

PUBLISH DATE: JUNE 5, 2026

**EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA
MONTHLY CLIMATE REPORT**

APRIL 2026

**WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE
NEWPORT/MOREHEAD CITY, NC**

National Weather Service
NEWPORT/MOREHEAD CITY, NC

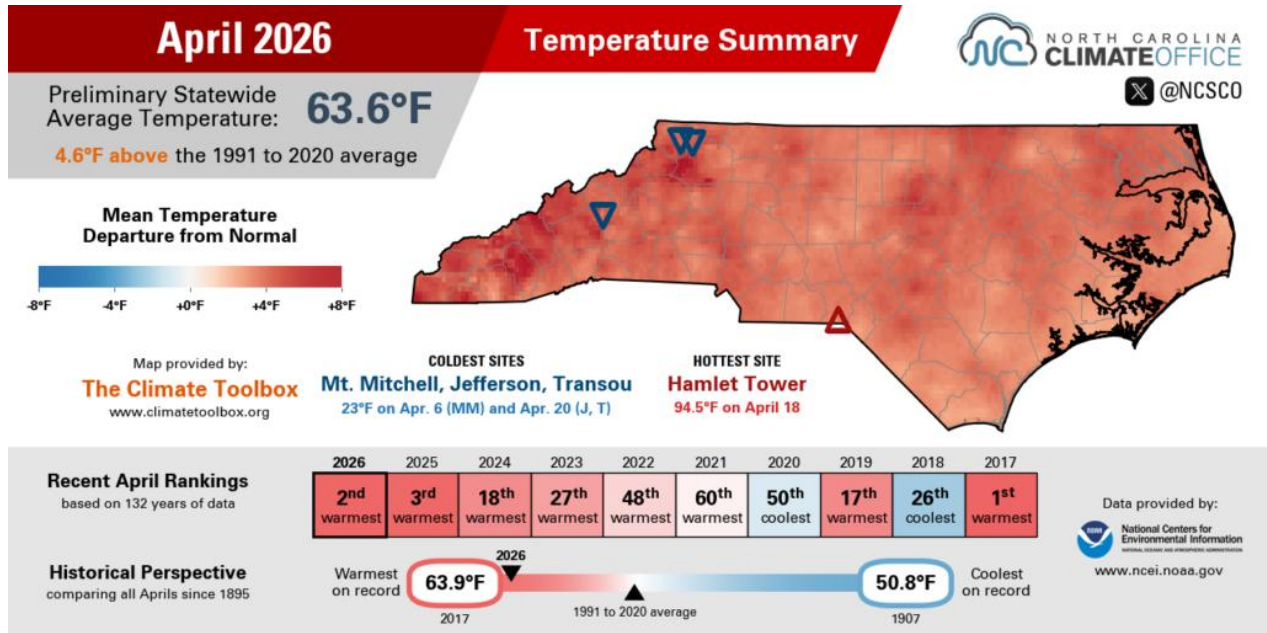
MONTHLY SUMMARY

Dry conditions extended into April across eastern NC, punctuated by infrequent but potent periods of showers and thunderstorms. The month was largely characterized by persistent subtropical ridging that sat over much of the southeastern United States, keeping temperatures elevated and stifling any robust chance of rainfall. Many locations saw no measurable rainfall for nearly two weeks. The exceptions came on April 5th and April 25th with the passage of strong cold fronts that kicked up showers and thunderstorms – both days saw community rain gauges report amounts of well over an inch, and occasionally two. Still, this was not enough to offset a monthly deficit. Overall precipitation across the forecast area was 45-50% of 1991-2020 normals. Drought conditions changed little from March with all of the area in at least Severe (D2) drought.

Temperatures remain elevated in April, continuing March’s warm streak. Average temperatures across our 15 counties were 3.7°F above the 1991-2020 normal, with every single one experiencing at least a top ten warmest April on record. Across North Carolina, this was the second warmest April in the record books, falling just short of 2017 by 0.3°F. Despite the anomalously warm month, neither New Bern or Cape Hatteras set any new high temperature records.

TEMPERATURES

Statewide temperatures across North Carolina remained persistently above average, according to the North Carolina State Climate Office. The average temperature statewide for the month was 63.6°F or 4.6°F above the 1991-2020 average. This was the 2nd warmest April statewide since records began in 1895, with 132 years of data.



April 2026 Temperature Summary | Source: NC State Climate Office

Eastern North Carolina temperature anomalies were slightly lower than the statewide average. Temperatures across our 15 counties were 3.7°F above the 1991-2020 average. Since their respective records began, April 2026 was the 6th warmest for Cape Hatteras and 12th warmest for New Bern.

