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EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA
MONTHLY CLIMATE REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE
NEWPORT/MOREHEAD CITY, NC

National Weather Service
NEWPORT/MOREHEAD CITY, NC

MONTHLY SUMMARY

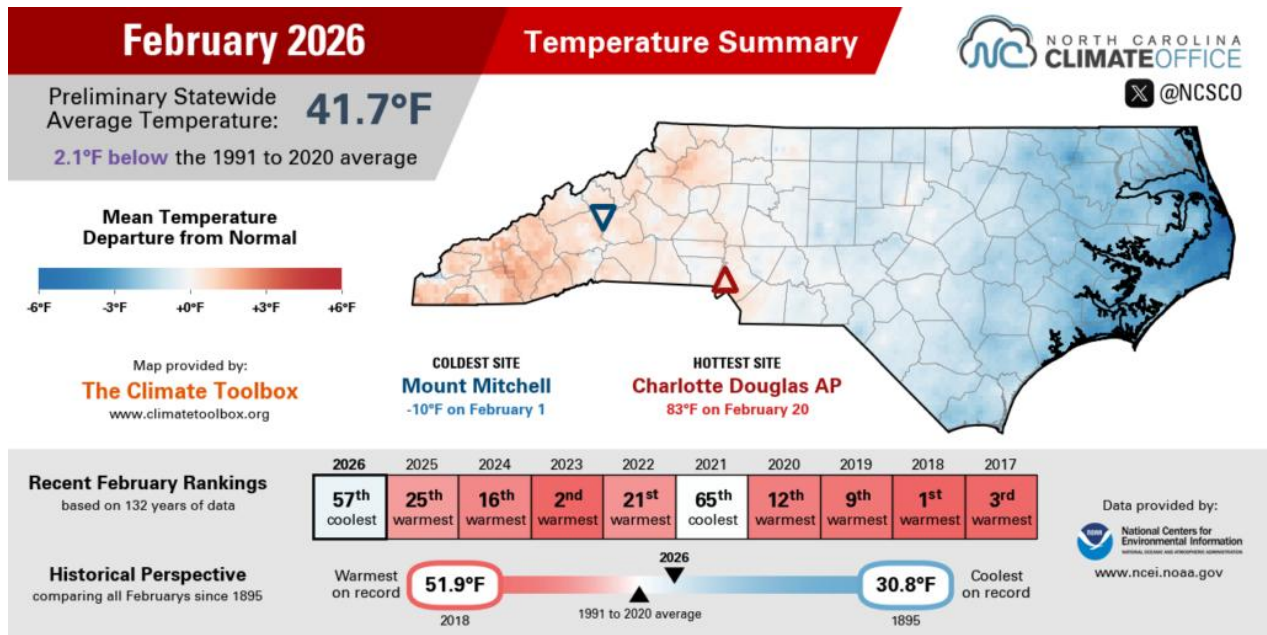
February 2026 continued a long streak of monthly below average precipitation across eastern NC. Much of the first half of the month saw little rainfall after the departing snowfall on the morning of the 1st. The primary precipitation event occurred on February 15th as a warm front lifted towards the area, associated with deepening low pressure over the Deep South. The Outer Banks in particular saw beneficial rainfall here as offshore convection occasionally bled onshore. The final week of the month turned more active, but it was not enough to make up the monthly deficit. Overall precipitation across the forecast area was roughly 60% of the 1991-2020 normal.

Temperatures remained below average in February, and eastern NC anomalies were far lower than the rest of the state aided by days of lingering snowpack. Average temperatures here were 3.4°F below the 1991-2020 normal, most pronounced in the first week of the month as lows fell well into the low 10s. New Bern set two new record lows on Feb 2-3, hitting 12°F each evening. There were some brief intrusions of warmer air, some of them quite impressive. After the record lows, New Bern would set a record high of 81°F on February 20th.

Public Information Statement on Jan 31st-Feb 1st Storm: [Click Here](#)

TEMPERATURES

Statewide temperatures across North Carolina remained below average in February, according to the North Carolina State Climate Office. The average temperature statewide for the month was 41.7°F or 2.1°F below the 1991-2020 average. This was the 57th coolest February statewide since records began in 1895, with 132 years of data.



