

October 2022 Climate Review

Overview

October 2022 featured cooler than normal temperatures and generally drier than normal conditions. Average temperatures were mainly 2 to 3 degrees below the long term means over the region, not quite cool enough to rank any of the long-term sites into a top 10 coldest list. Overall, the departures were highest in southern VA and northeast NC and less so farther north; Norfolk's monthly average temperature of 60.2F was the coolest since 1992 while Elizabeth City, NC recorded its coolest October since 2008. Richmond and Salisbury had their coolest October since 2015. The cool weather began early in the month with all 4 main climate sites recording daily record low maximum values on the 4th as the remnant low from post tropical system Ian lingered offshore while cool high pressure settled over the western Great Lakes and Ohio Valley. Highs across the local area were only in the 50s or about 20 degrees below normal for the date. Temperatures briefly warmed into the upper 70s to lower 80s by the 7th, but then fell once again to mostly cooler than normal values through the next 2 weeks. By the 19th and 20th, strong high pressure pushed freezing or near freezing temperatures all the way to portions of the Gulf coast, and locally a widespread freeze occurred outside of the urbanized locations along and west of interstate 95 and into interior sections of the lower Maryland eastern shore. A pattern change began to develop late in the month with near normal temperatures from the 24th through Halloween.

Monthly precipitation totals in October featured drier than normal conditions across the region, the only exception being over portions of the VA eastern shore where locally heavy rainfall was observed on the 1st of the month. On average, most of the area received about 50 to 75% of the normal amount for October. North Carolina was very dry however, with just 0.16" recorded for the month at Edenton and 0.62" at Elizabeth City (making it the 8th driest on record there). Most of the region remained classified in D0 drought status (abnormally dry) late in the month.

The following table shows detailed temperature and precipitation statistics for October 2022.

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

October 2022 Temperature Summary Data

* also on other dates

All Normals are 1991-2020

Site	Avg Max		Avg Min		Avg Temp		Daily Highs					Daily Mins					Remarks	
	(°F)		(°F)		(°F)		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
Richmond	68.6	-2.3	46.8	-2.2	57.7	-2.3	82	7th	-4	55	3rd	1	59	*13th	-6	34	20th	0
Norfolk	67.6	-4.7	52.7	-2.4	60.2	-3.5	81	7th	-5	54	4th	-2	63	13th	-6	37	20th	-3
Salisbury	67.1	-2.1	46.8	-1.0	56.9	-1.6	79	7th	-6	53	*4th	-1	65	1st	0	32	19th	1
Wallops Island	67.0	-2.1	49.2	-2.2	58.1	-2.1	80	7th	-3	52	4th	-2	65	1st	-2	36	19th	0
Elizabeth City	69.9	-3.5	50.3	-2.5	60.1	-3.0	82	7th	-4	56	4th	-2	61	13th	-8	33	20th	-4
Ashland, VA	67.5	-1.4	45.7	-2.0	56.6	-1.7	80	7th	-3	55	4th	2	61	13th	-3	32	20th	1
Corbin, VA	66.0	-2.6	43.7	-2.9	54.8	-2.8	80	7th	-5	53	4th	0	55	*1st	-8	32	*21st	1
Louisa, VA	66.4	-2.2	40.6	-3.8	53.5	-3.0	79	7th	-6	56	19th	3	59	13th	-3	28	*30th	1
Painter, VA	67.6	-3.3	50.2	-1.1	58.9	-2.2	79	1st	-4	54	4th	-2	62	*13th	-6	37	*20th	1
Wakefield, VA	69.6	-2.4	45.0	-3.0	57.3	-2.7	83	7th	-3	53	3rd	-2	60	13th	-5	31	*20th	-2
Williamsburg, VA	67.5	-3.5	48.6	-2.7	58.0	-3.1	80	7th	-6	53	4th	-3	60	13th	-6	36	*20th	0
Edenton, NC	68.6	-4.0	52.5	-1.6	60.5	-2.9	77	*18th	-7	57	19th	-1	66	1st	-2	39	*20th	1

0

October 2022 Precipitation & Snowfall Summary Data

* also on other dates

All Normals are 1991-2020

Site	Total Pre		# Pre Days		# Pre Days		Greatest		Total Snow		# Snow Days		# Snow Days		Greatest		Remarks	
	(in.)		(≥0.01")		(≥0.10")		(in.)		(in.)		(≥0.1")		(≥1.0")		(in.)			
	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Actual	Dep	Act	Date	Act	Dep	Act	Dep	Act	Dep	Daily	Date		Storm
Richmond	1.91	-1.48	9	1	6	1	0.59	16th										
Norfolk	2.00	-1.86	8	0	6	1	0.64	17th										
Salisbury	3.83	-0.32	12	3	8	2	1.34	1st										
Wallops Island	2.96	-1.06	10	2	8	3	0.79	17th										
Elizabeth City	0.62	-3.01	4	-4	1	-3	0.53	23rd										8th driest on record
Ashland, VA	3.00	-0.69	8	1	5	0	1.18	1st										
Corbin, VA	3.34	-0.66	10	3	7	2	1.12	1st										
Louisa, VA	3.25	-0.56	7	-1	5	0	1.48	1st										
Painter, VA	6.53	2.25	12	3	8	3	2.17	1st										
Wakefield, VA	1.75	-2.20	12	4	5	0	0.92	17th										
Williamsburg, VA	3.24	-0.97	9	0	6	1	1.38	17th										
Edenton, NC	0.16	-3.59	4	-2	0	-5	0.06	13th										

* **“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.

Daily Records for Long Term Climate Sites (October):

Norfolk, VA Records (Period of Record 149 yrs./1874-2022)

**tie*

Record Highs: none set.

Record Low Maximums: 54 (4th).

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set.

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Richmond, VA Daily Records (Period of Record 126 yrs./1897-2022)

**tie*

Record Highs: none set.

Record Low Maximums: *57 (4th).

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set .

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Salisbury, MD Daily Records (Period of Record 116 yrs./1907-2022)

**tie*

Record Highs: none set.

Record Low Maximums: 53 (4th).

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set.

Daily Precipitation: none set.

Elizabeth City, NC Daily Records (Period of Record 89 yrs./1934-2022)

**tie*

Record Highs: none set.

Record Low Maximums: 56 (4th).

Record Lows: none set.

Record High Minimums: none set.

Daily Precipitation: none set.