

January 2020 Review

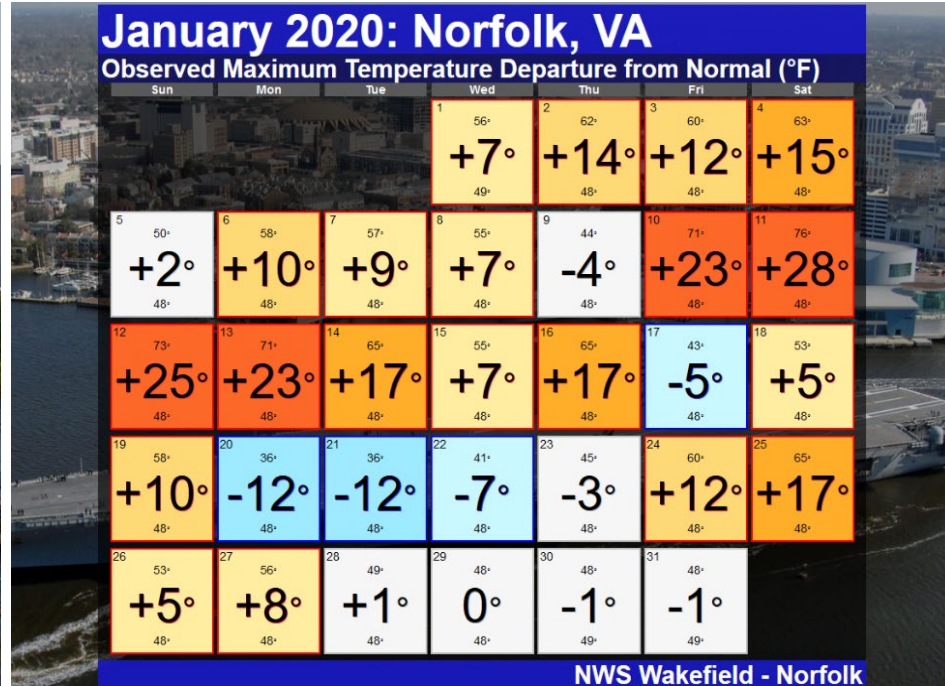
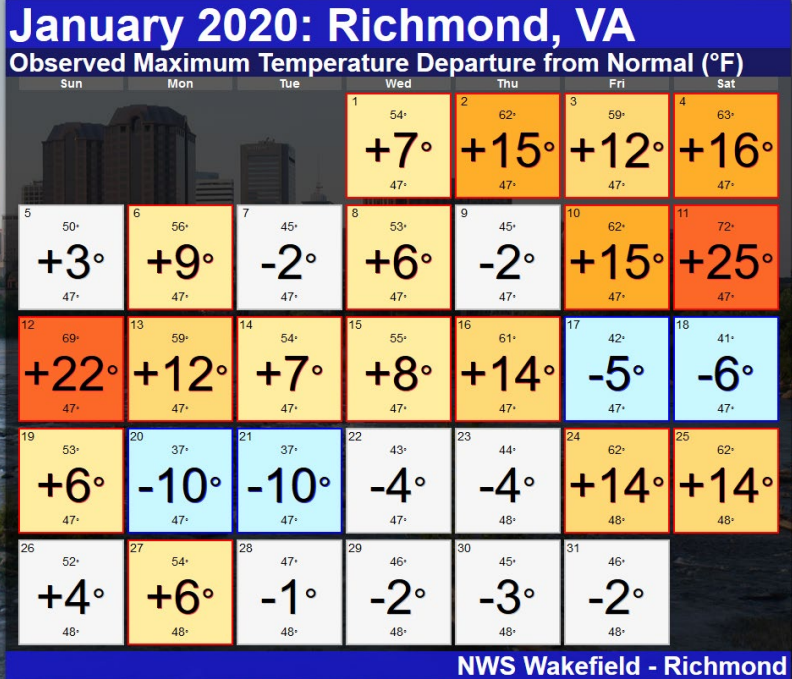
General Summary

After a warm finish to 2019 in December, 2020 started off in similar fashion with well above normal temperatures prevailing for most of the month of January. There is considerable variation from year to year during the winter months so despite an average temperature that was generally 5 to 7 degrees warmer than normal, the long term climate sites at Richmond and Norfolk did not quite place among the top 10 warmest Januarys on record. Elizabeth City, NC where the period of record is shorter (only back to 1934) was able to place as the 6th warmest on record with an average temperature of 49.67 F which was more than 8 degrees above the 1981-2010 mean. High temperatures from the 10th through the 13th were mostly in the 70s over SE VA and NE NC, with 60s and 70s farther to the north. This warm spell peaked on the 11th when most of the area recorded daily record highs. The temperatures did cool off to slightly below normal values from the 17th through the 23rd, but conditions were dry during the coldest weather so no snowfall was recorded. Temperatures ended the month on the mild side. At the main climate sites the coldest temperatures for the month were mostly in the upper teens to lower 20s, with some readings down to 10 to 15 degrees at co-op sites west of I-95 from the 20th through the 22nd. Richmond's lowest temperature of 20 degrees was the first time in January without a reading colder than 20 F since 2006 and Norfolk's coldest reading of 29 F was the warmest in January since 1937 (the coldest January min that year was 37 F).

