October 2026 Monthly Weather Summary

Temperature Overview

October 2026 was warmer than normal across the region, with most places ending up between 2 and 3 degrees above average, the exception being near the coast in southeast VA and northeast NC where anomalies were generally only 1 to 2 degrees above average. There were just enough cooler days from time to time to keep the month from ranking among the top 10 warmest on record at any of the stations. The hottest period was during the middle of the month as an upper-level ridge became anchored across the south-central US, with surface high pressure off the southeast coast. Highs temperatures were 10 to 20 degrees above normal, with several daily record highs set on the 14th as readings soared into the upper 80s to lower 90s. Elizabeth City and Norfolk recorded minimum temperatures in the mid to upper 60s on the 15th enough to tie a daily record high min at Norfolk and set a record at Elizabeth City. A few additional record highs were also tied across southeast portions of the local area on the 16th . A cold front finally brought a cool, but dry pattern from the 17th through the 24th with highs mostly in the 60s and lows in the 30s and 40s, and local light freeze on the 19th in portions of the northern piedmont. Temperatures moderated thereafter, with large diurnal ranges of 30 to 40 degrees observed over the interior as the dry conditions continued through the end of the month.

October 2026 Monthly Weather Summary

Precipitation Overview

October 2026 was drier than normal across the entire region, exacerbating the ongoing drought that has been in place since the fall of 2025. All long-term and notable co-op climate stations listed in the table on the following page received below normal monthly totals, with many seeing less than 50% normal. The 2nd half of the month in particular was very dry, with no measurable rainfall in the entire forecast area for the last 14 days of the month (from the 18th through the 31st). Despite the lack of rain, none of the long-term stations were dry enough to rank among the top 10 driest Octobers. By the end of the month, D1 (moderate) and D2 (severe) drought had returned to portions of southeast Virginia and northeast North Carolina, with abnormally dry (D0) conditions spreading into the southside of metro Richmond. Elsewhere, conditions remained largely unchanged compared to the end of September.

The table on page 3 shows detailed temperature and precipitation statistics for October 2026. On page 4 and 5, daily average temperature departures are shown at Richmond (4) and Norfolk (5), followed by monthly precipitation maps (page 6), with daily records set during the month at our 4 main long-term sites on the last page.

Tabular Summary of Data for Selected Climate Sites (October):

October 2026 Temperature Summary Data

*also on other dates — All Normals are 1991-2020

Site	Avg Max (°F)		Avg Min (°F)		Avg Temp (°F)		Daily Highs						Daily Mins						Remarks
							Warmest (°F)			Coldest (°F)			Warmest (°F)			Coldest (°F)			
	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Date	Dep	Actual	Date	Dep	Actual	Date	Dep	Actual	Date	Dep	
Richmond	74.2	3.3	50.9	1.9	62.6	2.6	91	14th	5	59	17th	5	64	11th	-1	39	18th	5	
Norfolk	73.2	0.9	57.9	2.8	65.5	1.8	90	*14th	4	62	18th	6	69	*11th	0	45	27th	5	
Salisbury	71.9	2.7	49.5	1.7	60.7	2.2	89	14th	4	61	18th	7	66	11th	1	36	*26th	5	
Wallops Island	71.6	2.5	52.9	1.5	62.3	2.1	89	14th	6	61	18th	7	68	*11th	1	38	26th	2	
Elizabeth City	74.5	1.1	54.8	2.0	64.7	1.6	89	*14th	3	63	18th	5	70	11th	1	39	27th	2	
Ashland, VA	73.4	4.5	50.1	2.4	61.8	3.5	90	14th	7	59	18th	6	65	15th	1	36	19th	5	
Cape Charles, VA	72.1	3.5	54.6	1.6	63.4	2.6	86	*14th	4	61	18th	6	70	2nd	1	40	26th	1	
Crozier, VA	73.0	4.0	45.9	1.0	59.5	2.6	91	15th	6	58	18th	6	68	15th	7	35	*23rd	5	
Wakefield, VA	75.5	3.5	49.9	1.9	62.7	2.7	92	14th	6	63	18th	8	65	*15th	0	36	26th	3	
Williamsburg, VA	73.9	2.9	53.2	1.9	63.5	2.4	89	*14th	3	61	18th	5	68	11th	2	40	26th	4	
Edenton, NC	73.5	0.9	56.7	2.6	65.1	1.7	85	*14th	1	62	18th	4	70	*3rd	2	43	*27th	5	