MHX Select Site Temperature Statistics: April 2026

Site	Avg. High (°F)	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. Temp (°F)	Normal (°F)	Departure (°F)
Beaufort (KMRH)	72.0	55.9	64.0	62.1	1.9
Hatteras (KHSE)	71.1	57.4	64.3	61.8	2.5
New Bern (KEWN)	77.7	52.3	65.0	61.8	3.2

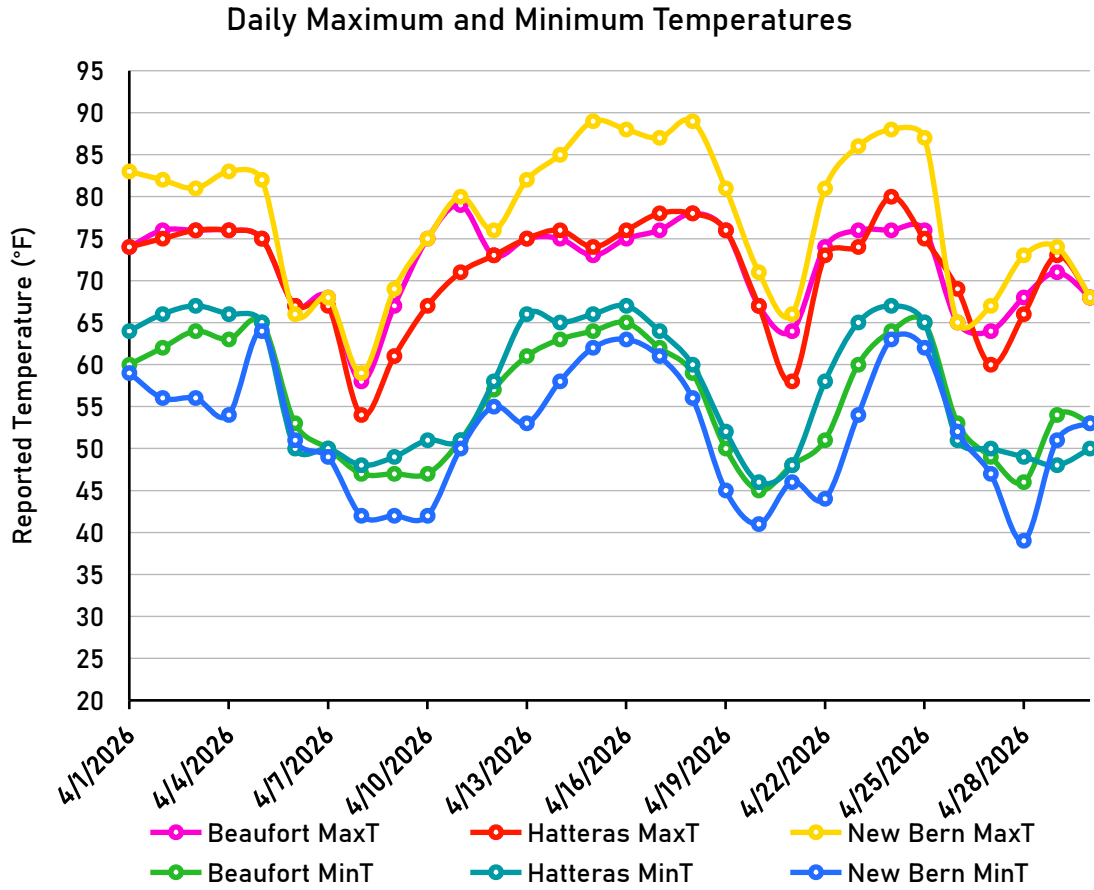
Normals are based on a period from 1990-2020.

County-averaged statistics are presented in the following table. **Mean and departure calculations are based on the 1991-2020 climate normals.** Data courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).

County	Avg. Temperature (°F)	Mean (°F)	Departure (°F)	Rank
Beaufort	65.3	61.3	4.0	2 W
Carteret	65.0	61.9	3.1	4 W
Craven	65.0	61.5	3.5	3 W
Dare	63.1	60.0	3.1	7 W
Duplin	65.0	61.2	3.8	3 W
Greene	65.4	61.0	4.4	2 W
Hyde	64.6	61.3	3.3	2 W
Jones	64.7	61.3	3.4	3 W
Lenoir	65.2	61.3	3.9	2 W
Martin	64.8	60.3	4.5	2 W
Onslow	64.6	61.7	2.9	5 W
Pamlico	65.3	61.9	3.4	3 W
Pitt	65.2	60.9	4.3	2 W
Tyrrell	64.1	60.5	3.6	3 W
Washington	64.5	60.6	3.9	2 W
Area Average	64.8	61.1	3.7	

Means are based on a period from 1991-2020. For rankings, “C” designates coldest and “W” designates warmest.

