

July 2026 Monthly Weather Summary

Temperature Overview

July started off very toasty, with the holiday weekend seeing record breaking temperatures as a surface high and ridging aloft settled across the Mid-Atlantic. All long-term climate sites except for Elizabeth City set records on either the 3rd or 4th (Salisbury and Norfolk set them on both), with temperatures of 99°-102°F measured. With high dew points in place, heat indices soared to 105°F+, leading to oppressively hot conditions. There were multiple days of Heat Advisories, with a few days of Extreme Heat Warnings.

Despite this very warm start to the month, the overall average temperatures were right around normal, with only a few sites seeing above normal avg. temperatures. Wallops Island actually saw slightly below normal average temperatures (-1.2°F) for the month of July. Relief from the very hot conditions didn't come until around the 12th when a cold front moved through the area, which brought some drier, "cooler" temperatures. There was only one more warm up across the area in mid-July, but the second half of July saw generally below normal temperatures. This is due to a few cold frontal passages and increased cloud cover and rainfall during this period. On the 25th, Elizabeth City actually set a record low maximum (73°F) as developing weak low brought widespread showers and thunderstorms to the area.

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Precipitation Overview

With ridging at the surface and aloft to start the month, notable precipitation was hard to come by during the first week outside of isolated showers/storms. Thereafter, multiple cold fronts moved through during the month, and when combined with the high summertime atmospheric moisture content and the strong daytime heating, strong thunderstorms with very efficient rain rates were able to develop. This led to a majority of the area seeing well above normal precipitation for the month. Richmond 7.33" (2.96" above normal), Salisbury 8.03" (3.30" above normal), Wallops Island 9.33" (4.96" above normal), and Elizabeth City 7.48" (1.83" above normal) all saw a surplus of total precipitation for the month, which helped with the drought that has impacted the area over the past few months. Salisbury had it's 7th wettest July on record, Wallops recorded it's 2nd wettest July, and the Edenton, NC COOP site saw it's 6th wettest July on record with an impressive 12.88" (6.84" above normal). There were a few sites that were outliers, such as Norfolk (-2.46") and Wakefield (-3.21") that did not see that above normal rainfall during the month, but overall, it was a wet month for most for the forecast area, with July being the wettest month of the year by a large margin for most areas.

The following table on page 3 shows detailed temperature and precipitation statistics for July 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 daily dew point and heat index graphs for Richmond (6) and Norfolk (7). Monthly precipitation maps (page 8), 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 (July):

July 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)			Coolest (°F)			Warmest (°F)			Coolest (°F)								
	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Date	Dep	Actual	Date	Dep	Actual	Date	Dep	Actual	Date	Dep						
Richmond	89.1	-0.4	70.6	1.4	79.9	0.5	100	4th	1	79	*25th	1	76	3rd	0	65	*26th	4						
Norfolk	88.7	-0.7	73.7	0.9	81.2	0.1	100	4th	2	74	25th	-4	80	4th	1	65	25th	0						
Salisbury	88.9	1.4	68.0	-0.3	78.5	0.6	102	4th	5	80	*25th	4	77	3rd	0	58	*25th	2						
Wallops Island	84.9	-1.2	70.8	0.4	77.9	-0.3	98	3rd	2	75	25th	-1	78	*16th	0	59	25th	-2						
Elizabeth City	87.9	-0.3	71.5	0.5	79.7	0.1	96	4th	0	73	25th	-7	80	22nd	2	63	*26th	1						
Ashland, VA	88.1	1.4	69.2	1.6	78.7	1.5	101	*4th	6	77	25th	1	76	*20th	1	63	*31st	5						
Cape Charles, VA	84.7	-0.6	72.1	0.8	78.4	0.1	95	3rd	1	73	25th	-4	78	*18th	-1	61	26th	-1						
Louisa, VA	89.8	3.1	67.5	2.3	78.7	2.7	102	4th	6	76	25th	-1	74	9th	2	58	31st	4						
Wakefield, VA	90.5	0.8	70.0	2.0	80.3	1.5	100	4th	2	73	25th	-4	77	4th	1	61	26th	3						
Williamsburg, VA	88.7	0.2	71.3	1.1	80.0	0.7	100	3rd	3	77	25th	-1	78	4th	1	63	*26th	3						
Edenton, NC	88.4	-0.6	72.8	0.8	80.6	0.1	97	4th	1	77	25th	-3	80	22nd	1	66	*26th	4						
July 2026 Precipitation 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		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	7.33	2.96	15	4	10	2	2.02	12th											7th Wettest *** 2nd Wettest ***					
Norfolk	3.62	-2.46	10	-1	6	-1	2.38	23rd																
Salisbury	8.03	3.30	9	-1	7	0	2.68	27th																
Wallops Island	9.33	4.96	12	1	5	-2	3.57	22nd																
Elizabeth City	7.48	1.83	14	2	9	1	1.96	12th																
Ashland, VA	9.04	4.75	13	3	12	5	1.68	27th											*** 6th Wettest ***					
Cape Charles, VA	4.73	0.06	12	1	8	2	1.98	12th																
Louisa, VA	4.77	0.59	15	4	11	4	1.07	4th																
Wakefield, VA	2.26	-3.21	13	2	7	-1	0.77	25th																
Williamsburg, VA	5.21	-0.71	17	5	8	-1	1.19	12th																
Edenton, NC	12.88	6.84	12	2	11	3	3.07	20th																

