

Richmond Virginia Weather Records

LOCATION

City Office/ Chimborazo Park 1897- 1929
KRIC Richmond International Airport 1930- Present (2009) (updated annually)
Latitude: N 37 ° 31 ' Longitude: W 77 ° 19'
Altitude: 167 feet or 50 Meters
Summary of Climatological Data for January 1, 1897 to December 31, 2009

TEMPERATURE

113 years of data

All 30 year averages (1971 to 2000 average) are from the NWS Records

High = 60.17 °F **Warmest** Year 1990
Mean = 57.60 °F An **Average** Year based on 30 years
Mean = 57.21 °F An **Average** Year based on 113 years
Low = 54.06 °F **Coolest** Year 1940

SEASONAL AVERAGES

All 30 year averages (1971 to 2000 average) are from the NWS Records

	Maximum	Minimum	Average
Spring	67.8 °F	45.6 °F	56.7 °F
Summer	85.6 °F	66.1 °F	75.9 °F
Autumn	69.6 °F	48.5 °F	59.0 °F
Winter	48.1 °F	29.5 °F	38.8 °F

TEMPERATURE EXTREMES

Hottest Day **Highest Maximum** daily temp. = 107 ° on August 6, 1918
2nd Hottest Day **Highest Maximum** daily temp. = 106 ° on August 7, 1918

Coldest Day **Lowest Maximum** daily temp. = 11 ° on February 11 & 12, 1899
Warmest Night **Highest Minimum** daily temp. = 79 ° most recent July 24 & 25, 2010

Coldest Night **Lowest Minimum** daily temp. = -12 ° on January 29, 1940
2nd Coldest Night **Lowest Minimum** daily temp. = -11 ° on January 26, 1940

100 °F Maximum Days

Earliest 100 °F day was May 28, 1941
Most 100 °F days in a year 10 days in 2010; the previous record was 9 days in 1954.
Second most 8 days in 1952, 1953, & 1977
Most consecutive days of 100 °F was 5 days in 1953 from Aug. 29th to Sep. 2nd
Latest 100 °F day in a year was September 11, 1983

90 °F Maximum Days

Earliest 90 °F day in the year was March 17, 1945 when the high temperature was 91 °F
Latest 90 °F day was October 16th, 1897 when the high was 90 °F

The **Most** 90 °F days in a month was 26 days in July 1993.
The **Most** 90 °F days in a year was 79 days in 2010.
The **Most** consecutive days of 90 °F was 27 days in 1995 from Jul. 11th to August 6th.

The 113 year **average** number of 90 °F days in a year is 39.3 days.
The 30 year **average** number of 90 °F days in a year is 41 days. (average 1971-2000)

The Least 90 °F days in a year was 14 days in 1971, 1927, 1917 also 15 days in 1922.
The Latest first 90 °F day in a year occurred on July 2, 1972

70 °F Maximum Days

The **most** 70 °F or above days in a winter season was 13 days in 1975-1976.
The 30 year **ave.** number of ≥ 70 °F days in a winter season was four. (1971 to 2000 ave.)
Most consecutive days of ≥ 70 °F days in a winter season was 6 days in 1998 from December 3rd to 8th.

70 °F Minimum Days

The **earliest** minimum temperature of 70 °F or above in the year was May 2, 2010 when the **high** minimum or first warm night of the year was 72 °F.
The **latest** minimum temperature of 70 °F or above in the year was November 2, 1971 when the **high** minimum or last warm night of the year was 70 °F.

First and Last Freezing Days

Earliest last freezing day in the spring was Mar. 12, 1946 when the temperature was 29 °F.
The **average** last freezing day in the spring was Apr. 8th. (1971 to 2000 average)
Latest last freezing day in the spring was May 11, 1966 when the temperature was 32 °F.

Earliest first freezing day in the autumn was on Oct. 3rd, 1974 when the temperature was 31 °F.
The **average** first freezing day in the autumn is October 29th. (1971 to 2000 average)
Latest freezing day in the autumn (astronomically) was Dec. 2nd, 1985 when the temperature was 30 °F.

Growing Season

Longest growing season with temperature >32 °F was 246 days in 1946.
Average growing season with temperature >32 °F is 203 days.
Shortest growing season with temperature >32 °F was 173 days in 1976.

32 °F Minimum Temperature

The **Most** nights when the minimum was ≤ 32 °F in a month was 31 days in Jan 1977 and Dec 1960.
The 2nd greatest number was 30 days in Jan 1918, and Dec. of 1963 and 2000.
Most minimum was ≤ 32 °F in a year was 114 days in 1941.
Least minimum was ≤ 32 °F in a year was 51 days in 1990.

0 °F Minimum Temperature

Earliest 0 °F or less min. in the winter was Dec. 21st, 1942 when the low temp. was -1 °F.
Latest 0 °F or less min. in the winter was Feb. 28th, 1934 when the low temp. was -1 °F.
The **Most** ≤ 0 °F days in a winter season was 7 days in winter of 1939-1940.
The **Most** ≤ 0 °F days in succession was 6 from January 25 to January 30, 1940.

