

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
WEATHER BUREAU

LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA

WITH COMPARATIVE DATA

1956

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE



NARRATIVE CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

Delaware is part of the Atlantic Coastal Plain consisting mainly of flat low land with many marshes. Wilmington, at the northern end of the State, marks the beginning of low rolling hills extending northward into Pennsylvania. The Delaware River and Delaware Bay constitute the eastern boundary of the State while the broad Chesapeake Bay lies twenty-five miles, or less, to the west of the western boundary. These large water areas influence the climate of Delaware to a considerable extent.

The year-round climate of the Wilmington vicinity is mild and favorable for agriculture and manufacture. Winters are seldom severe. January is the coldest month with an average temperature of 33.3° and zero temperatures are infrequent. Since 1894 only 35 days with zero or below have occurred in the Wilmington area. The average date of the first snow is December 5th and the average annual fall amounts to 21.1 inches. As a rule snow does not remain on the ground more than a few days at a time.

Spring comes early in northern Delaware. The average date of the last killing freeze is April 14th. The average maximum temperature for March and April is 53.0 and 63.2 degrees, respectively. And, considering the latitude, the growing season of 197 days is quite long: the average date of the first killing freeze is October 29th.

The warmest month of the year is July with an average temperature of 75.9°, an average maximum temperature of 86.7° and an average minimum of 65.0°. During the past 63 years there have been 31 days with a temperature of 100° or over. The average number of days with 90° or over is 20. The proximity of large water areas and the inflow of moist southerly winds cause the relative humidity to be quite high all year. During the summer the average is 75%. Thunderstorms, frequent during the summer, usually occur during the late afternoons of hot humid days, with the effect of welcome relief.

The average number of days with heavy fog is 49; they occur in every month of the year, but with the maximum number in the Fall and Winter seasons. Light SE winds blowing up Delaware Bay favor the formation of heavy fog.

The average annual precipitation of 44.50 inches occurs in monthly falls ranging from 2.98 inches in February to 5.28 inches in August. Long droughts are uncommon. Tropical hurricanes moving northward along the Atlantic Coast occasionally cause heavy rain in northern Delaware but Wilmington winds seldom reach hurricane force. There is almost a complete freedom from tornadoes. Strong easterly and southeasterly winds occasionally cause high tides resulting in the flooding of lowlands and damage to beach front homes.

