

PUBLISH DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2026

**EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA
MONTHLY CLIMATE REPORT**

DECEMBER 2025

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

National Weather Service
NEWPORT/MOREHEAD CITY, NC

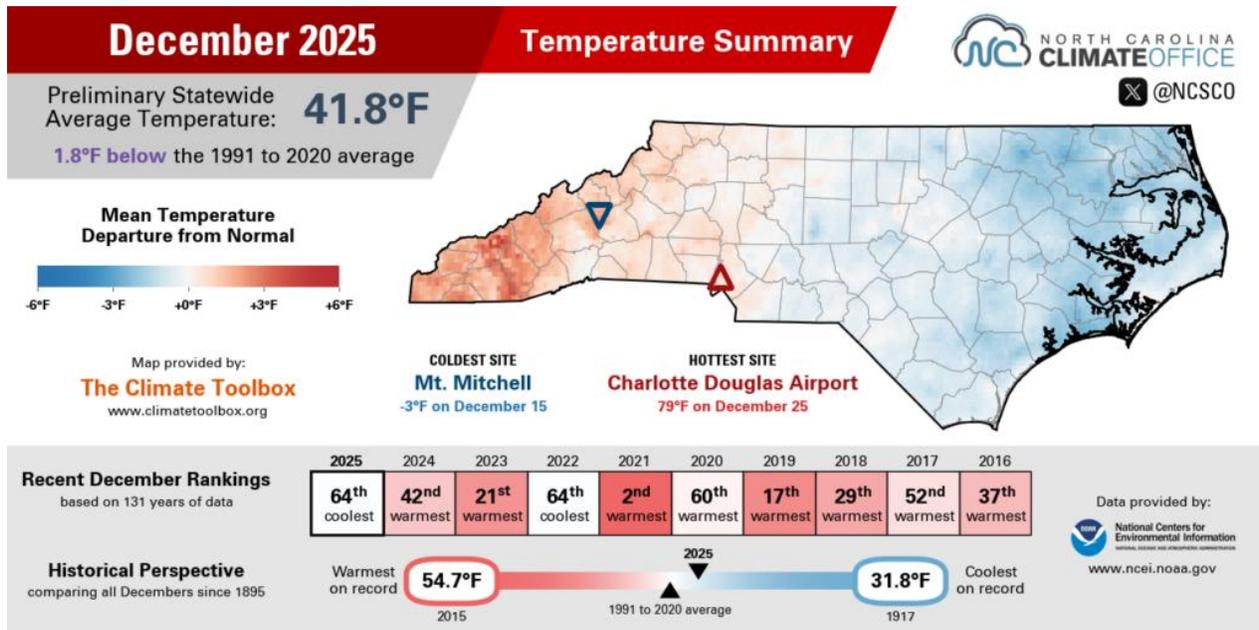
MONTHLY SUMMARY

December reverted back to cooler than average temperatures after November's brief warm spell, and also saw an uptick in precipitation focused heavily across eastern North Carolina. Precipitation fell primarily in two periods, the first associated with a developing nor'easter off our coast which set daily rainfall records at both New Bern and Cape Hatteras. The second came with a mid-season cold front, which gave Beaufort nearly 2" of daily rainfall. Atlantic Beach was the wettest station in the state, recording nearly 6" of rain to close out 2025. Average precipitation for the MHX area was 3.35", or roughly 90% of the 1991-2020 normal. Drought conditions improved modestly on a month-to-month basis.

Temperatures fell well below average in December, with eastern NC experiencing lower anomalies than the rest of the state. Average temperatures across the Morehead City forecast area were 3.6°F below normal and about two degrees cooler than the statewide average, a nearly identical departure from November. Cape Hatteras tied and set two record lows in mid-Month on a day where highs barely got above freezing, touching 23°F two nights in a row.

TEMPERATURES

Statewide temperatures across North Carolina were variable but leaned below average in December, according to the North Carolina State Climate Office. The average temperature statewide for the month was 41.8°F or 1.8°F below the 1991-2020 average. This was the 64th coolest December statewide since records began in 1895, with 131 years of data.



