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EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA
MONTHLY CLIMATE REPORT

AUGUST 2026

WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE
NEWPORT/MOREHEAD CITY, NC

National Weather Service
NEWPORT/MOREHEAD CITY, NC

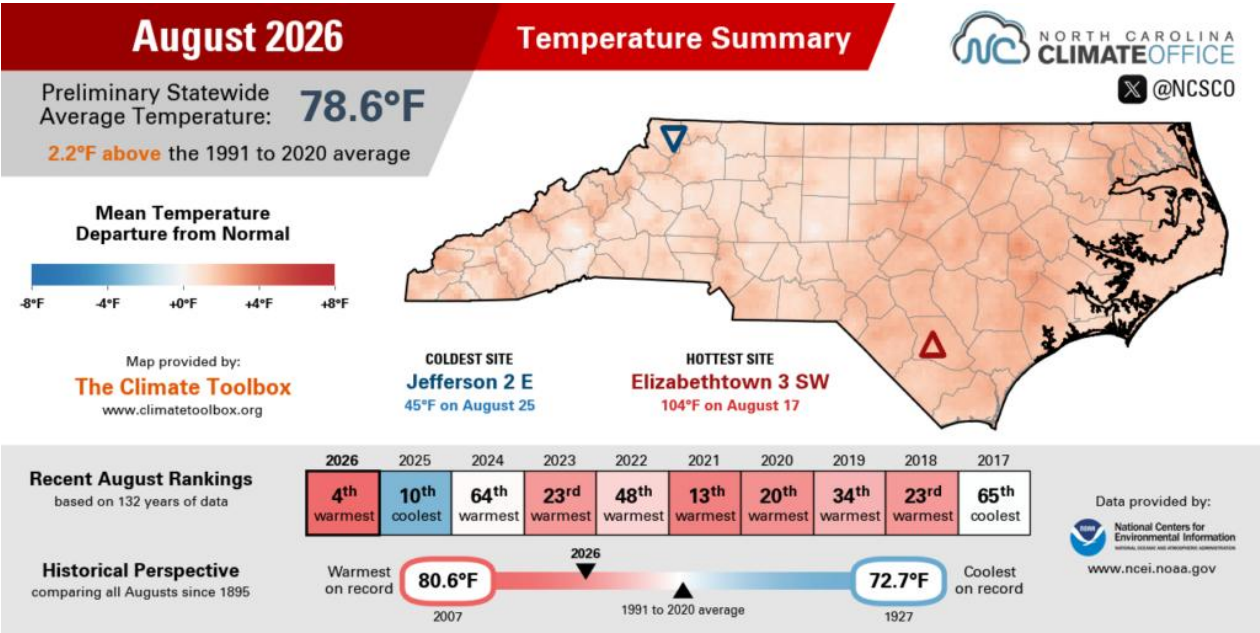
MONTHLY SUMMARY

August, to little surprise, saw a highly scattershot precipitation pattern across eastern North Carolina owing to convective regimes with equally big winners and losers. There were only two frontal systems, at the beginning and end of the month, that brought widespread precipitation to much of the region. Otherwise, locales were highly reliant on sea and sound breezes and other small boundaries to get their rainfall. **New Bern** was one of the big winners, picking up nearly 9 inches over the period. At the same time, **Beaufort** continuously got bypassed by the sea breeze, struggling to pick up around 2 inches. Overall precipitation was 75% of normal for the region, and drought conditions improved little.

Temperatures extended their above-average streak, and eastern North Carolina was slightly warmer than the rest of the state. Average temperatures were roughly 2.5°F above the 1991-2020 normal. In fact, all fifteen of our counties saw among their top 5 warmest Augusts since record keeping began. Overnight lows were particularly unrelenting, hovering in the upper 70s. Both **New Bern** and **Hatteras** set or tied multiple records for warm overnight lows.

TEMPERATURES

Statewide temperatures across North Carolina remained elevated for the last full month of meteorological summer, according to the North Carolina State Climate Office. The average temperature statewide for the month was 78.6°F or 2.2°F above the 1991-2020 average. This was the 4th warmest August statewide since records began in 1895, with 132 years of data.



