

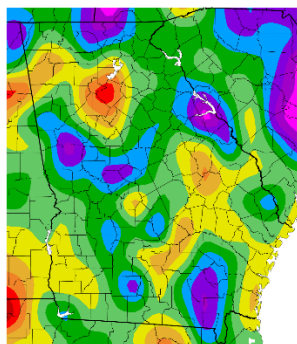
## January 2026 Climate Summary – Georgia

*Eleanor Partington and Nyasha Dunkley*

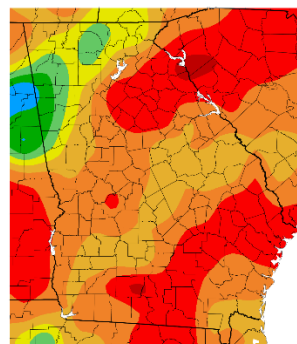
### State of Georgia Climate Office

January started the year with near-average temperatures and drier than normal conditions. The statewide average temperature was 46.5°F, only 0.4°F above the 1901-2000 mean of 46.1°F. Small areas across the state experienced larger temperature anomalies during the month, but most places experienced temperatures within 1°F of normal. Macon set two daily high temperature records on January 7<sup>th</sup> with a high of 77°F and on January 9<sup>th</sup> with a high of 79°F. The statewide average precipitation for the month was 2.59 inches, -1.80 inches below the 1901-2000 mean making this January the 25<sup>th</sup> driest on record (POR 1895-present). Besides a swath of northern Georgia, the majority of the state recorded below normal precipitation in January. One tornado occurred in Carroll County on the morning of January 10<sup>th</sup>. The EF-1 tornado had an estimated peak windspeed of 95 mph and traveled for 1.03 miles.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
1/1/2026 – 1/31/2026



Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
1/1/2026 – 1/31/2026



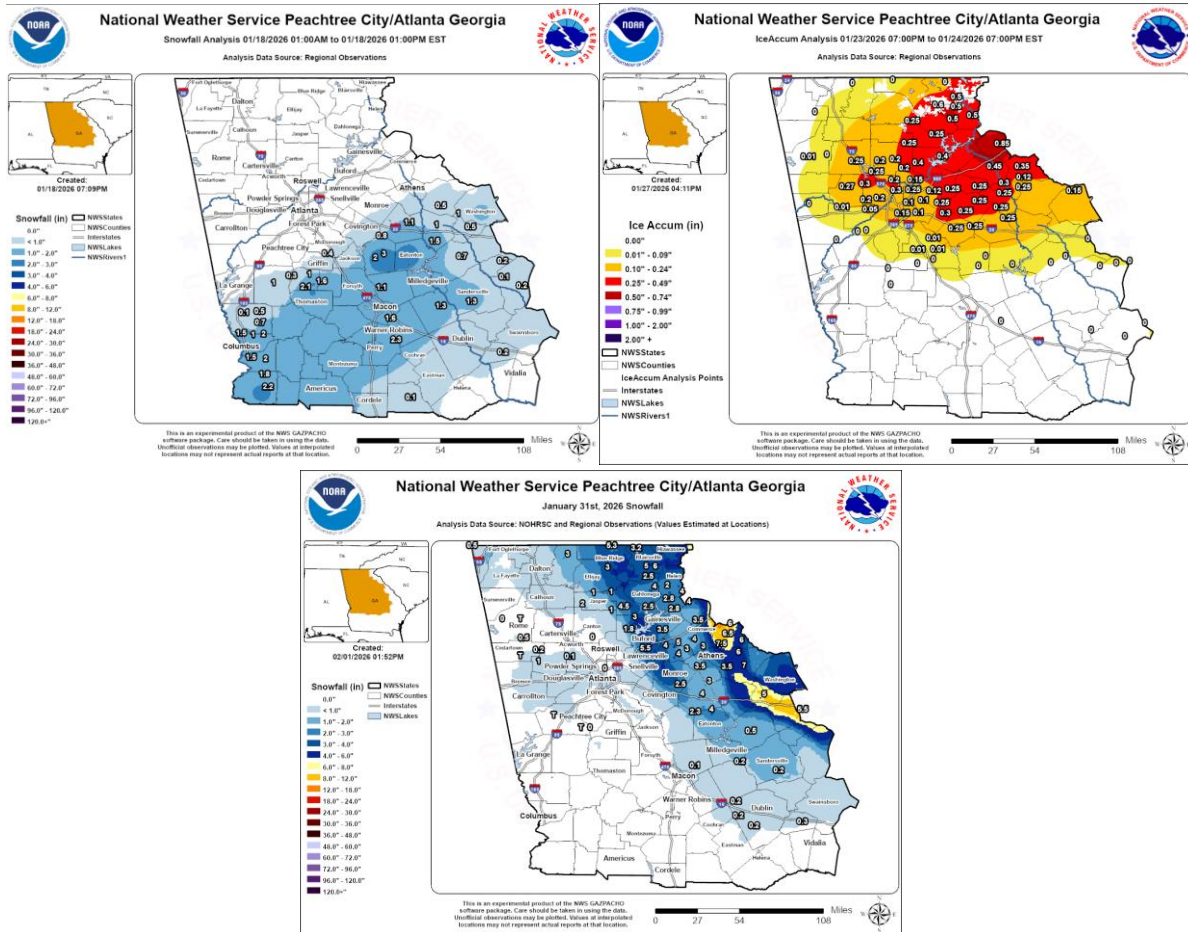
Generated 2/20/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services Generated 2/20/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