Temperatures started April well above average with daily anomalies running at or above 10 degrees above average in the first week. The warmest overall period was between roughly April 11-18th as persistent sub-tropical ridging took hold over much of the southeastern CONUS. During this time, New Bern experienced an 8-day streak of above normal temps; Hatteras had a 9-day streak. Relatively cooler temperatures settled into the area at the end of the month with daily anomalies of 5-10 degrees below average in the final 5 days.



The following records were set or tied at New Bern and Cape Hatteras in April:

New Bern, NC

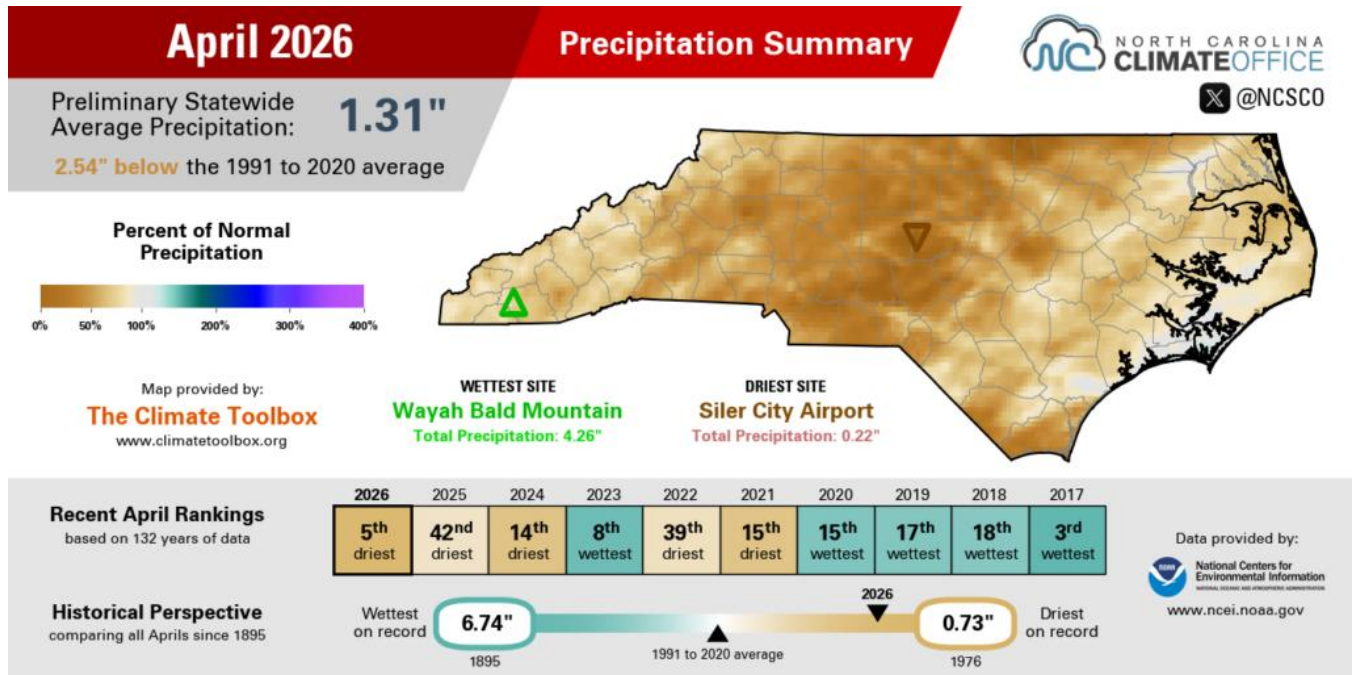
None.

Cape Hatteras, NC

Record Warm Low: Apr. 2nd – 66°F (OR: 64°F / 1912)

PRECIPITATION

Analysis conducted by the North Carolina State Climate Office indicated average statewide precipitation was 1.31" for April, or 2.54" inches below average. This was the 5th driest April since records began in 1895.



