

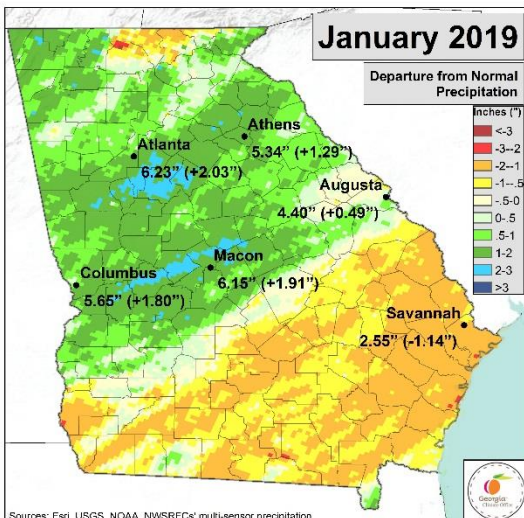
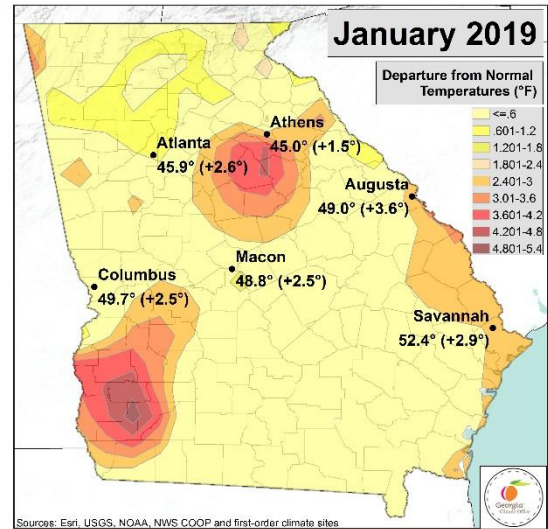
January 2019 Climate Summary – Georgia

Lauren Holt, Service Climatologist

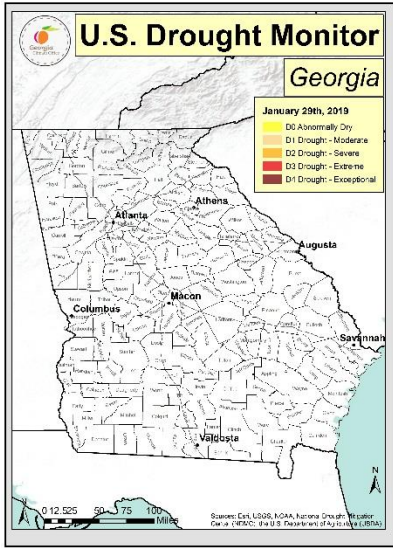
State of Georgia Climate Office

Georgia recorded above normal temperatures statewide in January although actual temperature rankings were not highly impressive. Above normal rainfall was noted north of a line generally stretching from Columbus through Macon to Augusta, while much of south Georgia saw below normal rainfall. The weather pattern during the month remained quite active, but there were no winter or severe weather events. The consistent rounds of precipitation kept drought conditions out of the state during the month.

Atlanta’s average January temperature was 45.9°F (+2.6°), Columbus recorded 49.7° (+2.5°), Macon’s monthly temperature was 48.8° (+2.5°), and Augusta recorded 49.0° (+3.6°). All these sites set daily high minimum temperature records on January 1st (see table 1). Savannah recorded an average temperature of 52.4° (+2.9°) and also set daily high temperature records on the 1st, with even more record-breaking temperatures noted over the next two days. On January 2nd, the site recorded 79° and tied the daily high temperature record previously set in 2017. The following day, the minimum temperature reached 61° and tied with 1890 for a high daily minimum temperature record. Athens recorded a monthly average temperature of 45.0° (+1.5°). The highest mean monthly temperature was recorded at the COOP station in Chattahoochee county (FORT BENNING LAWSON FIELD) with 58.4°, and the lowest was 37.0° recorded in Rabun county at the MOUNTAIN CITY 2 SW COOP station. The statewide average temperature was 48.2° (+2.1°) during January.



Stations that recorded above normal rainfall during January include Atlanta with 6.23” (+2.03”), Athens with 5.34” (+1.29”), Macon with 6.15” (+1.91”), and Augusta with 4.40” (+0.49”). Columbus recorded above normal precipitation that totaled 5.65” (+1.80”), and on January 4th the site set a daily maximum rainfall record with 2.33” (the previous record of 1.75” was set in 1971). Savannah missed out on precipitation in January and recorded below normal rainfall with 2.55” (-1.14”). The highest monthly total precipitation was recorded at the HELEN COOP in White county with 9.46”. The statewide average precipitation was slightly above normal at 4.83” (+0.44”).



On January 20th, several stations in north Georgia received trace amounts of snow when Arctic air associated with a cold front and precipitation moved through the state, but there were no major impacts reported. Severe weather during January was very limited with only a few strong winds reported.

The United States Drought Monitor showed that there were no drought conditions reported in Georgia due to the active weather pattern that brought regular rainfall to the state.

According to the Climate Prediction Center, there is currently an El Niño Watch and ENSO-neutral conditions are present. Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are above average across most of the Pacific Ocean. El Niño is expected to form and continue through the

Northern Hemisphere spring 2019 with about a 65% chance. The CPC’s three-month seasonal outlook shows chances for below normal temperatures in far north Georgia with equal chances for above, near, or below normal chances elsewhere. There are chances for above normal precipitation in the southern two-thirds of the state during February, March, and April.

Table 1:

| Daily Temperature Records on January 1 st , 2019 | | | |
|---|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Georgia’s Major Climate Sites via NOAA/NWS | | | |
| City | Record | Temperature (°F) | Previous Record |
| Atlanta | High Minimum | 57° | 1985 (tie) |
| Macon | High Minimum | 65° | 62° set in 1985 |
| Columbus | High Minimum | 63° | 60° set in 1919 |
| Augusta | High Minimum | 64° | 62° set in 1876 |
| Savannah | High Minimum | 62° | 61° set in 1884 |
| Savannah | High Maximum | 83° | 79° set in 1989 |

