

## Forecast: Fair and Fabulous

Just as Charlotte's location offers residents the benefits of both the mountains and the ocean, it also offers the best of all worlds in weather. This makes the city's weather one of its strongest assets, attracting visitors and new residents alike. The year is filled with days which invite you outside to enjoy the clear blue sky and bright sun, the perfect backdrop to Charlotte's beautifully landscaped neighborhoods, commercial areas, parks and lakes.

The area's climate can best be described as moderate, pleasant and sunny. Forget about the winter blues of our northern neighbors or the stifling summer heat of our southern friends. In Charlotte, the weather entices you outside all year round.

### Friendly Winters

Charlotte's winter offers you a taste of the old man without all the shoveling, swerving and salt. Only half of the winter days fall below freezing and sub-zero (-18°C) temperatures have only occurred five times since 1878.

Snow is infrequent, with an average annual accumulation of less than six inches, but Charlotte is only two hours away from excellent snow skiing in the North Carolina mountains. Residents can enjoy the snow, without having to endure it.

### Favorable Summers

The summer months lure Charlotteans outside. The bright sun and clear skies, dappled with pure white clouds, fill the summer days. Unlike cities to the south though, very hot weather conditions (90°F, 32°F) occur only 36 days in Charlotte compared to 81 days in Jacksonville, Florida and 83 days in Houston, Texas. On the average, temperatures reach 100°F (38°C) only twice a year. With an average summer temperature of 76°F (24°C) and an average daily range of 20 degrees, these inviting days are punctuated by cool nights under starry skies.

### Fantastic Springs and Autumns

The transformations of the seasons in Charlotte are the most breathtaking times of the year. The slow emergence of spring, from mid-March through May, provides residents with a visual extravaganza. The Carolina blue skies accentuate

the pinks, reds, yellows, purples and soft whites of the spring blooms which fill the city. Those same skies, crisp and clear, provide the setting for the brilliant array of colors which paint the trees during a fall which extends well into November.

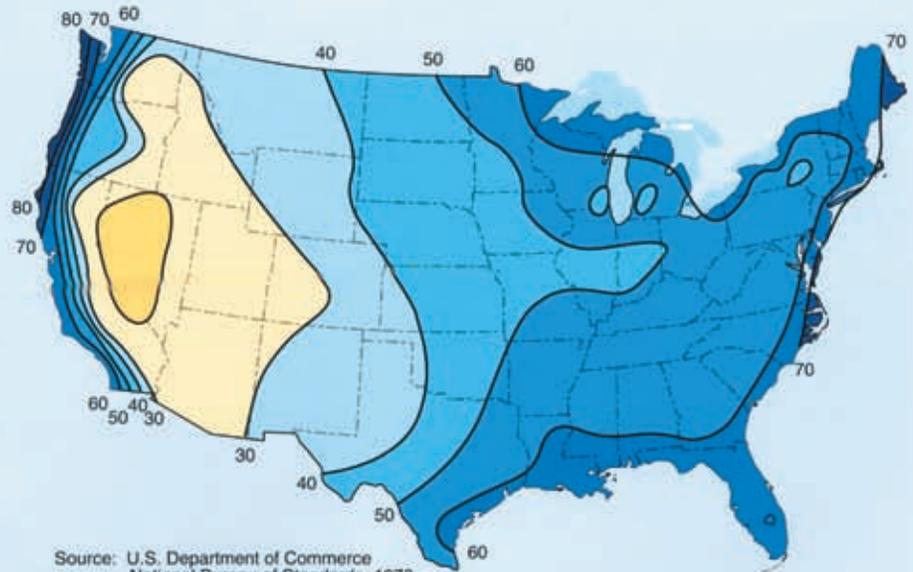
Both seasons are appreciably long, providing a slow, enjoyable gateway into summer or win-



Throughout  
the year,  
Charlotteans  
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outside by  
beautiful  
weather.

