U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, WEATHER BUREAU
IN COOPERATION WITH LUMBERTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES NO. 20 — 31

LATITUDE 34° 37' N.
LONGITUDE 79° 01' W.
ELEV. (GROUND) 132 Ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION LUMBERTON, N. C.

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1926-1955

Month	Temperature (°F) Means: Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Extremes: Record highest	Year	Record lowest	Year	Mean degree days**	Precipitation Totals (Inches): Mean	Greatest daily	Year	Snow, Sleet: Mean	Maximum monthly	Year	Greatest daily	Year	Mean number of days: Precip. .10 inch or more	Temperatures Max.: 90° and above	32° and below	Min.: 32° and below	0° and below	Month
(a)	30	30	30	30		30		30	30	30		30	30		30		30	30	30	30	30	
Jan.	57.0	36.0	46.5	81	1950	6	1934	574	2.95	2.37	1935	0.7	8.5	1936	8.5	1936	7	0	*	13	0	Jan.
Feb.	59.2	36.4	47.8	83	1930	4	1936	484	3.37	3.00	1939	0.5	6.5	1942	3.5	1942+	6	0	*	11	0	Feb.
Mar.	66.5	42.1	54.3	90	1935	16	1943+	363	3.83	4.50	1941	0.4	7.5	1927	7.0	1927	8	*	0	6	0	Mar.
Apr.	75.6	49.8	62.7	95	1941	27	1936	99	3.75	4.00	1938	0	0	--	0	--	6	1	0	*	0	Apr.
May	82.9	58.1	70.5	101	1926	37	1939	0	3.41	2.80	1945	0	0	--	0	--	7	6	0	0	0	May
Jun.	89.2	65.6	77.4	105	1952	46	1933+	0	4.54	5.05	1945	0	0	--	0	--	7	15	0	0	0	Jun.
Jul.	90.5	68.9	79.7	108	1926	50	1933	0	6.01	3.50	1947	0	0	--	0	--	9	19	0	0	0	Jul.
Aug.	89.2	67.8	78.5	104	1954	50	1927	0	5.14	4.19	1955	0	0	--	0	--	8	17	0	0	0	Aug.
Sep.	85.3	62.7	74.0	103	1954+	39	1950	6	4.14	6.77	1928	0	0	--	0	--	6	10	0	0	0	Sep.
Oct.	76.2	50.6	63.4	99	1954	23	1952	105	2.45	5.74	1954	0	0	--	0	--	4	1	0	1	0	Oct.
Nov.	65.0	40.6	52.8	85	1950	12	1950	354	2.70	2.50	1947	T	0.5	1950	0.5	1950	5	0	0	8	0	Nov.
Dec.	56.6	34.6	45.6	81	1932	10	1943	623	3.30	3.50	1943	0.5	5.5	1935	4.0	1943	6	0	*	15	0	Dec.
Year	74.4	51.1	62.8	108	1926	4	1936	2598	45.59	6.77	1928	2.1	8.5	1936	8.5	1936	79	69	1	54	0	Year

(a) Average length of record, years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

+ Also on earlier dates, months or years.

* Less than one half.

** Base 65°F.

CLIMATE OF LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Lumberton is the County Seat of Robeson County, lying on the Lumber River somewhat to the east of the center of the county. The Atlantic Coast is nearest on the southeast, near the North Carolina-South Carolina border; here the straight-line distance between Lumberton and the Ocean is only about 52 miles. On the entire southeastern quadrant, Lumberton is within 80 miles of the coast of the Carolinas, and its climate is therefore subject to considerable maritime influence. Lying south of all of North Carolina's major cities except Wilmington, Lumberton is also more southerly than large portions of South Carolina and Georgia, including the cities of Spartanburg and Greenville.

The area around Lumberton is nearly level, and practically all of Robeson County lies between 100 and 200 feet above mean sea level. Soils are mostly of sandy loam, and the county has the largest acreage under cultivation of any in North Carolina. In addition to the Lumber River, there are many small streams and swamps, along which lie considerable forest areas.

