

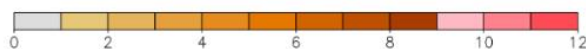
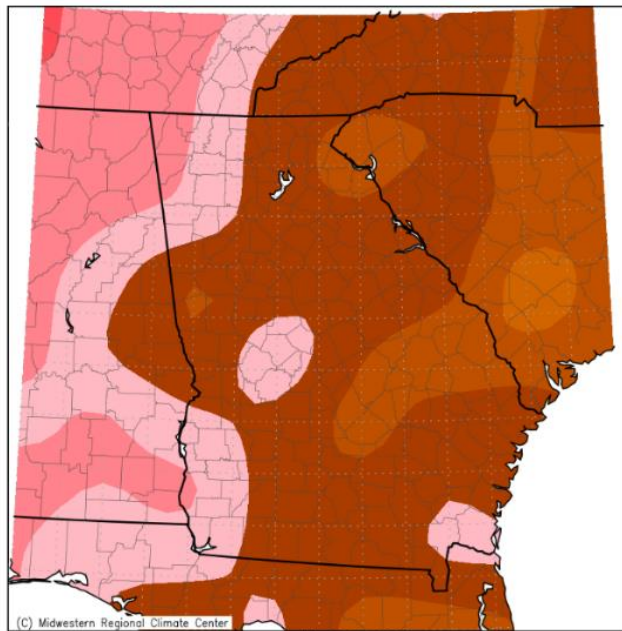
December 2021 Climate Summary – Georgia

Henian Zhang and Nyasha Dunkley

State of Georgia Climate Office

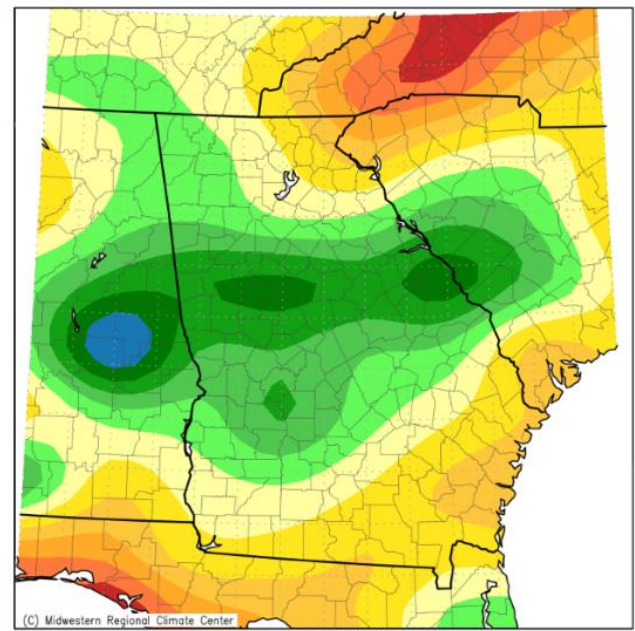
The month of December was characterized by above normal average temperatures (+9.5°F) and near normal precipitation (-0.01"). Central Georgia received more rain while northeast and southeast Georgia received less rain. It was the 2nd warmest December for the state since 1895. It was the 3rd warmest December for Atlanta since 1878 with an average temperature of 56°F and the 2nd warmest December for Athens since 1903 with an average temperature of 54.9°F. Columbus experienced the 2nd warmest December since 1900 with an average temperature of 57.7°F, while Macon had its 2nd warmest December since 1899 with an average temperature of 57.3°F. Many daily high temperature and high minimum temperature records were set at the beginning and end of the month.