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

TOTAL PRECIPITATION

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	An. 1.
1910	34.4	36.7	47.8	57.4	65.0	70.3	78.5	72.3	66.2	56.2	39.2	27.2	54.3
1911	33.6	30.8	37.4	48.2	65.4	68.4	74.7	70.6	65.0	52.6	40.8	36.6	52.0
1912	28.4	34.7	40.8	55.0	65.8	72.2	76.8	74.4	70.8	61.0	48.7	39.0	55.6
1913	43.3	35.3	39.2	55.6	64.2	74.0	78.6	75.7	68.5	60.8	48.8	40.6	57.9
1914	36.6	30.4	49.4	53.3	68.2	74.0	76.1	76.8	68.4	61.6	46.8	33.6	55.5
1915	36.2	39.1	39.2	58.6	62.1	69.4	77.5	74.4	72.2	60.4	47.2	34.6	55.9
1916	38.2	32.5	36.6	52.8	66.4	69.6	76.8	75.0	66.4	56.7	44.4	32.4	54.0
1917	32.2	30.6	39.6	51.8	65.8	71.2	75.4	74.6	69.0	52.2	42.0	25.7	51.3
1918	22.4	31.5	44.0	51.8	66.8	68.8	74.1	76.8	64.2	58.7	45.6	40.2	53.7
1919	35.8	35.0	45.4	51.2	62.7	71.2	75.2	71.8	67.6	61.8	45.3	30.1	54.4
1920	25.2	29.6	41.8	50.0	58.2	69.8	73.1	73.4	67.8	60.2	43.9	36.9	52.5
1921	34.2	36.4	51.6	57.2	62.0	72.2	77.7	71.3	71.7	56.4	45.8	35.4	56.0
1922	29.1	36.2	43.6	53.3	65.2	73.4	75.0	72.6	68.8	58.4	45.3	34.0	54.6
1923	32.5	28.2	41.8	51.7	61.7	74.8	74.4	72.9	68.9	55.2	44.2	41.8	54.0
1924	33.5	31.2	40.0	49.2	58.1	68.2	73.2	73.4	63.8	57.0	44.2	34.4	52.2
1925	29.9	39.7	45.0	54.0	58.8	76.8	75.8	72.4	71.4	50.6	43.1	34.9	54.4
1926	31.6	32.3	37.2	48.9	61.1	66.5	74.5	74.0	66.3	54.9	43.4	30.6	51.8
1927	31.0	38.2	43.8	49.2	59.9	66.9	73.8	67.5	67.0	56.2	48.8	37.0	53.4
1928	33.8	33.8	40.4	48.0	60.1	68.9	75.5	76.0	64.0	57.8	47.3	37.4	53.6
1929	32.2	32.7	48.0	54.4	60.9	70.6	74.1	71.3	68.2	53.6	46.3	35.4	54.0
1930	33.4	37.8	42.4	49.9	64.7	73.0	76.7	73.9	72.3	53.8	45.2	34.2	54.8
1931	33.6	35.0	39.2	50.5	61.7	71.0	77.2	74.2	72.1	59.2	52.0	42.1	55.7
1932	44.2	38.3	37.6	50.2	62.0	70.7	75.0	74.6	68.8	57.6	44.1	36.4	55.0
1933	40.4	35.6	39.6	52.1	64.7	72.4	74.3	74.4	69.7	55.8	42.4	34.1	54.6
1934	36.2	20.2	38.0	51.0	64.2	74.0	77.4	71.3	68.8	54.0	48.0	34.4	53.1
1935	30.0	32.0	45.8	50.1	59.1	70.1	76.6	74.0	65.2	56.4	49.0	29.7	53.2
1936	28.2	25.0	46.8	49.6	65.0	70.8	75.9	75.8	68.8	57.5	43.0	38.3	53.7
1937	41.0	35.2	37.6	51.0	63.8	72.0	75.7	75.8	65.1	54.4	44.6	34.2	54.2
1938	32.8	36.4	45.0	54.1	60.9	70.4	75.9	76.5	68.0	57.6	47.8	35.8	54.9
1939	32.6	38.6	42.2	50.2	64.2	72.4	74.6	76.0	68.4	57.0	42.8	38.8	54.8
1940	22.9	33.0	38.4	46.8	61.2	70.3	75.4	70.8	64.8	52.1	44.8	39.0	51.5
1941	30.8	30.2	35.6	56.3	64.9	70.7	75.0	73.0	70.2	61.4	48.0	38.8	54.6
1942	31.0	30.7	43.8	54.8	65.6	71.4	75.4	72.6	67.9	57.4	46.2	31.3	54.0
1943	31.9	34.8	42.6	47.4	63.4	75.4	75.0	75.2	67.0	54.5	44.3	33.6	53.8
1944	34.4	34.2	38.9	50.0	67.3	71.7	75.8	74.7	71.2	55.2	45.6	31.6	54.2
1945	26.1	33.4	51.6	55.4	60.2	71.0	74.2	71.6	70.2	54.7	47.3	30.0	53.8
1946	34.2	35.0	50.4	50.2	61.6	67.4	73.4	69.6	68.4	59.1	47.8	37.4	54.5
1947	37.8	27.8	36.5	51.4	60.9	68.0	75.5	75.2	67.2	42.9	35.4	53.1	
1948	25.5	31.0	43.4	51.0	61.4	70.8	75.7	73.6	66.8	54.2	48.4	36.3	53.2
1949	39.2	38.6	43.2	52.0	62.9	72.8	78.7	75.1	64.2	60.4	44.5	37.5	55.8
1950	42.7	33.6	37.6	48.3	60.1	69.7	74.0	72.5	63.4	57.6	45.0	32.4	53.1
1951	34.2	34.8	41.5	51.8	61.9	70.4	75.9	73.8	67.0	59.1	41.5	37.6	54.1
1952	37.0	37.6	40.5	54.6	61.0	73.4	78.4	74.3	67.4	52.4	45.5	37.4	55.0
1953	37.8	38.4	44.4	52.3	63.2	72.2	77.0	74.5	68.2	58.0	45.2	38.7	56.0
1954	31.3	40.4	41.5	55.8	60.6	72.0	76.2	72.9	68.3	59.6	43.8	35.1	54.8
1955	31.5	34.1	43.5	54.8	64.8	68.8	81.2	77.9	67.2	58.1	43.3	29.9	54.6
1956	31.8	37.5	38.6	49.9	59.9	71.7	73.4	73.4	64.6	56.8	45.2	41.3	53.7
RECORD MEAN TEMP	34.5	36.2	41.6	52.2	62.0	71.3	76.7	74.2	66.3	57.4	44.8	36.2	54.5
MAX	42.5	45.1	50.9	62.7	72.6	82.0	87.2	84.4	76.8	67.9	54.5	44.6	64.3
MIN	26.5	27.3	32.2	41.7	51.3	60.6	66.2	64.1	55.9	46.8	35.1	27.8	44.6