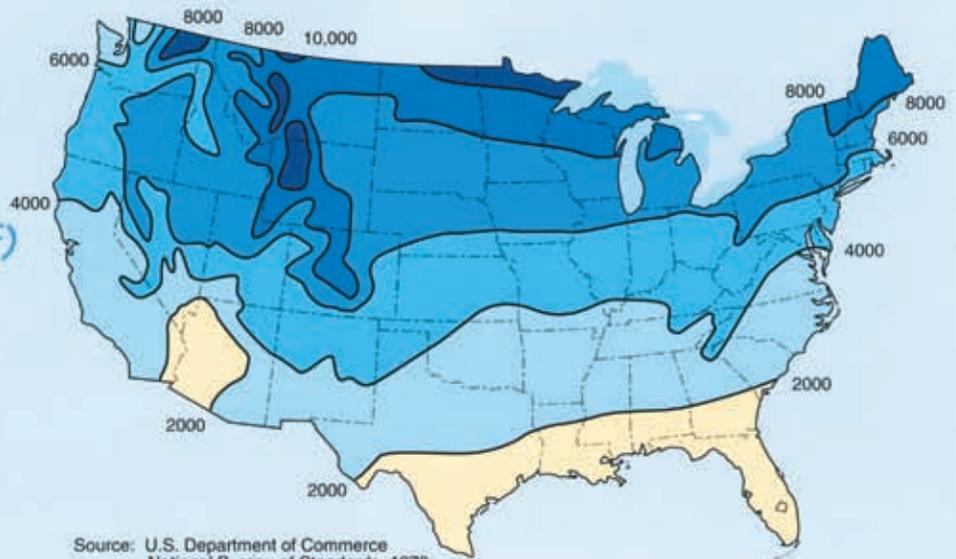
The city's moderate temperatures and low number of heating and cooling degree days benefit residents by reducing energy and construction costs.

### Average Mid-Day Relative Humidity



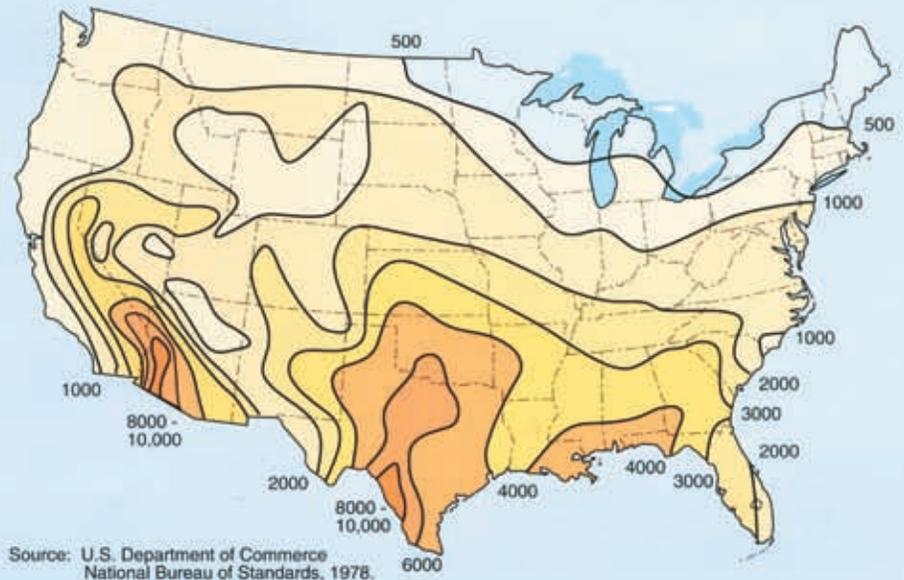
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce National Bureau of Standards, 1978.

### Annual Heating Degree Days (Base 65°F)



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce National Bureau of Standards, 1978.

### Annual Cooling Degree Hours (Base 85°F)



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce National Bureau of Standards, 1978.

ter. The average frost free season lasts 216 days from mid-March to mid-November. October and November welcome the cool temperatures which invite people outside to enjoy those brilliant fall colors which rival those of New England but are unknown in the deep south.

## Balanced Rainfall

Once again the Charlotte climate offers the best of both worlds. The necessary rainfall is evenly distributed throughout the year with an average annual precipitation of 43 inches (107.5 cm). By comparison, Miami has 60 inches (150 cm) and Denver 13 inches (32.5 cm). The summer months host the heaviest rainfall; March is the wettest month, with 4.8 inches (12.2 cm); October is the driest month, with 2.7 inches (6.9 cm) of precipitation.