August 2026 Temperature Summary | Source: NC State Climate Office

Eastern North Carolina temperature anomalies were close to or slightly warmer than the statewide average. Temperatures across our 15 counties were 2.4°F above the 1991-2020 average. Every single county experienced at least their top 5 warmest Augusts since records began. Since their respective records began, August 2026 was the 6th warmest for Cape Hatteras and the 3rd warmest for New Bern.

MXH Select Site Temperature Statistics: August 2026

Site	Avg. High (°F)	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. Temp (°F)	Normal (°F)	Departure (°F)
Beaufort (KMRH)	87.3	76.5	81.9	79.5	2.4
Hatteras (KHSE)	87.2	76.5	81.9	80.7	1.1
New Bern (KEWN)	90.4	73.0	81.7	78.9	2.8

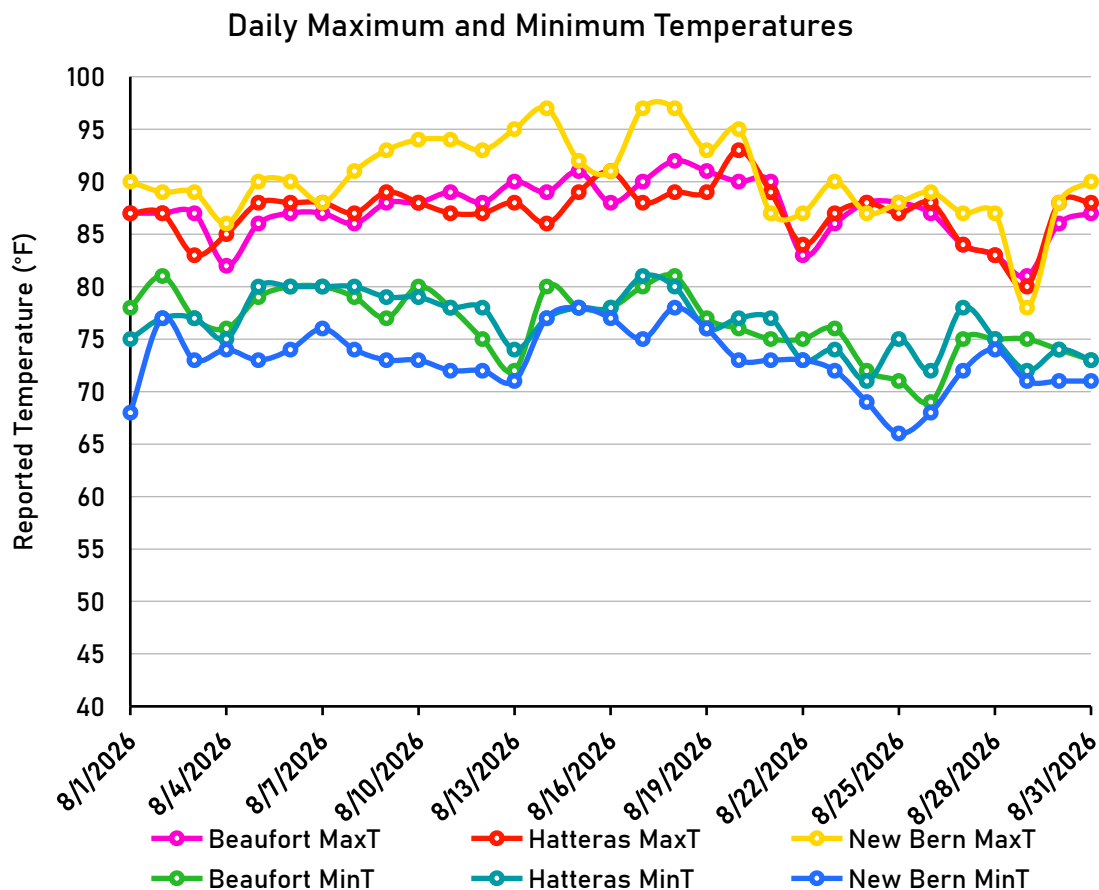
Normals are based on a period from 1990-2020.