December 2025 Temperature Summary | Source: NC State Climate Office

Eastern North Carolina temperature anomalies were significantly cooler than the rest of the state, with temperatures across our 15 counties 3.6°F below the 1991-2020 average. Since their respective records began, December 2025 was the 49th coolest for Cape Hatteras and 34th coolest for New Bern.

MHX Select Site Temperature Statistics: December 2025

Site	Avg. High (°F)	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. Temp (°F)	Normal (°F)	Departure (°F)
Beaufort (KMRH)	56.0	36.2	46.1	50.0	-3.9
Hatteras (KHSE)	55.1	39.5	47.3	52.1	-4.8
New Bern (KEWN)	56.3	32.5	44.4	47.7	-3.3

Normals are based on a period from 1990-2020.

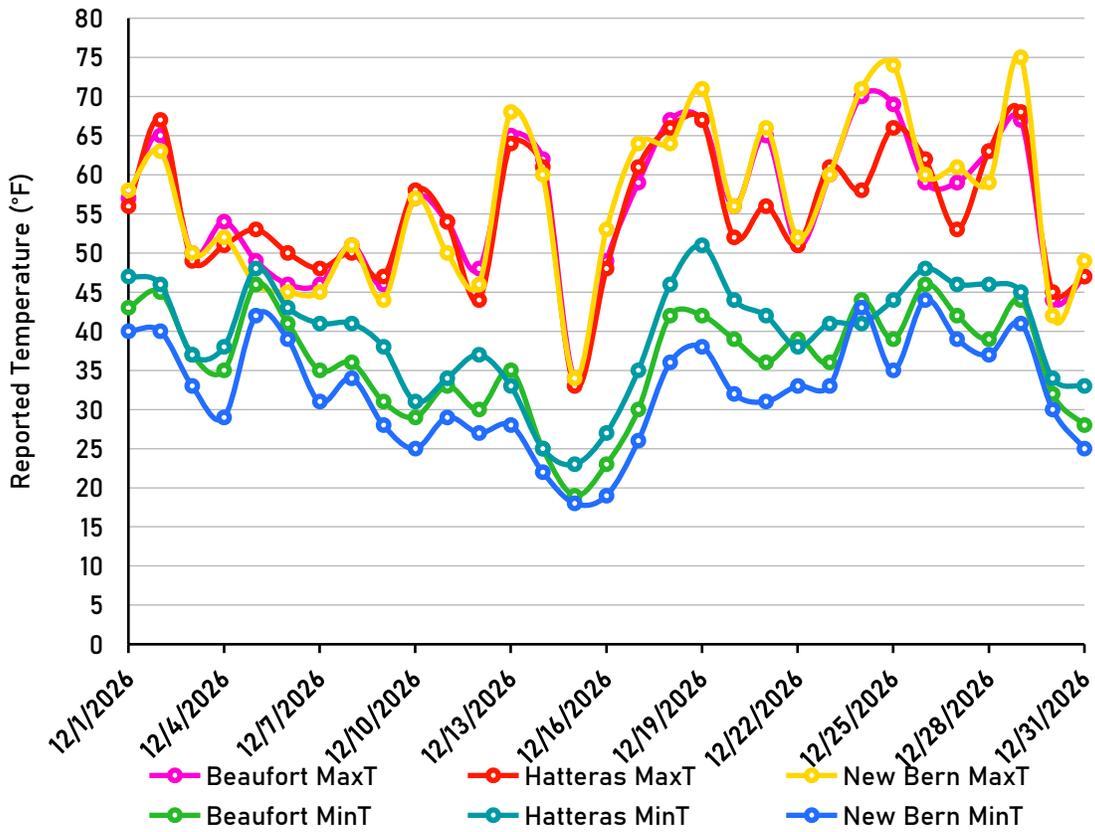
County-averaged statistics are presented in the following table. Mean and departure calculations are based on the 1991-2020 climate normals. Data courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).