April 2026 Precipitation Summary | Source: NC State Climate Office

Eastern North Carolina was modestly wetter than the statewide average, with the average liquid accumulation across the MHX forecast area sitting at 1.67" (roughly 47% of the 1991-2020 normal). New Bern had its 23rd driest April on record, and Hatteras also had its 23rd driest. New Bern only had 5 days of measurable precipitation (the normal is around 8), and Hatteras had 6 (normal is around 9). New Bern had a remarkable 13-day run of no precipitation between Apr 6-18.

MHX Select Site Precipitation Statistics: April 2026

Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	Normal (in.)	Departure (in.)
Beaufort (KMRH)	3.90	3.39	0.51
Hatteras (KHSE)	1.69	3.92	-2.23
New Bern (KEWN)	1.87	3.18	-1.31

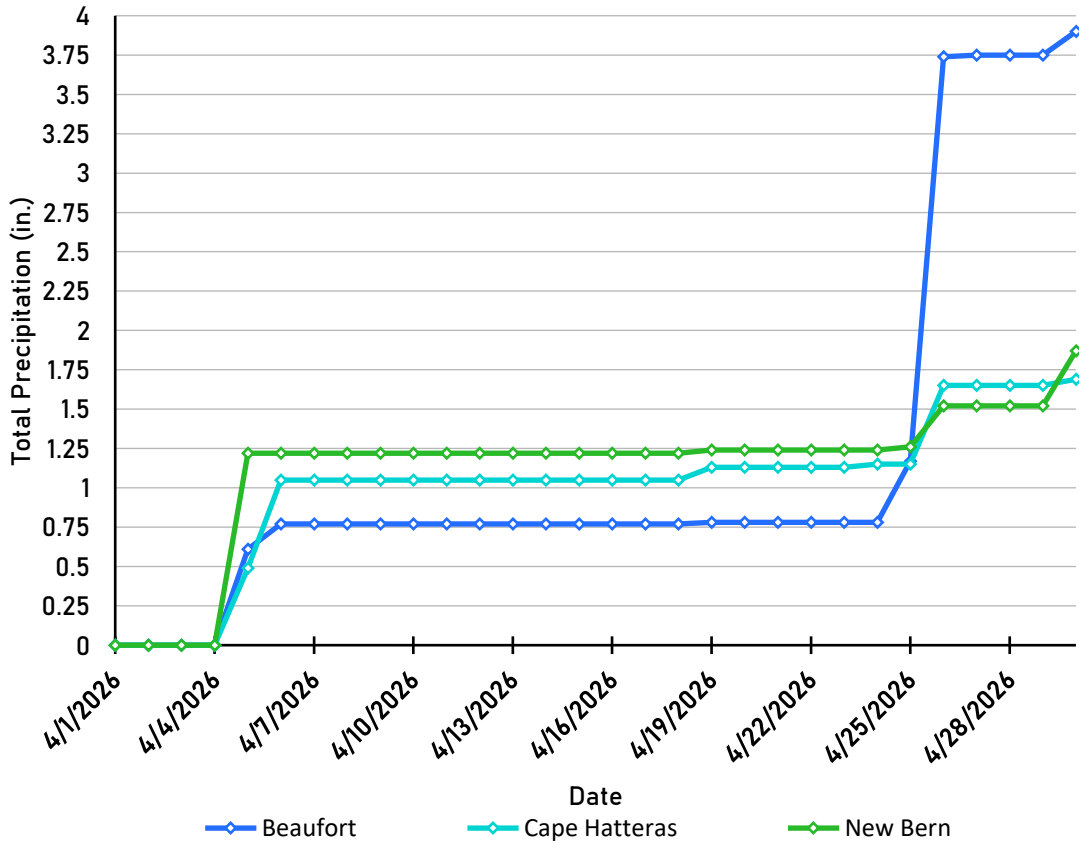
County-averaged statistics are presented in the following table. **Mean and departure calculations are based on the 1991-2020 climate normals.** Data courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).

County	Avg. Accum. (in.)	Mean (in.)	Departure (in.)	Rank
Beaufort	1.79	3.45	-1.66	17 D
Carteret	2.24	3.53	-1.29	36 D
Craven	1.90	3.45	-1.55	24 D
Dare	1.59	3.31	-1.72	21 D
Duplin	1.14	3.62	-2.48	13 D
Greene	1.37	3.72	-2.35	14 D
Hyde	1.69	3.40	-1.71	16 D
Jones	1.69	3.48	-1.79	21 D
Lenoir	1.22	3.61	-2.39	14 D
Martin	1.89	3.66	-1.77	20 D
Onslow	1.69	3.58	-1.89	20 D
Pamlico	2.01	3.41	-1.40	28 D
Pitt	1.67	3.66	-1.99	18 D
Tyrrell	1.56	3.38	-1.82	16 D
Washington	1.58	3.53	-1.95	15 D
Area Average	1.67	3.52	-1.85	

Means are based on a period from 1991-2020. For rankings, “W” designates wettest and “D” designates driest.