February 2026 Temperature Summary | Source: NC State Climate Office

Eastern North Carolina temperature anomalies were well lower than the rest of the state thanks to snowpack from January’s snow. Temperatures across our 15 counties were 3.4°F below the 1991-2020 average. Since their respective records began, February 2026 was the 15th coolest for Cape Hatteras and 16th coolest for New Bern.

MXH Select Site Temperature Statistics: February 2026

Site	Avg. High (°F)	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. Temp (°F)	Normal (°F)	Departure (°F)
Beaufort (KMRH)	50.9	34.4	42.7	48.2	-5.6
Hatteras (KHSE)	48.7	35.3	42.0	49.1	-7.1
New Bern (KEWN)	54.6	33.2	43.9	47.1	-3.2

Normals are based on a period from 1990-2020.

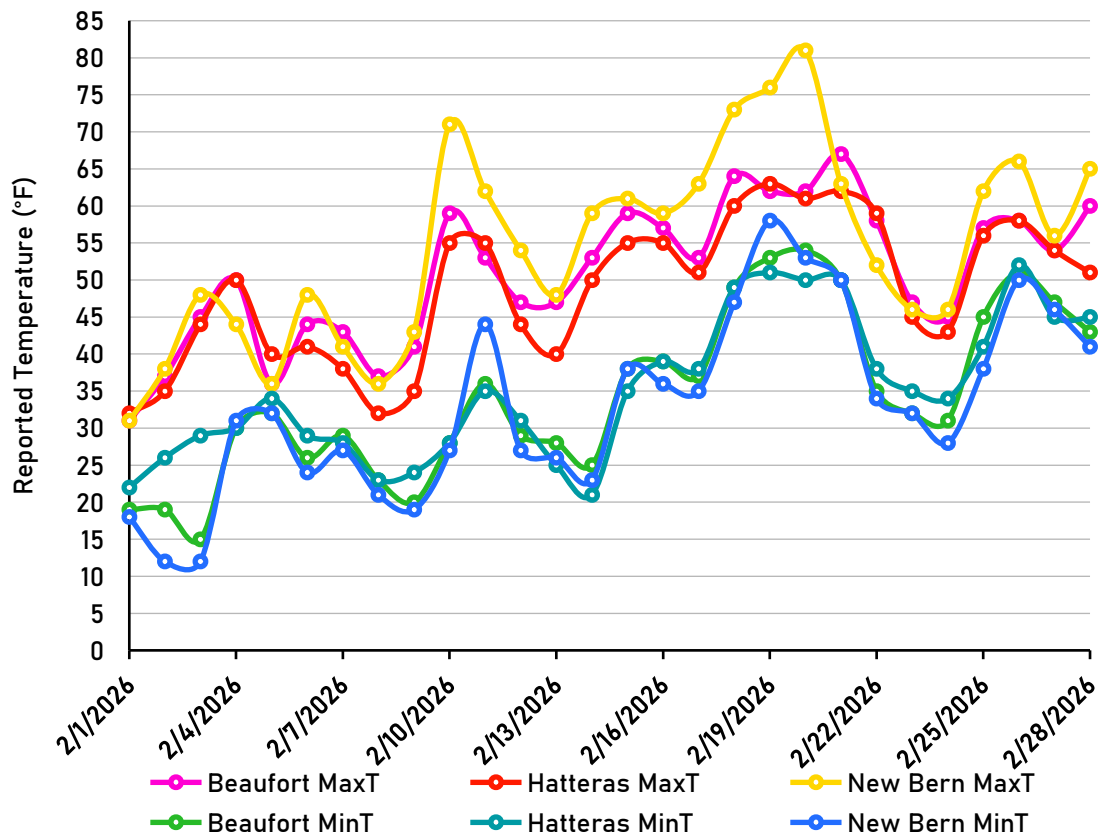
County-averaged statistics are presented in the following table. **Mean and departure calculations are based on the 1991-2020 climate normals.** Data courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).

