

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

LATITUDE 35° 40' N
 LONGITUDE 80° 29' W
 ELEV. (GROUND) 764 Ft.

STATION SALISBURY, N. C.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1930-1959

Month	Temperature (°F)								** Mean degree days	Precipitation Totals (Inches)						Mean number of days									
	Means			Extremes						Mean	Greatest daily	Year	Snow, Sleet				Precip. .10 inch or more	Temperatures							
	Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Record highest	Year	Record lowest	Year	Mean					Maximum monthly	Year	Greatest daily	Year		90° and above	32° and below	32° and below	0° and below				
																						Max.	Min.		
(a)	30	30	30	30		30		30	30	30		30	30		30	30	30	30	30		30	30		30	30
Jan.	52.7	31.7	42.2	81	1944	-11	1940	707	3.84	3.00	1936	2.0	11.0	1955	8.0	1955	7	0	1	17	*	Jan.			
Feb.	55.3	32.3	43.8	82	1948+	0	1958+	594	3.53	2.72	1934	1.6	11.2	1936	8.5	1948	7	0	*	14	0	Feb.			
Mar.	62.8	38.2	50.5	91	1945	10	1943	465	4.30	4.22	1952	0.9	9.0	1942	8.0	1942	8	*	0	10	0	Mar.			
Apr.	73.3	47.1	60.2	94	1930	23	1943	165	3.69	2.77	1944	T	T	T	T	T	7	1	0	2	0	Apr.			
May	82.1	56.4	69.3	102	1941	34	1943	25	3.67	5.44	1942	0	0	0	0	0	7	5	0	0	0	May			
June	89.4	64.3	76.9	105	1944	45	1946	0	3.89	2.28	1941	0	0	0	0	0	7	16	0	0	0	June			
July	90.9	67.6	79.3	105	1952	46	1956	0	5.70	4.77	1944	0	0	0	0	0	9	19	0	0	0	July			
Aug.	89.6	66.2	77.9	105	1943	46	1952	0	4.98	5.30	1943	0	0	0	0	0	8	17	0	0	0	Aug.			
Sep.	84.0	60.2	72.1	103	1954	34	1942	27	3.87	4.25	1956	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	0	0	0	Sep.			
Oct.	73.8	47.6	60.7	99	1941	21	1952	167	3.07	5.10	1954	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	2	0	Oct.			
Nov.	62.0	37.2	49.6	87	1950	11	1950	462	3.06	2.88	1938	T	1.0	1950	1.0	1950	6	0	0	11	0	Nov.			
Dec.	52.2	31.2	41.7	78	1956	-5	1935	722	3.72	3.16	1958	1.6	15.0	1930	13.0	1930	7	0	1	18	*	Dec.			
Year	72.3	48.3	60.3	105	1952+	-11	1940	3334	47.32	5.44	1942	6.1	15.0	1930	13.0	1930	82	67	2	74	*	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 SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

SALISBURY is the county seat and principal city of Rowan County, in the western portion of the Piedmont section of North Carolina. The city is built on gently rolling hills, typical of the topography of most of the County. Elevations above sea level throughout Rowan County range mostly between 600 and 800 feet, and within the city of Salisbury mostly between 700 and 800 feet. About 35 miles to the northwest of Salisbury the Brushy Mountains form a northeast-southwest barrier with peaks rising to 2500 feet; another 20 miles beyond, the Blue Ridge is similarly aligned, and a thousand to fifteen hundred feet higher.

These two mountain barriers, separated by the Yadkin River valley, tend to hold back the flow of cold air from winter outbreaks which move southward over the Plains States from central Canada. The weaker outbreaks are thus often prevented from reaching the Salisbury area, and the stronger are modified in passing over the mountains. While the temperature drops below freezing on more than half the days in winter, a temperature as low as zero happens only about once in ten years on an average, and there are only one or two days in a typical winter when the mercury fails to rise above freezing in the afternoon.

The average length of freeze-free growing season at Salisbury is 205 days. The average date of last occurrence in spring of a temperature as low as 32 degrees is April 7; of 28 degrees, March 27; of 20 degrees February 27. The average date of first occurrence in autumn of 32 degrees is October 28; of 28 degrees, November 8; of 20 degrees, December 2.

Summer days are warm in Salisbury, but nights cool rapidly, so that early morning temperatures average below 68 degrees at the hottest time of the year. Daytime heat is less persistent than in lower lying areas of the southern and eastern states; ninety degree weather occurs only about three-fourths as often as in eastern North Carolina. While 100 degree temperatures have been recorded in five different months of the year, such temperatures are rare; several years may pass without the occurrence of any 100 degree weather.

Precipitation is usually plentiful and well-distributed throughout the year at Salisbury. No calendar month averages less than three inches of rain, and no month as much as six inches. The heaviest rainfall occurs, on the average, during July and August, at the time of year when plant growth requires the most moisture, and when man, animal and industry consume the most water. The driest months are October and November, the time when fair weather favors the harvesting of farm crops. The winter months each average less than four inches of rain or melted snow.

