January 2025 Climate Summary – Georgia

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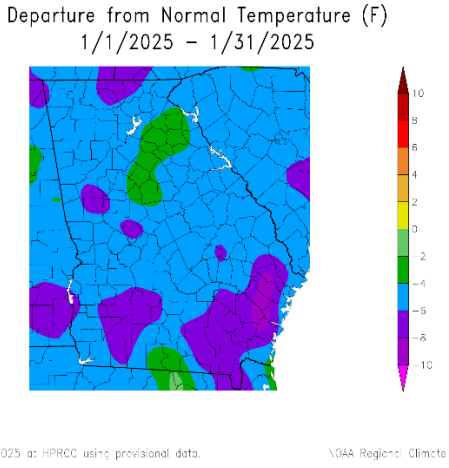
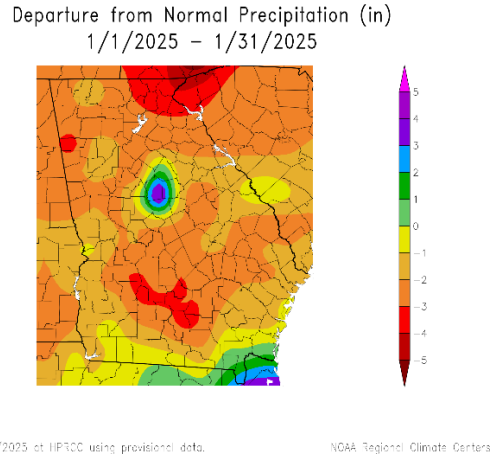
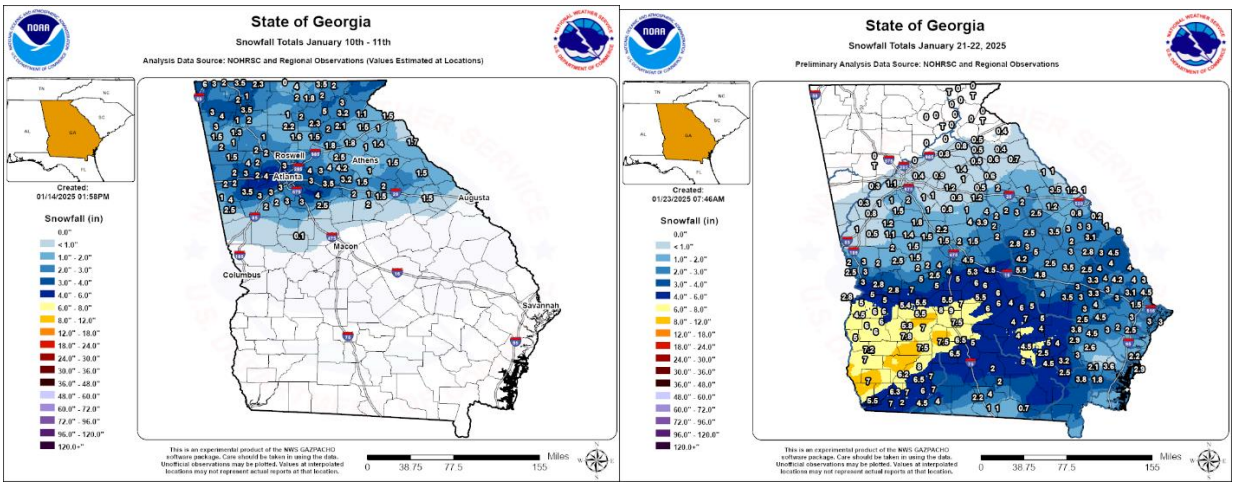
The year began in a truly wintry fashion as several Arctic outbreaks led to the first measurable snow in years for parts of the state. The average temperature statewide was well below normal at 41.2°F, which was 4.9° below the 1901-2000 mean of 46.1°. Macon and Peachtree City in Central Georgia recorded average temperatures 6.4° below normal for the month, with areas in Southeast Georgia averaging over 8° below normal. Drier than average conditions prevailed for much of the state throughout January. Extreme Northeast Georgia experienced rainfall deficits over three inches below normal. Rome received 2.09" below normal rainfall, while Gainesville received 2.31" below normal precipitation.