County	Avg. Temperature (°F)	Mean (°F)	Departure (°F)	Rank
Beaufort	43.6	47.1	-3.5	40 C
Carteret	46.4	49.5	-3.1	44 C
Craven	43.9	47.5	-3.6	40 C
Dare	44.3	47.9	-3.6	33 C
Duplin	42.7	46.2	-3.5	40 C
Greene	41.9	45.8	-3.9	36 C
Hyde	44.8	48.4	-3.6	36 C
Jones	43.0	46.9	-3.9	36 C
Lenoir	41.6	46.2	-4.6	27 C
Martin	42.2	45.3	-3.1	46 C
Onslow	44.1	47.6	-3.5	39 C
Pamlico	45.2	48.6	-3.4	43 C
Pitt	42.6	45.9	-3.3	41 C
Tyrrell	43.3	47.0	-3.7	37 C
Washington	42.6	46.2	-3.6	39 C
Area Average	43.5	47.1	-3.6	

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

The upper air pattern across the United States in December averaged out to abnormally strong ridging across the west and troughing over the northeast. Heights over NC were near average for the month, but this masks nearly three weeks of predominant troughing over the state before strong ridging, centered over the southern plains, extended across the southeast. During those first three weeks, average temperatures ranged from 6 to 12 degrees below average, the coolest day being Dec 15th with highs barely above freezing. Temperatures returned to near normal to close out 2025.

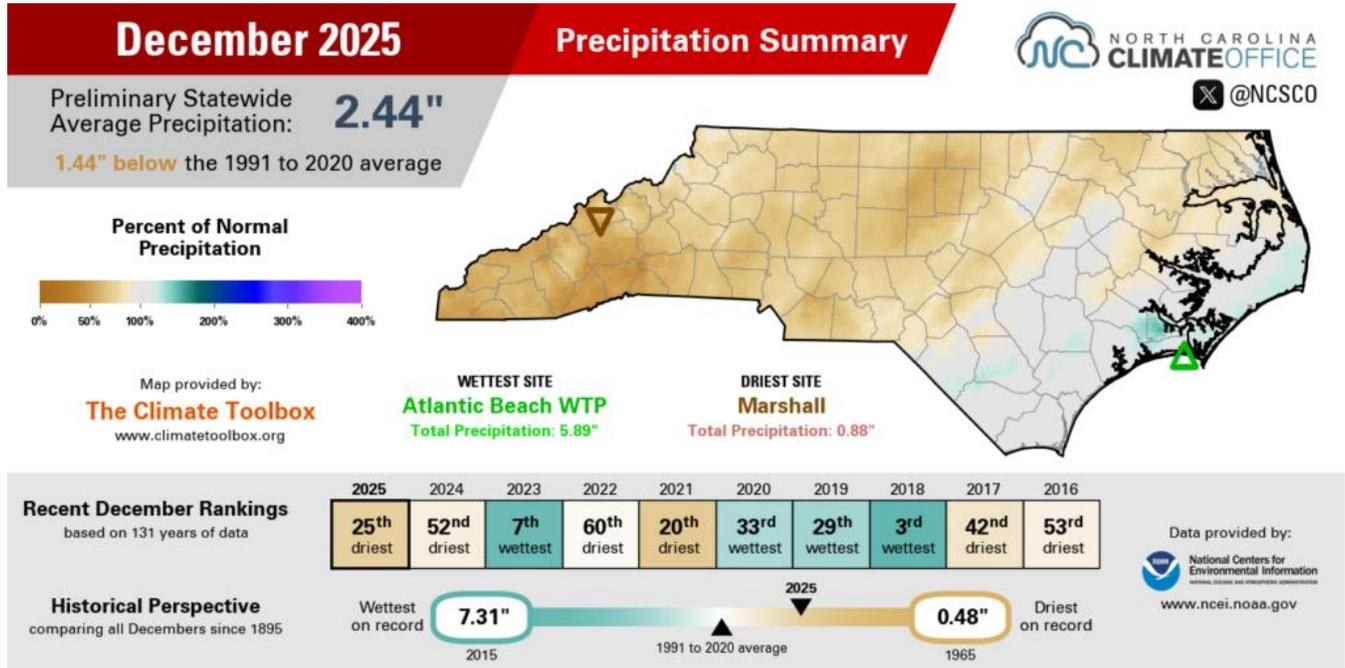
Daily Maximum and Minimum Temperatures



Two temperature records were set in December at **Cape Hatteras**, both record lows. The site tied a record low of 25 on Dec. 14th (OR: 25°F / 1960), and then set a new record low of 23°F on Dec. 15th (OR: 25°F / 1978).

