

PUBLISH DATE: SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

**EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA
MONTHLY CLIMATE REPORT**

**JULY
2026**

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

National Weather Service
NEWPORT/MOREHEAD CITY, NC

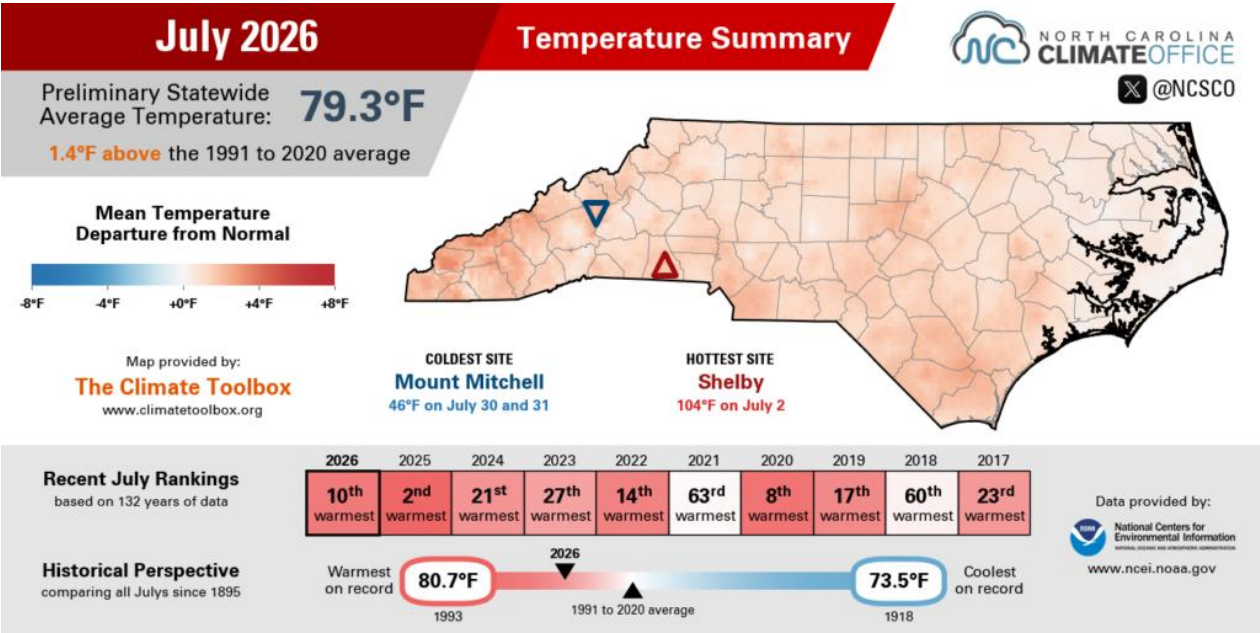
MONTHLY SUMMARY

July across eastern North Carolina was yet another month of highly variable precipitation patterns in convective regimes, although it did result in some locally impressive rainfall totals. There weren't many fronts that made it across the region, but the ones that did brought widespread beneficial rainfall along with locally torrential downpours. This was particularly evident across a large portion of the Albemarle Peninsula where several locations recorded totals exceeding a foot. Swanquarter Ferry was the wettest location in the state, picking up over 16" of rain. Unsurprisingly, drought conditions improved multiple categories for much of eastern NC.

Temperatures remained slightly above average across the state, with eastern North Carolina slightly closer to normal. Average temperatures across our counties were around a degree above the 1991-2020 normal. However, the month was punctuated by some brief but very noticeable cool downs as the aforementioned fronts managed to cross the region. Highs in New Bern on July 24-25th failed to get above 80 degrees and set new records for low maximum temperatures.

TEMPERATURES

Statewide temperatures across North Carolina extended their above normal streak, according to the North Carolina State Climate Office. The average temperature statewide for the month was 79.3°F or 1.4°F above the 1991-2020 average. This was the 10th warmest July statewide since records began in 1895, with 132 years of data.



July 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 0.9°F above the 1991-2020 average with areas along the Albemarle Sound ending near normal. Since their respective records began, July 2026 was the 30th warmest for Cape Hatteras and the 30th warmest for New Bern.