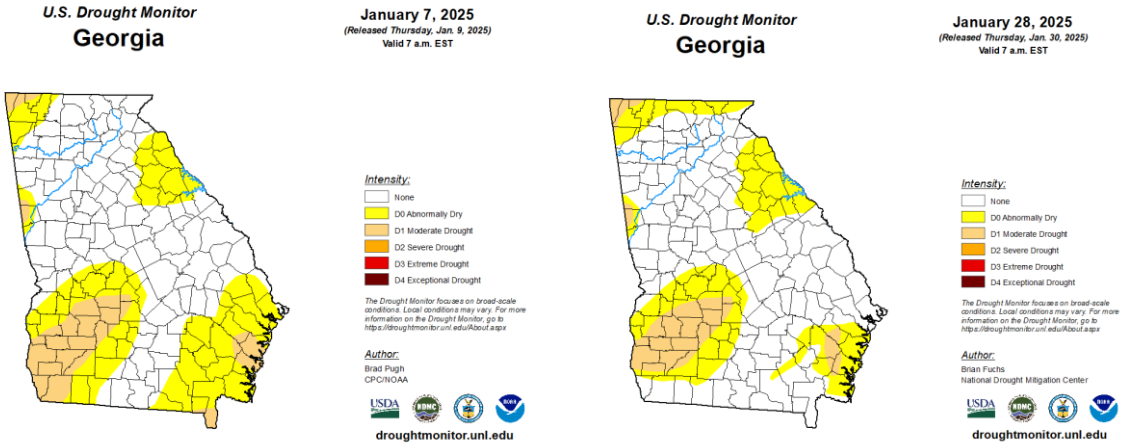


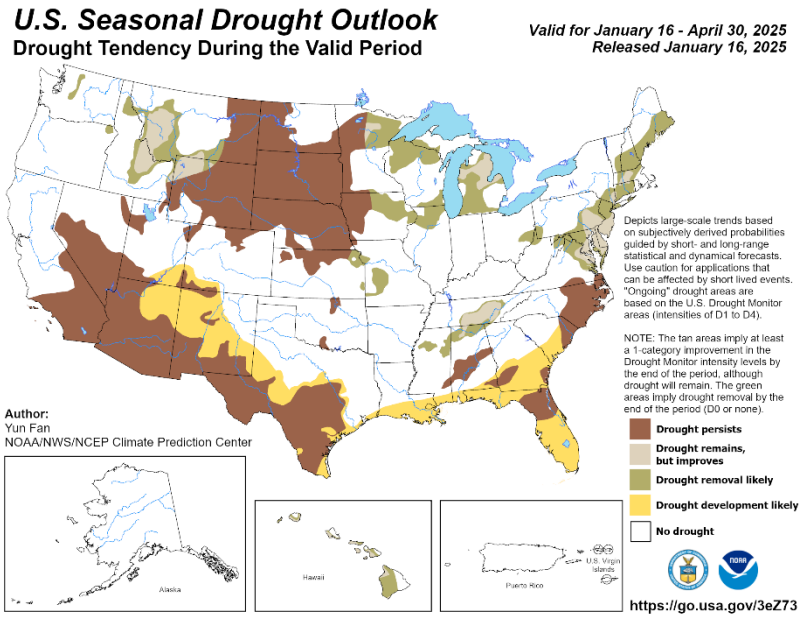


Two storm systems moved through the state at both the beginning and latter half of the month, blanketing many areas with snow and ice. A very cold airmass fixed across the region on January 10th combined with an area of low pressure which spread Gulf moisture northward, causing snow to fall across North Georgia. Atlanta set a record snowfall of 2.1 inches, which broke the old record of 1.3 inches set in 1953. A second Arctic outbreak across the eastern U.S. in late January set up a similar scenario of Gulf moisture spreading northward into the cold airmass over the state. Several cities received record snowfall for the event. A record snowfall of 1.1 inches was set in both Atlanta and Savannah on January 21st. A daily record snowfall of 2.5 inches was set in Alma, Georgia. According to the National Weather Service in Jacksonville, the storm total for this event (1/21-1/22) was 5.0 inches and is ranked as the highest on record at Alma. The Cordele COOP site in Crisp County received 7.5 inches of snow, which was the maximum snowfall during this event for the state.



According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, drought conditions slowly improved along the southern border. Patches of Moderate Drought (D1) persisted in northwest Georgia, southwest and southeast Georgia, and along the western border. Abnormally Dry conditions (D0) spread along the northeastern edge of the state and improved significantly in the southeastern corner. According to the Climate Prediction Center, current areas of Moderate Drought are likely to persist, and drought development is likely in the southern half of the state through April.





According to the Climate Prediction Center, La Nina conditions are present with below average equatorial sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. La Nina conditions are expected to persist in the near-term, with a transition to ENSO-neutral likely during March-May 2025 (66% chance). The seasonal outlooks from the Climate Prediction Center show a likelihood of above normal temperatures throughout the state and below normal precipitation in most of the state in the coming months.