

# March 2020 Review

## General Summary

After a very warm winter (Dec-Feb) season that ranked among the top ten warmest at all of our main climate sites, nothing changed during March, which ranked as the 4<sup>th</sup> warmest on record at Richmond, Norfolk, and Elizabeth City, NC, and as the 8<sup>th</sup> warmest at Salisbury, MD. Average monthly temperatures were 5 to nearly 8 degrees above the long term mean; the daily minimum temperatures were particularly warm: 6 to 9 degrees warmer than normal while daily maximum temperatures were mainly 5 to 7 F above normal. Most locations across the region recorded their coldest temperature for the month on the 1<sup>st</sup> when lows were mainly in the upper teens to the lower-mid 20s. There were very few cold days to follow: Richmond recorded just 2 dates for the month with a low of 32 F or colder (RIC's 1981-2010 mean for March is 10 dates and the only March that had less than 2 dates was in 1903 with one). Similarly, the lack of cold air showed up regarding high temperatures: RIC recorded just one day that failed to reach a high of at least 50 degrees (49 F on the 23<sup>rd</sup>). The 1981-2010 mean value is 6 dates in March and there were only 2 years that had less (1977 and 1918 when all days of the month reached at least 50 F at RIC). The only cold spell during the month was from the 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> when high temperatures were generally 5 to 10 degrees below normal. In contrast, there were several periods when the highs (and lows) were 10 or more degrees above normal for at least 3 days in a row. Record highs were set over much of the region on the 20<sup>th</sup> with widespread highs into the mid to upper 80s (25 to 30 degrees above normal for the date).

After a relatively wet February, monthly precipitation totals were generally below normal in March with the exception of portions of southeast VA and northeast NC. Monthly values ranged primarily from 2 to 3 inches across central and south central VA, with 3 to 4 inches closer to the coast (and locally around 5 inches across south-side Hampton Roads. The number of days recording precipitation was mostly between 10 and 15 days out of the month which was near or slightly above normal. Snowfall was nonexistent across the area. This is below average, but certainly not unprecedented for March.

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

# Daily High Temperature Departures at Richmond & Norfolk

## March 2020: Richmond, VA

Observed Maximum Temperature Departure from Normal (°F)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 54° -1° 55°	2 69° +14° 55°	3 65° +9° 56°	4 63° +7° 56°	5 55° -1° 56°	6 59° +2° 57°	7 54° -3° 57°
8 62° +5° 57°	9 73° +16° 57°	10 70° +12° 58°	11 68° +10° 58°	12 65° +6° 59°	13 80° +21° 59°	14 62° +3° 59°
15 52° -8° 60°	16 58° -2° 60°	17 68° +8° 60°	18 59° -2° 61°	19 82° +21° 61°	20 88° +27° 61°	21 65° +3° 62°
22 56° -6° 62°	23 49° -13° 62°	24 58° -5° 63°	25 50° -13° 63°	26 58° -6° 64°	27 71° +7° 64°	28 79° +15° 64°
29 88° +23° 65°	30 75° +10° 65°	31 56° -9° 65°				

