



LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA ANNUAL SUMMARY WITH COMPARATIVE DATA

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

ISS COPY

1972

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
ENVIRONMENTAL DATA SERVICE

NARRATIVE CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

Richmond is located in east-central Virginia at the head of navigation on the James River and along a line separating the Coastal Plains (Tidewater Virginia) from the Piedmont. The Blue Ridge Mountains lie about 90 miles to the west and the Chesapeake Bay 60 miles to the east. Elevations range from a few feet above sea level along the river to a little over 300 feet in parts of the west section of the City.

The climate might be classed as modified continental. Summers are warm and humid and winters generally mild. The mountains to the west act as a partial barrier to outbreaks of cold, continental air in winter, the coldest air being delayed long enough to be modified, then further warmed as it subsides in its approach to Richmond. The open waters of the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean contribute to the humid summers and mild winters. The coldest weather normally occurs in late December and in January, when low temperatures usually average in the upper twenties and the high temperatures in the upper forties. Temperatures seldom lower to zero. The record lowest temperature of minus 12° was recorded at the Airport in January 1940. The record high temperature of 107° occurred in August 1918 at Chimborazo Park.

Precipitation is rather uniformly distributed throughout the year. However, dry periods lasting several weeks do occur, especially in autumn when long periods of pleasant, mild weather are most common. There is considerable variability in total monthly amounts from year to year so that no one month can be depended upon to be normal. Snow has been recorded during seven of the twelve months. Falls of 4 inches or more occur on an average of once a year. Snow usually remains on the ground only 1 or 2 days at a time, but on one occasion it remained 21 days (January 23 to February 13, 1948). Ice storms

(freezing rain or glaze) are not uncommon in winter, but they are seldom severe enough to do any considerable damage. A notable exception was the spectacular glaze storm of January 27 - 28, 1943, when heavy damage was done to trees and overhead transmission lines of all kinds.

The James River reaches tidewater at Richmond where flooding has occurred in every month of the year, most frequently in March and least in July. Hurricanes and less severe storms of tropical origin have been responsible for most of the flooding during the summer and early fall months. The flood of record at Richmond was Agnes in June, 1972 which produced on the 23rd crests 6 and one half feet above old high water marks dating back 200 years. Agnes was followed closely by serious flooding on October 7, 1972 and preceded by Camille on August 22, 1969 which is now the fourth greatest flood of record. In 1955 three hurricanes brought record rainfall to Richmond within a 6-week period. The most noteworthy of these were Hurricanes Connie and Diane that brought heavy rains five days apart.

Damaging storms occur mainly from snow and freezing rain in winter and from hurricanes, tornadoes, and severe thunderstorms at other seasons. Damage may be from wind, flooding, or rain, or from any combination of these. Tornadoes are infrequent but some notable occurrences have been observed within the Richmond area. The highest wind recorded has been 68 m.p.h. with a peak gust of 79 m.p.h. at the time of Hurricane Hazel, October 15, 1954.

The dates of the last freeze in spring and of the first in autumn mark the limits of the growing season for most crops. The average growing season is 216 days. May 11, 1966, has been the latest date in spring when a temperature of 32° or lower was recorded; October 5, 1965, has been the earliest date in autumn.

METEOROLOGICAL DATA FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

Station: RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

BYRD FIELD

Standard time used: EASTERN

Latitude: 37° 30' N Longitude: 77° 2'