* **"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 (July)

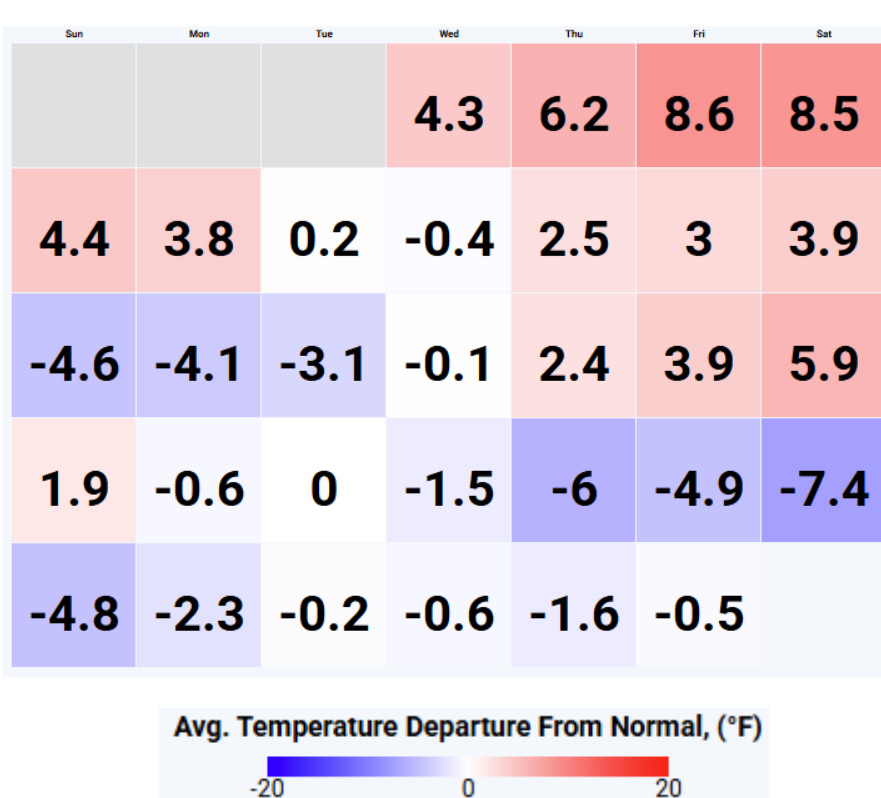


Figure 1: Daily Average Temperature Departures at RIC

Daily Average Temperature Departures at Norfolk, VA (July)