NWS Wakefield - Richmond

## March 2020: Norfolk, VA

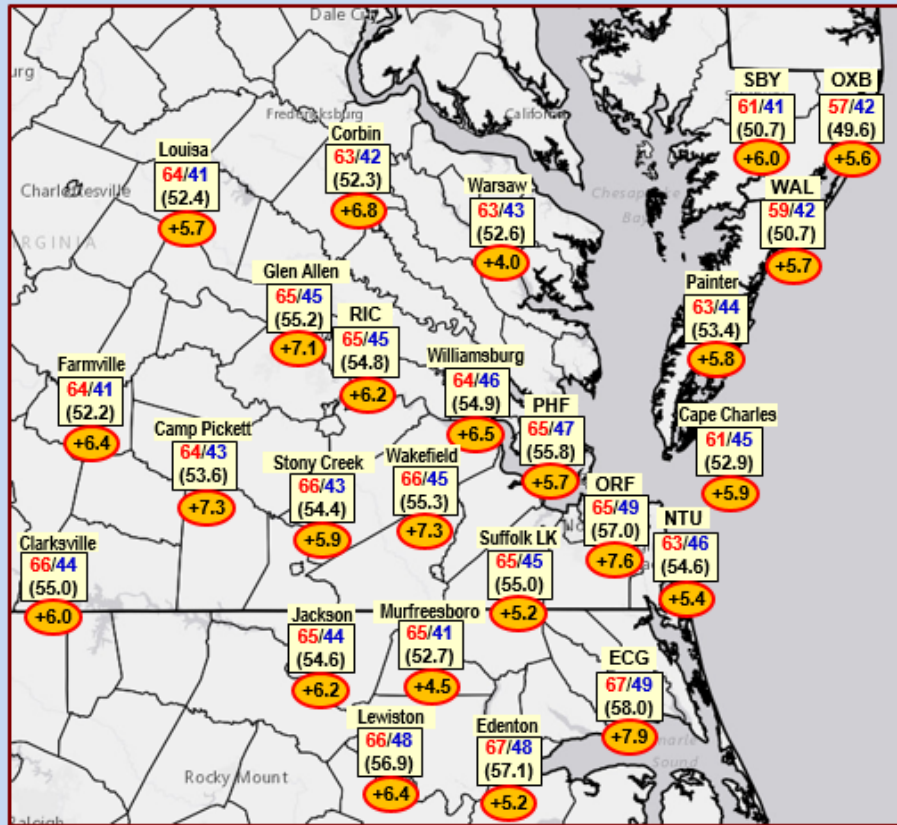
Observed Maximum Temperature Departure from Normal (°F)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 53° -1° 54°	2 71° +17° 54°	3 73° +19° 54°	4 65° +10° 55°	5 56° +1° 55°	6 51° -4° 55°	7 51° -4° 55°
8 60° +4° 56°	9 73° +17° 56°	10 76° +20° 56°	11 66° +9° 57°	12 62° +5° 57°	13 79° +22° 57°	14 59° +2° 57°
15 54° -4° 58°	16 52° -6° 58°	17 69° +11° 58°	18 58° -1° 59°	19 83° +24° 59°	20 88° +29° 59°	21 75° +15° 60°
22 55° -5° 60°	23 53° -7° 60°	24 56° -5° 61°	25 54° -7° 61°	26 58° -3° 61°	27 75° +13° 62°	28 80° +18° 62°
29 87° +25° 62°	30 78° +15° 63°	31 53° -10° 63°				