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	80.9	78.6	2.3	3 W
Carteret	81.6	79.3	2.3	2 W
Craven	81.0	78.6	2.4	2 W
Dare	81.0	78.8	2.2	5 W
Duplin	80.6	78.1	2.5	4 W
Greene	80.7	78.2	2.5	4 W
Hyde	81.3	79.1	2.2	4 W
Jones	80.6	78.2	2.4	3 W
Lenoir	80.6	78.2	2.4	4 W
Martin	80.3	77.8	2.5	4 W
Onslow	80.9	78.5	2.4	3 W
Pamlico	81.5	79.1	2.4	2 W
Pitt	80.7	78.1	2.6	5 W
Tyrrell	80.8	78.6	2.2	4 W
Washington	80.4	78.1	2.3	4 W
Area Average	80.9	78.5	2.4	

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

The upper air pattern in August was characterized by strong ridging across the southwestern and central United States, extending into the Southeast, with modest troughing over the Great Lakes and New England; this was most prominent in the second half of the month. Like last month, temperature variability across our climate sites with any meaningful fronts failing to reach the area. The exception was the last week of August as a front pushed offshore and then meandered across the Carolinas into September. The resultant cooldown briefly returned temperatures closer to normal.



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

New Bern, NC

Record High: August 14th – 97°F (OR: 97°F / 2023)

Record Warm Low: August 15th – 78°F (OR: 77°F / 1943)

Record Warm Low: August 16th - 77°F (OR: 77°F / 1987)

Record High: August 17th – 97°F (OR: 96°F / 1946)

Record Warm Low: August 18th – 78°F (OR: 78°F / 1988)

Cape Hatteras, NC

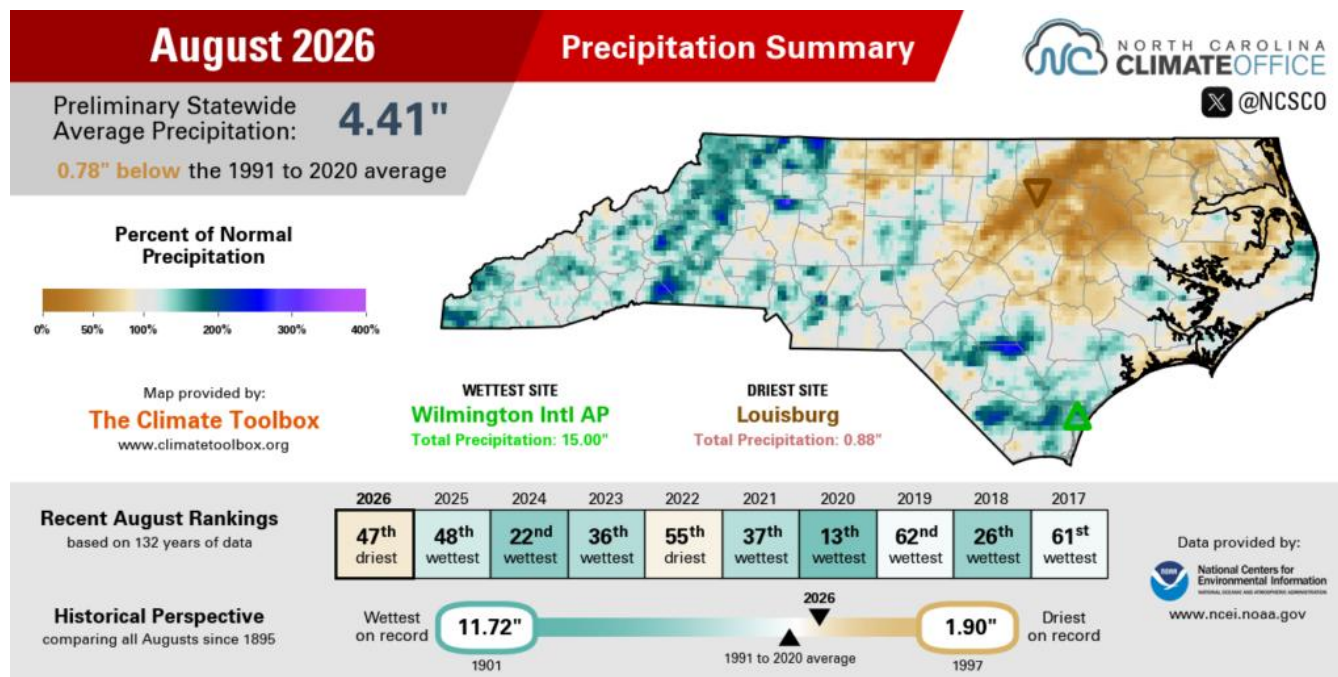
Record Warm Low: August 6th – 80°F (OR: 80°F / 2016)