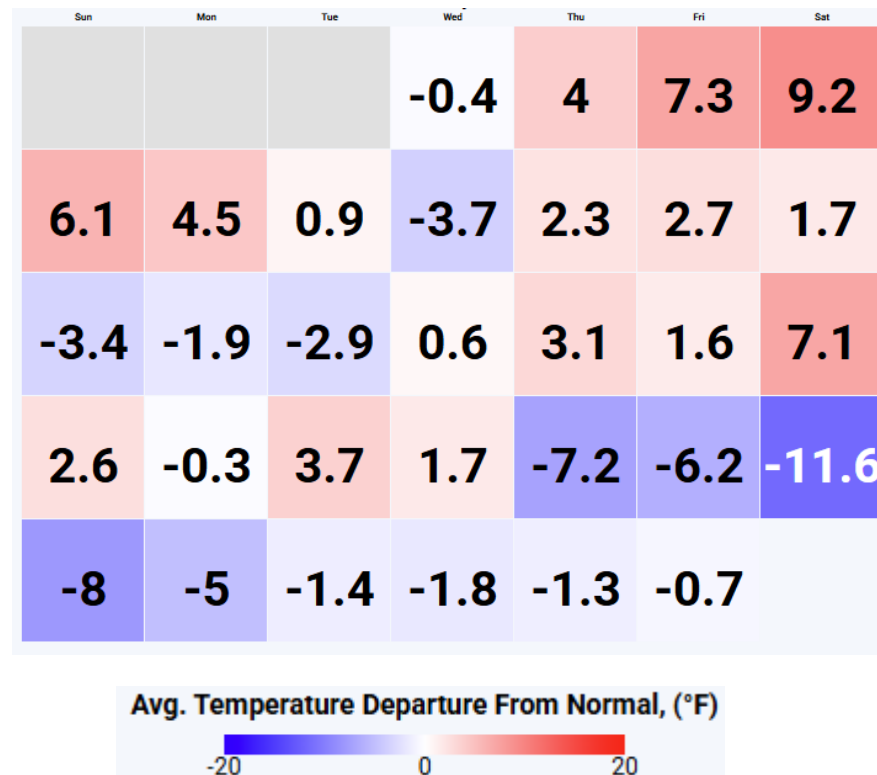
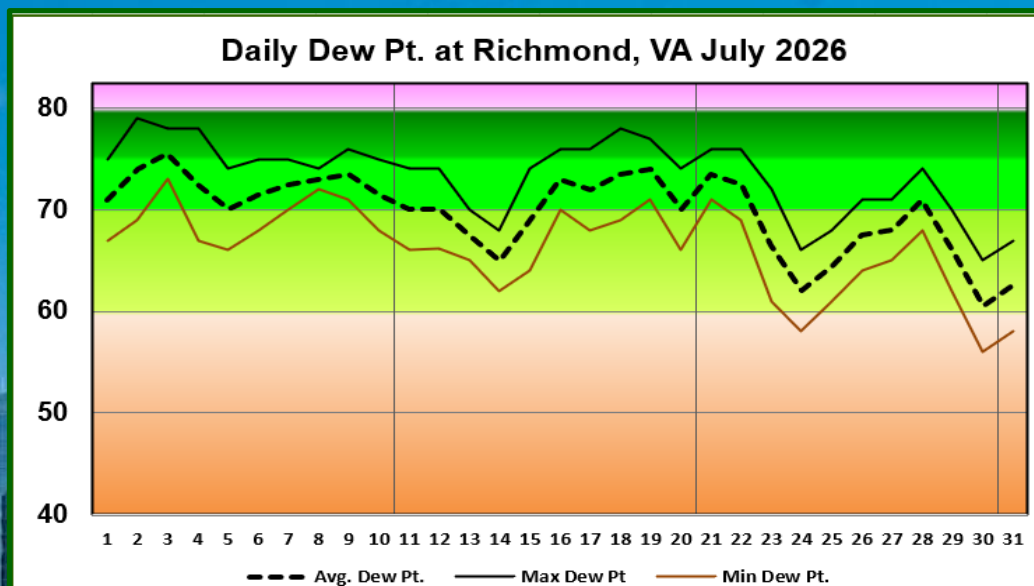
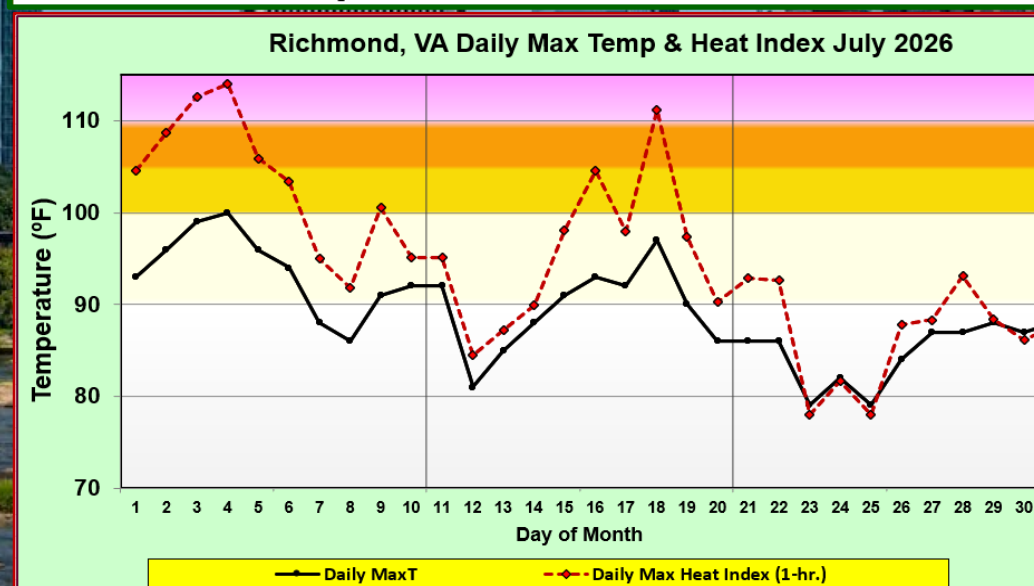