Monthly precipitation totals ranged primarily from 3 to 4 inches across the region with the precipitation falling on 8 to 10 days across the north and 10 to 12 days in the south. These values are generally near normal. Snowfall was limited to a light accumulation on the 7th over the far NW portion of the local area (primarily western Louisa and Fluvanna Counties). Elsewhere, either a trace or nothing at all was recorded for the entire month. This is well below average, but certainly not unprecedented for January.

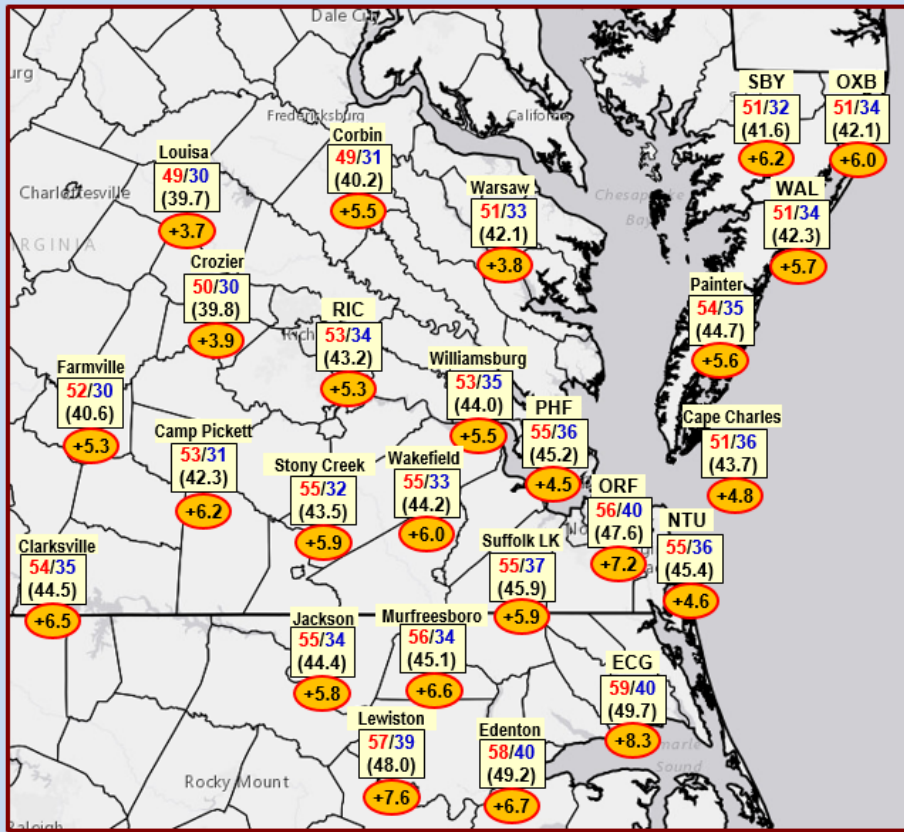
The series of pages that follow show various statistics for January 2020.