County	Avg. Temperature (°F)	Mean (°F)	Departure (°F)	Rank
Beaufort	43.1	46.6	-3.5	44 C
Carteret	44.8	48.0	-3.2	42 C
Craven	43.8	47.1	-3.3	44 C
Dare	41.2	45.6	-4.4	26 C
Duplin	44.0	46.6	-2.6	47 C
Greene	42.4	45.7	-3.3	42 C
Hyde	42.8	46.9	-4.1	34 C
Jones	43.5	46.8	-3.3	43 C
Lenoir	42.5	46.3	-3.8	39 C
Martin	41.8	45.0	-3.2	45 C
Onslow	44.5	47.4	-2.9	46 C
Pamlico	44.2	47.6	-3.4	42 C
Pitt	42.5	45.7	-3.2	42 C
Tyrrell	42.1	45.6	-3.5	36 C
Washington	42.3	45.4	-3.1	45 C
Area Average	43.0	46.4	-3.4	

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 February averaged to below average mid-level heights over the east coast of the country. Heights over North Carolina were well below average for the first half of the month, and the coldest temperatures of the month fell during this period, enhanced by the lingering snowpack. Departures from average in this period ranged from 12 to as much as 20 degrees below normal. Not all of the month was cold, however – temperatures climbed well above average from Feb 17-21 as temperatures inland rocketed well into the 70s to low 80s.

Daily Maximum and Minimum Temperatures



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

New Bern, NC

Record High: Feb. 20th – 81° (OR: 81°F / 1991)

Record Low: Feb 2nd – 12°F (OR: 19° / 1980)

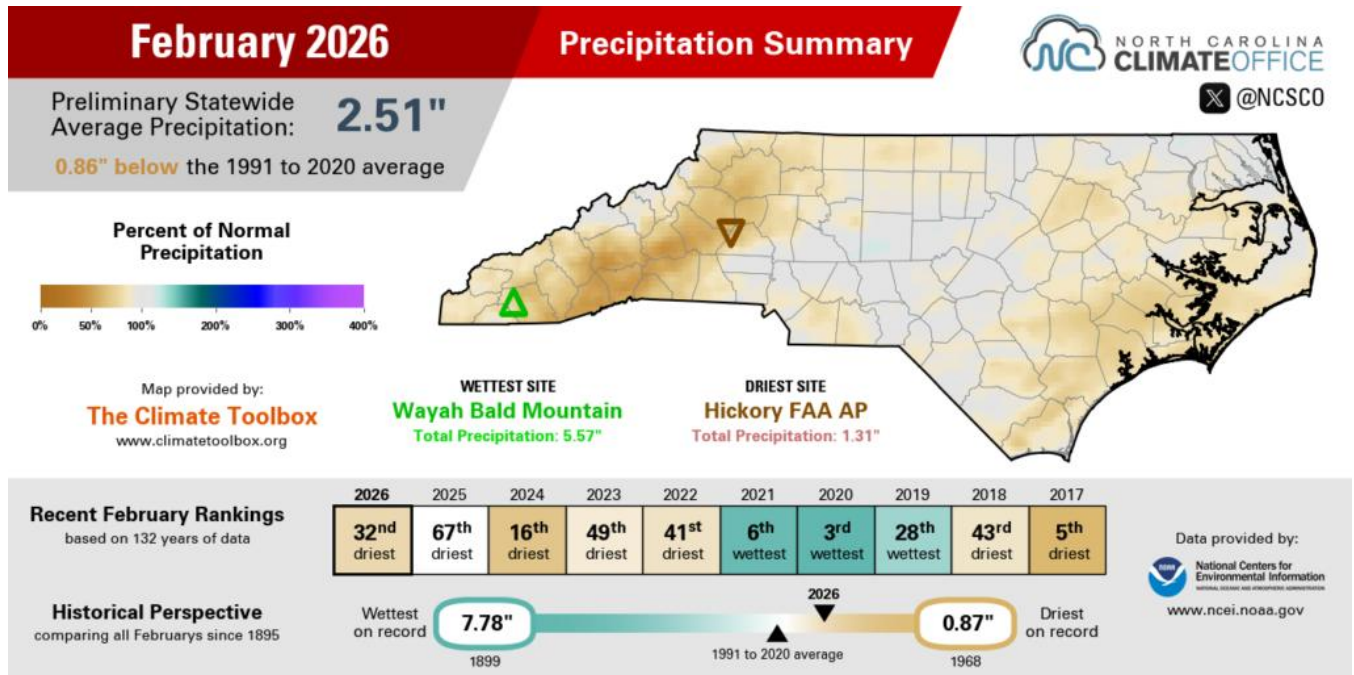
Record Low: Feb 3rd – 12°F (OR: 19° / 1980)