MHX Select Site Temperature Statistics: July 2026

Site	Avg. High (°F)	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. Temp (°F)	Normal (°F)	Departure (°F)
Beaufort (KMRH)	86.6	75.6	81.1	80.6	0.5
Hatteras (KHSE)	85.8	74.7	80.3	81.3	-1.1
New Bern (KEWN)	89.9	72.1	81.0	80.4	0.6

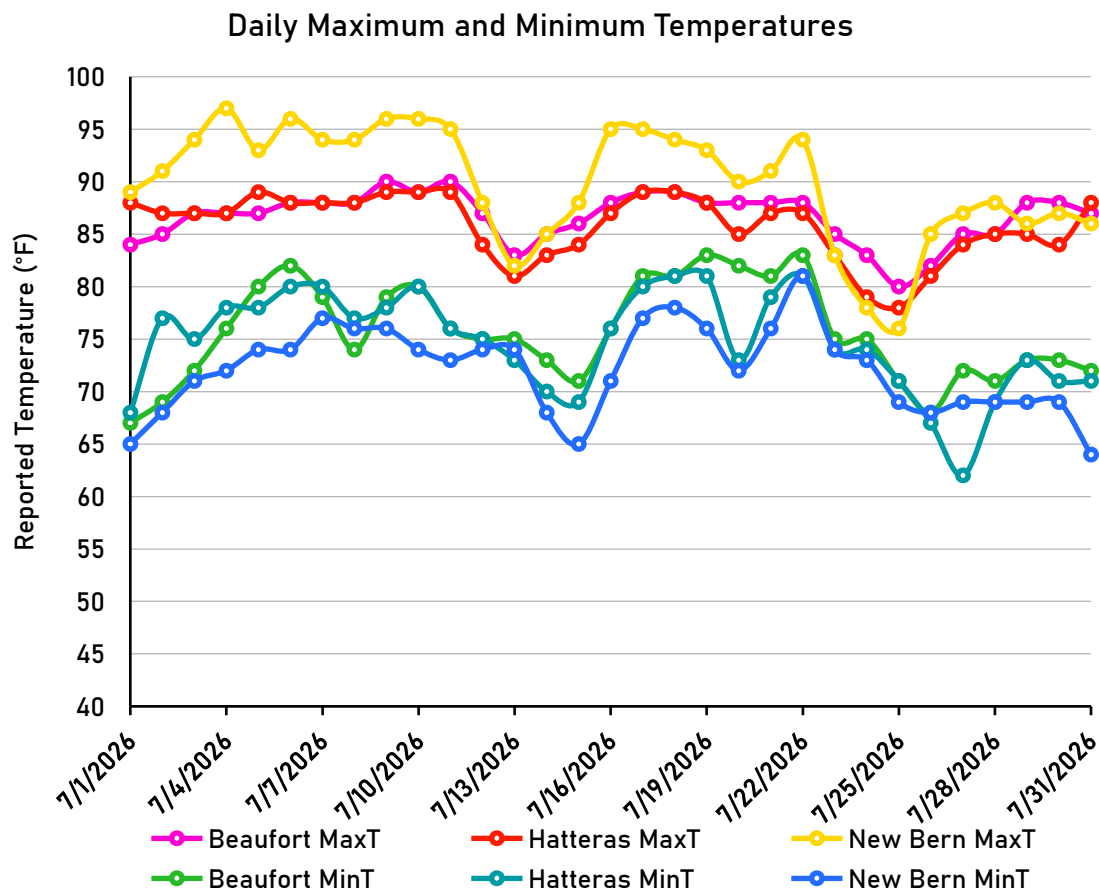
Normals are based on a period from 1990-2020.