By mid-January, temperatures dropped, and Georgia experienced three winter weather events on three consecutive weekends. On January 18<sup>th</sup>, the interaction of Gulf moisture with a cold front resulted in 1-2 inches of snowfall across much of central Georgia, although some spots recorded up to almost 3 inches. The following week, a wedge of cold air at the surface plus overrunning moisture resulted in an ice storm on January 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> in North Georgia. Ice accretion ranged from 0.1 to 0.25 inches of ice in most places, while some places received over 0.5 inches. Northeast Georgia was the most affected, with widespread, lengthy power outages in White, Dawson, and Lumpkin Counties. Finally, on January 31<sup>st</sup>, a deep upper-level low entered the region, bringing cold temperatures and snowfall across northeast and east-central Georgia. Total snow accumulation reached as high as 4-7 inches in many areas. Areas near Rabun and Stephens County received some of the highest snowfall totals for this event. This snowfall event occurred in bands, leaving the nearby metro Atlanta area without much snowfall. Temperatures

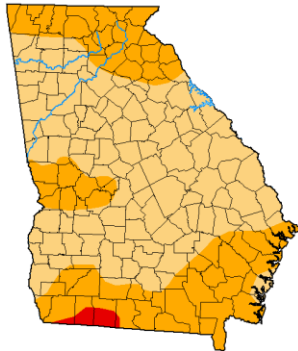
continued to drop after the snow event, with wind chills plunging to subzero levels in many areas on the night of January 31<sup>st</sup>, leaving snow on the ground through the weekend.



According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, drought conditions persisted or worsened across the state. Extreme drought (D3) coverage increased across varied portions of the state by the end of the month. Drought conditions are likely to persist throughout the month of February according to the Climate Prediction Center.

**U.S. Drought Monitor  
Georgia**

**January 6, 2026**  
(Released Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



**Intensity:**

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

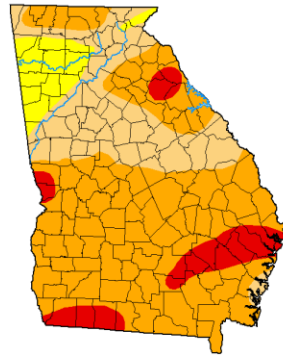
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

**Author:**  
Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center



**U.S. Drought Monitor  
Georgia**

**January 27, 2026**  
(Released Thursday, Jan. 28, 2026)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



**Intensity:**

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

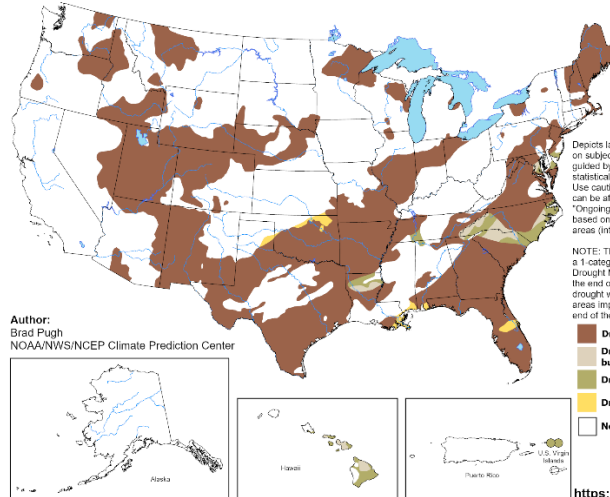
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**Author:**  
Richard Tinker  
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



**U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook  
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period**

**Valid for February 2026**  
Released January 31, 2026



**Author:**  
Brad Pugh  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short-lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

**NOTE:** The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought



According to the Climate Prediction Center, La Nina is present with below average equatorial sea surface temperatures across the central and east-central Pacific Ocean. A 60% chance of transition from La Nina to ENSO-neutral is expected in February-April 2026, with ENSO-neutral likely persisting through the Northern Hemisphere summer. The seasonal outlooks from the Climate Prediction Center call for the likelihood of above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation for the months of February through April across the state.