Lumberton's southerly latitude and its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean bring the location a climate that is usually mild in winter and warm in summer. Heating requirements, as indicated by degree day figures, are less than half the average over the Middle Atlantic States, and are considerably less than those of most of North Carolina. While the average summer day is quite warm, cooling requirements are reduced by the relatively low nighttime temperatures.

On the average, freezing weather occurs on less than half the winter days, and a temperature as low as 10 degrees is a rarity. Entire winter months may pass without any freezing weather. The average date of first occurrence in autumn of a temperature as low as 32 degrees is November 6; of 28 degrees, November 18; of 20 degrees, December 16. In spring, the average date of latest occurrence of 20 degrees is February 7; of 28 degrees, March 13; of 32 degrees, March 26. The average length of freeze-free growing season is thus 225 days.

Temperatures as high as 80 degrees have been recorded in every month of the year, but in the hottest weather the temperature never exceeds 100 by more than a few degrees, and entire summers often pass without the occurrence of any 100 degree weather. July and August are the hottest months of the year; even in these months the average temperature at sunrise is below 70 degrees.

Rainfall is usually abundant in Lumberton, and generally well-distributed throughout the various seasons of the year. The period of least rainfall begins in the fall, at the harvest season, and continues through the winter, when water requirements for plant, animal and industry are at their lowest. Rainfall is heaviest in June, July and August, at the height of the growing season, when evaporation and transpiration are heaviest and water requirements generally greatest. The driest month of all is the harvest month of October, when the average rainfall is less than half that of July or August.

Winter rainfall usually results from moving low pressure storms, coming in intermittent rainy periods lasting from one to three days. Summer rains are principally from brief showers and thunderstorms, usually of not more than a few hours duration. The distribution of thunderstorm rainfall is less uniform than that of winter rains, so that limited areas may be without rain for a number of days in spring or summer, while other nearby places are well-watered; prolonged or severe drought, however, is rare even for limited areas. An occasional period of excessive rainfall may result from a series of closely spaced thundershowers, or from a storm moving northward in the coastal areas.

Tropical storms passing up the Atlantic Coast occasionally come close enough to cause rainy, windy periods at Lumberton, but they very rarely reach destructive force there. Hurricane Hazel, which caused heavy damage to both coastal and inland North Carolina in 1954, was less severe in the Lumberton area than over most of the Coastal Plain. The highest winds in this section are more likely to come from thunderstorms; such winds are very local and of brief duration.

Surface wind directions are variable at all seasons, but the prevailing winds are from the southwest except in autumn, when northeasterlies prevail. The average surface wind speed is about eight miles per hour. While no summarizations of flight weather at Lumberton are available, it is apparent from the general weather of the area that flight conditions here compare very favorably with other airports in the southeastern United States. Protracted periods of heavy cloudiness or fog are very rare, and the sun shines, on an average, nearly two-thirds of the daylight hours. The average relative humidity is around 85 percent at sunrise, dropping off to near 50 percent at midafternoon.