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
1910	4.07	1.20	1.35	3.88	1.93	6.84	5.42	4.69	3.93	3.29	3.62	2.53	42.75
1911	3.58	2.13	2.57	4.21	1.22	6.66	4.39	14.91	2.18	4.83	6.42	3.95	57.05
1912	2.12	3.21	8.17	3.28	3.90	2.65	5.80	1.78	8.10	3.36	4.01	5.06	51.44
1913	3.63	2.35	6.37	7.18	5.41	1.21	3.52	4.41	2.96	5.16	1.90	2.92	47.02
1914	4.04	2.81	2.19	3.92	1.11	1.59	7.60	3.15	0.65	2.09	1.72	5.83	36.70
1915	5.18	6.48	1.59	3.47	5.21	5.56	2.40	5.97	0.38	2.58	1.27	3.56	43.65
1916	1.85	3.38	3.87	2.52	2.32	4.55	6.86	0.46	2.18	1.69	2.16	5.23	37.07
1917	3.71	2.00	5.56	2.54	2.81	5.46	6.14	4.35	4.06	6.73	0.91	2.08	46.35
1918	4.55	1.42	2.24	4.73	2.98	3.19	1.37	2.45	3.37	0.88	1.53	3.99	32.70
1919	3.63	3.41	5.19	4.37	5.66	3.22	13.55	5.12	2.52	3.16	5.47	4.15	59.45
1920	2.73	3.35	4.35	4.54	3.57	5.78	5.12	9.62	5.85	0.45	4.48	4.43	54.27
1921	2.48	2.58	2.70	3.78	3.66	2.31	4.10	6.63	3.41	1.20	3.66	3.24	39.75
1922	2.88	3.42	5.35	1.50	2.72	4.87	3.68	3.37	1.26	1.40	0.63	3.23	34.31
1923	4.27	2.94	4.08	4.49	2.32	1.05	6.34	3.84	5.13	3.45	2.66	3.83	44.40
1924	4.25	4.42	3.00	5.33	5.90	7.38	3.40	4.46	5.61	0.06	2.03	2.36	48.20
1925	4.20	2.42	3.19	2.95	2.38	1.29	4.80	2.03	1.54	5.90	4.02	1.27	35.99
1926	3.42	4.09	2.04	1.76	2.98	2.50	8.17	2.88	5.70	3.62	3.56	3.25	43.97
1927	2.44	2.59	1.81	2.65	2.28	3.06	6.51	7.22	2.94	5.78	5.30	4.38	47.16
1928	2.62	4.51	2.32	5.47	2.61	7.39	6.88	8.97	4.74	1.32	1.45	2.64	50.92
1929	2.80	4.18	2.29	6.94	2.75	3.41	1.08	4.79	6.33	4.88	3.42	3.48	46.25
1930	3.36	3.04	2.71	1.75	3.13	2.09	2.72	1.86	5.45	1.14	1.80	2.50	31.55
1931	2.35	1.80	4.26	2.65	4.54	4.60	5.59	9.07	1.29	2.09	1.07	2.29	41.60
1932	6.02	2.15	6.87	1.48	4.02	4.91	1.55	3.50	2.97	6.21	7.14	3.18	50.00
1933	8.66	3.59	5.14	5.75	6.16	1.49	8.12	11.10	3.48	1.79	1.04	2.86	51.48
1934	2.83	2.83	3.60	4.00	4.16	4.78	4.52	5.33	6.98	1.64	4.38	2.45	47.50
1935	5.04	3.48	2.73	3.68	3.40	5.20	4.23	4.60	6.60	3.09	6.25	2.53	50.83
1936	7.45	2.72	5.97	2.98	2.90	3.39	2.71	7.01	3.47	3.11	0.78	5.46	47.95
1937	6.36	2.30	2.09	4.41	2.37	5.48	2.58	6.57	2.69	5.29	3.19	1.38	44.71
1938	2.48	2.02	2.52	2.41	2.02	4.05	8.37	6.94	5.20	1.91	2.80	3.48	50.24
1939	3.57	5.90	3.85	6.47	0.35	5.59	1.67	6.78	0.87	5.68	0.72	1.90	43.35
1940	1.51	2.87	5.64	6.47	4.88	2.04	1.87	5.33	2.99	2.67	4.58	2.62	43.47
1941	3.17	1.88	1.99	2.90	1.42	3.61	5.66	3.21	0.73	1.84	2.91	3.78	33.20
1942	8.89	2.67	5.60	1.12	2.49	2.41	9.05	5.94	2.14	3.98	3.08	4.37	49.34
1943	2.73	1.88	2.76	3.58	6.18	4.05	3.87	1.12	0.45	6.20	3.54	1.45	37.79
1944	3.39	2.00	6.02	2.31	5.08	1.31	3.53	6.58	2.14	4.60	3.35	45.49	
1945	4.27	3.15	2.73	4.32	5.17	4.80	9.94	10.67	4.41	1.85	5.70	4.04	61.05
1946	1.76	1.95	3.29	1.88	7.12	6.42	4.78	6.26	3.91	2.11	1.38	2.25	43.09
1947	3.72	1.47	2.39	6.20	7.24	4.27	2.99	2.31	2.19	2.32	8.11	1.80	45.92
1948	4.05	2.66	3.76	3.07	7.35	5.25	1.15	4.58	1.87	1.25	4.82	5.25	45.06
1949	5.55	4.18	3.00	2.69	4.10	0.98	6.16	3.55	3.08	3.63	1.15	2.90	40.97
1950	1.97	3.11	4.74	1.81	3.32	2.45	4.35	3.05	7.06	2.46	4.22		