Figure 2: Daily Average Temperature Departures at ORF

Dew Point, MaxTemperature, Max Heat Index at Richmond, VA (July)



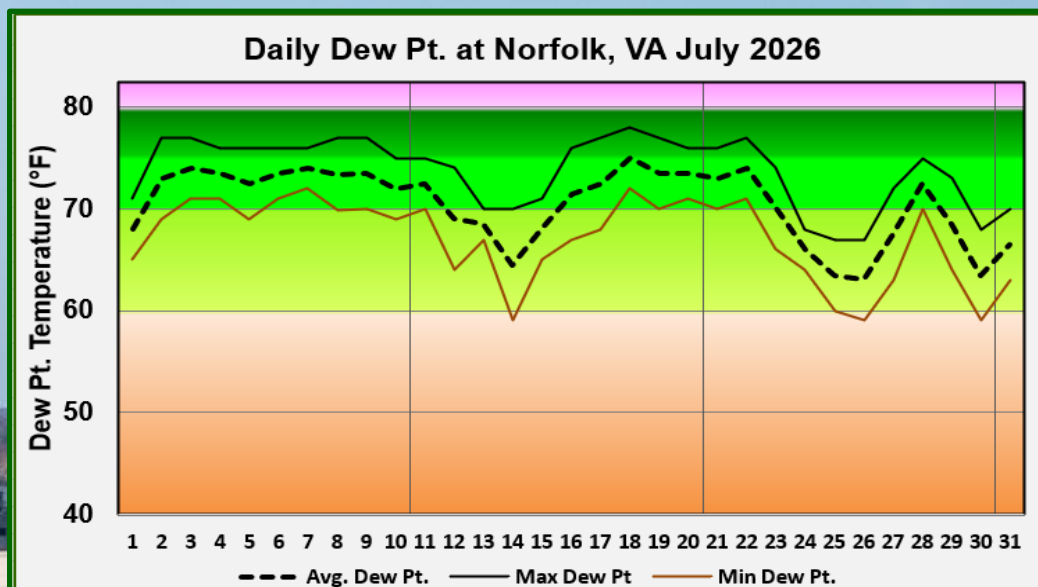
Avg Max Td : 73°
Avg Min Td: 66°
Avg Td: 69.8°