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean
December 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021



Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from Mean
December 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021



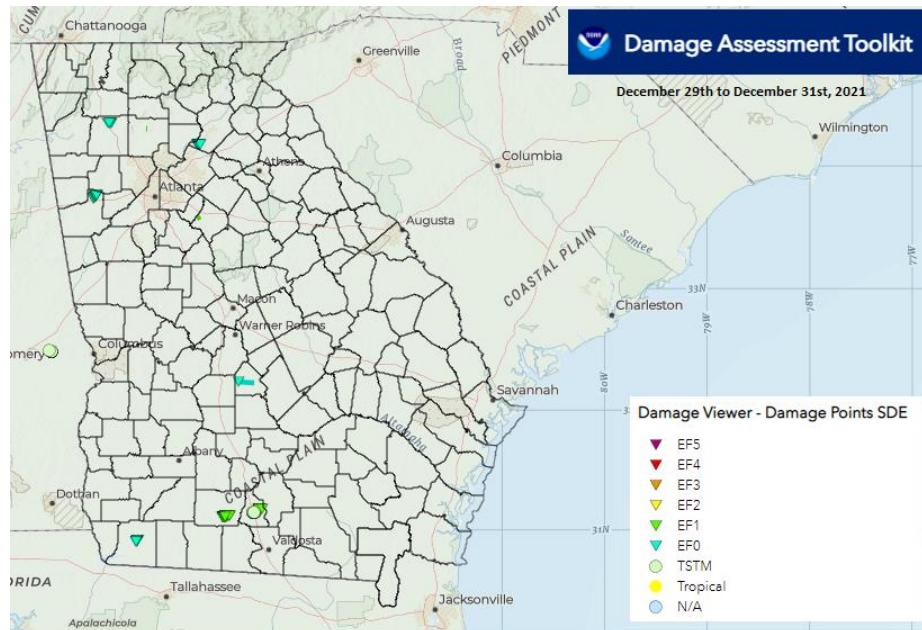
Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment

Daily Climate Records Set During December 2021

Date	Location	Variable	Record	Previous Record Including Ties (Year)
12/2	Atlanta	High temperature	74 °F	74 °F (1991)
12/3	Atlanta	High temperature	77 °F	74 °F (1982)
	Athens	High temperature	80 °F	77 °F (1982)
12/4	Athens	High temperature	75 °F	75 °F (1956)
12/26	Athens	High temperature	77 °F	77 °F (2015)
12/28	Atlanta	High temperature	75 °F	74 °F (1971, 1984)
	Athens	High minimum temperature	62 °F	62 °F (2015)
	Macon	High temperature	79 °F	78 °F (2015)
	Macon	High minimum temperature	67 °F	66 °F (2015)
12/29	Atlanta	High temperature	74 °F	72 °F (1984)
		High minimum temperature	65 °F	62 °F (2019)
12/30	Atlanta	High minimum temperature	61 °F	60 °F (1996)
		Maximum rainfall	2.85"	1.92" (1900)
	Columbus	High minimum temperature	64 °F	61 °F (2015)
	Macon	High temperature	83 °F	78 °F (1984)
12/31	Macon	High temperature	81 °F	79 °F (1923)

