

March 2026 Monthly Weather Summary

Temperature Overview

While most of the fall and winter months saw below normal temperatures, March 2026 started the Spring season off with a bang. All of the long-term climate sites, as well as select COOP sites, recorded Marches that ranked in the top 10 warmest for average temperature. All sites ranged between 5-10°F above normal for maximum temperatures, while average minimum temperatures generally ranged between 3-6°F above normal. The Crozier, VA COOP site had an average high temperature departure of 10.8°F above normal and an average low temperature departure of 8.2°F above normal in March, which led to an incredible overall average temperature departure of 9.5°F. March 4th started an impressive week of above-normal temperatures as upper-level ridging and south-southwest winds drove our weather pattern. A few shortwaves and backdoor fronts tried to cut this stretch, but the warmer air dominated. Ahead of a strong cold front that was finally able to break up the above-average temperatures, strong southwesterly flow propelled temperatures into the mid to upper 80s, with all long-term climate sites either tying or setting daily record highs on March 10th and 11th. Additionally, all sites except for Elizabeth City, NC, set or tied daily record high minimums on the 11th. Of note, the most significant 24-hour temperature drop on record was measured at Richmond, where the high temperature on March 11th was 87°F, then dropped to 32°F the next day in the wake of a strong cold front, leading to a 55° 24-hour temperature difference. Norfolk saw an almost equally impressive temperature drop during this same event, going from 87°F on the 11th to 36°F on the 12th behind the front.

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Precipitation & Snow Overview

In contrast to the well-above temperatures, March rainfall was below normal at all long-term climate sites, making for a very warm and very dry month. A few sites, including Richmond, Salisbury, and Wallops Island, saw monthly precipitation deficits of 2-2.5", while Elizabeth City and Norfolk saw deficits of 1.5-2". COOP sites across the area also saw deficits of between 1.5-2.25", so it was a dry month in every corner of the forecast area. Though very warm temperatures were observed this month, there was still snowfall measured at all long-term climate and COOP sites, except for those located in NC. The only measurable snowfall for the month fell on the 12th, after a strong front dropped temperatures to near or just below freezing. Two inches of snow fell at Richmond during this event, which, while not a record, is impressive in that the previous day saw temperatures in the upper 80s! With this March snowfall at many sites, this 2025-2026 is the first time in many years that snow was measured at most climate sites (with the exception of the NC sites, where snow was not measured in March, and the Eastern Shore sites, where snow was not measured in November) every month between November and March. Some sites only measured a trace of snowfall in some months, which is not considered "measurable snowfall", but snow was seen by the observer.

The following table on page 3 shows detailed temperature and precipitation statistics for March 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 (March):

March 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	69.0	9.4	41.2	4.0	55.1	6.7	89	11th	8	44	2nd	5	59	31st	3	27	18th	5	4th Warmest March
Norfolk	67.3	7.2	44.5	3.2	55.9	5.2	88	11th	7	40	18th	0	63	8th	4	32	13th	5	6th Warmest March
Salisbury	63.5	8.2	38.1	2.9	50.8	5.5	86	11th	9	40	2nd	4	59	8th	6	24	3rd	5	7th Warmest March
Wallops Island	60.2	5.7	40.1	3.1	50.1	4.3	79	31st	4	39	18th	2	57	31st	6	28	13th	6	***5th Warmest***
Elizabeth City	69.5	8.2	45.1	4.6	57.3	6.4	86	11th	6	44	18th	1	63	8th	5	30	*29th	5	6th Warmest March
Ashland, VA	69.0	9.1	42.1	6.4	55.6	7.8	89	11th	9	43	3rd	4	65	8th	9	25	18th	6	***3rd Warmest***
Cape Charles, VA	62.3	7.5	42.9	4.1	52.6	5.8	78	11th	2	40	18th	1	63	8th	7	29	13th	3	***3rd Warmest***
Crozier, VA	68.1	10.8	41.3	8.2	54.7	9.5	89	12th	10	43	3rd	5	61	12th	10	28	*17th	10	***2nd Warmest***
Wakefield, VA	70.4	9.3	41.1	5.3	55.8	7.4	89	11th	9	44	2nd	4	62	8th	6	26	29th	7	***2nd Warmest***
Williamsburg, VA	67.4	7.6	42.6	4.1	55.0	5.9	89	11th	9	43	2nd	2	65	8th	8	30	*29th	7	***2nd Warmest***
Edenton, NC	70.0	7.0	46.5	5.0	58.3	6.0	84	27th	4	45	18th	1	61	23rd	3	30	18th	4	***5th Warmest***