PRECIPITATION

Analysis conducted by the North Carolina State Climate Office indicated average statewide precipitation was 2.44" for December, or 1.44" inches below average. This was the 25th driest December since records began in 1895.



December 2025 Precipitation Summary | Source: NC State Climate Office

Eastern North Carolina saw more rainfall than the rest of the state, with the average accumulation across the MHX forecast area sitting at 3.35" (roughly 90% of the 1991-2020 normal). Atlantic Beach was the wettest station in North Carolina in December, recording 5.89" of precipitation. Cape Hatteras and New Bern both recorded their 39th wettest Decembers in their respective records.

MHX Select Site Precipitation Statistics: December 2025

Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	Normal (in.)	Departure (in.)
Beaufort (KMRH)	5.23	3.79	1.44
Hatteras (KHSE)	5.44	4.73	0.71
New Bern (KEWN)	3.88	3.63	0.25

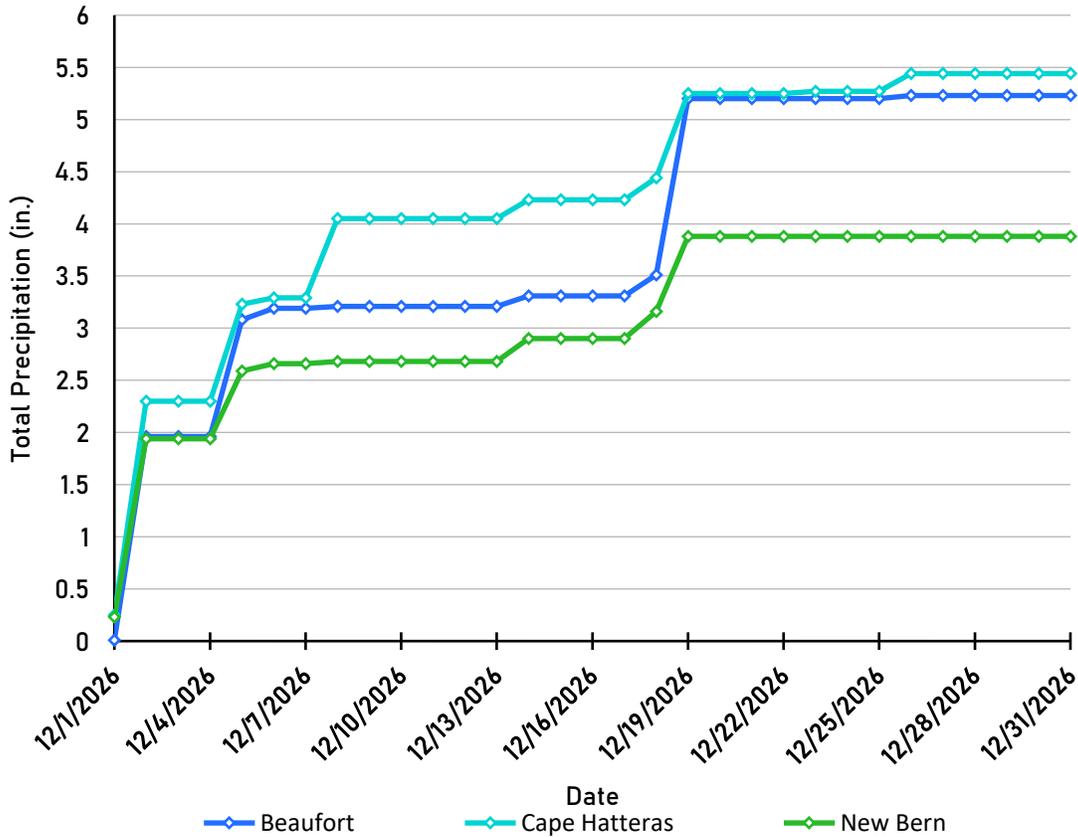
County-averaged statistics are presented in the following table. Mean and departure calculations are based on the 1991-2020 climate normals. Data courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).

