

# January 2018 Climate Summary – Georgia

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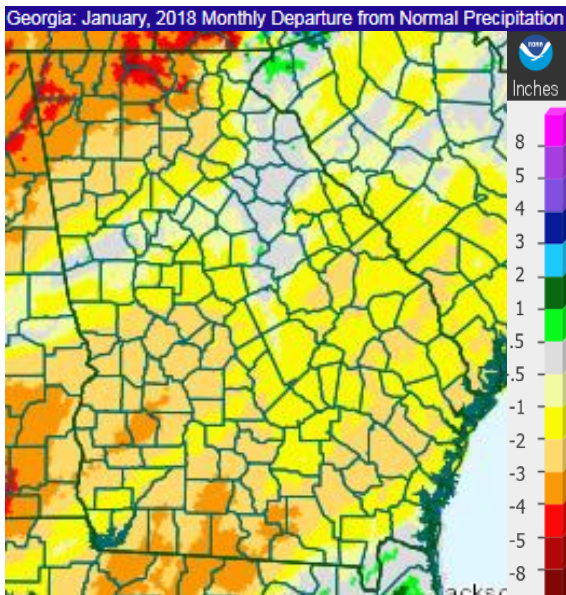
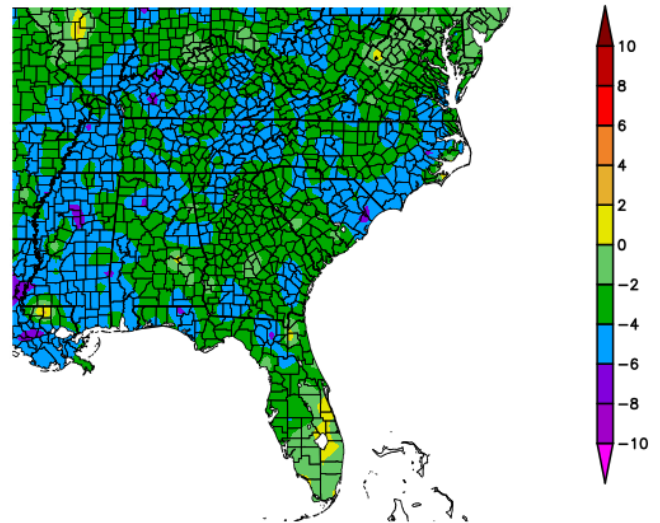
State of Georgia Climate Office

January in Georgia was characterized by cooler than normal temperatures statewide and below normal precipitation for the vast majority of the state, especially north and southwest Georgia. There were several days of wind chill advisories due to frigid polar air masses and strong winds behind potent low pressure systems. The storm tracks generally set up from west to east through metro Atlanta, so those areas of the state saw near normal precipitation. Drought conditions worsened slightly, and two significant winter weather events affected south Georgia early in the month and north Georgia mid-January.

Atlanta's average January temperature was 40.4°F (-2.9°), Macon recorded 43.4° (-2.9°), Columbus recorded 44.7° (-2.5°), Athens recorded 40.9° (-2.6°), Augusta's average monthly temperature was 43.1° (-2.3°), Brunswick recorded 48.0° (-3.5°), Valdosta's average temperature was 46.5° (-3.9°), Gainesville recorded 37.8° (-3.0°), and Rome's average January temperature was 35.9° (-5.7°). Athens recorded 40.9° (-2.6°) this month, and on January 2<sup>nd</sup> the site set a record low minimum temperature with 11° (previous record of 12° was set in 1887). Savannah's average January temperature was 46.7° (-2.8°), and the site set a new record low minimum temperature on January 3<sup>rd</sup> with 30° (previous record of 32° was set in 1887).

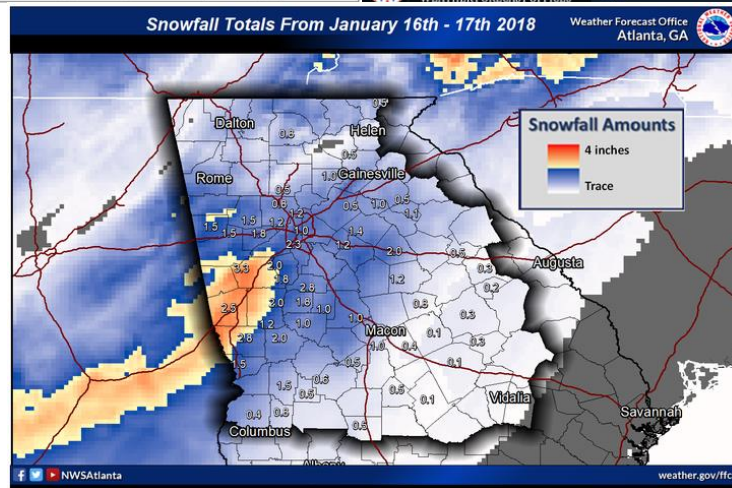
Most sites saw below normal precipitation this month including Atlanta with 3.26" (-0.94"), Macon with 2.14" (-2.10"), Columbus with 1.60" (-2.25"), and Augusta with 2.09" (-1.82"). These same sites also broke or tied their daily snowfall record on January 17<sup>th</sup> with 2.3", 1.0", 2.0", and a trace amount, respectively. Athens recorded 4.63" (-0.58"), Brunswick saw 3.47" (+0.25"), Valdosta recorded 2.07" (-2.50"), Gainesville saw 2.70" (-2.47"), and Rome recorded 1.21" (-3.55") in January.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
1/1/2018 – 1/31/2018



There was no severe weather reported in Georgia during January, but there were two significant winter weather events this month. On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, parts of south Georgia were affected by a coastal storm system and frigid temperatures. Up to 0.25" of ice accumulated quickly in extreme southeast Georgia and other areas saw snowfall totals up to 6.0". This same storm system also brought wind chill values as low as -10° in north Georgia and from 0° to 5° around metro Atlanta. Later in the month on January 16<sup>th</sup>, a strong low pressure system brought snow and more frigid wind chill temperatures to north Georgia. The snowfall lasted through the morning hours of January 17<sup>th</sup>. Temperatures never got above

freezing for much of the area that day, so icy road conditions caused school and business closings for two to three days.



The United States Drought Monitor showed that drought conditions expanded across Georgia in January. The entire state showed at least D0 (abnormally dry) conditions by the end of the month. Areas of D1 (moderate) drought conditions expanded into southeast and north Georgia, and an area of D2 (severe) drought was introduced into southwest Georgia.

According to the Climate Prediction Center, La Niña conditions are present and there is currently a La Niña Advisory in effect. Equatorial sea surface temperatures are below average across the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. La Niña is likely to continue through Northern Hemisphere winter, with a transition to ENSO-neutral expected during the spring. The CPC's three-month seasonal outlook shows chances for above normal temperatures, particularly in south Georgia, near normal precipitation in north Georgia, and below normal precipitation in south Georgia.