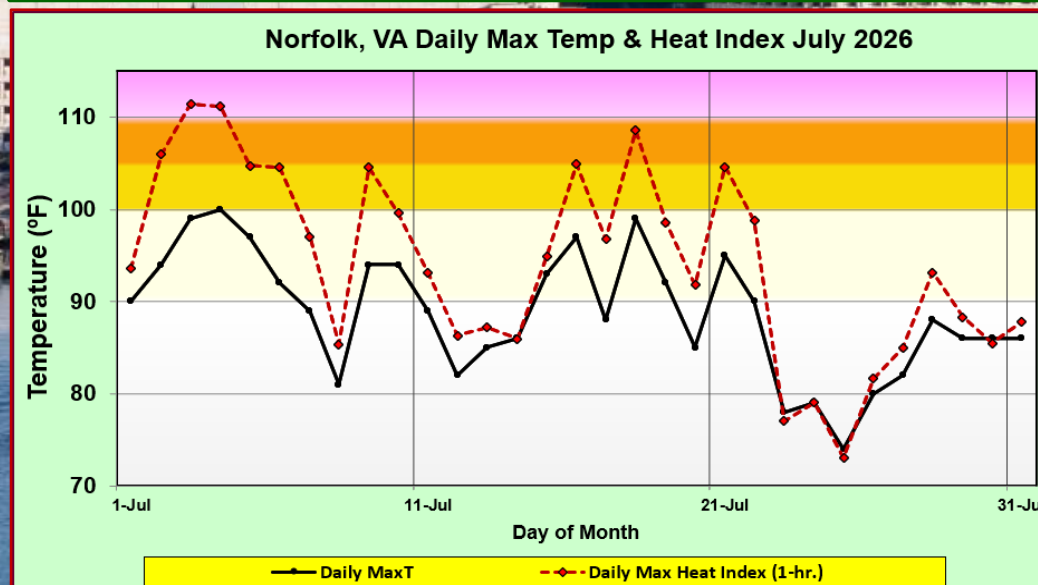
Avg High: 89.1°
Avg Max HI: 94.9°

Figure 2a: Daily Td, MaxT, Max Heat Index at RIC

Dew Point, MaxTemperature, Max Heat Index at Norfolk, VA (July)