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	81.0	80.1	0.9	20 W
Carteret	81.6	80.5	1.1	17 W
Craven	81.1	80.0	1.1	19 W
Dare	79.8	79.7	0.1	47 W
Duplin	81.0	79.8	1.2	13 W
Greene	80.9	80.0	0.9	23 W
Hyde	80.8	80.3	0.5	33 W
Jones	81.1	79.7	1.4	19 W
Lenoir	80.9	80.0	0.9	20 W
Martin	80.3	79.5	0.8	26 W
Onslow	81.2	79.9	1.3	11 W
Pamlico	81.6	80.5	1.1	19 W
Pitt	80.9	79.9	1.0	20 W
Tyrrell	80.3	79.9	0.4	34 W
Washington	80.1	79.6	0.5	31 W
Area Average	80.8	80.0	0.9	

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

As is typical in summer months, temperature variability across eastern NC was generally subdued as few fronts managed to make their way across the area. The ones that did, however, were quite effective in locking relatively cooler air in for a few days. July 24-25 were standout examples with high temps in **New Bern** failing to reach 80 degrees both days, and setting new records for low maximum temperatures. Otherwise, temperatures remained above average for much of the first three weeks of the month, then trending below average into August.



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

New Bern, NC

Record High: July 4th – 97°F (OR: 95°F / 2012)

Record Warm Low: July 22nd – 81°F (OR: 81°F / 1952)

Record Low High: July 24th – 78°F (OR: 79°F / 1957)

Record Low High: July 25th – 76°F (OR: 76°F / 2000)

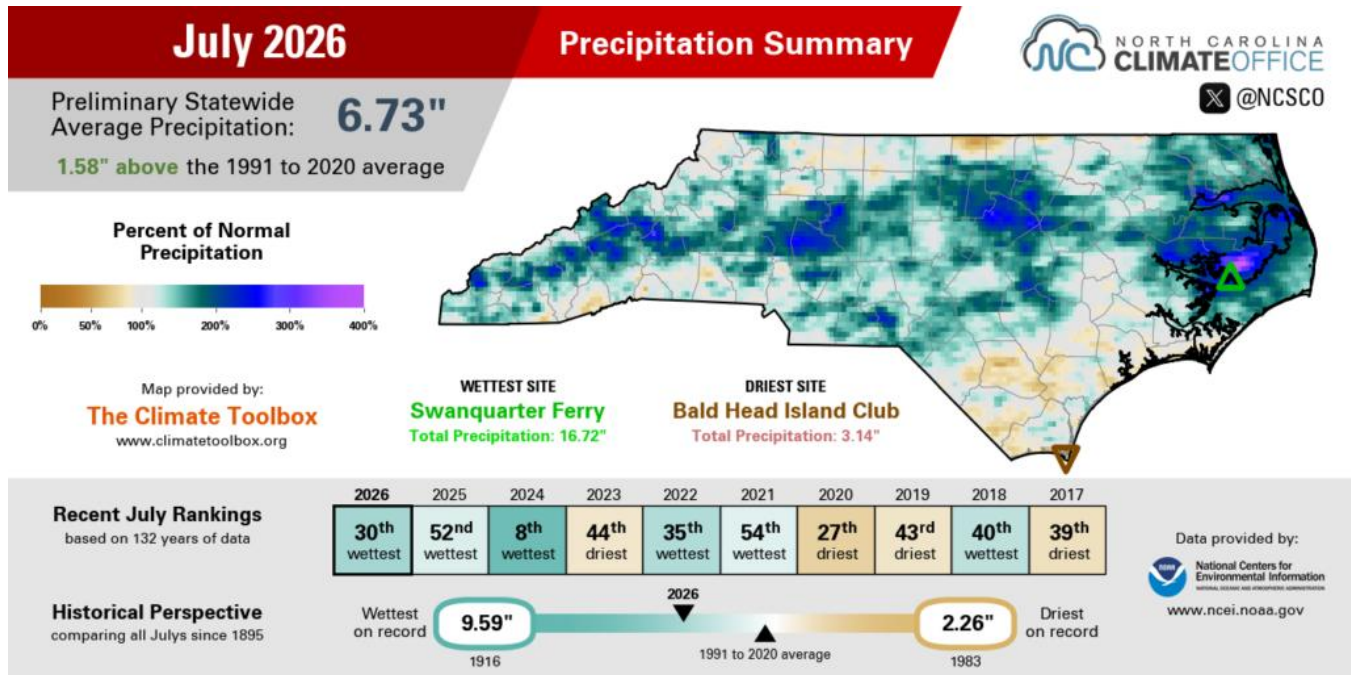
Cape Hatteras, NC

Record Warm Low: July 7th – 80°F (OR: 80°F / 1977)

Record Warm Low: July 10th – 80°F (OR: 80°F / 2024)

PRECIPITATION

Analysis conducted by the North Carolina State Climate Office indicated average statewide precipitation was 6.73" for July, or 1.58" inches below average. This was the 30th wettest July since records began in 1895.



