowfall: none set.

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

*tie

Record Highs: none set.

Record Low Maximums: 21° (31st).

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: 55° (10th).

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Daily Snowfall: none set.

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

*tie

Record Highs: none set.

Record Low Maximums: 22° (31st).

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set.

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Daily Snowfall: none set.

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

*tie

Record Highs: none set.

Record Low Maximums: 27° (31st).

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set.

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Daily Snowfall: none set.