Elevation (ground) : 164 feet

Year: 1972

NORMALS, MEANS, AND EXTREMES

Month	Temperature								Precipitation								Relative humidity				Wind &				Mean number of days																	
	Normal				Extremes				Normal heating degree days (Base 65°)				Snow, Ice pellets				Hour		Hour		Hour		Hour		Speed		Direction #		Year		Pct. of possible sunshine		Sunrise to sunset		Mean sky cover		Precipitation		Temperatures			
	Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly Record highest	Record lowest	Year	Record highest	Record lowest	Year	Normal total	Maximum monthly	Year	Minimum monthly	Year	Maximum in 24 hrs.	Year	Mean total	Maximum monthly	Year	Maximum in 24 hrs.	Year	Mean speed (Local time)	Prevailing direction	Fastest mile	Direction #	Year	Max.	Min.	.01 inch or more	Snow, ice pellets .01 inch or more	Thunderstorms	Heavy fog	22nd and below	32nd and below	0° and below	Average daily solar radiation - long wave							
(a)	(b)	(b)	(b)	43				(b)	35		35			35		35		35		35		24	15	22	22		22	27	27	27	27	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35			
J	48.3	29.0	38.7	80	1950	-12	1940	815	3.46	5.95	1962	1.08	1951	3.31	1962	5.4	28.5	1940	21.6	1940	77	81	57	69	8.1	S	43	NW	1971	51	6.4	8	7	16	10	1	*	3	21	*	*	
F	50.6	29.2	39.9	83	1932+	-10	1936	703	2.90	5.61	1944	0.98	1968	1.87	1969	3.6	17.1	1967	9.2	1967	74	79	52	63	8.7	NNE	45	SW	1951	54	6.2	9	6	13	9	1	*	2	19	*	*	
M	59.1	36.3	47.7	93	1938	11	1960+	546	3.42	5.85	1944	0.94	1966	2.04	1942	3.1	19.7	1960	12.1	1962	73	78	48	59	9.0	W	42	SE	1952	60	6.1	8	9	14	11	1	*	2	10	*	*	
A	70.4	45.8	58.1	96	1960	26	1964+	219	3.15	5.32	1952	0.64	1963	2.07	1952	0.1	2.0	1940	2.0	1940	74	75	46	56	8.9	S	40	NW	1972+	62	6.1	8	9	13	10	1	*	2	2	1		
N	79.3	54.6	67.0	100	1941	31	1956	53	3.72	8.87	1972	0.87	1965	2.53	1972	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1953	83	79	50	65	7.9	S	45	NW	1962	64	6.2	8	11	13	11	0	*	2	3	0		
J	86.8	63.4	75.1	104	1952	40	1967	0	3.75	9.24	1938	0.91	1960	4.61	1963	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1954	87	81	53	68	7.3	S	52	NW	1952	67	6.0	7	12	11	10	0	*	2	10	0		
J	89.4	66.7	78.1	104	1934+	51	1965+	0	5.61	18.87	1945	0.52	1963	5.73	1969	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1955	89	85	57	72	6.8	SSW	56	NW	1955	65	6.1	7	12	12	11	0	*	2	13	0		
A	86.5	65.7	76.0	102	1953	46	1934	0	5.54	14.10	1955	0.52	1943	8.79	1955	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1956	90	88	57	74	6.4	SW	54	SE	1964	64	6.0	8	11	10	9	0	*	2	10	0		
S	81.8	58.6	70.2	103	1954	37	1963	36	2.65	8.49	1945	0.69	1954	2.82	1955	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1957	90	89	56	79	6.7	S	45	SE	1952	63	5.7	10	8	12	8	0	*	2	9	5		
O	70.6	46.7	58.7	99	1941	21	1962	214	3.00	9.39	1971	0.30	1969	6.20	1961	T	T	1972+	T	1972+	87	89	53	77	6.9	NNE	66	SE	1954	58	5.3	12	7	12	7	0	*	2	14	*		
N	59.9	37.1	48.5	86	1950	10	1934+	495	3.04	7.64	1959	0.36	1965	4.07	1956	0.5	7.3	1953	7.3	1953	80	84	50	70	7.4	S	35	SE	1972+	51	6.1	10	6	15	9	1	*	2	2	0		
D	49.8	29.5	39.7	80	1971	-1	1942	784	2.97	6.88	1937	0.72	1965	3.16	1958	2.1	12.5	1958	7.5	1966	77	81	55	70	7.5	SW	40	SW	1968+	60	6.0	10	6	15	9	1	*	2	2	0		
YR	69.4	46.9	58.1	104	1952+	-12	1940	3865	44.21	18.87	1945	0.30	1963	8.79	1955	14.8	28.5	1940	21.6	1960	82	82	53	69	7.6	S	68	SE	1954	104	6.0	104	106	155	113	4	37	29	42	6	85	1

Means and extremes above are from existing and comparable exposures. Annual extremes have been exceeded at other sites in the locality as follows:

(a) Length of record, years, based on January data. Other months may be for more or fewer years if there have been breaks in the record.

(b) Climatological standards

• Less than one half.
† Also on earlier dates, man

+ Also on earlier dates, months,
T Trace, an amount too small to

Below zero temperatures are preceded by a minus sign.

The prevailing direction for wind in the Normals, Means, and Extremes table is from records through

Means, and Extremes Table 1963.

♦ $\approx 70^\circ$ at Alaskan stations.