Cape Hatteras, NC

None.

PRECIPITATION

Analysis conducted by the North Carolina State Climate Office indicated average statewide precipitation was 2.51" for February, or 0.86" inches below average. This was the 32nd driest February since records began in 1895.



February 2026 Precipitation Summary | Source: NC State Climate Office

Eastern North Carolina was slightly drier than the rest of the state, with the average liquid accumulation across the MHX forecast area sitting at 2.06" (roughly 60% of the 1991-2020 normal). Based on preliminary data, New Bern had its 8th driest February on record, while Cape Hatteras had its 35th driest. However, many sites including New Bern and Hatteras did not report liquid precipitation for the February 1st, so these rankings are likely slightly inflated.

MHX Select Site Precipitation Statistics: February 2026

Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	Normal (in.)	Departure (in.)
Beaufort (KMRH)	2.15	3.33	-1.18
Hatteras (KHSE)	2.80	4.34	-1.54
New Bern (KEWN)	1.67	3.32	-1.65

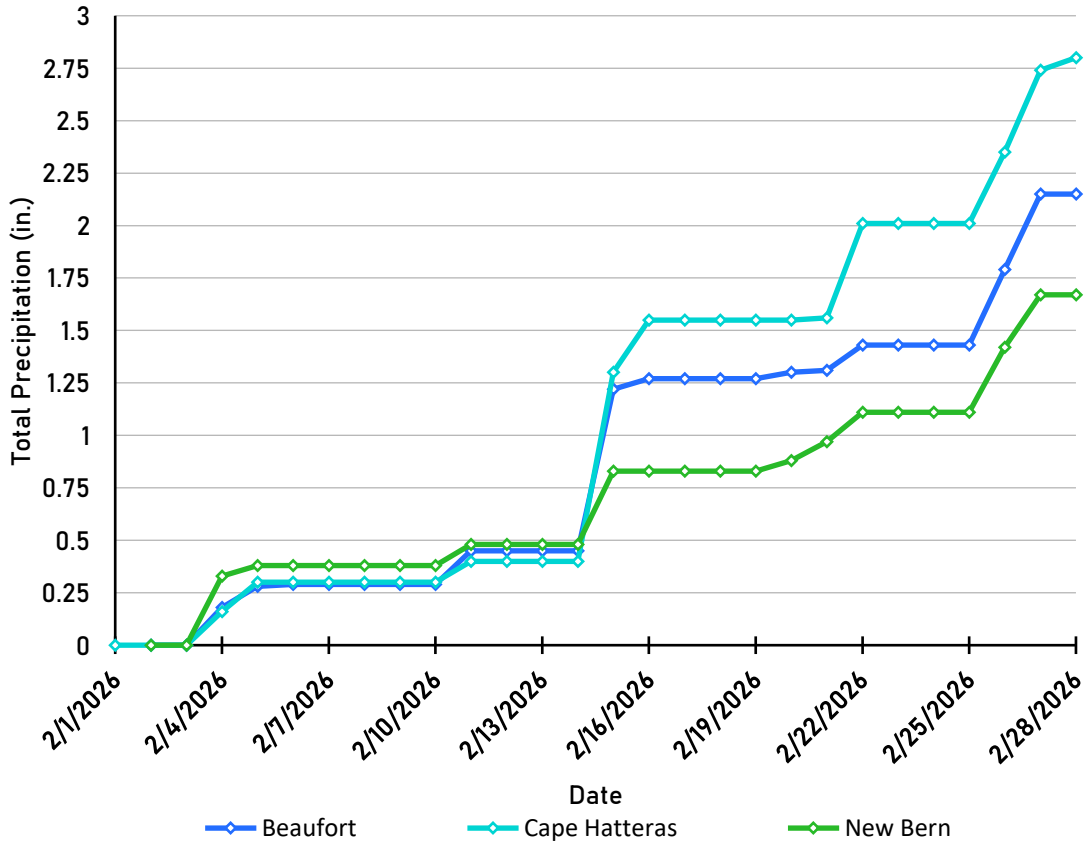
County-averaged statistics are presented in the following table. Mean and departure calculations are based on the 1991-2020 climate normals. Data courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).