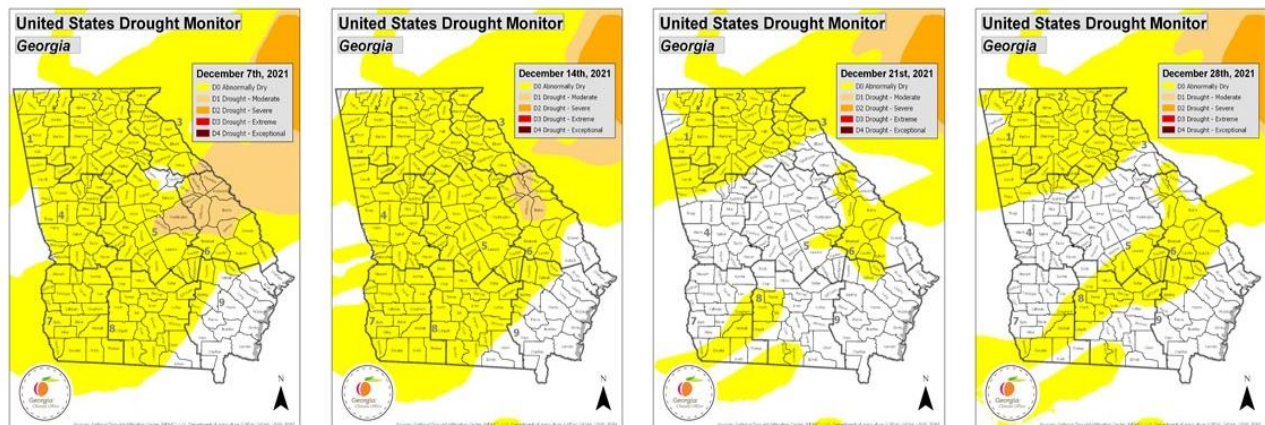
According to the preliminary results from the NOAA Damage Assessment Toolkit, an EF-0 tornado briefly touched down in Wilkinson county on December 11th. From December 29th to 31st, above normal temperatures and the passing of a strong surface cold front set the stage for development of severe thunderstorms with high winds, hail, and tornadoes. Hail damage was reported in Peach, Talbot, Muscogee, Harris, and Houston counties on December 30th. According to the preliminary results from the Damage Assessment Toolkit, EF-0 tornadoes were reported in Decatur, Bartow, Hall, and Pulaski counties. On December 30th, an EF-1 tornado was reported in Colquitt county and another EF-1 tornado was reported in

Cook county. An EF-1 tornado associated with an isolated supercell was reported in Newton county on December 31st, causing 6 minor injuries. An EF-1 tornado, associated with a rare Low Precipitation (LP) supercell, was reported in Carroll county on December 31st, causing damage to trees and buildings.



<https://apps.dat.noaa.gov/StormDamage/DamageViewer/>

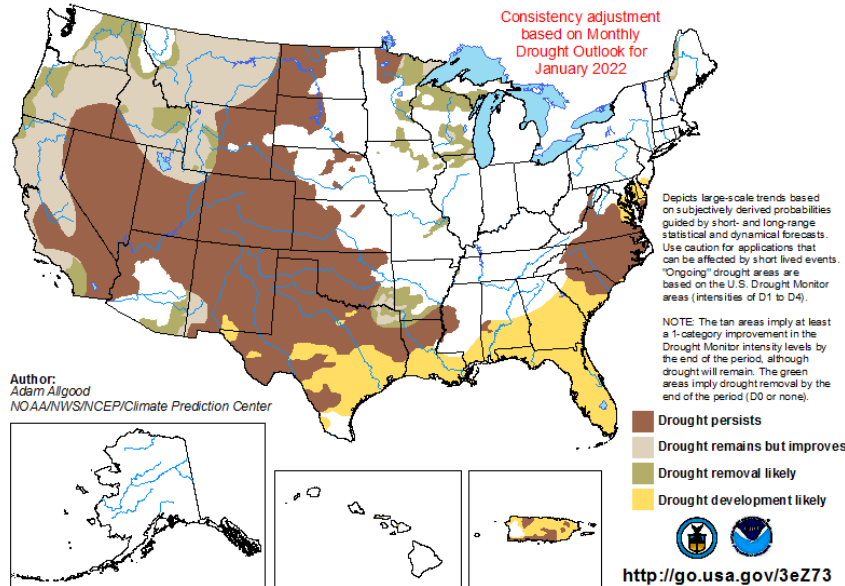
Abnormally dry conditions (D0) across over 84% of the state at the beginning of the month, decreased by the end of December due to widespread rainfall across parts of the southeast, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Moderate drought conditions (D1) developed over parts of Georgia for the first time since August 25th, 2020. Areas of Georgia received more than 2 inches of rainfall during the closing weeks of the month, limiting D0 expansion. The seasonal drought outlook from the Climate Prediction Center suggests that drought development is likely across the southeast U.S., from January to March 2022.