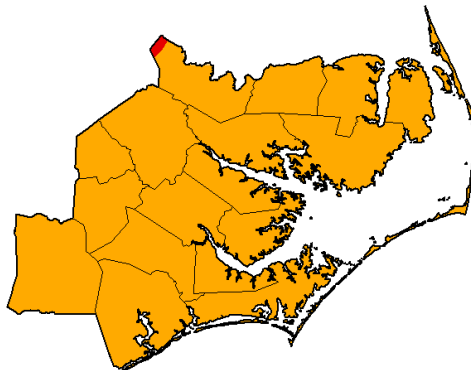
The only measurable precipitation in the first half of the month, outside of coastal showers, was a cold front that swept across the eastern United States on April 5-6 which brought a widespread half inch to nearly 2 inches of rain across all of eastern NC. After this front, the aforementioned ridge that kept temperatures elevated also stifled any real chance of rainfall – most sites did not see rainfall for over a week and a half. Only after a quick moving but strong front on April 25-26 did showers and thunderstorms return – amounts were highly variable but trended highest along the Crystal Coast.

Monthly Accumulated Precipitation



Month to month, drought conditions changed little from the end of March to the end of April. All of the forecast area was in D2 (Severe) drought, with a stubborn area of D3 (Extreme) drought continuing to linger across far western portions of Martin County.

U.S. Drought Monitor Newport/Morehead City, NC WFO



April 28, 2026

(Released Thursday, Apr. 30, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.94	0.26	0.00
Last Week 04-21-2026	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.94	0.26	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-27-2026	0.00	100.00	89.05	35.43	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2026	0.00	100.00	44.85	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	0.09	99.91	44.72	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 04-29-2025	0.00	100.00	96.04	25.49	0.00	0.00

Intensity

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

ADDITIONAL CLIMATE RESOURCES

For a look at climate on the national scale, as well as statistics from a CONUS-wide to county and city level, please visit the **National Centers for Environmental Information** at <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/>. Additional maps and data, as well as teaching materials and a climate resiliency toolkit, can be found at **NOAA's** <https://www.climate.gov>.

For additional drought information, including a wealth of maps of data focused on topics such as agriculture, fire, and water supply, please visit **NOAA's National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)** at <https://www.drought.gov>.

For climate statistics and real time observations across the state of North Carolina, please visit the **North Carolina State Climate Office** at <https://climate.ncsu.edu/>.

For climate forecasts and outlooks, visit the **Climate Prediction Center** at <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>.

For community-based precipitation observations from across the United States, visit **CoCoRaHS** at <https://www.cocorahs.org/>.

For climate statistics relevant to various regions of North Carolina, please visit the following climate pages:

Eastern (WFO Morehead City): <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=mhx>

Southeastern (WFO Wilmington): <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=ilm>

Northeastern (WFO Wakefield, VA): <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=akg>

Central (WFO Raleigh): <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=rah>

Northwestern (WFO Blacksburg, VA): <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=rnk>

Southwestern (WFO Greer, SC): <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=gsp>

Cherokee and Clay Co. (WFO Knoxville, TN): <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=mrx>

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL TEMPERATURE DATA

Cooperative Observation Site Temperature Statistics: April 2026

Site	Avg. High (°F)	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. Temp (°F)	Normal (°F)	Departure (°F)
Greenville	78.6	52.9	65.8	61.8	4.0
Kinston	79.1	53.5	66.3	63.4	2.9
Williamston	78.0	52.2	65.1	60.8	4.3
Plymouth	78.9	52.5	65.7	61.6	4.1
Bayboro	78.1	52.7	65.4	60.2	5.2
Manteo	71.4	56.0	63.7	59.6	4.1

Normals are based on a period from 1991-2020. Red sites have missing data.