County	Avg. Accum. (in.)	Mean (in.)	Departure (in.)	Rank
Beaufort	2.03	3.37	-1.34	27 D
Carteret	2.20	3.63	-1.43	33 D
Craven	1.94	3.44	-1.50	27 D
Dare	2.63	3.41	-0.78	38 D
Duplin	1.88	3.34	-1.46	27 D
Greene	1.73	3.21	-1.48	22 D
Hyde	2.22	3.45	-1.23	29 D
Jones	1.86	3.43	-1.57	26 D
Lenoir	1.73	3.28	-1.55	25 D
Martin	2.00	3.24	-1.24	25 D
Onslow	2.14	3.52	-1.38	33 D
Pamlico	2.11	3.51	-1.40	29 D
Pitt	1.77	3.27	-1.50	22 D
Tyrrell	2.45	3.27	-0.82	34 D
Washington	2.17	3.29	-1.12	30 D
Area Average	2.06	3.38	-1.32	

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

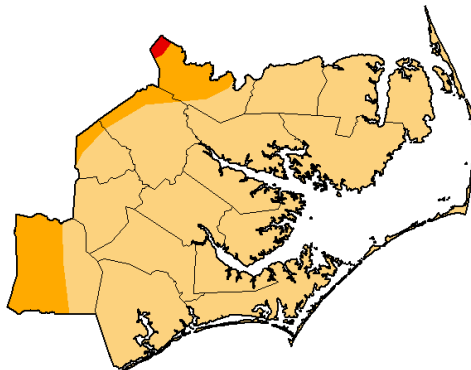
The first half of February started on a dry note across much of eastern NC after its snowy start, with our main climate sites recording less than a half inch through the period. This switched on the 15th as low pressure developing over the Deep South lifted towards the Carolinas, with warm-frontally forced rainfall overspreading inland areas and some isolated heavier rainfall impacting the Outer Banks. The overall pattern turned more unsettled in the final week with a combination of passing fronts and coastal lows. No precipitation records were set at the official climate sites in February.

Monthly Accumulated Precipitation



With the ongoing rainfall deficit, drought coverage continued to expand through February. By the beginning of March, all of eastern NC was in Moderate (D1) drought, but the coverage of Severe (D2) drought was cut roughly in half. However, some localized areas of Extreme (D3) drought developed in far western Martin County.

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



March 3, 2026

(Released Thursday, Mar. 5, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	12.62	0.36	0.00
Last Week 02-24-2026	0.00	100.00	100.00	62.50	0.36	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-02-2025	6.51	93.49	54.46	0.00	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 03-04-2025	0.00	100.00	100.00	24.54	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=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: February 2026

Site	Avg. High (°F)	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. Temp (°F)	Normal (°F)	Departure (°F)
Greenville	53.1	33.5	43.3	45.9	-2.6
Kinston	51.7	31.6	41.7	48.4	-6.7
Williamston	50.2	30.6	40.4	45.2	-4.8
Plymouth	52.6	32.8	42.7	46.3	-3.6
Bayboro	55.2	35.5	45.4	46.3	-0.9
Manteo	51.1	37.2	44.2	44.9	-0.7

