

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

LATITUDE 35° 08' N.  
 LONGITUDE 77° 05' W.  
 ELEV. (GROUND) 15 Ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION NEW BERN, N. C.

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1933-1962

Month	Temperature (°F)								** Mean degree days	Precipitation Totals (Inches)							Mean number of days					Month		
	Means			Extremes						Mean	Greatest daily	Year	Snow, Sleet				Precip. .10 inch or more 90° and above	Temperatures		0° and below				
	Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Record highest	Year	Record lowest	Year	Mean					Maximum monthly	Year	Greatest daily	Year		Max.	Min.					
																					32° and below		32° and below	
(a)	30	30	30	30		30		30	30	30		30	30		30	30	30	30	30					
Jan.	57.5	35.7	46.6	82	1937+	8	1940	580	3.27	2.18	1960	0.5	6.0	1940+	5.0	1940	7	0	*	11	0	0	Jan.	
Feb.	59.3	36.1	47.7	84	1962	8	1936	484	3.85	2.51	1948	1.0	11.5	1936	11.5	1936	7	0	*	10	0	0	Feb.	
Mar.	65.3	41.7	53.5	92	1948	14	1960	378	3.96	2.28	1943	0.4	9.5	1960	6.0	1960	7	0	0	6	0	0	Mar.	
Apr.	75.0	50.6	62.8	95	1960	27	1957	96	3.10	2.51	1961	0	0				6	1	0	1	0	0	Apr.	
May	82.2	59.3	70.8	100	1953	37	1941	6	3.91	3.90	1943	0	0				7	5	0	0	0	0	May	
June	88.5	67.1	77.8	106	1954	44	1960+	0	4.54	8.38	1962	0	0				7	14	0	0	0	0	June	
July	90.2	70.2	80.2	105	1952	53	1962	0	8.17	4.89	1948	0	0				11	19	0	0	0	0	July	
Aug.	89.0	69.6	79.3	102	1954	50	1957	0	6.98	8.62	1955	0	0				9	16	0	0	0	0	Aug.	
Sep.	84.4	64.9	74.7	101	1939	44	1962+	0	6.68	12.23	1955	0	0				7	8	0	0	0	0	Sep.	
Oct.	75.7	53.7	64.7	97	1954	21	1962	84	3.17	5.53	1936	0	0				4	1	0	*	5	0	0	Oct.
Nov.	66.4	43.0	54.7	87	1950	16	1950	312	3.65	3.62	1937	T	0.2	1954	0.2	1954	5	0	0	5	0	0	Nov.	
Dec.	57.8	35.8	46.8	82	1951	8	1958	564	4.13	3.01	1941	0.9	10.0	1958	10.0	1958	7	0	*	12	0	0	Dec.	
Year	74.3	52.3	63.3	106	1954	8	1958+	2504	55.41	12.23	1955	2.8	11.5	1936	11.5	1936	84	64	1	45	0	0	Year	

(a) Average length of record, years.

+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

\* Less than one half.

\*\* Base 65°F

CLIMATE OF NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA

NEW BERN is located in the east-central portion of the North Carolina Coastal Plain, near the center of Craven County. The surrounding terrain is nearly level, sloping gently from the inland western portion of the county toward the coast on the south and east; the elevation of New Bern is about 15 feet and most of the county lies below 50 feet. Situated on the south bank of the Neuse River where it becomes a broad estuary of Pamlico Sound, New Bern is about 30 miles inland from the Atlantic Ocean at its nearest point on the south. The distance to the Ocean on the east is about 50 miles, while the broad expanse of Pamlico Sound lies about 25 miles to the east and northeast.

The climate of New Bern is considerably influenced by the nearby Sound and Ocean, with the maritime effects more pronounced in winter than in summer. Winds blowing from a southerly or easterly direction have a moderating effect on temperature the entire year. Normal winter temperatures are decidedly mild, averaging about five degrees above those of localities one hundred or so miles inland at the same latitude; the difference in summer is less than half as large. The lowest temperature has fallen at New Bern in the past 30 years was 8 degrees above zero; the minimum in the usual winter is considerably above this figure. Only about once per winter does the mercury fail to rise above the freezing point during the day. Snow is infrequent and usually light, averaging one inch or less in each of the winter months of December through February, most of it melting as it falls or shortly thereafter. Entire winters may pass without any snow being seen in New Bern, and it is a rarity for any snow of consequence to remain on the ground longer than a day or two.

In keeping with the mild winter climate, the yearly freeze-free period, or "growing season", is long, averaging 235 days. In spring, the average date of the last temperature of 24° or below is February 19; of 28° or below, March 10; of 32° or below March 22. The average date of the first autumn temperature of 32° or below is November 12, of 28° or below, November 23; of 24° or below, December 9. In the majority of winters the temperature never drops as low as 15°F.

Summers are long and usually quite warm. Occasional peak afternoon temperatures of 90° begin to occur in May, increase in frequency until July, when maximum afternoon temperatures average 90°, then become infrequent by the latter part of September. Excessively high temperatures are a rarity, however, as many entire summers pass without thermometer readings as high as 100°.

