2025 Climate Summary – Georgia

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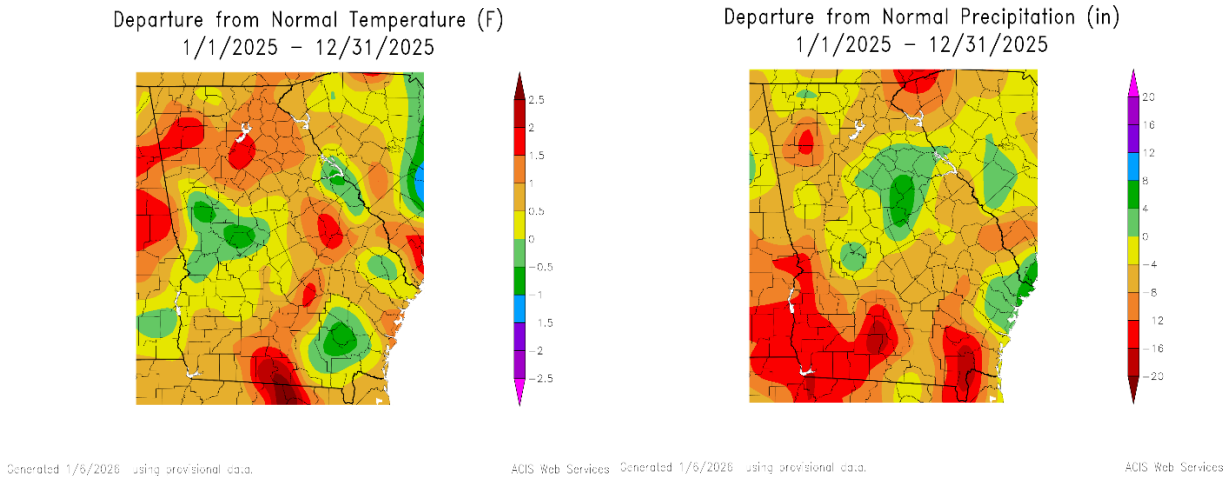
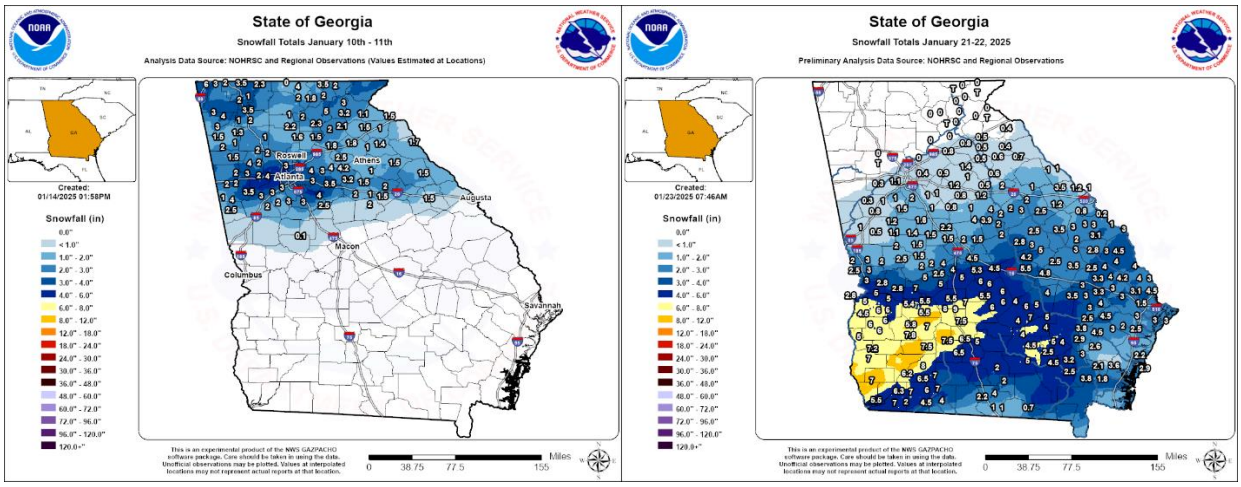
In 2025, Georgia experienced snow, exceptional drought, tornadoes, extreme rainfall, warmer than average temperatures, and colder than average temperatures, as well as many days of average weather. For the first time since 2015, Georgia did not have any hurricanes or tropical storms pass through the state. Overall, 2025 was the 19th warmest year in Georgia on a record extending back to 1895. The majority of the state experienced warmer than normal temperatures and below average precipitation. The year began in La Niña conditions, transitioned to ENSO-neutral in April, and transitioned back to La Niña in September/October.



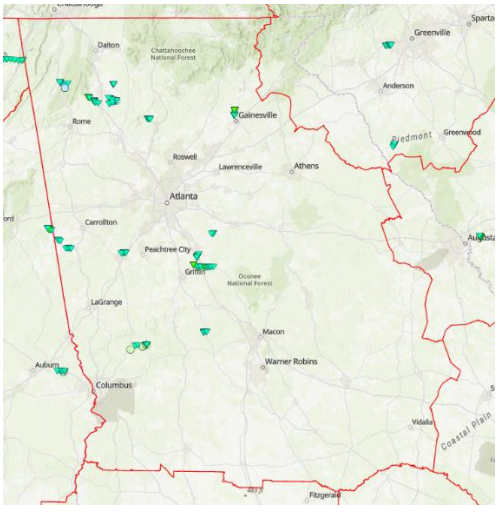
The 2025 departure from normal temperature and departure from normal precipitation for Georgia (from the High Plains Regional Climate Center using ACIS Web Services)

The year began with variable temperatures as January was the 16th coldest January on record and February was the 12th warmest February on record. March was only slightly warmer than normal with mostly seasonal temperatures. The three-month time period was drier than normal, with an average statewide rainfall deficit of 3.83 inches. Georgia received snow twice in January. The first snow event on January 10th affected northern Georgia, and Atlanta received 2.1 inches of snow, while the second snow event on January 21st was more intense for the southern half of the state. The Cordele COOP site in Crisp County received 7.5 inches of snow, the maximum recorded snowfall in Georgia during this event. Two tornadoes occurred in Georgia in February and seven occurred in March, all of which were classified as either an EF0 or an EF1. Drought conditions were limited to Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions and some areas of Moderate Drought (D1) in January and February. In March, Moderate Drought spread to cover a large portion of the southern half of the state, and Severe Drought (D2) developed near Augusta.