July 2026 Precipitation Summary | Source: NC State Climate Office

Eastern North Carolina was, on average, considerably wetter than the statewide average. As is typical in the summer, amounts were highly variable due to convection, but the most significant accumulations were centered over the Albemarle Peninsula. **Swanquarter Ferry** was the wettest location in the state, picking up a remarkable 16.72". The average accumulation across the MHX forecast area was 7.92" (roughly 130% of the 1991-2020 normal). New Bern had its 31st wettest July on record while Cape Hatteras had its 27th wettest.

MHX Select Site Precipitation Statistics: July 2026

Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	Normal (in.)	Departure (in.)
Beaufort (KMRH)	4.96	5.81	-0.85
Hatteras (KHSE)	7.71	5.39	2.32
New Bern (KEWN)	8.47	6.26	2.21

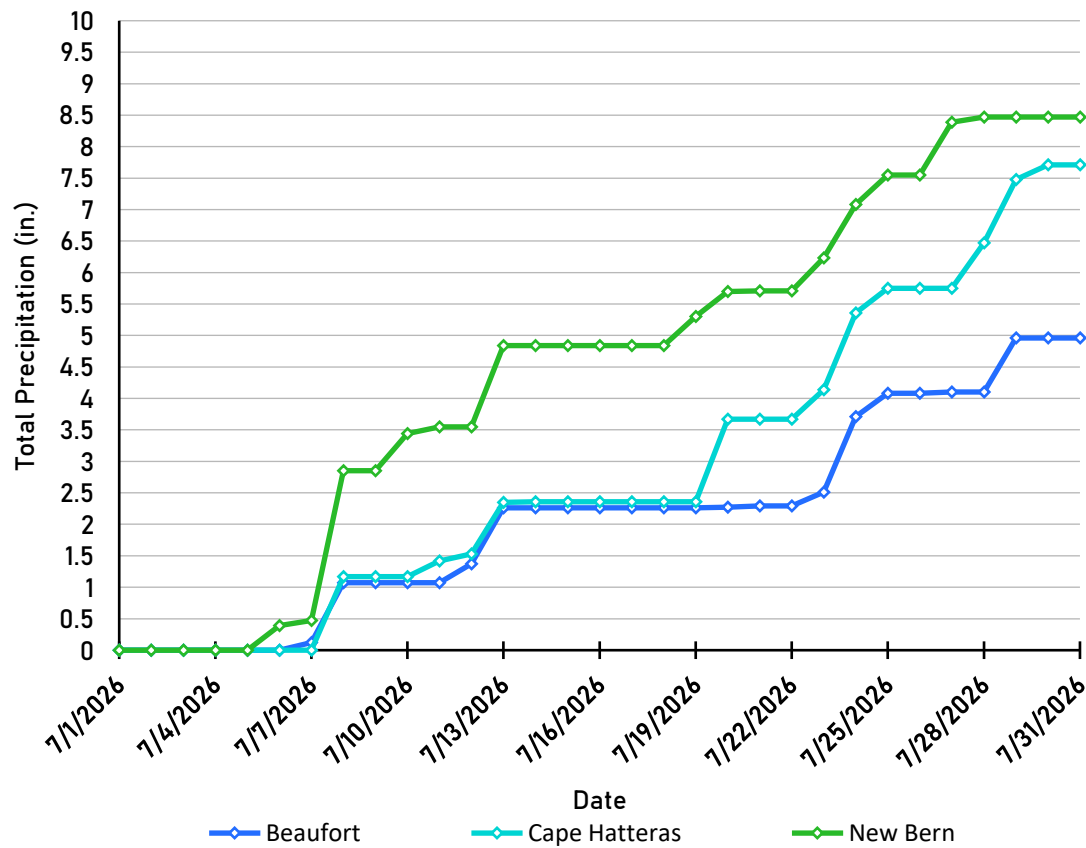
County-averaged statistics are presented in the following table. **Mean and departure calculations are based on the 1991-2020 climate normals.** Data courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI).