October 2026 Precipitation & Snowfall Summary Data

*also on other dates — All Normals are 1991-2020

Site	Total Pre (in.)		# Pre Days (≥0.01")		# Pre Days (≥0.10")		Greatest (in.)		Total Snow (in.)		# Snow Days (≥0.1")		# Snow Days (≥1.0")		Greatest				Remarks
															(in.)		(in.)		
	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Act	Date	Act	Dep	Act	Dep	Act	Dep	Daily	Date	Storm	Date	
Richmond	2.08	-1.31	6	-2	4	-1	0.63	17th											
Norfolk	1.48	-2.38	5	-3	3	-2	0.61	4th											
Salisbury	2.60	-1.55	7	-2	6	0	0.63	16th											
Wallops Island	1.23	-2.79	7	-1	5	0	0.46	3rd											
Elizabeth City	2.57	-1.06	5	-3	3	-1	1.49	4th											
Ashland, VA	3.18	-0.51	5	-2	5	0	1.15	17th											
Cape Charles, VA	1.00	-3.35	6	-3	4	-1	0.42	17th											
Crozier, VA	2.68	-1.03	6	-1	5	0	0.72	4th											
Wakefield, VA	1.78	-2.17	6	-2	3	-2	0.79	17th											
Williamsburg, VA	2.01	-2.20	9	0	4	-1	0.80	17th											
Edenton, NC	2.07	-1.68	6	0	5	0	0.93	17th											

* ***"Dep"= Departure*** from the 30-year normals (1991-2020). Temperature departures are shaded orange for 1 F or more warmer than average (dark red for 4 F or greater anomalies) and blue for 1 F or more cooler than average (dark blue for 4 F or more below normal). Similarly, precipitation departures are shaded green for 0.50" or more wetter than average (dark green for 2.00" or more) and tan for 0.50" or more drier than average (dark brown for 2.00" or more drier). Snowfall departures are shaded purple for 1" or more above average and tan for 1" or more below average. ***Rankings in Remark section are included for Co-op sites where a complete period of record is of sufficient duration to be meaningful. N/A in Remarks section indicates sites with a shorter period of record, leading to rankings being of less significance.***

Richmond, VA (October):

Daily Avg. Temperature Departure (°F)

October						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				7.8	10.2	0.6
-1.5	2.4	-5.7	-3.8	6.1	4.5	1.9
8.2	7.1	9.5	15.4	9.8	13.1	-8
-8.6	-5.3	0.1	-1	-1.2	-2.3	-3
0.4	-0.3	3.6	3.9	6.3	10.1	1

Avg. Temperature Departure From Normal, (°F)

-20 0 20

Daily Precipitation Amount (in.)

October						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				0	0.02	0.28
0.51	0	0	0	0	0	T
0.6	0.04	0	0	T	T	0.63
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Precipitation

T 0.1 0.5 1 3 6 10 20 50

Figure 1: Daily Average Temperature Departures and Daily Precipitation at RIC

Norfolk, VA (October):

Daily Avg. Temperature Departure (°F)

October						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				6.2	10.5	3.4
1.3	-0.9	-8	-7.6	3.8	5.1	4.5
8.9	1.3	5.2	13	6.9	13.3	-1.8
-5.9	-3	-0.2	-3.3	-4.4	-4.5	1.3
0.7	-2.9	-3	4.8	4.7	8.1	-0.1

Avg. Temperature Departure From Normal, (°F)

-20 0 20

Daily Precipitation Amount (in.)

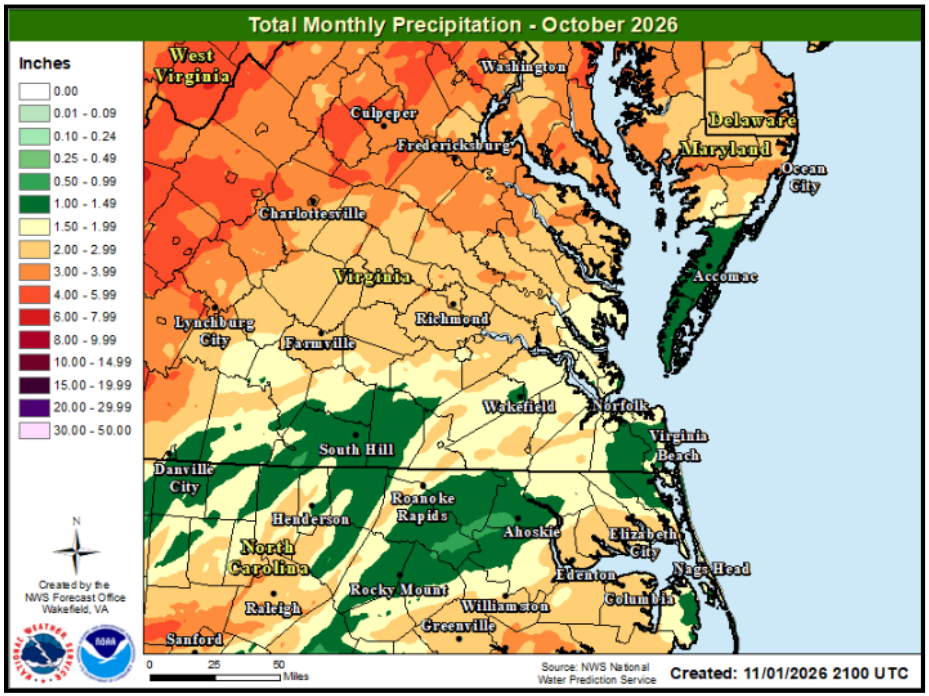
October						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				0	0	0.06
0.61	0.02	0	0	0	0	T
0.21	T	0	0	0	0	0.58
0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Precipitation