The average annual snowfall at Salisbury is just over six inches, a little more than most places in eastern North Carolina; individual snows, however, are generally small, and the greatest fall of record is only a little over half that of some stations in the northeastern section of the State. No single month averages more than an even two inches of snow and sleet combined.

Most winter precipitation comes as a result of moving low pressure storms, while summer rainfall is mainly the result of thundershowers. Occasionally these thunderstorms produce strong winds and hail, but neither is likely to cover more than a few square miles, and the likelihood of a given point in Rowan County being struck by hail is very small. Autumn rainfall is sometimes increased by the movement of a tropical storm through the eastern part of the State or the offshore waters, but the passage of such a storm near enough to Salisbury to cause damaging winds is almost unknown.

Prevailing winds in Salisbury blow out of the north or northeast in the fall, and from the southwest at all other seasons. The average surface wind speed is about eight miles per hour. Northwesterly winds bringing cold air in winter are diminished by the two mountain ranges lying to the northwest of Salisbury.

The sun shines about sixty percent of the daylight hours in the Salisbury area, ranging from about half the time in December and January to more than two thirds of the time in May and June. The early autumn months are also quite sunny. Relative humidity averages about seventy percent around the year, with the highest humidities occurring in the late summer and the lowest in the spring.

CHARLES B. CARNEY
 Meteorologist in Charge

ALBERT V. HARDY
 State Climatologist

Weather Bureau Airport Station
 Raleigh-Durham Airport
 North Carolina

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1930	4.08	1.49	2.55	1.67	1.71	7.07	5.12	4.83	1.85	1.63	3.69	4.95	40.64
1931	2.15	1.45	4.22	4.90	6.89	1.70	4.10	1.70	1.34	1.03	.51	8.13	50.17
1932	6.58	2.34	4.66	2.52	1.38	1.17	1.17	4.37	7.79	7.59	5.86	7.53	53.45
1933	2.15	3.13	3.13	3.34	.93	3.01	3.57	2.46	2.21	2.21	1.88	2.43	30.94
1934	1.83	5.64	5.13	3.10	6.79	1.81	9.48	6.96	6.97	3.93	3.99	2.36	57.99
1935	2.85	3.06	7.90	4.15	3.43	1.95	10.53	2.00	4.94	1.33	3.40	2.20	47.74
1936	10.70	3.66	5.55	7.12	.11	3.01	7.51	5.83	3.96	7.48	1.49	5.50	61.92
1937	10.13	3.59	2.19	4.47	5.18	4.04	2.41	6.56	4.37	4.37	3.02	2.18	49.55
1938	2.63	1.27	2.59	2.91	4.52	3.89	10.60	2.23	1.88	1.36	4.18	3.98	42.04
1939	4.25	8.58	2.82	2.61	2.42	3.51	4.67	6.31	.90	2.05	1.23	2.93	42.28
1940	2.48	3.48	2.86	3.34	7.38	1.95	5.25	7.79	1.17	1.60	7.45	2.94	47.69
1941	2.01	1.60	4.26	3.26	.75	5.25	8.75	.70	1.97	.80	.58	4.15	34.08
1942	2.49	3.93	5.46	1.25	7.73	4.90	3.80	10.63	3.11	1.95	4.93	4.93	56.64
1943	4.82	1.80	5.30	3.80	2.22	9.02	6.95	6.85	4.08	1.00	.88	3.10	49.82
1944	3.76	5.02	7.31	7.21	2.21	2.40	9.38	2.44	10.31	2.77	3.15	2.80	58.76
1945	2.38	5.47	2.31	3.61	3.40	2.74	6.96	1.45	11.24	2.16	2.42	5.70	49.84
1946	3.11	1.99	2.98	2.82	4.61	3.55	4.23	4.86	2.78	3.00	2.23	1.80	37.96
1947	6.30	1.06	2.35	3.72	3.30	4.61	5.54	4.47	6.79	7.72	6.75	2.08	54.69
1948	4.64	3.46	6.25	1.71	6.41	4.33	2.20	6.87	4.00	3.35	7.66	4.45	55.33
1949	3.03	3.27	3.04	5.46	2.88	2.11	5.72	7.65	2.10	3.98	2.14	1.70	44.88
1950	2.27	1.81	3.55	1.55	6.91	3.24	5.67	1.87	2.86	2.75	2.11	2.15	36.74
1951	1.86	2.22	3.68	4.96	.78	4.81	5.06	.98	2.10	.30	3.70	5.73	36.18
1952	3.66	4.03	11.66	3.22	2.12	2.04	4.22	7.70	1.32	1.15	2.72	4.04	47.88
1953	3.48	6.25	5.31	2.15	1.15	4.81	3.38	4.01	5.11	.02	.71	6.21	42.59
1954	7.24	2.12	4.45	3.91	3.06	3.89	4.67	3.50	.93	6.65	3.29	4.54	48.25
1955	2.27	3.80	3.51	4.50	3.67	3.61	4.88	5.30	2.27	4.19	2.32	.43	40.75
1956	1.23	6.00	3.47	3.10	4.78	1.68	8.50	2.02	8.18	2.82	2.50	3.17	47.54
1957	3.19	6.75	3.50	3.15	4.40	7.15	3.71	3.14	5.90	1.77	7.95	2.68	53.29
1958	4.43	3.49	3.17	7.57	3.93	6.05	4.70	4.40	1.86	3.15	1.08	4.02	47.85
1959	3.19	3.67	3.96	4.09	2.86	4.94	8.76	6.28	5.21	4.74	1.45	2.75	51.90