Record Warm Low: August 17th – 81°F (OR: 80°F / 1977)

Record High: August 20th – 93°F (OR: 91°F / 1968)

PRECIPITATION

Analysis conducted by the North Carolina State Climate Office indicated average statewide precipitation was 4.41" for August, or 0.78" inches below average. This was the 47th driest August since records began in 1895.



August 2026 Precipitation Summary | Source: NC State Climate Office

Eastern North Carolina was, on average, drier than the statewide average largely driven by well below average accumulations across the inner coastal plain and Albemarle Peninsula. As expected for summer months, precipitation patterns were still highly variable due to convection. The average accumulation across the MHX forecast area was 4.68" (roughly 75% of the 1991-2020 normal). New Bern had its 24th wettest August on record while Cape Hatteras had its 66th wettest.

MHX Select Site Precipitation Statistics: August 2026

Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	Normal (in.)	Departure (in.)
Beaufort (KMRH)	2.16	7.29	-5.13
Hatteras (KHSE)	5.53	6.73	-1.20
New Bern (KEWN)	9.10	6.81	2.29

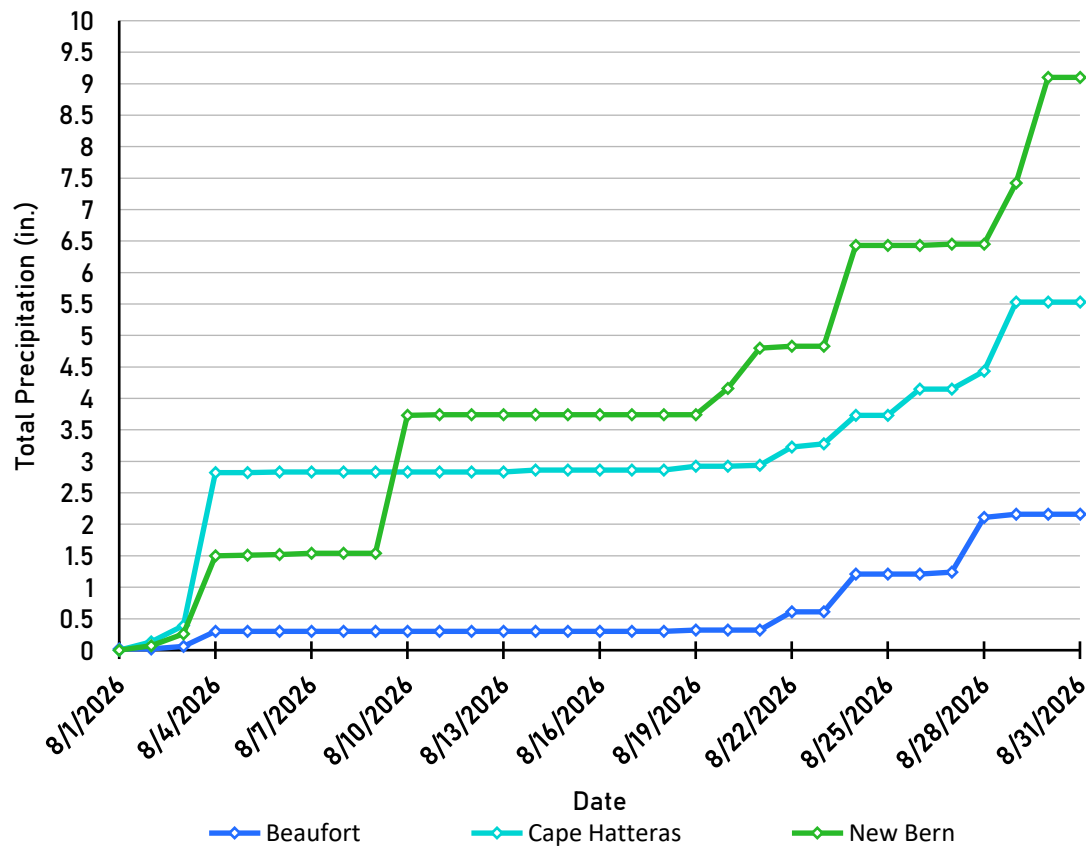
County-averaged statistics are presented in the following table. **Mean and departure calculations are based on the 1991-2020 climate normals.** Data courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).