Unless otherwise indicated, all measurements used in this bulletin are: temperature in degrees F.; precipitation, including snowfall, in inches; wind movement in miles per hour; and relative humidity in percent. Heating degree day totals are the sums of negative departures of average daily temperatures from 65° F. Cooling degree day totals are the sums of positive departures of average daily temperatures from 65° F. All figures are preliminary and subject to change through July 1948. The term "ice pellets" includes solid grains of ice (sleet) and particles consisting of snow pellets encased in a thin layer of ice. Heavy for reduces visibility to 1/4 mile or less.

Sky cover is expressed in a range of 0 for no clouds or obscuring phenomena to 10 for complete sky cover. The number of clear days is based on average cloudiness 0-3, partly cloudy days 4-7, and

cloudy days 8-10 tenths.

Solar radiation data are the averages of direct and diffuse radiation on a horizontal surface. The langley

Some radiation data are the averages of direct and diffuse radiation on a horizontal surface. The unit denotes one gram calorie per square centimeter.

& Figures instead of letters in a direction column indicate direction in tens of degrees from true North; i.e., 09-East, 18-South, 27-West, 36-North, and 00-Calm. Resultant wind is the vector sum of wind directions and speeds divided by the number of observations. If figures appear in the direction column under "Fastest mile" the corresponding speeds are fastest observed 1-minute values.

* To 8 compass points only.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
1933	44.3	40.3	45.6	56.0	69.1	74.4	75.2	75.7	71.2	57.1	45.0	41.8	58.0
1934	42.6	28.2	42.8	56.3	66.2	76.3	79.7	74.9	71.3	56.3	49.5	38.4	56.9
1935	34.5	38.7	51.9	53.5	62.9	73.6	77.2	75.3	67.6	58.3	51.5	31.6	56.4
1936	31.4	33.7	51.2	53.1	66.5	73.7	79.7	76.5	71.6	59.8	46.3	40.1	57.0
1937	46.0	38.3	43.3	55.3	65.8	76.0	76.8	77.2	66.0	55.0	46.2	38.4	57.0
1938	37.2	43.1	53.6	59.9	64.9	71.6	76.8	78.3	68.4	57.7	49.9	40.3	58.5
1939	41.6	44.6	48.8	56.0	66.9	76.4	75.7	77.1	71.8	59.0	44.8	39.8	58.6
1940	24.2	38.2	43.3	52.4	65.0	74.7	76.0	73.6	66.2	55.8	47.4	42.5	54.9
1941	35.2	34.2	40.8	59.8	66.8	73.0	78.3	75.8	72.2	64.7	48.7	41.9	57.6
#1942	34.2	35.2	48.0	58.8	69.5	75.2	79.4	75.2	71.3	60.8	50.0	37.1	57.9