CHARLES B. CARNEY,
State Climatologist

ALBERT V. HARDY,
Climatologist

Weather Bureau Airport Station
Raleigh-Durham Airport
North Carolina

FURNISHED BY LUMBERTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1926	4.76	4.63	3.07	4.45	.71	3.90	5.73	3.56	2.11	.97	1.99	1.95	37.83
1927	.68	2.88	3.26	.45	1.92	8.02	4.18	6.65	1.25	3.64	.93	4.25	38.11
1928	.86	5.71	3.68	6.58	5.60	2.58	6.60	4.11	15.11	3.01	1.68	2.95	58.47
1929	5.55	7.70	6.05	3.15	6.58	7.83	5.22	2.87	5.40	5.65	4.02	4.05	64.07
1930	6.38	.93	3.24	1.96	2.00	4.55	4.19	1.93	4.52	3.47	3.48	5.84	42.49
1931	2.80	2.11	2.91	3.22	4.66	2.50	4.67	5.66	.68	.93	1.54	5.41	37.09
1932	2.30	2.21	2.30	1.93	4.05	4.29	3.72	3.47	3.75	5.50	7.56	5.49	46.57
1933	2.76	6.72	1.68	2.16	3.98	2.97	5.35	6.66	3.36	.74	.52	.19	37.09
1934	.71	3.01	3.40	.47	4.59	3.91	9.51	4.86	5.52	.70	4.82	2.39	43.89
1935	3.67	2.42	5.63	3.26	3.31	1.95	4.70	4.54	8.21	1.15	1.39	4.34	44.57
1936	4.93	4.90	5.96	4.45	.49	5.18	4.13	3.44	2.81	3.60	1.62	4.68	46.19
1937	6.17	4.01	2.42	8.36	1.43	2.45	4.88	5.79	1.32	2.43	3.55	2.49	45.30
1938	2.50	.43	2.42	9.61	5.43	9.45	8.76	5.52	6.62	1.07	3.35	2.01	57.17
1939	2.53	8.60	3.65	4.73	2.71	6.26	6.55	6.16	2.38	.67	1.69	2.47	48.40
1940	3.07	3.87	2.52	3.61	3.00	1.93	4.32	6.45	3.14	.14	2.45	1.63	36.13
1941	1.23	2.25	7.56	2.75	1.25	7.31	8.89	5.82	2.44	1.10	.64	5.13	46.37
1942	1.67	4.07	7.34	1.20	3.12	4.87	5.11	9.94	3.33	1.92	1.11	3.08	46.76
1943	3.73	1.31	5.98	4.19	3.18	7.36	9.64	2.75	1.35	.30	1.90	4.51	46.20
1944	3.75	5.55	6.15	3.80	2.56	2.27	13.69	5.27	5.12	2.93	2.50	1.40	54.99
1945	2.80	3.55	1.93	4.35	5.70	8.80	7.25	7.72	9.68	1.55	1.80	7.12	62.25
1946	2.60	2.16	2.63	4.44	5.23	2.46	10.31	6.61	1.48	3.21	1.85	.85	43.83
1947	2.94	.64	2.66	5.96	4.55	1.69	9.64	3.59	7.72	6.50	8.53	4.37	58.79
1948	4.33	4.95	5.54	3.83	5.09	4.66	2.90	2.70	3.58	3.88	6.92	4.02	52.40
1949	1.18	4.38	1.71	5.98	5.58	6.42	2.79	9.21	1.62	3.87	3.14	1.62	47.50
1950	2.15	1.25	3.48	1.10	4.61	4.63	11.21	1.67	1.89	5.15	.81	2.80	40.75
1951	.69	.60	4.07	3.65	1.12	4.77	2.67	2.61	3.16	.58	1.22	2.68	27.82
1952	2.23	4.00	3.91	1.60	1.26	4.40	3.80	10.01	1.82	.53	3.33	2.36	39.25
1953	1.87	3.94	3.89	1.88	3.83	5.80	1.91	3.30	4.67	.00	2.55	5.37	39.01
1954	3.74	.84	3.42	4.61	2.11	.81	4.47	1.44	1.22	6.42	1.72	2.53	33.33
1955	3.98	1.62	2.41	4.78	2.76	2.09	3.64	9.96	8.98	1.82	2.29	.93	45.26

assumed the duties of Observer, and continued to serve through May 1952. Following a seven month interruption, observations were resumed in January 1955, being made by the Lumberton Police Department. All locations of the instruments were within the city, at approximately the same elevation, with open exposures over level ground.

Occasional breaks occurring in the records for Lumberton during 1949, 1951 and 1952 have been filled by substitution of data from the Lumberton Airport.

