

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

LATITUDE 35° 54' N.
 LONGITUDE 77° 32' W.
 ELEV. (GROUND) 50 Ft.

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

STATION TARBORO, N. C.

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1927 - 1956

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	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						
Jan.	54.1	32.7	43.4	81	1932	5	1942	670	3.32	2.82	1943	2.1	13.0	1933	11.0	1933	6	0	1	16	0	Jan.				
Feb.	56.4	33.1	44.8	85	1930	7	1934	570	3.38	1.68	1927	1.4	20.0	1948	12.0	1948	7	0	*	13	0	Feb.				
Mar.	64.2	39.9	52.1	92	1945	13	1943	420	3.81	3.36	1952	1.1	15.0	1927	15.0	1927	7	*	0	9	0	Mar.				
Apr.	73.8	47.8	60.8	97	1930	27	1944	190	3.30	3.96	1936	T	T	—	T	—	6	1	0	1	0	Apr.				
May	82.2	57.3	69.8	101	1941	35	1947	20	3.55	2.49	1935						6	6	0	0	0	May				
June	88.7	65.3	77.0	105	1954+	45	1933	0	4.74	4.21	1950						7	15	0	0	0	June				
July	90.6	69.2	79.9	107	1942	53	1933	0	5.91	3.89	1940						9	19	0	0	0	July				
Aug.	89.2	67.8	78.5	106	1932	47	1936	0	5.89	6.55	1940						8	17	0	0	0	Aug.				
Sep.	84.7	62.4	73.6	102	1932	39	1942	10	4.29	4.88	1928						6	8	0	0	0	Sep.				
Oct.	75.2	50.6	62.9	98	1941	27	1952	120	2.74	3.60	1929						4	1	0	1	0	Oct.				
Nov.	63.9	40.0	52.0	86	1933	16	1950+	390	3.17	2.17	1927	T	1.0	1938	1.0	1938	5	0	0	8	0	Nov.				
Dec.	54.7	32.8	43.8	82	1931+	9	1942	660	3.30	3.40	1927	0.8	10.0	1935	6.0	1935	7	0	1	17	0	Dec.				
Year	73.1	49.9	61.5	107	1942	5	1942	3050	47.40	6.55	1940	5.4	20.0	1948	15.0	1927	78	67	2	65	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. Computed from mean temperatures.

CLIMATE OF TARBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

TARBORO is located in the east central portion of Edgecombe County, of which it is the county seat. Situated on the right bank of the Tar River about 46 miles from its mouth, Tarboro is only about fifty miles from the large inland sounds of North Carolina, and is less than 100 miles from the Atlantic Ocean in both easterly and southerly directions. Lying in the interior portion of the northern Coastal Plain, Edgecombe County is mostly level, with its area about equally divided between cultivated and forest lands. Tarboro is in the center of a rich agricultural and a growing industrial area.

The distance from Tarboro to the Appalachian Mountains on the northwest is slightly greater than the distance to the Atlantic Ocean on the east and south, being about 150 miles at the nearest point. This mountain barrier affords protection from cold winter outbreaks of air from the northwest. Thus, the coldest weather in the Tarboro area is likely to come on north-north-east winds; cold air from more easterly directions is modified to some extent in passing over the extensive water areas of the ocean and the sounds. During the thirty year period covered by this Summary, Tarboro has not had a temperature lower than 5 degrees above zero; the average winter is even less severe, with the temperature dropping to 15 or 20 degrees two or three times during the season. The temperature falls to the freezing point on only about half the days in winter, and a day when the mercury fails to rise above freezing is extremely rare. In mild years, entire winter months have passed without a temperature as low as freezing being recorded.

The average length of freeze-free growing season at Tarboro is 216 days. The average date of last occurrence in spring of a temperature as low as 32 degrees is March 30; of 28 degrees, March 17; of 20 degrees, February 17. The average date of first occurrence in autumn of 32 degrees is November 1; of 28 degrees, November 16; of 20 degrees, December 13.

Summer weather in Tarboro is warm, but the occurrence of extremely hot weather is very rare. Although temperatures of 100 degrees have been recorded in every month from May through September, these are isolated instances, and whole summer seasons may pass without a single occurrence of 100 degree weather. No temperatures higher than 98 degrees were recorded during the three year period, 1927-28-29.

July has the highest average temperature, as well as the highest extremes, with August and June almost as warm. Even during these months, the temperature usually drops sharply at night, and at no time of year does the average temperature exceed 70 degrees at sunrise. On the other extreme, the coldest weather occurs in January, December and February, usually in that order; but in individual years, December is often colder than January.

The average precipitation at Tarboro is ample, and is usually well distributed throughout the various seasons of the year. The heaviest amounts fall through the peak growing season, in June, July and August; this is also the time of year when evaporation is greatest, and when the most water is required for individual and industrial use. October, at the height of the harvest season, has the least rain and the most fair weather; November follows closely. During the six month period December through May, average monthly precipitation is uniformly near three and a half inches.