Maximum and Minimum Monthly Temperatures: April 2026

Site	Max High (°F)	Date Observed	Min Low (°F)	Date Observed
Beaufort (KMRH)	79	Apr 11	45	Apr 20
Hatteras (KHSE)	80	Apr 24	46	Apr 20
New Bern (KEWN)	89	Apr 15, 18	39	Apr 28
Greenville	92	Apr 15	34	Apr 9
Kinston	91	Apr 16, 19	37	Apr 9
Williamston	91	Apr 16	38	Apr 9, 21
Plymouth	90	Apr 15	40	Apr 19-20, 28
Bayboro	89	Apr 19, 25	43	Apr 28-29
Manteo	84	Apr 25	44	Apr 20

APPENDIX B: ADDITIONAL PRECIPITATION DATA

Cooperative Observation Site Precipitation Statistics: April 2026

Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	Normal (in.)	Departure (in.)
Greenville	1.77	3.81	-2.04
Kinston	1.12	3.53	-2.41
Williamston	2.34	3.72	-1.38
Plymouth	1.44	3.74	-2.30
Bayboro	2.08	3.76	-1.68

Sites in red have missing data in their record.

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: April 2026

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Pine Knoll Shores 1.4 E	Carteret	4.19
Beaufort 3.4 NNW	Carteret	4.15
Beaufort 3.8 N	Carteret	3.78
Beaufort 3.6 NNW	Carteret	3.71
Morehead City 6.0 WNW	Carteret	3.69
Morehead City 4.7 W	Carteret	3.32
Beaufort 5.3 N	Carteret	3.18
Emerald Isle 2.3 WSW	Carteret	2.81
Cape Carteret 1.5 NE	Carteret	2.80
Newport 2.5 W	Carteret	2.60
Swansboro 2.7 NE	Carteret	2.54

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: April 2026

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Newport 1.0 N	Carteret	2.46
Cedar Point 0.7 NNE	Carteret	2.39
Beaufort 12.1 N	Carteret	2.38
Newport 0.2 SW	Carteret	2.22
Cedar Point 0.9 WSW	Carteret	2.19
Newport 1.7 SSE	Carteret	2.12
New Bern 1.3 NNE	Craven	2.09
New Bern 3.8 S	Craven	1.99
New Bern 5.3 SW	Craven	1.82
Trent Woods 1.2 ENE	Craven	1.81
Trent Woods 1.0 NNE	Craven	1.77
Trent Woods 1.3 WNW	Craven	1.77
Trent Woods 1.2 E	Craven	1.75
Bridgeton 0.3 SSE	Craven	1.72
Duck 0.3 ENE	Dare	1.95
Southern Shores 0.5 NNE	Dare	1.68
Rodanthe 1.0 SSE	Dare	1.65
Manteo 2.8 NW	Dare	1.53
Kill Devil Hills 2.6 NNW	Dare	1.49
Mount Olive 6.0 SE	Duplin	1.61
Wallace 14.8 E	Duplin	1.37

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: April 2026

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Rose Hill 0.1 NNW	Duplin	0.99
Ayden 6.5 WNW	Greene	1.39
SQ Tower	Hyde	1.94
Ocracoke 0.2 ESE	Hyde	1.72
Ocracoke 0.6 SW	Hyde	1.56
Kinston 4.6 ESE	Lenoir	1.31
Kinston 4.7 ESE	Lenoir	1.31
Pink Hill 2.5 NE	Lenoir	1.30
Kinston 5.1 WNW	Lenoir	1.29
Kinston 1.2 NW	Lenoir	1.21
Jamesville 6.1 SW	Martin	1.53
Swansboro 2.8 WSW	Onslow	3.30
Hubert 4.9 SE	Onslow	2.90
Sneads Ferry 3.3 SW	Onslow	2.60
Sneads Ferry 1.2 SSW	Onslow	2.36
Jacksonville 3.3 W	Onslow	1.68
Jacksonville 1.0 NW	Onslow	1.59
Jacksonville 5.4 WSW	Onslow	1.58
Jacksonville 2.4 NNE	Onslow	1.49
Richlands 3.4 SSW	Onslow	1.38
Oriental 2.1 WSW	Pamlico	3.25

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: April 2026

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Oriental 4.3 NNW	Pamlico	2.73
Lowland 0.2 SE	Pamlico	2.52
Fountain 0.1 NE	Pitt	1.80
Greenville 5.7 NW	Pitt	1.61
Winterville 2.5 NNW	Pitt	1.55
Greenville 4.4 SSE	Pitt	1.49
Winterville 3.5 W	Pitt	1.47
Greenville 7.1 SSE	Pitt	1.28
Columbia 4.9 W	Tyrrell	1.90
Roper 2.4 NE	Washington	1.61

CoCoRaHS inclusion in this table is based on a complete 30-day liquid precipitation record. Thank you to all observers!