County	Avg. Accum. (in.)	Mean (in.)	Departure (in.)	Rank
Beaufort	8.60	5.74	2.86	25 W
Carteret	7.70	6.21	1.49	55 W
Craven	7.41	6.32	1.09	55 W
Dare	8.98	5.57	3.41	19 W
Duplin	6.41	6.20	0.21	63 D
Greene	6.37	5.77	0.60	54 W
Hyde	9.60	5.63	3.97	15 W
Jones	7.21	6.48	0.73	53 W
Lenoir	6.32	6.09	0.23	64 W
Martin	8.43	5.52	2.91	22 W
Onslow	7.06	6.50	0.56	64 W
Pamlico	7.50	6.23	1.27	57 W
Pitt	7.06	5.68	1.38	40 W
Tyrrell	9.91	5.77	4.14	12 W
Washington	10.31	5.84	4.47	11 W
Area Average	7.92	5.97	1.95	

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

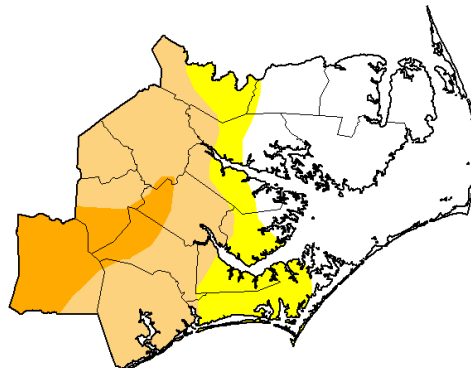
With so few opportunities for frontally-driven precipitation, many areas in July were reliant on sea and sound breeze convection for their rainfall. When fronts did come through, precipitation coverage was widespread but had heavy convective elements. The wettest average day across the region was one of these instances on July 23rd, with a fairly uniform stripe of 2-3 inches stretching from Greenville to the northern Outer Banks. This same day, radar estimates measured 8-9 inches alone across central Hyde County.

Monthly Accumulated Precipitation



Unsurprisingly, drought conditions improved multiple categories over the month. The Albemarle Peninsula and the Outer Banks ended the month drought-free. The least improvement extended from Duplin County northeastward, remaining in D2 (Severe) drought.

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



August 4, 2026

(Released Thursday, Aug. 6, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	29.00	71.00	54.01	15.29	0.00	0.00
Last Week 07-28-2026	21.74	78.26	61.38	27.58	1.07	0.00
3 Months Ago 05-05-2026	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.94	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 08-05-2025	79.47	20.53	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>

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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: July 2026

Site	Avg. High (°F)	Avg. Low (°F)	Avg. Temp (°F)	Normal (°F)	Departure (°F)
Greenville	91.5	72.8	82.2	80.8	1.4
Kinston	91.4	72.2	81.8	81.0	0.8
Williamston	89.5	70.7	80.1	79.9	0.2
Plymouth	88.5	70.8	79.7	79.8	-0.1
Bayboro	89.2	72.5	80.8	79.4	1.4
Manteo	84.6	73.8	79.2	79.6	-0.4

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

Maximum and Minimum Monthly Temperatures: July 2026

Site	Max High (°F)	Date Observed	Min Low (°F)	Date Observed
Beaufort (KMRH)	90	Jul 9, 11	67	Jul 1
Hatteras (KHSE)	89	Jul 5, 9-11, 17-18	62	Jul 27
New Bern (KEWN)	97	Jul 4	64	Jul 31
Greenville	100	Jul 4	64	Jul 26
Kinston	99	Jul 5, 18	64	Jul 26
Williamston	99	Jul 5	64	Jul 15, 26
Plymouth	95	Jul 5	64	Jul 15
Bayboro	96	Jul 11	65	Jul 15, 31
Manteo	91	Jul 9, 17	66	Jul 27

APPENDIX B: ADDITIONAL PRECIPITATION DATA

Cooperative Observation Site Precipitation Statistics: July 2026

Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	Normal (in.)	Departure (in.)
Greenville	7.07	5.87	1.20
Kinston	5.30	5.79	-0.49
Williamston	8.87	5.75	3.12
Plymouth	10.79	5.70	5.09
Bayboro	6.44	6.79	-0.35

Sites in red have missing data in their record.