Most of the winter precipitation falls as rain. Although heavy falls of snow have occurred, the average amount is less than six inches in an entire winter, usually falling in light to moderate amounts which melt rapidly. The greatest snow of record, in March 1927, lay on open ground for four days, but most snows last only one or two days or less. A snow more than one inch in depth falls, on an average, only once each winter.

Winter rain and snow usually come 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 affect more than a small area; the likelihood of a given portion of Edgecombe County being struck by hail is very small. During the late summer and fall months, rainfall is sometimes increased by the passage of a tropical storm along or near the shoreline, but damaging winds from such a storm is a rare occurrence.

Prevailing winds in the Tarboro area are from southerly directions in spring and summer and northerly in winter, with northeasterlies predominating in the autumn. The average surface wind speed is eight or nine miles per hour.

The sun shines about sixty percent of the daylight hours in Edgecombe County; summer is the sunniest season, with sunshine about two-thirds of the time between sunrise and sunset, while in winter there is only about fifty percent sunshine. Relative humidity averages about 72 percent around the year, with the highest humidities occurring in late summer and the lowest in late winter and early spring.

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Weather Bureau Airport Station
 Raleigh-Durham Airport
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Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1927	41.2	51.2	52.7	59.6	70.4	73.3	78.3	74.9	73.8	64.5	55.4	44.5	61.6
1928	41.8	44.7	51.5	58.1	66.6	76.4	80.0	80.5	69.8	63.8	52.3	43.5	60.8
1929	43.6	48.4	56.4	63.3	69.0	74.0	77.2	77.2	71.8	61.2	53.6	45.0	61.1
1930	44.0	48.4	50.0	59.8	71.6	75.2	81.4	78.7	78.7	59.7	50.6	40.6	61.4
1931	41.9	45.2	45.8	58.4	68.5	76.2	82.6	76.3	76.3	76.3	63.7	57.2	62.2
1932	52.9	50.4	48.8	59.0	67.5	77.0	82.1	79.4	73.2	63.4	51.3	48.0	62.8
1933	49.4	46.0	51.8	61.0	71.1	78.2	78.7	79.3	78.6	63.6	50.2	48.9	63.3
1934	41.6	34.8	48.5	61.2	68.7	79.2	81.2	79.6	75.4	61.4	54.2	43.0	61.2
1935	41.6	44.2	57.8	68.0	77.6	79.8	79.3	78.9	72.6	62.5	55.4	36.9	61.0
1936	38.6	39.2	55.7	56.0	71.1	75.7	80.0	80.0	75.6	64.1	50.1	46.4	61.2
1937	52.6	43.6	49.1	59.4	69.5	78.2	79.7	78.2	70.8	59.6	49.5	42.6	61.1
1938	41.6	49.0	58.4	62.5	69.8	74.8	78.3	80.6	72.6	61.4	55.4	43.6	62.3
1939	45.2	51.0	55.2	60.2	68.8	77.7	79.1	79.1	74.8	64.2	48.2	43.4	62.3
1940	31.0	44.2	48.8	58.0	68.6	78.2	78.8	78.2	70.2	59.3	51.8	47.0	59.5
1941	40.5	38.2	45.4	63.1	70.2	75.8	80.5	78.0	76.1	67.7	52.4	45.7	61.1
1942	40.3	39.4	53.2	62.0	71.4	79.2	82.6	77.8	74.2	62.2	52.8	41.0	61.3
1943	43.0	44.6	50.2	58.3	72.2	82.0	80.2	80.8	71.2	61.6	50.4	40.8	61.3
1944	40.8	44.0	49.6	60.2	71.0	79.1	79.0	77.1	74.6	59.4	49.6	37.2	60.4
1945	38.6	44.9	50.8	64.8	65.8	77.4	79.2	75.8	76.6	60.8	52.7	37.9	61.4
1946	42.6	46.2	59.2	60.3	69.3	75.2	77.8	76.6	73.3	63.0	56.2	47.4	62.2
1947	47.2	37.4	43.6	62.5	70.8	75.4	76.8	78.7	72.8	66.0	48.2	40.4	60.0
1948	35.8	42.5	55.8	64.0	71.2	77.4	81.5	78.6	72.2	57.4	57.2	46.2	61.7
1949	49.5	48.9	52.6	60.4	69.3	77.8	80.9	80.0	71.8	65.4	50.7	46.6	63.0
1950	53.2	47.6	49.9	59.5	69.8	76.4	78.7	77.3	71.4	63.7	49.1	37.6	61.2
1951	43.1	44.6	50.6	60.5	68.2	77.0	80.3	79.5	73.5	63.5	47.8	45.1	61.1
1952	47.0	45.2	51.1	61.7	70.5	81.1	81.6	78.9	72.8	57.8	51.4	42.2	61.8
1953	47.0	47.5	53.8	62.5	75.1	76.2	80.9	79.2	73.3	63.2	48.9	45.9	62.8
1954	42.0	48.0	51.6	64.7	75.6	77.9	80.5	79.5	75.1	64.2	48.9	40.6	61.6
1955	39.8	43.1	55.3	64.6	70.3	72.0	81.1	79.5	72.5	62.0	50.1	38.0	60.7
1956	39.8	47.6	49.7	60.1	68.4	76.9	78.9	77.4	71.2	63.7	51.1	51.4	61.4

STATION HISTORY

Records of both temperature and precipitation were kept at Tarboro as early as 1871, but records of many of the earlier years are incomplete. There are several entire years missing from the temperature records, and one extended break—February 1877 to January 1877—in the precipitation records. Since May 1871, records of both temperature and precipitation have been practically continuous, with only occasional short breaks. Records of stages on the Tar River have also been kept since January 1905.