Snowfall totals from the two January snow events in Georgia (from the NWS Peachtree City Office)

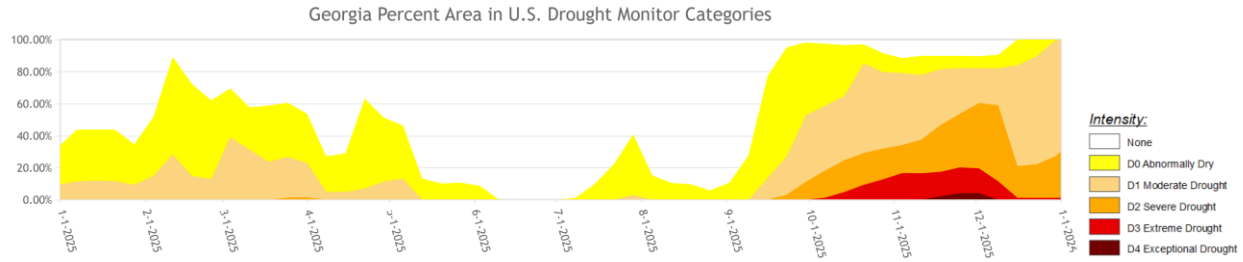
April, May, and June were all warmer than average, with the three-month period being the second warmest such period on record. In April, Georgia received near normal rainfall for the month, but May and June were both wetter than normal. In May, the state received an average of 7.03 inches of rain. May was the 5th wettest on record, boosting the 3-month period's average rainfall to 3.98 inches above normal. On April 6th and 7th, a severe weather outbreak produced 3 EF1 tornadoes and 2 EF0 tornadoes in Central Georgia, as well as at least three weak tornadoes in South Georgia. On April 10th, another severe weather outbreak produced large hail. Over 30 hail observations were reported to the Peachtree City NWS office, with hailstones as large as 2.0-2.5 inches observed in Woodstock and Emerson. Georgia also experienced tornadoes in May, with 15 occurring across North and Central Georgia. Most were classified as EF0 or EF1, except for one EF2 tornado which occurred in Henry County on May 29th. Drought improved throughout April, May, and June. The Severe Drought near Augusta improved in the first few weeks of April, and all Moderate Drought across the state improved by mid-May, leaving only Abnormally Dry conditions. By mid-June, Georgia had no Abnormally Dry conditions, and the drought map was completely clear.



Map of the 15 May tornadoes across North and Central Georgia (from the NWS Peachtree City Office)

July was the 5th warmest July on record with an average statewide temperature of 82.8°F. August temperatures were unusually cool, and September temperatures were seasonal. Precipitation was variable over the three-month period as July was the 16th driest on record, while August was the 13th wettest on record. Macon and Valdosta both experienced their #1 wettest Augusts, and Valdosta also set its record for highest 1-hour rainfall when they received 3.83 inches of rain in one hour on August 23rd. September was especially dry with an average statewide rainfall of only 1.19 inches, -2.73 inches below normal and ranking as the 3rd driest September on record. July started drought-free, and although small areas of Moderate Drought developed during July, the plentiful rain during August returned the state to mostly drought-free. The extreme dryness of September caused rapidly intensifying drought conditions especially in western and southwestern Georgia. By the end of September, large swaths of Moderate Drought were present, and several significant areas of Severe Drought had developed, as well.

The final three-month period of the year was mostly seasonal in terms of temperature. November and December had average statewide temperatures roughly 2°F above normal, while October had an average temperature of only 0.6°F above normal. In October, parts of South Georgia saw rainfall deficits of over 3 inches, while some parts of North Georgia, such as Athens, received record rainfall. November was very dry across the state, ranking as the 4th driest November on record with a statewide average of only 0.86 inches of rain for the entire month. December was wetter than November but was still the 19th driest December on record. The three-month period of October-December was the 7th driest such period on record, and the four-month period of September-December was the number 1 driest such period on record. As a result of this very dry Fall and the lack of rainfall from tropical activity, drought intensified rapidly in Georgia. During the first week of October, Extreme Drought (D3) was introduced in South Georgia. This area of Extreme Drought spread throughout the month, and a new area of Extreme Drought also developed in the southwestern Metro Atlanta area. In mid-November, Exceptional Drought (D4) was introduced in Southwest Georgia. The last time Exceptional Drought was introduced in Georgia was on November 7, 2023 in Northwest Georgia. The last time Exceptional Drought was introduced *in Southwest Georgia* was on January 17, 2012. In December, the area of Exceptional Drought improved, and the area of Extreme Drought shrank, leaving the majority of the state in Moderate Drought with some lingering pockets of Severe Drought.



Time series of the percent land area in each drought category in Georgia in 2025 (from the National Drought Mitigation Center)

Citations:

NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, Climate at a Glance: Statewide Rankings, published January 2026, retrieved on January 13, 2026 from https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/statewide/rankings