MONTHLY AND SEASONAL SNOWFALL

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE
NEW CASTLE COUNTY AIRPORT
1956

Season	Average Temperature, Total Precipitation, Monthly and Seasonal Degree Days, and Monthly and Seasonal Snowfall												Total
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	
1909-10	0	0	0	0	0.5	23.5	11.0	2.0	1.0	T	0	0	38.0
1910-11	0	0	0	0	0	12.5	4.0	6.5	3.5	T	0	0	26.5
1911-12	0	0	0	0	0	T	16.5	0.8	7.0	0	0	0	24.3
1912-13	0	0	0	0	0.5	12.0	T	1.5	0	0	0	0	14.0
1913-14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.7	13.0	13.3	0	0	0	27.0
1914-15	0	0	0	0	0	1.5	2.0	2.1	10.2	12.0	0	0	27.8
1915-16	0	0	0	0	T	6.0	1.4	5.7	6.0	6.7	0	0	25.8
1916-17	0	0	0	0	T	14.0	4.5	7.4	0.7	5.5	0	0	32.1
1917-18	0	0	0	0	1.5	3.7	24.0	2.7	0	T	0	0	31.9
1918-19	0	0	0	0	0	0.8	0.5	2.0	1.0	T	0	0	4.3
1919-20	0	0	0	0	0	6.2	2.5	11.2	4.5	T	0	0	24.4
1920-21	0	0	0	0	0	3.5	1.0	8.2	2.0	3.0	0	0	14.7
1921-22	0	0	0	0	0	8.0	20.3	6.0	0.8	0	0	0	35.1
1922-23	0	0	0	0	T	2.2	5.0	7.0	6.0	0.5	0	0	20.7
1923-24	0	0	0	0	0	1.5	0.2	12.2	1.5	8.0	0	0	23.4
1924-25	0	0	0	0	0.5	0.5	13.5	T	T	0	0	0	14.5
1925-26	0	0	0	3.0	0.8	T	3.0	17.9	T	T	0	0	24.7
1926-27	0	0	0	0	0	4.3	6.7	6.3	T	1.2	0	0	18.7
1927-28	0	0	0	0	T	6.0	12.0	0.7	2.0	0.8	0	0	21.5
1928-29	0	0	0	0	T	6.0	1.0	8.7	T	0	0	0	15.7
1929-30	0	0	0	0	0.2	2.5	7.0	1.5	T	T	0	0	11.2
1930-31	0	0	0	0	T	1.2	1.0	0.5	3.0	0	0	0	5.7
1931-32	0	0	0	0	0.5	T	1.0	T	7.0	T	0	0	8.5
1932-33	0	0	0	0	T	13.0	T	13.0	4.0	0	0	0	30.0
1933-34	0	0	0	0	0.5	5.5	T	26.2	12.5	T	0	0	44.7
1934-35	0	0	0	T	T	0.2	27.0	7.4	1.0	T	0	0	35.6
1935-36	0	0	0	0	0.8	14.5	4.7	11.0	T	T	0	0	31.0
1936-37	0	0	0	0	T	0.5	T	5.0	7.5	T	0	0	13.0
1937-38	0	0	0	T	T	1.0	T	3.5	3.0	T	0	0	7.5
1938-39	0	0	0	0	8.5	0.3	12.0	T	2.5	T	0	0	23.3