March 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
Richmond	1.71	-2.29	7	-4	4	-3	0.95	12th	2.0	0.9	1	0	1	1	2.0	12th	2.0	12th
Norfolk	1.78	-1.91	8	-3	3	-4	0.75	16th	T		0	-1	0	0	T	12th	T	12th
Salisbury	1.66	-2.51	8	-4	4	-3	0.87	16th	0.5	-0.5	1	0	0	0	0.5	12th	0.5	12th
Wallops Island	1.57	-2.34	9	-2	5	-2	0.73	16th	0.2	-0.5	1	0	0	0	0.2	12th	0.2	12th
Elizabeth City	1.99	-1.60	9	-2	4	-3	0.70	17th	0.0		0		0		*		*	
Ashland, VA	1.52	-2.27	9	-1	5	-2	0.45	12th	1.3	-0.5	1	0	1	0	1.3	12th	1.3	12th
Cape Charles, VA	2.45	-1.07	9	-1	5	-1	0.89	16th	N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A		N/A	
Crozier, VA	1.56	-1.95	4	-5	4	-3	0.72	13th	1.5	0.0	1	0	1	0	1.5	13th	1.5	13th
Wakefield, VA	2.51	-1.71	8	-3	4	-4	1.10	16th	0.8	0.4	1	0	0	0	0.8	12th	0.8	12th
Williamsburg, VA	2.70	-1.55	8	-3	4	-3	0.98	16th	0.3	-0.2	1	0	0	0	0.3	12th	0.3	12th
Edenton, NC	2.17	-1.86	6	-3	5	-2	0.75	16th	0.0	-0.2	0	0	0	0	*		*	

* **“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 (March)

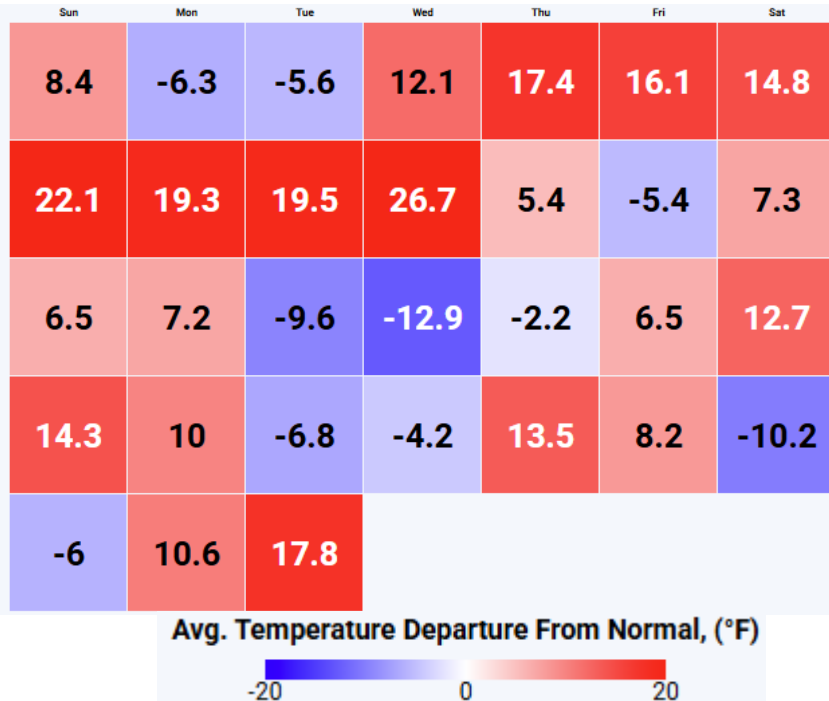


Figure 1: Daily Average Temperature Departures at RIC

Daily Average Temperature Departures at Norfolk, VA (March)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2.6	-6.7	-3.9	11.4	15.2	6.4	12.7
22.5	19.2	20	25.8	6	-5.2	8
8.2	10.5	-8.8	-14.1	-8.9	0.9	8.1
15.3	7.5	-11.3	-6.6	14.1	8.2	-12.6
-6.4	7.8	15.5				