County	Avg. Accum. (in.)	Mean (in.)	Departure (in.)	Rank
Beaufort	4.68	6.40	-1.72	37D
Carteret	5.41	7.46	-2.05	46 D
Craven	5.96	6.81	-0.85	65 D
Dare	3.74	5.87	-2.13	32 D
Duplin	5.33	6.04	-0.71	56 D
Greene	3.16	5.98	-2.82	21 D
Hyde	4.01	6.40	-2.39	26 D
Jones	5.98	6.66	-0.68	62 D
Lenoir	3.94	6.31	-2.37	30 D
Martin	3.85	5.69	-1.84	33 D
Onslow	7.73	6.97	0.76	39 W
Pamlico	5.14	7.06	-1.92	38 D
Pitt	4.06	5.88	-1.82	30 D
Tyrrell	3.53	6.12	-2.59	17 D
Washington	3.68	6.21	-2.53	24 D
Area Average	4.68	6.39	-1.71	

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

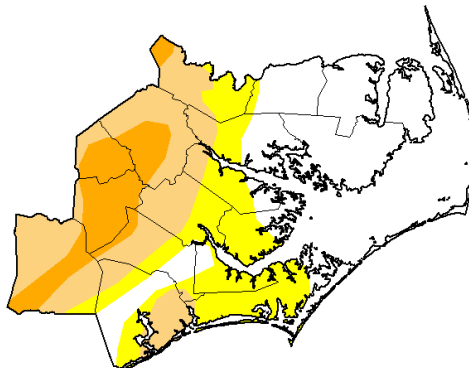
Like in July, locales in August were highly reliant on local sound and sea breezes for their precipitation. The only two notable periods of area-wide rainfall was the first week of the month as a weak front approached the region and stalled, as well as the aforementioned front at the end of the month that also brought a modest cooldown. The reliance on such small features was readily apparent between New Bern and Beaufort. The former picked up just over 9 inches of rainfall being well positioned to the sea breeze, while Beaufort struggled to pick up 2 as the breeze passed it before kicking up showers and storms.

Monthly Accumulated Precipitation



Drought conditions saw marginal improvement in August, albeit unevenly – areas along the Crystal Coast saw improvement, but portions of the coastal plain worsened. Overall coverage of at least Moderate (D1) drought declined to 42%, compared to 54% in July.

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



September 1, 2026

(Released Thursday, Sep. 3, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	33.61	66.39	42.20	14.08	0.00	0.00
Last Week 08-25-2026	33.61	66.39	41.33	10.29	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-02-2026	0.00	100.00	100.00	74.64	0.26	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 09-02-2025	27.57	72.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate 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>

Author:

Curtis Riganti
 National Drought Mitigation Center



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: August 2026

Site	Avg. High (°F)	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. Temp (°F)	Normal (°F)	Departure (°F)
Greenville	90.3	72.9	81.6	79.0	2.6
Kinston	90.6	72.3	81.5	79.2	2.2
Williamston	89.2	71.3	80.3	79.9	0.3
Plymouth	88.7	71.4	80.1	78.3	1.8
Bayboro	90.2	71.9	81.1	77.9	3.2
Manteo	85.8	75.7	80.8	78.2	2.6

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

Maximum and Minimum Monthly Temperatures: August 2026

Site	Max High (°F)	Date Observed	Min Low (°F)	Date Observed
Beaufort (KMRH)	92	Aug 18	69	Aug 26
Hatteras (KHSE)	93	Aug 20	71	Aug 24
New Bern (KEWN)	97	Aug 14, 17, 18	66	Aug 25
Greenville	99	Aug 14	66	Aug 24
Kinston	98	Aug 15, 18	65	Aug 26
Williamston	95	Aug 15	64	Aug 24
Plymouth	94	Aug 14, 15	64	Aug 24
Bayboro	96	Aug 15, 18, 19	64	Aug 1
Manteo	91	Aug 14, 17	68	Aug 26

APPENDIX B: ADDITIONAL PRECIPITATION DATA

Cooperative Observation Site Precipitation Statistics: August 2026

Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	Normal (in.)	Departure (in.)
Greenville	4.76	6.01	-1.25
Kinston	3.30	6.36	-3.06
Williamston	3.99	5.70	-1.71
Plymouth	3.75	6.60	-2.85
Bayboro	4.07	7.85	-3.78

Sites in red have missing data in their record.