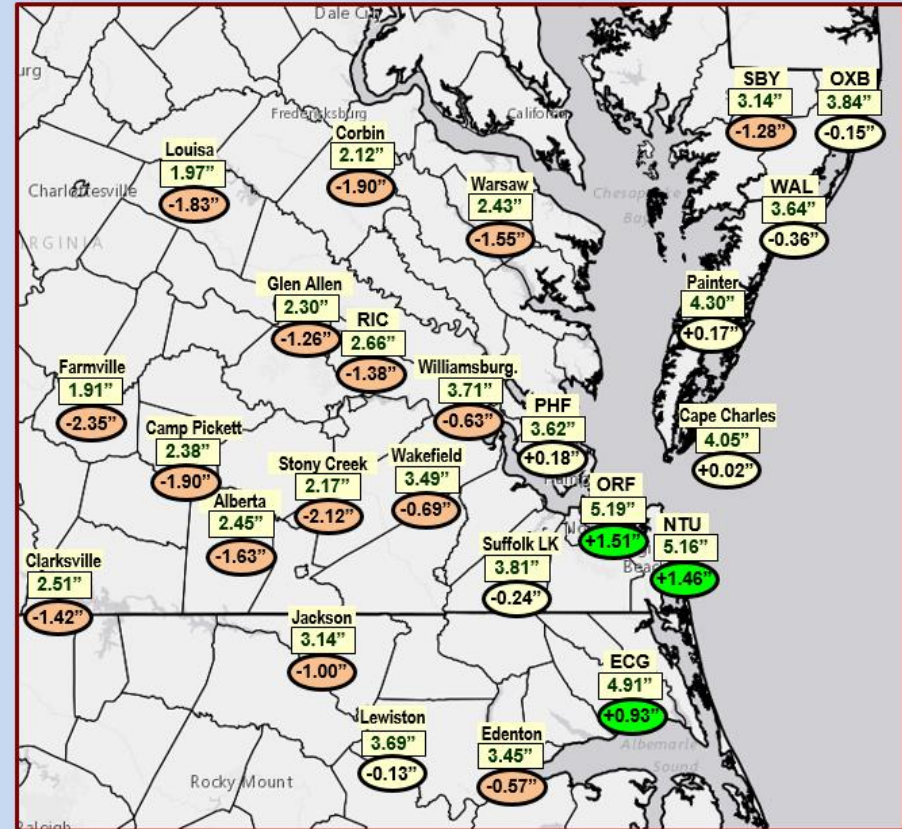
NWS Wakefield - Norfolk

# Regional Temperature & Precipitation Maps

## March 2020 Temperature Data



## March 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:

March 2020 Temperature Summary Data							*also on other dates		Significance / Remarks (if Top Ten List, etc.)
Site	Avg Max		Avg Min		Avg Temp		Warmest	Coldest	
	(°F)		(°F)		(°F)		(°F)	(°F)	
	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Date	Date	
Richmond	64.9	4.9	44.7	7.6	54.8	6.2	88 on *29th	21 on 1st	4th Warmest on record
Norfolk	65.3	7.1	48.7	8.2	57.0	7.6	88 on 20th	31 on 8th	4th Warmest on record
Salisbury	60.6	5.6	40.7	6.3	50.7	6.0	84 on 20th	24 on 1st	8th Warmest on record
Elizabeth City	67.1	6.4	48.9	9.3	58.0	7.9	88 on 29th	25 on 1st	4th Warmest on record
Wakefield	66.1	5.3	44.6	9.3	55.3	7.3	88 on 29th	19 on 1st	N/A (period too short)

March 2020 Precipitation & Snowfall Summary Data									
Site	Total Pre		# Pre Days		Greatest	Total Snow	# Snow Days		Significance / Remarks (if Top Ten List, etc.)
	(in.)		(≥0.01")		(in.)	(in.)	(≥0.1")		
	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual Date	Act Dep	Act Dep	Act Dep	
Richmond	2.66	-1.38	11	1	0.80 23rd	0.0 -0.6	0 -1		
Norfolk	5.19	1.51	11	0	1.55 23rd	0.0 -0.2	0 0		
Salisbury	3.14	-1.28	15	4	0.54 23rd	0.0 -0.8	0 -1		
Elizabeth City	4.91	0.93	12	2	1.41 23rd	0.0 -0.1	0 0		
Wakefield	3.49	-0.69	16	5	1.15 25th	0.0 -0.4	0 -1		

\* **“Dep”= Departure** from the 30-year normals (1981-2010). Temperature departures are shaded orange for 1 F or more warmer than average (dark red for 5 F or greater anomalies) and blue for 1 F or more cooler than average (dark blue for 5 F or more below normal). 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:** 88 (20<sup>th</sup>).

**Record Low Maximums:** none set.

**Record Lows:** none set.

**Record High Minimums:** 69 (20<sup>th</sup>) *\*\*this is a new monthly record high min*

**Daily Precipitation:** none set.

**Daily Snowfall:** none set.

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

*\*tie*

**Record Highs:** 88 (20<sup>th</sup>).

**Record Low Maximums:** none set.

**Record Lows:** none set.

**Record High Minimums:** none set.

**Daily Precipitation:** none set.

**Daily Snowfall:** none set.