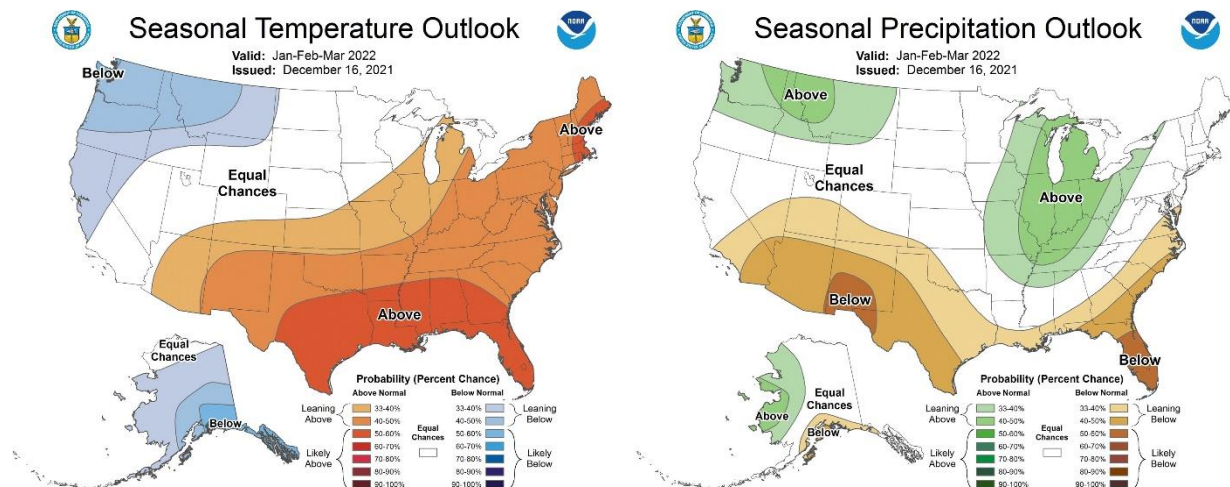
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for January 1 - March 31, 2022
Released December 31, 2021

Consistency adjustment
based on Monthly
Drought Outlook for
January 2022



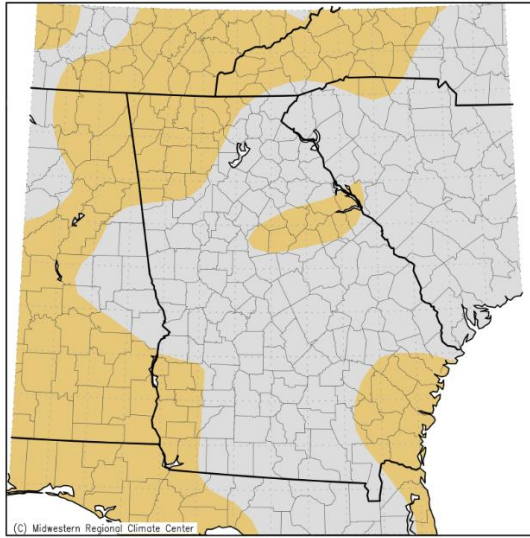
According to the Climate Prediction Center, La Niña is favored to continue through the Northern Hemisphere winter 2021-2022 (~95% chance) and transition to ENSO-neutral during the spring 2022 (~60% chance during April-June). The seasonal outlook from the Climate Prediction Center for January, February, and March favors above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall for Georgia.