These refreshing rains are well balanced. Only occasionally will Charlotte have dry spells, which last one to three weeks. Droughts are rare and

Charlotte has never had a major flood. Though occasional lowland flooding occurs, local stream and river basins are sufficient to carry most rain-falls effectively.



## Normal Temperatures, Highs, Lows, and Precipitation

City*	January		June		Annual Precip. Inches
	Max F°	Min F°	Max F°	Min F°	
Atlanta	51	33	88	69	48.6
Baltimore	41	24	87	67	41.8
Boston	36	23	82	65	43.8
Charlotte	50	31	88	69	43.1
Chicago	29	14	83	63	33.3
Cincinnati	37	20	86	65	40.1
Cleveland	33	19	82	61	35.4
Denver	43	16	88	59	15.3
Detroit	31	16	83	61	30.9
Houston	62	41	94	73	44.8
Indianapolis	34	18	85	65	39.1
Kansas City	40	19	93	70	28.6
Los Angeles	67	48	84	64	14.8
Memphis	46	28	90	69	48.5
Miami	75	59	89	76	57.5
Milwaukee	26	11	80	61	30.9
Minneapolis	20	2	83	63	26.3
New Orleans	62	43	91	74	59.7
New York	37	26	84	69	42.8
Philadelphia	39	24	86	67	41.4
Phoenix	65	39	105	80	7.1
Portland	44	34	80	56	37.4
St. Louis	38	20	89	69	33.9
San Francisco	55	42	71	53	19.7
Seattle	44	34	75	54	38.6
Washington, DC	43	28	88	70	39.0

Charlotte enjoys approximately 214 bright, delightful days of significant sunshine each year.

Source: National Climate Data Center - U.S. Dept. of Commerce - 30 year averages for 1960-1990. \*Largest city within MSAs with over \$15 billion in wholesale sales - data unavailable for 3 cities.

## Relative Humidity

Relatively speaking, Charlotte is not the sultry South many think it to be. The city's normal summer humidity is 74%, compared to 80% in the central interior of the United States, 77% in Jacksonville, Florida, and 76% in Houston. Yearly morning humidity averages 83%, noon humidity, 54% and evening humidity, 61%.

## Absence of Severe Weather

Severe weather, such as hurricanes and tornadoes, is a rarity in Charlotte. The city is located outside principal tornado zones and the typical path of hurricanes along the east coast is such that storm centers are usually at sea by the time storms reach this latitude. The few storms that pass close to the North Carolina coast have little adverse effect on Charlotte.

## Up to the Minute Forecasts

Accurate weather information for Charlotte is only a phone call away. The Charlotte office of the National Weather Service has a number of ways to keep you informed:

**Forecasts:** For recorded forecasts for the local area, beaches and mountains, dial (704) 359-8466.

**Other Weather Information:** Contact the National Weather Service at (704) 359-8284 for personalized service between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The office is located at 5318 Morris Field Drive, Suite 200, Charlotte, NC 28208.

**NOAA Weather Radio:** The continuous broadcast at 162.475 Mhz (VHF-FM) will keep you posted on forecasts, weather watches and warnings, weather map features, educational information and will provide safety tips during severe weather.

### Charlotte Climate Summary (monthly average)

Month	Daily Max. Temp. F°	Daily Min. Temp. F°	Average Mo. Temp. F°	Relative Humidity %	Precip. Inches	Avg. No. of Sunny Days
January	49.0	29.6	39.3	72	3.71	15
February	53.0	31.9	42.5	68	3.84	15
March	62.3	39.4	50.9	68	4.43	17
April	71.2	47.5	59.4	68	2.68	18
May	78.3	56.4	67.4	78	3.82	18
June	85.8	65.6	75.7	80	3.39	18
July	88.9	69.6	79.3	82	3.92	19
August	87.7	68.9	78.3	84	3.73	20
September	81.9	62.9	72.4	83	3.50	19
October	72.0	50.6	61.3	80	3.36	21
November	62.6	41.5	52.1	76	3.23	18
December	52.3	32.8	42.6	73	3.48	16
Year	70.4	49.7	60.1	76	43.09	214

Source: National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration; National Weather Service, 30 year averages for 1960-1999.

Average  
snowfall in  
Charlotte is less  
than six inches.



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