The horizontal lines drawn on the Average Temperature, Total Precipitation, Monthly and Seasonal Degree Days, and Monthly and Seasonal Snowfall tables separate the data according to station location (see Station Location table).

STATION LOCATION

Location	Occupied from	Occupied to	Altitude and direction from previous location	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation above								REMARKS
						Sea level		Ground						
						Ground	Actual barometer elevation (ft.)	Wind instruments	Extreme thermometers	Psychrometer	Telepsychrometer	Tipping bucket rain gage	Weighing rain gage	
COOPERATIVE STATIONS														
Wilmington, Delaware 6th & King Streets	4- 1-94	*7-12-16		39° 45'N	75° 33'W	86							35'	Ordinary thermometer exposed outside N window; Sept. '09 max. and min. in use, Exposure thermometers "poor".
Porter Reservoir Wilmington, Delaware 1.9 miles NNE of P.O.	3- 1-12	Present	2.2 mi. NNE	39° 46'N	75° 33'W	260			3'				3'	Home made shelter in use; C.R. shelter Sept. 1936, good exposure over sod. Pcpn. readings began 7-12-12.
Wilmington, Delaware 10th & King Streets 1 block S of P.O.	*7-12-16	Present	1.9 mi. SSW	39° 45'N	75° 33'W	99							47'	During most of the time this station has been precipitation only.
AIRPORT STATION														
Bellanca Field, New Castle, Delaware. 6.1 miles SSW Wilmington P.O.	*4-20-31	*6- 1934	6 mi. SSW	39° 40'N	75° 36'W									Airway Observations telephoned to WBAS, Camden, New Jersey. Observational records not available.
DuPont Airport, Wilmington, Delaware 3 miles WNW Wilmington P.O.	4-27-42	12- 8-42	6.8 mi. N	39° 46'N	75° 36'W									WBAS 7-9-42 to 12-8-42. Observational records not available.
New Castle County Airport Tower, Wilmington, Delaware. 5.6 miles SW of P.O.	5- 9-47	11- 6-47	5.6 mi. SSW	39° 40'N	75° 36'W			75						Airway Obs. by County Tower employees. Ceiling, visibility and wind only.
New Castle County Airport, Administration Bldg., Wilmington, Del. 5.6 miles SW of P.O.	11- 7-47	12- 5-47	125 yds. SW	39° 40'N	75° 36'W	73	80	75	5	5			3	Wind instruments of location No. 6 used. No barometer observations made at this location.
New Castle County Airport, Terminal Building Wilmington, Del. 5.6 miles SW of P.O.	12- 5-47	7-16-56	150 ft. NE	39° 40'N	75° 36'W	73	80	34	5	5			4-	Barometer readings started January 16, 1948. Exposure of instruments good.
New Castle County Airport, New Terminal Building, Wilmington, Del. 5.5 miles SW of P.O.	7-16-56	Present	7/8 Miles SE	39° 40'N	75° 36'W	78	96	72	5	5			4	Exposure of Instruments excellent.

* Exact dates doubtful
Through December 1931, WBO Baltimore, the Section Center, combined the temperature records at Porter Reservoir and the precipitation records from location No. 3 into a Wilmington report. WBAS, Wilmington has used data from locations No. 1, No. 2, No. 8 and No. 9 as official Wilmington data.

Data considered official for local records and for the Local Climatological Summary obtained as follows:
 Location No. 1 - Temperature April 1894 - February 1912, Precipitation April 1894 - July, 1912.
 Location No. 2 - Temperature March 1912 - December 1947, Precipitation July 1912 - December 1947.
 Location No. 8 - All elements January 1, 1948 - July 15, 1956.
 Location No. 9 - All elements beginning July 16, 1956.