Year 2021 Georgia Climate At A Glance

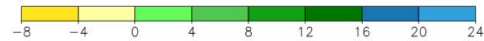
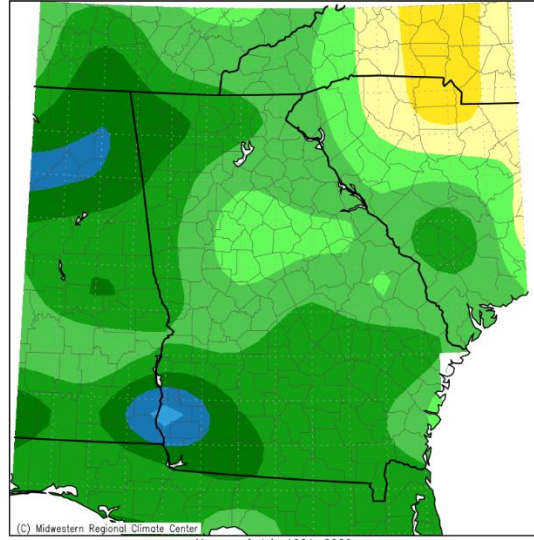
Here is an overview of some climate statistics for the year 2021. The average temperature for the state was 64.5°F (+1.1°F). Statewide precipitation was 57.06" (+6.99"). The average minimum temperature was 53.3°F (+1.7°F) and the average maximum temperature was 75.8°F (+0.7°F).

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021



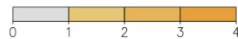
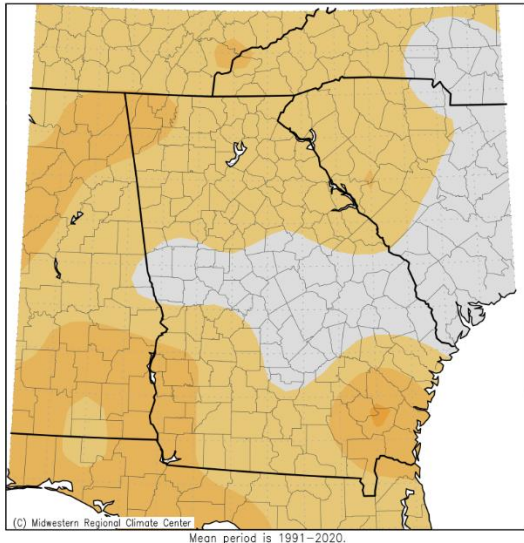
Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from Mean
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021



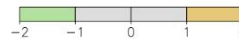
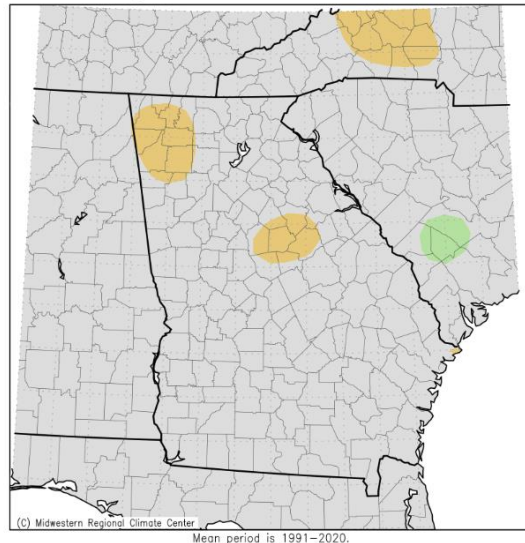
Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment

Average Minimum Temp. (°F): Departure from Mean
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021



Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment

Average Maximum Temp. (°F): Departure from Mean
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021



Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment

2021 Climate Data for Major Cities in Georgia

Climate Site	Average Temperature (°F)	Normal Temperature (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)
Athens	64.7	62.5	+2.2
Atlanta	64.5	62.5	+2.0
Cartersville	62.4	60.1	+2.3
Columbus	66.1	65.6	+0.5
Macon	65.7	64.5	+1.2

Climate Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	Normal Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Athens	48.73	46.33	+2.40
Atlanta	53.81	49.71	+4.10
Columbus	57.69	46.75	+10.94
Macon	52.15	45.68	+6.47
Rome	61.38	51.92	+9.46

Near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation kept Georgia drought free for almost the entire year. Moderate drought conditions (D1) returned to Georgia on November 30th briefly and quickly dissipated. It was the first time for D1 development in Georgia since August 25th, 2020.

Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories for Year 2021