1943	40.0	41.5	47.0	53.9	69.0	72.9	78.5	78.4	68.4	57.3	47.5	38.6	58.3
1944	-38.6	40.4	45.2	56.2	71.6	76.4	77.7	75.4	71.2	57.9	48.2	36.1	57.9
1945	34.2	40.8	58.6	61.4	63.9	75.7	76.2	75.2	73.6	57.8	49.6	33.4	58.4
#1946	38.0	41.7	53.8	57.2	65.8	72.8	75.4	72.6	70.0	60.9	52.9	43.4	58.8
1947	44.6	33.5	40.0	57.5	67.0	72.2	74.8	78.5	70.1	63.7	46.4	38.4	57.2
1948	31.1	39.8	50.8	57.7	66.3	74.4	78.2	75.7	68.6	56.2	52.9	42.0	57.8
1949	45.2	46.5	48.6	55.7	66.0	75.2	80.1	76.6	67.4	62.5	49.0	42.4	59.6
#1950	49.7	40.7	44.4	54.7	65.0	74.2	76.8	75.5	68.2	61.2	47.3	36.1	57.8
1951	40.8	41.3	46.8	56.6	54.6	74.9	78.6	76.0	70.0	61.6	44.7	42.0	58.1
1952	42.4	42.2	46.3	58.1	65.4	77.6	80.4	76.4	69.2	55.2	49.4	39.2	58.5
1953	42.9	43.4	48.3	58.0	71.5	75.2	79.9	77.3	70.0	60.7	48.5	42.5	59.9
1954	38.0	44.9	47.0	61.2	63.0	74.6	78.6	76.8	74.4	62.3	46.1	38.2	58.8
1955	35.8	40.1	50.2	60.8	67.2	70.1	81.3	78.7	70.6	59.5	46.4	34.8	58.0
1956	36.0	43.0	44.3	55.5	65.0	74.7	77.8	76.5	67.9	60.9	47.6	48.9	58.3
1957	35.2	43.3	47.2	61.5	67.8	76.2	78.4	74.6	71.9	54.6	50.3	43.0	58.7
1958	34.6	33.8	42.3	57.5	67.7	71.3	80.2	76.4	69.1	58.7	51.2	33.4	56.2
1959	37.5	41.6	47.3	59.3	69.4	74.8	77.9	79.0	70.8	61.4	47.3	41.6	59.0
1960	38.8	39.3	35.9	61.8	69.6	73.7	76.3	77.5	69.3	57.1	50.1	34.6	56.6
1961	33.5	42.2	50.8	53.0	63.6	72.8	78.5	77.1	73.5	58.1	50.1	37.1	57.5
1962	36.0	39.7	45.0	57.5	70.6	74.0	74.6	74.6	66.2	60.3	47.2	36.1	56.9
1963	35.9	39.3	50.6	59.2	64.0	72.0	76.1	75.7	65.5	58.6	50.1	32.4	56.1
1964	38.1	37.2	47.6	55.4	66.6	73.1	75.6	73.1	67.1	53.4	51.5	42.9	56.8
1965	35.0	38.8	43.0	53.9	69.6	70.7	74.9	75.9	70.7	56.1	46.2	41.3	56.6
1966	31.1	37.7	47.5	52.8	63.1	71.4	76.4	74.6	67.2	55.5	49.5	38.0	55.4
1967	40.0	34.8	46.6	58.8	60.7	72.1	76.8	75.6	67.7	52.0	44.0	31.9	56.2
1968	33.9	34.2	52.0	58.8	66.7	74.7	78.9	78.9	70.9	61.0	53.3	37.0	58.1
1969	33.9	36.8	42.3	57.6	65.5	75.7	76.3	75.1	65.1	58.5	46.8	35.5	56.2
1970	30.1	37.1	42.9	58.2	69.1	75.7	78.3	78.0	74.8	62.9	49.9	40.4	58.1
1971	33.8	39.5	44.5	55.0	63.3	74.7	76.6	75.3	71.4	64.6	48.5	48.0	57.9
1972	40.7	37.6	47.2	56.2	64.6	70.1	77.1	75.2	70.2	55.8	47.9	45.9	57.4
RECORD	27.8	39.3	46.7	56.9	66.1	74.0	77.6	76.1	70.1	58.9	48.3	39.5	57.6
MEAN	47.6	49.9	58.0	69.3	78.0	85.1	87.9	86.2	80.8	70.7	60.0	49.6	68.6
MAX	27.9	28.7	35.3	44.4	54.2	62.8	67.3	65.9	59.1	47.0	37.0	29.4	46.6
MIN	27.8	31.0	33.6	28.2	3.69	3.92	5.74	5.09	3.46	3.27	3.26	3.04	43.61