County	Avg. Accum. (in.)	Mean (in.)	Departure (in.)	Rank
Beaufort	3.06	3.68	-0.62	50 D
Carteret	4.71	4.11	0.60	47 W
Craven	3.82	3.77	0.05	58 W
Dare	3.44	3.74	-0.30	55 D
Duplin	3.02	3.55	-0.53	60 D
Greene	3.00	3.45	-0.45	55 D
Hyde	3.54	3.82	-0.28	60 D
Jones	3.69	3.70	-0.01	59 W
Lenoir	3.08	3.48	-0.40	65 D
Martin	2.75	3.49	-0.74	48 D
Onslow	3.87	3.81	0.06	59 W
Pamlico	3.92	3.93	-0.01	61 W
Pitt	3.06	3.50	-0.44	59 D
Tyrrell	2.77	3.65	-0.88	39 D
Washington	2.59	3.55	-0.96	39 D
Area Average	3.35	3.68	-0.33	

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

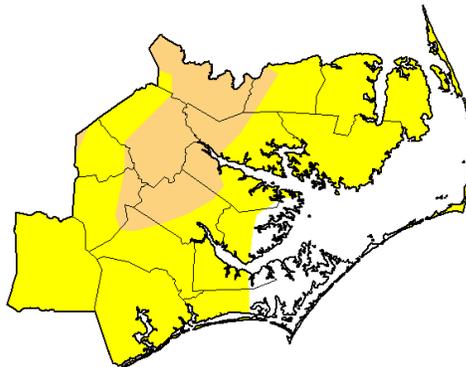
December saw two distinct periods of notable rainfall impacting coastal NC, the first associated with a developing nor’easter that developed off the coast and lifted towards New England, dropping a healthy 1-2” of rain to start the period. Both **New Bern** and **Cape Hatteras** set daily rainfall records on Dec. 2nd, picking up 1.71” (OR: 1.26” / 2009) and 2.05” (OR: 1.93” / 1986), respectively. A cold front swept across the area a few days later, adding another 0.5-1” of rain across much of the area. The second period was associated with a cold front crossing the state on the 19th. Beaufort was a big winner, receiving nearly 2” of rain in a single day.

Monthly Accumulated Precipitation



Drought conditions improved across the MHX forecast area in December with the area of D1 (Moderate) drought shrinking to only portions of the coastal plain but still leaving abnormally dry conditions for all but Down East Carteret County.

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



December 30, 2025
(Released Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	6.51	93.49	21.82	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 12-23-2025	6.51	93.49	21.82	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 09-30-2025	0.09	99.91	44.72	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	0.00	100.00	100.00	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 12-31-2024	0.00	100.00	82.99	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>

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NCEI/NOAA



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=akq>

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: December 2025

Site	Avg. High (°F)	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. Temp (°F)	Normal (°F)	Departure (°F)
Greenville	55.0	31.8	43.4	45.9	-2.5
Kinston	55.1	31.8	43.5	48.5	-5.1
Williamston	53.3	30.4	41.9	45.8	-4.0
Plymouth	55.0	32.5	43.8	46.7	-3.0
Bayboro	58.8	35.7	47.3	47.7	-0.5
Manteo	52.1	38.0	45.1	47.5	-2.5

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

Maximum and Minimum Monthly Temperatures: December 2025

Site	Max High (°F)	Date Observed	Min Low (°F)	Date Observed
Beaufort (KMRH)	70	Dec 24	19	Dec 15
Hatteras (KHSE)	68	Dec 29	23	Dec 15
New Bern (KEWN)	75	Dec 29	18	Dec 15
Greenville	71	Dec 1, 24	17	Dec 15
Kinston	73	Dec 26	17	Dec 15
Williamston	70	Dec 20, 30	17	Dec 15
Plymouth	71	Dec 19, 29	15	Dec 15
Bayboro	75	Dec 30	26	Dec 15-16
Manteo	67	Dec 29	20	Dec 15