Rainfall is usually plentiful in the New Bern area. In fact, average rainfall in this section is higher than in any other portion of the State, except for some places in the Mountains. In spite of high annual precipitation, prolonged spells of gloomy weather are a rarity. Prolonged or severe drought is a great rarity, for if dry periods do occur during the growing season, the effects on crops are ameliorated by the relatively high water table which prevails in this area.

Sunshine is plentiful, averaging about 65 per cent of the maximum possible amount. The prevailing wind -- the direction from which the wind blows most frequently -- is southwesterly most of the year, except in the autumn months, when it blows more often from the northeast than any other direction. However, there is much variability in wind direction at all seasons.

Tornadoes are very rare in the New Bern area. As is the case with most other localities near the Atlantic Coast, this area is subject to effects of occasional tropical hurricanes. The worst seasons in this respect were 1954 and 1955; during the two years a total of four hurricanes entered the coast of North Carolina. The great majority of such storms skirt the coastline, remaining some distance offshore.

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Weather Bureau Airport Station  
 Raleigh-Durham Airport  
 North Carolina



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 U587cl  
 no 20-31  
 N.C., New Bern  
 N.A

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1933	52.8	48.4	54.5	64.0	77.0	79.9	80.1	80.8	79.9	67.6	54.5	53.3	66.1
1934	49.6	39.3	51.1	63.6	69.5	80.5	82.2	81.0	76.8	64.2	56.5	45.8	63.4
1935	45.4	48.5	60.5	61.2	69.6	78.9	79.4	79.6	74.4	65.2	57.2	39.4	63.3
1936	42.1	42.2	57.0	61.4	71.8	77.1	81.4	81.4	77.5	68.1	52.6	50.0	63.6
1937	58.7	46.2	51.5	61.7	70.6	79.2	80.3	80.3	72.1	62.1	51.4	44.5	63.2
1938	44.2	51.8	59.0	65.2	72.0	76.3	79.0	81.4	74.0	62.6	57.1	47.0	64.1
1939	48.0	53.2	56.9	62.2	69.0	79.4	78.5	78.8	76.2	66.2	51.2	44.9	63.7
1940	33.6	46.0	51.7	59.6	68.6	78.6	79.6	78.9	72.1	61.3	55.1	51.6	61.4
1941	44.2	41.5	48.4	64.4	71.2	76.6	80.6	79.2	77.0	65.6	55.7	49.4	63.2
1942	44.4	41.8	55.9	2.6	71.8	79.2	82.2	78.4	75.1	65.2	57.2	44.6	63.2
1943	46.6	47.2	52.6	59.5	71.2	81.4	79.0	79.2	71.2	62.1	53.2	45.3	62.4
1944	45.4	49.0	53.1	61.9	74.2	80.5	79.0	77.8	75.8	64.0	53.0	42.7	63.0
1945	43.6	49.2	63.4	67.1	68.6	78.2	80.0	77.0	78.3	64.5	57.4	42.7	64.2
1946	48.2	49.9	60.6	63.9	70.4	75.4	77.8	76.7	73.8	66.0	59.4	44.4	64.2
1947	51.0	39.3	45.8	63.9	70.7	75.4	77.4	79.8	74.8	68.0	52.3	44.4	61.9
1948	38.2	45.4	57.2	64.2	70.8	78.0	81.5	78.4	73.2	59.4	59.8	48.8	62.9
1949	33.2	52.4	53.6	62.1	69.8	77.6	81.5	80.4	73.5	68.0	53.5	48.5	64.5
1950	55.8	50.4	50.9	59.9	70.0	76.9	78.8	77.5	73.5	66.8	52.8	41.5	62.9
1951	48.0	48.6	53.0	61.7	68.6	77.5	79.8	79.6	74.9	67.1	52.4	50.8	63.5
1952	50.4	49.1	53.1	63.7	72.0	81.3	81.9	80.2	74.0	60.4	55.1	46.6	64.0
1953	51.2	51.2	55.3	63.5	76.5	76.0	81.3	78.9	74.1	65.6	54.0	49.1	64.7
1954	47.2	51.3	53.8	66.1	67.7	78.7	80.5	81.3	76.0	65.9	52.8	44.5	63.8
1955	43.2	48.6	59.4	66.1	71.9	73.9	81.5	79.7	75.6	64.8	54.3	42.9	63.5
1956	41.4	51.7	53.2	61.2	70.0	77.5	79.8	78.0	71.1	65.9	52.3	55.3	63.1
1957	45.2	51.3	51.4	64.1	70.1	76.7	77.9	76.0	74.7	58.1	53.9	47.6	62.3
1958	38.5	39.9	47.7	61.3	68.9	74.4	81.3	78.7	71.5	60.4	54.9	39.6	59.8
1959	43.1	48.1	52.7	62.9	71.2	75.9	78.7	79.1	73.6	65.7	54.0	46.8	62.7
1960	45.4	46.2	42.0	64.9	70.6	76.0	79.7	79.7	73.7	63.8	54.3	39.4	61.2
1961	40.6	49.5	57.7	67.3	66.9	74.7	80.6	78.8	75.5	60.9	54.8	46.9	62.0
1962	44.5	51.0	50.1	60.3	72.9	74.2	77.8	77.6	71.3	65.0	52.0	42.5	61.6