Seasonal Averages for Heating and Cooling Degree Days

All 30 year averages (1971 to 2000 average) are from the NWS Records

	HDD	CDD
Spring	862	148
Summer	9	1059
Autumn	722	226
Winter	2326	2
Heating Degree Days (Average Annual) = 3919		(1971 to 2000 average)
Cooling Degree Days (Average Annual) = 1435		(1971 to 2000 average)

PRECIPITATION

Total for 113 years = 4849.17 inches
Maximum annual = 63.29 Inches in 2003 or a departure of +20.38 inches
Average annual = 42.91 Inches for a 113 year average
Average annual = 43.91 Inches for a 30 year average (1971 to 2000 average)
Minimum annual = 22.91 Inches in 1941 or a departure of -20.00 inches
Average Wettest month August = 4.83 inches 113 year average
Average Wettest month July = 4.67 inches 30 year average (1971 to 2000 average)
Average Driest month November = 2.81 inches 113 year average
Average Driest month February = 2.98 inches 30 year average (1971 to 2000 average)
Most precipitation in a month 18.21 inches in July 1945
Most precipitation in a day was 8.79 inches in August 12, 1955. (Hurricane Connie)
Least precipitation in a month 0.01 inches in Oct. 2000
Total measurable precipitation occurred on 13,478 out of 41,272 days or 32.6%.
Most precipitation days with measurable precip. in a year was 151 days in 1898.
Most precipitation days with measurable precip. in a month was 23 days in May of 2003.
 113 year **average precipitation days** with measurable precip. in a year was 119.2 days.
 30 year **average precipitation days** with measurable precip. in a year was 115 days.
 (1971 to 2000 average)
Least precipitation days with measurable precip. in a year was 89 days in 1941
Least precipitation days with measurable precip. in a month was 1 day in October 2000.

Seasonal Averages Precipitation

All 30 year averages (1971 to 2000 average) are from the NWS Records

Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
11.22 inches	12.39 inches	10.65 inches	9.68 inches
31 days >=.01	30days >=.01	24>=.01	30>=.01
2.4 days >=1.00	3.7 days >=1.00	2.6 days >=1.00	2.0 days >=1.00

Snow

Total Snowfall from 1898 or 112 years = 1460.5 inches
Maximum annual snowfall = 47.0 inches in 1962
112 Year Average annual snowfall = 13.0 inches
30 Year Average annual snowfall = 11.9 inches (1971 to 2000 average)
Minimum annual snowfall = 0.0 inches in 1951 & 1998

Maximum monthly snowfall = 28.5 inches in January 1940
Greatest Storm total = 21.6 inches on January 23-24th, 1940
Largest snowfall in one day = 19.9 inches on January 24th, 1940
Greatest snow depth = 22 inches on January 24, 1940.
Greatest (seasonal) snowfall total = 38.9 inches winter of 1961-1962 (astronomical season)
 2nd greatest (seasonal) snowfall = 38.6 inches winter of 1979-1980 (astronomical season)
Snowfall (seasonal) = 27.6" winter of 2009-2010

Most annual measurable snow days 16 days
 Month with the **maximum** number of snow days = 8 days in January 1918
 The latest measurable snowfall in spring was 2.0 inches on April 28, 1898.
 The earliest trace of snowfall in autumn was on October 10, 1979.
 The latest trace or more of snowfall in spring was 2.0 inches on April 28, 1998.
 But May 4, 1774 might have had a trace of snow

May 4, 1774: Snow was reported in the Williamsburg Gazette to have fallen in Dumfries, Va. George Washington at Mount Vernon, logged in his diary a cold day with spits of snow and a hard wind from the northwest. Thomas Jefferson near Charlottesville observed the Blue Ridge Mountains covered with snow. The late-season snow and frost killed most of the fruit crop in the northern part of the state.

The earliest measurable snowfall in autumn was 0.9 inches on November 5, 1962.

Seasonal Average Snowfall

(1971 to 2000 average)

Spring	Autumn	Winter
1.4 inches	0.2 inches	10.3 inches
1.0 days ≥ 0.1	0.2 ≥ 0.1	5.2 ≥ 0.1
0.3 days ≥ 1.0	0.1 days ≥ 1.0	2.8 days ≥ 1.0

Barometric Pressure at Mean Sea Level

Highest barometer = 1051mb or 31.04 inches Feb 13, 1981

Lowest barometer = 965 mb or 28.51" on March 13, 1993

Highest Winds

Maximum wind gust was 79 mph on October 15, 1954. (Hurricane Hazel)

Maximum sustained winds was SE at 68 mph October 15, 1954 mph. (Hurricane Hazel)

Second greatest wind speed:

Maximum wind gust was 73 mph on September 18, 2003. (Hurricane Isabel)

Maximum sustained winds were 38 mph on September 18, 2003 mph (Hurricane Isabel) and Richmond received 4.32 inches of rain.