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

Maximum and Minimum Monthly Temperatures: February 2026

Site	Max High (°F)	Date Observed	Min Low (°F)	Date Observed
Beaufort (KMRH)	67	Feb 21	15	Feb 3
Hatteras (KHSE)	63	Feb 19	21	Feb 14
New Bern (KEWN)	81	Feb 20	12	Feb 2-3
Greenville	76	Feb 20	10	Feb 2
Kinston	76	Feb 21	11	Feb 2
Williamston	73	Feb 21	13	Feb 2-3
Plymouth	74	Feb 20	16	Feb 2, 9
Bayboro	80	Feb 21	18	Feb 2-3
Manteo	69	Feb 20	20	Feb 1

APPENDIX B: ADDITIONAL PRECIPITATION DATA

Cooperative Observation Site Precipitation Statistics: February 2026

Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	Normal (in.)	Departure (in.)
Greenville	2.71	3.35	-0.64
Kinston	2.92	3.20	-0.28
Williamston	2.50	3.22	-0.72
Plymouth	2.44	3.40	-0.96
Bayboro	3.09	3.53	-0.44

Sites in red have missing data in their record.

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: February 2026

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Pantego 0.4 WSW	Beaufort	2.84
Cape Carteret 1.5 NE	Carteret	4.27
Newport 1.0 N	Carteret	4.17
Morehead City 6.0 WNW	Carteret	3.85
Swansboro 3.7 NNE	Carteret	3.85
Morehead City 2.9 WNW	Carteret	3.61
Newport 2.5 W	Carteret	3.58
Morehead City 0.6 W	Carteret	3.40
Newport 1.7 SSE	Carteret	3.36
Cedar Point 0.9 WSW	Carteret	3.35
Emerald Isle 2.3 WSW	Carteret	3.27

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: February 2026

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Beaufort 5.3 N	Carteret	3.06
Newport 2.3 SE	Carteret	3.01
Emerald Isle 0.4 SW	Carteret	2.93
Beaufort 12.1 N	Carteret	2.68
Atlantic Beach 1.0 E	Carteret	2.68
Trent Woods 1.2 ENE	Craven	3.27
Bridgeton 0.3 SSE	Craven	3.00
New Bern 2.9 SSE	Craven	2.99
New Bern 7.3 ESE	Craven	2.91
Trent Woods 1.3 WNW	Craven	2.61
New Bern 1.3 NNE	Craven	2.60
Brice Creek 0.9 WNW	Craven	2.54
Duck 0.3 ENE	Dare	3.81
Waves 0.3 E	Dare	3.30
Southern Shores 0.5 NNE	Dare	3.29
Kill Devil Hills 1.6 W	Dare	2.61
Rodanthe 1.0 SSE	Dare	2.48
Mount Olive 2.4 SW	Duplin	3.26
Rose Hill 0.1 NNW	Duplin	2.99
Engelhard 0.8 NW	Hyde	2.85
Ocracoke 0.6 SW	Hyde	2.73

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: February 2026

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Kinston 5.1 WNW	Lenoir	3.02
Kinston 7.0 SW	Lenoir	2.67
Kinston 4.6 ESE	Lenoir	2.58
Kinston 1.2 NW	Lenoir	2.17
Jamesville 6.1 SW	Martin	3.01
Williamston 8.9 SSE	Martin	2.84
Hubert 4.9 SE	Onslow	3.73
Sneads Ferry 3.3 SW	Onslow	3.62
Swansboro 1.2 NNW	Onslow	3.51
Swansboro 2.8 WSW	Onslow	3.45
Jacksonville 1.0 NW	Onslow	3.14
Oriental 4.3 NNW	Pamlico	3.10
Oriental 5.2 NE	Pamlico	2.95
Merritt 1.5 WSW	Pamlico	2.92
Lowland 0.2 SE	Pamlico	2.30
Farmville 0.8 ESE	Pitt	4.11
Greenville 7.1 SSE	Pitt	3.15
Winterville 3.5 W	Pitt	3.13
Greenville 5.0 SE	Pitt	3.11
Columbia 4.9 W	Tyrrell	2.69

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