TOTAL DEGREE DAYS

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA														
Season	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Total	
1933-34	1	0	1	249	569	712	716	1024	681	265	74	0	4292	
1934-35	0	9	3	262	443	817	920	734	403	356	105	0	4052	
1935-36	0	0	40	223	413	1034	933	422	372	60	13	4548		
1936-37	0	17	199	564	748	590	724	668	283	78	1	3890		
1937-38	0	0	75	321	556	820	876	622	379	204	91	11	3955	
1938-39	0	0	38	228	462	778	724	551	527	288	120	0	3716	
1939-40	3	0	5	250	610	783	1225	777	673	380	91	3	4842	
1940-41	2	0	74	286	474	973	924	862	595	224	92	13	4021	
1941-42	0	3	13	152	510	691	995	854	529	222	13	0	3952	
#1942-43	0	2	52	104	459	849	733	469	578	356	63	0	3868	
1943-44	0	0	57	251	532	808	819	710	639	280	17	0	4113	
1944-45	0	2	21	236	476	873	930	670	233	182	125	27	3795	
#1945-46	0	0	3	229	456	986	849	643	350	257	76	11	3860	
1946-47	0	5	21	161	370	659	880	770	249	94	94	0	3862	
1947-48	0	0	81	98	558	822	1049	733	469	254	48	3	4111	
1948-49	0	0	28	279	373	712	615	515	525	295	67	3	3412	
#1949-50	0	0	52	134	478	700	483	676	631	327	85	2	3568	
1950-51	0	0	60	138	538	868	739	660	595	297	76	0	3923	
1951-52	0	0	22	161	608	710	692	655	579	233	58	0	3718	
1952-53	0	1	19	316	460	792	680	598	509	234	7	6	3622	
1953-54	0	0	28	152	488	691	829	556	553	183	151	1	3632	
1954-55	0	0	5	220	561	826	898	690	450	155	67	12	3884	
1955-56	0	0	9	186	555	928	896	631	578	323	107	10	4223	
1956-57	0	0	75	161	519	915	860	600	546	201	63	5	3566	
1957-58	0	0	50	317	434	974	936	871	696	254	70	6	4308	
1958-59	0	0	24	212	409	973	847	650	542	212	44	10	3923	
1959-60	0	0	36	217	530	717	807	737	894	184	88	2	4212	
1960-61	0	0	6	25	498	926	826	758	538	371	133	27	4401	
1961-62	0	0	47	293	466	833	788	841	560	230	171	17	4196	
1962-63	0	0	64	256	623	708	956	887	822	434	218	102	1	4199
1963-64	0	0	60	161	403	864	957	783	695	237	66	0	4166	
1964-65	0	0	45	221	541	907	1076	778	677	231	51	0	4527	
1965-66	0	0	6	25	498	926	826	758	538	371	133	27	4401	
1966-67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.1	
1967-68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1968-69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1969-70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1970-71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1971-72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
1972-73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
RECORD	2.86	3.10	3.36	2.82	3.69	3.92	5.74	5.09	3.46	3.27	3.26	3.04	43.61	
MEAN	27.8	39.3	46.7	56.9	66.1	74.0	77.6	76.1	70.0	58.9	48.3			

STATION LOCATION

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

Location	Occupied from	Occupied to	Airlne distance and direction from previous location	Latitude North	Longitude West	Ground at temperature site	Elevation above Sea level						Remarks		
							Sea level	Ground							
							Wind instruments	Extreme thermometers	Psychrometer	Telegyrometer	Tipping bucket rain gauge	Weighing rain gauge	8" rain gauge	Hygrothermometer	Pyranometer
<u>COOPERATIVE</u> High elevation in East Richmond	1/1880	2/1893				Est. 150									
Near Southern RR Bridge	3/1893	3/1895				Est. 35									
Westbrook Farms	4/1895	10/1897	4 mi. N	27° 36'	77° 24'	196									
<u>CITY</u> State Library Building Capitol Square	9/18/95	5/22/97	4 mi. S	37° 32'	77° 27'	142									
Chamber of Commerce Building, Ninth & Main Streets	5/22/97	5/31/00	3/8 mi. SW	37° 32'	77° 27'	104	107	98	98		89	89			
Times Building 10th & Bank Streets	5/31/00	6/30/05	1/8 mi. NE	37° 32'	77° 27'	115	92	82	82	76	76				
Mutual Assurance Bldg. Ninth & Main Streets	6/30/05	1/30/10	1/8 mi. SW			104	154	145	145	138	138				
Weather Bureau Building Chimborazo Park 3301 E Broad Street	1/30/10	7/01/53	1-1/2 mi. E	37° 32'	77° 25'	162	53	11	11	3	a4	3			
<u>AIRPORT</u> WB-CAA Building	7/15/25	9/24/42	None	37° 30'	77° 20'	158	#	5	5			3			
Army Hanger (Operations Annex)	9/24/42	4/19/46	1/2 mi. NNW	37° 30'	77° 20'	156	55	5	5			3			
Old Airport Administration Building	4/19/46	6/01/50	1/3 mi. SSE	37° 30'	77° 20'	156	46	5	5			4			
Byrd Field New Terminal Building	6/01/50	Present	4/5 mi. N	37° 30'	77° 20'	c164	b20	d6	d6	e19	e19	a4			

Requests for additional information should be directed to the National Weather Service Office for which this summary was issued.

Sale Price: 15 cents per copy. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Department of Commerce, NOAA. Remittances and correspondence regarding this publication should be sent to: National Climatic Center, Federal Building, Asheville, N.C. 28801. Attn: Publications.

USCOMM-NOAA-ASHEVILLE - 1300

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL CLIMATIC CENTER
FEDERAL BUILDING
ASHEVILLE, N.C. 28801

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

210



FIRST CLASS