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: August 2026

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Pantego 0.4 WSW	Beaufort	2.97
Beaufort 12.1 N	Carteret	9.65
Beaufort 5.3 N	Carteret	6.09
Beaufort 3.8 N	Carteret	4.43
Beaufort 3.4 NNW	Carteret	4.04
Atlantic Beach 1.0 E	Carteret	5.14
Morehead City 2.9 WNW	Carteret	4.34
Pine Knoll Shores 0.3 NE	Carteret	7.23
Morehead City 6.0 WNW	Carteret	8.08
Newport 1.7 SSE	Carteret	3.52
Newport 0.2 SW	Carteret	4.93

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: August 2026

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Newport 1.0 N	Carteret	6.50
Newport 2.5 W	Carteret	5.61
Swansboro 3.7 NNE	Carteret	3.37
Swansboro 2.7 NE	Carteret	3.27
Cedar Point 0.9 WSW	Carteret	2.63
New Bern 3.5 NNE	Craven	4.69
Bridgeton 0.3 SSE	Craven	8.81
James City 2.0 S	Craven	8.25
New Bern 2.9 SSE	Craven	9.06
Trent Woods 1.2 E	Craven	8.76
Trent Woods 1.2 ENE	Craven	10.28
New Bern 3.8 S	Craven	8.83
New Bern 4.2 S	Craven	8.74
Trent Woods 1.3 SSE	Craven	9.16
Trent Woods 1.0 NNE	Craven	10.59
Brice Creek 0.9 WNW	Craven	7.97
Trent Woods 1.3 WNW	Craven	10.22
Buxton 0.3 ENE	Dare	4.35
Rodanthe 1.0 SSE	Dare	9.80
Wanchese 1.0 ENE	Dare	2.38
Kill Devil Hills 2.6 NNW	Dare	3.85

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: August 2026

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Southern Shores 0.5 NNE	Dare	2.75
Shore Shore 1.9 NNW	Dare	2.18
Duck 0.7 SSE	Dare	2.34
Faison 3.3 SSE	Duplin	3.07
Rosehill 0.1 NNW	Duplin	5.62
Ayden 6.5 WNW	Greene	3.74
Ocracoke 0.6 SW	Hyde	3.39
SQ Tower	Hyde	5.18
New Bern 7.7 SW	Jones	7.27
Maysville 3.0 NW	Jones	6.06
Kinston 4.6 ESE	Lenoir	3.43
Kinston 1.2 NW	Lenoir	2.87
Kinston 5.1 WNW	Lenoir	2.82
Kinston 7.0 SW	Lenoir	3.14
Pink Hill 2.5 NE	Lenoir	5.36
Jamesville 6.1 SW	Martin	5.72
Williamston 8.9 SSE	Martin	5.96
Hubert 4.9 SE	Onslow	3.42
Jacksonville 2.4 NNE	Onslow	8.98
Jacksonville 1.0 NW	Onslow	8.73
Jacksonville 4.5 NW	Onslow	9.24

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: August 2026

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Jacksonville 3.3 W	Onslow	6.95
Jacksonville 5.4 WSW	Onslow	5.31
Sneads Ferry 3.3 SW	Onslow	8.44
Lowland 0.2 SE	Pamlico	4.48
Oriental 4.3 NNW	Pamlico	6.73
Oriental 2.1 WSW	Pamlico	7.33
Merritt 1.5 WSW	Pamlico	6.13
Greenville 5.0 SE	Pitt	3.16
Greenville 2.8 S	Pitt	3.94
Winterville 3.5 W	Pitt	4.32
Fountain 0.1 NE	Pitt	1.18
Columbia 3.8 NW	Tyrrell	3.98
Roper 2.4 NE	Washington	4.32

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