Avg. Temperature Departure From Normal, (°F)

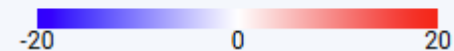


Figure 2: Daily Average Temperature Departures at ORF

Regional Precipitation Maps: March 2026

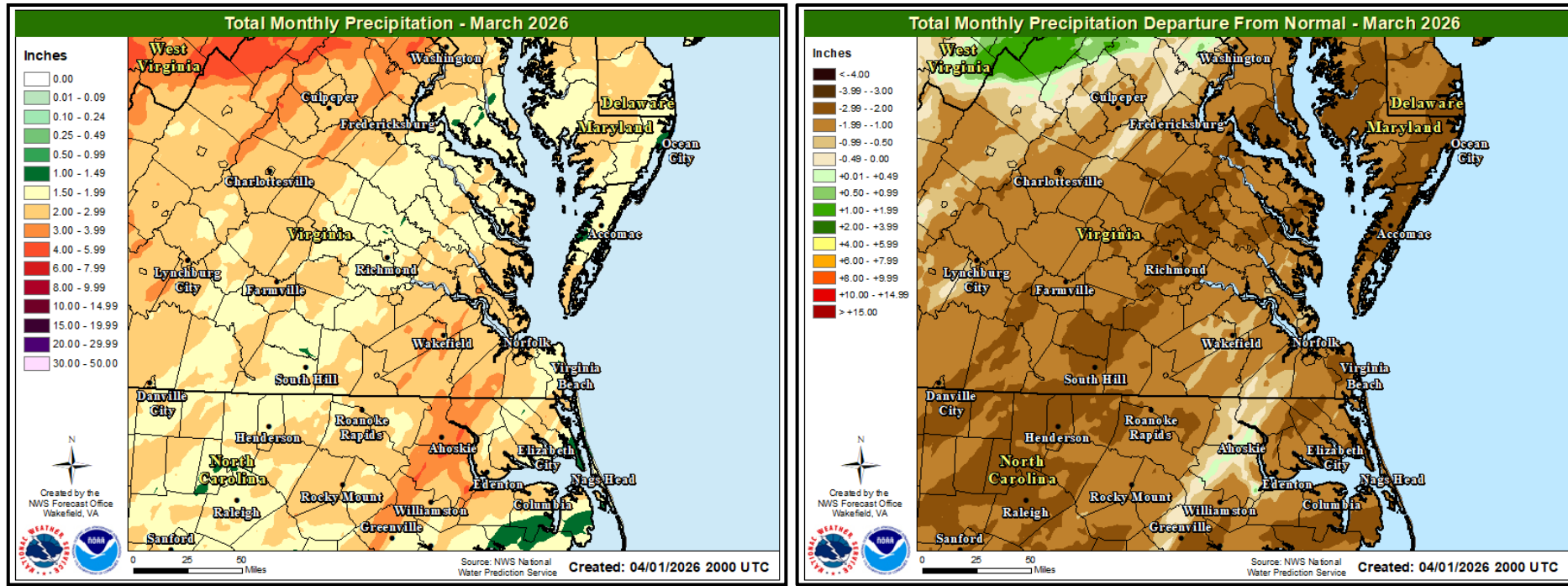


Figure 3: *Total Precipitation* for the month is shown in the map on the left. *Departure* from the 30-year normals (1991-2020) is shown on the map on the right.

Daily Records for Long Term Sites (March):

Norfolk, VA Records (Period of Record 152 yrs./1874-2026)

**tie*

Record Highs: 83° (10th), 88° (11th).

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: *63° (8th), *62° (11th).

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Richmond, VA Daily Records (Period of Record 129 yrs./1897-2026)

**tie*

Record Highs: 85° (10th), 89° (11th).

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: 58° (11th)

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Salisbury, MD Daily Records (Period of Record 119 yrs./1907-2026)

**tie*

Record Highs: 83° (10th), 86° (11th).

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: 59° (8th), 55° (11th)

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Elizabeth City, NC Daily Records (Period of Record 92 yrs./1934-2026)

**tie*

Record Highs: *82° (10th), 86° (11th), *85° (27th).

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: *63° (8th).

Daily Precipitation: none set.