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1926	45.1	50.6	49.4	60.4	70.2	77.6	82.0	81.8	77.7	66.0	51.0	49.2	63.4
1927	46.8	56.4	56.3	64.0	72.4	76.4	79.2	76.6	76.4	65.8	58.1	47.8	64.7
1928	43.3	46.1	54.0	60.7	68.2	77.8	80.9	81.0	72.4	66.5	54.2	48.0	62.8
1929	48.2	45.2	59.0	65.0	69.8	74.8	77.9	78.8	73.2	61.7	54.8	45.8	62.8
1930	46.7	50.8	50.4	63.2	71.9	75.6	81.8	76.1	77.8	59.1	50.4	41.6	62.1
1931	43.3	46.5	48.2	60.0	68.2	77.0	82.2	77.8	76.8	64.7	58.0	52.2	62.9
1932	53.6	53.6	51.2	61.0	68.6	77.4	81.7	78.3	71.7	62.8	50.0	48.2	63.2
1933	50.0	47.9	52.8	61.4	74.6	77.6	78.0	78.8	78.4	63.6	51.3	51.1	63.8
1934	47.5	39.9	51.5	63.0	68.4	79.0	81.4	79.3	76.0	63.0	55.2	45.3	62.5
1935	46.4	47.6	61.2	62.2	70.1	79.2	80.1	79.8	72.6	62.2	54.0	36.4	62.6
1936	40.6	41.7	55.2	59.5	71.5	76.0	81.4	80.8	77.0	65.5	50.5	45.6	62.1
1937	54.0	44.6	50.2	61.4	71.0	79.8	80.0	79.8	71.4	60.2	49.4	42.7	62.0
1938	43.2	50.2	59.4	62.9	71.0	74.0	77.6	79.8	72.4	60.0	55.7	45.0	62.6
1939	45.8	52.4	56.6	60.6	68.4	79.0	77.6	77.0	73.6	64.6	46.8	44.0	62.2
1940	33.0	45.2	51.6	60.5	69.2	78.6	79.4	77.8	70.8	60.6	52.1	48.5	60.6
1941	42.2	39.2	47.8	65.3	72.0	76.8	80.0	78.8	75.5	68.2	52.4	46.9	62.1
1942	43.2	40.5	56.4	64.0	70.6	77.4	80.7	76.5	74.0	62.6	54.4	43.3	62.0
1943	45.8	47.4	52.1	60.4	71.0	79.8	78.6	78.2	69.8	61.0	49.0	43.4	61.4
1944	44.2	49.4	53.4	63.0	72.5	78.6	76.5	75.3	72.3	59.9	50.0	39.2	61.2
1945	41.8	47.4	62.2	65.2	65.2	75.0	78.2	75.6	76.1	63.4	55.4	41.0	62.2
1946	46.1	49.0	60.4	62.5	70.1	75.8	77.0	74.8	72.1	63.9	57.6	48.4	63.1
1947	49.5	40.1	46.1	65.2	70.8	75.4	76.0	79.1	74.1	67.2	50.0	44.6	61.5
1948	38.4	46.2	57.8	64.9	70.0	76.8	79.8	77.6	71.3	57.2	58.1	48.5	62.2
1949	53.8	53.8	55.0	61.4	70.3	77.7	81.5	79.5	71.8	67.6	52.3	48.9	64.5
1950	57.1	51.4	52.0	61.4	72.3	77.8	77.8	77.0	71.7	64.5	49.3	39.4	62.7
1951	46.3	47.7	53.3	61.3	68.4	77.3	79.6	79.8	73.0	65.9	49.9	50.7	62.8
1952	51.6	48.5	53.6	62.1	72.2	82.4	81.6	78.6	72.6	58.1	53.3	44.3	63.2
1953	53.5	51.8	57.2	64.3	76.5	77.3	80.6	78.6	73.3	65.1	52.5	47.7	64.9
1954	48.1	53.3	55.1	68.0	67.5	79.3	81.7	82.8	77.8	66.4	53.0	45.0	64.8
1955	45.0	50.1	59.6	67.0	73.3	74.1	81.2	80.6	75.7	63.7	53.8	44.2	64.0

STATION HISTORY

Rainfall measurements during the growing season were taken at Lumberton as early as 1882. Daily observations of temperature and precipitation were taken throughout the year beginning in January, 1903, with B. M. Davis as observer. Mr. Davis served until December 1927, when observations were taken over by O. O. Dukes. Upon Mr. Dukes' death in 1947, his widow, Mrs. Georgia M. Dukes,