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1927	.64	5.42	2.92	4.16	1.42	3.69	6.81	8.78	1.71	3.79	3.84	6.35	49.53
1928	.96	3.86	2.69	5.73	4.97	5.77	4.59	4.70	11.18	1.09	1.96	5.11	52.61
1929	3.92	5.96	5.80	3.92	6.13	5.72	4.87	3.02	4.73	8.62	5.23	3.17	59.11
1930	4.04	1.46	2.08	2.63	4.13	8.24	3.06	2.63	1.22	2.81	1.89	4.19	35.72
1931	2.10	1.45	3.26	3.91	5.16	3.78	5.64	11.36	6.69	.91	.27	5.48	50.01
1932	3.56	2.30	3.18	1.58	5.20	2.85	3.53	2.71	1.53	5.03	2.98	5.06	39.51
1933	3.27	3.83	2.79	3.46	3.99	2.04	8.16	4.06	2.46	.29	1.27	2.99	36.85
1934	2.15	4.64	5.69	4.22	4.96	4.25	7.41	9.39	4.65	.22	3.35	2.24	53.17
1935	4.00	2.51	3.53	4.12	4.05	1.40	9.20	3.48	5.99	.81	4.28	3.27	46.64
1936	4.69	3.84	4.05	5.57	.75	7.77	12.68	1.29	.92	7.05	4.14	4.58	57.33
1937	6.80	4.08	2.12	5.77	1.50	5.08	4.17	7.05	2.18	3.68	4.33	2.66	49.42
1938	3.37	.86	2.11	6.00	5.51	6.32	5.83	1.12	8.68	2.76	1.75	2.66	47.28
1939	4.64	7.57	4.84	4.52	1.76	6.01	9.90	8.33	2.33	1.90	3.19	2.35	57.34
1940	3.05	2.30	3.78	2.87	2.68	3.23	4.57	14.14	3.46	.71	3.94	2.55	47.28
1941	1.71	3.32	3.79	3.49	1.23	8.63	9.46	7.26	1.67	2.70	.83	2.38	46.47
1942	1.28	2.33	6.01	1.28	3.30	3.28	4.83	9.14	1.53	6.67	1.60	4.66	45.91
1943	5.66	1.26	5.02	2.74	3.37	5.32	4.91	.76	1.45	.67	1.00	3.89	36.03
1944	4.44	4.94	7.91	3.62	3.63	2.06	5.40	2.05	6.69	2.82	3.26	2.59	49.41
1945	2.55	5.01	2.03	2.03	3.63	3.77	11.01	4.65	6.51	1.00	3.86	5.75	51.80
1946	3.01	3.94	.89	5.46	3.62	3.93	2.66	4.80	4.03	1.98	4.21	1.25	41.78
1947	4.46	1.02	3.44	3.98	1.79	4.23	6.05	4.58	6.38	2.59	7.49	1.81	47.82
1948	4.12	4.49	4.13	1.39	3.20	1.96	3.55	4.84	3.21	6.18	8.73	4.68	50.48
1949	1.91	3.38	2.60	2.55	5.32	3.63	3.22	8.31	4.99	1.16	4.06	1.36	42.71
1950	2.91	1.43	2.86	1.70	5.42	10.25	4.85	3.34	3.49	2.58	1.44	2.56	42.83
1951	1.80	1.43	3.09	2.62	2.47	7.15	5.23	2.76	2.16	4.04	3.64	2.57	38.96
1952	3.55	5.58	7.62	1.56	3.32	2.87	6.76	12.19	1.91	1.24	3.42	2.48	52.50
1953	2.07	4.34	2.95	2.98	3.28	8.17	2.48	3.13	4.15	.77	3.28	5.04	42.64
1954	7.52	1.05	4.70	1.43	3.01	.92	4.30	6.96	1.46	1.88	2.21	3.43	40.80
1955	2.56	2.56	4.19	1.43	3.41	5.09	4.62	13.61	12.44	1.69	2.39	1.16	55.94
1956	2.13	5.34	4.10	4.47	2.79	4.73	7.59	6.17	8.81	4.41	1.41	2.23	54.18

STATION HISTORY (Continued)

The location of the temperature and precipitation instruments has been changed only two or three times during the period of record; all locations have been within the city of Tarboro, within a radius of four or five blocks, and all have been within a foot or so of the same elevation. The present location is at the home of the Observer, Mr. E. H. Ward, at 804 St. David Street.

Published Through The Courtesy of The Tarboro Chamber of Commerce