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: July 2026

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Pantego 0.4 WSW	Beaufort	15.59
Beaufort 12.1 N	Carteret	6.65
Beaufort 0.5 W	Carteret	6.48
Swansboro 3.7 NNE	Carteret	5.81
Newport 7.1 ENE	Carteret	5.65
Newport 1.7 SSE	Carteret	5.61
Newport 1.0 N	Carteret	5.61
Cedar Point 0.9 WSW	Carteret	5.50
Newport 2.5 W	Carteret	5.47
Pine Knoll Shores 0.3 NE	Carteret	4.76
Beaufort 3.8 N	Carteret	4.73

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: July 2026

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Newport 0.2 SW	Carteret	4.63
Beaufort 5.3 N	Carteret	4.41
Beaufort 3.6 NNW	Carteret	4.31
Morehead City 2.9 WNW	Carteret	4.17
Emerald Isle 2.3 WSW	Carteret	4.11
Morehead City 6.0 WNW	Carteret	4.07
New Bern 3.8 S	Craven	9.06
Bridgeton 0.3 SSE	Craven	8.48
New Bern 7.3 ESE	Craven	7.81
Trent Woods 1.3 SSE	Craven	7.24
Trent Woods 1.2 E	Craven	7.22
Trent Woods 1.0 NNE	Craven	7.14
New Bern 3.5 NNE	Craven	6.83
Brice Creek 0.9 WNW	Craven	6.31
Trent Woods 1.3 WNW	Craven	6.15
New Bern 5.3 SW	Craven	4.98
Manteo 2.8 NW	Dare	16.53
Wanchese 1.0 ENE	Dare	10.49
Duck 0.7 SSE	Dare	10.38
Southern Shores 0.5 NNE	Dare	10.30
Rodanthe 1.0 SSE	Dare	8.52

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: July 2026

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Shore Shore 1.9 NNW	Dare	7.83
Mount Olive 2.4 SW	Duplin	12.88
Faison 3.3 SSE	Duplin	10.40
Kenansville 1.1 SW	Duplin	6.81
Wallace 14.8 E	Duplin	5.40
Ayden 6.5 WNW	Greene	4.58
SQ Tower	Hyde	15.85
Engelhard 0.8 NW	Hyde	15.66
Ocracoke 0.6 SW	Hyde	9.70
Ocracoke 0.2 ESE	Hyde	9.20
Maysville 3.0 NW	Jones	5.98
Kinston 4.6 ESE	Lenoir	6.46
Kinston 4.7 ESE	Lenoir	6.32
Kinston 7.0 SW	Lenoir	5.47
Kinston 5.1 WNW	Lenoir	5.43
La Grange 5.5 NE	Lenoir	5.23
Jamesville 6.1 SW	Martin	10.02
Williamston 8.9 SSE	Martin	9.55
Jacksonville 1.0 NW	Onslow	7.22
Jacksonville 5.4 WSW	Onslow	6.86
Jacksonville 3.3 W	Onslow	5.91

CoCoRaHS Monthly Accumulated Precipitation: July 2026

Site	County	Amount (in.)
Jacksonville 2.4 NNE	Onslow	5.74
Swansboro 2.8 WSW	Onslow	4.40
Jacksonville 4.5 NW	Onslow	4.35
Holly Ridge 3.7 E	Onslow	4.06
Richlands 3.4 SSW	Onslow	4.02
Hubert 4.9 SE	Onslow	3.96
Sneads Ferry 3.3 SW	Onslow	3.51
Lowland 0.2 SE	Pamlico	20.25
Oriental 1.8 WNW	Pamlico	10.08
Oriental 4.3 NNW	Pamlico	9.96
Oriental 2.1 WSW	Pamlico	9.23
Merritt 1.5 WSW	Pamlico	8.94
Fountain 0.1 NE	Pitt	7.64
Greenville 4.4 SSE	Pitt	7.19
Farmville 0.8 ESE	Pitt	6.72
Greenville 7.1 SSE	Pitt	6.11
Greenville 5.0 SE	Pitt	5.84
Winterville 3.5 W	Pitt	5.44
Winterville 2.5 NNW	Pitt	4.73
Roper 2.4 NE	Washington	10.64

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