T 0.1 0.5 1 3 6 10 20 50

Figure 2: Daily Average Temperature Departures and Daily Precipitation at ORF

Regional Precipitation Maps: October 2026



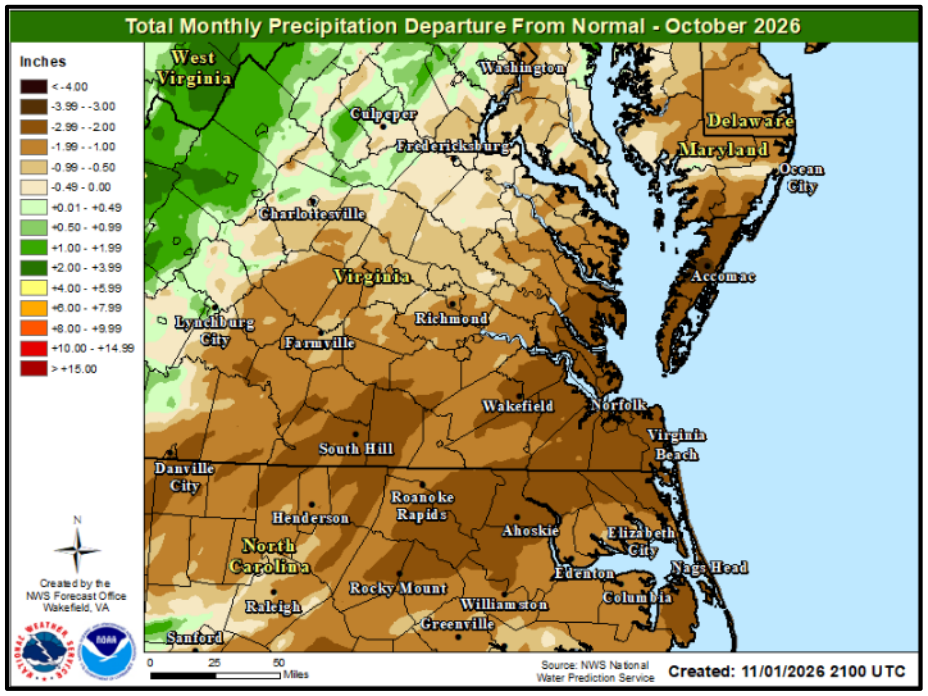


Figure 3: Total Precipitation for the month is shown in the map on the left***. Departure*** from the 30-year normals (1991-2020) is shown on the map on the right.

Daily Records for Long Term Sites (October):

Norfolk, VA Records (Period of Record 153 yrs./1874-2026) *tie

Record Highs: 90° (14th), *87° (16th).
Record Low Maximums: none set.
Record Lows: none set.
Record High Minimums: *67° (15th).
Daily Precipitation: none set.

Richmond, VA Daily Records (Period of Record 130 yrs./1897-2026) *tie

Record Highs: 91° (14th).
Record Low Maximums: none set.
Record Lows: none set.
Record High Minimums: none set.
Daily Precipitation: none set.

Salisbury, MD Daily Records (Period of Record 120 yrs./1907-2026) *tie

Record Highs: 89° (14th).
Record Low Maximums: none set.
Record Lows: none set.
Record High Minimums: none set.
Daily Precipitation: none set.

Elizabeth City, NC Daily Records (Period of Record 93 yrs./1934-2026) *tie

Record Highs: 89° (14th), *86° (16th).
Record Low Maximums: none set.
Record Lows: none set.
Record High Minimums: 68° (15th).
Daily Precipitation: none set.