APPENDIX B: ADDITIONAL PRECIPITATION DATA

Cooperative Observation Site Precipitation Statistics: December 2025

Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	Normal (in.)	Departure (in.)
Greenville	3.47	3.55	-0.08
Kinston	2.81	3.29	-0.48
Williamston	2.55	3.57	-1.02
Plymouth	2.56	3.64	-1.08
Bayboro	3.77	4.10	-0.33

Sites in red have missing data in their record.

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: December 2025

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Pantego 0.4 WSW	Beaufort	2.95
Aurora 4.8 NE	Beaufort	2.77
Cedar Point 0.4 WSW	Carteret	6.69
Cape Carteret 1.5 NE	Carteret	5.63
Beaufort 3.8 N	Carteret	5.48
Cedar Point 0.7 NNE	Carteret	5.29
Cape Carteret 0.8 NE	Carteret	5.24
Swansboro 3.7 NNE	Carteret	5.12
Morehead City 6.0 WNW	Carteret	5.08
Swansboro 2.7 NE	Carteret	4.89
Newport 2.5 W	Carteret	4.80

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: December 2025

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Newport 1.0 N	Carteret	4.52
Morehead City 2.9 WNW	Carteret	4.52
Pine Knoll Shores 0.3 NE	Carteret	4.50
Newport 0.2 SW	Carteret	4.41
Newport 1.7 SSE	Carteret	4.34
Newport 2.3 SE	Carteret	4.31
New Bern 3.8 S	Craven	4.62
Bridgeton 0.3 SSE	Craven	4.01
Trent Woods 1.2 ENE	Craven	3.95
Brice Creek 0.9 WNW	Craven	3.95
Trent Woods 1.0 NNE	Craven	3.81
New Bern 5.3 SW	Craven	3.66
Trent Woods 1.3 WNW	Craven	3.56
New Bern 1.3 NNE	Craven	3.43
Rodanthe 1.0 SSE	Dare	5.85
Waves 0.3 E	Dare	5.44
Manteo 2.8 NW	Dare	3.70
Southern Shores 0.5 NNE	Dare	3.35
Kill Devil Hills 2.6 NNW	Dare	3.27
Duck 0.3 ENE	Dare	3.13
Wallace 14.8 E	Duplin	4.42

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: December 2025

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Mount Olive 2.4 SW	Duplin	3.30
Faison 3.3 SSE	Duplin	3.19
Ayden 6.5 WNW	Greene	2.60
Ocracoke 0.6 SW	Hyde	5.01
Ocracoke 0.2 ESE	Hyde	4.97
SQ Tower	Hyde	3.50
Kinston 7.0 SW	Lenoir	2.98
Kinston 4.4 WNW	Lenoir	2.84
Kinston 5.1 WNW	Lenoir	2.76
Kinston 4.6 ESE	Lenoir	2.54
Kinston 3.1 W	Lenoir	2.52
Williamston 8.9 SSE	Martin	2.11
Jamesville 6.1 SW	Martin	2.03
Jacksonville 1.0 NW	Onslow	4.73
Sneads Ferry 3.3 SW	Onslow	4.68
Swansboro 1.2 NNW	Onslow	4.50
Swansboro 2.8 WSW	Onslow	4.37
Holly Ridge 3.7 E	Onslow	4.22
Oriental 4.3 NNW	Pamlico	4.05
Lowland 0.2 SE	Pamlico	3.48
Oriental 5.2 NE	Pamlico	3.48

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: December 2025

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Farmville 0.8 ESE	Pitt	3.67
Greenville 5.7 NW	Pitt	3.25
Winterville 3.5 W	Pitt	3.19
Fountain 0.1 NE	Pitt	2.99
Winterville 1.0 ENE	Pitt	2.80
Greenville 7.1 SSE	Pitt	2.45
Greenville 5.0 SE	Pitt	2.41

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