Avg Max Td : 74°
Avg Min Td: 67°
Avg Td: 70.4°



Avg High: 88.7°
Avg Max HI: 94.2°

Figure 2b: Daily Td, MaxT, Max Heat Index at ORF

Regional Precipitation Maps: July 2026

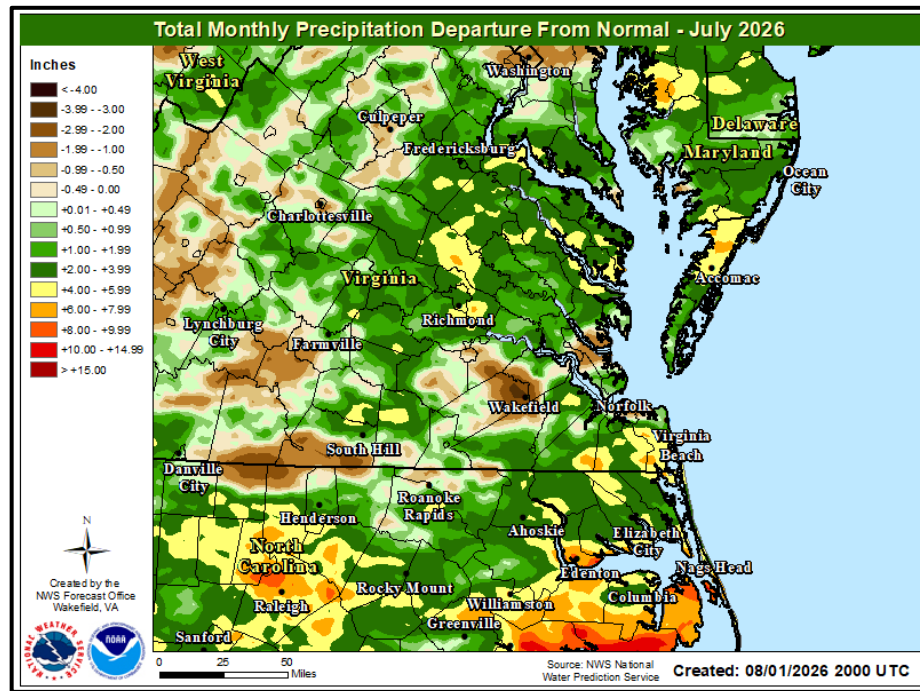
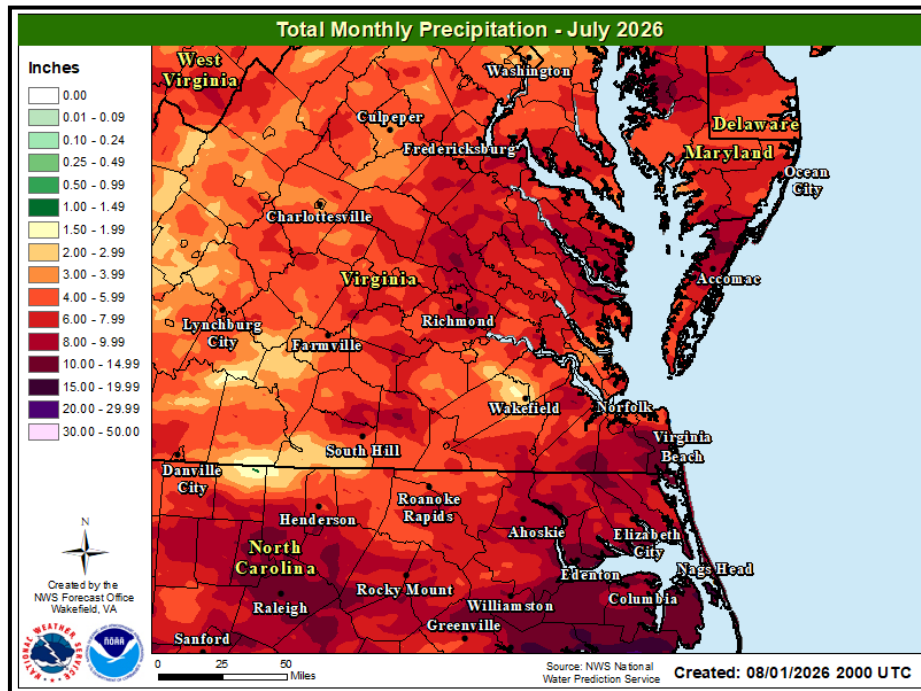


Figure 3: *Total Precipitation* for the month is shown in the map on the left. *Departure* from the 30-year normals (1991-2020) is shown on the map on the right.

Daily Records for Long Term Sites (July):

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

**tie*

Record Highs: *99° (3rd), 100° (4th).

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: 80° (4th).

Daily Precipitation: none set.

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

**tie*

Record Highs: *100° (4th).

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set.

Daily Precipitation: none set.

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

**tie*

Record Highs: 101° (3rd), 102° (4th).

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: 77° (3rd).

Daily Precipitation: 2.68" (27th).

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

**tie*

Record Highs: none set.

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Record Low Maximums: 73° (25th).

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: 80° (22nd).

Daily Precipitation: none set.