Daily High Temperature Departures at Richmond & Norfolk

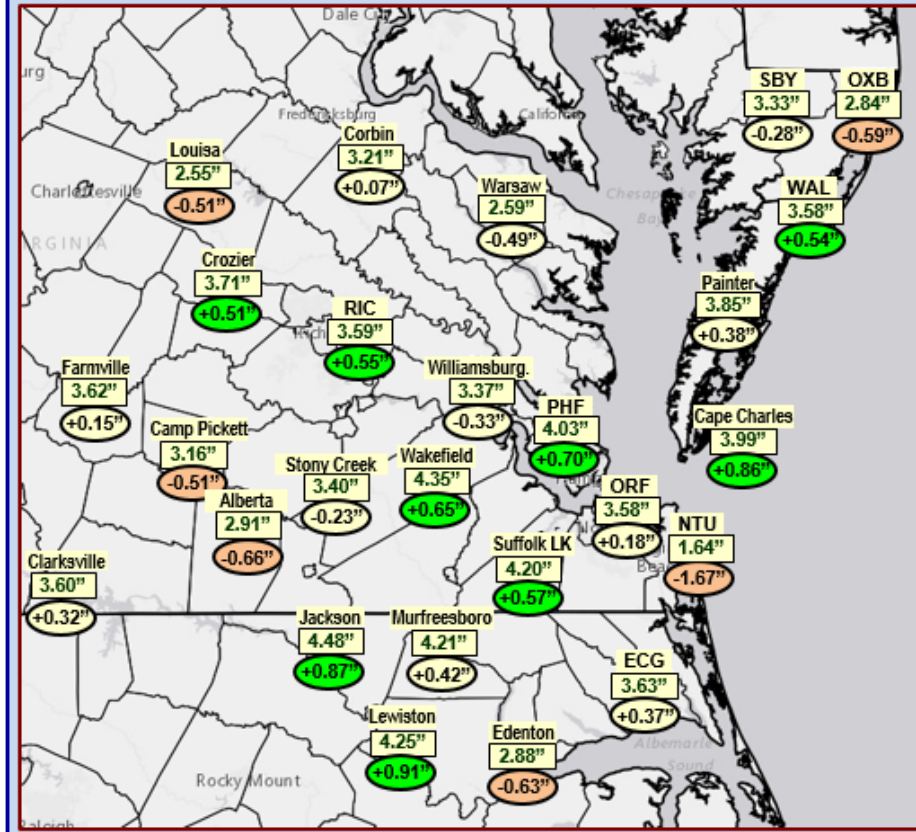


Regional Temperature & Precipitation Maps

January 2020 Temperature Data



January 2020 Precipitation Data



Departures from the 30-year normals (1981-2010) are shown for both **average temperature** and **total precipitation**. For temperature, the departures are shaded orange for 1 F or more warmer than average and blue for 1 F or more cooler than average (green shading indicates values within one degree of normal). Similarly, precipitation departures are shaded green for 0.50" or more wetter than average and tan for 0.50" or more drier than normal (near normal values are shaded the same color as the precipitation amount box).

Tabular Summary of Data for Main Climate Sites:

January 2020 Temperature Summary Data											*also on other dates
Site	Avg Max		Avg Min		Avg Temp		Warmest	Coldest	Significance / Remarks		
	(°F)		(°F)		(°F)		(°F)	(°F)	(if Top Ten List, etc.)		
	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Date	Date			
Richmond	52.6	5.2	33.8	5.5	43.2	5.3	72 on 11th	20 on 22nd			
Norfolk	55.5	7.4	39.7	7.0	47.6	7.2	76 on 11th	29 on 20th			
Salisbury	51.3	7.1	31.9	5.3	41.6	6.2	72 on 11th	19 on 21st			
Elizabeth City	59.2	8.3	40.1	8.2	49.7	8.3	76 on 11th	28 on 19th	6th Warmest on record		
Wakefield	55.2	6.3	33.2	5.7	44.2	6.0	74 on 11th	19 on 21st			

January 2020 Precipitation & Snowfall Summary Data											
Site	Total Pre		# Pre Days		Greatest		Total Snow		# Snow Days		Significance / Remarks
	(in.)		(≥0.01")		(in.)		(in.)		(≥0.1")		
	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Date	Act	Dep	Act	Dep	
Richmond	3.59	0.55	10	0	1.21	14th	T	-3.9	0	-2	
Norfolk	3.58	0.18	12	2	1.02	14th	0.0	-2.4	0	-2	
Salisbury	3.33	-0.28	8	-2	1.33	25th	0.0	-3.2	0	-2	
Elizabeth City	3.63	0.37	12	1	1.24	14th	0.0	-1.8	0	-1	
Wakefield	4.35	0.65	12	2	0.87	3rd	0.0	-3.0	0	-2	

* **“Dep”= Departure** from the 30-year normals (1981-2010). Temperature departures are shaded orange for 1 F or more warmer than average and blue for 1 F or more cooler than average. Similarly, precipitation departures are shaded green for 0.50” or more wetter than average and tan for 0.50” or more drier than average and snowfall departures are shaded purple for 0.5” or more above average and tan for 0.5” or more below average.

Daily Records for Long Term Climate Sites:

Norfolk, VA Records (Period of Record 147 yrs./1874-2020)

**tie*

Record Highs: 76 (11th).

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set.

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Daily Snowfall: none set.

Richmond, VA Daily Records (Period of Record 124 yrs./1897-2020)

**tie*

Record Highs: 72 (*11th).

Record Low Maximums: none set.

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set.

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Daily Snowfall: none set.