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1930	42.4	46.5	48.0	59.0	70.3	73.6	80.2	74.6	75.2	54.6	45.7	34.5	58.7
1931	38.3	43.2	44.4	57.2	65.6	76.0	82.0	76.1	74.2	60.6	45.7	48.4	60.0
1932	48.9	49.0	46.8	58.5	67.2	76.6	80.8	77.6	70.6	59.8	45.8	43.6	60.4
1933	47.2	41.6	51.4	59.2	72.8	77.4	77.9	77.4	76.6	61.4	49.6	47.6	61.9
1934	44.8	36.8	47.9	60.8	67.6	77.9	80.4	78.0	73.2	60.4	52.1	42.0	60.2
1935	41.3	43.6	56.0	58.4	66.2	75.7	78.4	77.8	71.4	61.2	53.7	35.0	59.9
1936	36.8	38.6	53.4	56.2	70.5	75.8	80.0	77.6	73.3	62.7	49.0	43.6	59.8
1937	51.2	44.5	49.8	58.5	67.7	78.4	79.0	79.6	68.2	56.1	44.4	40.7	59.7
1938	39.6	47.0	57.2	60.6	69.8	75.3	79.6	80.0	72.2	59.5	53.0	40.7	61.2
1939	43.4	48.0	54.4	59.0	68.8	80.4	78.8	78.4	74.6	63.8	45.6	41.6	61.4
1940	28.6	41.8	47.2	58.1	67.6	77.8	78.2	77.8	70.3	60.3	49.9	44.8	58.5
1941	37.6	37.6	44.2	62.4	71.2	76.8	80.4	80.2	73.6	68.4	50.1	44.2	60.8
1942	38.8	38.2	51.2	62.2	70.2	77.8	80.7	78.0	73.2	61.4	50.8	39.6	60.2
1943	42.7	45.2	48.0	58.3	71.0	81.2	78.7	80.1	68.6	58.6	47.6	40.4	60.7
1944	39.8	44.3	48.2	58.7	73.0	79.5	77.4	76.0	72.3	59.1	47.7	36.4	59.4
1945	40.4	44.1	60.5	63.0	65.8	77.8	79.0	77.1	74.6	59.1	51.7	35.7	60.7
1946	42.1	45.6	57.4	62.0	67.6	76.5	78.0	75.7	71.3	61.0	54.1	44.7	61.3
1947	45.3	36.0	42.2	62.8	70.3	76.0	75.8	79.6	72.7	64.2	46.4	39.0	59.2
1948	35.1	42.8	54.8	63.8	69.7	76.9	80.6	77.7	70.2	57.2	54.0	45.6	60.7
1949	50.3	50.0	52.2	59.0	69.7	77.9	81.3	77.8	69.1	64.1	48.4	43.7	62.0
1950	52.5	45.8	48.4	58.6	70.6	76.4	78.0	76.5	70.5	64.2	47.3	37.8	60.6
1951	42.2	44.5	51.9	59.3	67.8	76.4	79.2	78.8	72.4	63.5	45.6	42.5	60.3
1952	46.6	44.8	49.7	59.4	68.5	80.2	79.5	74.8	68.6	55.5	49.7	40.6	59.8
1953	45.5	46.7	50.9	60.0	73.9	76.7	79.0	77.3	70.3	61.3	49.0	41.8	61.1
1954	41.3	48.0	49.4	64.2	63.6	75.5	78.9	78.8	74.8	62.2	45.8	39.4	60.2
1955	40.0	44.4	53.7	63.2	70.2	71.3	80.0	78.7	72.1	59.5	48.6	37.7	60.0
1956	38.6	46.1	50.2	57.4	68.9	75.3	77.9	77.9	69.0	61.6	51.5	46.1	62.1
1957	44.3	49.2	49.7	64.0	70.6	76.8	79.4	78.2	74.5	60.5	53.9	38.9	59.2
1958	37.3	36.3	46.0	60.3	69.6	76.7	80.1	78.9	72.0	60.5	49.4	43.3	60.5
1959	41.0	44.6	48.7	61.3	71.5	75.7	78.5	79.2	71.0	62.1	49.4	43.3	60.5

STATION HISTORY

Salisbury weather records are among the oldest and most complete in North Carolina, being almost unbroken in both precipitation and temperature since 1887. Most of the records used in this summary are from observations made by C. W. Smith at his home at 814 Lincoln Road. Since his death in 1956, C. W. Cranford, 731 South Church Street, has been Observer.