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1933	2.62	4.60	3.90	4.22	3.35	2.40	8.54	6.59	4.35	0.53	0.48	0.50	42.08
1934	1.75	5.25	6.38	3.12	6.41	1.32	4.50	5.19	6.66	0.19	5.32	4.71	50.80
1935	3.32	1.91	3.74	3.16	2.96	3.31	12.09	12.86	10.77	1.61	3.22	7.69	66.84
1936	7.44	5.44	6.70	2.28	1.21	4.35	6.63	4.84	4.59	9.93	2.88	8.14	64.43
1937	5.26	5.93	2.28	7.90	3.68	5.63	16.05	2.81	5.55	3.28	8.59	3.25	70.21
1938	2.55	1.69	2.33	7.39	2.84	5.74	5.43	2.85	12.89	2.85	2.86	4.36	53.78
1939	3.36	7.24	3.41	4.89	4.09	7.34	11.38	11.53	1.41	2.28	3.31	2.05	62.29
1940	3.24	4.58	3.00	3.10	4.46	4.02	2.29	12.48	4.42	0.82	2.45	1.74	46.60
1941	1.99	3.62	3.09	4.71	4.46	5.11	9.73	5.32	0.27	1.97	0.19	4.94	41.42
1942	2.48	2.55	5.05	0.30	0.98	4.82	3.08	6.81	8.13	8.38	1.06	5.25	48.89
1943	3.79	1.00	6.21	2.05	9.62	1.80	10.45	6.41	0.71	0.85	2.07	4.71	49.67
1944	5.43	6.41	5.40	4.47	1.84	0.26	7.24	5.88	3.31	2.45	3.83	3.04	49.56
1945	1.60	4.83	1.21	1.52	1.90	10.70	9.12	9.74	12.44	1.62	3.75	7.17	65.60
1946	3.50	3.60	2.21	1.75	5.49	7.40	12.23	8.58	11.99	1.97	2.12	2.77	63.61
1947	3.68	1.00	6.18	3.98	3.11	4.68	11.23	4.63	14.61	5.41	5.32	4.16	67.99
1948	6.45	7.34	3.43	2.42	4.92	3.71	8.42	6.30	6.44	5.88	8.36	5.98	69.65
1949	1.89	3.74	3.83	3.76	3.85	8.36	7.67	10.24	9.29	1.97	3.99	3.23	60.82
1950	2.20	1.66	3.65	2.99	8.57	6.37	16.71	2.72	3.43	2.60	0.83	2.68	54.41
1951	0.77	2.24	3.41	2.98	2.44	5.72	13.74	4.97	1.97	2.44	4.23	3.44	48.35
1952	2.20	5.45	4.61	2.96	4.96	3.34	5.24	6.39	7.35	1.18	5.94	3.16	52.78
1953	3.34	5.06	2.64	1.30	3.00	7.54	0.69	7.86	5.84	0.44	7.00	5.60	50.31
1954	2.89	2.24	3.86	2.42	2.97	1.41	5.27	7.74	2.45	2.12	2.25	4.85	40.47
1955	3.71	1.92	2.44	1.92	2.90	4.58	5.92	21.13	19.52	1.77	2.67	1.29	69.77
1956	2.06	4.11	3.38	2.28	3.94	5.04	6.95	4.34	8.32	12.08	0.55	1.86	54.91
1957	2.23	3.93	3.93	0.74	2.99	4.32	2.56	4.69	7.07	2.55	6.35	4.66	46.02
1958	3.88	3.48	5.22	2.42	6.62	5.27	5.65	3.14	9.15	6.14	1.17	5.51	57.65
1959	1.85	4.31	6.41	5.15	2.61	1.91	11.54	7.87	4.27	4.57	3.88	4.63	55.00
1960	5.71	5.17	4.44	2.13	5.40	3.93	12.25	4.34	5.63	1.50	2.85	2.44	55.79
1961	2.32	3.79	3.90	5.86	8.00	8.60	6.03	9.44	4.74	0.66	2.97	1.41	57.72
1962	5.15	3.09	4.04	4.29	1.44	17.36	6.98	3.69	3.91	2.78	3.32	1.84	59.89

STATION HISTORY

Broken and incomplete rainfall records for New Bern date back to 1872; except for a few missing months between changes of observers, complete records of both temperature and precipitation have been kept since 1888. The location of the instruments has been changed several times, but for the most part they have been located on open, level ground in the residential sections of New Bern.

Since February 1956 the equipment has been located at the Water Plant on U. S. Highway No. 70 about three miles northwest of the Post Office, where observations are taken by plant personnel. For the thirty year period covered by this summary, the few short periods of missing data have been filled in by substituting information from Simmons-Notre Airport, a short distance south of the city.